



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVT SUPPORTS UNOFFICIALS' CHANGES TO BILL

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THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE SEVEN ALTERATIONS PROPOSED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR PHILIP SAID THESE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH THE LAW DRAFTSMEN AND THE COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

+IN THIS CONNECTION+, SIR PHILIP SAID, +IT IS ALSO GRATIFYING THAT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED TO AN EXTENT IN RESTORING MR BROWN'S FAITH IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COLLEAGUES IN THE DRAFTING DIVISION OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

+THE POSITION IS, INDEED, AS MR BROWN HAS BEEN ADVISED NAMELY, THAT AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING ON BEHALF OF A CORPORATE BODY IN A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY IS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THE MEANING OF CLAUSE 13 (2) OF THE BILL, BUT SIMPLY AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING, NOT ALL THAT DISSIMILAR FROM THE REST OF US,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

REFERRING TO CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY A NUMBER OF UNOFFICIALS OVER THE DEFINITION OF +SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION+, SIR PHILIP EMPHASISED THAT THE DEFINITION CONTAINED IN CLAUSE 2 (4) OF THE BILL WAS NOT EXHAUSTIVE, NOR WAS IT INTENDED TO BE.

+THE OBJECT OF INTRODUCING THIS CONCEPT IS TO ENSURE, AS I EXPLAINED WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING ON MARCH 13, THAT CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ARE COMPETENT TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE CONSTITUENCY AS A WHOLE BY VIRTUE OF THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE FUNCTIONAL AREA CONCERNED AND SO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH A PERSON WITH NO CONNECTION WITH THE FUNCTIONAL AREA IS ELECTED.

+THE TERM 'SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION' IS INCAPABLE OF BEING PRECISELY DEFINED FOR ITS MEANING EMBRACES A HOST OF VARIABLES AND PERMUTATIONS. THIS IS THE REASON WHY WE HAVE SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT BY WAY OF EXAMPLES,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, SIR PHILIP ASSURED MEMBERS THAT, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF THE REGISTRATION OFFICER BEING CALLED UPON TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT AN ASPIRANT CANDIDATE DID HAVE A +SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION+, HE WOULD BE WELL BRIEFED AND WOULD APPLY COMMON SENSE.

+I SAY 'IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT', FOR WE PROPOSE IN THE UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS)(PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE THAT A CANDIDATE WILL NEED TO BE ENDORSED BY 10 ELECTORS IN THE CONSTITUENCY BEFORE HE MAY STAND WHICH, IN ITSELF, WILL GO A LONG WAY TO ESTABLISHING THAT THERE EXISTS A 'SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION', FOR PRESUMABLY THOSE ELECTORS WILL ALSO EXERCISE COMMON SENSE WHEN TAKING A VIEW ON THE CANDIDATE'S CLAIM TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION,+ HE SAID.

/ON DR

ON DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI AND DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP'S TECHNICAL POINT, SIR PHILIP SAID WE SHOULD HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE HOW IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE PROCEDURE REGULATIONS, WHEN THEY CAME FORWARD IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME, WOULD DEFINE THE MECHANICS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS ITSELF IN ORDER TO THROW UP A CANDIDATE WITH AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY.

SIR PHILIP SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD CAREFULLY NOTED THE VIEW STRONGLY EXPRESSED BY A NUMBER OF UNOFFICIALS THAT SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS UNDER THE BILL SHOULD DESIRABLY BE MADE, IN FUTURE, BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THIS VIEW WILL BE CAREFULLY, AND I DARESAY SYMPATHETICALLY, CONSIDERED IN THE REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE SHALL BE CONDUCTING IN 1987 PARI PASSU WITH THE REVIEW OF HOW THE 1984 WHITE PAPER PROPOSALS HAVE WORKED OUT IN PRACTICE SO THAT CONSIDERATION CAN BE GIVEN TO ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE THE INTRODUCTION OF A DIRECTLY ELECTED ELEMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE BILL BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND ALSO FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE VERY TIGHT TIME CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH WE HAD ALL BEEN LABOURING.

+THESE CONSTRAINTS ARISE, OF COURSE, FROM THE FACT THAT THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THIS COUNCIL UNTIL NOVEMBER 21 1984, LEAVING ONLY NINE MONTHS FOR ALL THE NECESSARY PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN THE AUTUMN OF 1985 TO BE PUT IN HAND, FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH ORGANISATIONS MAKING UP THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, AND FOR ENABLING LEGISLATION TO BE DRAFTED.

+THIS IS BECAUSE ACTUAL ELECTIONS BY BOTH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGES AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES HAVE TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER LEAVING A MONTH FOR THE GOVERNOR TO COMPLETE THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS A FACT, AND I KNOW THAT MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF THIS, THAT UNLESS THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER CAN BEGIN ON APRIL 15, AND NO LATER, AND UNLESS THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICES OF ELECTIONS INVITING NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES ARE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE ON AUGUST 2 AND NO LATER, WE SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE EITHER THE REGISTRATION CYCLE OR THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN TIME FOR ELECTION DAY,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

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POINTS RAISED ON 'SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION'

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REGISTRATION OFFICERS SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON THE CRITERIA OF +SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION+ TO BE APPLIED IN RELATION TO FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE STRESSED THIS POINT WHEN SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985.

MR WONG SAID ALTHOUGH CLAUSE 2(4) OF THE BILL ATTEMPTED TO GIVE A BROAD DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTED A +SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION+, THIS WAS NOT REALLY HELPFUL IN DECIDING WHETHER A PARTICULAR PERSON HAD A SUBSTANTIAL CONNECTION.

IT WAS THEREFORE NOT SURPRISING, HE SAID, THAT CONCERNS WERE EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, NOT THE LEAST BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP CONVENED BY HIM.

+WHILE MY COLLEAGUES AND I DO APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTIES IN ARRIVING AT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF SUCH CONNEXION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT REGISTRATION OFFICERS SHOULD AT LEAST BE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON THE CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED.

+FLEXIBILITY SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH LACK OF CLEAR GUIDELINES,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT UNDOUBTEDLY THE VIEWS OF THE VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL IN DRAWING UP THE GUIDELINES AND HE BELIEVED THIS WAS AN AREA WHICH MERITED FURTHER CONSULTATION.

+REASONS FOR DISQUALIFYING A PERSON FOR NOT HAVING A SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION SHOULD PREFERABLY BE GIVEN AND AVENUES FOR APPEAL AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE REGISTRATION OFFICER SHOULD BE AVAILABLE,+ MR WONG SAID.

ON THE BILL AS A WHOLE, MR WONG SAID HE REALISED THE ADMINISTRATION WAS WORKING UNDER GREAT PRESSURE BUT IT WAS NEVERTHELESS A MATTER FOR REGRET THAT SUCH AN IMPORTANT BILL SHOULD HAVE TO BE PUSHED THROUGH IN THE SHORT SPACE OF THREE WEEKS.

ON BEHALF OF THE AD HOC GROUP, HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF THE VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS, THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND THE STAFF SIDE OF THE MODEL SCALE I STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

TURNING TO THE AGREED AMENDMENTS, MR WONG SAID THAT IN CLAUSE 3(2), THE WORDS +3 MONTHS+ WOULD BE SUBSTITUTED BY +90 DAYS+.

/+THE REASON

+THE REASON FOR THIS AMENDMENT IS TO ENSURE THAT THE WORDING IN THE ORDINANCE WILL BE IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE LETTERS PATENT AND THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

IN CLAUSE 21, HE OBSERVED, THE WORDS +OTHER THAN AS A MEMBER OF AN AUXILIARY FORCE+ IN THE EXISTING SUBSECTION (B) WOULD BE DELETED AS THERE WAS NO VALID REASON WHY A MEMBER OF AN AUXILIARY FORCE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE.

ALSO IN THE SAME CLAUSE, A NEW SUBSECTION (2) WOULD BE ADDED, DISQUALIFYING A PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND FROM BEING NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE AND HOLDING OFFICE WHICH ARE NOT PROVIDED IN THE BILL.

ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE SECOND SCHEDULE, MR WONG EXPLAINED THAT IT WOULD ABOLISH THE +TWO DIVISION+ CONCEPT IN RELATION TO THE LABOUR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY AS THERE WAS SOME DOUBT AS TO THE NECESSITY OF DIVIDING THE CONSTITUENCY INTO TWO EQUIVALENT ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.

+APART FROM REMOVING CONFUSION, IT WOULD BRING ELECTORS IN THIS CONSTITUENCY IN LINE WITH OTHER FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES,+ HE SAID.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSES 10, 14(2), 15(2) AND 16 WERE TECHNICAL.

SUMMING UP, MR WONG SAID UNDER CLAUSES 19, 28 AND 46, REGULATIONS MIGHT BE MADE AND THE SCHEDULES AMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL BUT THE AD HOC GROUP FELT RATHER STRONGLY THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE THAT THE POWER TO DO SO SHOULD BE VESTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THE ADMINISTRATION HAS AGREED TO RE-EXAMINE THIS ISSUE NOT LATER THAN THE COMING REVIEW IN 1987 AND PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' REQUEST WOULD BE MET,+ HE SAID.

HE OBSERVED THAT A PARELLEL DEVELOPMENT TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS THE FORMATION OF A NUMBER OF CIVIC AND POLITICAL GROUPS AND HE CONSIDERED THIS A HEALTHY SIGN.

+IN THE RUN UP TO 1997, WHEN HONG KONG WILL HAVE TO GOVERN ITSELF, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE RIGHT KIND OF LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE FOSTERED.

+OBVIOUSLY THE SOONER SUCH LEADERSHIP EMERGES THE BETTER IT WILL BE FOR AN ORDERLY TRANSITION.

+I AM SURE HONG KONG WILL AGAIN RISE TO THE OCCASION,+ MR WONG SAID.

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INDUCTION COURSES FOR ELECTED LEGCO MEMBERS URGED
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS URGED TO CONSIDER ORGANISING INDUCTION PROGRAMMES FOR THE 24 MEMBERS WHO WOULD BE ELECTED FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985 TODAY (WEDNESDAY), DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI SAID THE PROGRAMMES WERE TO ACQUAINT THE ELECTED MEMBERS WITH THEIR NEW ROLES IN THE CENTRAL POLITICAL ORGAN.

THEY WOULD ALSO FACILITATE THE ELECTED MEMBERS TO WORK PROPERLY AND EFFICIENTLY TOWARDS THE DECLARED AIMS OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

HE BELIEVED THE INDUCTION SHOULD AIM SPECIFICALLY AT THE FOLLOWING THREE AREAS:

- * REAFFIRMING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF SOCIAL STABILITY AND TO THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN THE CONTEXT OF A FREE-MARKET ECONOMY;
- * HIGHLIGHTING THE FUNCTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE MASSES AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE NEED TO FOSTER A GENUINE TWO-WAY FLOW OF INFORMED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM; AND
- * EMPHASISING THE NEED TO CO-ORDINATE AND HARMONISE DISTRICT OR SECTORAL INTERESTS WITH THE OVERALL POLICIES AT THE MACRO-LEVEL, AT THE SAME TIME RECOGNISING THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS FACING POLICY MAKERS.

COMMENTING ON THE BILL ITSELF, DR HO SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE PROVISIONS HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, USEFUL SUGGESTIONS FROM CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FUNCTIONAL GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIONS OF THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED.

HE CITED AS EXAMPLE THE RELAXATION OF ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER AS VOTERS IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO INCLUDE THOSE PERSONS WHO WERE ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED IN THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL EVEN IF THEY HAD FAILED TO DO SO EARLIER.

REFERRING TO THE USE OF ABSOLUTE MAJORITY PREFERENTIAL VOTING SYSTEM FOR ELECTION FROM THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, DR HO SAID IT WOULD ENHANCE THE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE MEMBERS SO ELECTED.

/HOWEVER, HE

HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED ONE POSSIBLE CRITICISM OF THIS SYSTEM WAS THAT THE CANDIDATE WHO HAD SECURED THE GREATEST NUMBER OF FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY BE ELECTED.

+INSTEAD, A CANDIDATE WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF VOTES EVENLY DISTRIBUTED IN HIGHER PREFERENCES (THAT IS, A LARGE NUMBER OF VOTERS CHOOSE HIM AS THEIR FIRST, SECOND OR THIRD PREFERENCES) WILL STAND A MUCH BETTER CHANCE,+ HE SAID.

DR HO NOTED THAT THE OPERATIONAL DETAILS OF THE ENTIRE ELECTORAL PROCESS WOULD BE DRAWN UP IN THE SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

+I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT HOLD AS WIDE AND THOROUGH CONSULTATION WITH THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AS TIME PERMITS IN DRAFTING THOSE REGULATIONS,+ HE SAID.

FINALLY, DR HO SUGGESTED THAT PROPER AMENDMENTS TO VARIOUS CLAUSES SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED IN THE 1987 REVIEW IN ORDER TO KEEP IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ROOTING THE POWER OF GOVERNMENT IN THE PEOPLE.

THESE SHOULD INCLUDE TRANSFERRING THE POWER GIVEN TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN CLAUSES 19, 28 AND 46 TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND STIPULATING THAT REGULATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES AS WELL AS AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULES SHOULD BE MADE BY WAY OF A RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID.

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'WORTHY PEOPLE SOUGHT TO SERVE HK'

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THE HON ANDREW SO TODAY DESCRIBED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985 AS +THE FIRST EDICT CALLING FOR TALENT WHEREBY HONG KONG MAY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SYSTEM OF HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG+.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR SO SAID IT SPELT OUT THE DETAILS TO ELECT WORTHY AND CAPABLE PEOPLE TO SERVE HONG KONG FROM VARIOUS ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCIES SO THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED AND ONE BIG STEP BE MADE TOWARDS THE TARGET OF HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG.

/+IT IS

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+IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT THE PROVISIONS IN THE BILL CAN EFFECT AN INTRODUCTION OF WORTHY AND CAPABLE PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS SEPTEMBER FOR THE ENACTMENT OF PROPER LAWS FOR HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR SO SUGGESTED THAT BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF MORE SPECIFIC ELECTORAL PROVISIONS, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HOLD ACTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH VARIOUS BODIES OF ELECTORS IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT A FAIRER AND MORE EFFECTIVE SEARCH FOR TALENTS.

HE SAID HE WAS MOST PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE 380-ODD REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS IN HONG KONG MIGHT NOW ELECT TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO JOIN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN THE PAST, MR SO SAID TRADE UNIONS COULD ONLY FIGHT FOR CERTAIN LABOUR LAWS THROUGH LEGITIMATE CONSULTATIONS OR ATTAIN THEIR GOALS BY TAKING PART IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES.

+THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS BEEN IN WANT OF REPRESENTATION FROM THE WORKING CLASS FOR A LONG TIME,+ MR SO SAID.

FROM NOW ON, HE SAID, THE WORKERS WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AND THUS FURTHER FULFILLED THE LOFTY AIMS OF THEIR TRADE UNIONS.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, MR SO STRESSED THAT WHILE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS ESSENTIAL TO HONG KONG, IT WAS OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE THAT IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS PROSPERITY AND STABILITY.

+THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY THAT HONG KONG NOW ENJOYS WILL WEAKEN UNLESS PROTECTIVE AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES ARE TAKEN,+ HE SAID.

+'PROSPERITY AND STABILITY' IS NOT MERELY A SLOGAN AND IT WILL NOT COME NATURALLY TO THE LAZY PEOPLE. ITS ATTAINMENT REQUIRES CAPABILITY, DETERMINATION, DEDICATION AS WELL AS SELF-RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE,+ MR SO SAID.

FINALLY, MR SO SAID HE WAS GLAD THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN SOUND ADVICE AND CHANGED THE CHINESE TRANSLATION FOR THE TERM +SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION+ IN THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM OF THE BILL.

HE SAID THE AMENDED TERM WAS MORE APPROPRIATE.

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MORE THOUGHT NEEDED - BILL BROWN
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MUCH MORE THOUGHT HAD TO BE GIVEN TO THE SELECTION OF BOTH ELECTORS AND CANDIDATES IF THE METHOD OF INDIRECT ELECTION THROUGH FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WERE TO BE CONTINUED, THE HON BILL BROWN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985, MR BROWN ASKED: +WHY, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD FOREIGN CORPORATE BODIES WHO MAY ONLY HAVE BEEN IN HONG KONG A FEW MONTHS QUALIFY AS VOTERS - THROUGH MEMBERSHIP OF AN ASSOCIATION - WHILE FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN, WHO MAY HAVE SPENT MOST OF THEIR CAREERS IN HONG KONG, BE DISQUALIFIED AS BEING CANDIDATES UNLESS THEY HAVE 10 YEARS CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE?+

HE BELIEVED HONG KONG BELONGER STATUS WOULD BE A MORE EQUITABLE QUALIFICATION IN THE LATTER CIRCUMSTANCES.

MR BROWN SAID THAT ON A MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE, ONE COULD QUERY THE RATIONALE FOR FRAMING THIS BILL TO BE BROADLY SIMILAR WITH EXISTING ELECTORAL LAW INSOFAR AS IT RELATED TO THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE, THE DISTRICT BOARDS ORDINANCE AND THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE.

WHILE ACCEPTING TIME CONSTRAINTS AS A VALID REASON, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LAW-MAKING LEGISLATURE WERE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER COUNCILS THAT EXISTING PROCEDURES SHOULD DO NO MORE THAN ACT AS GUIDELINES.

+IN THE LONGER TERM IS IT REALLY APPROPRIATE FOR REGULATIONS COVERING SUCH VITAL ISSUES AS THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES, THE PROCEDURES FOR VOTING AND EVEN THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS, TO BE DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL BY WAY OF REGULATIONS?+ HE ASKED.

MR BROWN CONCEDED THAT SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION HAD TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, BUT HE CONCURRED WITH HIS COLLEAGUES THAT FOR ISSUES OF THIS IMPORTANCE, FORMAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE MORE OPEN AND MORE APPROPRIATE.

MR BROWN OBSERVED THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL WAS TO PROVIDE FOR THIS YEAR'S INDIRECT ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+IT WILL CERTAINLY ACHIEVE THAT, BUT WILL IT DO SO IN A WAY THAT LEAVES NO CONFUSION IN THE MINDS OF BOTH ELECTORS AND CANDIDATES AS TO THEIR VARIOUS RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS?

+MOREOVER WILL IT PLACE ON THE STATUTE BOOK LEGISLATION THAT WE SHALL FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH IN 1988 AND SUBSEQUENT ELECTION YEARS?+ HE ASKED.

HE SHARED THE VIEW OF HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE BILL RAISED A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT REQUIRED CLARIFICATION.

HE SAID SOME DEFINITIONS IN THE BILL - SUCH AS THE MEANING OF SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION WITH REGARD TO FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES - WOULD REQUIRE BOTH THE ELECTORATE AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO EXERCISE COMMON SENSE, BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A REAL PROBLEM AREA PROVIDED THOSE CONCERNED WERE ADEQUATELY BRIEFED.

HOWEVER HE SAID EVEN CITIZENS WITH COMMON SENSE COULD BE CONFUSED BY THE SPECIAL MEANINGS WORDS OFTEN ACQUIRED IN LEGISLATION.

HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THAT BANKERS HAD EXPRESSED CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER BANKS, WHO WOULD BE THE INDIVIDUALS CASTING VOTES ON BEHALF OF CORPORATE BODIES, WOULD QUALIFY TO DO SO IN THE EVENT THEY THEMSELVES - AS INDIVIDUALS - HAD BEEN IN HONG KONG FOR LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS.

TO REMOVE ANY DOUBT AND TO HAVE IT ON THE PUBLIC RECORD, HE WISHED THE CHIEF SECRETARY WOULD CONFIRM THAT THE WORD +INDIVIDUAL+ IN SECTION 13(2) MEANT HUMAN BEINGS AND AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING ON BEHALF OF A CORPORATE BODY IN A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY WAS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 13(2).

CONCLUDING, MR BROWN SAID HE SUPPORTED THIS BILL BECAUSE HE BELIEVED ITS PROVISIONS WOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH COMMON SENSE AND IT WOULD ACHIEVE ITS MAIN PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THE REQUIRED FRAMEWORK FOR INDIRECT ELECTIONS THIS YEAR.

+JUST AS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT ITSELF WILL BE REVIEWED PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 1988, I BELIEVE CONCURRENTLY WITH THAT REVIEW WE SHOULD RE-EXAMINE OUR ELECTORAL PROVISIONS.

+I AM SURE THAT GIVEN TIME BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WILL BE ABLE TO IMPROVE ON THE LEGISLATION WE ARE PUTTING ON THE STATUTE BOOK TODAY,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1985

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NEED SEEN FOR 'SPECIFIC GUIDELINES'

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SPECIFIC GUIDELINES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE THAT CANDIDATES OFFERING THEMSELVES FOR ELECTION AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONSTITUENCIES ENJOYED THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF THEIR MEMBERS, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG SAID TODAY.

HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSED ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THESE FOUR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY ENSURE REPRESENTATION BY THOSE HAVING THE CONFIDENCE OF THEIR MEMBERS AND OF THEIR GENERAL COMMITTEE.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED LEGCO DEBATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985, MR CHEONG SAID: +AS DRAFTED, ANY PERSON HAVING A SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION WITH A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY CAN SUBMIT HIMSELF AS A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION PROVIDING HE OBTAINS 10 SPONSORS, HAS THE NECESSARY RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PAYS A DEPOSIT.+

HE SAID +SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION+ WAS DEFINED IN THE BILL AS ANY PERSON WHO WAS A MEMBER, PARTNER, DIRECTOR, OFFICER OR WAS CONCERNED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ANY BODY WHICH WAS AN ELECTOR IN A PARTICULAR CONSTITUENCY.

+THIS IS A VERY BROAD AND SWEEPING DEFINITION, WHICH COULD OPEN THE DOOR TO POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS WHO HAD NO DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECTOR WHICH THEY WISH TO REPRESENT, AND HAD NO RECORD OF SERVICE TO THAT ORGANISATION, OR EVEN TO THE LARGER COMMUNITY OF WHICH THEY FORM A PART,+ HE SAID.

+SOME MAY SAY THAT, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH A CANDIDATE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SECURE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO ENSURE HIS ELECTION.

+YET IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT EXPERIENCE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD HAS TAUGHT US THAT WITH ELECTIONS ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.+

THERE WAS THEREFORE LEGITIMATE CONCERN WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED THAT, THROUGH A COMBINATION OF CHARM AND WELL-ORGANISED CANVASSING, SUCH A PERSON COULD SECURE ELECTION AND YET BE QUITE UNABLE TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS AND REAL INTERESTS OF HONG KONG'S COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY GENERALLY AND OF THEIR MEMBERS IN PARTICULAR.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES SHOULD BE SET OUT TO DEFINE THE TERM 'SUBSTANTIAL CONNEXION' MORE PRECISELY THAN IN THE BILL AND SHOULD BE USED BY THE REGISTRATION OFFICER IN CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT A CANDIDATE SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO STAND FOR ELECTION, MR CHEONG SAID.

SUCH DETAILS WOULD NECESSARILY BE PUBLISHED SO THAT PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES MIGHT MEASURE THEIR CREDENTIALS AGAINST THEM BEFORE REGISTRATION AS A CANDIDATE.

/+DUE TO

+DUE TO THE TIME CONSTRAINT, SUCH PROPOSED GUIDELINES CANNOT BE INCLUDED IN THE BILL BEFORE US TODAY, BUT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INCLUDING SUCH GUIDELINES IN THE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE LATER OR THROUGH AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS INCLUDING THE APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES.+

MR CHEONG SAID ALL FOUR ORGANISATIONS WERE WORKING TOWARDS PREPARING GUIDELINES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OF THE TWO FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

THE COMMON OBJECTIVE WAS TO REQUIRE A CANDIDATE TO SHOW THAT HE HAD A RECORD OF SERVICE TO THE ORGANISATIONS AND TO HONG KONG'S COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND THE COMMUNITY.

+HE COULD IDENTIFY SUCH A RECORD THROUGH HIS ELECTION, TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEES OF THE FOUR ORGANISATIONS, AND/OR BY SERVICE ON THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, BY MEMBERSHIP OF THE VARIOUS STATUTORY OR NON-STATUTORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES LISTED IN THE CIVIL LIST, OR BY HIS MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANISATIONS' INTERNAL COMMITTEES.

+SUCH CRITERIA, IF ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND INCLUDED IN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES FOR THE FOUR CONSTITUENCIES, WILL GO A LONG WAY TO ENSURE THAT ALL CANDIDATES APPROVED BY THE REGISTRATION OFFICER TO STAND FOR ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY,+ MR CHEONG SAID.

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DISQUALIFICATION CLAUSE WELCOMED

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A NEW CLAUSE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985 THAT A PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED FROM BEING NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE AND FROM HOLDING OFFICE AS AN ELECTED MEMBER WAS WELCOMED BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), DR IP SAID CONSIDERING THAT UNDER CLAUSE 15(2) (B) A PERSON SHOULD BE DISQUALIFIED AS A VOTER IF HE WAS ALLEGED TO BE A MENTALLY DISORDERED PERSON UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH ORDINANCE WHERE THE COURT HAD DECIDED THAT HE WAS OF UNSOUND MIND AND INCAPABLE OF MANAGING HIMSELF AND HIS OWN AFFAIRS, IT WAS EXTRAORDINARY THAT AN EQUIVALENT PROVISION DID NOT APPEAR UNDER CLAUSE 21, AS A GROUND FOR DISQUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATURE OR FOR HOLDING OFFICE AS A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER.

+AFTER ALL, IT MUST BE MORE IMPORTANT TO HAVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH SOUND MIND AND JUDGEMENT TO ADVISE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS BE THEY ELECTED MEMBERS OR APPOINTED MEMBERS.

+ALSO THERE MUST BE A WAY TO REMOVE A PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND FROM OFFICE SO THAT HIS CONSTITUENCY CAN ELECT A REALLY COMPETENT REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE THEIR INTEREST,+ SHE SAID.

DR IP SAID SHE WAS GLAD THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD AGREED TO AMEND THE BILL TO MEET THIS POINT WITH A NEW CLAUSE 21(2) WHICH READ:-

+A PERSON SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED:-

- (A) FROM BEING NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE IN AN ELECTION IF THERE IS IN FORCE A DECISION UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH ORDINANCE THAT HE IS OF UNSOUND MIND AND INCAPABLE OF MANAGING HIMSELF AND HIS AFFAIRS;
- (B) FROM HOLDING OFFICE AS AN ELECTED MEMBER IF A DECISION IS MADE UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH ORDINANCE THAT HE IS OF UNSOUND MIND AND INCAPABLE OF MANAGING HIMSELF AND HIS AFFAIRS, BUT A PERSON DISQUALIFIED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION IF UNDER THAT ORDINANCE IT IS SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND THAT HIS UNSOUNDNESS OF MIND HAS CEASED.+

+I HOPE CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO AMEND THE DISTRICT BOARD AND URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCES SO AS TO BRING THEM BOTH IN LINE WITH THIS ORDINANCE,+ SHE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON THE METHOD OF VOTE COUNTING FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES BY WAY OF +AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY+, DR IP SAID SHE BELIEVED THAT UNLESS THE VOTERS WERE BY LAW REQUIRED TO INDICATE THEIR SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT CHOICE ON THE BALLOT PAPERS, IT MIGHT DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THIS PRINCIPLE.

BY +ABSOLUTE MAJORITY+, DR IP SAID SHE WAS GIVEN TO BELIEVE THAT THE VOTERS MIGHT INDICATE ON THE BALLOT PAPER HIS FIRST, SECOND, THIRD CHOICE ETC. OF CANDIDATES. WHEN THE VOTES WERE COUNTED, THE FIRST CANDIDATE TO OBTAIN OVER 50 PER CENT OF THE FIRST CHOICE VOTES WOULD BE ELECTED. IF NO CANDIDATE MANAGED TO WIN IN THIS FIRST COUNT, THE SECOND CHOICE VOTES WOULD ALSO BE COUNTED SO AS TO IDENTIFY THE FIRST PERSON TO GET OVER 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES OF BOTH THE FIRST AND THE SECOND CHOICES. THIS PROCESS WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL A SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE IS PRODUCED.

DR IP WARNED THAT IF NO VOTER SHOULD PUT DOWN HIS SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT CHOICE THERE WOULD BE A REAL DANGER THAT NO CANDIDATE WOULD PASS THE 50 PER CENT MARK IN A PRETTY EVEN HANDED CONTEST.

+IF THIS WAS TO HAPPEN, I FEAR THAT REVOTING MAY BE NECESSARY AND IT WILL BE TIME WASTED. I ALSO CONSIDER THAT TO BE FAIR, FIRST CHOICE VOTES SHOULD SCORE MORE THAN SECOND CHOICE VOTES AND LIKewise FOR THE SUBSEQUENT VOTES, WHETHER SUCH CALCULATIONS ARE DONE MANUALLY OR BY COMPUTER IT SHOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE,+ SHE SAID.

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NEED FOR COMMUNITY INTERESTS STRESSED
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THE SPIRIT OF ELECTION RESTED ON THE POWER OF THE ELECTOR TO CHOOSE AND SUPERVISE, THE HON CHAN YING-LUN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN, SPEAKING ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985, SAID SELECTION MEANT COMPETITION AND COMPETITION WOULD BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENT. THIS WAS THE KEY TO HONG KONG'S SUCCESS.

+AN ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER MUST BE ABLE TO STAND THE TEST OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES,+ HE SAID.

+NATURALLY, ELECTED MEMBERS MUST REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ELECTORAL COLLEGE OR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AS THE CASE MAY BE.

+BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY MUST BE ABLE TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.+

COMPETITION WOULD ACT AS A CHECKING MECHANISM, ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE THE CASE.

+TO PREVENT UNHEALTHY COMPETITION AMONG MEMBERS, AND TO PUT THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE FOREFRONT OF THEIR MINDS, THE ULTIMATE SAFEGUARD MUST REST WITH THE SUPERVISION OF THE ELECTORATE,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID ONLY WHEN THE POWER OF THE ELECTORATE IN SELECTING AND MONITORING THE SYSTEM WAS SENSIBLY EXERCISED WOULD THE ELECTION BE MEANINGFUL.

AND WITH THIS, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD NOT DEPART FROM THE OBJECTIVE OF FOSTERING THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE ELECTORS COULD EXERCISE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT THE POWERS OF MONITORING AND SELECTING OF LEGISLATORS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL. THEREFORE, I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR THE NEW LEGISLATURE,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THE BILL STARTED A +NEW PAGE+ AND HE PARTICULARLY SUPPORTED ITS UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES.

ONE OF THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPING A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS TO HAVE A SYSTEM FIRMLY ROOTED IN HONG KONG AND MORE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE.

/+TO ACHIEVE

+TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM, THE WHOLE ELECTORAL SYSTEM MUST BE DEMOCRATIC; AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, ANYBODY WHO MEETS CERTAIN BASIC QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAND FOR ELECTIONS,+ HE SAID.

+AFTER CAREFULLY STUDY THE BILL, I AM OF THE OPINION THAT IT DOES PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.+

HE SAID, SINCE THE FIRST READING OF THE BILL, MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING SOME FUNCTIONAL GROUPS, HAD RAISED RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES AND ELECTED MEMBERS AS PROVIDED IN THE BILL.

THE FUNCTIONAL GROUPS WERE PARTICULARLY WORRIED THAT, WITH A LOOSE DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSITUTED A SUBSTANTIAL CONNECTION, MEMBERS SO ELECTED WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS.

+GIVEN THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE SO IMPORTANT, SOME PEOPLE MAY QUERY WHY THE BILL DOES NOT STIPULATE THE QUALITY OF CANDIDATES, OR ENSURE THAT ELECTED MEMBERS COULD CONTINUE TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ELECTORAL COLLEGE OR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES,+ MR CHAN SAID.

IN FACT, HE SAID, PART V OF THE BILL HAD ALREADY LAID DOWN THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES AND ELECTED MEMBERS.

ALTHOUGH TO SOME PEOPLE THE PROVISIONS DID NOT SPECIFY THE EXPERIENCES AND PERSONALITIES OF CANDIDATES AND THEY FELT THAT THE QUALITY CONTROL MECHANISM IN THE SYSTEM WAS HIGHLY INADEQUATE, WE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM THE ROLE OF QUALITY CONTROL WAS PERFORMED BY THE ELECTORATE.

+IF IT IS HOPED THAT ELECTED MEMBERS COULD TRULY CONTRIBUTE TO THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, THE MOST IMPORTANT TASK IS TO GET EACH VOTER TO DISCHARGE HIS DUTY,+ MR CHAN SAID. HE CALLED ON ALL QUALIFIED VOTERS WHO HAD FAILED TO REGISTER TO DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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INSOLVENCY BILL - 'A BIG STEP FORWARD'
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THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY BILL 1985 WAS ANOTHER BIG STEP BY HONG KONG IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS, WHO CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE COMMUNITY, THE HON K.C. CHAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, MR CHAN SAID : +IN INSOLVENCY CASES, WORKERS ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY HIT BY THE SHOCK OF UNEMPLOYMENT, BY THE OFTEN FUTILE EFFORTS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT QUICKLY AND BY THE THREAT OF SUBSISTENCE WHICH ARE ALL REAL AND IMMEDIATE PRESSURES ON THEIR FAMILIES.+

HE SAID THE BILL WOULD ACHIEVE TWO IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES LONGED FOR BY WORKERS:

- * MAKE GOOD WAGES UP TO FOUR MONTHS, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$8 000 PER WORKER; AND
- * PROVIDE IMMEDIATE HELP, SINCE APPLICATION PROCEDURES WERE STREAMLINED AND THE WORKER COULD BE PAID WITHIN ONE MONTH.

HARDSHIP WAS THEREFORE KEPT TO AN ACCEPTABLE MINIMUM WHEN ONE CONSIDERED THAT WAGES WERE NOT PAID DAILY BUT HALF-MONTHLY AND SALARIES PAID MONTHLY, HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID THE BILL WAS GENERALLY WELCOMED BY EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING PRESSURE GROUPS, WITH THE USUAL RIDER FOR MORE AND RETROACTIVE EFFECT.

+I MUST REMIND THEM THAT ROME WAS NOT BUILT IN ONE DAY AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET FUNDS STATED AND TESTED FIRST,+ HE SAID.

ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND, HE SAID THEY OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT COME FROM EMPLOYEES, NOR WAS IT FAIR TO DIP INTO THE PUBLIC COFFERS FOR EXPENDITURE WHICH DID NOT BENEFIT ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

+THIS SMALL LEVY HAS TO COME FROM EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSMEN TO COVER THEIR 'FALLEN' BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.

+FAIR-MINDED EMPLOYERS WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE RELEVANT WORKING GROUP HAD GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED THIS CONCEPT.+ HE SAID.

THANKING MR CHAN FOR HIS WARM SUPPORT FOR THIS BILL, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR RON BRIDGE, MOVED COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSE 18 OF THE BILL.

/THE AMENDMENTS

THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED WERE OF A PURELY TECHNICAL NATURE AND HAD BEEN DRAFTED, ON LEGAL ADVICE, TO BRING THE WORDING OF CLAUSE 18 OF THE BILL MORE IN LINE WITH THAT OF CLAUSE 16 AND CORRESPONDING PROVISIONS IN THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

NO CHANGE OF SUBSTANCE IN THE INTENTION OF THE BILL WAS INVOLVED, HE SAID.

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RIISING EXPORTS BOOST INSURANCE COVERAGE
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THE EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION'S CONTINGENT LIABILITY WAS INCREASED BY \$700 MILLION TO \$4 200 MILLION, IN LINE WITH EXPORT GROWTH, BY APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING ON THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO, SAID THAT WITH EXPORTS GOING WELL, THE CONTINGENT LIABILITIES OF THE CORPORATION WERE INCREASING AT THE RATE OF ABOUT \$140 MILLION A QUARTER.

+IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CORPORATION'S ADVISORY BOARD CONSIDERS THAT THE EXISTING STATUTORY LIMIT MAY BE REACHED BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

+IT HAS JUST ADVISED THAT THE MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY SHOULD BE INCREASED BY \$700 MILLION TO \$4 200 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

FAILURE TO RAISE THE LIMIT, MR HO SAID, COULD RESULT IN THE CORPORATION HAVING TO TURN AWAY FURTHER BUSINESS AND DISCOURAGE EXPORTS.

ON THE BASIS OF THE USUAL GEARING OF THREE, UP TO \$233 MILLION WOULD HAVE TO BE SET ASIDE FROM THE FREE FISCAL RESERVES AS COVER FOR THE ADDITIONAL CONTINGENT LIABILITY, HE SAID.

THE MAXIMUM LIABILITY, MR HO STRESSED, WAS A THEORETICAL AMOUNT, NEVER LIKELY TO BE AT RISK AT ANY ONE TIME.

HE RECALLED THAT THE MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY OF THE CORPORATION HAD BEEN INCREASED BY \$500 MILLION TO \$3 500 MILLION IN APRIL LAST YEAR.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE CORPORATION'S LIABILITY UNDER CONTRACTS OF INSURANCE HAD RISEN BY \$560 MILLION AND AT THE END OF JANUARY THIS YEAR STOOD AT \$3 317 MILLION, HE SAID.

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CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA EXPLAINED
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FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS WERE CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL IF THEY CONTAINED INFORMATION OR MATERIAL, WHICH, IF DISCLOSED, WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR PHILIP SAID THE FACT WAS THAT ON OCCASIONS, WHEN SEEKING APPROVAL FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A NEW OR AMENDED COMMITMENT, ARGUMENTS HAD TO BE DEPLOYED AND EVIDENCE PRODUCED OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE.

+THUS THE ITEM ITSELF HAD TO BE DISCUSSED IN A CLOSED MEETING, BUT THE ACTUAL DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS NOT CONFIDENTIAL, OBVIOUSLY, FOR THE PUBLISHED ESTIMATES WERE, IN EFFECT, AMENDED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,+ HE SAID.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S REPLY SHOWED THAT IN 1984-85, 41 FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 294 -- OR 20 PER CENT -- HAD BEEN CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL, SOMETIMES RATHER UNNECESSARILY.

ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN THAT, SINCE FINANCE COMMITTEE NOW MET IN PUBLIC, THE NUMBER OF AGENDA ITEMS CLASSIFIED AS CONFIDENTIAL WOULD BE KEPT +TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM+ IN THE FUTURE.

ALSO, MEMBERS HAD BEEN NOTIFIED ON MARCH 30 THAT CONFIDENTIAL ITEM C.1 INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WOULD BE DOWNGRADED AND RE-NUMBERED AS ITEM B.2.

THE ITEM DEALT WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT NO. 10 OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ON OVERTIME AND RELATED ALLOWANCES.

THE ITEM WAS MARKED CONFIDENTIAL BECAUSE THE PAPERS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN IN A CONFIDENTIAL FILE. BUT IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILES TO CONTAIN PAPERS THAT NEED NOT BE SO CLASSIFIED. THE FACT WAS THAT TO HAVE OPEN AND CONFIDENTIAL VERSIONS OF FILES DEALING WITH A SPECIFIC SUBJECT WOULD BE INCONVENIENT.

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BOARD OF INQUIRY SET UP ON IRANIAN'S CASE
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP A BOARD OF INQUIRY TO EXAMINE THE CORONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CASE OF THE IRANIAN WHO DIED IN THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL CUSTODIAL WARD LAST JULY, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+WHEN THE INQUIRY IS COMPLETED, A FORMAL RESPONSE WILL BE MADE TO THE CORONER TO INFORM HIM OF ANY ACTION TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS,+ DR THONG SAID IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON LYDIA DUNN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DR THONG SAID THAT ONE OF THE AIMS OF THE BOARD OF INQUIRY WAS TO EXAMINE THE CORONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO SEE WHETHER THEY WERE PRACTICABLE AND IF SO, WHAT SPECIFIC ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

THE BOARD WOULD ALSO STUDY WHETHER THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE IN REFERENCE TO EXISTING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES AND WHETHER THEY COULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

DR THONG TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HE WAS STILL WAITING FOR THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE COMPLETE PROCEEDINGS WHICH HE HAD EARLIER REQUESTED FROM THE CORONER.

ON THE QUESTION OF NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE IN NEED, DR THONG SAID THAT PATIENTS IN THE CUSTODIAL WARD, LIKE ANY OTHER PATIENTS, WERE PLACED UNDER THE CARE OF AN APPROPRIATE SPECIALTY UNIT.

+ANY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE THAT IS NEEDED, INCLUDING EMERGENCY TREATMENT, IS PROVIDED BY THE MEDICAL STAFF OF THAT PARTICULAR UNIT UNDER WHOSE CARE THE PATIENT HAS BEEN PLACED,+ HE SAID.

ON THE USE OF RESTRAINERS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES, THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THEY WERE USED FROM TIME TO TIME AS A NORMAL PART OF THE TREATMENT PROCEDURE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE OF THE USE OF RESTRAINERS WERE INHERENT IN THE TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF NURSING PERSONNEL.

THUS, HE SAID, RESTRAINERS WERE USED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE NURSING STAFF IN THE INTEREST OF THE PATIENTS THEMSELVES, TO PREVENT THEM FROM INJURING THEMSELVES OR INTERFERING WITH CERTAIN MODES OF TREATMENT.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS THE PROVISION OF INTERPRETERS FOR THOSE PATIENTS WHO DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH OR CHINESE, DR THONG SAID, IT WAS THE EXISTING PRACTICE IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS THAT, WHENEVER NECESSARY, ASSISTANCE WAS SOUGHT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FROM THE PATIENT'S RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OR FROM MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITAL STAFF.

+IF THESE SOURCES ARE UNAVAILABLE, ASSISTANCE MAY THEN BE SOUGHT FROM OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL SUCH AS THE CONSULATES,+ HE ADDED.

ACCORDING TO MEDICAL RECORDS, THE 23-YEAR-OLD IRANIAN, MR AZODI HAMID REZA, WHO WAS DETAINED UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, WAS ADMITTED INTO THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL CUSTODIAL WARD IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JULY 21, 1984 UNDER CARE FOR +RAPID BREATHING, SWEATING AND FEVER.+

HE WAS PLACED UNDER THE CARE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG MEDICAL UNIT. THE PATIENT DIED ON JULY 28, 1984. THE CAUSE OF DEATH AS SHOWN BY THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION WAS BRONCHOPNEUMONIA.

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BILL ON GAS FUELS BEING DRAFTED

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A COMPREHENSIVE BILL WAS BEING DRAFTED TO REGULATE THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION OF LPG AND OTHER GAS FUELS AND SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE END OF THE YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO ON MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF LPG CYLINDERS.

+LPG CYLINDERS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE OF A TYPE APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES AND TO MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS LAID DOWN IN THE RELEVANT BRITISH STANDARDS OR THEIR EQUIVALENT,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

+THE LAW ALSO LAYS DOWN CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING CYLINDERS ONCE THEY ARE IN USE.+

A NUMBER OF OTHER MEASURES, MR JEAFFRESON SAID, HAD BEEN INTRODUCED OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF LPG CYLINDERS.

AS A RESULT OF AN AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES AND THE OIL INDUSTRY, EACH CYLINDER WAS SUBJECTED TO A LEAKAGE TEST AFTER RE-FILLING.

/+IN ADDITION,

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+IN ADDITION, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES AND THE GAS ADVISER ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE OIL INDUSTRY TO INTRODUCE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE INSPECTION OF CYLINDER BODIES AND CYLINDER VALVES BEFORE RE-FILLING,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

HE SAID THAT ADDITIONAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED ON +DIM SUM+ TROLLEYS USING LPG AS FUEL.

+FAILURE TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS WOULD RESULT IN THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES ISSUING FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES AGAINST THE RESTAURANT OPERATORS,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING, A MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN INCLUDING PUBLICITY ON THE SAFE STORAGE AND HANDLING OF LPG CYLINDERS WOULD BE MOUNTED IN 1985-86.

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FRINGE BENEFIT COSTS SET OUT

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THE MAXIMUM COSTS TO GOVERNMENT FOR PROVIDING A LOCAL DIRECTORATE OFFICER WITH THE FRINGE BENEFITS OF PRIVATE TENANCY ALLOWANCE, OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCE AND SCHOOL PASSAGES, AND LEAVE PASSAGES WAS ABOUT \$260 000 A YEAR, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY.

GIVING FIGURES IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AND AN EXAMPLE QUOTED BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, SIR PHILIP SAID THAT FOR AN OFFICER ON D1 OF THE DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE WHO WAS MARRIED AND HAD FOUR CHILDREN STUDYING IN THE U.K., THE THEORETICAL COSTS COULD BE BROKEN DOWN INTO: \$97 200 A YEAR FOR PRIVATE TENANCY ALLOWANCE, \$158 500 A YEAR FOR OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCE, AND TWO RETURN SCHOOL PASSAGES FOR EACH CHILD EACH YEAR; AND \$12 613 A YEAR FOR LEAVE PASSAGES EVERY SECOND YEAR FOR THE OFFICER AND DEPENDANTS, EXCLUDING THOSE IN RECEIPT OF SCHOOL PASSAGES.

SIR PHILIP SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES AND SCHOOL PASSAGES WERE CURRENTLY BEING PAID WORKED OUT AT AN AVERAGE OF 1.09 CHILDREN FOR EACH CLAIMANT OFFICER.

HE SAID THAT DR IP'S EXAMPLE OF A D1 OFFICER WITH FOUR CHILDREN BEING EDUCATED OVERSEAS WAS A LITTLE UNREALISTIC, AS THERE WERE NO OFFICERS, LOCAL OR OVERSEAS, OF ANY RANK, CLAIMING OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES FOR FOUR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

IN FACT, SIR PHILIP SAID, 80 PER CENT OF THE 2 060 OFFICERS (1 650 LOCALS AND 410 EXPATRIATES) CLAIMING OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCE CLAIMED FOR ONE CHILD ONLY, 19 PER CENT CLAIMED FOR TWO CHILDREN AND ONE PER CENT CLAIMED FOR THREE.

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USE OF RESTRAINERS STUDIED

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PUBLIC HOSPITALS HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO MONITOR AND REVIEW THE USE OF RESTRAINERS ON CHILDREN, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, SAID TODAY.

THE MEASURES WERE INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE OF RESTRAINERS WERE OBSERVED, AND TO ENABLE PRACTICAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO MINIMISE SUCH USE IN THE HOSPITALS.

DR THONG SAID THE REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE +IN VIEW OF THE GREAT CONCERN THAT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED IN PUBLIC OVER THE USE OF RESTRAINERS ON CHILDREN.+

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, DR THONG ASSURED MEMBERS THAT HE SHARED THE CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE USE OF RESTRAINERS BUT ADDED THAT HE WOULD KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON THE SUBJECT.

+I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT AS A COMMON GROUND OF AGREEMENT, ALL CONCERNED ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE THAT THE YOUNG PATIENTS IN OUR HOSPITALS ARE GIVEN GOOD MEDICAL AND NURSING CARE AND BROUGHT BACK TO HEALTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN SAFETY AND WITHOUT UNDUE HARM IN THE TREATMENT PROCESS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT RESTRAINERS WERE USED FROM TIME TO TIME IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS AS AN AID TO MEDICAL AND NURSING CARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ATTENDING NURSING PERSONNEL, AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE PATIENT HIMSELF.

HE EXPLAINED THAT RESTRAINERS WERE USED FOR THREE MAIN REASONS:

- (A) AS PART OF GOOD NURSING AND MEDICAL CARE SO AS TO PREVENT THE PATIENT FROM INTERFERING WITH THE LIFE-SUPPORTING DEVICES AND MODES OF TREATMENT AND TO PROMOTE THE HEALING PROCESS;
- (B) TO PREVENT THE PATIENT FROM INJURING HIMSELF; AND
- (C) TO PREVENT THE PATIENT FROM FALLING.

HE SAID HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE STAFF WORKING IN THE PAEDIATRIC WARDS THAT RESTRAINERS WERE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE FOR THE USE OF SUCH, WHICH WERE INHERENT IN THE TRAINING OF NURSING PERSONNEL.

+THESE RESTRAINERS ARE USED WITH DUE CARE AND ONLY WHEN CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY TRAINED STAFF AND EVEN THEN THEY ARE NOT REGARDED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PERSONAL OBSERVATION BY THE STAFF,+ HE SAID.

/DR THONG

DR THONG POINTED OUT THAT A RESTRAINER WAS AN AID TO NURSING AND ITS USE DID NOT MEAN CONFINEMENT AND COMPLETE IMMOBILISATION OF THE PATIENT.

IN FACT, THE USUAL FORM OF RESTRAINERS USED IN THE WARDS WAS A VEST WORN IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE PATIENT WAS ALLOWED A COMFORTABLE RANGE OF MOVEMENTS CONSISTENT WITH HIS CONDITION, AND WHICH WAS REMOVED AS SOON AS IT WAS NO LONGER REQUIRED, HE EXPLAINED.

REFERRING TO A SUGGESTION THAT A BETTER NURSING-STAFFING RATIO MIGHT MINIMISE OR EVEN ELIMINATE THE USE OF RESTRAINERS ENTIRELY, THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT ACCORDING TO HIS STAFF, IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE IN PRACTICE TO DISPENSE WITH THE USE OF RESTRAINERS ALTOGETHER.

+THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SITUATIONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WILL REQUIRE THE USE OF RESTRAINERS IRRESPECTIVE OF THE NUMBERS OF STAFF IN THE WARDS.+

FURTHER, HE SAID, THERE MUST BE A LIMIT TO INCREASE IN STAFF RATIO IN PRACTICE BY REASON OF THE FACT THAT MANPOWER RESOURCES WERE FINITE.

+IMPROVED STAFF RATIO THEREFORE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE USE OF RESTRAINERS WHICH ARE APPLIED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES,+ HE SAID.

DR THONG FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESTRAINERS WERE USED MIGHT VARY WITH DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN WARDS, DIFFERENT TYPES OF PATIENTS, DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS ETC.

HOWEVER, HE AGREED WITH THE VIEW THAT MOTHERS WHO WERE ALLOWED TO STAY WITH THEIR CHILDREN MIGHT BE OF HELP IN MINIMISING THE USE OF RESTRAINERS.

HE SAID THAT VISITING HOURS OF CHILDREN WARDS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS WERE VERY FLEXIBLE AND CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN THOSE OF ADULT WARDS.

+IN APPROPRIATE CASES, MOTHERS ARE ALSO ALLOWED TO REMAIN WITH THEIR CHILDREN OVERNIGHT,+ HE SAID.

DR THONG SAID THAT IN ALL FUTURE MAJOR HOSPITALS, SPECIAL MOTHER-ROOMS ARE INCLUDED AND THIS WILL HELP TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION FURTHER.

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FLOODING IN SHAU KEI WAN EXPLAINED
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THE RECENT FLOODING IN SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST WAS CAUSED BY THE BLOCKAGE OF THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN THE VICINITY, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, MR CHAN SAID THIS BLOCKAGE WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS.

WITH THE EXTENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT AND AN INCREASE IN POPULATION IN THIS AREA, THERE WAS A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE DEMAND PLACED ON THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING DRAINAGE SYSTEM, WHICH WAS OLD.

OVER THE YEARS, MR CHAN SAID, THE BUILD-UP OF SOLID MATTERS ON THE INSIDE OF THE PIPES HAD FURTHER REDUCED THE CAPACITY OF THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

ADDITIONALLY, EXTENSIONS TO THE SYSTEM TO CATER FOR THE ALDRICH BAY RECLAMATION WORKS, CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS, HAD DECREASED THE HYDRAULIC GRADIENT, THEREBY REDUCING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE GRAVITY FLOW.

ILLEGAL DUMPING AT THE TEMPORARY OUTFALL, AND DAMAGE TO THE OUTFALL PIPE AS A RESULT OF SETTLEMENT WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE DISCHARGE INTO THE SEA, HAD EXACERBATED THE PROBLEM OF BLOCKAGE.

MR CHAN SAID CLEARANCE OPERATIONS TO UNBLOCK THE PARTICULAR SECTION CAUSING FLOODING IN SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST WERE IN HAND BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE AND THE FLOODING PROBLEM HAD FOR THE TIME BEING BEEN ALLEVIATED.

ADDITIONALLY, HE SAID, PLANS WERE IN HAND TO CONSTRUCT AN EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING DRAIN PIPE OF THE OUTFALL SO AS TO ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DRAIN BEING BLOCKED BY ILLEGAL DUMPING OF RUBBISH.

THIS PROJECT WAS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, MR CHAN SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT SUCH CLEARANCE OPERATIONS WERE BUT SHORT TERM MEASURES.

+THE BASIC PROBLEM OF THE OLD DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN LOW-LYING AREAS WILL REMAIN UNLESS LONGER TERM SOLUTIONS ARE INTRODUCED,+ HE SAID.

/THE LONGER

THE LONGER TERM SOLUTION INVOLVED THE WIDENING AND RAISING IN LEVEL OF SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET AND AT THE SAME TIME REPLACING THE PRESENT DRAINAGE SYSTEM BY ONE OF ADEQUATE CAPACITY.

+THIS IS DEPENDENT ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINING PROPERTIES IN THE AREA, THE TIMING OF WHICH IS UNCERTAIN,+ MR CHAN SAID.

+HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE FEASIBILITY OF REPLACING THE CRITICAL SEGMENT OF THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM SERVICING THIS AREA WAS BEING EXAMINED WITH THE VIEW TO EFFECTING A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE MEDIUM TERM.

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1985 DB ELECTION REVIEW DUE

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THE REVIEW FOR THE 1985 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION WOULD BE STARTED THIS MONTH, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+APART FROM THE MECHANICS AND DETAILS OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS, THE REVIEW WILL COVER OTHER RELATED MATTERS SUCH AS RATE OF TURN-OUT AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY NEED FOR STRICTER CONTROL OF THE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE POLLING STATIONS,+ MR TSAO SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN YING-LUN.

+COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC, THE MEDIA, THE POLLING STAFF AND DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF WILL ALL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT,+ HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ELECTORAL ROLL, ONLY CONTAINED MINIMUM INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR CONDUCTING ELECTIONS.

+IT CONTAINS ID CARD NUMBER, NAME, SEX AND RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND NOTHING MORE. THE REQUIREMENT IN RESPECT OF AGE IS THAT THE PERSON IS NOT LESS THAN 21 YEARS OLD, AND THIS FACT IS ESTABLISHED WHEN THE VOTER MAKES AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER.

+IT IS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH EITHER FROM THE APPLICATION FORM OR FROM THE ELECTORAL ROLL THE AGE OF VOTERS,+ HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID THE BREAKDOWN OF ELECTORS BY SEX WAS 767 889 MALE ELECTORS AND 653 502 FEMALE ELECTORS.

HE ALSO SAID IT WAS AN ESTABLISHED PRACTICE FOR GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INTERNAL REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL PROCEDURES AFTER EACH ELECTION.

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FULL MEASURES TAKEN TO CONTROL AIDS
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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT HE WAS SATISFIED THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN ALL APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO CONTAIN AIDS IN HONG KONG.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MRS PAULINE NG, DR THONG SAID THAT ALL THE MEASURES TAKEN IN HONG KONG TO COMBAT AIDS WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE TAKEN BY ADVANCED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

+AS AIDS IS A NEWLY RECOGNISED DISEASE IN THE WORLD, MY DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN MEASURES TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AS WELL AS TO MONITOR THE LATEST ADVANCES IN REGARD TO THIS DISEASE,+ DR THONG SAID.

HE SAID THAT ALL MEASURES TAKEN TO CONTAIN THIS SYNDROME WERE RECOMMENDED BY AN EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AIDS WHICH WAS SET UP SINCE LAST NOVEMBER CONSISTING OF MEDICAL EXPERTS, SENIOR MEDICAL ADMINISTRATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TWO UNIVERSITIES.

THE PACKAGE OF MEASURES INCLUDED INTENSIFIED SURVEILLANCE, HEALTH EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND PROTECTION FOR HEALTH CARE STAFF AND SAFEGUARDS FOR BLOOD SUPPLY.

HONG KONG HAD AN EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR THE DETECTION, REPORT INVESTIGATION AND TREATMENT OF ALL COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

+THIS CONSISTS OF THE EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WHICH IS TIME-TESTED AND EXTREMELY EFFICIENT IN DETECTING ANY CASES OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INCLUDING AIDS THAT MAY OCCUR SO THAT THE HEALTH AUTHORITY MAY BE ALERTED TO DEAL WITH THEM,+ DR THONG SAID.

ON HEALTH EDUCATION, DR THONG SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE PUBLIC HAD A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACTS OF THE DISEASE.

TO THIS END, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT'S CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT HAD INCLUDED AIDS AS A PRIORITY SUBJECT IN ITS HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

APART FROM MAKING USE OF THE MASS MEDIA TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT AIDS, SPECIAL LEAFLETS WERE ALSO MADE AVAILABLE TO MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

/SINCE MARCH

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SINCE MARCH 9, A 24-HOUR 'HOT-LINE' INFORMATION SERVICE, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, HAD BEEN IN OPERATION TO SERVE AS A VALUABLE POINT OF CONTACT FOR PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE SPECIALLY INTERESTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE DISEASE.

DR THONG TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT WITHIN A SHORT SPACE OF THREE WEEKS SINCE ITS INCEPTION, MORE THAN 800 CALLERS HAD USED THE HOTLINE SERVICE AND MANY HAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH IT.

+THUS, THIS HAS PROVED TO BE A USEFUL SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC AND HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN CLARIFYING MUCH MISCONCEPTIONS AND HELPED TO ALLEVIATE UNDUE FEAR IN THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO INFORMATION AND PROTECTION FOR HEALTH CARE STAFF, DR THONG SAID THAT GUIDELINES TO HEALTH CARE STAFF HAD BEEN ISSUED TO ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

+THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN THE REGIONAL HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS ARE FOLLOWED.

+SPECIAL LECTURES ARE ORGANISED ON THE SUBJECT FOR THE MEDICAL STAFF AND, AGAIN, THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT IS CURRENTLY RUNNING A NUMBER OF LECTURES FOR NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN THE MAJOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

+THE CONSULTANT PATHOLOGISTS IN-CHARGE OF LABORATORIES IN REGIONAL HOSPITALS HAVE ALSO IMPLEMENTED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND GUIDELINES IN THE LABORATORIES,+ DR THONG SAID.

IF PROPER PRECAUTIONS WERE FOLLOWED, DR THONG SAID, THERE WAS PRACTICALLY LITTLE RISK OF HEALTH AND LABORATORY WORKERS CONTRACTING AIDS.

ON THE MATTER OF SAFEGUARDS FOR BLOOD SUPPLY, DR THONG SAID A SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR ALL DONATED BLOOD AT THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN ABOUT FOUR MONTHS' TIME IF FUNDS WERE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

+THIS WILL ENSURE A SAFE BLOOD SUPPLY TO THE RECIPIENTS OF BLOOD,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, IT WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AT THE GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY FOR TESTING THE BLOOD OF INDIVIDUALS BELONGING TO THE HIGH RISK GROUPS ON A DOCTOR REFERRAL BASIS.

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VISUAL ARTS EDUCATION PROVIDED AT ALL LEVELS
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VISUAL ARTS EDUCATION IS BEING PROVIDED IN BOTH SCHOOLS AND AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN, MR HENDERSON SAID ART AND CRAFT AND ART AND DESIGN WERE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS ON THE BASIS THAT CREATIVE ENDEAVOUR THROUGH OBSERVATION, TACTILE EXPERIENCE AND SIMPLE, PRACTICAL TECHNIQUES, WAS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF EDUCATION.

+THE SYLLABUSES ARE DESIGNED TO CULTIVATE AESTHETIC APPRECIATION AND DEVELOP A PUPIL'S IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE POWERS, THROUGH USE OF A WIDE VARIETY OF MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES, WITH EQUAL EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS AND AN APPRECIATION OF THE FINISHED PRODUCT,+ HE SAID.

ART AND CRAFT WAS TAUGHT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND THE SYLLABUS COVERED PICTURE-MAKING THROUGH DRAWING, PAINTING AND COLLAGE, PRINT-MAKING, BASIC DESIGN, THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORK AND ART APPRECIATION THROUGH AN INTRODUCTION TO BOTH CHINESE AND WESTERN ART.

ART AND DESIGN WAS TAUGHT IN ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF JUNIOR SECONDARY AND ONE-THIRD OF SENIOR SECONDARY CLASSES. THE SYLLABUS INCLUDED DRAWING, PAINTING, SCULPTURE, GRAPHIC DESIGN, CRAFTS, THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN, CALLIGRAPHY AND LETTERING, AND ART APPRECIATION. MOST SCHOOLS FOLLOWED THE RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF THREE PERIODS PER WEEK FOR THIS SUBJECT.

SINCE 1981, MR HENDERSON SAID, ALL PUBLIC SECTOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAD BEEN PROVIDED WITH A SPECIAL ROOM FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS. IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WELL-EQUIPPED ART ROOMS WERE A FEATURE OF THE CURRENT DESIGN.

+WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE NEW SYLLABUSES IN 1979 AND IMPROVED RESOURCES AND FACILITIES IN SCHOOLS, THERE HAS BEEN A TEN-FOLD INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PUPILS TAKING ART IN THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

+ART IS ALSO OFFERED AS A SUBJECT IN THE HIGHER LEVEL EXAMINATION AND THERE ARE PLANS TO OFFER IT AT ADVANCED LEVEL IN THE FUTURE,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

AS REGARDS THE TERTIARY SECTOR, MR HENDERSON SAID BOTH UNIVERSITIES HAD DEPARTMENTS OF FINE ARTS PROVIDING UNDER-GRADUATE TRAINING AIMED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO PROMOTE A GENERAL APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE VISUAL ARTS AND TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE OF MAJOR TRENDS IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE VISUAL ARTS IN BOTH EAST AND WEST.

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THE CURRENT ENROLMENTS WERE 56 AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY AND 71 AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. GRADUATES WERE WELL PLACED TO FILL VOCATIONALLY-ORIENTED POSTS IN ARTS ADMINISTRATION, CURATORIAL WORK AND SCHOOL TEACHING.

TO PROVIDE INTENDING TEACHERS WITH ADDITIONAL TRAINING, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG ALSO RAN A POST-GRADUATE TRAINING COURSE FOR FINE ARTS GRADUATES. THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY THROUGH ITS EXTRA-MURAL DEPARTMENT HAD, SINCE SEPTEMBER 1982, BEEN RUNNING EXTRA-MURAL POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE COURSES IN ARTS ADMINISTRATION FOR PRACTISING ADMINISTRATORS IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

FURTHERMORE, MR HENDERSON SAID, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, THROUGH ITS SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, OFFERED A VARIETY OF COURSES IN THIS FIELD. THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE COURSE IN DESIGN WAS OFFERED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS ACADEMIC YEAR WITH AN INTAKE OF 54 STUDENTS.

IN ADDITION, THE SCHOOL OFFERED A HIGHER DIPLOMA COURSE AS WELL AS A DIPLOMA COURSE IN DESIGN AND EIGHT PART-TIME EVENING PROGRAMMES AT CERTIFICATE AND HIGHER CERTIFICATE LEVELS, FOR EXAMPLE CREATIVE SCREEN PRINTING, STUDIO CERAMICS AND APPLIED PHOTOGRAPHY.

FINALLY, THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ALSO PROVIDED TRAINING FOR BOTH INTENDING AND PRACTISING TEACHERS. AT THE PRE-SERVICE LEVEL, ART AND DESIGN WAS AN ELECTIVE SUBJECT, AND AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL, PRACTISING TEACHERS MIGHT ENROLL IN THE ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME ADVANCED COURSE OF TEACHER EDUCATION IN ART AND DESIGN.

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ACTION TO COMBAT CREDIT CARD CRIME
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THE POLICE ARE ENCOURAGING CREDIT CARD COMPANIES TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF THEIR SYSTEMS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG ON CRIMES INVOLVING THE USE OF STOLEN OR LOST CREDIT CARDS, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE POLICE HAVE BEEN EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE OF CRIME PREVENTION MEASURES THROUGH THEIR REGULAR CONTACTS WITH THESE COMPANIES.

/HE TOLD

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HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT ONE OF THESE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WAS TO INSIST THAT SHOPS, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER CONCERNS SHOULD ASK CARD USERS TO PRODUCE AN IDENTITY CARD OR PASSPORT BEFORE EACH TRANSACTION.

ANOTHER PRACTICE ENCOURAGED BY THE POLICE WAS TO USE +PLAIN ENVELOPES RATHER THAN THOSE WITH THE COMPANY NAME EMBLAZONED ON THEM WHEN SENDING CARDS BY POST+.

AS TO THE LEVEL OF SUCH CRIMES, MR JEAFFRESON SAID 138 CASES INVOLVING THE USE OF LOST OR STOLEN CREDIT CARDS WERE REPORTED IN 1983, 77 IN 1984 AND 10 IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1985.

+THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY MISAPPROPRIATED WAS \$1.01 MILLION IN 1983, \$0.98 MILLION IN 1984 AND \$51 000 IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1985,+ HE SAID.

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FIRST REGIONAL TEACHERS' CENTRE PLANNED
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A WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO PLAN THE FIRST REGIONAL TEACHERS' CENTRE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS RITA FAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN PLANS TO SET UP A TEACHERS' CENTRE EVEN BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

+THE WORKING GROUP WILL INCLUDE, AS ONE OF ITS FIRST TASKS, A REVIEW OF THESE PLANS IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE SIX TEACHING CENTRES, THREE RESOURCE-DISPLAY ROOMS AND A MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES UNIT RUN BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE AND WHICH ARE USED REGULARLY BY TEACHERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

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IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, 8 678 TEACHERS VISITED AND USED THESE FACILITIES, WHILE 10 545 TEACHERS ATTENDED VARIOUS IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES CONDUCTED THERE.

+WITHIN THE LIMITS OF EXISTING STAFF AND OTHER RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT IS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT LEVEL OF USAGE.

+MORE CAN STILL BE DONE, SUCH AS GIVING WIDER PUBLICITY AND OFFERING MORE IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES. THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR SUCH COURSES WERE ORGANISED IN THE PAST YEAR AND 245 HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

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

THEY ARE: THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985 AND THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY BILL 1985.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO APRIL 17.

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MORE TO CONTROL ILLEGAL WORKS IN BUILDINGS
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IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO CREATE A NEW CATEGORY OF STATUTORY PERSON WILLING AND ABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING THE +COMPETENT PERSON+ TO CERTIFY ANNUALLY THAT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS WERE FREE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LIONS CLUB OF BAYVIEW LUNCHEON MEETING, SHE SAID THE PERSON NEED NOT BE AS HIGHLY QUALIFIED AS AN AUTHORISED PERSON, BUT SHOULD HAVE A BACKGROUND OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD, SUCH AS THE HOLDER OF A POLYTECHNIC CERTIFICATE IN BUILDING STUDIES OR LICENTATE OF THE INSTITUTE OF BUILDING.

IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT SUCH A CATEGORY OF PERSON, WHICH AT PRESENT APPEARS TO BE FAIRLY READILY AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG, WOULD BE BOTH SUITABLE AND WILLING FOR THE TASK.

IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY FOR ANY LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES FOR NEGLIGENT INSPECTION OF PROPERTY AND FOR FALSE CERTIFICATION REGARDING ILLEGAL ALTERATIONS, SHE SAID.

THE CURRENT POLICY ON BUILDING CONTROL IN PRIVATE MULTI-STOREY BUILDING WAS LARGELY ONE WHICH GAVE PRIORITY TO ENFORCEMENT ACTION IN CASES WHERE THERE WAS A HAZARD TO LIFE AND LIMB, MRS WONG SAID.

WITH ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS GOING ON ALL THE TIME WHICH REQUIRED CHECKING, THE GOVERNMENT WAS CURRENTLY EXPLORING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVE MEASURES WHICH WERE BOTH EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMICAL FOR ENFORCEMENT BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE.

ONE SUGGESTED MEASURE WAS TO ENACT LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY FOR WHICH AN OCCUPATION PERMIT WAS ISSUED AFTER SOME FUTURE DATE, TO EMPLOY A +COMPETENT PERSON+ ANNUALLY TO INSPECT THE PROPERTY AND TO CERTIFY TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY THAT NO EXTERNAL ILLEGAL ALTERATION TO PRIVATE FLATS AND ILLEGAL MODIFICATION TO COMMON AREAS HAD TAKEN PLACE, SHE SAID.

+LACK OF AN ANNUAL CERTIFICATE WOULD BECOME GROUNDS FOR INVESTIGATION BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY,+ SHE SAID.

ONCE SUCH A SYSTEM WAS ESTABLISHED AND THE CONTROL OF NEW BUILDINGS SECURED, IT WAS INTENDED TO EXTEND IT TO OLDER BUILDINGS IN PHASES.

/+THE IDEA

+THE IDEA OF APPLYING THE NEW RULE INITIALLY ONLY TO FUTURE NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IS PARTLY TO DRAW A LINE BEYOND WHICH THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-REGULATION WILL APPLY, PARTLY BECAUSE THE APPROVED PLANS OF THE BUILDINGS WILL BE READILY AVAILABLE FOR SCRUTINY, AND PARTLY BECAUSE IN THE CASE OF MULTI-STOREY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP, INDIVIDUAL UNITS ARE NOW COMMONLY SOLD SUBJECT TO A DEED OF MUTUAL COVENENT WHICH PROVIDES EITHER FOR BUILDING MANAGEMENT OR FOR THE FORMATION OF AN OWNERS' INCORPORATION.

+IN CASES WHERE INDIVIDUAL UNITS IN BUILDINGS ARE SOLD WITHOUT ANY PROVISION OF MANAGEMENT OR THE FORMATION OF OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS, THE ONUS ON INDIVIDUAL OWNERS WOULD BE GREATER AND THERE IS THE PROBABILITY OF DUPLICATION OF EFFORT IN THAT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION WOULD HAVE TO RELATE TO BOTH AN OWNER'S INDIVIDUAL UNIT AND TO THE COMMON AREAS WHICH HE HAS AN UNDIVIDED SHARE.

+THIS SITUATION MIGHT BE AN INDUCEMENT TO OWNERS TO FORM INCORPORATIONS, WHICH IS LIKELY TO IMPROVE THE GENERAL STANDARD OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT IN THE LONG TERM,+ MRS WONG SAID.

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1984 RE-EXPORT FIGURES ANALYSED
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THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS REACHED A RECORD OF HK\$83 504 MILLION IN 1984, AN INCREASE OF \$27 210 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT OVER THE 1983 FIGURE, ACCORDING TO A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RE-EXPORTS BY MARKET AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

RE-EXPORTS BY MARKET

CHINA REMAINED THE LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS IN 1984, WITH A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF \$15 882 MILLION OR 130 PER CENT OVER 1983. ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN TEXTILES (BY \$3 354 MILLION OR 106 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$2 177 MILLION OR 303 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD AND AIR-CUSHION VEHICLES (BY \$56 MILLION OR 67 PER CENT) AND FIXED VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS (BY \$45 MILLION OR 73 PER CENT).

/SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE WAS ALSO RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A. (BY \$4 081 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT), THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS. THE COMMODITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS (EXCLUDING DOLLS), NOT CONTAINING ELECTRIC MOTOR (BY \$1 349 MILLION OR 128 PER CENT), CLOTHING (BY \$790 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (BY \$455 MILLION OR 69 PER CENT). NOTABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$85 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT) AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$36 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT).

INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (BY \$723 MILLION OR 72 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (BY \$134 MILLION OR 74 PER CENT), BUT A DECREASE WAS RECORDED IN MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$31 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT).

AN OVERALL INCREASE OF \$1 457 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN WAS REGISTERED. COMMODITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE TEXTILE FIBRES (OTHER THAN WOOL TOPS) AND THEIR WASTES (NOT MANUFACTURED INTO YARN) OR FABRIC (BY \$259 MILLION OR 416 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (BY \$236 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT). A DECREASE OF \$18 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT WAS RECORDED IN POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.

INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (BY \$94 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT) AND COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES AND MANUFACTURES (BY \$41 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT). A DECREASE OF \$118 MILLION OR 53 PER CENT WAS RECORDED IN NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES.

RE-EXPORTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

CHINA REMAINED THE LARGEST SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS IN 1984. ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, INCREASES WERE NOTED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$1 597 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT), BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$1 095 MILLION OR 336 PER CENT), TEXTILE YARN (BY \$770 MILLION OR 149 PER CENT), TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS (BY \$612 MILLION OR 91 PER CENT), WOVEN COTTON FABRICS (BY \$515 MILLION OR 82 PER CENT) AND COTTON (BY \$414 MILLION OR 390 PER CENT).

/JAPAN WAS

JAPAN WAS THE SECOND LARGEST SOURCE OF RE-EXPORTS. INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1 303 MILLION OR 90 PER CENT), MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF GOODS OR MATERIALS AND SPECIAL PURPOSE MOTOR VEHICLES (BY \$1 022 MILLION OR 216 PER CENT), THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS (BY \$960 MILLION OR 134 PER CENT), AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES AND UNITS (BY \$438 MILLION OR 323 PER CENT).

OVERSEAS PURCHASES OF U.S. PRODUCTS THROUGH HONG KONG REMAINED ACTIVE IN 1984. INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS (BY \$761 MILLION OR 79 PER CENT), AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES AND UNITS (BY \$366 MILLION OR 148 PER CENT) AND CIVIL ENGINEERING AND CONTRACTORS' PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND PARTS (BY \$181 MILLION OR 202 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS OF TAIWAN ORIGIN SHOWED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE. THE COMMODITIES WITH SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE WOVEN FABRICS OF MAN-MADE FIBRES (BY \$664 MILLION OR 167 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE YARN (BY \$430 MILLION OR 103 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA) ORIGIN ALSO INCREASED, PARTICULARLY FOR TEXTILE YARN (BY \$337 MILLION OR 336 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS BY ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

WHEN ANALYSED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND THEN BY DESTINATION, INCREASE WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO THE U.S. (BY \$3 268 MILLION OR 59 PER CENT), CHINA (BY \$1 122 MILLION OR 113 PER CENT), JAPAN (BY \$1 026 MILLION OR 92 PER CENT) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA) (BY \$605 MILLION OR 72 PER CENT). INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS OF JAPAN ORIGIN WERE MAINLY TO CHINA (BY \$6 092 MILLION OR 180 PER CENT), U.S. (BY \$305 MILLION OR 59 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (BY \$262 MILLION OR 78 PER CENT). SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE ALSO NOTED IN RE-EXPORTS OF U.S. ORIGIN TO CHINA (BY \$1 458 MILLION OR 99 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (BY \$428 MILLION OR 65 PER CENT).

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

<u>MAJOR MARKETS</u>	<u>1984 (HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>1983 (HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) (HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)</u>
CHINA	28 064	12 183	+15 882	+130
U.S.A.	12 109	8 028	+ 4 081	+ 51

/TAIWAN

TAIWAN	4 868	3 454	+ 1 413	+ 41
JAPAN	4 633	3 176	+ 1 457	+ 46
SINGAPORE	4 511	4 523	- 12	- *
INDONESIA	3 654	3 884	- 230	- 6
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	3 440	2 440	+ 1 000	+ 41
MACAU	2 354	1 885	+ 468	+ 25
PHILIPPINES	1 478	1 632	- 154	- 9
AUSTRALIA	1 423	937	+ 486	+ 52

* LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT.

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN	1984 (HK\$ MN.)	1983 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE(+)/ DECREASE(-) (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
CHINA	28 107	19 680	+ 8 426	+ 43
JAPAN	18 695	11 629	+ 7 066	+ 61
U.S.A.	8 516	6 038	+ 2 478	+ 41
TAIWAN	5 111	2 573	+ 2 537	+ 99
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	2 314	1 360	+ 954	+ 70
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	1 573	1 221	+ 352	+ 29
SWITZERLAND	1 298	1 161	+ 137	+ 12
UNITED KINGDOM	1 161	871	+ 290	+ 33
FRANCE	1 033	682	+ 351	+ 52
SINGAPORE	927	720	+ 207	+ 29

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FOUR QUEEN'S COUNSEL APPOINTED

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THE QUEEN HAS APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR FRANCIS ARTHUR LANCELOT EDDIS, MR ANTHONY WILLIAM SEDGWICK, MR EDWARD CHRISTOPHER MUMFORD AND MR FRANK STOCK AS HER MAJESTY'S COUNSEL FOR HONG KONG.

MR EDDIS WAS BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1927. HE WAS CALLED TO THE BAR BY GRAY'S INN IN 1952. HE WAS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE FOR TWO YEARS AND SPENT THE NEXT 16 YEARS IN BUSINESS.

IN 1971, HE CAME TO HONG KONG AND HAS BEEN IN PRACTICE HERE EVER SINCE.

HE INITIALLY CONCENTRATED ON CRIMINAL LAW, BUT IN RECENT YEARS HE HAS BECOME ALMOST ENTIRELY SPECIALISED IN CIVIL LAW. THE MAJORITY OF HIS WORK IS IN THE HIGH COURT OR COURT OF APPEAL.

MR SEDGWICK WAS BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1932. HE OBTAINED A M.A. AND B.C.L. AT OXFORD. HE WAS CALLED TO THE BAR BY MIDDLE TEMPLE IN 1955.

HE PRACTISED IN ENGLAND UNTIL 1959 WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED AS A MAGISTRATE IN BERMUDA. IN 1966, HE BECAME SOLICITOR-GENERAL OF BERMUDA, UNTIL HE WAS RETIRED IN 1972, AS A RESULT OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

HE HAS PRACTISED AT THE HONG KONG BAR SINCE 1973, SPECIALISING IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.

MR MUMFORD WAS BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1934. HE OBTAINED B.A. AT BRASENOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD IN 1957.

HE WAS ADMITTED AS A BARRISTER OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE IN 1958, BUT PRACTISED AS AN AVERAGE ADJUSTER IN LONDON UNTIL 1972, BEFORE ENTERING INTO PUPILLAGE. AFTER COMPLETING HIS PUPILLAGE IN 1973 HE CAME TO HONG KONG AND HAS PRACTISED AT THE HONG KONG BAR EVER SINCE.

HE INITIALLY CONCENTRATED ON CRIMINAL LAW, BUT IN RECENT YEARS HE HAS CONFINED HIMSELF TO CIVIL MATTERS, ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN THE HIGH COURT AND COURT OF APPEAL, CONCENTRATING ON COMMERCIAL AND ADMIRALTY MATTERS.

MR STOCK WAS BORN IN ZIMBABWE IN 1945.

HE WAS CALLED TO THE BAR BY LINCOLN'S INN IN NOVEMBER 1968. HE PRACTISED IN ENGLAND UNTIL 1978, WHEN HE JOINED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS IN HONG KONG AS CROWN COUNSEL.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL IN 1979, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN 1980 AND PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN JANUARY 1984.

FOR THE PAST YEAR, AS DEPUTY CROWN SOLICITOR, HE HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL LITIGATION IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED.

WORK STARTS ON GENERAL HOSPITAL
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WAN CHAI WILL SOON HAVE ITS OWN HOSPITAL WHEN REDEVELOPMENT WORKS TO TURN THE RUTTONJEE SANATORIUM FROM AN ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS INSTITUTION INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL ARE COMPLETED IN A FEW YEARS.

GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED FUNDS FOR THE EXTENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, WAS AMONG THE GUESTS INVITED TO THE EARTHBREAKING CEREMONY TODAY TO MARK THE START OF REDEVELOPMENT WORKS.

DR THONG SAID THE CEREMONY MARKED AN ADVANCED STAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOSPITAL, WHICH WOULD +SERVE EFFICIENTLY AND WELL ALL THOSE WHO NEED ITS SERVICES.+

THE TOTAL CAPITAL COST OF THE PROJECT WOULD BE \$158 MILLION, WITH THE GOVERNMENT ALLOCATING \$127 MILLION AND REMAINING \$31 MILLION TO BE RAISED BY THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION WHICH RUNS THE SANATORIUM.

THE 280-BED RUTTONJEE SANATORIUM WOULD BE UPGRADED INTO A 456-BED HOSPITAL WITH PROVISION FOR ANOTHER 168 BEDS, MAKING A TOTAL OF 624.

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HIGH COST OF KEEPING HK CLEAN
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KEEPING HONG KONG CLEAN IS THE COSTLIEST SINGLE AREA OF ACTIVITY OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. GROUPED BROADLY UNDER THE HEADING OF EXPENDITURE ON ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, THE ENDLESS CLEANING UP OF HONG KONG TAKES UP ROUGHLY ABOUT 23 PER CENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S YEARLY OUTGOINGS, WHICH ARE FUNDED THROUGH THE URBAN COUNCIL.

NEXT IN ORDER OF EXPENDITURE COME THREE OTHER HIGHLY IMPORTANT FIELDS OF ACTIVITY -- PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL URBAN FACILITIES UNDER THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME (ABOUT 18 PER CENT), UPKEEP OF MARKETS AND CONTROL OF STREET TRADERS (ABOUT 15.6 PER CENT) AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S WIDESPREAD RECREATION PROGRAMME (ABOUT 12 PER CENT).

+THESE FOUR IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES TAKE UP APPROXIMATELY 70 PER CENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S OUTGOINGS,+ SAID A USD SPOKESMAN TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S EXPENDITURE IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR BEGINNING FROM LAST MONDAY (APRIL 1) SHOULD TOTAL AN ESTIMATED \$1,832 MILLION.

AGAINST THIS, INCOME IN 1985/86 SHOULD TOTAL AN ESTIMATED \$1,652 MILLION, OF WHICH JUST UNDER 74 PER CENT WOULD COME FROM THE COUNCIL'S SHARE OF THE RATE, AND THE BALANCE FROM FEES, CHARGES AND OTHER LESSER SOURCES OF INCOME.

+WHILE THE AGGREGATE INVOLVED -- A TOTAL OF \$3,484 MILLION REPRESENTING BOTH REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE -- IS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSELY MONITOR ALL EXPENDITURE AND MAKE ECONOMIES WHERE POSSIBLE,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

+IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INTENTION OF REDUCING IN ANY WAY THE PRESENT EFFICIENT RANGE OF URBAN SERVICES.

+RATHER, WITH THE REORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AS FROM LAST MONDAY, AND THE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OVER CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORT THAT IT NOW ASSUMES, THE USD WILL BE LOOKING TO AN EVEN GREATER ROLE IN CONTRIBUTING TO AN IMPROVED LIFESTYLE FOR THE 4.5 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN THE URBAN AREAS.+

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NO INTENTION TO +HIVE OFF+ USD STAFF
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COMMENTING ON A SUGGESTION MADE TODAY THAT THE STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE HIVED OFF FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE, AN URBAN COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WAS DEFINITELY NOT FAVOURED EITHER BY THE COUNCIL OR THE GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT STAFF OF THE USD COULD REST ASSURED THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE TO SUCH A PROPOSAL, WHICH HAD BEEN VOICED TODAY PURELY AS A PERSONAL OPINION.

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NEW MEMBERS GET INSIGHT INTO PUBLIC HOUSING

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NEWLY-APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND COMMITTEES TODAY HAD AN INSIGHT INTO THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME THROUGH BRIEFINGS AND VISITS TO PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS.

THEY HAD A MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR FRED PANG, FOLLOWED BY BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER SENIOR HOUSING OFFICIALS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION, ADMINISTRATION, ESTATE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS.

THE GROUP THEN TOURED THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S EXHIBITION HALL WHERE THEY WERE SHOWN IN MODELS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOUSING SINCE THE EARLY 1950'S.

IN THE AFTERNOON, THEY WENT ON AN INSPECTION VISIT OF THE KWAI FUK ROAD TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA AND THE WANG CHEONG FACTORY ESTATE IN KWAI CHUNG.

THE NEW MEMBERS WERE MR CARLOS CHEUNG, MR NORMAN LEUNG, MISS LEUNG WAI-TUNG, MR CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG, MR PAO PING-WING AND MR FUNG KIN-KEE.

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NEW CHAIRMAN FOR CLEAN HK COMMITTEE

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URBAN COUNCILLOR MR WALTER SULKE TODAY BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CLEAN HONG KONG COMMITTEE.

THE ELECTION TOOK PLACE AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING WHEN TWO OTHER MEMBERS, MR JOSEPH CHAN AND MR TONG KAM-BIU, WERE ALSO RE-APPOINTED AND MRS MARGARET LI JOINED THE COMMITTEE.

MR SULKE TAKES OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE FROM MR HOWARD YOUNG WHO IS NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1985 .

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YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
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THE FIRST MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY), WHEN MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE BOARD'S FUND ALLOCATION AND STANDING ORDERS.

THE MEMBERS WILL ALSO HEAR ABOUT THE HA TSUEN EDGE AREA LAYOUT PLAN OF THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE BOARD SECRETARIAT, 13TH FLOOR, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG. YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE BOARD MEETING.

A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI FOR YUEN LONG AT 12.45 PM SHARP.

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES
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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL STAY OPEN BETWEEN 9 AM AND 1 PM DAILY, DURING THE FOUR-DAY EASTER HOLIDAYS, FROM APRIL 5 TO 8.

THE EIGHT CLINICS ARE: VIOLET PEEL POLYCLINIC AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB POLYCLINIC IN KOWLOON; LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE AND SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED DURING THIS PERIOD.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1985

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REMINDER ON ENDANGERED SPECIES

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PEOPLE GOING ON HOLIDAY WERE REMINDED TODAY BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT NOT TO BRING BACK WITH THEM ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

OFFENDERS WERE LIABLE UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE, TO A FINE OF \$5 000 ON CONVICTION FOR FIRST OFFENCE, AND \$10 000 AND SIX MONTHS IN PRISON FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE WARNING WAS GIVEN AS A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS WERE EXPECTED TO VISIT CHINA AND OTHER PLACES IN THE COMING EASTER HOLIDAYS, HE SAID.

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EDUCATION INDICATORS SET OUT

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A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON INDICATORS IN EDUCATION IS CONTAINED IN THE MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1985, JUST PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE REVIEW COMPRISES THREE PARTS.

PART I COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING CLIMATE, POPULATION, LABOUR, PRODUCTION, TRADE, FOOD SUPPLIES, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, SERVICES, TOURISM, HOUSING, FINANCE, CONSTRUCTION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND ENERGY.

PART II PROVIDES ANALYTICAL TABLES SHOWING SPECIAL STATISTICS ON POPULATION, EDUCATION AND NATIONAL ACCOUNT.

PART III DELINEATES INDEXES IN EDUCATION, OFFERING READERS A SUMMARY OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND SUB-SYSTEMS FROM THE PERIOD 1978 TO 1983. THE REPORT IS ON SALE AT \$25 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

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OUTWARD BOUND COURSES OFFERED
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COURSES TO HELP DEVELOP CHARACTER, SELF-CONFIDENCE AND QUICK RESPONSE IN YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING OFFERED BY THE OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL DURING APRIL, MAY AND JUNE.

AND A NUMBER OF PLACES IN THESE COURSES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT REDUCED COST BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS DIVISION OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL TO YOUNG PEOPLE UNABLE TO AFFORD THE FULL FEES.

THE FEES ARE INCLUSIVE OF OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS FOR THE DURATION OF THE COURSE.

YOUTHS WISHING TO APPLY FOR GOVERNMENT-AIDED PLACES SHOULD HAVE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS.

IN ADDITION, A SEVEN-DAY RESIDENTIAL COURSE FOR ADULTS OVER 30 YEARS OF AGE WILL BE HELD FROM JUNE 14 TO 20 AT THE TAI MONG TSAI BASE.

THE +ADULT CHALLENGE COURSE+ PROVIDES A NEW EXPERIENCE IN TEAM WORK IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT TO THE NORMAL WORK PLACE.

GROUPS OF 12 PEOPLE FROM A WIDE SPECTRUM OF THE COMMUNITY WILL SHARE A VARIED PROGRAMME OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, WHICH INCLUDE ROCK CLIMBING, NAVIGATION, CANOEING, ROPES COURSE OR SAILING.

APPLICATION FORMS CONTAINING DETAILS OF VARIOUS COURSES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE RECREATION AND SPORTS DIVISION, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, 14TH FLOOR, RUTTONJEE HOUSE, 11 DUDDLELL STREET, CENTRAL, HONG KONG. FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 5-253161.

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PUBLIC MAY HELP PLANT TREES
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VISITORS TO SIX OF THE COUNTRY PARKS DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS MAY TAKE PART IN THE 1985 COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT BY PLANTING TREES IN SELECTED SITES.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARK), MR K.C. IU, SAID TODAY THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SEEDLINGS FREE OF CHARGE TO VISITORS GOING TO THESE COUNTRY PARKS FROM APRIL 5 TO 8 AND ON APRIL 14.

/DURING THIS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1985

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DURING THIS PERIOD, SEEDLINGS CAN BE COLLECTED DAILY BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM IN PLANTING SITES LOCATED AT TWISK, TAI MO SHAN; BRIDE'S POOL IN TAI PO; QUARRY BAY AND POK FU LAM ON HONG KONG ISLAND, NAM SHAN ON LANTAU AND PAK TAM CHUNG IN SAI KUNG.

MR IU SAID THAT DESPITE THE WET WEATHER OVER THE LAST WEEKEND, SOME 1 000 PEOPLE TURNED UP AT VARIOUS SITES TO PLANT TREES, INCLUDING SOME 100 OLD PEOPLE, WHOSE DETERMINATION TO TAKE PART IN THE MEANINGFUL ACTIVITY SHOULD BE PRAISED.

MR IU SAID THAT LOCATION MAPS, BANNERS AND WAY MARKINGS WOULD BE SET UP IN THE SIX COUNTRY PARKS TO GUIDE VISITORS TO THE PLANTING SITES.

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO GIVE THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE.

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PRESS CONFERENCE

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A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON CMB MAINTENANCE WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 PM.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP, MR STEPHEN K.C. CHEONG; THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR JAMES SO AND FOUR MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

COPIES OF THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE STUDY ONLY, FROM 1.30 PM AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 5TH FLOOR, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

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