



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1982

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1982

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IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY BILLS

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FROM JANUARY 1, 1983, SUBJECT TO ENACTMENT OF THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1982, NO ONE WILL BECOME A BELONGER UNLESS HE IS OR BECOMES A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN BY CONNECTION WITH HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR JEAFFRESON, IN INTRODUCING THE BILL, SAID THIS WOULD MEAN THAT CHILDREN BORN IN HONG KONG FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR WOULD NOT BE BELONGERS UNLESS AT LEAST ONE PARENT WAS A BELONGER OR WAS SETTLED HERE.

+IN THIS CONTEXT 'SETTLED' MEANS ORDINARILY RESIDENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO ANY RESTRICTION ON THE PERIOD FOR WHICH HE OR SHE MAY REMAIN IN HONG KONG,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR JEAFFRESON ALSO SAID THIS WOULD MEAN THAT COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS MARRYING BELONGERS ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR WOULD NOT BE BELONGERS AUTOMATICALLY UNLESS THEY WERE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

+THE RATIONALE FOR THESE PROPOSALS IS THAT, PARTICULARLY HAVING REGARD TO HONG KONG'S ALREADY OVER-CROWDED STATE, IT IS ENTIRELY LOGICAL TO LIMIT BELONGERSHIP AND THUS THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG TO THOSE PERSONS WHO WILL BE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS BY CONNECTION WITH HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE BILL WOULD PROVIDE THAT ANYONE BECOMING A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN BY CONNECTION WITH HONG KONG, FOR EXAMPLE BY BIRTH TO A BELONGER OR A SETTLED PARENT, OR BY REGISTRATION OR NATURALISATION IN HONG KONG, WOULD AUTOMATICALLY ACQUIRE THE STATUS OF BELONGER, HE CONTINUED.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE OVERALL EFFECT OF THESE PROVISIONS WOULD BE THAT FEWER PEOPLE WOULD QUALIFY AS BELONGERS FROM JANUARY 1, 1983.

+BUT NO ONE WHO IS A BELONGER AT 31ST DECEMBER THIS YEAR WILL LOSE THAT STATUS,+ HE POINTED OUT.

OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WOULD MEAN THAT THE FOREIGN WIVES AND FOREIGN CHILDREN OF BRITISH CITIZENS WOULD NOT BE ACCORDED THE STATUS OF BRITISH CITIZEN UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE UNLESS THEY THEMSELVES HAD BEEN NATURALISED OR REGISTERED AS BRITISH CITIZENS.

IN INTRODUCING IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1982, MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED THE MAIN OBJECT WAS TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE IMMIGRATION CONTROL OF NON-BELONGER CHILDREN BORN IN HONG KONG AFTER DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR.

+THE COMBINED EFFECT OF THIS BILL AND THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE WILL BE TO ACCORD THE CHILDREN CONCERNED, INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHILDREN OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, THE SAME IMMIGRATION STATUS AS THAT OF THEIR PARENTS,+ HE SAID.

/IN PRACTICAL

IN PRACTICAL TERMS, HE ADDED, A CHILD BORN HERE WHO DID NOT HAVE A PARENT WHO WAS A HONG KONG BELONGER, WOULD BE TREATED IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY AS HIS PARENTS AND WOULD NORMALLY BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE WHEN HIS PARENTS DID SO.

+THE PROPOSED PROVISIONS ARE IN LINE WITH THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE THAT THOSE WHO ARE NOT BELONGERS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS OF STAY,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

THE SECRETARY ALSO MOVED TWO OTHER BILLS -- THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1981 (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1982 AND THE BRITISH NATIONALITY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982.

THE FIRST BILL, HE SAID, WOULD SEEK TO AMEND OTHER HONG KONG LEGISLATION, WHERE NECESSARY, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1981 BY:

- * INTRODUCING DEFINITIONS OF THE NEW TERMINOLOGY LAID DOWN IN THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1981 INTO THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE, AND
- * SUBSTITUTING REFERENCES TO EXISTING CITIZENSHIP TERMINOLOGY BY THE APPROPRIATE NEW TERMINOLOGY.

THE OTHER BILL WOULD SEEK TO AMEND THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE BY:

- * SUBSTITUTING A NEW SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AND NATURALISATION AS A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN AND RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP, AND

REVISING THE TWO PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES CONNECTED WITH APPLICATIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESENT SCHEDULE PRESCRIBED THE FEES PAYABLE IN HONG KONG BY APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES, A CITIZENSHIP THAT WOULD BE ABOLISHED UNDER THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1981 FROM JANUARY 1, 1983.

+THERE IS NOW A NEED TO PROVIDE FOR FEES PAYABLE BY PERSONS APPLYING FOR OR RENOUNCING THE NEW BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENSHIP, WHICH BECOMES THE APPLICABLE CITIZENSHIP FOR HONG KONG AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT MONTH,+ HE SAID.

BUT THE FEES IN THE NEW SCHEDULE WOULD BE, IN THE MAIN, THE SAME AS THOSE CURRENTLY CHARGED FOR SIMILAR SERVICES, HE ADDED.

ON PENALTIES, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THEY HAD NOT BEEN CHANGED SINCE 1949 AND, +IT IS CLEARLY APPROPRIATE TO BRING THEM UP-TO-DATE IN ONE CASE BY ADDING A FINE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A PRISON SENTENCE AND IN THE OTHER BY INCREASING THE FINE.+

DEBATE ON THE FOUR BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

EXTENSIVE DEBATE ON ROAD TRAFFIC BILL

* * *

THE CHINESE TRANSLATION OF THE TERM +RECKLESS DRIVING+ IN THE CONTROVERSIAL ROAD TRAFFIC BILL CAME UNDER ATTACK BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BILL WHICH PROPOSES A REVAMPING OF THE EXISTING ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE WAS DEBATED AT THE COUNCIL TODAY, BUT ITS COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING WERE ADJOURNED TO THE NEXT MEETING.

THE HON S.L. CHEN, CONVENER OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES WORKING GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS WHICH LOOKED INTO THE BILL, SAID DURING THE DEBATE THAT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF UNNECESSARY ANXIETY IN THE PUBLIC MIND OVER THIS BILL HAD BEEN INDUCED BY THE +WOEFULLY INADEQUATE AND MISLEADING+ CHINESE TRANSLATION OF THE TERM +RECKLESS DRIVING+.

+WE ARE FIRMLY OF THE VIEW THAT THE PRESENT TRANSLATION GIVES A FALSE IMPRESSION,+ HE SAID.

+IT DOES NOT CARRY WITH IT THE CONCEPT OF 'DISREGARD OF CONSEQUENCES' WHICH IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE MEANING OF THE ENGLISH TERM, INSTEAD IT IMPLIES A LACK OF CARE MORE AKIN TO CARELESSNESS.+

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK CLOSELY INTO THE MATTER TO PRODUCE A FORM OF WORDS WHICH WOULD ACCURATELY REFLECT THE REAL MEANING OF THE ENGLISH TERM.

AND UNTIL THIS WAS DONE, HE ADDED, THE WIDESPREAD AND UNDERSTANDABLE FEAR OF THE PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS WOULD NOT BE DIMINISHED AND OPPOSITION TO IT WOULD PROBABLY PERSIST.

ON THE BILL ITSELF, MR CHEN SAID THAT A PACKAGE OF OVER 30 AMENDMENTS WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

THE CHANGES CAME AFTER THE WORKING GROUP HELD NINE MEETINGS AMONG THEMSELVES AND TWO LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

HE SAID ONE OF THE MAIN CONCERNS OF THE UNOFFICIALS HAD BEEN ON THE QUESTION OF +RECKLESS DRIVING+.

ALTHOUGH THEY HAD MUCH SYMPATHY WITH THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE +RECKLESS DRIVING+ FORMALLY DEFINED IN THE LAW, THEY HAD SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY COME TO THE VIEW AFTER HAVING STUDIED THE MATTER CAREFULLY, THAT A DEFINITION OF THE TERM WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF EITHER THE DEFENDANT IN COURT OR THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

+WE ARE THEREFORE REASSURED BY THE UNDERTAKINGS WHICH WE HAVE OBTAINED FROM THE ADMINISTRATION AS TO THE PROCEDURE FOR THE CHARGING AND PROSECUTION OF OFFENCES OF RECKLESS DRIVING.

/+SUFFICE IT

+SUFFICE IT TO SAY FOR THE MOMENT, THAT WE ARE SATISFIED THAT REASONABLE SAFEGUARDS ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT CHARGES OF 'RECKLESS DRIVING' WILL BE PROPERLY LAID BY THE POLICE AND FAIRLY DEALT WITH IN THE COURTS,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEN SAID HIS GROUP HAD ALSO LOOKED AT THE PROPOSED LEVELS OF FINE UNDER THE BILL AND AT THE SENTENCING LEVELS WHICH HAD BEEN IMPOSED RECENTLY BY THE COURTS UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE.

THEY NOTED THAT THE AVERAGE FINE AWARDED FOR +DANGEROUS DRIVING CAUSING DEATH+ IN THE PAST TWO YEARS HAD BEEN LESS THAN \$900.

+IN VIEW OF THIS FACT WE CONSIDERED THAT THE INCREASE FROM THE PRESENT LEVEL OF \$5 000 TO \$50 000 FOR 'CAUSING DEATH BY RECKLESS DRIVING' WAS TOO HIGH AND HAVE ACCORDINGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE NEW LEVEL SHOULD BE SET AT \$25 000,+ HE SAID.

AS THE AIM OF THE BILL WAS TO ACHIEVE A GREATER DEGREE OF SAFETY ON THE ROADS, HE URGED THE JUDICIARY TO ASSIST, BY ENSURING THAT THE SENTENCES THEY IMPOSED PROVIDED AN INCENTIVE TO HONG KONG'S DRIVERS TO ACT SAFELY.

ANOTHER KEY CHANGE AGREED TO WAS THE REMOVAL OF THE PROVISION FOR COMPULSORY DISQUALIFICATION FOR A FIRST OFFENCE OF +RECKLESS DRIVING+ OR +CAUSING DEATH BY RECKLESS DRIVING+.

MR CHEN SAID, +WE NOTED THE VIEWS OF PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS THAT DISQUALIFICATION FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS ON A FIRST CONVICTION FOR THE NEW OFFENCE OF 'RECKLESS DRIVING' CONSTITUTED AN UNACCEPTABLE THREAT TO THEIR LIVELIHOOD.

+WE AGREED WITH THEM AND HAVE SECURED THE ADMINISTRATION'S AGREEMENT TO REMOVE THIS PROVISION FOR A FIRST OFFENCE WHILE APPROVING THE COURTS' DISCRETIONARY POWER TO DISQUALIFY IN CASES WHERE IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.+

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, COMPULSORY DISQUALIFICATION FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE WOULD REMAIN.

THE HON WONG LAM SAID THE BILL FAILED TO DEFINE CLEARLY AND FAIRLY +RECKLESS DRIVING+.

HE SAID WHETHER THE TERM IN ENGLISH WAS PRECISE OR NOT WAS OPEN TO QUESTION.

BUT THE CHINESE TERM PRESENTLY USED WAS UNDOUBTEDLY FAR FROM BEING PRECISE, HE CONTENDED.

MR WONG SAID, +THE MAJORITY OF DRIVERS IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS, ARE CHINESE.

+TO THEM, THE NEW TERM SIGNIFIES A MUCH HEAVIER OFFENCE WHILE ITS MEANING IS MUCH MORE UNFATHOMABLE.

+IN THEIR OPINION, IT IS UNCONVINCING AND UNFAIR.+

ARGUING THAT THE CHINESE TRANSLATION OF THE TERM WAS JUST THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT +RECKLESS+ MEANT IN THE NEW BILL, HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK FOR A BETTER TRANSLATION SO AS TO EASE THE MINDS OF DRIVERS IN GENERAL.

MR WONG ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER GIVING A DEFINITION OF +RECKLESS DRIVING+ EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT BE A LONG ONE.

HE DISMISSED THE FEAR OF THE PUBLIC THAT THE BILL WOULD GIVE THE POLICE GREATER POWER.

BUT BECAUSE OF THE HEAVIER PENALTIES IMPOSED, HE ADDED, ABUSE OF POWER ON THE PART OF THE POLICE WOULD HAVE A MUCH GREATER INFLUENCE ON THE DRIVERS THAN BEFORE.

+NOWADAYS, THE POLICE FORCE IS BETTER DISCIPLINED BUT STILL MANY POLICEMEN ARE INEXPERIENCED.

+THE POSSIBILITY OF ABUSING POWER KNOWINGLY OR UNKNOWINGLY THEREFORE EXISTS.

+THOUGH IN THE EARLY DAYS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW LAW, THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT ASK THE POLICE TO DECIDE IF A PERSON IS GUILTY OF 'RECKLESS DRIVING', THE SUBJECT WILL STILL CAUSE GREAT CONCERN,+ MR WONG SAID.

MR F.K. HU WELCOMED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL AND THE SEVEN SETS OF RELATED REGULATIONS WHICH HE FELT WOULD FORM AN UPDATED STRUCTURE OF LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH THE PRESENT COMPLICATED TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AND PROBLEMS.

REFERRING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINED EFFORT TO REGULATE +PAK PAI+, HE STRESSED THAT THERE MUST BE PROPER CONTROL OF ILLEGAL PAK PAI OPERATIONS WITH EFFECTIVE DETERRENTS SUCH AS THOSE OUTLINED IN THE BILL.

BUT HE CONSIDERED THAT LICENCES OF THOSE VEHICLES USED FOR PAK PAI OPERATIONS SHOULD BE SUSPENDED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT RATHER THAN BY THE TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL.

HE SAID AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THIS POINT AND AN AMENDMENT TO THIS EFFECT WOULD BE PROPOSED IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

MR HU NOTED THAT THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WERE ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE SUSPENSION OF A LICENCE ON FIRST OFFENCE AS THERE COULD BE MANY CASES OF DRIVERS SOLICITING CAR-HIRE FOR REWARD WITHOUT ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE OWNER.

+HOWEVER, WE ACCEPT THE EXPLANATION THAT THE TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL HAS THE POWER TO QUASH THE CONVICTION ON APPEAL AND THAT THE VEHICLE LICENCE WOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED UNTIL THE APPEAL IS HEARD,+ HE SAID.

AS ILLEGAL PAK PAI OPERATIONS ARE POSING A SERIOUS PROBLEM ESPECIALLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO LOGICALLY DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF HIRE CAR PERMITS TO BE ISSUED IN EACH AREA BEARING IN MIND PASSENGER DEMANDS, AVAILABILITY AND FREQUENCIES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TAXI SERVICE.

IT WAS HIGH TIME HONG KONG WOKE UP TO THE FACT THAT THERE WERE GOOD MINDS RIGHT HERE, READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO COPE WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS LIKE DEVISING A NEW SYSTEM OF ROAD SIGNS, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR CHEUNG SAID WHAT HONG KONG NEEDED WERE +SIGNS OF THE TIMES, DESIGNED AND TESTED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE, AND NOT SIGNS DERIVED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES' SYSTEMS, ONTO WHICH THE CHINESE LANGUAGE IS GRAFTED.+

HONG KONG HAS NOT ONE BUT TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AND, AS IF THESE WERE NOT ENOUGH, THE NEW SIGN SYSTEM +INCORPORATES SYMBOLS AND COLOURS WHICH MOTORISTS ARE EXPECTED TO DECIPHER,+ HE SAID.

AND MR CHEUNG ASKED: +MUST WE CREATE A THIRD 'LANGUAGE' IN A CODE OF SYMBOLS AND COLOURS? WHY NOT SIMPLY SAY WHAT WE MEAN IN PLAIN CHINESE AND ENGLISH TERMS? DO WE REALLY NEED TO RESORT TO GUESSING GAMES ON HONG KONG ROADS?+

POINTING OUT THAT THOUGH COLOURS AND SYMBOLS WERE SANCTIONED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND ACCEPTED INTERNATIONALLY, HE SAID THE FACT WAS THAT CHINESE CHARACTERS DERIVED IN PART FROM GRAPHIC SYMBOLS.

+SO TO THE CHINESE MIND, THERE IS NO MORE POSITIVE 'PICTURE' THAN A CHINESE CHARACTER,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG, WHO SUPPORTED THE MOTION, ADDED: +AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THIS IS HONG KONG, NOT ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD, AND WE ARE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF DECIDING ON WHAT FORMAT OF ROAD SIGNS TO SUIT OUR OWN ROAD USERS.+

SOME CONCERN AND RESERVATION OVER THE TERM +RECKLESS DRIVING+ STILL EXIST BECAUSE OF UNCLEAR DEFINITION AND THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREED CRITERION, THE HON SELINA CHOW SAID.

UNLIKE THE COURT AND THE LAWYER, THOSE WHO STAND ACCUSED OF THE OFFENCE MIGHT NOT BE FULLY AWARE OF THE LEGAL CONCEPTS INVOLVED, MRS CHOW SAID.

WITHOUT AN AGREED CRITERION, THE ACCUSED MIGHT BE TOO MUCH AT THE MERCY OF THE POLICE, AND PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AS THEIR LIVELIHOOD MIGHT BE AFFECTED, SHE SAID.

BUT MRS CHOW POINTED OUT THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT INITIALLY ALL 'RECKLESS DRIVING' CASES WOULD BE REFERRED TO HIS OFFICE FOR DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PROSECUTE.

SHE SAID THE CHINESE TRANSLATION OF +RECKLESS DRIVING+ DID NOT FULLY REFLECT THE LAW DRAFTSMAN'S EXPLANATION OF THE TERM WHICH CONTAINS TWO ELEMENTS:

- * DRIVING IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO CREATE AN OBVIOUS AND SERIOUS RISK OF CAUSING PHYSICAL INJURY TO SOME OTHER PERSON WHO MIGHT BE USING THE ROAD OR OF DOING SOME SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, AND

* DRIVING IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO GIVE NO THOUGHT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A RISK OR, HAVING RECOGNISED THAT THERE IS SOME RISK, HAS NONETHELESS GONE ON TO TAKE IT.

MRS CHOW CALLED FOR A +SATISFACTORY TRANSLATION+ WHICH WOULD CONVEY THE FULL MEANING OF THE TERM.

ON RECKLESS CYCLING, MRS CHOW SAID THERE WAS A TENDENCY TO UNDERESTIMATE ITS THREAT TO OTHER MOTORISTS.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT CYCLISTS WERE NOT REQUIRED BY LAW TO READ AND COMPLY WITH ROAD SIGNS AND OTHER REGULATIONS.

SHE CALLED ON THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON HOW OFTEN MOTOR ACCIDENTS WERE THE RESULT OF BAD CYCLING SO THAT TIGHTER CONTROL MIGHT BE INTRODUCED IF NECESSARY.

THE HON MARIA TAM SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE MEANING OF +RECKLESS DRIVING+ IS NOT CLEARLY STATED IN THE BILL, DRIVERS NEED NOT WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT COMMITTING OFFENCES IF THEY MAKE SAFETY THEIR PRIME CONCERN AND REFRAIN FROM BEING ADVENTURERS.

IN HER OPINION, +RECKLESS DRIVING+ IS THE ACTION OF A DRIVER WHEN HE IS DRIVING WITHOUT REGARD TO CONSEQUENCES, THUS INCURRING THE DANGER OF INJURING OTHER PEOPLE OR CAUSING SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

CITING EXAMPLES, SHE SAID: +WHEN A DRIVER WANTS TO CHANGE LANE, IF HE SIGNALS TO TURN LEFT BUT SWITCHES TO THE RIGHT LANE, HIS ACTION OBVIOUSLY COURTS THE DANGER OF BUMPING HEAVILY AGAINST CARS ON THE RIGHT; AND THIS IS 'RECKLESS DRIVING'.

+IF HE SIGNALS TO TURN LEFT, BUT SWITCHES TO THE RIGHT LANE, YET LEAVES ENOUGH DISTANCE FOR THE CARS ON THE RIGHT LANE TO BRAKE ABRUPTLY TO SLOW DOWN, THEN IT BECOMES CARELESS DRIVING.

+SUCH EXAMPLES ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO BE QUOTED, BUT IN ESSENCE, WHAT CONSTITUTES 'RECKLESS DRIVING' IS THE ACTION REGARDLESS OF CONSEQUENCES, WHICH INCURS THE DANGER OF INJURING PEOPLE AND DAMAGING PROPERTY AS MENTIONED ABOVE.+

MISS TAM EXPRESSED HOPES THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD INSTRUCT THE POLICE IN DETAIL ON HOW TO DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES AND HOW DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE AS TO WHETHER A DRIVER SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH 'RECKLESS DRIVING' SO THAT THE PUBLIC COULD ACCEPT AND UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS NEW LEGISLATION AS WELL AS GET HOLD OF ITS CONCEPT.

+IN THE PAST, DRIVERS IN HONG KONG COULD UNDERSTAND THE EQUALLY ABSTRACT CONCEPT OF 'DANGEROUS DRIVING',+ SHE SAID.

+NOW, GIVEN GUIDANCE, THEY CAN CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF 'RECKLESS DRIVING'.+

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1982

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BILL TO ALLOW EARLY PHASING IN OF LARGER PLB'S

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THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1982 IS TO ALLOW THE EARLY PHASING IN OF NEW, LARGER LIGHT BUSES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF THE BILL, MR SCOTT EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS REQUIRED NOW, AS OVER HALF OF HONG KONG'S EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ARE NINE OR MORE YEARS OLD.

MR SCOTT SAID THAT LARGER AND HEAVIER PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WOULD BE PERMITTED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC BILL ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL, AND ITS REGULATIONS- BUT THESE PROVISIONS COULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL APRIL 1984.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE EXISTING ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 220) THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT CAN PERMIT THE INTRODUCTION OF LARGER PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, SAVE FOR THE OBSTACLE OF THE DEFINITION IN SECTION 2(1) WHICH RESTRICTS A LIGHT BUS TO +AN UNLADEN WEIGHT NOT EXCEEDING TWO TONS.+

THE AMENDMENT BILL PROPOSES TO DELETE THAT RESTRICTION, AND A CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE DEFINITION OF +OMNIBUS+ IS ALSO NECESSARY.

MR SCOTT SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT INTENDS TO APPROVE THE REGISTRATION OF LIGHT BUSES UP TO FOUR TONS IN GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT AND UP TO SEVEN METRES IN LENGTH, THREE METRES IN HEIGHT AND 2.3 METRES IN WIDTH.

+THESE ARE THE DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT FOR LIGHT BUSES AS DEFINED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL,+ HE ADDED.

THE AMENDMENTS WOULD COME INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON PUBLICATION, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1982

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EFFECTIVE SERVICE IS FIRST KCR CORPORATION PRIORITY
* * * *

WHILE THE NEW KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION IS REQUIRED TO MAKE PROFITS, ITS FIRST PRIORITY IS TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE SERVICE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

EXPLAINING THE VARIOUS CLAUSES OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION BILL 1982, MR SCOTT STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE CORPORATION IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A SURPLUS, IT IS EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDED FROM MAXIMISING THE RETURN ON ASSETS BY CHARGING HIGHER FARES WHILE CARRYING FEWER PASSENGERS.

MR SCOTT EXPLAINED THAT AN IMPORTANT PROVISION OF THE BILL ENABLES THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO GIVE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS TO THE CORPORATION IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

BUT HE ADDED THAT IF ANY DIRECTION REQUIRES KCRC TO ACT CONTRARY TO PRUDENT COMMERCIAL PRINCIPLES, IT WILL BE ENTITLED TO REASONABLE COMPENSATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

THE BILL ALSO GIVES THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DISCRETIONARY POWER TO DETERMINE A TARGET OF RETURN, IF HE CONSIDERS THAT THE CORPORATION IS NOT MEETING THE +ORDINARY COMMERCIAL CRITERIA+ STIPULATED.

AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE CORPORATION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAY ALSO DIRECT THAT ANY EXCESS PROFIT SHOULD BE PAID TO THE GOVERNMENT.

WHILE THE CORPORATION WILL BE WHOLLY GOVERNMENT-OWNED INITIALLY, MR SCOTT SAID THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SELLING SHARES TO THE PUBLIC IN THE FUTURE WILL NOT BE PRECLUDED.

+UNTIL AND IF THAT OCCURS, ANY PROFITS DERIVED WILL BE RETURNABLE TO GOVERNMENT,+ HE ADDED.

THE CORPORATION'S INITIAL CAPITAL IS ESTIMATED AT \$4.2 BILLION, COMPRISING MOSTLY THE TRANSFERRED ASSETS OF RAILWAY LAND, BUILDINGS AND STOCK AND THE COST OF THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES AN INTEREST BEARING DEBT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF \$1 BILLION.

+THE PROPOSED \$1 BILLION DEBT OUT OF THE ESTIMATED \$4.2 BILLION TOTAL CAPITAL HAS THE EFFECT OF MAKING 1989 THE ESTIMATED FIRST YEAR OF PROFITABILITY, WITH THE LOAN CAPITAL BEING FULLY REPAID BY 1992,+ MR SCOTT POINTED OUT.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF KCR INTO A STATUTORY CORPORATION WILL RESULT IN THE RETIREMENT OF SOME 1 500 CIVIL SERVANTS ON ABOLITION OF OFFICE TERMS.

/+APPROPRIATE

+APPROPRIATE EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS WILL SHORTLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, FOR PRESENTATION TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL. ALL EXISTING KCR STAFF WILL BE OFFERED APPOINTMENT BY THE NEW CORPORATION,+ HE SAID.

COMMENDING THE STAFF FOR THEIR LOYALTY, DEVOTION AND EFFICIENCY, MR SCOTT SAID HE WAS SURE THE CORPORATION WOULD RECOGNISE THEM AS ITS +MOST VALUABLE ASSETS+.

DEBATE WAS ADJOURNED AFTER THE BILL WAS READ A SECOND TIME.

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BATTLE AGAINST RATS IN QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL * * * *

A NUMBER OF MEASURES ARE USED AGAINST RAT INFESTATION AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON ERIC HO, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

THESE MEASURES INCLUDE THE SEALING OF PIPE DUCTS, THE FITTING OF SCREEN MESHES TO DOORS AND WALL APERTURES, PROMINENT DISPLAY OF NOTICES DISCOURAGING VISITORS FROM BRINGING FOOD AS WELL AS RAT TRAPPING AND SYSTEMATIC POISONING PROGRAMMES.

MR HO SAID THAT AS RATS ARE FOUND IN MOST OF THE WORLD WHERE THERE IS HUMAN SETTLEMENT, IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO ATTRIBUTE THE PRESENCE OF RATS AT THE HOSPITAL WHOLLY OR EVEN LARGELY TO DESIGN FAULTS, ALTHOUGH TECHNICAL STANDARDS HAVE BEEN TIGHTENED SINCE ITS COMPLETION 20 YEARS AGO.

THE EXISTENCE OF FALSE CEILINGS, AIR DUCTS AND CONCEALED PIPING MEANS THAT CONSTANT VIGILANCE IS NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT THESE POTENTIAL SHELTERS FOR RATS REMAIN SEALED OFF, MR HO SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON THE ISSUE FROM THE HON LYDIA DUNN.

ANOTHER MAIN CONTRIBUTOR TO RAT INFESTATION IS FOOD LEFT BY VISITING RELATIVES. HERE IT MUST BE BORNE IN MIND THAT DURING DAILY VISITING HOURS, QEH RECEIVES UP TO 5 000 VISITORS, HE POINTED OUT.

HE SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION, HOSPITAL STAFF ALSO ENSURE THAT UNCONSUMED FOOD IS NOT LEFT AROUND AT NIGHT.

THE SHEER PRESSURE ON THE HOSPITAL IS ALSO CITED AS A CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS.

ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR 1 300 BEDS, THE HOSPITAL NOW HAS NEARLY 2 000 BEDS, MR HO EXPLAINED.

NEW TREATMENT METHODS ALSO GENERATE EXTRA WASTE MATERIALS, RESULTING IN OVERFLOWS FROM THE REFUSE HOLDING CENTRE.

HOWEVER, THE POSITION HERE SHOULD IMPROVE WHEN THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO INCREASE THE FREQUENCY OF ITS REFUSE AND JUNK COLLECTIONS, MR HO ADDED.

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BILINGUAL USAGE INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEDICINES PROPOSED

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A PROPOSAL WILL BE MADE TO THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD TO MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR USAGE INSTRUCTIONS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE TO BE ATTACHED TO ALL MEDICINES FREELY OBTAINABLE OVER THE COUNTER IN MEDICINE SHOPS, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY MR WONG LAM AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING, DR THONG SAID USAGE INSTRUCTIONS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE IN A NUMBER OF DRUGS WHICH CAN BE BOUGHT OVER THE COUNTER.

AS FOR THE COMPOSITION OF SUCH PRODUCTS TO BE LABELLED IN CHINESE, HE DID NOT CONSIDER THIS TO BE PRACTICABLE NOR NECESSARY BECAUSE THERE IS NO STANDARD NOMENCLATURE FOR ALL DRUG CHEMICALS IN CHINESE AND IN ANY CASE, KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHEMICAL BY THEMSELVES IS OF LITTLE VALUE TO THE PUBLIC.

DR THONG EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT THERE ARE PROVISIONS IN THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS WHICH REQUIRE THAT THE COMPOSITION OF ALL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS BE MARKED ON THE LABEL IN EITHER ENGLISH OR CHINESE, BUT NOT THE USAGE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH ARE NORMALLY AVAILABLE IN A SEPARATE LEAFLET ATTACHED TO THE PRODUCT.

FOR CONTROLLED MEDICINES SUCH AS PART ONE POISONS AND ANTIBIOTICS, WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN MEDICINE COMPANIES, LABELLING IN CHINESE IS NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE THEY CAN ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH REGISTERED PHARMACIES OR REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WHO ARE CONVERSANT WITH THE ENGLISH DESCRIPTIONS.

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BIG IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO HOSPITAL

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CONSIDERABLE WORK AND IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE LAI CHI KOK HOSPITAL WHICH SERVES AS A CONVALESCENT CENTRE FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY MISS JOYCE BENNETT, HE SAID IT WAS THE INTENTION TO PHASE OUT THE HOSPITAL BUT IT WAS NOT YET POSSIBLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF PRESSURE ON HOSPITAL BEDS.

HOWEVER, PLANS WERE IN THE PIPELINE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES FOR THE CHRONICALLY SICK IN PROJECTS SUCH AS THE POK OI HOSPITAL EXTENSION, THE SHA TIN INFIRMARY, THE TSUEN WAN INFIRMARY AND THE KOWLOON HOSPITAL EXTENSION.

DR THONG POINTED OUT THAT THE LAI CHI KOK HOSPITAL, WHICH CONSISTS OF OLD PRE-WAR, CHALET-TYPED BUILDINGS, WAS FIRST USED FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CHRONIC CONVALESCENT CASES IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR.

IN 1975, THE INFECTIOUS CASES WERE TRANSFERRED TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

THE 384-BED LAI CHI KOK HOSPITAL IS NOW USED FOR SPECIAL SKIN AND CHRONIC PSYCHO-GERIATRIC CASES.

+I AM AWARE THAT THE HOSPITAL IS OLD AND THUS EVERY ATTEMPT IS MADE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE IT TO SERVE ITS PRESENT FUNCTIONS ADEQUATELY,+ SAID DR THONG.

THE WARDS WERE COMPLETELY RENOVATED IN 1975, AND BETWEEN 1978 AND 1981, FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE, INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL WASH BASINS, URINALS, SLUICES, WATER HEATERS, ELECTRIC RADIATORS, FANS AND FLOOR DRAINAGE IN TOILET AREAS.

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS WERE BEING PLANNED TO ENSURE BETTER HYGIENE AND CLEANLINESS IN THE HOSPITAL, HE SAID.

DR THONG SAID THE HOSPITAL IS ADEQUATELY STAFFED AND THE STANDARD OF CARE REASONABLY MAINTAINED.

+IT STILL SERVES A USEFUL ROLE IN PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR CHRONIC CASES WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD OCCUPY MUCH NEEDED ACUTE FACILITIES ELSEWHERE,+ SAID DR THONG.

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VOTING RIGHTS PROPOSED FOR RETAILERS IN HKTA * * * *

VOTING RIGHTS FOR RETAILERS IN THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND REPRESENTATION IN THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ARE TWO OF THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

SO FAR RETAILERS, WITH WHOM TOURISTS SPEND SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF MONEY, HAVE HAD NO EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE ASSOCIATION, MR JACOBS POINTED OUT.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES THAT THE FINE FOR THE ILLEGAL USE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S BADGES, EMBLEMS OR TITLE BE RAISED FROM \$1 000 TO \$50 000.

EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THE INCREASE, MR JACOBS SAID THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF INFRINGEMENTS BUT, THE EXISTING PENALTY HAS NOT PROVED TO BE A SUFFICIENT DETERRENT.

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE JUNK LOGO, WHICH IS THE ASSOCIATION'S PRINCIPAL BADGE, HAS BECOME A WELL-KNOWN MARK OF QUALITY TO WHICH MUCH GOODWILL IS ATTACHED.

UNDER THE BILL, SEA AND AIR CARRIERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO NOMINATE ONE MEMBER TO THE ASSOCIATION'S BOARD, INSTEAD OF TWO AT PRESENT.

+THUS, ALTHOUGH RETAILERS WILL BE REPRESENTED ON THE BOARD IN FUTURE, THE TOTAL SIZE OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS BEFORE,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES THAT TRAVEL INDUSTRY MEMBERS SHOULD BE REPRESENTED ON THE BOARD BY PERSONS WITH A REAL WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE BUSINESS OF EACH PARTICULAR CLASS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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FRONTIER RESTRICTIONS MUST BE RETAINED

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FOLLOWING A RECENT REVIEW, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE RETAINED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR MACPHERSON SAID THERE MIGHT BE A FEELING THAT, NOW THAT THE LEVEL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS MUCH LOWER THAN IT ONCE WAS, RESTRICTIONS COULD BE LIFTED.

+I AM AFRAID THAT THIS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED — ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REMAINS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN AND THIS OF ITSELF IS A GOOD REASON FOR MAINTAINING A SECURE AREA ALONG THE BORDER,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT PEOPLE WHO LIVED WITHIN THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA EXPERIENCED SOME INCONVENIENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

+WHEN SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS ARE RECEIVED BY THE POLICE OF THE FRONTIER DIVISION OR BY THE DISTRICT OFFICES CONCERNED, THEY ARE ALWAYS INVESTIGATED CAREFULLY.

+IN ADDITION, THE POLICE TRY TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE WHEN ISSUING PASSÉS AND IN THEIR GENERAL DEALINGS WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE CLOSED AREA,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

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TUEN MUN HIGHWAY SPEEDING PROSECUTIONS UP

PROSECUTIONS FOR SPEEDING ON TUEN MUN HIGHWAY HAVE MORE THAN TREBLED THIS YEAR.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID TODAY THERE HAD BEEN 11 197 PROSECUTIONS UP TO NOVEMBER 21 THIS YEAR. LAST YEAR THERE WERE 3 069 PROSECUTIONS, AND 2 519 IN 1980.

MR SCOTT WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MEASURES TO DISCOURAGE SPEEDING ON TUEN MUN HIGHWAY.

MR SCOTT SAID, +THE GOVERNMENT ALREADY FIRMLY DISCOURAGES DRIVERS FROM REGARDING THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY AS A HIGH-SPEED MOTORWAY BY IMPOSING A SPEED LIMIT OF 40 MPH AND TAKING ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST OFFENDERS.+

HE ADDED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF SIGNS AND WARNINGS HAD BEEN PUT UP ALONG THE HIGHWAY.

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22 000 VEHICLES INSPECTED AT KOWLOON BAY CENTRE

SOME 22 000 VEHICLES HAVE BEEN INSPECTED SINCE THE OPENING OF THE KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE IN SEPTEMBER 1979, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON S.L. CHEN, MR SCOTT SAID THAT DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF VEHICLE, THE FAILURE RATES VARIED FROM 35 PER CENT TO 60 PER CENT.

+THUS MANY VEHICLES ARE INSPECTED TWICE OR EVEN MORE TIMES, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS WAS 35 676. OF THESE 26 848 WERE OF GOODS VEHICLES, 7 865 OF PLB'S AND 963 OF PRIVATE CARS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE EXAMINATION CENTRE HAS SPARE CAPACITY, BEING DESIGNED TO CARRY OUT 41 000 INSPECTIONS A YEAR.

SO FAR IN 1982, THE DEMAND HAS BEEN FOR A TOTAL OF 20 104 INSPECTIONS.

THE WAITING TIME FOR A RE-TEST IS NOW VERY REASONABLE FOR MOST CATEGORIES OF VEHICLE, AND SHOULD BE REDUCED FURTHER IN THE SHORT TERM BY RECRUITMENT OF MORE STAFF FOR THE KOWLOON BAY CENTRE, AND IN THE LONGER TERM BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE EXAMINATION FACILITIES, HE SAID.

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NEED FOR SUPERVISION IN SCHOOL BUSES RECOGNISED

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THE ADVANTAGES OF YOUNG CHILDREN BEING SUPERVISED IN SCHOOL BUSES SEEM GENERALLY RECOGNISED BY PARENTS AND KINDERGARTENS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP ABOUT SUPERVISION OF YOUNG CHILDREN TRAVELLING IN LICENSED MINIBUSES, MR SCOTT SAID THAT A RECENT SAMPLE SURVEY SHOWED THAT THREE QUARTERS OF THE KINDERGARTENS SAMPLED DO PROVIDE SUPERVISION FOR THE CHILDREN WHEN IN TRANSIT.

+THIS SEEMS REASONABLE ENOUGH, BUT AS I SAID ON NOVEMBER 24 IN THIS COUNCIL, GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT SAFETY ON THE ROADS.

+REGULAR LECTURES ARE GIVEN TO KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, WITH EMPHASIS ON CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR ON THE ROADS THEMSELVES.

+THE ASPECT OF BEHAVIOUR IN VEHICLES IN PARTICULAR SCHOOL BUSES, I.E. PASSENGER SAFETY, WILL IN FUTURE BE GIVEN SOMEWHAT GREATER EMPHASIS.

+KINDERGARTEN SUPERVISORS WILL ALSO BE ADVISED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS CONNECTION,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES IN PROVIDING PROPER ANCHORS FOR SEAT BELTS OR CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS IN MINIBUSES, AND SO THERE WERE NO PLANS TO REQUIRE CHILDREN TO BE THUS RESTRAINED IN MINIBUSES.

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GOOD PROGRESS ON CONVEYANCING AND LAW OF PROPERTY BILL

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THE CONVEYANCING AND LAW OF PROPERTY BILL SHOULD BE READY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN ABOUT FOUR MONTHS' TIME, IF NO UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES ARE ENCOUNTERED, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON. G.P. NAZARETH, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER WONG, MR NAZARETH EXPLAINED THAT THE LAW SOCIETY'S COMMENTS ON THE BILL WERE RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, AND THE SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS NEEDED TO MEET THE COMMENTS WERE PREPARED AND CIRCULATED IN MARCH.

IT WAS LATER FELT BY THOSE CONSULTED, INCLUDING THE LAW SOCIETY, THAT THE AMENDMENTS, CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS, AND GENERALLY THE FINAL SETTLING OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL INVOLVED COMPLEX AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS THAT COULD BEST BE RESOLVED BY A WORKING GROUP, HE SAID.

/THE WORKING

THE WORKING GROUP, WHICH COMPRISED THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY AND TWO PRACTISING EXPERTS IN CONVEYANCING, HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS, AND WILL MEET AGAIN LATER THIS MONTH.

+GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND IF NO UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES ARE ENCOUNTERED, THE BILL SHOULD BE READY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL IN ABOUT FOUR MONTHS' TIME.

+THAT, IT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY NOTED, IS AN ESTIMATE AND NOT IN ANY WAY AN UNDERTAKING,+ MR NAZARETH SAID.

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CIVIL SERVANTS REFINANCING SCHEME

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SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION IN MARCH 1981, THE CIVIL SERVANTS' REFINANCING SCHEME HAS HELPED TO REFINANCE 2 802 CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WERE IN DEBT FOR VARIOUS REASONS.

A FURTHER 400 CIVIL SERVANTS RECEIVED ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE ON THEIR PERSONAL FINANCES.

THE TOTAL LOANS MADE BY THE 15 BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WHICH TOOK PART IN THE SCHEME AMOUNTED TO \$50 MILLION. THIS WAS STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON MARTIN ROWLANDS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO.

WHEN THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT WOULD OPERATE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY, SET AT SIX MONTHS INITIALLY, AND THAT IT WOULD APPLY ONLY TO DEBTS INCURRED BEFORE MARCH 12, 1981.

THE SCHEME WAS EXTENDED FOR A FURTHER SIX MONTHS UNTIL MARCH 11, 1982 ON THE ADVICE OF THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE HONOURABLE LI FOOK-WO, HE SAID.

THE CIVIL SERVICE STAFF WHO WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER TO OPERATE THE SCHEME HAVE NOW BEEN REDEPLOYED TO OTHER DUTIES, EXCEPT FOR A SMALL NUCLEUS ASSISTING WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF REPAYMENTS TO THE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

A REPORT EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHEME WOULD SHORTLY BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, MR ROWLANDS SAID.

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THREE-PRONGED EFFORT TO TACKLE TRUANCY

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INITIATIVES WERE BEING TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOLS TO TACKLE TRUANCY, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR HAYE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DEFINED TRUANCY AS THE UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE OF A PUPIL FROM SCHOOL FOR THREE DAYS IN SUCCESSION AND HEADS OF SCHOOLS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF PUPILS TO EXPLAIN ANY SUCH ABSENCE.

IF THIS WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, OR THE EXPLANATION WAS UNSATISFACTORY, THE HEAD OF SCHOOL MUST REPORT TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CASE WOULD BE TAKEN UP BY ONE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS, HE SAID.

+MOST CASES SO REFERRED ARE STRAIGHTFORWARD, BUT WHERE THERE IS A COMPLEX EMOTIONAL OR SOCIAL PROBLEM THE STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICER MUST REFER THE CASE TO ONE OF MY SPECIALISTS IN THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION, OR TO A TRAINED SOCIAL WORKER IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT,+ MR HAYE ADDED.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF TRUANCY HAD THREE MAIN COMPONENTS, NAMELY DETECTION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION.

HE SAID: +EARLY DETECTION MUST REST WITH THOSE DIRECTLY CONCERNED - THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES, AND WE RELY ON HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS TO HELP US MONITOR THE PROBLEM.+

+TREATMENT, AS INDICATED, LIES IN THE FOLLOW-UP OF REPORTED CASES OF TRUANCY, AND HERE AGAIN, OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE MUST BE IN THE SCHOOLS, WHICH COULD EFFECTIVELY TURN TO PARENTS FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE.+

+ONLY WHEN THIS FAILS DO WE COME INTO THE PICTURE THROUGH STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS, COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE IN THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THROUGH SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR HAYE, SAID IT WAS IN THE AREA OF PREVENTION THAT HIS DEPARTMENT SPENT MOST TIME AND EFFORT.

+IF WE CAN MAKE OUR SCHOOLS HAPPIER PLACES, FEWER CHILDREN WILL WISH TO PLAY TRUANT. THIS IS WHY WE HAVE CONCENTRATED IN RECENT YEARS ON MAKING THE SCHOOL CURRICULA MORE FITTED TO THE NEEDS OF PUPILS,+ HE SAID.

THIS HAD BEEN DONE THROUGH SYLLABUS REVISION, THE PROVISION OF A WIDER RANGE OF SUBJECTS, CHANGES IN TEACHING METHODS, MORE REMEDIAL ASSISTANCE AND STUDENT GUIDANCE, AND AS VARIED A PROGRAMME OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AS CAN BE MANAGED.

/TO IMPLEMENT

TO IMPLEMENT THESE, MR HAYE SAID STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PERMIT SCHOOLS TO EMPLOY MORE TEACHERS FOR REMEDIAL TEACHING IN THE BASIC LANGUAGES OF INSTRUCTION AND FOR GUIDANCE, COUNSELLING AND THE SUPERVISION OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

+WE HAVE ALSO TRIED TO BRING MORE VARIETY INTO OUR CLASS-ROOMS THROUGH AN EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AND AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS FOR SCHOOLS. OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MATCHED BY IMPRESSIVE WORK IN THE SCHOOLS AND BY THE ENTHUSIASTIC COOPERATION OF HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND THEIR TEACHERS,+ HE SAID.

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EDUCATION REPORT RECEIVED

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THE REPORT FROM THE PANEL OF VISITORS CONDUCTING AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE HONG KONG EDUCATION SYSTEM WAS RECEIVED LAST WEEK, AND HE PROPOSED TO SEEK, AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON ITS PUBLICATION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, THE HON KENNETH TOPLEY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE REV. THE HON JOYCE BENNETT.

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4 000 STREET LIGHTS FOR NEW TERRITORIES

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AT LEAST 4 000 STREET LIGHTS WILL HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IN ABOUT THREE YEARS TIME, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG ON THE PROGRESS MADE AND THE FUTURE PROGRAMME OF VILLAGE LIGHTING, HE SAID 1 816 SUCH LIGHTS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED SINCE 1978.

+THIS IS A BIT BEHIND THE SCHEDULED PROGRAMME. HOWEVER A MAJOR EFFORT IS NOW BEING MADE AND ON PRESENT EVIDENCE IT LOOKS AS THOUGH FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE WITH AT LEAST 4 000 STREET LIGHTS WILL HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS' TIME,+ MR MACPHERSON ADDED.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES PROGRAMMES SUCCESSFUL

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MANY PENAL SYSTEM IN THE WORLD CANNOT RIVAL THE SUCCESS RATES FOR THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES RUN BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE VISITING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE PRISON SERVICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES, MR DENNIS TREVELYAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID IT WAS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT THAT 66 PER CENT OF ALL INMATES RELEASED FROM TRAINING CENTRES, 94 PER CENT FROM DETENTION CENTRES AND 67 PER CENT FROM DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES DID NOT COMMIT ANY FURTHER OFFENCE DURING THE PERIOD THEY WERE UNDER SUPERVISION.

MR TREVELYAN WAS SPEAKING AT THE PASSING-OUT PARADE OF RECRUIT OFFICERS AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY, AT WHICH HE WAS THE INSPECTING OFFICER.

ON PARADE WERE 11 OFFICERS AND 157 ASSISTANT OFFICERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY COMPLETED THEIR SIX-MONTH BASIC TRAINING. HE ALSO PRESENTED SILVER WHISTLES TO THE TWO BEST ALL-ROUND RECRUITS, MR WONG YAU-SHING AND MISS LEUNG PUI-FONG.

HAVING DISCUSSED WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT IN PENAL AFFAIRS, MR TREVELYAN SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES WHICH HAD +A LOT TO TEACH THE WORLD.+ HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY THE TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS IN HONG KONG INCLUDING INITIAL AND DEVELOPMENT TRAINING.

MR TREVELYAN POINTED OUT THAT IN THE U.K. SYSTEM, ONLY DISCIPLINED OFFICERS WEAR UNIFORM AND THOSE IN COMMAND, GOVERNORS AND THE PRISONS BOARD, DO NOT. THEREFORE HE WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE PARADE WITH EVERYONE IN UNIFORM WHICH +TESTIFIES TO THE DISCIPLINE AND UNITY+ OF HONG KONG'S CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

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96 FIRE OFFICERS AND MEN RECEIVE LONG SERVICE MEDALS

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A TOTAL OF 96 OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS PRESENTED WITH MEDALS AND CLASPS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SERVICES TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMUNITY AT THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN JAVA ROAD, NORTH POINT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AMONG THE RECIPIENTS WAS SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER MR K. AYLWARD WHO WAS AWARDED THE 2ND CLASP OF THE COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADES LONG SERVICE MEDAL BY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, MR JOHN MARCH. MR AYLWARD HAS COMPLETED 30 YEARS' SERVICE.

MR MARCH ALSO PRESENTED A RETIRED ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER, A PRINCIPAL FIREMAN AND A SENIOR FIREMAN WITH THE FIRST CLASP TO THEIR MEDALS FOR 25 YEARS' SERVICE.

/NINE OTHER

NINE OTHER PRINCIPAL FIREMEN, SEVEN SENIOR FIREMEN AND SIX FIREMEN EACH OF WHOM HAS COMPLETED 18 YEARS' SERVICE WERE ALSO PRESENTED WITH LONG SERVICE MEDALS BY MR MARCH.

THE OTHER OFFICERS AND MEN WHO RECEIVED MEDALS WERE AT THE HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON, AND NEW TERRITORIES COMMAND POSTS AS WELL AS THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU IN WAN CHAI AND AMBULANCE SERVICE AT NGAU TAU KOK AMBULANCE DEPOT.

THEY WERE PRESENTED THEIR MEDALS BY CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS, MR BRIAN FENDER, MR MONTAGUE KINGDOM, MR FRED JACKSON, MR LAM LOK-BUN AND CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER, MR HARRY KENYON RESPECTIVELY.

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WHERE TO MEET PARENTS AT AIRPORT WHEN RETURNING FROM OVERSEAS

THE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADVISED PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN STUDYING OVERSEAS TO INFORM THEM IN GOOD TIME WHERE TO MEET AT THE AIRPORT IF THEY WERE TO RETURN HOME FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT SAID THERE HAD BEEN CASES WHERE PARENTS WAITED IN VAIN AT THE ARRIVALS HALL WHILE THEIR CHILDREN LEFT THE PASSENGER TERMINAL THROUGH OTHER EXITS WITHOUT MEETING THEM.

+IT IS THEREFORE ADVISABLE FOR PARENTS, WHEN WRITING TO THEIR CHILDREN, TO CONFIRM THAT ON ARRIVAL AT HONG KONG AIRPORT AFTER CLEARING CUSTOMS, THEY SHOULD TURN LEFT AND FOLLOW SIGNS TO THE PUBLIC GREETING AREA,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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CRIME PREVENTION TALK FOR JEWELLERY SHOP OWNERS
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A SEMINAR ON CRIME PREVENTION FOR GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERY SHOP OWNERS IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE POLICE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU AND THREE INSURANCE COMPANIES WILL TALK ON SECURITY MEASURES, TOGETHER WITH A DISPLAY OF BURGLARY-ROBBERY ALARM EQUIPMENT.

ABOUT 80 REPRESENTATIVES FROM SHAM SHUI PO'S 39 GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERY SHOPS AND THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVITED.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, THE POLICE AND THE COMMITTEE, THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HILLTOP COUNTRY CLUB IN TSUEN WAN STARTING AT 7 PM.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER CHEUNG, WILL CHAIR THE SEMINAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. A VEHICLE WILL LEAVE THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, 37-39 TONKIN STREET, AT 6.30 PM TAKING PRESS MEMBERS TO AND FROM THE HILLTOP COUNTRY CLUB.

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EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TIN LOK LANE OPEN TO TRAFFIC
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THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TIN LOK LANE BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND WAN CHAI ROAD IN WAN CHAI, WILL BE OPEN TO NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 10), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS LANE WILL BE EXCLUSIVELY RESERVED FOR VEHICLES TURNING RIGHT INTO HENNESSY ROAD EASTBOUND, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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