



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1980

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1980

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ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH FOR EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE
CORPORATION
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THE BUSINESS OF THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION HAS BEEN GROWING STEADILY WITH INSURED EXPORTS UP BY 38 PER CENT IN 1978/79 OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR TO NEARLY \$2.5 BILLION IN VALUE COMPARED WITH A 22 PER CENT INCREASE FOR OVERALL DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON WHEN THE CORPORATION'S 1978/79 ANNUAL REPORT WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR. JEAFFRESON ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH GROSS INCOME FROM PREMIUMS AND THE UNDERWRITING RESERVE HAVE EXCEEDED \$10 MILLION FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND THE NUMBER OF CURRENT POLICIES IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH OF 1 041.

+WITH THIS INCREASE IN BUSINESS, LIABILITY NOW STANDS AT \$1 774 MILLION AND IN THE FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE WE MAY HAVE TO SEEK THIS COUNCIL'S AGREEMENT TO AN INCREASE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S GUARANTEE SO AS TO ALLOW ADEQUATE ROOM FOR FURTHER GROWTH,+ HE SAID.

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, THE CORPORATION REQUIRED NEARLY \$7 MILLION TO MEET AND TO PROVIDE FOR CLAIMS, REPRESENTING A LITTLE OVER 50 PER CENT OF GROSS PREMIUM INCOME, COMPARED WITH \$6.5 MILLION IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

MR. JEAFFRESON NOTED HOWEVER THAT RISKS WERE INHERENT IN THE BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.

+IN EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE, CREDIT RISKS AND DANGERS TEND TO INCREASE IN ANY PERIOD OF RAPID GROWTH IN EXPORTS. BUT IF THE CORPORATION COULD MAINTAIN CLAIMS AT A LEVEL OF ABOUT HALF OF PREMIUM INCOME, I THINK IT WOULD BE DOING VERY WELL,+ HE SAID.

THE CORPORATION'S ANNUAL REPORT ALSO SHOWED THAT CONSISTENT WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS, CLOTHING WAS BY FAR THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PRODUCT THE CORPORATION COVERED, IN TERMS OF VALUE REPRESENTING 39 PER CENT OF EXPORTS INSURED.

THE UNITED KINGDOM CONTINUED TO BE THE LARGEST MARKET COVERED WITH 34 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL, AND EXPORTS TO THE EEC ACCOUNTED FOR NEARLY 60 PER CENT OF EXPORTS INSURED BY THE CORPORATION.

+THERE IS STILL SCOPE FOR THE CORPORATION TO INCREASE ITS BUSINESS AND TO IMPROVE ITS SPREAD OF EXPORT MARKETS, BUYERS AND PRODUCTS FROM HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1966, THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION IS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF HONG KONG'S OFFICIAL EXPORT CREDIT INSURER, OPERATING ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS.

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IT HAS PROVIDED PROTECTION FOR MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS OF HONG KONG AGAINST THE RISKS OF THEIR NOT BEING PAID FOR THE GOODS AND SERVICES THEY SUPPLY TO OVERSEAS CLIENTS, AND IN THIS WAY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO HONG KONG'S EXPORT TRADE.

THERE ARE TWO MAIN CAUSES OF CLAIMS: THE COMMERCIAL ONE, IN THAT AN OVERSEAS BUYER BECOMES BANKRUPT, DEFAULTS ON PAYMENT OR REPUDIATES HIS CONTRACT- AND THE POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC ONE, INVOLVING A CHANGE IN THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE BUYER'S COUNTRY.

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INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY IN MARINE FISH CULTURE MEANS MORE JOBS
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INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY IN THE MARINE FISH CULTURE INDUSTRY WOULD MEAN AN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OF SOME 20 000 JOBS, MAINLY ON A PART-TIME BASIS FOR OLDER PEOPLE OR WOMEN, SAID THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON. TED NICHOLS TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE MARINE FISH CULTURE BILL 1980 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. NICHOLS SAID THE LOCAL INDUSTRY EMPLOYED SOME 5 600 ADULTS, OF WHOM 70 PER CENT REGARDED MARICULTURE AS THEIR PRINCIPAL, BUT NOT NECESSARILY FULL TIME, OCCUPATION.

+ASSUMING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FISH FRY AND FISH FEED, THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF APPROPRIATE REGULATORY MEASURES, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BY INTRODUCING MORE SOPHISTICATED HUSBANDRY TECHNIQUES, THE PRODUCTION OF CAGE FISH CULTURE CAN BE DOUBLED.

+BASED ON THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AREA OF WATER AVAILABLE FOR MARICULTURE, THE PRODUCTION OF FISH FROM SUCH CULTURE COULD POTENTIALLY REACH 15 000 METRIC TONNES A YEAR, OR ABOUT 10 PER CENT BY WEIGHT OF THE 1978 LEVEL OF MARINE CAPTURE FISHERY LANDINGS,+ SAID MR. NICHOLS.

HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE SOME 2 300 RAFTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 16.5 HECTARES IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS. ABOUT 16 HECTARES OF THE SEA WERE IMPOUNDED.

IN 1978 THE INDUSTRY PRODUCED 680 METRIC TONNES OF FISH, MAINLY SEA BREAM, GAROUPA AND SNAPPER. THE PRODUCTION REPRESENTED 0.5 PER CENT BY WEIGHT AND FIVE PER CENT BY VALUE OF THE TOTAL LANDINGS OF FISH AND OTHER MARINE PRODUCTS.

MR. NICHOLS SAID ALTHOUGH THE DEMAND FOR LIVE FISH WAS LIKELY TO GROW WITH INCREASED PROSPERITY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY WAS SUBJECT TO A NUMBER OF CONSTRAINTS INCLUDING THE SUPPLY OF FRY AND FEED- THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE LOCATIONS- LOCALISED OVER-CROWDING DUE TO LACK OF CO-ORDINATED CONTROL- INEFFICIENT TECHNIQUES CAUSING HIGHER PRODUCTION COSTS- AND A GENERAL LACK OF SUITABLE REGULATIONS.

ON THE CREDIT SIDE MR. NICHOLS SAID ALTHOUGH THE LOCAL MARINE FISH CULTURE INDUSTRY PROVIDED ONLY A LIMITED CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING THE PROTEIN NEEDS OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION, IT DID HAVE SOME MERITS.

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AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CITED THAT IT MET THE DEMAND FOR LIVE FISH, WHICH THE CAPTURE FISH INDUSTRY COULD NOT MEET IN FULL.

+THE POPULATION TRADITIONALLY FAVOURS LIVE FISH AND IS PREPARED TO PAY HIGH PRICES FOR IT,+ HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID THE INDUSTRY PROVIDED A MARKET FOR TRASH FISH, WHICH CONSTITUTES BETWEEN FIVE TO TEN PER CENT OF FISH CAUGHT.

+ON THE OTHER HAND,+ MR. NICHOLS SAID, +MARINE FISH CULTURE, IF ALLOWED TO PROLIFERATE WITHOUT PROPER CONTROL, COULD BLOCK NAVIGATION CHANNELS AND OBSTRUCT USERS OF TYPHOON SHELTERS AND PUBLIC PIERS- AND OCCUPY AREAS OF WATER BETTER SUITED FOR RECREATIONAL OR OTHER USES AND SPOIL SCENIC AREAS.+

REGARDING POLLUTION, MR. NICHOLS SAID THAT MARINE FISH CULTURE, IF PROPERLY CONTROLLED AND SITED IN SUITABLE AREAS WAS UNLIKELY TO GENERATE POLLUTION.

+IN FACT, CULTURED FISH THEMSELVES ARE HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO WATER POLLUTION. THEY WILL DIE IF, BECAUSE OF AN INADEQUATE TIDAL FLOW, OXYGEN IS INSUFFICIENT, OR IF THERE IS AN EXCESS OF NUTRIENT CONTENT OR OTHER POLLUTANTS IN THE SEA,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS THEREFORE IN THE INTEREST OF OPERATORS TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF WATER BY EXERCISING PROPER MANAGEMENT.

ENACTMENT OF THE BILL WILL MEAN SETTING ASIDE SPECIFIC AREAS FOR MARINE FISH CULTURE.

IT IS INTENDED TO GAZETTE ZONES OF ABOUT 360 HECTARES OF WATER, MOST OF WHICH ARE ALREADY OCCUPIED BY FISH FARMERS. THESE ZONES WILL BE AWAY FROM NAVIGATIONAL CHANNELS, TYPHOON CHANNELS, PUBLIC PIERS AND GAZETTED BEACHES.

THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN PLACED TO HAVE ONLY MINIMAL EFFECT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND THE AESTHETIC ENVIRONMENT NEAR COUNTRY PARKS.

ABOUT 1 700 RAFTS OR 74 PER CENT OF EXISTING FISH CULTURE OPERATIONS LIE WITHIN THE PROPOSED AREAS AND OWNERS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO CARRY ON THEIR BUSINESS PROVIDED THEY COMPLY WITH RELEVANT CONDITIONS.

MR. NICHOLS NOTED THAT SOME MINOR RESITING OF RAFTS WITHIN INDIVIDUAL ZONES MAY BE NECESSARY.

+THE OPERATORS OF THE 600 RAFTS (26 PER CENT) LYING OUTSIDE THE PROPOSED ZONES WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR RELOCATION WITHIN THE SPECIFIED ZONES. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO SUCH RELOCATION OF ESTABLISHED RAFTS AS COMPARED TO NEWCOMERS WISHING TO ENTER THE INDUSTRY. NEWCOMERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE ONLY WITHIN THE SPECIFIED ZONES,+ SAID MR. NICHOLS.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT DETAILS OF THE LEGISLATION, ITS PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THOSE WISHING TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL EXPLANATION OVER SEVERAL MONTHS AND THE PROVISION REQUIRING MARINE FISH CULTURE OPERATORS TO OBTAIN LICENCES WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON A DATE TO BE SPECIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

GLOSSARIES OF COMMONLY USED
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS TERMS AVAILABLE IN CHINESE
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TRANSLATORS OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HAVE COMPILED EIGHT GLOSSARIES OF CHINESE EQUIVALENTS OF ENGLISH TERMS COMMONLY USED IN GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. JOHN WALDEN SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ALEX WU WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER SUCH GLOSSARIES WERE AVAILABLE, IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT POLICY TO PROMOTE THE USE OF CHINESE IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC.

MR. WALDEN SAID THE GLOSSARIES COVERED FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS, TRANSPORT, EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE, HOUSING, URBAN SERVICES, THE CIVIL SERVICE AND NEW TERRITORIES AFFAIRS.

+A FULL SET OF THESE GLOSSARIES IS KEPT AT THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT ON THE 25TH FLOOR OF INTERNATIONAL BUILDING AND ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHES TO CONSULT THEM IS WELCOME TO DO SO,+ HE SAID.

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OVERLOAD DEVICE IN LIFTS
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ALL LIFTS INSTALLED ON OR AFTER MAY 3, 1969 MUST BE PROVIDED WITH AN OVERLOAD DEVICE WHICH WILL OPERATE WHEN THE LOAD IN THE CAR IS 10 PER CENT OR MORE IN EXCESS OF THE RATED LOAD FOR THE LIFT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ALEX WU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. MCDONALD SAID: +WHEN THE DEVICE COMES INTO OPERATION IT PREVENTS MOVEMENT OF THE CAR AND PREVENTS THE CLOSING OF POWER-OPERATED DOORS FITTED TO THE CAR OR TO THE LIFT LANDING.+

HE EMPHASISED THAT ALTHOUGH LIFTS INSTALLED PRIOR TO MAY 3, 1969 WERE NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE OVERLOAD DEVICES IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED THAT THEY WERE THEREFORE UNSAFE AS VERY HIGH SAFETY FACTORS WERE EMPLOYED IN LIFT DESIGN PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF ROPE STRENGTHS.

+THE MOST LIKELY EFFECT OF OVERLOADING ONE OF THESE OLDER GENERATION LIFTS WOULD BE ITS FAILURE TO STOP AT THE CORRECT DESIGNED LEVEL. THE CAR COULD OVERRUN THE LEVELLING ZONE AND AS A RESULT THE DOORS WOULD NOT OPEN,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

+IN SUCH A SITUATION THE PASSENGERS WOULD REQUIRE OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE TO OPEN THE DOORS OR TO RAISE THE CAR TO THE RIGHT LEVEL TO ENABLE THEM TO EXIT.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE OVERLOAD DEVICE WAS IN EFFECT A DESIRABLE REFINEMENT IN LIFT DESIGN WHICH WAS INCORPORATED MORE FOR CONVENIENCE THAN FOR SAFETY.

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PUBLIC ADVISED TO LOOK OUT FOR PICKPOCKETS
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THE POLICE WILL STEP UP THEIR PUBLICITY EFFORTS DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD ADVISING THE PUBLIC TO BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR PICKPOCKETS, IN ADDITION TO REDEPLOYING MANPOWER ON ANTI-CRIME PATROLS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ANDREW SO, MR. DAVIES SAID THE PUBLIC WOULD BE ADVISED TO TAKE GREATER CARE OF THEIR CASH AND VALUABLES, NOT TO CARRY LARGE SUMS OF MONEY, AND TO REPORT AT ONCE IF AN INCIDENT OCCURRED.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF PICK POCKETING OFFENCES WAS UNLIKELY TO INCREASE DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, BUT HE STRESSED THERE WOULD BE NO RELAXATION OF POLICE VIGILANCE DURING THIS PERIOD.

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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS IN INDUSTRY
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS AT NIGHT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS GOVERNED BY THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LYDIA DUNN, MR. HENDERSON SAID THAT BRIEFLY THE REGULATIONS STATED THAT WOMEN WORKERS COULD NOT BE EMPLOYED BEFORE 6 AM OR AFTER 8 PM.

+IF OVERTIME IS WORKED, THE PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT CAN BE EXTENDED TO 9 PM. HOWEVER, WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR AND SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, WOMEN CAN BE EMPLOYED ON SHIFT WORK UP TO 11 PM,+ HE SAID.

THESE REGULATIONS DID NOT APPLY TO EMPLOYMENT OTHER THAN IN FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS, MR. HENDERSON ADDED.

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PA APPLICATIONS FROM OLD PEOPLE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PROCESSES IN THE NORMAL WAY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS FROM OLD PEOPLE WHO LIVE APART FROM AND ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY THEIR ADULT CHILDREN.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. ERIC HO IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. HO KAM-FAI AT TODAY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

DR. HO HAD ASKED HOW THE GOVERNMENT DETERMINED THE ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE WHOSE ADULT CHILDREN DECLINED TO SUPPORT THEM AND REFUSED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE WELFARE AUTHORITIES.

IN REPLY, MR. HO POINTED OUT THAT FOR ELDERLY APPLICANTS LIVING WITH THEIR ADULT CHILD OR CHILDREN, AND WHERE THERE WERE CONTRADICTORY CLAIMS FROM THE PARTIES CONCERNED, ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF THE DEPARTMENTAL INVESTIGATOR'S OBSERVATIONS OF THE DAILY PATTERN OF LIFE OF THE APPLICANT, SUPPLEMENTED BY ANY EVIDENCE OF THE SOURCE OF SUPPORT.

+IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, SHARING OF COOKING UTENSILS AND MEALS WITH INDEPENDENT ADULT CHILDREN WOULD USUALLY BE TAKEN AS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT BY THE LATTER, AND THE FAMILY WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSESSED AS A UNIT FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PURPOSES,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ANY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPLICANT, WHO IS AGGRIEVED BY A DECISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, CAN APPEAL TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL BOARD WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ALL CANTONESE-SPEAKING PRIVATE CITIZENS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

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CHECK FOR FACTORY FIRE HAZARDS

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THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU MADE 268 000 INSPECTIONS OF BUILDINGS OF ALL KINDS INCLUDING FACTORIES AND DANGEROUS GOODS STORES IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1979.

IN ADDITION, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT 33 477 INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES INCLUDING CHECKS FOR FIRE HAZARDS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THESE FIGURES WERE GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. S.L. CHEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. DAVIES ALSO NOTED THAT DURING THE SAME PERIOD THERE WERE 460 FIRES IN FACTORIES IN INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AND 92 IN FACTORIES IN DOMESTIC PREMISES COMPARED WITH 474 AND 80 RESPECTIVELY IN 1978.

+FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN NEW INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS ARE CONSIDERED BEFORE BUILDING PLANS ARE APPROVED. AT THAT STAGE THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES SPECIFIES THE FIRE EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATIONS REQUIRED TO PROTECT THE BUILDING AND THOSE WORKING IN IT.

/+ON COMPLETION

+ON COMPLETION, THE BUILDING IS INSPECTED TO ENSURE THAT ALL SUCH INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED.

+THEREAFTER IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER TO ENSURE THAT THESE FACILITIES ARE KEPT IN EFFICIENT WORKING ORDER AND ARE INSPECTED BY A REGISTERED CONTRACTOR AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 12 MONTHS,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT 10 PER CENT OF ALL SUCH INSTALLATIONS WERE CHECKED ANNUALLY BY THE FIRE SERVICES.

REFERRING TO THE INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU,MR. DAVIES SAID ABOUT 151 000 OF THE TOTAL WERE IN RESPECT OF STAIRCASES AND MEANS OF ESCAPE.

ALTHOUGH SEPARATE STATISTICS WERE NOT KEPT FOR FACTORIES, INCLUDED IN THE FIGURES WERE 2 720 INSPECTIONS OF THE 1 730 DANGEROUS GOODS STORES, HE ADDED.

MR. DAVIES STRESSED THAT WHERE FIRE HAZARDS WERE IDENTIFIED, ABATEMENT NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE OWNERS AND PROSECUTION MIGHT FOLLOW IF THE HAZARD WAS NOT REMOVED WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIME.

+IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1979,+ HE SAID, +9 663 SUCH NOTICES WERE ISSUED IN RESPECT OF ALL TYPES OF PREMISES AND 3 422 PROSECUTIONS FOLLOWED INCLUDING 109 FOR THE IMPROPER STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS,+ HE SAID.

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REVENUE REWARD FUND TO BE WOUND UP
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE THE REVENUE REWARD FUND WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1980 AND TO TRANSFER ITS ASSETS OF MORE THAN \$218 000 AT MARCH 31, 1979 TO THE GENERAL REVENUE.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION IN THE COUNCIL THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID THE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED IN JULY 1949 WITH TWO PURPOSES:

* TO RECEIVE THE PROCEEDS OF SALE OF CONFISCATED CONTRABAND UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE OR THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE, AND FINES IMPOSED FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE- AND

* TO PAY REWARDS FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE FORFEITURE OF CONTRABAND OR TO THE CONVICTION OF ANY PERSON OF AN OFFENCE RELATED TO THE CONTRABAND.

+IN VIEW OF THE SMALL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS PASSED THROUGH THE FUND IN RECENT YEARS, AND THE CONSIDERABLE ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT WORK INVOLVED, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE FUND SHOULD BE WOUND UP,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

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WITH THE WINDING UP OF THE FUND THE PROCEEDS OF SALE OF CONFISCATED CONTRABAND AND FINES WILL BE CREDITED TO GENERAL REVENUE WHILE REWARDS FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE FORFEITURE OF CONTRABAND OR TO THE CONVICTION OF ANY PERSON OF AN OFFENCE RELATED TO THE CONTRABAND, WOULD BE PAID FROM FUNDS VOTED FOR THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT FOR PAYMENT OF REWARDS AND SPECIAL SERVICES.

+THE NECESSITY FOR SPEED AND SECRECY IN PAYMENTS TO INFORMERS WILL NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IN ANY WAY BY THESE REVISED ARRANGEMENTS,+ HE ADDED.

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GUARANTEE FOR REPAYMENT OF MTRC LOAN
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY ADOPTED A MOTION TO INCREASE THE LIMIT OF A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE FOR THE REPAYMENT OF A SUM BY \$2 MILLION TO \$144 MILLION REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION'S RAILWAY DEPOT AT TSUEN WAN.

THE MOTION ALSO SOUGHT THE AUTHORITY FOR A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE FOR THE PAYMENT OF DEFERRED INTEREST AMOUNTING TO \$7.5 MILLION INSTEAD OF \$4.5 MILLION.

MOVING THE MOTION IN THE COUNCIL TODAY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAYE POINTED OUT THAT ON AUGUST 1, 1979, THE COUNCIL AUTHORISED HIM TO GRANT GUARANTEES OF UP TO HK\$142 MILLION IN RESPECT OF EXPORT CREDITS TO FINANCE A CONTRACT PLACED IN FRANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MTRC'S DEPOT AT TSUEN WAN, AND TO GUARANTEE THE PAYMENT OF DEFERRED INTEREST ON THE CREDITS NOT EXCEEDING HK\$4.5 MILLION.

+SINCE THEN THE CORPORATION HAS BEEN GRANTED AN EXTRA HK\$2 MILLION IN CREDITS BY THE LENDERS AND HAS MANAGED TO NEGOTIATE AN IMPROVED DRAWDOWN SCHEDULE WHICH ALLOWS THE CORPORATION TO USE CHEAPER FUNDS EARLIER THAN ORIGINALLY AGREED,+ HE SAID.

+NO OTHER TERMS OF ORIGINAL LOAN AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN CHANGED,+ HE ADDED.

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SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1978-79) BILL

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE FINAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION OF \$1 017 MILLION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1978-1979 WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1978-79) BILL 1980, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THE BILL WAS THE LAST STAGE IN DISPOSING OF EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1978-79.

+IT ALSO SEEKS AN APPROPRIATION TO MEET EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY DEPARTMENTS WHERE RECEIPTS APPROPRIATED-IN-AID FELL SHORT OF THE SUMS ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED,+ HE SAID.

+THE TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION REQUIRED IS \$1 017 MILLION UNDER 41 HEADS AS AGAINST SAVINGS OF \$174 MILLION UNDER VARIOUS OTHER HEADS,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MRS. F.K. LI TO VISIT CHILDREN'S CENTRE

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MRS. F.K. LI, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, WILL VISIT THE KWAI SHING CHILDREN CENTRE AT KWAI SHING (EAST) ESTATE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE CENTRE, OPERATED BY PO LEUNG KUK, PROVIDES LONG-TERM PROTECTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES TO 80 SEVERE GRADE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN RANGING IN AGES FROM SIX TO 16.

IT OFFERS EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES TO THE CHILDREN AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILIES.

MRS. LI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY MRS. KITTY SIU HON-SUM, CHAIRMAN OF PO LEUNG KUK, AND MR. CHAN HON-KONG, CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE VISIT OF MRS. F.K. LI, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, TO PO LEUNG KUK'S KWAI SHING CHILDREN CENTRE AT BLOCK 13, GROUND FLOOR, KWAI SHING (EAST) ESTATE, AT 10 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

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REMINDER ON PAYMENT OF INTEREST TAX
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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN COMPLYING WITH THE LAW GOVERNING THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST TAX.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID AT PRESENT, 15 PER CENT OF THE INTEREST CHARGEABLE WITH INTEREST TAX MUST BE DEDUCTED BY THE PAYER AT THE TIME HE MAKES THE PAYMENT OR CREDITS THE INTEREST TO THE RECIPIENT.

THEREFORE, HE SAID, THE RECIPIENT SHOULD RECEIVE 85 PER CENT OF THE INTEREST AT THE TIME, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS PROVIDED UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

WITHIN 30 DAYS OF MAKING THE DEDUCTION, THE PAYER MUST REMIT THE TAX DEDUCTED TO THE GOVERNMENT, ADDRESSED TO THE COLLECTOR, INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, THIRD FLOOR, WINDSOR HOUSE, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

+THE PAYER OF THE INTEREST MUST NOT AWAIT THE ISSUE OF AN INTEREST TAX RETURN OR WAIT FOR A NOTICE OF DEMAND FOR THE TAX FROM THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

THE REMITTANCE SHOULD HAVE A COVERING NOTE GIVING PARTICULARS OF THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE RECIPIENT, THE GROSS AMOUNT OF INTEREST, THE NET INTEREST PAID, PERIOD OF ACCRUAL OF THE INTEREST, AND THE DATE OF THE PAYMENT OR CREDIT OF THE NET INTEREST.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL THEN ISSUE A SPECIFIED DEDUCTION CERTIFICATE TO THE PAYER, WHICH SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE RECIPIENT OF THE INTEREST WITHIN 42 DAYS OF MAKING THE DEDUCTION.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, SPECIAL CERTIFICATE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE WITH LICENSED BANKS AND CERTAIN SPECIFIED CORPORATIONS.

HE SAID FAILURE, WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE, TO MAKE THE DEDUCTION OR REMIT THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX IS AN OFFENCE AND THE PENALTY, ON CONVICTION, IS A FINE OF \$2 000.

+THE DEPARTMENT TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW OF THIS OFFENCE AND WILL, WHERE NECESSARY, TAKE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION,+ HE SAID.

THE INTEREST TAX SECTION OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT IS ON THE 17TH FLOOR OF WINDSOR HOUSE, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG (TEL: 5-7959-5236). ITS POSTAL ADDRESS IS GPO BOX 132, HONG KONG.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1980

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SNT TO LAY SCHOOL'S FOUNDATION STONE
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL TOMORROW (THURSDAY) OFFICIATE AT THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF SAI KUNG HANG HAU CHENG CHEK CHEE SECONDARY SCHOOL.

THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2 PM AT THE SITE OF THE NEW SCHOOL AT THE JUNCTION OF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND CLEARWATER BAY ROAD.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. A GOVERNMENT VAN, AM 2088 WILL TAKE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO SAI KUNG, LEAVING KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 12.45 PM TOMORROW.

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