



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1977

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PROPOSAL TO RAISE INCOME CRITERIA FOR LEGAL AID  
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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO RAISE THE INCOME CRITERIA FOR LEGAL AID IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS AND THE PASSING OF THE NECESSARY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGAL AID ORDINANCE.

LEGAL AID CRITERIA IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT CHANGE.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. KO SIU-WAH.

MISS KO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IT DESIRABLE TO RAISE FURTHER THE INCOME CRITERIA GOVERNING THE MEANS TEST FOR LEGAL AID IN BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS SO AS TO MAKE IT MORE READILY AVAILABLE.

IF APPROVED, LEGAL AID IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WITH A DISPOSABLE INCOME NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 A MONTH (AS COMPARED WITH \$700 PER MONTH AT PRESENT) AND DISPOSABLE CAPITAL OF NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 (AS COMPARED WITH \$4,000 AT PRESENT), SIR DENYS SAID.

+IT IS NOT INTENDED TO ALTER THE INCOME CRITERIA FOR LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS,+ HE ADDED.

LEGAL AID FOR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISPOSABLE INCOME NOT EXCEEDING \$1,500 PER MONTH AND DISPOSABLE CAPITAL NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000.

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GMT PLUS 8 FOR HONG KONG THIS SUMMER  
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THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH GIVES THE EFFECT OF MAINTAINING HONG KONG STANDARD TIME (GMT PLUS 8) THROUGHOUT THIS SUMMER TO SEE WHAT PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE, PASSED ITS THIRD AND FINAL READING AND BECAME LAW TODAY.

EARLIER, DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SAID THE UNOFFICIALS SUPPORTED THE BILL ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT A DEBATE WOULD TAKE PLACE LATER THIS YEAR TO DECIDE ON A PERMANENT TIME SYSTEM FOR HONG KONG.

+THE UNOFFICIALS AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT THAT SINCE WE HAD TRIED GMT PLUS NINE IN THE WINTER OF 1973, WE SHOULD HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE OF GMT PLUS EIGHT IN THE NEXT SUMMER BEFORE COMING TO A FINAL CONCLUSION,+ DR. CHUNG SAID.

+THIS WOULD MEAN THAT BETWEEN APRIL AND OCTOBER 1977 WE WOULD RETAIN THE HONG KONG STANDARD TIME, THAT IS GMT PLUS EIGHT, INSTEAD OF CHANGING TO SUMMER TIME, THAT IS GMT PLUS NINE.+

AS A RESULT OF THIS EXPERIENCE, HE SAID, THE COUNCIL WOULD REASSESS PUBLIC OPINION AND HAVE AN OPEN DEBATE AND A FREE VOTE TO DECIDE WHETHER HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE A FIXED STANDARD TIME THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE YEAR OR SHOULD RETURN TO A DUAL TIME SYSTEM.

+BY DECLARING A FREE VOTE ON THIS ISSUE LATER THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPLYING THAT IT IS TAKING A NEUTRAL STAND AND HAS NO STRONG VIEWS ON THE MATTER,+ HE ADDED.

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WORK ON ABERDEEN TUNNEL TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH

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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, SAID TODAY WORK ON THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ABERDEEN TUNNEL WOULD BEGIN NEXT MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN 1980.

HE SAID THE TUNNEL WOULD PROVIDE A DIRECT ROAD LINK BETWEEN ABERDEEN AND HAPPY VALLEY AND CONSIDERABLY EASE THE PRESSURE ON EXISTING ROUTES BETWEEN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN PARTS OF HONG KONG ISLAND, INCLUDING THE ROUNDABOUT AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI HANG ROAD, WONGNEICHONG GAP ROAD AND STUBBS ROAD.

IN THE MEANTIME, HE SAID, IMPROVEMENT WORKS WERE ALREADY IN HAND AT THIS KEY JUNCTION AND THESE SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT FIVE MONTHS' TIME.

+THESE WORKS INCLUDE FURTHER ALTERATIONS TO THE TRAFFIC ISLANDS AND THE WIDENING OF THE TAI HANG ROAD AND UPPER STUBBS ROAD APPROACHES TO THE ROUNDABOUT,+ HE SAID.

TRAFFIC LIGHT CONTROLS, HE ADDED, MAY ALSO BE INCLUDED TO REGULATE TRAFFIC FLOW AT THE JUNCTION.

MR. MCDONALD WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LEE QUO-WEI WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER INTERIM MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE JUNCTION BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

MR. MCDONALD SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE IMPROVEMENTS NOW UNDERWAY WERE NOT MEANT TO BE A PERMANENT SOLUTION. NOR WOULD THE PROVISION OF A FLYOVER SOLVE THE PROBLEM AS THE NORTHBOUND LANES OF WONGNEICHONG GAP ROAD AND LOWER STUBBS ROAD WERE ALREADY CARRYING CLOSE TO THEIR MAXIMUM CAPACITY AT MORNING PEAK PERIODS.

+IN FACT, CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR A FLYOVER IN ROADWAYS OF SUCH LIMITED WIDTHS WOULD CREATE SERIOUS OBSTRUCTIONS RESULTING IN FAR GREATER CONGESTION AND COULD NOT THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED UNTIL AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE HAS BEEN PROVIDED,+ HE SAID.

+ANOTHER ROUTE AND THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL WHICH WILL BECOME THE MAJOR ROAD LINK BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH SHORES OF HONG KONG ISLAND, THUS RELIEVING THE WONGNEICHONG GAP ROUTES,+ HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. P.G. WILLIAMS ABOUT RESTRICTIONS ON MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SIGNS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, MR. MCDONALD SAID THE M.T.R. CORPORATION MUST OBTAIN WRITTEN CONSENT FOR ERECTING ANY SIGN OR ADVERTISEMENT OTHER THAN THOSE ILLUSTRATING OR DESCRIBING THE WORKS IN PROGRESS OR BEARING THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND NATURE OF BUSINESS OF CONTRACTORS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS.

ALL REQUESTS MADE SO FAR BY THE CORPORATION FOR THE ERECTION OR DISPLAY OF SIGNS INTENDED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OR INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN APPROVED, SAID MR. MCDONALD.

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BUSES INSPECTED BEFORE SERVICE

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ALL PUBLIC BUSES ARE INSPECTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT BEFORE THEY ENTER SERVICE AND AT REGULAR INTERVALS THEREAFTER, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THAT BUS COMPANIES WERE ALSO REQUIRED TO SATISFY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT THAT THEIR MAINTENANCE FACILITIES WERE ADEQUATE AND HE WAS SO SATISFIED AT THE PRESENT TIME.

+FURTHERMORE, THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO DRIVERS ON METHODS OF OPERATION IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY ARE ALSO KNOWN TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND ARE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE COMPANIES AND THE DEPARTMENT,+ MR. JONES SAID.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON. LYDIA DUNN WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO REVIEW THE OVERALL SAFETY STANDARDS OF OPERATION OF ALL PUBLIC BUS COMPANIES IN VIEW OF THE SEK KONG BUS CRASH WHICH KILLED SIX PEOPLE LATE LAST MONTH.

MR. JONES SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT THIS ONE ACCIDENT, SERIOUS AS IT WAS, REQUIRED AS DRASTIC A PROCEDURE AS A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE OVERALL SAFETY STANDARDS OF OPERATION OF ALL PUBLIC OMNIBUS COMPANIES.

HE REVEALED THAT THE BUS CONCERNED WAS A NEW ONE, SPECIALLY PURCHASED FOR ROUTE 51, THE ROUTE CROSSING ROUTE TWSK.

+IT WAS FIRST LICENSED ON JUNE 18, 1976 AND WENT INTO REGULAR SERVICE ON THAT ROUTE ON AUGUST 1, 1976. SINCE THEN AND UNTIL THE ACCIDENT IT HAD HAD A REGULAR THREE WEEKLY INSPECTION AND SERVICE, WHICH INCLUDED TESTING AND ADJUSTING THE BRAKES IF REQUIRED,+ HE SAID.

THE LAST SUCH TEST WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 6 -- 19 DAYS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.

THE POLICE ENQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENT, MR. JONES SAID, WAS AS YET NOT COMPLETED AS THE FINAL OPINIONS OF ONE OR TWO TECHNICAL EXPERTS WERE STILL AWAITED.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, HE HAD ASKED THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO REVIEW THE DEPLOYMENT OF BUSES AND INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO DRIVERS, ON KMB ROUTE 51 IN PARTICULAR, BUT ALSO ON ALL OTHER HILLY ROUTES IN HONG KONG.

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WAITING TIME FOR DRIVING TESTS

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THE WAITING TIME FOR DRIVING TESTS FLUCTUATES marginally FROM TIME TO TIME BUT IT IS NOT PROGRESSIVELY LENGTHENING, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG, MR. JONES EXPLAINED THAT THE WAITING TIME FOR ROAD DRIVING TESTS VARIED ACCORDING TO THE CLASS OF VEHICLE ON WHICH CANDIDATES WERE BEING TESTED.

+THE LONGEST WAIT IS FOR PRIVATE CARS, BEING EIGHT MONTHS IN HONG KONG AND TEN MONTHS IN KOWLOON,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN AN EFFORT TO SHORTEN THE WAITING TIME, SEVEN NEW DRIVING EXAMINERS WERE RECRUITED LAST YEAR BUT THREE MORE VACANCIES HAD STILL TO BE FILLED.

HOWEVER, MR. JONES ADDED THAT SUCH WAS THE DEMAND FOR TESTS THAT THE WAITING TIME HAD NOT BEEN SHORTENED.

+THIS IS PARTLY BECAUSE THE PASS RATE FOR PRIVATE CAR ROAD TESTS IS AS LOW AS 28 PER CENT,+ HE SAID. +AND THIS MEANS THAT SOME 52 PER CENT OF ALL CANDIDATES TESTED ARE REPEATERS.+

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT EVEN WHEN THE FACILITIES FOR TESTING WERE EXPANDED AND IMPROVED, THIS WOULD ONLY SERVE AS AN INCENTIVE FOR MORE CANDIDATES TO COME FORWARD AND THAT MANY OF THEM WERE NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR THE TEST.

+ALTHOUGH, THEREFORE, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO FILL THE EXISTING VACANCIES FOR DRIVING TEST EXAMINERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, I CANNOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE OF A GREAT DEAL OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE WAITING TIME FOR PRIVATE CAR TESTS,+ HE CONCLUDED.

MR. JONES ALSO TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE SOME 95,000 CANDIDATES WAITING FOR TESTS, OF WHOM 72,500 WERE FOR PRIVATE CARS AND AS MANY AS 206,000 TESTS WERE CONDUCTED LAST YEAR.

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CONTROL AND USAGE OF DRUGS IN GOVT. HOSPITALS MONITORED

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THE CONTROL AND USAGE OF DRUGS IN MAJOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IS CONSTANTLY MONITORED BY A SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE SET UP AT EACH OF THE HOSPITALS TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE STOCKS ARE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG, SAID THIS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING THIS AFTERNOON IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON. PETER C. WONG.

DR. THONG SAID THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE HOSPITAL, HEADS OF VARIOUS UNITS AND A SENIOR PHARMACIST.

IN THE CLINICS, HE SAID, A STANDARD FORMULARY OF THE COMMON DRUGS IS USED, WHICH AGAIN SERVES TO ENSURE THAT AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF MEDICINE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

DR. THONG SAID THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF STOCK CONTROL OVER MEDICINE IS SATISFACTORY, THOUGH THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THE AREAS IN WHICH FURTHER IMPROVEMENT CAN BE MADE, AN ORGANISATION AND METHODS SURVEY IS BEING CARRIED OUT, RESULT OF WHICH IS EXPECTED LATER THIS YEAR, HE ADDED.

THE DIRECTOR STRESSED THAT THE PRESCRIBING OF MEDICINES IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ATTENDING DOCTOR WHO WILL PRESCRIBE THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEDICINE FOR HIS PATIENT.

HE SAID SOMETIMES AN ALTERNATIVE EFFECTIVE MEDICINE MAY BE PRESCRIBED, BUT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF USING A LESS EFFECTIVE SUBSTITUTE.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING CONCERNING DOCTORS LEAVING GOVERNMENT SERVICE, DR. THONG SAID 87 DOCTORS HAVE RESIGNED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS FOR PERSONAL AND OTHER REASONS, SUCH AS GOING INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE, EMIGRATION, OR TRANSFER TO THE UNIVERSITY OR OTHER HOSPITALS.

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CONTROL OVER MANAGEMENT OF SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS

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THE MEASURES OF CONTROL WHICH THE GOVERNMENT EXERCISES OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE FIELD VARY WITH THE BASIS OF SUBVENTION, THAT IS, WHETHER THE SUBVENTION IS ON A DEFICIENCY GRANT OR DISCRETIONARY GRANT BASIS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. LI FOOK KOW, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. LI SAID ALL AIDED SCHOOLS UNDER THE CODES OF AID TOGETHER WITH FOUR MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS WERE SUBVENTED ON A DEFICIENCY GRANT BASIS.

EXPENDITURE OF THESE SCHOOLS, HE WENT ON, WAS EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED THROUGH CODES OF AID APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUT MANAGEMENT WAS LEFT TO THE SCHOOL COUNCILS.

MR. LI NOTED THAT FOR DEFICIENCY GRANT HOSPITALS, MANAGEMENT INCLUDING FINANCIAL CONTROL WAS EXERCISED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR AN EQUIVALENT BODY OF THE HOSPITAL ON WHICH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES SAT AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.

+THE BUDGETS FOR THESE HOSPITALS ARE APPROVED BY THEIR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES AND THEY HAVE TO BE ADHERED TO UNLESS AUTHORITY TO VARY EXPENDITURE IS GIVEN BY THE COMMITTEE,+ HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT OTHER HOSPITALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS WERE ASSISTED ON A DISCRETIONARY GRANT BASIS.

+GOVERNMENT EXERCISES LITTLE CONTROL DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE ORGANISATIONS,+ HE NOTED.

HOWEVER, MR. LI STRESSED THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT SURPLUS IN ONE YEAR WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR'S SUBVENTION WAS CONSIDERED.

TURNING TO THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC, MR. LI TOLD COUNCIL THAT THE AMOUNT OF GRANT ALLOCATED WAS DECIDED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (U.P.G.C.).

+ONCE THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC RECEIVE THEIR GRANT, IT IS PRIMARILY THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTROL EXPENDITURE, SUBJECT TO THE GUIDANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS.+

THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT THE U.P.G.C. RECEIVED REGULAR REPORTS FROM THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC AND MIGHT WARN THEM THAT IT MIGHT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY UNJUSTIFIABLE DEVIATION FROM THEIR PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED PLANS AND ESTIMATES WHEN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT BLOCK-GRANT PERIOD.

ONE AVENUE OF CONTROL, HE SAID, WAS THAT THE SUBVENTION RULES GOVERNING SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES FIELD +WILL BE AUGMENTED, IF EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT ADEQUATE, TO ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE ORGANISATIONS+.

REFERRING TO MISS BENNETT'S QUERY OF WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED SUCH CONTROL ADEQUATE TO ENSURE THAT THE SUBVENTIONS ALLOCATED WERE USED TO PROVIDE SATISFACTORY STANDARDS OF SERVICE, MR. LI ADMITTED THAT HE HAD SOME DIFFICULTY BECAUSE +IRRESPECTIVE OF THE STANDARDS ACHIEVED, THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT+.

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID, +I FEEL I CAN SAY THAT IN GENERAL THE TAXPAYER IS GETTING GOOD VALUE IN RETURN FOR THE SUBVENTIONS TO SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES.+

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MORE BARBECUE PITS FOR PUBLIC USE  
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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO PROVIDE A FURTHER 300 BARBECUE PITS FOR PUBLIC USE WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON. E.H. NICHOLS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING MORE BARBECUE PITS IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE INDISCRIMINATE LIGHTING OF BARBECUE FIRES.

MR. NICHOLS SAID THERE WERE ALREADY 1,380 BARBECUE PITS PROVIDED FOR PUBLIC USE. OF THESE 280 WERE PUT IN DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. LEUNG, HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE 90 FULL TIME PATROL STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT ENFORCING COUNTRYSIDE PROTECTION LEGISLATION. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE 147 STAFF AUTHORISED TO CARRY OUT ENFORCEMENT WORK ANCILLARY TO THEIR OTHER DUTIES.

+AT TIMES OF HIGH FIRE RISKS, PATROL STAFF ARE ASSISTED, AT WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, BY 40 CAS CADETS,+ HE SAID.

+AS GOVERNMENT'S COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICES ARE EXTENDED, ADDITIONAL POSTS ARE INCLUDED. THIRTY-TWO SUCH STAFF WILL BECOME AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE NEXT FIRE SEASON COMES.+

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LEGCO APPROVES FUNDS  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A MOTION TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO DRAW ON FUNDS ON ACCOUNT FOR EXISTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE START OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR ON APRIL 1 AND THE ISSUE OF THE GENERAL WARRANT FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE EARLY IN MAY.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED THAT THIS YEAR, AS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL WAS TO BE EXTENDED INTO APRIL AND MAY TO ALLOW UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS MORE TIME TO EXAMINE THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR 1977-78.

+THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE WILL THEREFORE NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL EARLY MAY,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

THE FUNDS ON ACCOUNT SOUGHT UNDER EACH EXPENDITURE HEAD HAVE BEEN DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL, HE SAID.

THE MOTION ALSO SOUGHT THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL TO ENABLE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO DIRECT THAT CERTAIN RECEIPTS, CONSISTING OF FEES AND CHARGES, BE APPROPRIATED-IN-AID AND USED TO OFFSET EXPENDITURE INSTEAD OF BEING CREDITED TO GENERAL REVENUE DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE VOTE ON ACCOUNT.

THE APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED IN 1976-77.

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HARD-SIZED

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MANY CYCLISTS PROSECUTED FOR RECKLESS RIDING  
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THERE WERE 1,278 PROSECUTIONS OF CYCLISTS LAST YEAR, 308 OF WHICH WERE FOR NEGLIGENTLY RIDING A BICYCLE, THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, THE HON. GARTH THORNTON, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. WONG LAM, MR. THORNTON AGREED THAT RECKLESS CYCLISTS DID CONSTITUTE A DANGER TO THEMSELVES AND OTHER PEOPLE.

HE NOTED THAT IN THE VIEW OF THE TRAFFIC POLICE THE MAIN PROBLEMS EXISTED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND, IN PARTICULAR, TAI PO AREA EXTENDING TO PLOVER COVE AND BRIDES POOL.

THESE ARE POPULAR PICNIC SPOTS DURING WEEKENDS AND ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT IN TAI PO A NUMBER OF BICYCLE HIRE SHOPS DID A THRIVING BUSINESS HIRING BICYCLES MAINLY TO YOUNGSTERS ON THEIR WAY TO AN OUTING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

+UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE SEVERAL ACCIDENT BLACK SPOTS ALONG TING KOK ROAD IN THE VICINITY OF STEEP INCLINES,+ MR. THORNTON SAID.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL POINTED OUT THAT THE POLICE HAD ASKED THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO ERECT WARNING SIGNS ADVISING CYCLISTS TO DISMOUNT AND WALK WHEN NEGOTIATING THESE HILLS.

+ACTION IS IN HAND ALTHOUGH THE SIGNS ARE NOT YET IN PLACE,+ HE SAID.

MR. THORNTON ADDED THAT SUBJECT TO OTHER COMMITMENTS, THE POLICE PUT OUT A SQUAD OF TRAFFIC POLICEMEN TO ADVISE AND WARN CYCLISTS IN THIS AREA OF THE DANGER TO THEMSELVES AND OTHERS OF RIDING BICYCLES RECKLESSLY.

+THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER (TRAFFIC) HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE POLICE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO ADVISE AND WARN CYCLISTS WHO DO NOT CONTROL THEIR MACHINES PROPERLY,+ THE SOLICITOR GENERAL SAID.

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NO CHANGE IN SCOPE OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS AT PRESENT FOR EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC CO-ORDINATION WHICH HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING WELL, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE INTO THAT OF AN INSTITUTE OR COUNCIL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

MR. JONES SAID THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE WERE BROAD AND COMPREHENSIVE AND ITS MEMBERSHIP COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC.

+THE COMMITTEE, AS AT PRESENT CONSTITUTED, FULFILLS THE FUNCTION OF REVIEWING THE NEED IN HONG KONG FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AND PROGRAMMES AND CONCENTRATING EFFORT WHERE IT IS MOST NEEDED,+ HE EXPLAINED.

+WE POSSESS NO HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND CANNOT BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. BUT IN SOME FIELDS, FOR EXAMPLE TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY AND TYPHOON STUDIES, BOTH OF WHICH ARE VERY RELEVANT TO HONG KONG, WE ARE RECOGNISED AS HAVING A SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE.

+THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO ABLE TO ADVISE WHERE HELP CAN BE SOUGHT FROM OVERSEAS IF ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM ARISES,+ HE ADDED.

FURTHERMORE, MR. JONES SAID, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE WAS AVAILABLE TO GIVE ADVICE AS FAR AS OUR INDUSTRIES WERE CONCERNED. AS A RESULT OF MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S QUESTION, MR. JONES SAID HE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE WHO HAS AGREED TO INVITE SOMEONE FROM THE CENTRE TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE.

HE ADDED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT REVIEWING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE WAS RECENTLY SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT AND WAS BEING PRINTED. WHEN IT IS READY HE WOULD ARRANGE FOR IT TO BE TABLED IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS.

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T.O.E.F.L. TEST

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THE NEXT TEST OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (T.O.E.F.L.) WILL BE HELD ON MAY 21.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED EXAMINATION ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE IN MAY, ENTRY FOR THIS TEST WOULD BE CONFINED TO THOSE CANDIDATES WHO WERE IN URGENT NEED OF T.O.E.F.L. SCORES.

+ONLY CANDIDATES WHO CAN PRODUCE WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM AN OVERSEAS COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TO TAKE THE TEST WILL BE REGISTERED,+ HE SAID.

COPIES OF THE BULLETIN OF INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORM MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE EXAMINATION DIVISION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 393, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON= OR THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIP SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, BONAVENTURE HOUSE, 2ND FLOOR, 91, LEIGHTON ROAD, HONG KONG= OR THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, 408, J. HOTUNG HOUSE, 4TH FLOOR, 5/15 HANKOW ROAD, KOWLOON.

CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO READ THE BULLETIN CAREFULLY FOR INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE.

THEY SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS IN PERSON, TOGETHER WITH THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD OR PASSPORT, AND TWO RECENT AND IDENTICAL PHOTOGRAPHS (2-1/2" X 2"), TO THE EXAMINATIONS DIVISION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON, BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 4 P.M. FROM MARCH 21 TO 25.

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

THE TEST FEE OF HK\$95 PER CANDIDATE MUST BE PAID ON OR BEFORE MARCH 28, 1977 AT THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE, EXAMINATIONS DIVISION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 11TH FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

FEES MAY BE PAID BY CROSSED CHEQUE PAYABLE TO HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SENT THROUGH THE POST TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1977

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LEIGHTON ROAD 'BUS-ONLY' LANE  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE HOURS OF OPERATION OF THE 'BUS-ONLY' LANE ALONG THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN MATHESON STREET AND CANAL ROAD EAST WILL BE CHANGED LATER THIS WEEK.

STARTING ON FRIDAY (MARCH 18), THE NEW OPERATING HOURS WILL BE BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 9 P.M. INSTEAD OF 7 A.M. AND 11 P.M.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO INDICATE THE CHANGE.

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C.A.D. OFFICERS TO ATTEND TRAINING COURSE  
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TWO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICERS II OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, MR. JOSEPH TANG CHI-PANG AND MR. EDMUND WONG MING-CHEONG, HAVE LEFT FOR NEW ZEALAND ON A MONTH LONG TRAINING COURSE.

THEY WILL ATTEND THE PRECISION APPROACH RADAR COURSE FROM MARCH 21 TO APRIL 7 AT THE AERONAUTICAL COLLEGE, CHRISTCHURCH, FOLLOWED BY TWO WEEKS OF PRACTICAL TRAINING.

THE COURSE IS ARRANGED THROUGH THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1977

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BILLS PASSED

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THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 AND THE TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 PASSED THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST READING. THEY ARE THE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, THE MONEY LENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 AND THE LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CHAI WAN ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND SHAM SHUI PO IN KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (MARCH 18) TO ENABLE THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN CHAI WAN, THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE NO. 399 CHAI WAN ROAD, NOS. 8-12 ON YIP STREET, NOS. 1-9 SUN YIP STREET, INCLUDING CALTEX SERVICE FILLING STATION, CHINA MOTOR BUS GARAGE AND CHAI WAN RESITE AREA.

IN SHAM SHUI PO, THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY YU CHAU WEST STREET, WING HONG STREET, KWONG SHING STREET, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, HING WAH STREET, FUK WING STREET, CHEUNG WAH STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND KWONG CHEONG STREET, INCLUDING TSAP FAI STREET, UN CHAU STREET AND FUK WA STREET.

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