



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1993

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MOTION DEBATE ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

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FOLLOWING IS THE SPEECH MADE BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON FREEDOM OF TRAVEL HELD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY):

MR PRESIDENT,

I RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH ALL HONG KONG PEOPLE ATTACH TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. BOTH THE HONG KONG AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS HAVE LONG REALISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS FREEDOM AND HAVE TAKEN STEPS, IN THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, TO ENSURE THAT IT IS SECURED AFTER 1997. THE RESULT IS THAT WE NOW HAVE THE ASSURANCE SOUGHT IN THE FIRST PART OF THE MOTION IN BOTH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW. THERE IS NO BETTER STARTING POINT FOR MATTERS OF SUCH FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG THAN THE JOINT DECLARATION, WHICH IS A BINDING AGREEMENT SETTING OUT THE GUARANTEES FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, AND RATIFIED BY BOTH THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS.

ANNEX I TO THE JOINT DECLARATION STATES THAT THE EXISTING RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE FREEDOMS OF TRAVEL AND OF MOVEMENT, WILL BE MAINTAINED AND PROTECTED BY LAW. THIS MEANS THE DOMESTIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION. THE ANNEX ALSO SETS OUT THE CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WHO WILL HAVE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AND WHO WILL BE QUALIFIED TO OBTAIN PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS. THIS RIGHT OF ABODE BY DEFINITION INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO ENTER THE HKSAR WITHOUT RESTRICTION AND FREEDOM FROM DEPORTATION OR EXPULSION.

ON THE SUBJECT OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, THE ANNEX PROVIDES FOR THE ISSUE OF PASSPORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HKSAR TO ALL CHINESE NATIONALS WHO HOLD PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS, AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS OF THE HKSAR TO ALL OTHER LAWFUL RESIDENTS. THESE PASSPORTS AND DOCUMENTS WILL BE VALID FOR TRAVEL TO ALL STATES AND REGIONS AND TO RECALL THE HOLDER'S RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE HKSAR. HOLDERS OF PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS OF THE HKSAR MAY ALSO HAVE THIS FACT STATED IN THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AS EVIDENCE THAT THE HOLDERS HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE HKSAR. TO ENSURE EASE OF TRAVEL FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THE ANNEX ALSO STATES THAT THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT SHALL ASSIST OR AUTHORISE THE HKSAR TO CONCLUDE VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENTS.

I SHALL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DESCRIBE, AS FAR AS I AM ABLE WITHIN THE RULES OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP [JLG], WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING TO GIVE PRACTICAL EFFECT TO THESE ASSURANCES.

FIRST, RIGHT OF ABODE. THE CONCEPT OF RIGHT OF ABODE IS CENTRAL TO THE GUARANTEE OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, IN PARTICULAR THE FREEDOM TO RE-ENTER HONG KONG WITHOUT LIMITATIONS OR CONDITIONS AND FREEDOM FROM DEPORTATION AND EXPULSION. THE BASIC LAW HAS ALREADY SET OUT THE CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE WHO WILL HAVE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE HKSAR. WE HAVE FORMULATED PROPOSALS ON HOW OUR LOCAL IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION SHOULD BE AMENDED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THESE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW. OUR PROPOSALS ARE CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED BY THE CHINESE SIDE IN THE JLG.

/SECONDLY, WE .....

SECONDLY, WE REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING EARLY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ISSUE OF HKSAR PASSPORTS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, AND ALSO OF ENSURING CONVENIENCE OF TRAVEL FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE BY SECURING OR MAINTAINING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE VISA-FREE ACCESS TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR HOLDERS OF HONG KONG TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. AGAIN, WE HAVE PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS IN THE JLG.

OUR OBJECTIVE IS THAT EACH PERSON SHOULD BE CLEAR, WELL BEFORE 1997, OF HIS OR HER POSITION REGARDING RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE HKSAR; AND THAT ALL PERSONS WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR THE APPROPRIATE HKSAR TRAVEL DOCUMENT, WITH, WHERE APPLICABLE, A RIGHT OF ABODE ENDORSEMENT, FROM 1 JULY 1997 ONWARDS, SO AS TO ENSURE CONVENIENT TRAVEL INTO AND OUT OF HONG KONG.

THE ADMINISTRATION AGREES WITH THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS ON THE NEED TO ENSURE AND GIVE PRACTICAL EFFECT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE AFTER 1997. WE ARE DOING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO, ALL WE CAN TO THAT END. WE DO, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS IS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE GUARANTEES ALREADY PROVIDED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. I TRUST THAT WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO CONCLUDE OUR DISCUSSIONS ON THESE ISSUES IN THE JLG AND ARE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ALLAY MANY OF THE CONCERNS RAISED IN THIS DEBATE. IT IS NEITHER NECESSARY NOR HELPFUL TO PRESS FOR NEW ASSURANCES, WHICH COULD GO NO FURTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY PROVIDED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND WHICH MIGHT INDEED SERVE ONLY TO CALL INTO QUESTION THE GUARANTEES ALREADY GIVEN.

AS REGARDS THE SECOND PART OF THE MOTION, BN(O)S WHO ARE CHINESE CITIZENS, AND, IN ADDITION, BN(O)S WITH NO RIGHT OF ABODE ELSEWHERE, WILL HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE HKSAR. THIS IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN HONG KONG BY ARTICLE 24 OF THE BASIC LAW. IF ANY OF THESE WERE EXPELLED FROM, OR DENIED ENTRY INTO, THE HKSAR, THAT WOULD BE A VERY SERIOUS MATTER, AMOUNTING TO A BREACH OF THE JOINT DECLARATION. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD OF COURSE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THE NEED FOR REASSURANCE FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE ON THIS ISSUE.

/THE BRITISH .....

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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATED THE UNDERTAKING MADE BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE IN 1989 THAT IF, AGAINST ALL EXPECTATIONS, THE WORST WERE TO HAPPEN IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997, THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD BE INESCAPABLE. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND BY MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO NOW GIVEN A MORE SPECIFIC ASSURANCE, THAT IF THE SITUATION WAS SUCH THAT AN INDIVIDUAL BN(O) WERE EXPELLED, IT WOULD CONSIDER HIS OR HER POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDERATIONS OF WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED WAS A NATIONAL OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND WHETHER HE HAD A RIGHT OF ABODE OUTSIDE HONG KONG. FOR NOT ALL BNOS WILL, AFTER 1997, NECESSARILY HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG, OR THE RIGHT OF ABODE ONLY IN HONG KONG. A LARGE NUMBER OF BNOS OR POTENTIAL BNOS HAVE SETTLED ABROAD AND ACQUIRE A FOREIGN NATIONALITY. IT WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC TO EXPECT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ADVANCE GUARANTEES ABOUT THE FUTURE SETTLEMENT OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS. IN THIS RESPECT, THE SECOND PART OF THE MOTION IS, I BELIEVE, TOO BROADLY DRAWN.

MR PRESIDENT, AS I HAVE SAID, THE ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES THE SAME IMPORTANCE AS DO MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL TO THE FUTURE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF HONG KONG PEOPLE. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY SEEKING THE FURTHER UNDERTAKING SOUGHT IN THE FIRST PART OF THE MOTION. RATHER, WE SHOULD BUILD ON, AND GIVE PRACTICAL EFFECT TO, THE ASSURANCES ALREADY PROVIDED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. THE ADMINISTRATION, IN CONCLUSION, SUPPORTS THE SENTIMENTS OF THIS MOTION, BUT NOT ALL OF ITS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS; THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS INTEND TO ABSTAIN.

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## PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR ELDERLY

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FOLLOWING IS THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) ON A MOTION ON A PREFERENTIAL SCHEME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS:

MR PRESIDENT,

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN GOLD CARD TO BE INTRODUCED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FROM APRIL NEXT YEAR FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AGED 65 AND ABOVE. THE SENIOR CITIZEN GOLD CARD SCHEME (SCGCS) IS A MEANINGFUL AND WORTHWHILE SCHEME AND IT SHOULD BRING REAL BENEFITS TO OUR ELDERLY PERSONS. HOWEVER, THE SUCCESS OF THE SCHEME WILL DEPEND ON THE COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO IT.

/SENIOR CITIZEN .....

SENIOR CITIZEN GOLD CARD SCHEME  
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THE SENIOR CITIZEN CARD, DESIGNED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF ELDERLY PERSONS, IS NEITHER MEANT TO BE A REPLACEMENT FOR THE HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD NOR IS IT IN ITSELF A DISCOUNT CARD. IT IS A PROOF OF AGE FOR THE HOLDER. AS SUCH, HOLDERS OF SUCH A CARD WILL NOT HAVE TO SHOW THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONARY FARES AND DISCOUNT RATES. THIS SCHEME IS TO REINFORCE THE RESPECT FOR AND TO REFLECT THE VENERATED STATUS OF ELDERLY PEOPLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR THE CARD IS SIMPLE. ALL THE APPLICANT HAS TO DO IS TO FILL IN A SIMPLE FORM AND SEND IT IN TOGETHER WITH A PHOTOGRAPH AND A PHOTOCOPY OF HIS OR HER HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD. APPLICATION BY MAIL IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE. WE EXPECT THAT ABOUT 400,000 ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL APPLY FOR THE CARD IN THE FIRST YEAR. DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON AND I ASK ELDERLY PERSONS TO LOOK OUT FOR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE SCHEME IN THE MEDIA.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION  
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GOVERNMENT'S PROMOTION OF THE SCHEME ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH. WITHOUT COMMUNITY SUPPORT, A CARD IS ONLY A CARD. WE INTEND TO PUBLICISE THE CARD TO ELDERLY PERSONS THEMSELVES AND TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. WE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE MORE COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS TO INTRODUCE CONCESSIONARY SCHEMES AND DISCOUNT RATES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE. I SHALL PERSONALLY BE APPEALING TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS TO TAKE PART IN THIS WORTHY SCHEME.

THE SENIOR CITIZEN GOLD CARD SCHEME IS INTENDED TO BE A VOLUNTARY SCHEME. THERE IS, AND CAN BE, NO COMPULSION. IT WOULD BE AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IF CONCESSIONARY FARES AND DISCOUNT RATES ARE MADE MANDATORY FOR ELDERLY PERSONS. THERE MIGHT EVEN BE A BACKLASH AGAINST THE CARD IF THE SCHEME WERE TURNED INTO A COMPULSORY PREFERENTIAL SCHEME FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE. THE HON MARTIN LEE WAS PERFECTLY RIGHT WHEN HE SAID THAT THE ORIGINAL IDEA BEHIND THE SCHEME WAS TO ENCOURAGE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO RESPECT OUR ELDERLY PEOPLE. THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT A CARD IS INTENDED TO REFLECT. THIS SCHEME IS ABOUT RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE. RESPECT AND CONCERN CANNOT BE INDUCED BY COERCIVE MEANS.

/EXISTING CONCESSIONS .....

EXISTING CONCESSIONS  
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AS QUITE RIGHTLY POINTED OUT BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-HA, THE DEFINITION OF AGE DOES VARY BETWEEN COUNTRIES WITH SOCIETIES. INDEED AND OFTEN I AM VERY SURPRISED THAT MEN ARE DESCRIBED TO BE AS OLD AS THEY FEEL AND WOMEN ARE DESCRIBED TO BE AS OLD AS THEY LOOK. I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT DEFINITION ALSO. SO A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHY SET THE CARD AT THE AGE OF 65. I THINK THAT'S VERY MUCH DEBATED HERE. THE ANSWER IS SELF-EVIDENT. THE PRESENT CONCESSIONARY SCHEMES PROVIDED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS AND OTHER COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS ARE IN THE MAIN FOR PERSONS AGED 65 AND ABOVE. IF WE WERE TO ISSUE THE CARD TO PERSONS UNDER 65, IT WOULD NEITHER BE OF USE TO THE PROVIDERS NOR OF BENEFIT TO THE USERS. OUR CARD IS TO MEET THE PRESSING NEED OF ELDERLY PEOPLE FOR A PROOF OF AGE TO FACILITATE THEIR USE OF CONCESSIONS. FOR PRACTICAL REASONS, THE CARD SHOULD THEREFORE BE ISSUED TO PERSONS AGED 65 AND ABOVE. AGAIN, AS RIGHTLY POINTED OUT BY THE HONOURABLE MIRIAM LAU, THE TRANSPORT CONCESSIONS HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE, PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE WAIVER OF GOVERNMENT FEES AND RENTAL CHARGES, AND PARTLY BY THE OPERATORS AT A COST TO THEIR SHAREHOLDERS. THE REVENUE FOREGONE BY GOVERNMENT ALONE IS SOME \$65 MILLION A YEAR. I SHOULD STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT MANY PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS ARE NOT PREPARED TO LOWER THE AGE ELIGIBILITY TO 60. TO INSIST ON THIS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPACT, I THINK, ON FARES FOR THE REST OF THE FEE-PAYING POPULATION. FURTHERMORE I DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO ISSUE A CARD FOR THOSE OF A LOWER AGE GROUP. I MUST REITERATE THAT SUCH A CARD WOULD HAVE NO PURPOSE WHEN IT WOULD NOT BE RECOGNISED BY THOSE WHO OFFER CONCESSIONS. AS THE HONOURABLE Y F HUI SAID, OUR ELDERLY PEOPLE WOULD END UP BEING ASKED TO SHOW THE HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD TO PROVE ELIGIBILITY. SURELY WE DON'T WANT THAT. THAT'S WE HAVE NO INTENTION EITHER TO ABANDON THE ISSUE OF THE CARD OR TO CARELESSLY LOWER THE ELIGIBILITY AGE BELOW 65. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE HONOURABLE ELSIE TU'S COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON THE CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE TO ELDERLY PEOPLE INITIATED BY MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

WE APPRECIATE THAT THERE ARE CONCESSIONARY SCHEMES OFFERED TO PERSONS AGED BELOW 65. THIS IS WONDERFUL. THIS IS LAUDABLE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT SUCH CONCESSIONARY SCHEMES WILL CONTINUE.

WE IN HONG KONG HAVE A VERY GOOD TIME-HONOURED TRADITION OF RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR ELDERLY PERSONS. LET US BUILD ON THIS. LET US MAKE IT BETTER.

LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES TO BE UPDATED

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WITH THE SUCCESS IN INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF RELAPSING FEVER AND TYPHUS AND THE GLOBAL ERADICATION OF SMALLPOX, IT IS NO LONGER REALISTIC OR NECESSARY TO RETAIN THESE DISEASES WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE QUARANTINE AND PREVENTION OF DISEASE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO THESE DISEASES WHEREVER THEY APPEAR IN THE ORDINANCE," MRS WONG SAID.

"IT IS ALSO PROPOSED TO UPDATE THE LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES PRESCRIBED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE ORDINANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS AND WORLDWIDE PRACTICE."

THE LEVEL OF PENALTY FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE WILL ALSO BE INCREASED TO MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AGAINST OFFENCES.

FURTHERMORE, OPPORTUNITY IS TAKEN TO TRANSFER CERTAIN POWERS PRESENTLY VESTED WITH THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO EITHER THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH OR THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE.

THESE RELATE, RESPECTIVELY, TO THE POWER FOR AMENDING THE STATUTORY FORMS FOR NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND TO THE POWER FOR ADJUSTING THE PRESCRIBED FEES IN LINE WITH CHANGES IN OPERATING COST.

"THE INTENTION OF THIS TRANSFER IS TO STREAMLINE PROCEDURES AND TO MAKE FOR MORE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION," MRS WONG SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TWO MORE MEMBERS FOR CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY BY INCLUDING ONE REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HONGKONG KNITWEAR EXPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CLOTHING INDUSTRY)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, MR LAM SAID THE INCREASED MEMBERSHIP WOULD ENABLE THE AUTHORITY TO HAVE MORE DIRECT INPUT FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S LABOUR POLICY AS WELL AS TO BENEFIT FROM EXPERT OPINIONS ON THE KNITWEAR INDUSTRY.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO TRANSFER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE SPECIFYING THE MEMBERSHIP AND QUORUM FOR MEETINGS OF THE AUTHORITY TO A NEW SCHEDULE AND TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR TO AMEND THIS SCHEDULE.

"THIS PROPOSAL WOULD ENABLE SWIFT UPDATING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY IN RESPONSE TO CHANGING NEEDS," MR LAM SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SECURITY AND GUARDING SERVICES TO BE BETTER REGULATED

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THE PUBLIC CAN EXPECT MORE REASONABLE AND RELIABLE STANDARDS OF SECURITY AND GUARDING SERVICES UNDER A BILL THAT WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SECURITY AND GUARDING SERVICES BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID THE BILL PROPOSED TO REGULATE THE INDUSTRY BY A LICENSING SYSTEM.

THE LICENSING SYSTEM WILL BE RUN ON TWO LEVELS, THE GRANTING OF PERMITS TO SECURITY PERSONNEL AND THE LICENSING OF SECURITY COMPANIES.

"THESE PROPOSALS HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE SECURITY ASSOCIATION, WHICH REPRESENTS MORE THAN 75 PER CENT OF ALL COMPANIES ENGAGING IN GUARDING AND SECURITY TRANSPORT ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

UNDER THE BILL, ACTIVITIES CLASSIFIED AS SECURITY WORK WILL INCLUDE GUARDING ANY PROPERTY; PREVENTING OR DETECTING THE OCCURRENCE OF ANY OFFENCE; INSTALLING, MAINTAINING OR REPAIRING A SECURITY DEVICE; AND DESIGNING FOR ANY PARTICULAR PREMISES OR PLACE A SYSTEM INCORPORATING A SECURITY DEVICE.

IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE FOR A COMPANY TO UNDERTAKE SECURITY WORK WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE OR TO SUPPLY SECURITY PERSONNEL WHO DO NOT HAVE VALID PERMITS.

IT WILL ALSO BE AN OFFENCE FOR A PERSON TO ENGAGE IN SECURITY WORK WITHOUT A VALID PERMIT.

"WE PROPOSE THAT APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS AND RENEWAL OF PERMITS BY SECURITY PERSONNEL SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

"APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES BY SECURITY COMPANIES SHOULD BE MADE TO A SECURITY AND GUARDING SERVICES INDUSTRY AUTHORITY TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE BILL," HE SAID.

THE AUTHORITY WILL CONSIST OF A CHAIRMAN AND THREE OTHER PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY.

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TO ENABLE A SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM THE EXISTING WATCHMEN ORDINANCE, MR ASPREY SAID THE BILL PROPOSED THAT EXISTING WATCHMEN'S PERMITS WOULD INITIALLY BE REGARDED AS VALID.

THE SECURITY AND GUARDING SERVICES INDUSTRY AUTHORITY WILL, OVER A PERIOD, NOTIFY PERMIT HOLDERS TO APPLY FOR A NEW PERMIT UNDER THE BILL.

EXISTING SECURITY COMPANIES WILL BE GIVEN 12 MONTHS IN WHICH TO APPLY FOR LICENCES.

MR ASPREY SAID AN APPEAL BOARD, MADE UP OF A CHAIRMAN AND A PANEL OF PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, WOULD BE SET UP TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE APPEALS AGAINST THE DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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#### LAW NEEDED TO ENSURE QUALITY OF ELDERLY HOMES

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THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS TO CONTROL THE STANDARDS OF RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IS BY LEGISLATIVE CONTROL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

MRS WONG SAID THE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES (ELDERLY PERSONS) BILL WHICH WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST WEEK, WAS TO ENSURE THAT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY WERE OF A STANDARD ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY.

"WE HOPE THAT THE LEGISLATION CAN BE ENACTED TO ENSURE THAT HOMES WILL BE ABLE TO IMPROVE THEIR SERVICE ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED UNDER THE BILL," SHE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF SERVICE OF THESE HOMES.

TO HELP OPERATORS OF PRIVATE HOMES MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE, A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY HAS BEEN PUBLISHED.

MRS WONG ALSO NOTED THAT SUBSEQUENT TO THE FIRE BOMB ATTACK ON A HOME AT BOUNDARY STREET IN JUNE THIS YEAR, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD CONDUCTED 530 VISITS TO THESE HOMES AND ALL OF THEM HAD BEEN VISITED AT LEAST ONCE.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT STAFF ALSO VISIT PRIVATE HOMES REGULARLY TO URGE HOME OPERATORS TO COMPLY WITH THE CODE.

AFTER EACH VISIT, A LETTER WILL BE ISSUED TO THE OPERATOR TO POINT OUT AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT, INCLUDING SAFETY MEASURES IF THESE ARE FOUND NOT TO BE ADEQUATE, SHE ADDED.

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REFERRAL SYSTEM IN PLACE TO HELP VICTIMS  
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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A WELL-ESTABLISHED SYSTEM OF CO-OPERATION AND REFERRALS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND HOSPITALS FOR HANDLING CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NOW IN PLACE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG SAID WHEN A CASE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WAS REPORTED TO THE POLICE, THEY WOULD LIAISE WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE COUNSELLING FOR THE VICTIM.

ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE IMMEDIATELY FOR HIM OR HER TO BE SENT TO A HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT, SHE SAID.

UPON REFERRAL, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE COUNSELLING AND ASSISTANCE.

"FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, CHILD CARE SERVICE, TEMPORARY REFUGE OR ACCOMMODATION, REFERRALS FOR LEGAL AID AND COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING ARE PROVIDED TO THE VICTIMS."

WHERE NECESSARY, MRS WONG CONTINUED, COURT PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE INITIATED FOR THE CARE OF THE ABUSED CHILD.

SIMILARLY, THE HOSPITALS AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL LIAISE WITH THE POLICE AND EACH OTHER IF THEY COME ACROSS CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS BEST HANDLED BY BANKS

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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO REQUIRE BANKS TO HAND OVER UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS FOR DISPOSAL, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION CAUSES ANY MAJOR PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES AND WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A MATTER BEST HANDLED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NORMAL BANKER-CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP," HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CARTLAND SAID INDIVIDUAL BANKS HAD THEIR OWN INTERNAL GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR CLASSIFYING DORMANT ACCOUNTS AND TREATING UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS.

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY OF THE LEADING LOCAL BANKS, MANY OF THE INSTITUTIONS DO CLASSIFY SOME OF THEIR DEPOSITS AS UNCLAIMED IF THE ACCOUNTS CONCERNED HAVE BEEN INACTIVE FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD.

/BUT IT .....

BUT IT IS A GENERAL PRACTICE THAT THEY DO NOT DISCHARGE THEIR OBLIGATIONS ON SUCH DEPOSITS.

IF THE DEPOSITS ARE EVENTUALLY CLAIMED, THE BANKS WILL STILL REPAY THE AMOUNT IN FULL, SAVE FOR ANY CHARGES WHICH MAY BE APPLICABLE TO THE TRANSACTION.

MR CARTLAND SAID CLASSIFICATION OF DORMANT ACCOUNTS AND UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS VARIED FROM BANK TO BANK IN THE ABSENCE OF INDUSTRY-WIDE OR INTERNATIONAL DEFINITIONS.

"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THEREFORE TO HAVE AN ACCURATE FIGURE FOR UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS IN THE BANKING SYSTEM," HE SAID.

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PHI RISK LEVEL IS LOW

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THE GOVERNMENT POLICY ON POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS INSTALLATION (PHI) IS TO REDUCE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH OF THESE INSTALLATIONS TO LEVELS WHICH ARE AS LOW AS IS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THIS IS DONE BY CONTROLLING THE SITING OF PHIS AND LAND USE IN THEIR VICINITY, AND BY REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION TO BE CONSTRUCTED AND OPERATED TO SPECIFIED STANDARDS," HE SAID.

IN HIS REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG, MR EASON SAID THERE WERE ONLY 34 PHIS IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THESE INCLUDED THE LARGER LPG STORAGE FACILITIES, GAS WORKS, CHLORINE STORES AT WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND EXPLOSIVES FACTORIES AND DEPOTS.

SINCE DECEMBER 1986, AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE, THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE LAND USE PLANNING AND CONTROL RELATING TO POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS INSTALLATIONS (CCPHI), HAS CO-ORDINATED ACTION ON PHIS.

"FOR EACH PHI, THE SURROUNDING POPULATION IS ESTABLISHED BY A PLANNING STUDY AND THE RISK LEVELS ARE EVALUATED BY A HAZARD ASSESSMENT OF THE PLANT.

"THE OVERALL RISK LEVELS POSED ARE THEN JUDGED AGAINST A SET OF GUIDELINES FORMULATED BY CCPHI TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE."

NEW PHIS WILL NOT NORMALLY BE APPROVED UNLESS THEY COMPLY WITH THE RISK GUIDELINES, HE SAID.

FOR EXISTING PHIS WHICH DO NOT INITIALLY MEET THE RISK GUIDELINES, CCPHI WILL DETERMINE WHAT RISK MITIGATION MEASURES ARE NECESSARY TO BRING THE RISK LEVELS DOWN.

IF NECESSARY, RELOCATION WILL BE CONSIDERED.

ON CONTINGENCY PLANS, MR EASON SAID EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES WERE DRAWN UP IN RESPECT OF EACH PHI BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES CONCERNED.

THE PLAN IS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED IN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS, AND WILL BE ACTIVATED WHEN REQUIRED.

THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD IS NORMALLY INFORMED OF THE MAIN HAZARD ASSESSMENT FINDINGS, PROPOSED RISK MITIGATION MEASURES AND CONTINGENCY PLANS IN RESPECT OF INDIVIDUAL PHIS.

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE RELEVANT INFORMATION MORE READILY AVAILABLE TO THE PROFESSIONALS CONCERNED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ALIKE, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INCORPORATE THE RISK GUIDELINES IN THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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EMPLOYMENT POLICY ON CIVIL SERVANTS' LEAVING SERVICE EXPLAINED

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THE CRITERIA FOR OFFICER WHO RESIGNS AND WISHES TO TAKE UP PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT DURING PRE-RESIGNATION LEAVE ARE THE SAME AS THOSE FOR OFFICERS SEEKING POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT.

ESSENTIALLY THESE CONCERN WHETHER THERE IS A CONFLICT WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHRISTINE LOH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR STUART HARBINSON, SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSIDER IT REASONABLE, OR VERY PRACTICABLE, TO ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THE FUTURE EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE WHO HAD RESIGNED AND SEVERED THEIR LINKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

"I WOULD ADD HOWEVER THAT WE CAN AND DO EXERT CONTROL, IF APPROPRIATE, DURING ANY PERIOD OF FINAL LEAVE WHICH CAN BE A MATTER OF MONTHS.

"FURTHERMORE ALL FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS, WHETHER RETIRED OR RESIGNED, REMAIN SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT (1989), AS EXTENDED TO HONG KONG," MR HARBINSON SAID.

AT PRESENT, THE LONGEST SANITISATION PERIOD ADVISED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT ON AN INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION FOR POST-RETIREMENT IS TWO YEARS.

SO FAR, NO RETIRED OFFICER'S PENSION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED ON ACCOUNT OF HIS EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

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LOCALISATION POLICY TO BE IMPLEMENTED FIRMLY AND FAIRLY  
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THERE IS NO INHERENT CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LOCALISATION POLICY AND THE RECENTLY INTRODUCED MEASURE OF ALLOWING CONTRACT OFFICERS APPOINTED ON OVERSEAS TERMS TO APPLY FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR STUART HARBINSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI WAH-MING, MR HARBINSON SAID IT USED TO BE THE PRACTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO ENTERTAIN AN APPLICATION FROM A CONTRACT OFFICER ALREADY SERVING ON OVERSEAS CONDITIONS FOR A NEW CONTRACT ON LOCAL CONDITIONS.

"WE WOULD NOW CONSIDER SUCH AN APPLICATION, BUT ONLY IN RESPECT OF A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF HONG KONG, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS BEING MET, AND ON AN INTERIM BASIS OF ONE CONTRACT ONLY.

"WITH THIS ONE CHANGE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO INVOLVE LIMITED NUMBERS, THE LOCALISATION POLICY CONTINUES TO BE IMPLEMENTED FIRMLY AND FAIRLY," HE STATED.

AS ANNOUNCED RECENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT WISHED TO MOVE TOWARDS ABOLISHING OVERSEAS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR FUTURE APPOINTMENTS.

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT "LOCALISATION" WOULD STILL BE A KEY FEATURE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE EMPLOYMENT POLICY.

"BUT WITH THE PHASING OUT OF DIFFERENTIAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, WE WOULD NEED TO DEVISE A NEW AND POSITIVE DEFINITION OF WHO IS 'LOCAL'," SAID MR HARBINSON.

"THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF A WIDE-RANGING CONSULTATIVE EXERCISE ON WHICH WE HAVE NOW EMBARKED."

ASKED ABOUT THE MEANING OF "LOCALISATION", MR HARBINSON SAID IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, IT MEANT THE POLICY UNDER WHICH AN OVERSEAS PERSON WAS APPOINTED ONLY IF A FULLY QUALIFIED AND SUITABLE LOCAL PERSON WAS UNAVAILABLE AND THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT COULD NOT BE MODIFIED TO ENABLE A LOCAL, IN PREFERENCE TO AN OVERSEAS, APPOINTMENT.

AN "OVERSEAS PERSON" IS SIMPLY SOMEONE WHO MEETS THE RELEVANT CRITERIA FOR APPOINTMENT ON OVERSEAS CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WHILE A "LOCAL PERSON" MEANS SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR OVERSEAS CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, HE ADDED.

NEW CRITERIA TO EXAMINE MORE POTENTIAL TAXPAYERS

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MORE POTENTIAL TAXPAYERS WILL BE EXAMINED UNDER THE NEW SELECTION CRITERIA ADOPTED BY THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT FOR THE OPENING OF PROPERTY DEALING FILES.

UNDER THE NEW CRITERIA, A PROPERTY DEALING FILE WILL BE OPENED AFTER THREE TRANSACTIONS IN A SIX-YEAR PERIOD INSTEAD OF FOUR TRANSACTIONS AS UNDER THE OLD CRITERIA.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID THE CRITERIA WERE ADOPTED AFTER A REVIEW COMPLETED IN JULY THIS YEAR.

UNDER THE NEW SELECTION CRITERIA, A PROPERTY DEALING FILE IS OPENED AND A QUESTIONNAIRE ISSUED IF A PERSON, OTHER THAN A "CONFIRMOR", THAT IS, A PERSON WHO ENTERS INTO A SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE A PROPERTY AND THEN RE-SELLS BEFORE ASSIGNMENT, HAS HAD:

- \* THREE OR MORE PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS WITHIN A SIX-YEAR PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1987; OR
- \* A SINGLE SALE OF PROPERTY HELD FOR LESS THAN TWO YEARS WITH GROSS PROFIT ARISING FROM THE SALE EXCEEDING \$200,000.

MR TSANG SAID THE PREVIOUS PRACTICE OF EXAMINING ALL CASES INVOLVING CONFIRMORS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR TAX LIABILITY WOULD CONTINUE.

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AIRPORT RECLAMATION BASED ON ACCUMULATED EXPERIENCE

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THERE IS SO FAR NO EVIDENCE OF ANY MAJOR PROBLEM ON SETTLEMENT OF THE RECLAMATION AT THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG, MR JAMES BLAKE SAID THE EXPERIENCE OF SUBSIDENCE OF FOUNDATION AT SOME AIRPORTS BUILT ON RECLAIMED LAND IN OTHER PLACES WAS NOT APPLICABLE TO CHEK LAP KOK.

HE SAID IN DESIGNING THE RECLAMATION WORK FOR THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, REFERENCE HAD BEEN MADE TO EXPERIENCE ON MAJOR RECLAMATION WORKS BOTH IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES.

"A TEST EMBANKMENT WAS CONSTRUCTED AT CHEK LAP KOK AS LONG AGO AS 1982 TO EVALUATE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOILS AT THE SITE OF THE FUTURE AIRPORT."

BASED ON THE OBSERVATIONS ON THE TEST EMBANKMENT AND THE STUDIES OF OTHER MAJOR RECLAMATION WORKS, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO ADOPT FOR THE RECLAMATION WORK IN CHEK LAP KOK THE TECHNIQUE WHICH INVOLVES THE REMOVAL OF THE UPPER LAYERS OF SOFT MARINE MUD.

"WITH MARINE MUD REMOVED, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE AVERAGE SETTLEMENT OF THE RECLAMATION AREAS AT THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT SITE WILL BE 40 TO 50 CENTIMETRES OVER A LONG PERIOD."

MR BLAKE SAID TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MATERIAL TO ALLOW FOR THIS SETTLEMENT, THE SITE WOULD BE FILLED TO HALF A METRE ABOVE THE FORMATION LEVEL AND CIVIL WORKS DESIGNED TO ALLOW FOR THESE CONDITIONS.

"PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE TO ACCELERATE SETTLEMENT BY MECHANICAL MEANS OR SURCHARGE WHICH IS NORMAL PRACTICE IN HONG KONG AND INSTRUMENTATION HAS BEEN INSTALLED TO MONITOR SETTLEMENT."

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#### BNO PASSPORTS RECOGNISED WORLDWIDE

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AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF THE HONG KONG AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, THE BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT, WHICH IS VALID BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER JUNE 30, 1997, IS RECOGNISED WORLDWIDE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TIEN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"ITS HOLDERS ARE ABLE TO ENTER 71 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES VISA FREE.

"THE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN PASSPORT IS EQUALLY WELL ACCEPTED," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE CONTINUATION OF VISA-FREE PRIVILEGES FOR ALL THOSE WITH HONG KONG TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

"WE HAVE PUT PROPOSALS TO THIS END TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP," HE ADDED.

SINCE OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR, SPAIN HAS INTRODUCED CHANGES IN VISA REQUIREMENTS WHICH AFFECTED A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, INCLUDING HONG KONG.

"THE HONG KONG AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS LOBBIED HARD BUT UNSUCCESSFULLY AGAINST THE RECENT SPANISH MOVE.

"OUR EMPHASIS WILL NOW BE TO ENCOURAGE THE SPANISH CONSULATE-GENERAL HERE TO MAKE THE PROCESSING TIME FOR THE ISSUE OF VISAS AS QUICK AND AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

/MR ASPREY .....

MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY UNUSUAL VISA DIFFICULTIES, BUT WOULD BE MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ASSESSED PUBLIC OPINION ON THIS MATTER THROUGH THE MEDIA, LETTERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE NATIONALITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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CAD HAS DIRECT CONTACT WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS

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THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND THE TAXI RADIO SERVICE CENTRES ARE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PASSENGER DEMAND AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT WHEN TYPHOON SIGNAL NO.8 IS HOISTED, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON VINCENT CHENG HOI-CHUEN, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, SAID DIRECT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT WERE PROVIDED BY AIRPORT BUSES AND TAXIS.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY LTD OPERATES FOUR AIRPORT ROUTES TO AND FROM CENTRAL, CAUSEWAY BAY, TAIKOO SHING AND TSIM SHA TSUI.

UNDER A LONG-STANDING ARRANGEMENT, THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT KEEPS THE BUS COMPANY INFORMED OF THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS WAITING AT THE AIRPORT AND, WHEN NECESSARY, EXTRA BUSES ARE DEPLOYED TO MEET DEMAND.

PAST RECORDS SHOW THAT KMB HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS AIRPORT BUS SERVICES DURING TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8, HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID TAXI AVAILABILITY MIGHT WELL BE REDUCED WHEN THE NO. 8 SIGNAL WAS HOISTED SINCE IT WAS UP TO INDIVIDUAL DRIVERS TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISHED TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE.

NEVERTHELESS, THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTLY CONTACTS TAXI ASSOCIATIONS AND TAXI RADIO SERVICE CENTRES TO INFORM THEM OF PASSENGER DEMAND AT THE AIRPORT, HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1993

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CONTROL OF CHANGES IN BUILDING USE POSSIBLE

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WHEN APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGING USE OF BUILDINGS ARE CONSIDERED, REGARD WILL BE GIVEN TO COMPATIBILITY WITH THE PLANNING INTENTION FOR THE AREA AND SURROUNDING USES, ADEQUACY OF INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT AND OTHER LOCAL FACTORS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CONRAD LAM.

MR EASON SAID CHANGES IN THE USE OF A BUILDING WERE DEALT WITH BY THE LEASE CONDITIONS, THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE OR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

"WHERE A PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE LEASE CONDITIONS OF THE LOT IN QUESTION, A MODIFICATION WILL BE REQUIRED, OR UNDER THE PLANNING LEGISLATION, A PLANNING APPLICATION MAY BE REQUIRED DEPENDING ON THE STATUTORY ZONING."

MR EASON SAID ANY MATERIAL CHANGE IN THE USE OF A BUILDING OR ANY PART OF A BUILDING IS SUBJECT TO CONTROL UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, WHICH IS PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE USERS.

THE CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION FOR A CHANGE OF USE UNDER THE ORDINANCE INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHETHER THE STRUCTURAL LOADING AND THE MEANS OF ESCAPE PROVISIONS OF THE BUILDING ARE SUITABLE FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE.

ANY PROPOSED BUILDING WORKS RELATING TO A CHANGE OF USE WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE AND ITS REGULATIONS.

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ALL VIET CAMPS TO GO IN 1996

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ALL VIETNAMESE MIGRANT CAMPS IN THE TERRITORY SHOULD BE EMPTIED BY EARLY 1996 IF CURRENT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TRENDS ARE MAINTAINED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON ALLEN LEE, MR ASPREY SAID THE REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WERE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (CPA), AN AGREEMENT ENDORSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN 1989.

"THE CPA PROVIDES THAT ALL VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ARRIVING IN FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRIES SHOULD BE SCREENED TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE REFUGEES," MR ASPREY SAID.

/THOSE DETERMINED .....

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THOSE DETERMINED NOT TO BE REFUGEES SHOULD RETURN HOME, HE ADDED.

SINCE 1989, OVER 35,000 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS HAVE RETURNED TO VIETNAM FROM HONG KONG.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 24,500 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAVE ALSO LEFT THE TERRITORY.

"THE REMAINING POPULATION NOW STANDS AT 35,000, INCLUDING ABOUT 2,000 REFUGEES," MR ASPREY SAID.

ONLY 12 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ARRIVED LAST YEAR; AND 55 SO FAR THIS YEAR.

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BUS SHELTERS WITH ASBESTOS TO BE REPLACED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL LIAISE WITH THE BUS COMPANIES TO EXPEDITE REPLACEMENT OF OLD BUS SHELTERS STILL CONTAINING ASBESTOS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LAM KUI-CHUN, MR BARMA SAID THE FOUR FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES PROVIDED AND MAINTAINED A TOTAL OF 1,543 BUS SHELTERS, OF WHICH 374 CONTAINING ASBESTOS IN THEIR CORRUGATED ROOF SHEETS.

HE SAID THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAD ADVISED THAT UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS THESE BUS SHELTERS DID NOT POSE ANY HEALTH HAZARD BECAUSE THE ASBESTOS CONTENT WAS LOCKED IN A MATRIX OF CEMENT AND WOULD ONLY BE RELEASED UNLESS THE SHEETS WERE DAMAGED.

"AT THE BEHEST OF THE GOVERNMENT, BUS SHELTERS CONSTRUCTED SINCE 1987 CONTAIN NO ASBESTOS."

AS FOR THOSE OLDER BUS SHELTERS WHICH STILL CONTAIN ASBESTOS, KOWLOON MOTOR BUS AND CITYBUS EACH HAVE A TWO-YEAR REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME WHILE CHINA MOTOR BUS AND NEW LANTAO BUS'S APPROACH IS TO REPLACE SHELTERS, WHEN DAMAGED, WITH NON-ASBESTOS MATERIAL.

IN ALL CASES, THE BUS COMPANIES WILL SEEK ADVICE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT ON THE NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS WHEN REPLACING THESE SHELTERS, HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT WILL LIAISE WITH THE FOUR FRANCHISED BUS OPERATORS TO SEE WHETHER THIS PROCESS CAN BE EXPEDITED."

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AIR CARGO CAPACITY CAPABLE TO MEET DEMAND

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THE CARGO CAPACITY PROVIDED FOR UNDER HONG KONG'S AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENT IS ADEQUATE TO CATER FOR MARKET DEMAND AND GROWTH, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA, MR SIU SAID AIR FREIGHT SERVICES TO AND FROM HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS WERE PROVIDED, ON BOTH A SCHEDULED AND NON-SCHEDULED BASIS, BY HONG KONG-BASED AND FOREIGN AIRLINES.

"CURRENT LOAD FACTORS INDICATE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE CAPACITY IN THE MARKET TO MEET FORESEEABLE YEAR-ROUND DEMAND," HE SAID.

DURING THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1987/88 TO 1992/93, THE TOTAL VOLUME OF COMMERCIAL AIR CARGO LOADED AND UNLOADED AT HONG KONG INCREASED BY 58.5 PER CENT.

OF THE VOLUME HANDLED IN 1992/93, ALL BUT TWO PER CENT OF TOTAL CARGO UNLOADED AND FIVE PER CENT OF TOTAL CARGO LOADED WAS CARRIED BY SCHEDULED CARRIERS.

MR SIU SAID NON-SCHEDULED SERVICES PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN COPING WITH SEASONAL PEAKS IN DEMAND, SUCH AS PRE-CHRISTMAS SHIPMENTS TO EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE SITUATION IS KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW; SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, WE WOULD SEEK TO NEGOTIATE ADDITIONAL CAPACITY AND FREQUENCY PROVISIONS WITH THE PARTNERS CONCERNED," HE SAID.

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STRINGENT SAFETY MEASURES IMPOSED ON GOVT PROJECTS

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ALTHOUGH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WERE SUBJECT TO THE SAME INDUSTRIAL SAFETY STANDARDS UNDER THE LAW, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS DID IMPOSE STRINGENT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ON THEIR CONTRACTORS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LAM SAID THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS MONITORED THE SAFETY PERFORMANCE OF THEIR CONTRACTORS AS PART OF THEIR ASSESSMENT ON WHETHER GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS SHOULD BE AWARDED TO THEM IN FUTURE.

A SET OF COMPLIANCE STANDARDS IS BEING DEVELOPED AND WILL BE INTRODUCED NEXT YEAR.

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ALREADY HAS A COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE AGAINST WHICH THEIR CONTRACTORS' PERFORMANCE ON SAFETY IS MONITORED.

AS FOR AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS (ACP) CONTRACTS, AN ACP SAFETY MANUAL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED REQUIRING CONTRACTORS TO PRODUCE AND COMPLY WITH COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PLANS.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT, THE ENGINEER OF AN ACP CONTRACT AWARDED AFTER JULY 1992 HAS THE POWER TO STOP WORK IF THE SAFETY PLAN IS NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED PROPERLY.

MR LAM SAID SIMILAR REQUIREMENTS WERE BEING INTRODUCED INCREMENTALLY FOR THE REST OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, STARTING WITH THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLEX CONTRACTS.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 25,138 INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN 1990, 23,115 IN 1991 AND 18,815 IN 1992.

OF THESE, 4,943 (19.7%) TOOK PLACE ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ENGAGED IN GOVERNMENT PROJECTS IN 1990, 4,169 (18%) IN 1991 AND 3,221 (17.1%) LAST YEAR.

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#### SEVEN PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR MISUSING FIRE HOSES

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SEVEN PERSONS WERE PROSECUTED FOR MISUSING FIRE HOSES BETWEEN OCTOBER LAST YEAR AND SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN, MR BLAKE SAID ALL THESE PERSONS WERE CONVICTED AND THE PENALTY RANGED FROM \$700 TO \$5,000.

HE SAID THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM IS THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION.

"WARNING NOTICES ARE PUT UP NEAR THE INSTALLATIONS AND WIDELY PUBLICISED IN ESTATE NEWSLETTERS AND SO ON TO REMIND TENANTS OF PROPER USE OF FIRE HOSES.

"AS PART OF THE ON-GOING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS INCLUDED EDUCATING THE PUBLIC NOT TO MISUSE FIRE HOSES AND OTHER FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS."

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ENCOURAGED DEVELOPERS TO INSTALL MORE CONVENIENT DRAW-OFF TAPS TO PROVIDE METERED WATER FOR FLOOR CLEANSING OR CAR WASHING, THUS DISCOURAGING PEOPLE FROM ABUSING FIRE HOSES FOR THESE PURPOSES.

HE SAID ANY MISUSE DETECTED WOULD BE STOPPED AND APPROPRIATE ACTIONS, INCLUDING WARNINGS AND PROSECUTIONS, WOULD BE TAKEN.

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RETRAINÉES FIND JOBS WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES

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THE FEEDBACK FROM THE RETRAINEES WHO HAVE COMPLETED COURSES UNDER THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME INDICATES THAT IN GENERAL THEY HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN FINDING JOBS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR LAM SAID AT THE END OF OCTOBER, THE SCHEME HAD ENROLLED 5,945 PERSONS, INCLUDING 4,638 WHO HAD COMPLETED RETRAINING AND 1,307 STILL UNDERGOING RETRAINING.

OUT OF THE 4,638 RETRAINEES WHO HAD COMPLETED RETRAINING, 1,581 HAD RECEIVED TRAINING ON SPECIFIC VOCATIONAL SKILLS AND 3,057 ON JOB SEARCH SKILLS AND ORIENTATION TO WORK IN NEW ENVIRONMENT.

IN THE CASE OF THE 1,581 RETRAINEES WHO HAD RECEIVED VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING, ONLY ABOUT 10 PER CENT REQUIRED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE TO FIND JOBS, MR LAM SAID.

ON THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SCHEME, HE NOTED THAT SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN JUNE THIS YEAR, 320 FIRMS HAD JOINED THE SCHEME AND 589 EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN PLACED WITH SOME OF THESE EMPLOYERS.

ON THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD'S EXPENDITURE, MR LAM SAID OF THE \$146 MILLION BUDGETED FOR 1993/94, \$3.3 MILLION HAD BEEN EARMARKED FOR PUBLICITY, \$14 MILLION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES INCLUDING CAPITAL ITEMS FOR SETTING UP A NEW OFFICE, AND THE REMAINING \$128.7 MILLION FOR THE VARIOUS RETRAINING PROGRAMMES.

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METERED WATER SUPPLY TO 1.9 MILLION CONSUMERS

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METERED WATER SUPPLY WAS PROVIDED TO 1,727,000 DOMESTIC CONSUMERS AND 219,000 NON-DOMESTIC SUBSCRIBERS AT THE END OF THE 1992/93 FINANCIAL YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE, MR BLAKE SAID THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF WATER CHARGES COLLECTED FROM DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC CONSUMERS LAST YEAR WERE \$748,434,000 AND \$1,193,487,000 RESPECTIVELY.

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ESSENTIAL MEDICAL SERVICES MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES

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CORE STAFF, INCLUDING NURSING STAFF, ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT FOR DUTY ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULED ROSTER DRAWN UP BY EACH HOSPITAL DURING A TYPHOON SITUATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG SAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL GUIDELINES OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS INPATIENT AND ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES WERE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.

OTHER SERVICES SUCH AS OUT-PATIENT CLINICS ARE NORMALLY CLOSED WHEN TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 IS HOISTED.

ON WHY SOME NURSES OF THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL WERE ADVISED TO GO OFF DUTY WHEN TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 WAS HOISTED, MRS WONG EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE THE STAFF REMAINING WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO MEET OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

"IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL THESE NURSES LIVED IN NURSE QUARTERS WHICH WERE WITHIN THE HOSPITAL COMPOUND," SHE SAID.

"THIS ARRANGEMENT AFFECTED NEITHER THE OPERATION OF THE HOSPITAL NOR THE SAFETY OF THE STAFF CONCERNED."

THE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT HAS HELD LIAISON MEETINGS WITH STAFF TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION PARTICULARLY DURING EMERGENCY SITUATION, MRS WONG ADDED.

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LEGCO UPDATED ON STOLEN VEHICLE FIGURES

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID SO FAR THIS YEAR, 1,722 VEHICLES THAT HAD BEEN REPORTED STOLEN WERE RECOVERED, INCLUDING 24 RETURNED FROM CHINA.

LAST YEAR, 3,771 VEHICLES WERE RECOVERED, INCLUDING SIX RETURNED FROM CHINA. IN 1991, 4,309 WERE RECOVERED, INCLUDING 34 RETURNED FROM CHINA.

THE NUMBERS OF VEHICLES REPORTED STOLEN IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, LAST YEAR AND IN 1991 WERE 3,649, 6,916 AND 6,354 RESPECTIVELY.

THE FIGURES WERE GIVEN IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALLEN LEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

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MOTION ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PASSED A MOTION ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AFTER A TWO-HOUR DEBATE TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY).

EIGHTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION WHICH WAS PROPOSED BY THE HON EMILY LAU. THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER MOTION PROPOSED BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT ON A PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT SCHEME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WAS ALSO PASSED. THE AMENDED MOTION PROPOSED BY THE HON WONG WAI-YIN WAS DEFEATED.

A TOTAL OF 19 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE. THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

ALSO, TWO BILLS WERE PASSED AT THE MEETING.

OF THEM, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1993 WAS PASSED WITH AMENDMENT WHILE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WAS PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENT.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1993

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HK DRAWS UP COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR AVIATION SECURITY

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A HONG KONG AVIATION SECURITY BILL IS NOW AT THE DRAFTING STAGE TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK WHICH WILL HAVE EFFECT BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER JUNE 30, 1997.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN ADDRESSING THE AVIATION SECURITY IN PRACTICE SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION.

"WE PLAN TO INTRODUCE THIS BILL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT SUMMER AND HOPE IT WILL BE ENACTED BY THE END OF 1994," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE SAID THE NEW LEGISLATION WOULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO ENSURE THE TERRITORY WAS ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDED IN THE YEARS AHEAD AGAINST CRIMINAL AND TERRORIST ATTACKS ON AIRCRAFT, PASSENGERS AND AIRPORTS.

THE BILL WILL INCLUDE THE PROVISIONS OF THE TOKYO, HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS AND ASSOCIATED EXTRADITION ARRANGEMENTS.

IT WILL ALSO INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO PERMIT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL IN HONG KONG, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS TO BE MOST IMPORTANT, AND COMPLIANCE WITH ANNEX 17 OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

AT PRESENT, THE TOKYO, HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS, THOUGH NOT THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL, HAVE ALL BEEN GIVEN EFFECT IN HONG KONG THROUGH UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION.

"ALL THIS UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION WILL CEASE TO APPLY IN HONG KONG AFTER JUNE 30, 1997, AND WE NEED TO LOCALISE IT IF WE WISH ITS PROVISIONS TO CONTINUE TO APPLY BEYOND THEN," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSULT WIDELY, INCLUDING THE INDUSTRY, DURING THE LATER STAGES OF THE DRAFTING OF THE AVIATION SECURITY BILL.

MR ASPREY UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGISLATION TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT THE ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES, IN PARTICULAR THE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED IN ANNEX 17 TO THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

THE FIRST STEP IN THIS PROCESS, SAID MR ASPREY, WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARD 3.1.3 OF ANNEX 17.

MR ASPREY, AS THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY, WHICH IS REFERRED TO AS THE AVIATION SECURITY AUTHORITY IN HONG KONG.

TO ADVISE HIM, AN AVIATION SECURITY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, WITH MEMBERSHIP FROM MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE AND THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

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"THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AVIATION SECURITY AUTHORITY IS THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF AN AVIATION SECURITY PROGRAMME, AS REQUIRED BY STANDARD 3.1.1 OF ANNEX 17," HE EXPLAINED.

POINTING OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD AN INFORMAL PROGRAMME FOR MANY YEARS AND ITS PROVISIONS SET OUT IN MANY DIFFERENT HANDBOOKS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, MR ASPREY SAID OVER THE YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN WORKING TO BRING THESE TOGETHER INTO ONE DOCUMENT, BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION MODEL PROGRAMME.

"WE HAVE CONSULTED WIDELY, BOTH WITHIN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND WITHIN THE AVIATION INDUSTRY AND HAVE NOW ALMOST REACHED THE POINT WHERE WE CAN GO AHEAD AND ISSUE THE PROGRAMME.

"THE PROGRAMME, ONCE ISSUED, WILL NOT BE SET IN CONCRETE, BUT WILL BE SUBJECT TO NECESSARY AMENDMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FROM TIME TO TIME, AS AVIATION SECURITY THINKING EVOLVES.

ONCE THE PROGRAMME IS IN PLACE, AIRPORT SECURITY PROGRAMME WILL BE DRAWN UP FOR KAI TAK AND, EVENTUALLY FOR CHEK LAP KOK.

ADDITIONALLY, AIRLINE OPERATORS, AIRPORT ORGANISATIONS AND TENANTS OF RESTRICTED AREAS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO DRAW UP THEIR OWN SECURITY PROGRAMMES, MR ASPREY SAID.

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#### CONTRACTOR CHARGED AFTER FATAL ACCIDENT

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THE MAIN CONTRACTOR OF A ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECT HAS BEEN CHARGED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR VIOLATING SAFETY REGULATIONS AFTER A WORKER WAS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT IN YUEN LONG IN JULY.

IN THE FATAL ACCIDENT ON JULY 4, TWO WORKERS WERE BURIED BY A LARGE MASS OF EARTH THAT CAVED IN FROM THE WALL OF A TRENCH WHILE CARRYING OUT DRAINAGE WORK INSIDE THE TRENCH AT PING HA ROAD NEAR LO UK TSUEN.

ONE OF THE WORKERS, AGED 33, WAS LATER CERTIFIED DEAD AT POK OI HOSPITAL. THE OTHER WORKER, AGED 44, SUSTAINED SERIOUS INJURIES.

FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS BY FACTORY INSPECTORS FROM THE BUILDING AND ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION OFFICE OF TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG, A SUMMONS HAS BEEN LAID AGAINST WING FAI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 39(1) OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

UNDER THIS SECTION OF THE REGULATIONS, THE CONTRACTOR MUST PROVIDE A SUITABLE SHORING SYSTEM MADE OF SUITABLE TIMBER OR OTHER MATERIAL FOR AN EXCAVATING OR EARTHWORKING OPERATION TO PREVENT WORKERS FROM BEING ENDANGERED BY A FALL OR DISPLACEMENT OF EARTH, ROCK OR OTHER MATERIAL ADJACENT TO OR FORMING THE SIDE OF THE EXCAVATION OR EARTHWORK.

"FAILURE TO OBSERVE THIS REQUIREMENT WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$30,000," LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR KAN HON-SANG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR ACCIDENTS, MR KAN URGED CONTRACTORS TO FULFIL THEIR STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO PROTECT WORKERS BY TAKING THE FOLLOWING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

- (A) BEFORE EXCAVATION STARTS, THE TYPE OF GROUND AND THE SURFACE CONDITION INCLUDING THE FLOW OF VEHICLES SHOULD BE ASSESSED BY A COMPETENT PERSON TO ESTABLISH THE EXCAVATION METHOD AND THE SUPPORT WORK;
- (B) THE SIDES OF THE EXCAVATION SHOULD BE CUT TO A SAFE BATTER TO ELIMINATE ANY RISK OF EARTH FALL;
- (C) WHERE IT IS IMPRACTICABLE TO COMPLY WITH (B), A SHORING AS DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED BY COMPETENT PERSONS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO PREVENT THE SIDES TO COLLAPSE AND TO PERMIT THE CONSTRUCTION WORK TO PROCEED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION; AND
- (D) IF PRACTICABLE, HEAVY VEHICLES THAT ENDANGER THE STABILITY OF THE GROUND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED NEAR THE EDGES OF THE EXCAVATION.

HE STRONGLY REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY HAD A DUTY TO SUPERVISE THE SAFE OPERATION OF THEIR WORKERS RATHER THAN JUST LEAVING THEM TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES WHILE AT WORK.

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#### PROSPERITY DEPENDS ON TRADE STRENGTHS

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THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG DEPENDS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF ITS STRENGTHS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE IN BOTH GOODS AND SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT EXPO 1993, MR CARTLAND SAID THESE STRENGTHS INCLUDED THE EXISTENCE OF A LOW TAX ENVIRONMENT, PRUDENT BUDGETARY POLICIES, A FREE PORT AND FREE TRADE, A FULLY CONVERTIBLE BUT SECURE CURRENCY AND ABSENCE OF EXCHANGE CONTROLS.

"OTHER STRENGTHS ARE LONG ACCUMULATION OF COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE, EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS, HARD WORK AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INSTINCT, AN ADAPTABLE LABOUR MARKET, SOUND LEGAL AND ACCOUNTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND MINIMAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN BUSINESS ACTIVITY," HE SAID.

"WE AS A GOVERNMENT ARE COMMITTED TO DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO MAINTAIN THIS SITUATION," HE ADDED.

MR CARTLAND SAID THIS EXPO EVENT WAS BEING HELD AT THE RIGHT TIME FOR HONG KONG BECAUSE THE PROSPECTS FOR THIS REGION, PARTICULARLY IN CHINA AND CLOSELY RELATED ECONOMIES LIKE HONG KONG, WERE FOR CONTINUED VIGOROUS GROWTH IN FUTURE, WHILE ELSEWHERE MANY DEVELOPED ECONOMIES STILL WALLOWED IN THE DEPTHS OF RECESSION.

"IN HONG KONG WE ARE FORECASTING FIVE PER CENT PER ANNUM REAL GROWTH IN THE GDP OVER THE MEDIUM TERM.

"FOR THIS YEAR, THE ASIAN ECONOMIES AS A WHOLE ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO GROW BY SEVEN PER CENT AND CHINA'S ECONOMY, IN PARTICULAR, BY 13.5 PER CENT, LEVELS WHICH AGAIN FAR EXCEED THE PROJECTED GROWTH OF ONLY 1.2 PER CENT FOR THE OECD," HE SAID.

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#### FOREIGN BANKS PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN HK

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HONG KONG IS A MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE AND THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN BANKS IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR MACLEOD WAS SPEAKING AT THE COCKTAIL RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIU CHONG HING BANK AND ITS 20TH YEAR OF ASSOCIATION WITH MITSUBISHI BANK OF JAPAN.

HE NOTED THAT IN HONG KONG, WE HAD OVER 500 AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS AND REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES FROM OVER 40 COUNTRIES.

HE ADDED THAT JAPANESE BANKS MADE UP A SIZEABLE PROPORTION OF THE FOREIGN BANKING COMMUNITY HERE.

"MITSUBISHI BANK, IN PARTICULAR, MADE AN IMPORTANT DECISION IN 1973 WHEN IT TOOK A 25 PER CENT STAKE IN THE LIU CHONG HING BANK AND, IN 1981, OPENED ITS OWN BRANCH IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THIS SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP OF THE LIU CHONG HING BANK AND MITSUBISHI BANK SHOWED HOW CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AND FOREIGN BANKS COULD BRING BENEFITS TO BOTH PARTIES, HE ADDED.

"IT IS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE FOR HONG KONG AS WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1993

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FIVE SITES TO LET  
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF FIVE PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST LOT IS AT WAN TSUI CRESCENT, NORTH POINT, COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 460 SQUARE METRES FOR USE AS LEISURE GARDEN, COMMERCIAL GARDEN AND PLANT NURSERY.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,620 SQUARE METRES, THE SECOND LOT IS SITUATED AT THE JUNCTION OF TIN CHIU STREET AND JAVA ROAD, NORTH POINT. IT IS USED AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC PARKING AREA FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT CONTAINER VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE THIRD LOT IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF LEI KING ROAD AND TAI ON STREET, QUARRY BAY. IT HAS AN AREA OF 2,775 SQUARE METRES, DESIGNATED AS FEE-PAYING PUBLIC PARKING AREA FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE FOURTH LOT, AT CHOI HUNG ROAD, KOWLOON, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 9,750 SQUARE METRES. IT IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC PARKING AREA FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR TRAILERS/CHASSIS ATTACHED.

THE TENANCY IS FOR 30 MONTHS, AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

LOCATED IN AREA 19, TSEUNG KWAN O, SAI KUNG, THE FIFTH LOT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,700 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF GOODS, EXCEPT CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 26.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES AT HONG KONG EAST, KOWLOON EAST AND SAI KUNG AND THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

TENDER PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE OFFICES.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,770
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,230
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,235
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,765
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.3 *+0.1* 10.11.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.63 PCT	12 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.33	3.31
1 MONTH	2.70 PCT	15 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.56	3.51
3 MONTHS	2.83 PCT	18 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.95	3.82
6 MONTHS	2.90 PCT	21 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.18	3.96
12 MONTHS	3.28 PCT	36 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.32	4.50

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,123 MN

CLOSED 10 NOVEMBER 1993 .

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