



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1979

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
FERRY COMPANIES TO CONTINUE SERVICES PENDING NEW LEGISLATION ON FRANCHISES	1
LEGISLATION TO CURB REFUGEE TRAFFICKING REMAINS IN FORCE TILL END OF 1980	1
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION GIVEN MORE TIME TO MAKE SECOND REPORT	2
POLICE STEP UP VIGILANCE AGAINST CRIME	3
SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS APPROVED	4
MORE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST OVERLOADED GOODS VEHICLES	4
COMPENSATION TO WORKERS SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS	5
ALL BUT A HUNDRED MA CHAI HANG FAMILIES REHOUSED	6
LAND IN SHOUSON HILL FOR DEVELOPMENT	7
HIGHER LEGAL AID FEES PAYABLE TO LAWYERS	7
EQUIPMENT AND FITTINGS READY FOR OPENING OF NEW STADIUM	8
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES - HARD TO JUSTIFY	8
ESTABLISHMENTS OF AUXILIARY SERVICES UNDER REGULAR REVIEW	9
SECTION OF NEW CLEARWATER BAY ROAD OPENS NEXT WEEK	9
LAW REVISION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1979 PASSED	9
STUDENTS TOLD TO KNOW THEMSELVES WELL	10

/GOVERNOR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1979

- 1 -

FERRY COMPANIES TO CONTINUE SERVICES PENDING
NEW LEGISLATION ON FRANCHISE

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS TO ENABLE THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY AND THE STAR FERRY COMPANY TO CONTINUE THEIR SERVICES UNTIL THE END OF 1980 PENDING THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION ON FERRY FRANCHISES.

MOVING THE RELEVANT MOTIONS IN THE COUNCIL TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID THE ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING THE CONTINUATION OF EXISTING CONCESSIONS, HAVE BEEN AGREED BY THE TWO FERRY COMPANIES, AND ARE NECESSARY AS THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING A NEW DRAFT FERRY SERVICES BILL TO REPLACE EXISTING FERRY SERVICES ORDINANCES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO HAVE A FERRY SERVICES BILL ENACTED THIS YEAR.

UNDER THIS BILL, FRANCHISES WILL BE GRANTED TO MAJOR FERRY OPERATORS AND MINOR OPERATORS WILL BE LICENSED.

HE SAID THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS BEAR SOME SIMILARITY TO THOSE IN THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES ORDINANCE AND WILL SIMPLIFY THE EXISTING PROCEDURES.

THE FRANCHISES COULD HAVE BEEN GRANTED WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1980 WHEN THE EXISTING CONCESSIONS EXPIRED.

+HOWEVER, THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY ON THESE MATTERS ARE PROVING TO BE EXTREMELY DETAILED AND COMPLICATED, COVERING AS THEY DO EVERY ASPECT OF FERRY OPERATIONS AND OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COMPANY, AND THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED,+ MR. JONES SAID.

THE INTENTION NOW WAS THAT THE BILL WOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR AND THAT FRANCHISES AND LICENCES WOULD BE GRANTED TO TAKE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1981.

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LEGISLATION TO CURB REFUGEE TRAFFICKING REMAINS IN FORCE
TILL END OF 1980

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED THAT THE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED EARLY THIS YEAR TO CURB SHIPS FROM TRAFFICKING IN REFUGEES AND TO DEAL WITH LANDING OF REFUGEES SHOULD REMAIN IN FORCE FOR ANOTHER YEAR TILL THE END OF 1980.

MOVING THE MOTION TO RETAIN THE PROVISIONS ADDED TO THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE ON JANUARY 10 THIS YEAR, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. GERALD NAZARETH SAID THE PROVISIONS PROVIDE FOR THE FORFEITURE OF A PASSENGER SHIP IF THE OWNER OR MASTER HAS COMMITTED AN OFFENCE RELATING TO THE CARRYING OF EXCESS PASSENGERS.

/HE NOTED

HE NOTED THAT DETAILED PROVISION IS MADE TO ENSURE THAT NO INJUSTICE RESULTS- THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S APPROVAL IS REQUIRED: NOTICE MUST BE GIVEN- CLAIMS HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BY A MAGISTRATE AND IF THE MAGISTRATE ORDERS A SHIP TO BE FORFEITED, THE OWNER CAN APPEAL TO THE GOVERNOR.

+CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE NOT YET SO ALTERED THAT WE CAN FORGO THESE DEFENCES,+ HE SAID.

MR. NAZARETH ALSO MOVED ANOTHER MOTION TO RETAIN THE PROVISIONS ADDED TO THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE ON JANUARY 10, 1979 WHICH PROVIDE THAT THE RESTRICTION IMPOSED ON IMMIGRATION OFFICERS TO REMOVE A PERSON FROM HONG KONG SHOULD NOT APPLY TO REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM.

THE RESTRICTION STIPULATES THAT A PERSON WHO IS REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND IN HONG KONG MAY NOT BE REMOVED FROM HONG KONG BY IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AFTER THE EXPIRY OF TWO MONTHS BEGINNING WITH THE DATE ON WHICH HE WAS REFUSED SUCH PERMISSION.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION
GIVEN MORE TIME TO MAKE SECOND REPORT
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THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION HAS EXAMINED THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN RESTRICTING THE ROLL OF LAW STUDENTS AND HAS PRESENTED ITS FIRST REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. GERALD NAZARETH TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. NAZARETH WAS SPEAKING ON A MOTION SEEKING TO EXTEND THE EXPIRY DATE OF SECTION 26AA OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE TO DECEMBER 31, 1980.

THE SECTION WAS INTRODUCED IN MARCH THIS YEAR TO RESTRICT ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE ROLL OF STUDENTS MAINTAINED BY THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG.

DURING LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL SOME UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FELT THAT THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HOW NON-GRADUATES COULD TAKE COURSES OF STUDY IN HONG KONG TO BECOME SOLICITORS AND THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THAT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE RESTRICTION TO BE MADE PART OF THE PERMANENT LAW AND THE SECTION WAS MADE TO EXPIRE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR UNLESS EXTENDED BY THE COUNCIL.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION HAD NOW RECOMMENDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE THREE POSSIBLE WAYS OF QUALIFYING FOR ADMISSION AS A SOLICITOR, MR. NAZARETH SAID. +FIRST, THROUGH THE SCHOOL OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. SECONDLY, THROUGH A SEPARATE COURSE OF LEGAL EDUCATION FOR NON-LAW GRADUATES AND MATURE STUDENTS- AND THIRDLY, THROUGH A COURSE FOR EMPLOYED TRAINEES.+

IN MAKING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THE NECESSITY TO INCREASE THE PRESENT PROJECTED GROWTH FIGURES FOR SOLICITORS, AND NOTED THAT THERE WAS A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF UNDER-GRADUATES AND GRADUATES WHO COULD BE ADMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF LAW.

IT FELT THAT UNLESS THERE WAS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE METHODS OF OBTAINING QUALIFICATIONS, THERE WAS A RISK THAT SUITABLE ENTRANTS TO THE PROFESSION WOULD NOT COME FORWARD.

HOWEVER IN THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE, IT COULD NOT CONSIDER ALL POSSIBILITIES AND WORK OUT IN DETAIL THE DIFFERENT ALTERNATIVES.

+DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS AND MUCH EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEVISE SUITABLE COURSES OF TRAINING AND DETERMINE WHO IS TO PROVIDE THEM. OTHER MAJOR QUESTIONS ARE THE FINDING OF SUITABLE LECTURERS, THE CONDUCTING OF EXAMINATIONS AND THE PROVISION OF MONEY TO FINANCE THESE SCHEMES,+ MR. NAZARETH SAID.

HE HOPED THE ONE-YEAR EXTENSION TO THE LIFE OF SECTION 26AA, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY THE COUNCIL, WOULD ALLOW TIME FOR THESE INVESTIGATIONS TO BE COMPLETED AND A FURTHER REPORT TO BE MADE.

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POLICE STEP UP VIGILANCE AGAINST CRIME
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THE POLICE HAVE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF CRIME PREVENTION PATROLS IN KNOWN CRIME BLACKSPOTS AND DEPLOYED PLAINCLOTHES OFFICERS IN SOME BANKS TO COUNTER THE RECENT UPSURGE IN ARMED ROBBERIES.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID, +THERE WILL BE NO RELAXATION OF POLICE VIGILANCE DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD, WHEN, ON PAST EXPERIENCE, AN INCREASE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY MAY BE EXPECTED.+

HE SAID THE NUMBER OF ARMED ROBBERIES REPORTED IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS 4 365 COMPARED WITH 3 692 IN THE WHOLE OF 1978.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, THERE WERE SIGNS THAT THE SITUATION MIGHT BE IMPROVING AS THE NUMBER FELL TO 439 IN NOVEMBER AS AGAINST 574 IN OCTOBER.

+THE PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS SO FAR THIS MONTH ARE THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT IS BEING MAINTAINED,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1979

- 4 -

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS AMOUNTING TO \$86 MILLION FOR THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1978-79.

THE ALLOCATION HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

OF THE \$86 MILLION, \$24 MILLION WAS REQUIRED TO MEET ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ON WELFARE ALLOWANCES ARISING FROM THE LOWERING OF THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE.

ABOUT \$14 MILLION WAS REQUIRED TO AUGMENT PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS SUBHEADS ON ACCOUNT OF THE 1978 SALARIES REVISION.

THE LARGEST AMOUNT, \$31 MILLION, WAS REQUIRED TO COVER THE NET EXPENDITURE OF THE UNALLOCATED STORES ACCOUNT OF THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

SPEAKING IN THE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON SAID THE SUM BROUGHT THE TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS REQUIRED FOR 1978-79 TO \$2 102 MILLION.

+BUT BECAUSE OF SAVINGS IN OTHER SUBHEADS, ACTUAL TOTAL EXPENDITURE AT \$11 090 MILLION FOR THE FULL FINANCIAL YEAR IN THE EVENT WAS \$824 MILLION MORE THAN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATES,+ HE SAID.

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MORE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST OVERLOADING OF GOODS VEHICLES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY STEPPED UP ITS EFFORTS TO ENFORCE THE LAW AGAINST THE OVERLOADING OF GOODS VEHICLES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. S.L. CHEN, MR. JONES SAID IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR POLICE BROUGHT ALMOST 3 000 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST DRIVERS FOR OVERLOADING GOODS VEHICLES AND THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS FOR THE WHOLE YEAR IS EXPECTED TO BE AT LEAST 3 800.

+THIS IS OVER 90 PER CENT MORE THAN THE 1 980 PROSECUTIONS FOR OVERLOADING BROUGHT IN 1975, SOME FOUR YEARS AGO, AND THERE HAS, IN FACT, BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE INTERVENING YEARS,+ HE SAID.

+OVER THE SAME PERIOD THE NUMBER OF GOODS VEHICLES ON THE ROAD HAS INCREASED BY ABOUT 60 PER CENT, SO THE PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN PROSECUTIONS FOR THIS OFFENCE HAS EXCEEDED THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF GOODS VEHICLES,+ HE ADDED.

7IN REPLY

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. CHEN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING RESTRICTED OPERATING HOURS FOR DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICLES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID THE SUGGESTION REQUIRES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

MR. DAVIES SAID HE WILL CONSULT THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ON THE SUGGESTION AFTER OBTAINING VIEWS FROM THE DANGEROUS GOODS STANDING COMMITTEE.

HOWEVER, WITHOUT ANTICIPATING THE COMMITTEE'S ADVICE, HE ADDED THAT +AS ROAD CONGESTION IN SOME AREAS IS NOT LIMITED TO CERTAIN PEAK HOURS, DUE REGARD WOULD NEED TO BE GIVEN TO THE PRACTICABILITY OF THIS SUGGESTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL USERS AS WELL AS PUBLIC SAFETY.+

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COMPENSATION TO WORKERS SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS

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PEOPLE ALREADY KNOWN TO BE SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS MAY SOON RECEIVE EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS FROM A PROPOSED PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER C. WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR. HENDERSON RECALLED THAT IN MAY 1978 HE INTRODUCED THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 1978, INTO THE COUNCIL TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSED PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION SCHEME.

THE BILL WAS PASSED INTO LAW ON JUNE 7, 1978, BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT INTO OPERATION DUE TO UNFORESEEN PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES.

MR. HENDERSON SAID PROBLEMS AROSE DURING THE DRAFTING OF THE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION FOR THE SCHEME AND OUT OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION.

THE TWO MAIN PROBLEMS WERE, FIRSTLY, THAT THE SCHEME REQUIRED PROOF OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE SPECIFIED TRADES OR INDUSTRIES IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR COMPENSATION AND SECONDLY, THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS CASES OCCUR, HAS A VERY HIGH LABOUR MOBILITY WHICH WOULD MAKE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEGISLATION BY EMPLOYERS SO DIFFICULT AS TO BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

+A REVISED SCHEME HAS THEREFORE BEEN PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE VARIOUS INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS,+ HE SAID.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL SCHEME AND THE REVISED ONE, MR. HENDERSON SAID, WAS THAT THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND WOULD BE FINANCED BY A LEVY ON EMPLOYERS IN THE TWO MAJOR INDUSTRIES CONCERNED AND COMPULSORY INSURANCE, AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED, WOULD NOT THEN BE REQUIRED.

/THE REVISED

THE REVISED SCHEME WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IF IT WAS APPROVED, A FRESH BILL WOULD BE DRAFTED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE SCHEME WHICH HOPEFULLY WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT SESSION.

+WHEN THE SCHEME IS APPROVED, IT IS INTENDED THAT, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE REVISED FINANCIAL COMMITMENT BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL, EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO PERSONS WHO ARE ALREADY KNOWN TO BE SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS CAN BEGIN WITHOUT AWAITING THE FURTHER LEGISLATION PROPOSED,+ SAID MR. HENDERSON.

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ALL BUT 100 MA CHAI HANG FAMILIES REHOUSED

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OF THE 1 197 FAMILIES WHO LOST THEIR HOMES IN THE MA CHAI HANG FIRE, ALL BUT 100 HAVE MOVED INTO TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. ALAN SCOTT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE 100, COMPRISING ABOUT 360 PEOPLE, CONTINUE TO OCCUPY EIGHT TEMPORARY SHELTERS, INCLUDING FOUR SCHOOLS, PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIRE OF OCTOBER 6.

+STAFF OF THE HOUSING AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE THEM TO VACATE THE TEMPORARY SHELTERS AND ACCEPT THE ARRANGEMENTS OFFERED,+ SAID MR. SCOTT.

+THESE FAMILIES HAVE SUFFERED GREAT LOSS THROUGH THE FIRE, AND A FIRM YET SYMPATHETIC APPROACH IS NECESSARY.+

MR. SCOTT SAID HE WISHED TO PLACE ON RECORD THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S APPRECIATION OF THE CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE MANY ORGANISATIONS WHICH PERMIT THE USE OF THEIR PREMISES IN EMERGENCIES.

+IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT OCCASIONALLY, THIS SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION IS MET WITH INGRATITUDE SUCH AS FROM THIS GROUP OF MA CHAI HANG FAMILIES,+ HE ADDED.

HE HOPED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WOULD AGREE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT TO ACCEDE TO THE DEMANDS OF THIS MINORITY GROUP THAT THEY BE GIVEN ACCOMMODATION IN OR NEAR KOWLOON.

FIRSTLY, THE FIRE AT LEI YUE MUN A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE MA CHAI HANG FIRE HAD LEFT ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY HOUSING IN KOWLOON.

SECONDLY, THIS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENT MADE WITH THE MA CHAI HANG FIRE VICTIMS, AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM, THAT THEY SHOULD MOVE TO TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AT FANLING OR TAI PO, OR IF THEY PREFER THEIR OWN TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS, PENDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TMA FOR THEM AT SHA TIN.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1979

- 7 -

LAND IN SHOUSON HILL FOR DEVELOPMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SOME LAND IN SHOUSON HILL WHICH IS NOT AFFECTED BY THE LOCATION OF THE POLICE DRIVING SCHOOL WILL BE PUT UP FOR SALE IN 1980.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JOHN BREMRIDGE, MR. JONES SAID THE SITE WAS CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING ABOUT 86 LARGE FLATS OR A RATHER SMALLER NUMBER OF TOWN HOUSES.

MR. JONES POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE GOVERNMENT EFFORT, A SUITABLE SITE FOR THE TEMPORARY REMOVAL OF THE DRIVING SCHOOL HAD NOT BEEN FOUND.

+THIS MEANS THAT THE EARLIEST TIME WE CAN NOW EXPECT TO MOVE IT OUT OF SHOUSON HILL IS 1984, WHEN IT IS HOPED THAT A NEW DRIVER TRAINING SCHOOL WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON A SITE ABOVE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE NEW SCHOOL WILL INCORPORATE POLICE, FIRE SERVICES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DRIVER TRAINING.

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LEGAL AID FEES PAYABLE TO LAWYERS REVISED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE FEES OF LEGAL AID PAYABLE TO SOLICITORS AND COUNSEL ASSIGNED TO REPRESENT ACCUSED PERSONS IN THEIR TRIALS IN THE HIGH COURT OR DISTRICT COURT AND FOR CRIMINAL APPEALS.

THE NEW MAXIMUM FEES HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY ABOUT 130 PER CENT FOR BARRISTERS AND 160 PER CENT FOR SOLICITORS IN RESPECT OF HIGH COURT TRIALS AND APPEAL CASES- AND FOR DISTRICT COURT TRIALS BY ABOUT 25 PER CENT AND 33 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

MOVING THE MOTION RELATING TO THE FEE INCREASE PROPOSAL IN THE COUNCIL TODAY, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. GERALD NAZARETH SAID THE EXISTING MAXIMUM FEES FOR TRIALS IN THE HIGH COURT AND CRIMINAL APPEALS WERE FIXED AS LONG AGO AS JANUARY 1970, AND FOR DISTRICT COURT TRIALS IN AUGUST 1973.

+DURING THE LAST DECADE THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING, AND CONSEQUENTLY IN THE OVERHEADS OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

+THE STAGE HAS NOW BEEN REACHED THAT MANY LEGAL PRACTITIONERS WHO ACCEPT LEGAL AID ASSIGNMENTS DO SO ONLY AT CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL SACRIFICE, BECAUSE THE PRESENT PRESCRIBED MAXIMUM FEES THAT MAY BE PAID TO THEM UNDER THE PRINCIPAL RULES HAVE BECOME UNREALISTIC WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME,+ HE ADDED.

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EQUIPMENT AND FITTINGS READY FOR OPENING OF QE STADIUM

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN WAN CHAI WILL BE READY FOR USE NEXT JUNE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. F.K. HU, MR. LI SAID WITH ONE EXCEPTION, TENDERS FOR ALL SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT AND FITTINGS HAVE EITHER BEEN AWARDED OR WILL SHORTLY BE AWARDED.

◆BASED ON THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE PRESENT TIME, THESE EQUIPMENT AND FITTINGS WILL BE READY FOR THE OPENING OF THE STADIUM,◆ SAID MR. LI.

THE ONE EXCEPTION WAS STAGE EQUIPMENT AND MR. LI SAID THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES HAD RECENTLY INFORMED THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL HAD DECIDED TO USE ITS OWN FUNDS TO BUY A PORTABLE STAGE FROM A CERTAIN SUPPLIER. HENCE IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BUY THE ANCILLARY STAGE EQUIPMENT FROM THE SAME SUPPLIER.

◆AS THIS CONSTITUTES A DEPARTURE OF NORMAL TENDER PROCEDURE, THE MATTER IS RECEIVING ATTENTION IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,◆ HE SAID.

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AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
- HARD TO JUSTIFY

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES FEELS THAT THE SETTING UP OF AN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WOULD BE RATHER HARD TO JUSTIFY AND SUCH NEEDS CAN BEST BE MET BY RUNNING SHORT COURSES ON OCCASIONAL BASIS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT WHO ASKED: WILL THE GOVERNMENT MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF COURSES IN HORTICULTURE INTO THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND/OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS?

MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT SHORT COURSES IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL PLANT MACHINERY WERE ALREADY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

FURTHER MORE, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT RUNS ABOUT 25 TO 30 SHORT COURSES EACH YEAR IN HORTICULTURE FOR YOUNG FARMERS AS WELL AS A LARGE NUMBER OF ONE-DAY ON-FARM SEMINARS ON MARKET GARDENING.

MR. TOPLEY SAID HE HAD CONSULTED THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES ABOUT THE NEED TO SET UP A DEPARTMENT IN THE TUEN MUN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1984, AND HE FELT THIS WOULD BE RATHER HARD TO JUSTIFY.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1979

- 9 -

ESTABLISHMENTS OF AUXILIARY SERVICES UNDER REGULAR REVIEW
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THE ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE AUXILIARY SERVICES ARE REGULARLY REVIEWED BY THE HEADS OF THESE SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID IN TODAY'S (WEDNESDAY) LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON. LYDIA DUNN WHO ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REVIEW THE PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUXILIARY SERVICES SUCH AS THE AMS AND CAS, IN VIEW OF THE MANY CALLS BEING MADE AND LIKELY TO BE MADE ON THEM.

MR. DAVIES SAID: +I AM GENERALLY SATISFIED THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE RESPECTIVE AUXILIARY SERVICES IS SUFFICIENT TO MEET OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

+I CAN ASSURE MISS DUNN THAT WE DO WATCH THE SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF DEMANDS, EXPERIENCE AND POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.+

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SECTION OF NEW CLEARWATER BAY ROAD OPENS SOON
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ONE CARRIAGEWAY OF THE NEW CLEARWATER BAY ROAD BETWEEN CHOI WAN ESTATE AND SHUN LEE TSUEN WILL BE OPENED FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC ON THE 21ST OF THIS MONTH.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD SAID, +THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE ISSUING EXPLANATORY INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA FOR PUBLICATION IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE OPENING.+

+THE FULL WIDTH OF THE ROAD WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-1980 AND IT WILL THEN PROVIDE THREE UPHILL AND TWO DOWNHILL LANES,+ HE ADDED.

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LAW REVISION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1979 PASSED
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THE LAW REVISION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1979 WAS PASSED INTO LAW WITHOUT AMENDMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED AT TODAY'S MEETING.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1979

- 10 -

STUDENTS TOLD TO KNOW THEMSELVES WELL

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THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER OF NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES, MR. JAMES SWEETMAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THEMSELVES WELL, PUT THEIR STRONG POINTS TO THE BEST USE AND GET RID OF THEIR WEAK POINTS.

ADDRESSING THE EIGHTH SPEECH DAY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK YUEN LONG DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL, MR. SWEETMAN SAID: +WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO FURTHER YOUR STUDIES OR TO WORK FOR A LIVING, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU SHOULD 'KNOW YOURSELVES WELL'.

+IF YOU KNOW YOUR OWN ABILITIES WELL AND KNOW WHOM OR WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DEAL WITH, YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO TACKLE AND SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS SUCCESSFULLY. EVERY PERSON HAS HIS OWN STRONG AND WEAK POINTS.

+WE ARE LIVING IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY WHERE ONLY THE FITTEST CAN SURVIVE. A PERSON WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO STAND ON HIS OWN FEET IF HE IS NOT EQUIPPED WITH SPECIAL SKILLS.+

MR. SWEETMAN SAID WE MUST NOT HOWEVER OVER-ESTIMATE OURSELVES AND SET OUR GOAL TOO HIGH, FOR TOO HIGH A GOAL WAS BOUND TO END UP IN FAILURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE OURSELVES. IF WE AIMED TOO LOW, WE WOULD HIT EVEN LOWER, THUS HINDERING US FROM PUTTING OUR POTENTIALS INTO FULL PLAY. THIS WAS NOT FAIR TO OURSELVES.

MANY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN HONG KONG, YEARNED FOR FAME AND RICHES. +THEY FORSAKE THEIR TALENT AND INTEREST AND SEEK POSTS WHICH WILL BRING THEM MONEY AND FAME. EXAMPLES OF SUCH CASES ARE STUDENTS CHOOSING TO STUDY SCIENCE WHEN THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN ARTS SUBJECTS, OR TO STUDY MEDICINE WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE STUDIED EDUCATION. AS A RESULT, THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS ARE NOT UP TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS AND THEY MIGHT EVEN FAIL TO COMPLETE THEIR STUDIES. THIS IS INDEED REGRETTABLE. THIS IS MAINLY BECAUSE OF THEIR VANITY.

+THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE YOU ALL THAT THE MOST RELIABLE WAY IN LIFE IS TO BE PRACTICAL IN EVERY RESPECT AND THIS WILL BRING YOU THE MOST REAL HAPPINESS AND CONTENTMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR. SWEETMAN SAID THE SCHOOL WAS A HIGH-STANDARD ACADEMIC INSTITUTE FOUNDED BY MR. TANG YEUK-FAN AND MR. HO CHUEN-YIU. SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT, THERE HAD BEEN EIGHT YEARS OF GRADUATING STUDENTS.

+YOUR SCHOOL HAS SCORED BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENTS YEAR AFTER YEAR, WHICH INDICATES THAT YOUR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HAVE WORKED HARD NOT ONLY IN ACADEMIC FIELDS, BUT ALSO IN EXTRA-CURRICULA ACTIVITIES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS,+ HE SAID.

MR. SWEETMAN PRESENTED CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES TO 120 GRADUATES AND STUDENTS OF THE SCHOOL.

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- 11 -

GOVERNOR LEAVES HOSPITAL

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, LEFT HOSPITAL LAST FRIDAY (DECEMBER 7) AND HAS GONE HOME TO SCOTLAND TO RECOUP FROM HIS OPERATION.

HE IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS AND IS EXPECTED BACK IN HONG KONG ON JANUARY 23, 1980.

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ACTION AGAINST SOILING OF ROADS

THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS TAKING STRONGER ACTION AGAINST OFFENDERS LITTERING ROADS WITH REFUSE BLOWN OFF FROM UNCOVERED LORRIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NTSD SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT, UP TO DECEMBER 10, A TOTAL OF 130 PROSECUTIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT AGAINST SUCH OFFENDERS SINCE THE JUNK BAY CONTROLLED TIP AT SAI KUNG OPENED ON THE 12TH OF LAST MONTH.

THE OFFENDERS WERE CHARGED UNDER THE PUBLIC CLEANSING AND PREVENTION OF NUISANCE (NEW TERRITORIES) REGULATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE.

+THE JUNK BAY CONTROLLED TIP IS DESIGNED FOR PRIVATE REFUSE LORRIES FROM ALL OVER KOWLOON TO DUMP THEIR REFUSE FREE OF CHARGE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+EVERYDAY, SINCE ITS OPENING, MORE THAN 400 LORRIES HAVE MADE USE OF THIS CONTROLLED TIP.

+HOWEVER, MANY ANTI-SOCIAL AND CARELESS DRIVERS DO NOT TAKE PROPER ACTION TO COVER THE REFUSE THEY ARE CARRYING. AS A RESULT THE REFUSE IS BLOWN OFF THEIR LORRIES ALONG THE ROADS CAUSING HEALTH NUISANCE TO THE PUBLIC.+

TO PREVENT THIS, NTSD CLEANSING STAFF ARE STATIONED BY THE ROADS IN SAI KUNG LEADING TO THE CONTROLLED TIP TO CRACK DOWN ON THESE LORRIES AND ISSUE THEM A 'LITTER TICKET' IMMEDIATELY.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THESE CASES WOULD BE HEARD IN COURT IN TWO TO THREE WEEKS TIME AFTER THE TICKET IS ISSUED.

THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR SUCH AN OFFENCE IS \$1 000 ON FIRST CONVICTION AND \$2 000 FOR SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

EARLIER THIS WEEK, TWO COMPANIES WERE FINED UNDER THE SAME REGULATION IN FANLING MAGISTRACY FOR FAILING TO PREVENT THE LOAD OF EARTH THEIR TRUCKS WERE CARRYING FROM FALLING ONTO THE ROADS.

THE TWO COMPANIES FACED EIGHT AND 14 CHARGES RESPECTIVELY. THE FINE FOR EACH CHARGE WAS \$2 000 AND TOTALLED \$44 000.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1979

- 12 -

FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN GRADUATE FROM SCHOOL
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FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ASKED TO MIX WITH THE +OUTSIDE COMMUNITY+ TO UNDERSTAND OTHER PEOPLE AND TO BE UNDERSTOOD.

THE CALL WAS MADE BY UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR. WONG LAM, AT THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE CITY HALL TODAY.

HE SAID THAT OWING TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE FISHING FOLK AND THEIR FAMILY BACKGROUND, FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN TEND TO RESTRICT THEMSELVES TO THEIR OWN SOCIETY AND LOSE CONTACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

+THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH DESERVES OUR ATTENTION.

+I SINCERELY HOPE YOU START TO MIX WITH THE OUTSIDE COMMUNITY TO UNDERSTAND OTHER PEOPLE AND BE UNDERSTOOD. OUR COMMUNITY WILL BENEFIT BY SUCH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION,+ SAID MR. WONG.

DURING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY, MR. WONG PRESENTED CERTIFICATES TO 77 SECONDARY AND 507 PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS ATTENDING FMO SCHOOLS, WHILE THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. TED NICHOLS AWARDED FMO SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS TO 15 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, MR. WONG SAID WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE ORGANISATION NOW HAS 13 +WELL-MANAGED AND ESTEEMED SCHOOLS.+

+AS A RESULT OF THE GENERALISATION OF EDUCATION, THESE SCHOOLS ARE EXPANDING AND ONE OF THEM WILL PROVIDE SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR THE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IN 1983.

+THIS REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE THE FMO AND THE GOVERNMENT PLACES ON THE EDUCATION OF FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN,+ SAID MR. WONG.

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LAND SALE RESULTS
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A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT SITE IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST WAS SOLD FOR \$260 MILLION AT AN AUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE IN THE CITY HALL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE 1 500-SQUARE METRE SITE, FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, WAS BOUGHT BY THE SEA LORD TRADING COMPANY LIMITED AT \$173 333.33 PER SQUARE METRE.

/ANOTHER LOT,

ANOTHER LOT, LOCATED IN HOLLYWOOD ROAD, WAS SOLD TO A MR. HO SHEK-YAN FOR \$1.6 MILLION OR \$25 196.85 PER SQUARE METRE. IT IS ALSO FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

THE THIRD LOT SITUATED AT BONHAM STRAND, ALSO FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE, WAS SOLD TO THE FULOCK INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD. IT FETCHED \$1.75 MILLION, OR \$40 983.61 PER SQUARE METRE.

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CONTRACT FOR WATER PIPELINE WORK IN SHA TIN SIGNED
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WORK ON THE LAYING OF A SYSTEM OF WATER PIPELINE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN WILL START SHORTLY.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AWARDED A \$1.3 MILLION CONTRACT TO THE POLLAND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF ENGINEER (CONSTRUCTION), MR. LEE GUN-CHEUNG, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY.

THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE THE LAYING OF ABOUT 1 200 METRES OF ASBESTOS CEMENT PIPES RANGING FROM 250 MM TO 450 MM IN DIAMETER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE SYSTEM FORMED PART OF A SCHEME TO PROVIDE FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO THE AREA NORTH OF FO TAN.

THE WORK IS TO TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GLENEALY FLYOVER OPENS
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MISS LYDIA DUNN, AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE GLENEALY FLYOVER AT 4 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE CEREMONY SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE RAIMONDI COLLEGE AT 3.40 PM TOMORROW.

OFFICERS FROM THE PWD'S PUBLICITY UNIT WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1979

- 14 -

PRISON OFFICERS COMPLETE CORRECTIONAL STUDIES COURSE

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TWELVE PRISON OFFICERS, WHO PASSED THE EXAMINATION FOR THE CERTIFICATE COURSE IN CORRECTIONAL STUDIES RUN BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT, WILL RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATES AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE PRISON OFFICERS' CLUB IN STANLEY ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 14).

DURING THE CEREMONY THE TUTOR-IN-CHARGE OF THE ONE-YEAR COURSE, MISS LEE NGA-PING, WILL PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO THE RECIPIENTS AND THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR. G.D. HYDES, WILL MAKE AN ADDRESS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR 12 PRISON OFFICERS WHO PASSED THE CERTIFICATE COURSE IN CORRECTIONAL STUDIES RUN BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT, AT 11 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 14), AT THE PRISON OFFICERS' CLUB IN STANLEY.

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT 10 AM ON FRIDAY.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TUEN MUN

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THE SOUTH SIDE OF PUI TO ROAD BETWEEN HO PONG STREET AND TSUN WEN ROAD IN TUEN MUN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 15) FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON PUI TO ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE NORTH SIDE CARRIAGEWAY WHICH WILL BE OPEN FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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