



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MORE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS NEEDED

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THE DEMAND FOR SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION HAS GROWN TREMENDOUSLY WITH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY IN RECENT YEARS, SAID MR FRED TING, COMMISSIONER FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE.

+THIS IS A SPECIALISED AND DEMANDING JOB AND SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS DESERVE MORE RECOGNITION,+ MR TING SAID.

+THEY ARE REQUIRED IN PRACTICALLY ALL MAJOR MEETINGS AND PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENSURING THAT PEOPLE SERVING ON GOVERNMENT COUNCILS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES ARE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY DESPITE THE LANGUAGE BARRIER,+ HE EXPLAINED.

IN 1973, SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION WAS ONLY PROVIDED AT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS, THE URBAN COUNCIL MONTHLY OPEN MEETINGS, THOSE OF A SMALL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, AND PRESS CONFERENCES.

BY 1981-82, THE SERVICE HAD EXPANDED TO COVER MAJOR URBAN COUNCIL SELECT AND SUB-COMMITTEES, AND BY 1982-83, TO COVER ALL DISTRICT BOARDS AND SOME OF THE COMMITTEES.

TO COPE WITH THE GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR THE SERVICE, THE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETER GRADE HAD EXPANDED FROM THE 1972 ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE CHIEF INTERPRETER AND THREE PART-TIME SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS TO THE CURRENT ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE CHIEF INTERPRETER, ONE ACTING CHIEF INTERPRETER, SEVEN FULL-TIME AND 10 PART-TIME SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS.

EVEN WITH THIS EXPANSION, THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS WAS STILL INADEQUATE AND EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO RECRUIT MORE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS.

TO COPE WITH THE EXISTING DEMAND, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT A TOTAL OF 10 FULL-TIME SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS WERE REQUIRED. WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IN 1985-86, MORE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS WOULD HAVE TO BE RECRUITED.

MR TING SAID THAT SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION WAS A STRENUOUS BUT VERY INTERESTING JOB.

TO QUALIFY AS A SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETER, A PERSON SHOULD HAVE A UNIVERSITY DEGREE, BE FLUENT IN CANTONESE AND ENGLISH, HAVE AN AGILE MIND, AND ABOVE ALL, BE ABLE TO INTERPRET SPONTANEOUSLY AND ACCURATELY FROM ONE LANGUAGE INTO THE OTHER.

HE OR SHE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN DIVERSE AND SPECIALISED TOPICS, AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO GRASP QUICKLY THE MAIN POINTS EXCHANGED IN DISCUSSIONS -- WHICH COULD BE VERY TECHNICAL AND QUICK-TEMPOED -- AND TO PROVIDE PROMPT INTERPRETATION.

MRS ELIZABETH PONG, AN INTERPRETER WHO HAS BEEN WITH THE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SECTION SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT 12 YEARS AGO, SAID, +IT IS MOST REWARDING TO SEE THAT WITH THE HELP OF SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION, NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS AND NON-CANTONESE SPEAKERS CAN ENGAGE IN A SMOOTH DISCUSSION, COMPLETELY REMOVING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER.+

+ON A NEW FRONT, WE ARE ADVANCING IN LONG-DISTANCE COMMUNICATION. ON MAY 17 THIS YEAR WE SUCCEEDED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN PROVIDING SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION FOR A LIVE BROADCAST OF A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS IN LONDON. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION WAS RENDERED AS SOON AS THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS RELAYED TO HONG KONG VIA SATELLITE. THIS ENABLED LIVE BROADCAST OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG IN BOTH LANGUAGES AT THE SAME TIME,+ MRS PONG SAID.

THE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETER RECRUITMENT WILL BE CONDUCTED TWICE A YEAR, AND UNIVERSITY GRADUATES ARE INVITED TO RESPOND TO THE ADVERTISEMENTS.

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'RENT INCREASES OFFSET ONLY PART OF RISING DEFICITS'

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BIENNIAL INCREASES OF PUBLIC HOUSING RENTS CAN ONLY OFFSET PART OF THE EVER-INCREASING DEFICITS INCURRED FROM INFLATION AND RISING COSTS OF RUNNING THE ESTATES.

AND THE DEFICITS HAVE TO BE COVERED BY THE SURPLUS GENERATED FROM THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES ON HOUSING ESTATES.

THIS WAS STATED YESTERDAY BY THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR LIM YEW-GUAN IN A TELEVISION PROGRAMME EXPLAINING THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S RENT POLICY.

MR LIM SAID THE DOMESTIC ESTATE WORKING ACCOUNT HAD BEEN IN THE RED FOR MANY YEARS -- \$51 MILLION IN 1981-82, \$136 MILLION IN 1982-83 AND \$189 MILLION IN 1983-84. HE EXPECTED THIS DEFICIT TO GROW DESPITE REGULAR RENT REVISIONS.

+ALL THE REMAINING SURPLUS FROM THE COMMERCIAL SIDE HAVE BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, PLOUGHED BACK INTO THE PUBLIC HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME RECEIVED HEAVY SUBSIDY FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FORM OF FREE LAND AND CONCESSIONARY LOANS WITH LOW INTEREST AND A LONG REPAYMENT PERIOD OF 40 YEARS.

SINCE 1973, LOANS TO THE AUTHORITY FROM THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN AS HIGH AS \$8.78 BILLION, WHILE THE COMMERCIAL PUBLIC HOUSING SURPLUS DURING THE SAME PERIOD WAS ONLY \$1.1 BILLION.

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+THEREFORE, ANY DOMESTIC RENT INCREASE WILL, IN A SENSE, ALLEVIATE THE MONETARY BURDEN OF THE AUTHORITY SO AS TO BENEFIT MORE PEOPLE IN NEED OF PUBLIC HOUSING.+

MR LIM SAID PART OF THE LATEST RENT INCREASE FOR THE 38 POST-1973 PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WAS FOR THE INCREASED RATES EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL.

+THE AUTHORITY HAS ALREADY ABSORBED \$5 MILLION IN RATES FOR THESE ESTATES AND THIS ADDITIONAL CHARGE, IF IT IS NOT TO BE PASSED ONTO THE TENANTS, WILL MEAN AN ADDITIONAL \$53 MILLION FOR THE AUTHORITY. IN OTHER WORDS, THE TAXPAYERS WILL HAVE TO BEAR THIS ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN.+

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MAJOR SPORTS COMPLEX FOR KWUN TONG
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WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE \$61-MILLION KOWLOON BAY RECREATION GROUND, THE FIRST MAJOR SPORTS COMPLEX FOR KWUN TONG DISTRICT, IS EXPECTED TO START IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE LAYOUT PLANS FOR THE PROJECT WHICH WILL BE BUILT ON A 5.7-HECTARE SITE BETWEEN KAI YIP ESTATE AND TELFORD GARDEN IN KOWLOON BAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID THAT AN INDOOR GAMES HALL, A HARD SURFACE MINI-SOCCER PITCH, TWO BASKETBALL-VOLLEYBALL COURTS, A LANDSCAPED GARDEN AND A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND WILL BE PROVIDED.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A FULL-SIZED GRASS INFIELD FOOTBALL PITCH, AN EIGHT-LANE 400-METRE ALL WEATHER RUNNING TRACK, FACILITIES FOR FIELD EVENTS, A COVERED SPECTATOR STAND FOR 1 500 PERSONS, CHANGING FACILITIES AND A LIGHT REFRESHMENT KIOSK.

THE INDOOR GAMES HALL WILL CONSIST OF THREE AIR-CONDITIONED SQUASH COURTS, A 1 400 SQUARE-METRE ARENA SUITABLE FOR BASKETBALL, BADMINTON AND VOLLEYBALL GAMES, AND TWO AIR-CONDITIONED GAMES ROOMS.

+SUBJECT TO ANY UNFORESEEN SITE PROBLEMS, PILING WORK WILL START IN DECEMBER AND CONSTRUCTION ON THE SUPERSTRUCTURE WILL BEGIN IN MID-1985.

+THE WHOLE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1987,+ HE SAID.

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BABIES NEED REGULAR CHECK-UPS
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PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO BRING THEIR BABIES FORWARD FOR REGULAR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING SO THAT DISABILITIES MAY BE DETECTED AT THE EARLIEST MOMENT.

+AT PRESENT OVER 99 PER CENT OF NEWBORN BABIES RECEIVE REGULAR NEONATAL EXAMINATIONS AT OUR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES IMMEDIATELY AFTER BIRTH,+ SAID DR BETTY EO-YANG, PRINCIPAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER (FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE) OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

+MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND PRACTITIONERS HAVE ALSO BEEN ENCOURAGED TO NOTIFY OUR DEPARTMENT OF CONGENITAL MALFORMATION FOUND IN NEWBORN BABIES,+ DR EO-YANG ADDED.

THE DEPARTMENT STARTED THIS COMPREHENSIVE OBSERVATION SERVICE IN APRIL 1978 TO PROVIDE REGULAR SCREENING FOR BABIES FROM BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

THE OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL CONGENITAL OR ACQUIRED DEFECTS ARE DISCOVERED AND REMEDIAL ACTION IS TAKEN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

THE SCHEME OPERATES FROM 23 FULL-TIME AND 20 PART-TIME CLINICS AT THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES.

+INFANTS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A GREATER THAN AVERAGE RISK OF DEVELOPING DISABLING CONDITIONS WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES WHEREBY SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS WILL BE ARRANGED,+ SHE SAID.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IDENTIFIED BY THE SCREENING PROGRAMME ARE REFERRED BY MEDICAL OFFICERS EITHER TO THE CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE AT ARRAN STREET OR TO A SPECIALISTS CLINIC FOR ASSESSMENT, MEDICAL TREATMENT OR REHABILITATION.

OTHERS WITH UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTS OR BORDERLINE IMPAIRMENT ARE RE-ASSESSED PERIODICALLY AT A MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE OR THE ARRAN STREET CHILD ASSESSMENT CLINIC.

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TESTS FOR BABIES FROM BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE COVER HEARING AND VISION, PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, GROSS MOTOR DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION, LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL SKILLS.

+DURING REGULAR COUNSELLING OR INTERVIEWS AT CHILD HEALTH SESSIONS, CHILDREN WITH EARLY SIGNS OF ABNORMALITIES WILL BE REPORTED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE TO DECIDE WHETHER SPECIAL SCREENING TESTS OR REFERRALS ARE REQUIRED,+ DR EO-YANG SAID.

SIMPLE AND CORRECTABLE PHYSICAL DEFECTS, SUCH AS CLUB FEET OR BOW LEGS, ARE USUALLY TREATED AT MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES. MORE SERIOUS DEFECTS ARE REFERRED TO SPECIALISTS FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT.

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SITES FOR EDUCATION CAMPS

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SEVEN SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ORGANISE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMPS ON WEEKDAYS FROM OCTOBER 15 TO JULY 5 NEXT YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT BESIDES PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF LIVING OUTDOOR, THE CAMPS WILL ENABLE THEM TO EXTEND CLASSROOM THEORY INTO FIELDWORK.

THE SEVEN CAMP SITES ARE : THE GAUDETE HOUSE IN CHEUNG CHAU, WU KWAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE, SILVERMINE BAY OUTDOOR RECREATION CAMP, Y.W.C.A. YOUTH CAMP ON LANTAU ISLAND, MA WAN YOUTH CAMP, WONG YEE CHAU YOUTH CAMP, AND PO LEUNG KUK HOLIDAY CAMP.

EACH CAMP WILL BE HELD FROM EITHER MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY, OR FROM WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY.

+THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL PAY BOARD AND LODGING CHARGES FOR ACCOMPANYING TEACHERS AND A SUBSIDY OF \$15 FOR EACH STUDENT-CAMPER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

EACH ACCOMPANYING TEACHER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOOKING AFTER 30 STUDENTS.

IN ADDITION TO WEEKDAY CAMPS, TWO SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE AVAILABLE AS CAMP SITES DURING WEEKENDS AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

THE TWO SCHOOLS, EACH WITH A CAPACITY FOR 30 CAMPERS, ARE TUNG CHUNG PUBLIC SCHOOL ON LANTAU AND KIAO LO WAN FISHERMEN'S SCHOOL IN SAI KUNG NORTH.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WHO WISH TO USE THE FACILITIES MAY CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION AT THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 6/F, 405 NATHAN ROAD, OR TELEPHONE 3-884111, EXT 280 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR RESERVATION.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT NO STUDENTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE CAMPS WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THEIR PARENTS.

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WORK STARTS ON RESERVOIR
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WORK HAS STARTED ON THE \$26-MILLION PUN CHUN YUEN FRESH WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR AT TAI PO, WHICH WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 68 000 CUBIC METRES.

THE RESERVOIR IS BEING BUILT ON THE HILLSIDE IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THE TAI PO TAU SERVICE RESERVOIR, AND WILL BE READY IN 1987.

THE SITE WILL BE LANDSCAPED TO MINIMISE THE VISUAL IMPACT OF THE RESERVOIR ON THE SURROUNDING AREA.

THE TAI PO TAU SERVICE RESERVOIR, WHICH HAS A CAPACITY OF 18 538 CUBIC METRES, WILL STILL BE USED AFTER THE NEW ONE HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

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CONTRACT FOR BRIDGE WORK
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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$200-MILLION CONTRACT TO MAEDA/ORIENTAL JOINT VENTURE TO BUILD THE TSING YI NORTH BRIDGE.

THE CONTRACT WILL BE SIGNED AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 21ST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

IT WILL BE SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, MR KENNETH KWOK, AND THE HONG KONG GENERAL MANAGER OF MAEDA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED, MR TETSUO OCHIAI.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY.

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NO LET UP AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
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AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT LAST MONTH RISKED LIFE AND LIMB TO ENTER HONG KONG AND SOUGHT OUT HIS UNCLE FOR SHELTER. HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF RISKING A CHARGE OF AIDING AND ABETTING, HIS RELATIVE INFORMED POLICE.

THE 26-YEAR-OLD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WAS ARRESTED AND REPATRIATED WITHIN THREE DAYS OF HIS ARRIVAL.

THE MOTHER OF A WOMAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT, HOWEVER, IGNORED THE LAW AND GAVE SHELTER TO HER DAUGHTER. A FACTORY PROPRIETOR ALSO EMPLOYED THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT.

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WITHIN A WEEK OF THE WOMAN'S ARRIVAL SHE WAS ARRESTED AND REPATRIATED WHILE HER MOTHER AND THE FACTORY PROPRIETOR ARE NOW ON BAIL PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS AND SUBSEQUENTLY A COURT APPEARANCE.

ANOTHER ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT DICED WITH DEATH TO SWIM TO HONG KONG, MANAGED TO MAKE HIS WAY INTO THE URBAN AREA BUT ON THE SAME DAY WAS PICKED UP IN A ROUTINE POLICE STOP AND SEARCH.

THESE THREE EVENTS ARE EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO THOUGHT THEY COULD SLIP INTO HONG KONG, FIND EMPLOYMENT AND SETTLE HERE PERMANENTLY.

"BUT WHAT THEY AND THE MANY OTHER ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS DID NOT REALISE IS THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE PICKED UP AND REPATRIATED WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THEIR ARRIVAL." A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE POINTED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO SURVIVE AS "UNDERGROUND CITIZENS" - ALL AVENUES TO SURVIVAL ARE CLOSED:

- + THEY CANNOT FIND EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE WITHOUT IDENTITY CARDS EMPLOYERS WOULD FACE PROSECUTION.
- + THEY CANNOT OBTAIN ANY SERVICES FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITHOUT IDENTITY CARDS.
- + AND THEY CANNOT MOVE ABOUT FREELY BECAUSE OF THE HIGH RISK OF BEING PICKED UP BY POLICE IN SPOT CHECKS.

REGARDING POLICE VIGILANCE AND ACTION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID 66 PER CENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FERRETED OUT BETWEEN LATE JUNE AND LAST MONTH WERE LOCATED THROUGH STOP AND SEARCH OPERATIONS.

OTHER STATISTICS FOR THIS PERIOD SHOWED THAT 58 PER CENT OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE ARRESTED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THEIR ARRIVAL. OF THESE, 84 PER CENT WERE ARRESTED IN FIVE DAYS OR LESS.

HE STRESSED THAT CONTRARY TO PERSISTENT RUMOURS SPREAD BY SNAKE-HEADS INTERESTED ONLY IN MONEY AND NOT THE SAFETY OF THEIR HUMAN CARGO, THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

THE MEASURES INTRODUCED IN 1980 - EMPOWERING SECURITY FORCES TO CHECK IDENTITIES AND OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTS TO CARRY PROOF OF IDENTITY - ARE AS ESSENTIAL NOW AS THEY WERE FOUR YEARS AGO AND IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO ABANDON THEM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY SLACKENING OF ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.