



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1988

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CS: PRUDENT, GRADUAL APPROACH IN HK'S BEST INTERESTS

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (THURSDAY) THAT HE IS MORE THAN EVER CONVINCED THAT THE PRUDENT AND GRADUAL APPROACH ADOPTED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE END OF THE TWO-DAY DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT MOST MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NOW ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS RIGHT TO INTRODUCE DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1991.

"I AM GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE SUPPORT THAT SO MANY MEMBERS HAVE GIVEN TO THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER, AND TO THE RECOGNITION THAT THE COURSE ON WHICH WE HAVE EMBARKED IN FURTHER DEVELOPING REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IS THE RIGHT ONE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY TWO BROAD THEMES THAT HAD EMERGED.

THE FIRST RELATED TO THE QUESTION OF "WHERE WE GO FROM HERE".

SIR DAVID SAID THAT AS MANY MEMBERS HAD SAID, DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN. THE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN A FIRM AND UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT TO INTRODUCE 10 DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS TO THE COUNCIL IN 1991, AND PLANNING FOR THOSE ELECTIONS SHOULD START NOW.

BUT HE SAID THERE WERE SOME WHO SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE FIGHT FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988 MUST CONTINUE.

"THAT WILL FRANKLY BE RATHER POINTLESS AND UNPRODUCTIVE AND I WOULD ALSO ASK THOSE WHO ARE THAT WAY INCLINED TO CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONTINUING THEIR CAMPAIGN," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID WENT ON: "I DO NOT QUESTION THE MOTIVES OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED, BUT IT IS A FACT THAT PRESS PICTURES OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE THIS CHAMBER HAVE GONE AROUND THE WORLD ON THE INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES.

"AND NO ONE INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THIS CHAMBER CAN KNOW FOR SURE WHAT EFFECT THE PICTURES WILL HAVE ON THE IMAGE OF HONG KONG OVERSEAS."

SIR DAVID SAID THE SECOND THEME THAT HAD EMERGED WAS THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT STOP IN 1991.

"AS I HAVE EXPLAINED, THERE WILL BE ROOM TO INCREASE THE DIRECTLY ELECTED ELEMENT IN THIS COUNCIL BETWEEN 1991 AND 1997," HE SAID.

/ "IN ADDITION,

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"IN ADDITION, BY 1991 THE BASIC LAW WILL HAVE BEEN PROMULGATED AND THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE STRUCTURE OF THE HONG KONG SAR GOVERNMENT WILL BE KNOWN.

"AS THE WHITE PAPER EXPLAINS, WE SHALL NEED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW IN FURTHER DEVELOPING OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IF WE ARE TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION IN 1997.

"MAJOR ISSUES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED SUCH AS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AND THESE WILL NEED TO BE CONSIDERED AGAINST THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW."

THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW WAS A MATTER FOR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONSULT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON THE FIRST DRAFT WAS MOST WELCOME.

"I HOPE THE PUBLIC WILL RESPOND TO THAT INVITATION WITH THE SAME ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH THEY HAVE RESPONDED TO THE GREEN PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

TURNING TO OTHER POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS, SIR DAVID SAID THE HON JACKIE CHAN, THE HON MARTIN LEE AND OTHERS HAD ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF BETRAYING THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BY IGNORING PUBLIC OPINION AND BREAKING PROMISES.

NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. ANYONE WHO HAD STUDIED THE WHITE PAPER COULD SEE THAT VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO PUBLIC OPINION AND EVERY PROMISE MADE IN THE 1984 WHITE PAPER HAD BEEN HONOURED.

"I WOULD REPEAT THAT ANY SUGGESTION THAT THIS GOVERNMENT HAS BROKEN THE PROMISES IN THE 1984 WHITE PAPER HAS NO BASIS IN FACT," HE SAID.

"AND ON THE MANY OTHER POINTS THAT MR LEE HAS MADE, AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH, IT IS NOT THAT HE HAS NOT HAD THE ANSWERS: IT IS SIMPLY THAT HE IS NOT PREPARED TO LISTEN TO THEM.

"IT IS DIFFICULT TO REGARD ALL THESE ACCUSATIONS OF BAD FAITH, WHICH ARE COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED, AS ANYTHING MORE THAN THE LAST RESORT OF THOSE WHO HAVE FAILED TO GET THEIR OWN WAY.

"THEY CERTAINLY DO NOTHING TO FURTHER THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. I STRONGLY REFUTE THE ACCUSATIONS."

DR THE HON CONRAD LAM HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE RECEPTION OF THE WHITE PAPER WITHIN THE COUNCIL WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OUTSIDE, HE SAID.

/ "I CANNOT

"I CANNOT AGREE WITH THAT SUGGESTION. IT IS QUITE TRUE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL WHO ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE WHITE PAPER; BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, THE OVERALL REACTION HAS BEEN POSITIVE.

"INDEED, FROM ALL OUR CONTACTS WITH PEOPLE AND BODIES OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL, MY CLEAR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE DEBATE IN THIS COUNCIL YESTERDAY AND TODAY CLOSELY REFLECTS THE FEELINGS OF THE COMMUNITY - THAT IS TO SAY, SOME PEOPLE ARE SATISFIED, SOME ARE NOT, BUT ON THE WHOLE PEOPLE ACCEPT THE WHITE PAPER AS A GOOD BASIS ON WHICH TO MOVE FORWARD."

SIR DAVID SAID THE HON F.K. HU AND OTHERS HAD ADVISED THAT EARLY PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE MADE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1991.

"I CAN ASSURE THEM THAT DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTIONS WILL BE WORKED OUT IN GOOD TIME," HE SAID.

"I HAVE NOTED THE POINTS THEY HAVE MADE REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF THESE ELECTIONS.

"WE MUST OBVIOUSLY WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN DISCOURAGING FRIVOLOUS CANDIDATES AND ENSURING THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE AS OPEN AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT THE OPPORTUNITY IS AVAILABLE TO ALL THOSE WHO SERIOUSLY WISH TO PARTICIPATE."

SIR DAVID SAID SEVERAL MEMBERS HAD REFERRED TO THE INCREASE IN EMIGRATION.

"WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THIS INCREASE AND THAT IT IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

THE SITUATION WHICH HAD ARISEN WAS DUE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS, INCLUDING EXTERNAL ONES SUCH AS COUNTRIES MAKING IT EASIER FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE TO SETTLE THERE.

A FURTHER FACTOR, HOWEVER, AND IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO DENY IT, WAS CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE.

WHATEVER THE REASONS, IT SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN THAT FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WAS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG; A RIGHT WHICH WAS GUARANTEED FOR THE FUTURE BY THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"WHAT WE MUST DO IS TO BUILD A SOCIETY IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE HAPPY TO LIVE AND WORK, AND TO WHICH PEOPLE WHO HAVE EMIGRATED ARE ATTRACTED TO RETURN," SIR DAVID SAID.

"AT THE SAME TIME WE MUST ENSURE, THROUGH OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, THAT HONG KONG HAS A REGULAR SUPPLY OF THE EXPERTISE IT NEEDS TO CONTINUE TO PROSPER."

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID SAID THE DEBATE HAD ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THE INTEREST AND STRENGTH OF FEELING AMONGST MEMBERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

"I HOPE OVER THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD WE CAN ALSO ACHIEVE A UNITY OF VIEW ON THE BEST WAY FORWARD," HE SAID.

"THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT I AM TRYING TO STIFLE CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT OR ITS POLICIES.

"THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS PRECIOUS TO HONG KONG AND THIS GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PRESERVING IT NOW AND IN THE FUTURE."

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DEBATE MARKED THE END OF A VERY LONG PERIOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSIONS WHICH STARTED WITH PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER NEARLY A YEAR AGO.

"WE NOW HAVE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED POLICIES AND PLANS TO TAKE US FORWARD UNTIL 1991.

"THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE IN PRACTICAL TERMS TO ENSURE THAT THOSE POLICIES AND PLANS ARE CARRIED THROUGH TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

"THAT PROCESS TOO WILL INVOLVE CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSION.

"BUT I HOPE WE CAN PUT BEHIND US THE ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE BROAD THRUST OF OUR POLICIES AND PLANS AND THE TIMING OF THEM," HE SAID.

THE COMMITMENTS IN THE WHITE PAPER WERE CLEAR; THERE WOULD BE NO RETREAT FROM THEM.

"WE BELIEVE THEY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF A BROAD MAJORITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND CERTAINLY A CLEAR MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WOULD ENDORSE THAT VIEW."

SIR DAVID SAID LEGCO MEMBERS HAD A STRONG TRADITION OF UPHOLDING THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

SOME PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL HAD CALLED INTO QUESTION THE MOTIVATION OF ITS MEMBERS.

"IN SO DOING THEY DO A GRAVE DISSERVICE TO THE TRADITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN HONG KONG, A TRADITION OF WHICH WE CAN BE TRULY PROUD.

"LIKE SO MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF HONG KONG SOCIETY IT IS UNIQUE AND THE ENVY OF MANY OTHER COMMUNITIES," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THAT "AS WE MOVE FORWARD TO CHANGES IN THIS COUNCIL", HE SINCERELY HOPED THAT MEMBERS, HOWEVER THEY CAME TO BE THERE, WOULD WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF HONG KONG.

/HE ADDED:

HE ADDED: "WE DO NEED UNITY OF PURPOSE IF WE ARE TO STEER HONG KONG THROUGH THE YEARS WHICH LIE AHEAD.

"I HOPE AND TRUST WE CAN NOW FIND THAT UNITY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER - 'THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT: THE WAY FORWARD'."

THE MOTION THAT THE COUNCIL TAKE NOTE OF THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER WAS PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

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DIRECT ELECTION IN 1991 A SOUND MOVE

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DIRECT ELECTION IN 1991 REPRESENTS THE BEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE AT THIS STAGE IN VIEW OF THE CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS OF HONG KONG'S UNIQUE POLITICAL SITUATION, DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, DR CHIU SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD HARDLY BE BLAMED FOR TAKING A CAUTIOUS STEP TOWARDS THE INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL CHANGES AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS UNSURE WHETHER THE CHANGES WOULD PUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AT RISK.

"THOUGH THE TIMING OF THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTION IN 1991 DOES NOT MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF EVERYBODY, SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT EVEN THIS DECISION IS HARD TO COME BY," HE NOTED.

HOW TO CONSOLIDATE AND LEGALISE THE HARD-WON DIRECT ELECTION ELEMENT IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM WAS AN URGENT TASK AND IT WAS UP TO LEGCO MEMBERS TO MAKE IT WORK EFFICIENTLY, HE SAID.

DR CHIU SAID HE HAD CONSIDERED 1988 THE BEST TIME FOR INTRODUCING NEW POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS, BUT HE WAS DISHEARTENED BY THE UNSATISFACTORY VOTING RATE IN LAST WEEK'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND FELT THAT CIVIC EDUCATION SHOULD BE STEPPED UP.

ON THE WHITE PAPER'S PROPOSAL TO ENLARGE THE EXISTING MEDICAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY TO EMBRACE HEALTH CARE TEAMS, HE SAID THIS WAS WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SECTOR.

DR CHIU ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG MEMBERS MIGHT GIVE THE PUBLIC AN IMPRESSION THAT LEGCO WAS SPLIT AND THAT A SPLIT LEGISLATURE MIGHT NOT BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF SOCIETY, ESPECIALLY IN THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

"SINCE WE HAVE A COMMON OBJECTIVE, WHY DO WE, INSTEAD OF GOING FORWARD IN A FRIENDLY AND CO-OPERATIVE MANNER, WASTE OUR VALUABLE TIME ON SOME MINOR QUESTIONS?" HE ASKED.

DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS SHOULD NOT TURN INTO PERSONAL CONFLICTS, HE ADDED.

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APPEAL TO HELP MAKE SYSTEM WORK

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THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FOR A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH MOST OF THE COMMUNITY WILL AGREE OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, WITH WHICH THE COMMUNITY WILL NOT DISAGREE, THE HON THOMAS CLYDESDALE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

"ONCE THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN ADOPTED AND THE PROCESS OF CHANGE OUTLINED IN THE WHITE PAPER HAS BEGUN, LET US ALL WORK TOGETHER WITH GOODWILL AND DEDICATION TO CARRY OUT SUCCESSFULLY THE TASK OF MOULDING A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL PROTECT AND PROMOTE OUR VITAL INTERESTS.

"IT IS CERTAINLY WITHIN OUR CAPACITY TO DO SO," HE SAID WHEN SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER.

MR CLYDESDALE SAID THE POLICY DECISIONS SET OUT WERE CLOSELY IN LINE WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS OF HIS CONSTITUENCY; THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, IN THE CHAMBER'S SUBMISSION TO THE SURVEY OFFICE.

"IN PARTICULAR, THE DECISION TO SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE OF DIRECT ELECTIONS AND TO BEGIN THIS PROCESS IN 1991 IS, I AM SURE, BOTH WISE AND HELPFUL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT FOR HONG KONG WHICH WILL PROVIDE BALANCED REPRESENTATION FOR ALL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY AND THE SOCIETY," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THE CONSULTATION ON THE 1987 GREEN PAPER HAD BEEN INTENSIVE, AND EXTENSIVE, NOT ONLY AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION BUT ALSO AT THE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL.

"THIS INCLUDED, OF COURSE, THE GENERAL CHAMBER WHICH DID A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO OBTAIN, AS FAR AS WAS POSSIBLE, THE GENUINE VIEWS OF ITS MEMBERS ON THE MANY IMPORTANT, AND I MUST SAY SOME RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT, ISSUES SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER," HE SAID.

A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER STUDIED THESE ISSUES CAREFULLY AND A DETAILED SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT TO OBTAIN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS' VIEWS AND THE RESULTS WERE FULLY PUBLISHED, TOGETHER WITH THE QUESTIONS, AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ANSWERS.

"THE CHAMBER'S GENERAL COMMITTEE ENDORSED AND APPROVED THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY WHICH THEN FORMED THE BASIS OF A SUBMISSION TO THE SURVEY OFFICE."

MR CLYDESDALE SAID THE CHAMBER'S MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTED DIVERSE ETHNIC, NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS; 70 PER CENT OF THE MEMBER COMPANIES WERE IN SERVICE INDUSTRIES AND 30 PER CENT IN MANUFACTURING; 70 PER CENT WERE HONG KONG-CHINESE OWNED AND OPERATED AND 30 PER CENT REPRESENTED FOREIGN INTERESTS.

/ "I BELIEVE

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"I BELIEVE IT CAN BE CLAIMED THAT THE CHAMBER, MORE PERHAPS THAN ANY OTHER TRADE OR INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION, IS FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL SECTORS OF HONG KONG BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, ALSO THAT LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS AND VIEWS ARE QUITE WELL BALANCED," HE SAID.

THE CHAMBER'S SURVEY ATTRACTED A GOOD RESPONSE AND WAS ABOUT EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN CHINESE AND NON-CHINESE RESPONDENTS.

EIGHTY PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS SUPPORTED THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS ALTHOUGH A MAJORITY THOUGHT THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL 1991 OR AFTER, IN OTHER WORDS AFTER THE BASIC LAW WAS PROMULGATED.

"FROM ALL THE OTHER RESULTS OF THE SURVEY, IT WAS CLEAR THAT, WHILE CHAMBER MEMBERS AGREED THAT CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNING HONG KONG AFFAIRS ARE NECESSARY, THEY WERE STRONGLY IN FAVOUR OF A GRADUAL AND PRAGMATIC PACE OF CHANGE, TESTING EACH STEP OF THE WAY AND ADJUSTING TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES AS NECESSARY," HE SAID.

"THE CHAMBER VOTED IN STRENGTH FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC, TRADE, INDUSTRIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM WHICH HAS SERVED HONG KONG SO WELL. IN OTHER WORDS, CHANGE WHEN CHANGE IS NECESSARY BUT NOT CHANGE FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGE."

MR CLYDESDALE SAID HE DID NOT AGREE WITH SOME COUNCILLORS WHO HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE DEMANDING DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988.

"I THINK THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE DID NOT EXPRESS ANY PARTICULAR VIEW BUT RATHER WAITED TO SEE HOW THE VARIOUS VIEWS WOULD DEVELOP, HOPING THAT THE OUTCOME, WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE, WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THEIR FUTURE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY," HE SAID.

"I DO NOT ACCEPT EITHER THAT ANY MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL SPEAKS FOR THE SO-CALLED MAN IN THE STREET. NO COUNCILLOR IN THIS CHAMBER WAS ELECTED TO DO SO AND ANY CLAIM THAT ONE OR A GROUP OF COUNCILLORS PRESENTLY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF A MAJORITY OF HONG KONG'S COMMUNITY IS NONSENSE.

"SURELY THE WHITE PAPER WILL BRING US NEARER TO THAT POSSIBILITY IN 1991," HE ADDED.

ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE WHITE PAPER, MR CLYDESDALE SAID THAT JUST AS IT PROVIDED FOR ELECTION OF 10 DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL, THERE SHOULD BE CONTINUED PROVISION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

"THERE SEEMS NO GOOD REASON FOR ELIMINATING THIS VERY USEFUL LINK WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE CLOSE TWO-WAY FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE TWO TIERS OF ADMINISTRATION," HE SAID.

/"I ASK

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"I ASK THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER PERMITTING ONE URBAN COUNCILLOR TO SERVE ON EACH DISTRICT BOARD, EITHER BY ELECTION OR BY APPOINTMENT."

MR CLYDESDALE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT, IF THE EXPERIMENT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1991 WORKED WELL, EARLY PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE TO EXTEND THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE IN 1994 BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR DIRECTLY ELECTED PERSONS.

"PERHAPS MORE OF THE SEATS AT THAT TIME OCCUPIED BY APPOINTED MEMBERS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR DIRECTLY ELECTED PERSONS," HE SUGGESTED.

"EVERY MAJOR DISTRICT IN THE TERRITORY SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBER BY 1994. IN THAT WAY THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE WILL BE FULLY REPRESENTED AND WILL BE EFFECTIVELY HEARD."

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WHITE PAPER CONCURS WITH PUBLIC OPINION

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THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE CONCURS WITH PUBLIC OPINION AND IS BOTH RESPONSIVE TO THE PREVAILING SITUATION AND PRUDENT IN ITS APPROACH.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE HON HO SAI-CHU DURING THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR HO SAID HE HAD ALWAYS HELD THE VIEW THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE GRADUAL AND EVOLUTIONARY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE QUESTION OF CONVERGENCE WITH THE BASIC LAW OF THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT.

WITH THIS IN VIEW, HE SAID HE TOOK THE STAND THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AFTER 1990, AND NOT IN HASTE BEFORE THAT.

AS REGARDS THE NUMBER OF ELECTED SEATS, MR HO SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THESE SHOULD BE INCREASED GRADUALLY, TO THE FULL EXTENT AFFORDED BY THE BASIC LAW.

NOTING THAT A DECISION HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE ON THE TREND OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM BETWEEN NOW AND 1991, MR HO SAID THAT PEOPLE SHOULD NOT DWELL ON OLD ISSUES.

HE SAID WHAT MEMBERS SHOULD DO NOW WAS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE PRACTICAL SIDE OF THINGS AND PREPARE THE COMMUNITY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1991.

THIS WOULD HELP ENSURE THAT THOSE CANDIDATES WHO WERE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD BE ELECTED.

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SUPPORT FOR ROLE OF DISTRICT BOARDS

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WHILE IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT A STABLE POLITICAL STRUCTURE IS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG, SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE NEVERTHELESS TO PROVIDE FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION THROUGH 1997, DR THE HON RICHARD LAI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, DR LAI SAID THE DOCUMENT REPEATEDLY HIGHLIGHTED "STABILITY" AND "PRUDENT CHANGES", BUT IT POINTED TO NO DIRECTION BUT THE BASIC LAW.

HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF DISTRICT BOARDS IN DEVELOPING REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

DR LAI SAID IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT THERE WAS NO DIRECT ELECTION IN 1988, AS THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT LAST NOVEMBER HAD FORESHADOWED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION.

"ALTERNATIVELY, 10 DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS BASED ON GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES ARE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1991," HE SAID.

"WHILE I WELCOME THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN GENERAL, I CANNOT SUPPORT ITS TIMING, AND MOREOVER, ITS REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SEATS FROM THE DISTRICT BOARDS."

DR LAI SAID THAT DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, AND AS SET OUT IN THE LAST CHAPTER IN THE WHITE PAPER, IT HAD BEEN WIDELY ADVOCATED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION HAD TO PROCEED IN LINE WITH THE BASIC LAW PROVISIONS.

"THE BASIC LAW WILL BE PROMULGATED IN 1990. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE DISPLACEMENT OF ELECTORAL COLLEGES WILL CONVERGE WITH WHAT WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE BASIC LAW," HE SAID.

"EVEN THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW WILL ONLY BE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION THIS MAY. IT GIVES CAUSE FOR CONCERN THAT CHINA AND BRITAIN HAVE REACHED MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE FUTURE SET-UP OF THE SAR GOVERNMENT.

"IF NOT, WHAT IS THE JUSTIFICATION FOR REAFFIRMING ON ONE HAND THE NEED TO COPE WITH THE BASIC LAW PROVISION, AND ON THE OTHER HAND MAKE SUCH A DECISION WELL BEFORE THE PROMULGATION OF THE BASIC LAW?"

DR LAI SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THAT THE PRESENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTORAL COLLEGES WERE TO BE REPLACED BY SEATS DIRECTLY ELECTED FROM 10 DISTRICT-BASED CONSTITUENCIES.

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"THE WHITE PAPER SUGGESTS THAT THERE WOULD BE DOUBLE REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. IT IS NOT NECESSARILY SO, PROVIDED THERE IS A DIFFERENT METHOD IN DRAWING UP CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES," HE SAID.

"AFTER ALL, WE HAVE DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS AS WELL AS MEMBERS ELECTED AMONG DB MEMBERS IN OUR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS NOW.

"DISTRICT BOARD-BASED ELECTIONS AND DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE SEEN AS 'TWO SYSTEMS OF GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL', UNLIKE WHAT IS REFERRED TO IN THE WHITE PAPER AS ONLY TWO PARALLEL SYSTEMS.

"A MEMBER FROM AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND DISTRICT-BASED CONSTITUENCY, SAY, THE NEW TERRITORIES, HAS DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO AND DIFFERENT SCOPES OF DISTRICT-RELATED MATTERS TO BE TENDED TO. DOUBLE REPRESENTATION CANNOT BE AN EXCUSE TO DISPLACE ELECTORAL COLLEGES."

DR LAI SAID THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTORAL COLLEGES TO THE LEGCO ELECTION SYSTEM IN 1985 HAD PROVIDED A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN DISTRICT BOARDS AND LEGCO, AND OPENED UP A CHANNEL FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC UNDER THE THREE-TIER SYSTEM.

BUT THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD CONFINE DB'S TO PURELY AN ADVISORY ROLE WITH NO REAL INFLUENCE.

BY KEEPING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE ROUTE OPEN AND BY GIVING THE DISTRICT BOARDS SOME MEANINGFUL POWERS, MORE PEOPLE WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO BECOMING INVOLVED IN DISTRICT MATTERS.

"LOOKING AT THE LOW RECENT DB ELECTIONS' VOTING RATE OF 30.3 PER CENT ONE MIGHT COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT BECAUSE OF THE PROVISIONS IN THE WHITE PAPER, THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS LOSING INTEREST IN THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS. AND I'M AFRAID JUSTIFIABLY SO, BECAUSE THERE IS VERY LITTLE THE DB'S CAN DO."

DR LAI SAID A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY ON THE WHITE PAPER CONDUCTED BY HIS OFFICE HAD SHOWED THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THE RESPONDENTS DISAPPROVED OF THE DECISION TO REPLACE ELECTED SEATS FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE IN 1991.

"THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS ALSO REJECTED BY DISTRICT BOARDS, IN WHICH THE MAJORITY SUPPORT THE EXECUTIVE ROLE OF DISTRICT BOARDS," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT EVEN THOUGH THE THREE-TIER SYSTEM WAS WORKING, A TWO-TIER SYSTEM AS OUTLINED IN THE NOW AMALGAMATED OMELCO CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS PANEL'S REPORT MIGHT BE MORE SUITABLE TO HONG KONG IN THE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

/REFERRING TO

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REFERRING TO THE EXPANSION OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR LAI SAID IT WAS SURPRISING THAT THE HEUNG YEE KUK DID NOT HAVE A SEAT IN THE COUNCIL.

"IF IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO INCLUDE IT IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THEN AT LEAST ITS REPRESENTATION IN THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE GUARANTEED. AFTER ALL, HOW MANY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES CAN CLAIM TO REPRESENT 500,000 PEOPLE?" HE ASKED.

DR LAI SAID AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE WAS ACCOUNTABLE TO THOSE WHO ELECTED HIM. MEMBERS ELECTED FROM FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WERE ONLY ACCOUNTABLE TO A SPECIFIC TRADE OR BUSINESS.

THE INTERESTS OF A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY WERE TOO NARROWLY-BASED. BY CONTRAST, DISTRICT-BASED CONSTITUENCIES COULD MUCH BETTER REPRESENT THE PUBLIC'S INTERESTS.

ANOTHER PROBLEM CONCERNED THE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SYSTEM, IN DECIDING WHICH TRADE WAS TO BE INCLUDED AND WHICH WAS TO BE LEFT OUT.

"OF COURSE MANY PROFESSIONS SEE THEMSELVES AS WORTHY OF SEATS IN THE COUNCIL; ARBITRARILY GRANTING SEATS TO THEM IN TURN CREATES CONFLICTS AND FURTHER DEMAND FOR SEATS FROM THOSE WHO ARE EXCLUDED," HE SAID.

"I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THE EXPANSION OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SEATS TODAY IS NOT A PRELUDE TO THE 'GRAND ELECTORAL COLLEGE' SYSTEM IN LATER YEARS."

DR LAI ALSO SAID THAT SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO HAVE DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1991, IT WAS ADVISABLE TO GET EVERYTHING PREPARED AT LEAST ONE YEAR BEFORE THE ELECTION DATE.

"DETAILS LIKE NOMINATION QUALIFICATIONS, CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES, NUMBER OF SEATS ALLOCATED IN EACH CONSTITUENCY MUST BE CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT TO AVOID CONFUSION.

"AN EARLY RELEASE OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL ENABLE A CANDIDATE TO FULLY PREPARE HIMSELF TO STAND FOR ELECTION."

DR LAI SAID HE FELT THAT THE WHITE PAPER FAILED TO PROVIDE FOR MORE CHANGES TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AS THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM WOULD HAVE TO CEASE BY 1997.

"THE 10 OFFICIAL MEMBERS REMAIN. THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS ONLY REDUCES BY TWO. AS I HAVE SUBMITTED EARLIER, 'GRADUAL CHANGE' IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN STABILITY. HOWEVER, THE 'GRADUAL CHANGES' IN 1988 WILL HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN 'ABRUPT CHANGE' BETWEEN 1991 AND 1997," HE SAID.

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CS DEFENDS INTEGRITY OF SURVEY OFFICE

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THERE IS NOT ONE SHRED OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE ARGUMENTS THAT THE INTEGRITY OF THE SURVEY OFFICE WAS IN DOUBT OR THAT WHATEVER THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINED, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT HAVE INTRODUCED DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988 FOR FEAR OF DISPLEASEING CHINA.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN SPEAKING AGAINST AN AMENDMENT THAT THE HON MARTIN LEE PROPOSED SHOULD BE MADE TO THE MOTION ON THE WHITE PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE AMENDMENT WAS DEFEATED BY 42 VOTES TO SEVEN, WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT FROM THE TIME THE GREEN PAPER WAS PUBLISHED LAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN CONSIDERING THE WAY FORWARD FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

HE REFERRED TO THE REMARK BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN YESTERDAY THAT IF THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT HAD REFLECTED THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR DIRECT ELECTION IN 1988 AS IT DID FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF INTRODUCING DIRECT ELECTIONS, THEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE ADVISED THE GOVERNOR THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS SHOULD INDEED BE INTRODUCED THIS YEAR.

SIR DAVID SAID THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT CLEARLY SHOWED A SHARP DIVISION OF OPINION ON THE QUESTION OF TIMING AND NOTHING THAT MR LEE HAD SAID THIS AFTERNOON HAD ALTERED THAT REALITY.

"IT WAS ON THAT BASIS THEREFORE THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED TO THE GOVERNOR THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN 1991."

COMMENTING ON WHAT MR LEE HAD SAID, SIR DAVID SAID THE COUNCILLOR HAD CONTINUED TO MAKE GREAT PLAY OF THE CRITICISMS OF THE AGB MCNAIR SURVEYS AS IF THEY WERE THE ONLY BASIS ON WHICH PUBLIC OPINION WAS ASSESSED.

"INDEED, HE HAS DESCRIBED THE AGB MCNAIR SURVEYS AS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSESSMENT. THIS REALLY IS AN ABSURD SUGGESTION," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE ARGUMENTS ON WHAT INTERPRETATION AND WHAT WEIGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANY PARTICULAR FORM OF EXPRESSION OF OPINION COULD GO ON ENDLESSLY, AND HE EMPHASISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ALL VIEWS IN ITS DECISION.

"IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS MR LEE WHO IS BEING SELECTIVE AND WHO IS AGAIN FOCUSING ON AGB MCNAIR AND NOT OURSELVES," HE ADDED.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID ALSO REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT EXPECT EVERY MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO SUPPORT EVERYTHING IN THE WHITE PAPER.

"THE ORIGINAL MOTION OFFERS MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEBATE ANY OF THE ISSUES TO WHICH IT REFERS.

"TO AMEND IT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO ONE PARTICULAR ASPECT IS, IN MY VIEW, BOTH UNNECESSARY AND UNCONSTRUCTIVE," HE SAID.

WHILE HE DID NOT QUESTION THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO SPEAK THEIR MIND OPENLY AND FORCEFULLY, HE SAID THAT AS IN ANY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY THE VIEW OF THE MAJORITY MUST BE ACCEPTED AND RESPECTED.

SIR DAVID WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE AN IRREVOCABLE COMMITMENT TO THE INTRODUCTION OF 10 DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1991, AND THE TIME HAD COME TO LOOK FORWARD POSITIVELY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO THAT MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN HONG KONG'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

"HONG KONG HAS NOT BUILT ITS SUCCESS ON LOOKING BACKWARDS OR REGRETTING WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. WE ARE A FORWARD LOOKING COMMUNITY IN A FORWARD LOOKING PLACE," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE MUCH TO DO. WE HAVE NO TIME FOR REGRETS."

THE MOTION MOVED BY SIR DAVID YESTERDAY READ THAT "THIS COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER".

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DOCUMENT DOES NOT REFLECT PEOPLE'S WISHES
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THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVES GOVERNMENT FAILED TO REFLECT THE TRUE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE, AND THE MOTION BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY CONCERNING THE DOCUMENT WAS MEANINGLESS, THE HON DESMOND LEE YU-TAI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER, MR LEE SAID THE TITLE OF THE WHITE PAPER "THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT: THE WAY FORWARD" DID NOT MATCH THE CONTENTS AND WAS A DECEPTION IN ITSELF.

HE SAID THE CHANGES SET OUT THE WHITE PAPER WERE BUT TOKEN GESTURES AND DID NOT PROVIDE FOR ANY REAL PROGRESS.

/THE WHITE

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THE WHITE PAPER WAS, IN FACT, A STOP SIGN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

TO CALL THE WHITE PAPER "THE WAY FORWARD" WAS TO FOLLOW AN "OSTRICH POLICY", DECEIVING ONESELF BY PLUGGING ONE'S EAR WHILE STEALING A BELL.

MR LEE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALL ALONG ATTACHED MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THE THREE-TIER STRUCTURE. BUT THE WHITE PAPER WENT AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID.

ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO, MORE THAN 50 DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS HAD JOINTLY SUBMITTED A DECLARATION TO OMELCO, PROTESTING AGAINST THE DECISION NOT TO INTRODUCE DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988 AND TO ABOLISH THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

URBAN COUNCILLORS WERE OPPOSED TO THE REMOVAL OF THEIR EX-OFFICIO SEATS ON DISTRICT BOARDS AND ALSO TO THE INTRODUCTION OF INDIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS INTO THE URBAN COUNCIL.

IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, VIEWS ON THE WHITE PAPER WERE DIVERSE AND HE BELIEVED THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS WERE OPPOSED TO SOME INDIVIDUAL ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER.

MR LEE ALSO SAID THAT THE VOTER TURNOUT RATE IN LAST WEEK'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS SHOWED THAT ONE IN EVERY FIVE VOTERS WHO CAST THEIR VOTES IN THE 1985 ELECTIONS HAD SHUNNED THE LATEST POLLS.

HE NOTED THAT A CALLER TO A RADIO STATION'S PHONE-IN PROGRAMME HAD INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT TURN OUT TO CAST HIS VOTE BECAUSE HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE CONTENTS OF THE WHITE PAPER.

ALTHOUGH THIS KIND OF BOYCOTT MIGHT NOT BE THE SOLE REASON FOR THE DROP IN VOTER TURNOUT, IT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO SOME SOUL-SEARCHING AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WIN BACK THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, HE SAID.

TURNING TO CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES DURING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, MR LEE SAID IF VOTERS WITH A HIGHER EDUCATIONAL STANDARD STAYED AWAY FROM VOTING WHEREAS THOSE WHO DID NOT HAVE A STRONG STAND WERE HUDDLED INTO POLLING STATIONS BY ENTHUSIASTIC CAMPAIGN HELPERS, SOME VOTES MIGHT NOT BE CAST IN A RATIONAL MANNER.

SUCH ACTIVITIES MIGHT DETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS, PARTICULARLY IF THE VOTER TURNOUT RATE WAS LOW.

HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT PUBLICITY AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES AT THE POLLING STATIONS SHOULD BE BANNED ON THE DAY OF VOTING, AND THAT ONLY THE CANDIDATES THEMSELVES OR A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO BE PRESENT.

/ON DIRECT

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ON DIRECT ELECTIONS, ME LEE SAID PARAGRAPH 25 OF THE 1984 WHITE PAPER HAD GIVEN A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY HAD WISHED TO GO FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988. UNFORTUNATELY, BOTH THE BRITISH AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS FAILED TO REACT PROPERLY TO PRESSURE FROM CHINA, HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH I HAVE SYMPATHY WITH THE SITUATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, I AM WORRIED THAT MANY HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE BECOME SUSPICIOUS AND FEARFUL OF CHINA," HE SAID.

THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD GONE BACK ON ITS WORD ON DIRECT ELECTIONS MIGHT FURTHER ERODE THE CONFIDENCE OF THESE PEOPLE, HE ADDED.

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DEVELOPMENTS IN OVERALL INTERESTS OF HK

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DEVELOPMENTS SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT CLEARLY ARE POINTING TOWARDS A GOAL THAT WILL BE IN THE OVERALL INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) DURING THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER.

SUPPORTING THE FUNDAMENTAL SPIRIT OF THE WHITE PAPER, MR NGAI SAID THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF HONG KONG - WHICH HAD BECOME THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION INTERNATIONALLY - HAD OVER THE YEARS HINGED ON THE OPERATION OF AN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE.

"THERE IS NO NEED AT ALL FOR ANY DRASTIC POLITICAL CHANGES IN OUR SOCIETY," HE SAID.

"THE MAIN CONCERN FOR THE MAN IN THE STREET IN HONG KONG IS TO FIND A SATISFYING JOB AND SETTLE DOWN HAPPILY, AND IT IS NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

"THIS CAN BE WITNESSED BY THE LOW TURNOUT RATE IN THE RECENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS," HE ADDED.

POINTING OUT THAT THE FACTS SPOKE FOR THEMSELVES, MR NGAI SAID: "IF THERE WAS NOT A CONTINUOUSLY STABLE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT AND OUR GOVERNMENT WAS UNREALISTIC AND INDULGED IN EMPTY TALK, IT WOULD BE VERY SURPRISING INDEED THAT WE COULD CREATE SUCH ECONOMIC MIRACLES."

/HE SAID

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HE SAID HE DID NOT SEE ANY REASON WHY SOME PEOPLE SPARED NO EFFORT TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT AND INTENTIONALLY CREATE AN "IMBECILE IMAGE" OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ADDITION, HE DID NOT SEE HOW SUCH CRITICAL WORDS AND DEEDS COULD MAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE STABILITY OF SOCIETY.

INFLAMMATORY SPEECHES AND HARSH REMARKS, ENTHUSIASTIC AND RADICAL ACTIONS, AS COVERED BY THE MEDIA AND THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHIC FACSIMILE, HAD GIVEN OVERSEAS INVESTORS THE FALSE IMPRESSION OF PANIC AND CONFUSION IN HONG KONG.

THE DAMAGE THAT HAD BEEN DONE FAR EXCEEDED THE BENEFITS WHICH IT WAS CLAIMED THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988 WOULD BRING.

ON DIRECT ELECTIONS, MR NGAI SAID THAT NO MATTER WHICH YEAR, 1988 OR 1991, DIRECT ELECTIONS WERE INTRODUCED, THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AFTER 1997 COULD POSSIBLY NOT BE AFFECTED IN ANY WAY.

AS TO THE MOST SUITABLE PACE THAT DEVELOPMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM SHOULD TAKE, HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS NO ABSOLUTE ANSWER TO THAT.

"IN MY MIND, TIMING OF CHANGES IN OUR SYSTEM IS SIMPLY SOME SORT OF CONCEPTION AND PLAN. AND ANY PLAN SHOULD BE AMENDED TO COPE WITH THE TREND OF THE TIMES," HE ADDED.

HE SAID SINCE PEOPLE HAD RECOGNISED THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FURTHER, IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAT A NEW SYSTEM WOULD EVOLVE SMOOTHLY.

THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF ALL SIDES, AND THUS THROUGH CONSENSUS LAY A SOUND FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.

MR NGAI ADDED THAT HE SUPPORTED THE VIEW OF THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON LYDIA DUNN, THAT COUNCILLORS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

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WORDING OF MOTION CRITICISED

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THE WORDING OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S MOTION ON THE WHITE PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS CRITICISED BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE WORDING OF THE MOTION -- THAT THE COUNCIL "TAKE NOTE OF THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER" -- WAS REGRETTABLE, MR PANG SAID DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION.

/HE ALSO

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HE ALSO SAID HE WAS AGAINST PRODUCTION OF THE DOCUMENT "FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF CONVERGENCE WITH THE BASIC LAW".

MR PANG NOTED THAT THE WHITE PAPER RULED OUT INTRODUCTION OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS IN LEGCO THIS YEAR ON THE GROUND THAT PUBLIC OPINION ON THE ISSUE OF TIMING WAS DIVIDED.

FURTHERMORE, THE WHITE PAPER HAD NOTHING TO SAY ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID.

MR PANG ALSO NOTED THAT ALL DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WOULD RETAIN ONE-THIRD OF THEIR SEATS FOR APPOINTED MEMBERS; AND THAT THE LEGCO ELECTORAL COLLEGE SEATS FOR DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD BE ABOLISHED AND BE REPLACED BY 10 GEOGRAPHICALLY-BASED SEATS RETURNED THROUGH DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1991.

"THE WHITE PAPER ALSO MAKES CLEAR THAT THERE WILL BE 14 SEATS FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES; ONE SEAT EACH FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL; 20 APPOINTED SEATS AND 10 SEATS FOR OFFICIAL MEMBERS," HE SAID.

"IN OTHER WORDS, THE GOVERNMENT MAY STILL HAVE CONTROL OVER THE MAJORITY OF SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNTIL 1994.

"THIS IS BY NO MEANS A PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT. IT IS MARKING TIME, HAVING NO ADVANCEMENT AT ALL."

MR PANG ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF THESE PLANS AND PROPOSALS THE WHITE PAPER WAS DISAPPOINTING.

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WISE TO ADOPT CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO CHANGE
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POLITICAL REFORM NEEDS TO EVOLVE GRADUALLY FROM THE UNIQUE SYSTEM THAT HAS BEEN SERVING HONG KONG SO WELL AND THE PACE OF REFORM SHOULD NOT BE FORCED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE TERRITORY'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, PROF THE HON POON CHUNG-KWONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, PROF POON SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THE DOCUMENT HAD ADOPTED A CAUTIOUS APPROACH IN EFFECTING CHANGES AND THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN 1991.

SEVERAL OPINION POLLS CONDUCTED SOON AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER SHOWED A CLEAR MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR THIS MOVE, HE NOTED.

/ "NO POLITICAL

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"NO POLITICAL MOVE CAN SATISFY EVERYBODY, AND WE SHOULD ALL PURSUE DEMOCRACY BY RESPECTING THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE.

"NOISE, AFTER ALL, DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE VOICE OF THE SILENT MAJORITY," PROF POON SAID.

HE WELCOMED DIRECT ELECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF SINGLE-SEAT GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES; AND THE 10 DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS - ONE FROM EACH OF 10 DISTRICT-BASED CONSTITUENCIES - REPLACING THE SEATS CURRENTLY FILLED BY ELECTORAL COLLEGES FROM 1991 ONWARD.

"THERE REALLY IS NO NEED TO HAVE BOTH DIRECTLY ELECTED AND INDIRECTLY ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS COMING FROM THE SAME DISTRICT OR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, AFTER WE HAVE A CHANCE TO REVIEW AND REFLECT THE OUTCOME OF THE BASIC LAW, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS GRADUALLY INCREASED AS WE MOVE TOWARDS 1997."

ON FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, PROF POON SAID THE HEUNG YEE KUK AS A BODY HAD PLAYED A FAIRLY SIGNIFICANT AND PERHAPS UNIQUE ROLE IN HONG KONG AND THAT ITS CONTINUOUS INVOLVEMENT IN SHAPING THE FUTURE WAS DESIRABLE.

THOUGH HE HAD RESERVATION ON WHETHER IT WAS PROPER TO PROVIDE THE KUK WITH A SEAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY CLASSIFYING IT AS A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY, HE FELT THAT IT WAS REASONABLE TO HAVE THE KUK REPRESENTED IN THE COUNCIL.

HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD FURTHER STUDY THE MATTER.

PROF POON ALSO SAID HE AGREED THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE BUSINESS IN THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR MIGHT FROM TIME TO TIME APPOINT DIFFERENT OFFICIALS TO THE COUNCIL ACCORDING TO THE BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED DURING THE SESSION AND THE POLICY EXPERTISE REQUIRED.

HE EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS TIME TO BEGIN CREATING MORE POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS AND POLITICALLY MATURE VOTERS BY STRENGTHENING CIVIC EDUCATION AND TO NURTURE MORE POLITICAL LEADERS BY GROOMING THOSE INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1991.

IN HIS SPEECH, PROF POON SAID THAT, LIKE SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE COUNCIL, HE TOO HAD BEEN ASKED BY PEOPLE OVERSEAS WHETHER HONG KONG WAS STILL A SAFE PLACE TO VISIT AND TO INVEST IN.

HE SAID: "IF SOME POLITICIANS CONTINUE THEIR OUT-OF-CONTEXT, OVER-DRAMATISED CRITICISM; IF THE VERY SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE AND BURN THE WHITE PAPER; AND IF SOME MEDIA CONTINUE TO EMPHASISE THE DRAMATIC ACTS OF THE 500 ODD DEMONSTRATORS BUT CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE SILENT PURSUIT FOR LIVELIHOOD OF FIVE MILLION TRANQUILITY LOVING PEOPLE, THEY WILL BE VERY SUCCESSFUL IN SCARING AWAY FOREIGN INVESTORS, TRADERS AND VISITORS."

/HE URGED

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HE URGED THAT THOSE PEOPLE THINK ALSO OF THE DAMAGE THEY MIGHT BE CAUSING.

"POLITICS HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AT MOST, AN INSIGNIFICANT PART OF HONG KONG PEOPLE'S LIVES. PLEASE LET HONG KONG STAY PEACEFUL. PLEASE LET HONG KONG LIVE," HE SAID.

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CONSTITUENCY CHANGE A NATURAL DEVELOPMENT
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THE CHANGE FROM THE SYSTEM OF INDIRECT TO DIRECT ELECTIONS BASED ON GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES. IS A NATURAL AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, REITERATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE CHANGE IS ALSO ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE RATIONALISATION THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO BRING ABOUT TO THE THREE-TIER STRUCTURE OF OUR SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT," SIR DAVID SAID DURING THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WAS SPEAKING AGAINST AN AMENDMENT, PROPOSED BY THE HON SEZTO WAH, TO THE MOTION UNDER DEBATE - THAT THE COUNCIL "TAKE NOTE OF THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER".

THE AMENDMENT WAS DEFEATED BY VOICE VOTE.

"TO HAVE TWO PARALLEL SYSTEMS OF GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION IN THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT, WITH MEMBERS ELECTED BY BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT METHODS, IS NOT ONLY UNNECESSARY BUT ALSO LIKELY TO BE PROBLEMATIC," SIR DAVID SAID.

"IT COULD, FOR INSTANCE, GIVE RISE TO INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVE STATUS OF THE TWO GROUPS OF MEMBERS: BOTH ARE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT THE RESIDENTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES, BUT EACH WILL PROBABLY CLAIM TO BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE THAN THE OTHER."

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID SAID THE HON MARTIN LEE HAD SUGGESTED RATHER INGENUOUSLY THAT THERE WOULD BE TWO DIFFERENT CONSTITUENCIES FOR PEOPLE COMING FROM THE SAME DISTRICT. BUT HE HAD OVERLOOKED TWO SALIENT POINTS.

"FIRSTLY, THE DISTRICT BOARDS MAY ELECT TO THEIR CONSTITUENCIES MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

"SECONDLY, ALTHOUGH MR LEE HAS SUGGESTED THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS IN THE CONSTITUENCIES ARE LIKELY TO ATTRACT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS 'HONG KONG MEMBERS', MAY BE WITH AN ELEMENT OF WISHFUL THINKING, NEVERTHELESS THEY WILL NEED TO SEEK THEIR VOTE FROM THE DISTRICT CONSTITUENCIES IN WHICH THEY STAND, AND THAT WILL BE THEIR ELECTORATE."

SIR DAVID SAID THE REPLACEMENT, IN 1991, OF DISTRICT-BASED ELECTORAL COLLEGE SEATS BY DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS SHOULD NOT BE LOOKED AT IN ISOLATION.

IT SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, AND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RATIONALISATION OF THE THREE-TIER STRUCTURE.

SIR DAVID SAID MR SZETO'S AMENDMENT ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT ONLY 10 DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN 1991.

"A THEME WHICH HAS EMERGED FROM THIS DEBATE SO FAR IS THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT, AND WILL NOT, STOP IN 1991," HE SAID.

"THE FINAL CHAPTER OF THE WHITE PAPER MAKES IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN 1991 AND 1997.

"THE LATEST DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW CONTAINS A NUMBER OF OPTIONS FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE FUTURE HONG KONG SAR LEGISLATURE.

"ALL OF THEM PROVIDE FOR AT LEAST 25 PER CENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO BE DIRECTLY ELECTED.

"THERE WILL THEREFORE BE ROOM TO INCREASE THE DIRECTLY ELECTED ELEMENT IN THIS COUNCIL BETWEEN 1991 AND 1997."

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT IN SPEAKING AGAINST THE EARLIER AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY MR LEE, HE REMARKED ON THE UNDESIRABILITY OF AMENDMENT MOTIONS HAVING THE EFFECT OF FOCUSING ON PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE WHITE PAPER.

"I MUST THEREFORE OPPOSE THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY MR SZETO ON THE SAME GROUNDS," HE SAID.

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"NOW OR NEVER" THEORY DISPROVED

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THE WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN A COMMITMENT TO AN ELEMENT OF DIRECT ELECTION IN 1991 AND HAS THUS DISPROVED THE "NOW OR NEVER" THEORY, THE HON EDWARD HO SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HO REITERATED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO LEGCO THIS YEAR.

HE STRESSED THAT THE WHITE PAPER'S PROVISION FOR A NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS IN 1991 WOULD GIVE HONG KONG THREE YEARS IN WHICH TO PREPARE FOR THE CHANGE.

IT WOULD ALSO GIVE HONG KONG THE TIME IT NEEDED BETTER TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION AND POLITICAL AWARENESS SO THAT MORE PEOPLE WOULD TRULY PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION PROCESS.

MR HO ACCEPTED THE ARGUMENT IN THE WHITE PAPER THAT THERE WAS NO ADVANTAGE IN HAVING TWO PARALLEL SYSTEMS OF GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE FELT THAT, IN ORDER NOT TO UPSET THE BALANCE OF THE LEGISLATURE AT THIS STAGE BY INCREASING MORE SEATS IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO TAKE CARE OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF SOME GROUPS WHICH WANTED TO BE REPRESENTED, A REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE 1991, ONCE THE BASIC LAW WAS PROMULGATED.

"BY 1991, WE SHOULD HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THAT CAN BE EVOLVED SMOOTHLY AND PROGRESSIVELY TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM FOR THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION," HE SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, MR HO URGED ALL PEOPLE IN HONG KONG TO DEVOTE THEIR ENERGY AND ATTENTION TO STUDYING THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW, AND TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS ON IT.

"WE MUST REMEMBER THAT WE ARE NOW DEBATING ON MATTERS WHICH ARE TRANSITIONAL TO A DATE IN 1997; BUT THE BASIC LAW WILL GOVERN US FOR 50 YEARS THEREAFTER.

"IN THIS, WE HAVE A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS OUR NEXT GENERATION. WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO REMAIN SILENT," HE SAID.

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TRIBUTES PAID TO ATTORNEY GENERAL

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON LYDIA DUNN, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE OUTGOING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT WAS THE LAST SITTING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE ATTENDED BY MR THOMAS.

IN HIS VALEDICTORY SPEECH, SIR DAVID THANKED MR THOMAS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION NOT ONLY TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL BUT ALSO TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"FEW WOULD DENY THAT THE FIVE YEARS SINCE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL JOINED THIS COUNCIL HAVE BEEN MOMENTOUS YEARS," HE SAID.

"NOT MANY WILL PERHAPS REALISE THE BURDEN THAT THEY HAVE PLACED ON HIM.

"IN PARTICULAR, HE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH RESULTED IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION.

"THIS REQUIRED INTENSIVE WORK BY DAY AND, OFTEN, BY NIGHT OVER TWO GRUELLING YEARS.

"THE FINAL SHAPE OF THAT DOCUMENT OWES MUCH TO HIS TIRELESS ENERGY, INCISIVENESS AND INTELLECTUAL STAMINA."

SIR DAVID SAID THE CONCLUSION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION SET IN TRAIN A FORMIDABLE PROGRAMME OF WORK IN PREPARATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IN 1997.

AT ITS HEART, THIS PROGRAMME HAD INVOLVED IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF LAW.

"IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL DUTIES OF AN ATTORNEY GENERAL, MICHAEL THOMAS HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN GUIDING THE WORK OF HIS DEPARTMENT AND IN EXPLAINING TO THIS COUNCIL WHAT HAS BEEN AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE," HE SAID.

MR THOMAS HAD ALSO TAKEN A STRONG LEAD IN THE PROCESS OF MODERNISING AND REVISING HONG KONG'S LAWS.

/"WITH THE

"WITH THE ACTIVE HELP OF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, HIS TERM OF OFFICE HAS SEEN SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCES IN ALMOST EVERY FIELD OF LAW, INCLUDING COMMERCIAL, CRIMINAL AND FAMILY LAW," HE SAID.

"WHERE HE BELIEVED THAT CHANGES WERE REQUIRED IN THE INTERESTS OF GOOD LAW AND OF THE COMMUNITY, HE HAS NEVER HESITATED TO PROPOSE THEM, HOWEVER DIFFICULT AND CONTROVERSIAL THE ISSUES MAY HAVE BEEN."

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT MR THOMAS HAD BROUGHT TO THE COUNCIL A STYLE AND A WIT WHICH WOULD BE GREATLY MISSED.

IN HER VALEDICTORY SPEECH, MISS DUNN PRAISED MR THOMAS FOR HIS TALENT AS A PUBLIC SPEAKER.

"I HAVE NO NEED TO REMIND MEMBERS OF HIS ELOQUENCE AND QUICK-WITTEDNESS AND FAST FOOTWORK IN DEBATE AND AT QUESTION TIME - AND, NO DOUBT, SOME OF THESE QUALITIES HAVE STOOD HIM IN GOOD STEAD IN THE LAW COURTS AND BEFORE THE PRIVY COUNCIL," SHE SAID.

MEMBERS WOULD PARTICULARLY REMEMBER MR THOMAS FOR HIS "IMPORTANT AND FAR-SIGHTED INITIATIVES", SUCH AS THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROJECT AND HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE TRIAL OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES.

"WE SHALL ALSO REMEMBER THE NUMEROUS REFORMS HE MADE TO OUR LEGAL AND PENAL SYSTEM DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE," SHE SAID.

SHE CITED SUCH EXAMPLES AS THE ABOLITION OF IMPRISONMENT OF CIVIL DEBTORS, THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS ORDINANCE AND THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS.

SHE COMMENDED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR HIS EFFORTS IN BRINGING HOME TO THE PEOPLE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW AND OF THEIR LEGAL SYSTEM AS A BULWARK OF THEIR FREEDOMS AND WAY OF LIFE.

MISS DUNN DESCRIBED MR THOMAS AS BEING "PATIENT, ATTENTIVE AND COURTEOUS" IN HIS CONTACTS WITH FELLOW LEGCO MEMBERS.

"WHILE HE HAS STATED HIS OWN VIEWS WITH CONVICTION, HE HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO OUR SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS," SHE SAID.

DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ISSUED

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THE GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH HAS ISSUED A GUIDANCE BOOKLET TO COMPUTER USERS ON THE HANDLING AND PROCESSING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.

THE GUIDANCE RECOGNISES THE POTENTIAL DANGER TO PRIVACY WHICH COMPUTERS CAN POSE THROUGH THEIR ABILITY TO STORE AND CORRELATE VAST AMOUNTS OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.

THE ISSUE OF THE BOOKLET - "DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES" - IS INTENDED TO PROMOTE GOOD DATA PROTECTION PRACTICE BY COMPUTER USERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES IN ADVANCE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION.

ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL COMPUTER USERS ALREADY ACTING RESPONSIBLY IN THEIR HANDLING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION SHOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES WHICH AT THIS STAGE HAVE NO LEGISLATIVE BACKING: COMPUTER USERS ARE BEING INVITED TO COMPLY WITH THE GUIDELINES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

IN ITS APPROACH TO DATA PROTECTION AND THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED ITS ALERTNESS TO THE NEED TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO MAKE USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION IN THEIR EVERYDAY BUSINESS, THOSE WHO ARE THE SUBJECT OF THE INFORMATION AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

THE GUIDANCE BOOKLET LISTS NINE DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES AS A BASIS FOR GOOD DATA PROTECTION PRACTICE.

THEY SPECIFY REQUIREMENTS FOR OPENNESS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS, PRACTICES AND POLICIES RELATING TO PERSONAL INFORMATION OR DATA; THE NEED TO SPECIFY PURPOSES FOR WHICH DATA ARE COLLECTED AND USED; AND LIMITATIONS AS REGARDS COLLECTION, RETENTION AND DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL DATA.

THEY ALSO SPECIFY THE NEED FOR RELEVANCE AND ACCURACY; ACCESSIBILITY BY THOSE WHO ARE THE SUBJECT OF THE DATA; AND THE NEED FOR SECURITY SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT UNAUTHORISED ACCESS TO OR ACCIDENTAL LOSS OR DESTRUCTION OF DATA.

GUIDANCE IS GIVEN ON HOW ORGANISATIONS MIGHT GO ABOUT ENSURING THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES IS SECURED.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE BOOKLET ADVOCATES INDIVIDUALS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE DATA ABOUT THEMSELVES BEING TOLD THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE DATA WILL BE USED AND TO WHOM SUCH DATA MAY BE DISCLOSED; MORE SPECIFICALLY IT ADVOCATES CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO DATA COLLECTION FORMS SETTING OUT THIS INFORMATION CONCISELY.

/IT ALSO

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IT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT WITHIN AN ORGANISATION ACCESS TO PERSONAL DATA SHOULD BE ON A "NEED TO KNOW" BASIS.

FREE BILINGUAL COPIES OF THE BOOKLET ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO ORGANISATIONS OPERATING MAJOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS IN HONG KONG, AND TO ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED IN THE ASSESSMENT OF DATA PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE GUIDELINES HAVE ALSO BEEN ISSUED TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES REPLACING ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES ORIGINALLY PROMULGATED IN 1985.

THE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY EXAMINING DIFFERENT MODELS OF DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING WHAT MIGHT BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PRINCIPLES AND GOOD PRACTICE OF DATA PROTECTION MAY BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENTS AND GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH AT ROOM 140, FIRST FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, (TEL. NO. 5-8102037).

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HK TO DO ITS BEST IN URUGUAY ROUND

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HONG KONG WILL BE DOING ITS BEST IN THE URUGUAY ROUND TO FIND A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF RESTRAINTS ON EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND GARMENTS TO MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE MULTI FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA), THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IN THE URUGUAY ROUND, THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) IS LOOKING AGAIN AT HOW BEST TO LIBERALISE TRADE IN TEXTILES AND IN PARTICULAR HOW BEST TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING GATT RULES ON 'SAFEGUARD ACTION' SO THAT THEY FORM A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE MFA," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A TEXTILE SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR MACLEOD SAID WHILE IT WAS TOO EARLY TO FORECAST WHETHER THESE EFFORTS WOULD SUCCEED, THE U.S. AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WOULD PLAY A KEY ROLE, WHICH IN TURN WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY THEIR INTERNAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATIONS.

"AS THE ROUND IS SUPPOSED TO FINISH AROUND 1990 AND THE MFA EXPIRES IN 1991, IT REALLY DOES MATTER IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS HOW MUCH SUCCESS THE U.S. HAS IN TACKLING ITS TRADE AND BUDGET DEFICITS; HOW SUCCESSFUL THE EEC IS IN TACKLING THE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM; WHO WINS ELECTIONS, AND SO ON."

/MR MACLEOD

MR MACLEOD NOTED THAT TEXTILES, UNDER THE MFA, WAS AN EXCEPTION TO THE NORMAL GATT RULES AND THAT THE DOMESTIC U.S. AND EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES WERE SO PROTECTED THAT THEY HAD GOT USED TO THIS SITUATION.

"THEY HAVE IN THE PROCESS UNFORTUNATELY BECOME EXPERT AT INFLUENCING AND MANIPULATING LEGISLATORS, GOVERNMENTS, PUBLIC OPINION.

"AND SO WE CAN CONFIDENTLY PREDICT THAT THE U.S. TEXTILE LOBBY WILL NEVER GIVE UP. ALSO, THE EEC INDUSTRY IS GENERALLY CONTENT TO KEEP PROTECTION AS LONG AS POSSIBLE."

AS TO THE DANGER OF UNILATERAL LEGISLATION, HE SAID RISKS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE, ADDING THAT EFFORTS WERE GENUINELY BEING MADE IN THE URUGUAY ROUND WHILE THE STOCK MARKET CRASH IN OCTOBER HAD A SOBERING EFFECT, UNDERLINING THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF ECONOMIES AND THE FRAGILITY OF THE SYSTEM.

MR MACLEOD HOWEVER SAID THE CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN WAS NOT DEFEATISM.

"WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ENSURE WE ARE QUICK AND FLEXIBLE, AND ABLE TO MAKE THE BEST OF A CRISIS SITUATION.

"ONE SAVING GRACE OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS THAT BECAUSE RESTRAINTS ARE IN VOLUME TERMS, THERE IS AN IN-BUILT INCENTIVE TO UPGRADE THE PRODUCT. THIS TREND HAS BEEN VERY EVIDENT IN HONG KONG."

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PART, HE SAID IT WOULD CONTINUE TO PLACE A VERY HIGH PRIORITY ON DOING ALL IT COULD TO INFLUENCE EVENTS.

"WE HAVE A VERY GOOD STORY TO TELL. THE U.S. TEXTILE LOBBIES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY VERY STRONG, BUT THEY ARE NOT ALL-POWERFUL; THERE ARE FORCES OF RESTRAINT AND REASON ON THE OTHER SIDE."

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TUNNEL BUS LANE AND TIDAL-FLOW SCHEME TO BE EXTENDED

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THE EXISTING BUS-ONLY LANE ON THE KOWLOON-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD WILL BE EXTENDED FROM 7.30 AM ON MONDAY (MARCH 21) AS ONE OF THE MEASURES TO REDUCE BUS JOURNEY TIME ALONG THE TUNNEL CORRIDOR, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

AT THE SAME TIME, FROM MONDAY TO MARCH 31, EXCEPT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, THE TIDAL-FLOW ARRANGEMENT CARRIED OUT AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL BETWEEN 6 AM AND 7.30 AM WILL BE EXTENDED BY 10 MINUTES TO END AT 7.40 AM.

/THE BUS

THE BUS LANE WILL BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE KERBSIDE LANES OF CHE KUNG MIU ROAD SOUTHBOUND FROM CHUI TIN STREET TO HUNG MUI KUK ROAD, AND HUNG MUI KUK ROAD EASTBOUND FROM CHE KUNG MIU ROAD TO CHUNG PAK ROAD.

"HOWEVER, THE HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL NOT BE INCLUDED, PENDING THE COMPLETION OF ROAD WIDENING WORK SCHEDULED IN JUNE THIS YEAR," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"THE OPERATING HOURS OF THE BUS LANE WILL REMAIN THE SAME, FROM 7.30 AM TO 9 AM EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS," HE ADDED.

THE BUS LANE WAS INTRODUCED IN MAY LAST YEAR ON THE KOWLOON-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD BETWEEN THE TUNNEL'S TOLL PLAZA AND WORLD-WIDE GARDENS.

"THE NEW EXTENSION AIMS AT FURTHER IMPROVING THE OPERATION OF BUSES TRAVELLING VIA THE LION ROCK TUNNEL TO KOWLOON," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHOW THAT DURING PEAK HOURS, OVER 300 BUSES MAKE USE OF THE EXISTING BUS LANE EACH HOUR, AND THEIR JOURNEY TIME HAS BEEN REDUCED BY ABOUT 1.5 MINUTES.

"IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE TWO NEW SECTIONS OF BUS LANES WILL BRING ABOUT A FURTHER REDUCTION OF THREE TO FOUR MINUTES IN BUS JOURNEY TIME."

THE EXTENSION OF THE TIDAL-FLOW ARRANGEMENT WILL BE ON A TRIAL BASIS, WITH THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING ITS IMPACT ON TRAFFIC CONDITIONS ON THE TUNNEL APPROACH ROADS IN BOTH SHA TIN AND KOWLOON.

DURING THE TRIAL, SPECIAL TRAFFIC MEASURES WILL BE ADOPTED BETWEEN 7.15 AM AND 7.50 AM AT THE JUNCTION OF WATERLOO ROAD NORTHBOUND WITH THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WESTBOUND.

IN THE FIRST WEEK, FROM MARCH 21 TO 25, TRAFFIC CONES WILL BE PLACED ON THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF WATERLOO ROAD TO GIVE VEHICLES COMING FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WESTBOUND AN EXCLUSIVE LANE.

IN THE SECOND WEEK, FROM MARCH 28 TO 31, TRAFFIC LIGHTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ERECTED AT THAT JUNCTION WILL START TO OPERATE, THUS IMPROVING THE FLOW OF VEHICLES FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD.

"THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE TWO METHODS IN IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW AT THAT JUNCTION WILL BE EVALUATED," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A NEW 550-METRE STRETCH OF LANE MARKING WILL BE INTRODUCED PERMANENTLY ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WESTBOUND EAST OF THE WATERLOO ROAD FLYOVER TO PREVENT VEHICLES FROM THE OUTER LANE JUMPING THE QUEUE INTO THE WATERLOO ROAD SLIP ROAD.

"AS A RESULT, VEHICLES ON THE OUTER LANE WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM CUTTING INTO THE CENTRAL LANE, THUS ENSURING SMOOTHER TRAFFIC FLOW," HE EXPLAINED.

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SALE OF FIVE GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES FETCHED \$1.8M

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THE SALE OF FIVE GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES AT A PUBLIC AUCTION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) FETCHED A TOTAL OF \$1.817 MILLION IN PREMIUM.

THE PROPERTIES ARE FIVE RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IN KOWLOON.

THE FIRST ONE IS SITUATED AT 20 WAN ON STREET, SECOND FLOOR, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 41.9 SQUARE METRES.

BIDDING OPENED AT \$140,000 AND THE PROPERTY WAS BOUGHT BY MR YU YAT-CHEUNG FOR \$271,000.

THE SECOND ONE IS AT 103 TAI NAN STREET, SECOND FLOOR, FRONT, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 60.9 SQUARE METRES.

BIDDING STARTED AT \$220,000 AND THE PROPERTY WAS SOLD TO MR WONG KIN-KEE FOR \$483,000.

THE THIRD ONE IS AT 135 TAI NAN STREET, THIRD FLOOR, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 52.6 SQUARE METRES.

BIDDING OPENED AT \$145,000 AND THE PROPERTY WAS BOUGHT BY MADAM CHAN WAI-FONG AND MADAM CHING PO-CHUN FOR \$313,000.

THE FOURTH ONE IS AT 137 TAI NAN STREET, FIRST FLOOR, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 52.6 SQUARE METRES.

BIDDING STARTED AT \$170,000 AND PROPERTY WAS SOLD TO MR LAM KIN-TONG FOR \$430,000.

THE FIFTH ONE IS AT 137 TAI NAN STREET, THIRD FLOOR, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 52.6 SQUARE METRES.

BIDDING OPENED AT \$145,000 AND THE PROPERTY WAS BOUGHT BY MADAM TANG KWAI-KING FOR \$320,000.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE HALL OF HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE, WAS CONDUCTED BY CHIEF ESTATE SURVEYOR, MR DAVID PANNACH.

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WORK ON NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS BEGINS

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THE "HOLE IN THE GROUND" AT THE NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS DEVELOPMENT SITE IN ARSENAL YARD, WAN CHAI, HAS DISAPPEARED AND WORK BEGUN ON THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE \$200 MILLION SIX FLOOR PHASE ONE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

ALMOST 35,000 SQUARE METRES OF FLOOR AREA WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE NEW BUILDING WHICH WILL FORM THE HUB OF THE MASSIVE THREE PHASE COMPLEX.

AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PHASE, TWO TOWER BLOCKS EACH OF BETWEEN 30 AND 35 STOREYS WILL BE ERECTED AT THE SITE. THE ENTIRE PROJECT IS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1992.

THE FIRST PHASE NOW "OFF THE GROUND" IN ARSENAL YARD WILL HOUSE POLMIL HEADQUARTERS, HONG KONG ISLAND REGIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE, THE COMPUTER SUITE, THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL UNIT, TWO INDOOR SHOOTING RANGES, FITNESS TRAINING FACILITIES, COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH WORKSHOP, PARKING AND VEHICLE SERVICING FACILITIES AND A ROOFTOP PARADE GROUND.

MR AL PHILIP, CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, IN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH, SAID: "THE HOLE IN THE GROUND HAS DISAPPEARED AND THE BASEMENT IS COMPLETE TO HOUSE ALL SERVICES REQUIRED FOR THE TOTAL COMPLEX.

"WE HAVE LAID THE BASIS FOR WHAT WILL BE THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FUTURE."

CONTRACT COMPLETION OF PHASE ONE IS DUE IN JULY 1989.

IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR WORK WILL BE UNDERWAY IN IDENTIFYING THE TOTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK ON PHASE TWO, WHICH WILL BE AN OFFICE BLOCK AND ALSO ACCOMMODATE CID AND SPECIAL BRANCH.

"WE EXPECT FUNDING TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE SECOND PHASE IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1989/90," MR PHILIP SAID.

THE THIRD PHASE, WHICH WILL BE KNOWN AS THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE'S BLOCK, WILL INCLUDE HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENTS AND ALL UNITS NOW OCCUPYING LEASED ACCOMMODATION OUTSIDE HEADQUARTERS.

/"IT WILL

"IT WILL ENABLE A COMPLETE CENTRALISATION OF THE FORCE WITHIN THE COMPLEX," MR PHILIP ADDED.

THE EXISTING MAY HOUSE BUILDING WILL BECOME HONG KONG ISLAND REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, SUBJECT TO LONG TERM PLANNING.

THE FUTURE OF CAINE HOUSE IS UNDETERMINED IN TERMS OF ITS CONTINUED USE.

MR PHILIP EMPHASISED THAT THE NEW COMPLEX WOULD CONTAIN FULL RECREATION, MESS AND OTHER NECESSARY FACILITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVED SHOWER AND FITNESS REQUIREMENTS.

"THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM IS FULLY AWARE OF FORCE ASPIRATIONS FOR THE RECREATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE BUILDING AND EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD AVAILABLE."

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EPD SETS UP ADVISORY TEAMS

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS SET UP EIGHT ADVISORY TEAMS TO VISIT FARMS IN THE STAGE I LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AREAS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE ON LIVESTOCK WASTE MANAGEMENT.

THE ADVISORY TEAMS WILL ASSESS INDIVIDUAL FARMS AND ADVISE ON LIVESTOCK WASTE TREATMENT METHODS. THIS IS TO HELP FARMERS WHO INTEND TO CONTINUE LIVESTOCK KEEPING ACTIVITIES.

STAGE I OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AREAS COVERS THE TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL AREA, AND THE HINTERLANDS OF MUI WO AND ANGLER'S BEACH.

TO HELP LIVESTOCK FARMERS ACQUIRE SUITABLE EQUIPMENT FOR THE WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEMS, THE EPD WILL PREPARE A LIST OF POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS.

MEANWHILE, ANY FIRM WHICH SUPPLIES EQUIPMENT OR MATERIALS FOR LIVESTOCK WASTE TREATMENT AND WISHES TO HAVE ITS NAME INCLUDED ON THE LIST CAN WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, 17TH FLOOR, SINCERE BUILDING, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

SUITABLE ITEMS INCLUDE WATER PUMPS, SLUDGE PUMPS, AERATORS, MECHANICAL SCREENS, ELECTRICAL CONTROL PANELS, SOAKAWAY PIPES, SLATTED FLOORING, BACTERIAL PRODUCTS FOR COMPOSTING METHODS AND OTHER BUILDING MATERIAL.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING EQUIPMENT CAN BE DIRECTED TO MR MICHAEL WU, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, ON 3-7332291.

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DECLINE IN VICE ACTIVITIES IN MONG KOK

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SHOCK TACTICS AND STRONG ACTION BY MONG KOK CRIME FIGHTERS HAS CUT THE DISTRICT'S THREE MAJOR VICE ACTIVITIES BY HALF WITHIN A YEAR.

THE 12 MONTHS TO THE END OF FEBRUARY THIS YEAR MARKED A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN FISHBALL STALLS, UNLICENSED MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS AND PORNOGRAPHIC VIDEO CENTRES.

BUT VICE STILL FLOURISHES IN ONE WOMAN BROTHELS, APARTMENT HOUSES, LADY BARBER SHOPS, ESCORT COMPANIES AND DANCE HALLS.

CHIEF INSPECTOR LEUNG LAU-ON, POLICE MONG KOK DISTRICT OPERATIONS OFFICER, SAID "WE ARE PUTTING A STRONG EFFORT INTO THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME INVOLVING WOMEN AND JUVENILES.

"DURING 1987 WE LAUNCHED OVER 6,000 RAIDS WHICH RESULTED IN 1,601 PERSONS BEING CHARGED, 148 UNDERAGED GIRLS BEING LOCATED AND 109 FOREIGN PROSTITUTES BEING DISCOVERED.

"WE IDENTIFIED 639 ILLEGAL PREMISES AND DISMANTLED 1,654 SIGNBOARDS ADVERTISING PROSTITUTION."

BETWEEN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND THE END OF JANUARY THIS YEAR MONG KOK POLICE LOCATED 77 FOREIGN PROSTITUTES, MOSTLY FROM MALAYSIA, THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES. AND IN THE FEVERISH APPROACH OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR A TOTAL OF 122 PROSTITUTES WERE ARRESTED IN FEBRUARY ALONE.

THE SUCCESSFUL ELIMINATION OF VICE ESTABLISHMENTS FOLLOWED THE STEPPING UP OF WOMAN AND JUVENILE RAIDS FROM 30 TO 70 A DAY, SAID MR LEUNG.

"BY DOING SO, WE HAVE LOCATED MORE UNDERAGED GIRLS, MORE PROSTITUTES AND DISCOURAGED MORE CUSTOMERS. THE REMOVAL OF VICE SIGNBOARDS SERVED AS A GREAT DETERRENT AND THE FREQUENT PRESENCE OF POLICE ALSO BROUGHT RESULTS."

ON FIGHTING DANGEROUS DRUGS TRAFFICKING, MR LEUNG SAID: "THE COMMON DRUGS HERE ARE NUMBER THREE HEROIN AND MANDRAX. LAST YEAR WE SEIZED OVER 4,600 GRAMS OF HEROIN AND PROSECUTED 413 PERSONS.

/!THE DRUG

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"THE DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES ARE MOSTLY IN PARKS AND UNDER FLYOVERS. BESIDES KEEPING AN EYE ON THOSE PLACES, WE ALSO LIAISE WITH STAFF OF THE LI PO CHUN METHADONE CLINIC IN THE DISTRICT."

ON THE GAMBLING FRONT, MONG KOK OFFICERS RAIDED 38 GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDING 11 BOOK-MAKING OFFICES LAST YEAR. BETWEEN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, SEVEN GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS WERE RAIDED.

"THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE OFTEN OPERATED AT NIGHT WITH FAMILIAR CUSTOMERS. OPERATORS FREQUENTLY CHANGE THEIR LOCATIONS TO AVOID ARRESTS. SO WE RELY ON INFORMATION PROVIDED AND OUR KEEN OBSERVATION IN CRACKING DOWN ON GAMBLING ACTIVITIES."

TACKLING THE DIFFICULT VICE PROBLEMS IN MONG KOK ARE 54 OFFICERS IN FIVE SPECIAL DUTIES SQUAD UNDER THE COMMAND OF CHIEF INSPECTOR LEUNG. ON AVERAGE THEY ALL WORK OVER 12 HOURS A DAY.

"THEY ARE ALL WORKING UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE," SAID MR LEUNG. "I CAN FEEL IT MYSELF. I HAVE LOST 20 POUNDS IN WEIGHT DURING THE PAST FOUR MONTHS."

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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH EXHIBITION OPENS TOMORROW

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VISITORS TO THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH EXHIBITION TO BE OPENED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE CITYPLAZA, TAIKOO SHING, CAN HAVE THEIR LUNGS EXAMINED FREE.

THIS IS PART OF A RANGE OF PROGRAMMES DURING THE WEEK-LONG EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK.

THROUGH DISPLAYS AND AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATIONS, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO GET A BETTER PICTURE OF THE NINE MOST COMMON OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS AND DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION WILL DEMONSTRATE THE USE OF VARIOUS ADVANCED EQUIPMENTS IN CHECKING THE LEVEL OF HEALTH HAZARDS IN DIFFERENT WORK ENVIRONMENT.

VOLUNTEERS FROM THE HONG KONG RED CROSS WILL ALSO DEMONSTRATE THEIR FIRST AID SKILLS IN DEALING WITH INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

/THE EXHIBITION

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THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED BY AN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, DR CHIU HIN-KWONG; THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR RON BRIDGE; THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR S.H. LEE; AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, AT 3 PM AT THE CENTRE BRIDGE, SECOND FLOOR, CITYPLAZA.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WORKING GROUP MEETS TOMORROW
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MEMBERS OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE RATES OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FOR COMMERCIAL OPERATORS IN THE AREA AND AN ASSESSMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL.

THE RESPONSE OF THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH TO SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE WORKING GROUP AT AN EARLIER MEETING WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO MEMBERS.

THEY WILL ALSO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE THE EXISTING CHOI HUNG BUS TERMINUS TO MAKE WAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL APPROACH ROADS.

A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE TUNNEL CLEARANCE WILL BE DISCUSSED.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, FOURTH FLOOR, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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FEAST FOR ELDERLY IN NORTH DISTRICT

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ABOUT 1,200 ELDERLY RESIDENTS OF NORTH DISTRICT, ALL AGED ABOUT 65, WILL BE TREATED TO A FEAST TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD, THE FEAST IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ELDERLY ACTIVITIES AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT TO SENIOR RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE PROMGRAMME WILL INCLUDE CANTONESE OPERA AND SONGS AS WELL AS A LUCKY DRAW. GIFTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.

AMONG THOSE OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR MATTHEW CHEUNG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR RAYMOND PANG; FRONTIER POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR MICHAEL WATSON; AND THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MR STEPHEN CHAU.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FEAST FOR THE ELDERLY TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 4 PM IN THE CHOI WAH PALACE RESTAURANT, CHEUNG WAH ESTATE, FANLING.

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BOE MEMBERS VISIT PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL

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THE CHAIRMAN AND EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED A PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL TO SEE HOW IT PREPARES STUDENTS FOR CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP AND TECHNICIAN COURSES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OR POLYTECHNICS.

TAKING PART IN THE VISIT TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA (CCC) ROTARY PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL AT LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WERE MRS RITA FAN, MR CHAN YING-LUN, MISS BOW SUI-MAY, PROFESSOR BRIAN COOKE, DR JOHN T.S. CHEN, MR TIMOTHY HA, PROFESSOR TAM SHANG-WAI, MR ANDREW SO KWOK-WING AND MR DOMINIC WONG.

ACCOMPANYING THEM WERE THE SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (SCHOOL) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MR K.S. TSE, AND BOE SECRETARY, MISS ROSE LAU.

THE CCC ROTARY PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL, WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION IN 1972, IS THE LARGEST OF THE EXISTING 18 PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG.

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IT IS VERY POPULAR IN THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT AND HAD RECEIVED MORE THAN 2,000 APPLICATIONS FROM PRIMARY SIX PUPILS FOR ITS 340 SECONDARY ONE PLACES IN THE 1987-88 SCHOOL YEAR.

IN HIS BRIEFING, THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL MR KWOK HIN-WAH TOLD THE VISITORS THAT THE SCHOOL PROVIDED A 40 PER CENT TECHNICAL CURRICULUM FOR SECONDARY ONE TO THREE AND A 30 PER CENT TECHNICAL CURRICULUM FOR SECONDARY FOUR TO FIVE.

THE TECHNICAL SUBJECTS BEING OFFERED ARE PRINTING, FASHION AND CLOTHING, ACCOMMODATION AND CATERING SERVICES, RETAILING AND COMMERCIAL KNOWLEDGE.

THE SCHOOL HAS 20 CLASSROOMS, 11 WORKSHOPS AND NINE SPECIAL ROOMS. IT HAS AN ENROLMENT OF 1,160 STUDENTS.

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SPEEDPOST SERVICE EXTENDS TO DJIBOUTI

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THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO DJIBOUTI FROM MONDAY, MARCH 21, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS WILL BRING TO 55 THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE SPEEDPOST NETWORK SERVED FROM HONG KONG.

SPEEDPOST ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR TRANSMISSION TO DJIBOUTI (THE CAPITAL), ALI SABIEH, DIKHIL, OBOCK AND TADJOURAH IN DJIBOUTI.

"SPEEDPOST ITEMS POSTED ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE THIRD WORKING DAY WHILE THOSE POSTED ON TUESDAY AND SATURDAY WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE SECOND WORKING DAY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ITEMS POSTED ON THURSDAY WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE FOURTH WORKING DAY AFTER POSTING."

THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LIMIT IS 20 KG AND THERE WILL BE A FREE PICK UP SERVICE BY THE POST OFFICE FROM CUSTOMER'S PREMISES. THE POSTAGE RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ITEMS WEIGHING UNDER 250 G	\$110
ITEMS WEIGHING BETWEEN 250 G AND 500 G	\$135
EACH SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONAL 500 G	\$45

"THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS A FAST AND RELIABLE MEANS FOR FORWARDING DOCUMENTS, SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE OVERSEAS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO DJIBOUTI AND THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IN GENERAL CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE POSTAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES ON 5-8683868.

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JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND INVITES APPLICATIONS

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REGISTERED NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS CAN NOW APPLY FOR GRANTS FROM THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND FOR THE YEAR 1988-89 WHICH ARE PRIMARILY FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE FIELDS OF MUSIC, DANCE AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES.

IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, GRANTS WERE MADE TO SCHOOLS, AND MUSIC AND DANCE ORGANISATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, DANCE EQUIPMENT, MUSIC SCORES AND PARTS, PAYMENT OF INSTRUCTORS' FEES, AS WELL AS EXPENDITURES IN ORGANISING CONCERTS, MUSIC CAMPS AND DANCE WORKSHOPS.

GRANTS MAY ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH CONFORM WITH THE OVERALL EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE FUND.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC FUND SAID A TOTAL OF \$1.12 MILLION WERE GRANTED IN 1987-88, BENEFITTING 138 SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION PAMPHLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND SECRETARIAT ON THE 25TH FLOOR OF WAN CHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG; AND AT THE MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 22. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8235343.

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TWO GOVERNMENT SITES TO LET BY TENDER

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TWO SITES, ONE IN KOWLOON AND ONE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, ARE TO BE LET BY TENDER ON SHORT TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE FIRST SITE AT PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD, KOWLOON, MEASURING ABOUT 2,340 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR STORAGE OF GOODS, VEHICLES, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS BUT NOT FOR CONCRETE/ASPHALT BATCHING.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON MARCH 31.

THE OTHER SITE NEAR PLOVER COVE ROAD, AREA 1, TAI PO MARKET, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,500 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR THE PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 15.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES FACE DEMOLITION

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING CLOSURE OF TWO ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN A BUILDING AT 172 ELECTRIC ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, SO THAT DEMOLITION CAN BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURES ARE ON THE ROOFS ADJACENT TO FLAT 6, 15TH FLOOR, BLOCK B OF THE BUILDING.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON APRIL 7 WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURES TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE THE ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN DECEMBER 1985 REQUIRING DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES.

DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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JAVA ROAD PLB RESTRICTED ZONES RESCINDED

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THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONES (FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY) ON TWO SECTIONS OF JAVA ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY RESCINDED FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 19).

THE RELAXATION WILL LAST FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

THE TWO RESTRICTED ZONES ARE:

- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF JAVA ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 55 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TIN CHIU STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 108 METRES EAST OF THAT JUNCTION; AND
- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF JAVA ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TIN CHIU STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 108 METRES EAST OF THAT JUNCTION.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE AT HO MAN TIN HILL ROAD
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A SECTION OF HO MAN TIN HILL ROAD ABOUT 60 METRES LONG NEAR HOUSE NO. 23 HAS BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR BOTH DIRECTIONS DUE TO A WATER MAIN BURST EARLIER TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE ROAD CLOSURE WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY REPAIR WORKS.

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WATER CUT IN TAI KOK TSUI
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 8 PM ON MONDAY (MARCH 21) TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY CHERRY STREET, TONG MEI ROAD, LAI CHI KOK ROAD, YEE KUK STREET, KIU KIANG STREET AND THE SEAFRONT.

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