



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1981

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TELEPHONE CHARGE INCREASE APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A GENERAL INCREASE IN THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S SCHEDULED CHARGES.

THE INCREASES WERE FOR EXCHANGE LINE INSTALLATIONS, EXCHANGE CONNECTED INTERCOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGES AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT, NON-STANDARD INSTRUMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS APPARATUS, THE HARBOURPHONE RADIO SERVICE, AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES.

THE NEW SCHEDULE OF CHARGES WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1.

IN MOVING THE MOTION THAT THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE BE AMENDED, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON N.M. TAYLOR SAID THE NEW CHARGES WERE THE RESULT OF THE INCREASE IN THE COMPANY'S OPERATING COSTS, ESPECIALLY THE COST OF LABOUR AND MATERIALS INVOLVED, SINCE THE LAST GENERAL TARIFF REVIEW IN JULY 1978.

HE SAID THE COMPANY PROPOSED A RATIONALISED TARIFF STRUCTURE LAST YEAR FOR LEASED LINES AND EXTERNAL EXTENSIONS. IT POSTPONED ITS APPLICATION FOR AN INCREASE IN EXCHANGE LINE RENTALS BECAUSE OF ITS INCREASED SHARE OF REVENUE FROM INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE CALLS.

+WE HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE RELEVANT ACCOUNTS AND FORECASTS OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PROPOSED INCREASES IN CHARGES ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE COMPANY'S SCHEME OF CONTROL AND ARE NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE COMPANY TO CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT ITS PLANS TO MEET THE PROJECTED GROWTH IN DEMAND,+ SAID MR TAYLOR.

+HOWEVER, THE FORECAST OF THE COMPANY'S PERFORMANCE DURING 1981, EVEN INCLUDING THE INCREASED CHARGES PROPOSED IN THE RESOLUTION, INDICATES THAT A FURTHER INCREASE (POSSIBLY RESTRICTED TO LINE RENTALS AND RELATED CHARGES) MAY BE NECESSARY LATE IN 1981 OR EARLY 1982.+

MR TAYLOR SAID THE \$100 INCREASE IN INSTALLATION CHARGES WAS THE SAME CHARGE WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPROVED IN 1970, BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REDUCED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE 1975 COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY, IN ORDER TO STIMULATE DEMAND.

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LAW SOON TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM NOISE
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ACTION IS IN HAND TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM EXCESSIVE INDUSTRIAL NOISE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO, HE ADDED THAT THE INTENTION WAS TO MAKE REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE PROVISION AND WEARING OF EAR PROTECTORS BY WORKERS IN NOISY INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

MR HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT PRIOR TO CONSIDERING LEGISLATION, HIS DEPARTMENT HAD IMPLEMENTED A POLICY OF EDUCATING WORKERS ON NOISE HAZARDS.

UNDER THE POLICY, THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE BEGAN A HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAMME IN 1978.

FACTORY INSPECTORS, DURING THEIR ROUTINE VISITS, HAVE BEEN ADVISING EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ON THE HAZARDS INVOLVED AND METHODS TO PROTECT THEIR HEARING. THIS ADVICE HAS BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS.

IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR, A POSTER AND A SHORT FILM FOR TV ARE PLANNED. A LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH EXHIBITION TO BE HELD LATER IN THE YEAR WILL PLAY UP THE THEME ON NOISE HAZARDS.

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GAS STUDY MAY START NEXT MONTH
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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE HOPED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROSPECTIVE CONSULTANTS TO EXAMINE THE WIDER ASPECT OF THE GAS INDUSTRY WOULD BE CONCLUDED SOON AND THAT THE CONSULTANCY WOULD START NEXT MONTH.

MR DAVIES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LYDIA DUNN.

+I RECOGNISE THE CONCERN OF SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY OVER THE DANGER OF USING CERTAIN WATER HEATERS WITHOUT ADEQUATE VENTILATION,+ MR DAVIES SAID AND THIS ADDED TO HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PROSPECTIVE CONSULTANTS HAD NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED.

+THE REASON FOR THIS DELAY,+ HE SAID, +IS THAT THE SELECTION OF AN APPROPRIATE CONSULTANT HAS PROVED TO BE MORE COMPLEX AND TIME CONSUMING THAN I ANTICIPATED WHEN I SAID ON JUNE 11 LAST YEAR THAT I HOPED CONSULTANTS WOULD BE AT WORK BY THE END OF THE YEAR.+

/THE SELECTION

THE SELECTION PROCESS INVOLVED THE PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF CONSULTANTS WITH THE APPROPRIATE COMPETENCE AND EXPERTISE- AN INVITATION TO THEM TO SUBMIT OUTLINE PROPOSALS AND FROM THIS THE COMPLETION OF A SHORT LIST- THE DRAWING UP OF SPECIFICATIONS ON WHICH THOSE SHORT LISTED COULD SUBMIT DETAILED PROPOSALS- THE SUBMISSION OF THESE PROPOSALS AND THEIR EVALUATION- AND THE FINAL NEGOTIATION.

+IT IS THE FINAL STAGE WHICH I HOPE WILL BE CONCLUDED THIS MONTH,+ MR DAVIES SAID.

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HK BAR OPEN TO COMMONWEALTH AND IRISH PCLL HOLDERS
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THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE ADMISSION OF COMMONWEALTH AND IRISH PCLL (POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE OF LAWS) HOLDERS TO THE HONG KONG BAR WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

BUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT SHOULD THE NUMBER ADMITTED UNDER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE UNACCEPTABLE OR THERE BE EVIDENCE THAT LOCAL LAW GRADUATES WERE ADVERSELY AFFECTED, THE POSITION WOULD BE REVIEWED.

THE HON PETER C. WONG, SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SAID THE BAR ASSOCIATION HAD STRENUOUSLY OPPOSED THE BILL AND HAD MADE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO UMELCO.

DURING MEETINGS WITH AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS OF WHICH MR WONG WAS THE CONVENER, THE ASSOCIATION CONTENDED THE BILL WAS LIKELY TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN THAT IT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT LOCAL LAW GRADUATES AND YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ASPIRING TO BE BARRISTERS.

IT ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PRESENT AMENDMENT WAS +THE THIN END OF THE WEDGE+ AND FEARED THAT FURTHER RELAXATION OF THE ADMISSION RULES WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

WHILE APPRECIATING THE FEELING AND CONCERN OF THE BAR, MR WONG NOTED THE CONSENSUS OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WAS THAT ON BALANCE THE BILL SHOULD BE SUPPORTED.

+IN OUR VIEW, IT IS NOT LIKELY TO OPEN THE FLOODGATES,+ MR WONG SAID.

+ANY COMMONWEALTH CITIZEN OR CITIZEN OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND WISHING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AMENDMENT WILL HAVE TO OVERCOME THREE HURDLES: SEVEN YEARS' RESIDENCE, THE PCLL FROM HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, WHICH IS A FULL-TIME ONE-YEAR COURSE, AND A ONE-YEAR PUPILLAGE.+

BASICALLY, MR WONG NOTED, GOVERNMENT'S CASE IS THAT PCLL HOLDERS FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND WITH SEVEN YEARS' RESIDENCE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION AS SOLICITORS.

/+THERE IS

+THERE IS NO REAL JUSTIFICATION WHY THEY SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM ADMISSION TO THE BAR,+ HE ADDED.

ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL, THE HON JOHN SWAINE, DESCRIBED THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE BILL AS +A NARROW ONE+. IT IS INTENDED TO BRING THE LAW RELATING TO THE ADMISSION OF BARRISTERS IN HONG KONG NEARER IN LINE WITH THAT RELATING TO THE ADMISSION OF SOLICITORS, HE POINTED OUT.

+THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY SMALL INDEED, AND THE OBJECT OF THE CHANGE, AS I UNDERSTAND IT FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, IS TO ENABLE SUCH CANDIDATES TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN THE BARRISTER'S AND THE SOLICITOR'S PROFESSION, WHEREAS THEY WOULD NOW BE LIMITED TO THE SOLICITOR'S.

+I UNDERSTAND FURTHER FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT THIS PRESENT CHANGE IS NOT INTENDED AS A SPRING-BOARD FOR THE FURTHER RELAXING OF THE RULES OF ADMISSION RELATING TO BARRISTERS, AND ALSO THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION THAT SUCH CANDIDATES WILL BE EXEMPT FROM THE COMPULSORY SERVING OF PUPILLAGE UNDER THE EXISTING RULES,+ MR SWAINE SAID.

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PHASING IN OF GENERAL RATE IN NT
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADOPTED A MOTION GIVING EFFECT TO THE GENERAL RATE PERCENTAGE CHARGES FOR NEWLY ASSESSED AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HENRY CHING SAID EXISTING POLICY PROVIDES FOR THE PHASING IN OF THE GENERAL RATE CHARGE FOR EACH NEWLY ASSESSED AREA IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.

+THUS,+ HE EXPLAINED, +IN THE FIRST YEAR OF ASSESSMENT THE ACTUAL CHARGE APPLIED IS 50 PER CENT OF THE FULL GENERAL RATE CHARGE, IN THE SECOND YEAR 60 PER CENT, IN THE THIRD YEAR 70 PER CENT AND SO ON UNTIL THE FULL CHARGE IS APPLIED IN THE SIXTH YEAR.+

AS THE GENERAL RATE CHARGE FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES IS 11 PER CENT, FOR 1981-82 THE CHARGE TO BE APPLIED TO AREAS F TO M (FOR THEIR SIXTH YEAR OF ASSESSMENT) IS THE FULL CHARGE OF 11 PER CENT. FOR AREA N (FOR ITS FIFTH YEAR OF ASSESSMENT) THE CHARGE IS 90 PER CENT OF THE FULL CHARGE, OR 10 PER CENT, AND FOR AREAS P TO S (FOR THEIR SECOND YEAR OF ASSESSMENT) IT IS 60 PER CENT OF THE FULL CHARGE, OR 7 PER CENT.

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CHILDREN'S HEIGHT LIMIT UNDER ROAD TRAFFIC LAW
CAN BE RAISED

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THE HEIGHT LIMIT FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION CAN SAFELY BE RAISED FROM THREE FEET TO ABOUT FOUR AND A HALF FEET WITHOUT VEHICLES BEING OVERLOADED, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT IS NOW EXAMINING WHAT SUITABLE RATIO FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS SHOULD BE APPLIED ON THE BASIS OF THIS INCREASED HEIGHT LIMIT.

MR JONES WAS REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY THE HON PETER C. WONG AT THE SECOND READING OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, AIMED AT LEGALISING GENUINE PAK PAI OPERATIONS.

AS CONVENOR OF THE LEGISLATION SCRUTINY GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS, MR WONG REFERRED TO REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO THE GROUP CRITICISING AS UNREALISTIC THE THREE FEET LIMITATION FOR CHILDREN CARRIED ON SCHOOL MINI-BUSES.

UNDER THE EXISTING ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, THREE CHILDREN NOT EXCEEDING THREE FEET IN HEIGHT ARE COUNTED AS TWO PASSENGERS ON PRIVATE CARS.

+WE ARE TOLD THAT EVEN KINDERGARTEN PUPILS ARE OVER THREE FEET AND MOST PRIMARY PUPILS ARE IN THE REGION OF FOUR-AND-A-HALF FEET.

+THE COMMISSIONER IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING AN EXERCISE TO SEE HOW MANY FOUR-AND-A-HALF-FOOT CHILDREN CAN BE SAFELY CARRIED IN A PARTICULAR TYPE OF VAN.

+IT IS HOPED THAT AMENDING REGULATIONS WILL BE TABLED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG ALSO REVEALED THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN FOR SCHOOL VANS WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF MORE THAN SEVEN PASSENGERS TO BE REGISTERED AS PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES.

IT IS EXPECTED THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WOULD MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THESE VANS COULD OPERATE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

DURING THE EXAMINATION OF THE BILL, MR WONG POINTED OUT, THE GROUP HAD INTERVIEWED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOTOR WORKERS' UNION AND THE YOUNG CHILDREN SCHOOL MINI-BUSES OPERATORS ASSOCIATION AND MET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THE GROUP WAS TOLD THAT, TO ENSURE THE POWER TO ISSUE HIRE CAR PERMITS IS PROPERLY EXERCISED, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT IS REQUIRED TO REPORT QUARTERLY TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THE NUMBER, TYPE AND GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD OF PERMITS ISSUED.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT TRANSPORT TRIBUNALS WHICH ARE TO BE SET UP TO ENSURE THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME SHALL CONSIST OF AN UNOFFICIAL CHAIRMAN AND A PUBLIC OFFICER, BOTH TO BE APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, AND A MEMBER OF THE PANEL, MR WONG SAID.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS AMOUNTING TO \$1 805 MILLION FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1980-81.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HENRY CHING SAID THAT OF THIS SUM, \$651 MILLION WAS REQUIRED TO BUY INTO THE EXISTING STOCKS AND ASSETS OF THE RESIDENT GARRISON, WHILE ANOTHER \$595 MILLION WAS REQUIRED ON ACCOUNT OF SALARY REVISIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND STAFF OF SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS.

A SUM OF \$198 MILLION WAS REQUIRED FOR MEETING INCREASED COSTS OF THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS' CASH CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE DEFENSE COSTS AGREEMENT AND ANOTHER \$141 MILLION WAS SPENT ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS (INCLUDING 26 PROJECTS UPGRADED TO OR INCLUDED IN CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME).

MR CHING SAID THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION RESULTED IN A NET INCREASE OF \$1 463 MILLION IN THE EXPENDITURE APPROVED FOR THE YEAR, THE REMAINDER BEING OFFSET BY SAVINGS UNDER OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.

THE COUNCIL ALSO APPROVED A MOTION, SEEKING FUNDS ON ACCOUNT TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY ON EXISTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE START OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR ON APRIL 1, 1981 AND THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

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TAXI TRADE UNDER REVIEW
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THE GOVERNMENT IS EXAMINING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE ISSUE OF URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES AFTER THE CURRENT TIME LIMITS EXPIRE.

AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A MOTION EXTENDING THE TIME LIMIT FOR REGISTRATION OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS BY FOUR MONTHS TO JULY 31, 1981 TO SYNCHRONISE IT WITH THE LIMIT FOR URBAN TAXIS.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO KEEP THE OPERATIONS OF THE TAXI TRADE UNDER CAREFUL REVIEW.

HE SAID THE NUMBER OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS WERE INCREASED FROM 738 TO 838 IN SEPTEMBER 23, 1980 TO CATER FOR THE DEMAND ARISING FROM THE INCREASING POPULATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE NEW LICENCES WERE ISSUED BY TENDER IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

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GAINS TAX BILL EXPLAINED

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PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT AND OTHER MONETARY INSTRUMENTS IN THE PROPOSED INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1981, WOULD APPLY, IF APPROVED, TO THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT STARTING ON APRIL 1.

AND THE PROVISIONS IN THE BILL RELATING TO TRUSTEES AND TO THE CAPITALISATION OF INTEREST, IF APPROVED, WOULD APPLY TO THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT 1980 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HENRY CHING, WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

MR CHING SAID THAT IN THE BUDGET SPEECHES IN 1979 AND 1980, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY REFERRED TO TWO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

THE FIRST RELATED TO AN ANOMALY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE WITHHOLDING SYSTEM FOR INTEREST TAX, WHICH THE REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED RELIEF FROM A DOUBLE CHARGE MADE BY TRUSTEES.

THE SECOND, HE SAID, CONCERNED A POSSIBLE LACUNA IN THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE WHEREBY THE CHANGING PROVISIONS MAY BE INADEQUATE TO RENDER LIABLE TO TAX THE SURPLUS THROWN UP ON REDEMPTION OR REALISATION OF CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSITS AND SIMILAR MONETARY INSTRUMENTS WHICH GIVE AN ENTITLEMENT TO RECEIVE A STATED SUM OF MONEY.

THE BILLS, AMONG OTHER AMENDMENTS, PROPOSED TO REMOVE THE ANOMALY AND LACUNA. DEBATE WAS ADJOURNED.

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MORE BUSES BUT NO CARS ON DES VOEUX RD CENTRAL

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO DIVERT A NUMBER OF BUS ROUTES FROM QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL TO DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THIS SECTION OF ROAD FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

BUT IT IS NOT INTENDED TO LIFT THE RESTRICTION ON GENERAL TRAFFIC ON THE SECTION OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN BANK STREET AND PEDDER STREET.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES AT TODAY'S (WEDNESDAY) LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI FOOK-WO, MR JONES SAID THE POSSIBILITY OF LIFTING THE RESTRICTION AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE MTR WORKS HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

+BUT,+ HE SAID, +THIS ROAD HAS NOW BECOME ONE OF THE MAJOR ENTRY POINTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTO CENTRAL DISTRICT.

+THE INTRODUCTION ONTO IT OF ADDITIONAL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC WOULD SEVERELY HAMPER PUBLIC TRANSPORT MOVEMENT WHILE PRODUCING ONLY MARGINAL RELIEF TO CONGESTION IN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.+

+FURTHERMORE, THE WORKS TO COMPLETE THE BUILDING OF PEDDER STATION FOR THE ISLAND LINE OF THE MTR WILL REQUIRE THE OCCUPATION OF DES VOEUX ROAD BETWEEN ICE HOUSE STREET AND PEDDER STREET.+

THIS, MR JONES POINTED OUT, REINFORCES THE NEED TO RETAIN THE PRESENT RESTRICTION.

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STREET LIGHTING FOR TAI PO ROAD

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INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTING ALONG PART OF TAI PO ROAD SOUTHWARDS FROM THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WILL START IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR MCDONALD SAID THE PROVISION OF LIGHTING TO THE THREE UNLIT SECTIONS OF TAI PO ROAD WAS PLANNED TO BE CARRIED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROGRAMMED ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID, +AS THE ROADWORKS OVER THE ONE KILOMETRE UNLIT SECTION RUNNING SOUTHWARDS FROM THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WILL NOT NOW BE STARTED UNTIL AFTER THE SHA TIN/TAI PO COASTAL ROAD IS COMPLETED IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO PROCEED IN ADVANCE WITH THE LIGHTING SCHEME.

+ROADWORKS COVERING THE FIVE HUNDRED METRE UNLIT SECTION AT CHEK NAI PING WEST OF THE UNIVERSITY ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY AND LIGHTING WILL BE INSTALLED AS THE WORKS PROGRESS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS WORK WILL BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT ONE YEAR'S TIME.

+THE LAST AND BY FAR THE LONGEST SECTION OF UNLIT ROADWAY RUNS FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE KILOMETRES BETWEEN TAI PO TAU AND FANLING ROUNDABOUT AND SPANS THREE MAJOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES,+ SAID MR MCDONALD.

+THE FIRST OF THE SCHEMES, BETWEEN WO HOP SHEK AND FANLING ROUNDABOUT, WHICH WILL INCORPORATE STREET LIGHTING, IS ALREADY IN HAND AND WILL BE COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR.

+WORKS ON THE REMAINDER I.E. BETWEEN TAI PO SHUI WAI AND WO HOP SHEK, ARE PROGRAMMED TO START EARLY NEXT YEAR WITH COMPLETION IN 1984,+ HE ADDED.

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BROADCASTING IN MTR CONCOURSES
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION BY-LAWS CLARIFYING THE CORPORATION'S RIGHT TO AUTHORISE BROADCASTING IN THE CONCOURSES OF MTR STATIONS.

IN MOVING THE AMENDMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES TOLD COUNCIL THAT CLARIFICATION WAS NECESSARY TO REMOVE AN AMBIGUITY IN THE EXISTING BY-LAWS.

IT WAS NEVER THE CORPORATION'S INTENTION TO PROHIBIT BROADCASTING IN THE CONCOURSES, HE SAID, BUT NEITHER DID THE WORDING OF THE EXISTING BY-LAWS DEFINITELY PERMIT THE CORPORATION TO AUTHORISE SUCH BROADCASTING.

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BILL TO INCORPORATE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRE
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A BILL WAS INTRODUCED BY AN UNOFFICIAL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO INCORPORATE THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES INCORPORATION BILL 1981, THE HON CHARLES YEUNG SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO INCORPORATE THE SOCIETY TO REPLACE AND CARRY ON THE WORK AND ACTIVITIES HITHERTO CARRIED ON BY THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES TRUSTEES INCORPORATED, OF WHICH HE WAS A PAST CHAIRMAN.

+IT IS CONSIDERED EXPEDIENT AND DESIRABLE THAT THE SOCIETY ITSELF, INSTEAD OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY, SHALL BECOME A BODY CORPORATE,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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

THEY ARE THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1981- THE AUXILIARY FORCES (PENSIONS) BILL 1981 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981.

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LAND SALE FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS
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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SELL SOME 41 SITES IN THE URBAN AREA OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS FROM APRIL.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR DUNCAN SCOTT-WILL, SAID THE TOTAL AREA OF SITES PROVISIONALLY FORECAST FOR SALE WAS JUST OVER 320 000 SQUARE METRES. INCLUDED IN THE SALES PROGRAMME ARE SOME EXTREMELY VALUABLE AND LARGE SITES FOR COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

POSSIBLY THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THE SITE IMMEDIATELY WEST OF THE CONNAUGHT CENTRE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE POST OFFICE AND THE EXISTING BUS AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUS TERMINI. THE EXACT EXTENT OF THE SITE IS NOT YET FINALLY DETERMINED BUT COULD BE IN THE ORDER OF 13 000 SQUARE METRES.

THE DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WILL BASICALLY COMPRISE OFFICES OVER A TWO-STOREY SHOPPING PODIUM WITH TERMINI UNDERNEATH, WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN PHASES TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINI TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE DURING CONSTRUCTION.

ANOTHER EXTREMELY LARGE SITE OF SOME 55 500 SQUARE METRES LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE TAI TAM RESERVOIR ROAD IS PROPOSED FOR HIGH CLASS HOUSING, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF 160 GOVERNMENT QUARTERS. SOME 800 FLATS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE SITE.

TWO OTHER SUBSTANTIAL SITES WILL BE OFFERED AT SHOUSON HILL, ONE FOR LOW-RISE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL INCLUDE TOWN HOUSES, AND ANOTHER, ON THE SITE OF THE POLICE DRIVING SCHOOL, WHICH WILL BE A MULTI-STOREY FLATTED DEVELOPMENT. BOTH SITES WILL REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF SOME GOVERNMENT QUARTERS.

TWO FURTHER LARGE RESIDENTIAL SITES, AMOUNTING TO ABOUT 30 000 SQUARE METRES EACH, ARE LOCATED AT TAI WOH PING AND TAT CHE AVENUE.

ALTOGETHER 10 RESIDENTIAL SITES ARE TO BE SOLD FOR JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS REQUIRING PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT TO BE HANDED BACK AS QUARTERS TO THE GOVERNMENT FREE OF COST ON COMPLETION.

WITH REGARD TO INDUSTRIAL LAND, SALES AT KOWLOON BAY WILL CONTINUE AT A RATE OF TWO TO THREE LOTS PER MONTH.

A SITE FOR A HOSPITAL OFF BRAEMAR HILL ROAD, AMOUNTING TO SOME 16 500 SQUARE METRES HAS ALREADY BEEN ADVERTISED, AND IS NOW PROGRAMMED WITH A CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS ON 5TH JUNE. THE CONDITIONS REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF A HOSPITAL OF NOT LESS THAN 300 BEDS TOGETHER WITH BACK-UP FACILITIES INCLUDING STAFF QUARTERS.

+THIS AMBITIOUS SALES PROGRAMME IS A PROVISIONAL ONE ONLY AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACHIEVE IT,+ SAID MR SCOTT-WILL. +THE SALE DATES OF EACH LOT WILL BE ANNOUNCED, IN DUE COURSE, IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE AND BY ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS.+

/DETAILS OF

DETAILS OF THE LAND SALE FORECAST, TOGETHER WITH PLANS SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE LOTS TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE, MAY BE SEEN AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND AT THE KOWLOON BRANCH OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICE, 405 NATHAN ROAD.

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MORE WATER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR TSUEN WAN
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MORE PHYSICAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF WATER SPORTS, WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN TSUEN WAN BY PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS, SAID THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, DR JAMES HAYES.

AT AN INFORMAL LUNCHEON WITH MEMBERS OF THE LIDO BEACH WINTER SWIMMING CLUB TODAY (WEDNESDAY), DR HAYES PAID TRIBUTE TO CLUB MEMBERS FOR THEIR HELP IN ORGANISING AQUATIC ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

THE CLUB, SET UP IN 1976 AND WHICH NOW HAS A MEMBERSHIP OF 170, IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS INTEREST IN PROMOTING WINTER SWIMMING.

TOGETHER WITH OTHER LOCAL GROUPS, THE CLUB HELPS ORGANISE A WATER CARNIVAL AND SWIMMING COMPETITION AT APPROACH BAY NEAR TING KAU EVERY DECEMBER.

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NURSERY OPENED IN TUEN MUN
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TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BILLY LAM, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CALLED ON VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES TO HELP BUILD A HARMONIOUS COMMUNITY IN THE NEW TOWN.

MR LAM WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A YWCA NURSERY AT SAN FAT ESTATE.

OCCUPYING EIGHT FLATS ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF BLOCK 3, THE NURSERY CAN ACCOMMODATE 56 CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SIX. FACILITIES INCLUDE A RECREATION AREA, A MUSIC ROOM AND LESSON AND TOY ROOMS. IT IS OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND FROM 8 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAYS.

THE NURSERY IS SUBSIDISED BY THE GOVERNMENT. A MONTHLY FEE OF \$90 IS CHARGED FOR EACH CHILD.

THE CEREMONY ALSO MARKED THE START OF A LOCAL +CHILD HEALTH WEEK+ ORGANISED BY THE YWCA TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILD CARE. A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING FREE MEDICAL CHECKS, SEMINARS, A FUNFAIR, EXHIBITIONS AND A COOKING COMPETITION, WILL BE HELD IN THE NURSERY AND IN THE NEARBY SAN FAT ESTATE PLAYGROUND DURING NEXT WEEK.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1981

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MUSIC FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

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APPLICATIONS ARE NOW INVITED FOR THE 1981/82 HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND SCHOLARSHIPS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FUND, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, POINTED OUT THAT THE MUSIC FUND HAS ALREADY SPONSORED 16 YOUNG MUSICIANS IN ADVANCED INSTRUMENTAL STUDIES, OVERSEAS AND LOCALLY, DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

+LAST YEAR, WE SPONSORED MUSICIANS FOR THE FIRST TIME TO STUDY AT THE RENOWNED MENUHIN ACADEMY IN SWITZERLAND AND THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ORCHESTRAL STUDIES IN LONDON,+ SAID MR WIGGHAM, +IN ADDITION TO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA, AND THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC.+

THIS YEAR FURTHER SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE OFFERED TO ENABLE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS TO PURSUE EITHER A 3-YEAR FULL TIME COURSE AT THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, OR A ONE-YEAR FULL TIME COURSE OF ADVANCED ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTAL STUDY OVERSEAS.

THE OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS NORMALLY COVER PASSAGES, COURSE FEES AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.

MR WIGGHAM URGED THOSE INTERESTED TO TELEPHONE 5-951859 BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1981 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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PLB RESTRICTION AT WO TONG TSUI STREET, KWAI CHUNG

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT WITH EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 14) PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, UNLESS AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS ON THE SECTION OF WO TONG TSUI STREET BETWEEN KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND KWAI HING ROAD FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED TO GUIDE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS DRIVERS.

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