



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1994

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PROPOSALS ON LEGCO GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES ENDORSED

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS ACCEPTED THE INDEPENDENT BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION'S (BEC) RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY (GC) BOUNDARIES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 1995 ELECTIONS.

THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL'S DECISION, IN THE FORM OF AN ORDER (SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION), WILL BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 4). THE ORDER WILL BE TABLED IN LEGCO ON NOVEMBER 9.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE BEC HAD ONCE AGAIN DONE A THOROUGH AND EXCELLENT JOB. ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, AS ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL IN THEIR ENTIRETY, WERE WELL-BALANCED AND WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE STATUTORY CRITERIA.

"IN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, THE BEC HAD FOLLOWED THE STATUTORY CRITERIA FOR DEMARCATING CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES SUCH AS ADHERENCE TO THE POPULATION QUOTA AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AND HAVING REGARD TO PHYSICAL FEATURE, COMMUNITY IDENTITIES AND LOCAL TIES.

"IT HAD ALSO TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE REPRESENTATIONS IT RECEIVED. FOR THE 1995 LEGCO GC ELECTIONS, THERE WILL BE 20 SINGLE SEAT CONSTITUENCIES.

"THE POPULATION QUOTA FOR EACH OF THE LEGCO GC IS 299,650 AND THE COMMISSION HAD TO ENSURE THAT THE POPULATION IN EACH PROPOSED CONSTITUENCY DOES NOT EXCEED OR FALL SHORT OF THE POPULATION QUOTA BY MORE THAN 25 PER CENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO SEE THE ORDER PASSED ITS LEGISLATIVE PROCESS BY EARLY DECEMBER 1994. THIS WILL THEN PROVIDE THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE WITH A LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO MAKE EARLY PREPARATION (AS FROM JANUARY 1995) FOR THE VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE RELATING TO THE LEGCO ELECTIONS," HE ADDED.

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STATEMENT ON STAR FERRY FARE INCREASE

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE 13.7 PER CENT FARE INCREASE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THE STAR FERRY WAS MODERATE AND REASONABLE.

OVER 90 PER CENT OF PASSENGERS WOULD PAY ONLY 20 CENTS MORE PER TRIP.

HE BELIEVES THIS SMALL INCREASE WHICH IS BELOW INFLATION IS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

AFTER THE FARE INCREASE, THE STAR FERRY IS FORECAST TO EARN A RETURN ON TURNOVER OF ONLY 11.1 PER CENT IN 1995 AND 8.8 PER CENT IN 1996.

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IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO USE THE AVERAGE NET FIXED ASSETS AS A BASIS TO CALCULATE THE COMPANY'S RETURN BECAUSE STAR FERRY EARNS A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF ITS PROFIT FROM OTHER SOURCES SUCH AS PIER RENTAL AND ADVERTISING WHICH HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS FIXED ASSETS. ALSO STAR FERRY HAS A VERY SMALL FIXED ASSET BASE.

THE FARE INCREASE IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE STAR FERRY TO MAINTAIN ITS HIGH QUALITY SERVICE ENJOYED BY THE PUBLIC AND TOURISTS.

AS WITH ANY OTHER FARE INCREASE APPLICATION, STAR FERRY'S FUTURE APPLICATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO DETAILED SCRUTINY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

ALL RELEVANT FACTORS INCLUDING THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. THEREFORE, IT IS PREMATURE TO JUDGE WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE ANY FARE INCREASE FOR THE STAR FERRY BEFORE 1997.

AS REGARDS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT, STAR FERRY IS IN THE PROCESS OF INSTALLING AIR-CONDITIONING IN ONE UPPER-DECK CABIN OF EACH OF ITS VESSELS.

ALSO THE PEAK-HOUR FREQUENCY OF THE WAN CHAI - TSIM SHA TSUI SERVICE HAS BEEN INCREASED TO MEET GROWING PASSENGER DEMAND.

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STUDY ON RIVER TRADE CARGO MOVEMENTS AND
PORT FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

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THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DR PETER PUN, HAS SIGNED A CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT WITH GHK (HONG KONG) LIMITED TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON RIVER TRADE CARGO MOVEMENTS AND PORT FACILITY REQUIREMENTS.

"THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY ARE TO ASSESS THE CURRENT EXTENT, TYPE AND MOVEMENT OF RIVER TRADE CARGOES AND TO ESTIMATE THE FUTURE DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL PORT FACILITIES IN HONG KONG SO AS TO IDENTIFY SUITABLE LOCATIONS FOR THE REQUIRED FACILITIES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE STUDY IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR AND ITS FINDINGS WILL PROVIDE USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PLANNING ADDITIONAL PORT FACILITIES IN HONG KONG TO MEET FUTURE DEMAND," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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PACIFIC BASIN CENTRAL BANK CONFERENCE HELD IN HK

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PARTICIPANTS FROM 15 CENTRAL BANKS AND MONETARY AUTHORITIES AROUND THE PACIFIC BASIN MET IN HONG KONG FROM OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 2 TO DISCUSS "MONETARY AND EXCHANGE RATE MANAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MOBILITY".

THE ECONOMIES REPRESENTED ARE AUSTRALIA, CANADA, CHINA, HONG KONG, INDONESIA, JAPAN, KOREA, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, THAILAND AND THE USA.

MOST OF THESE ECONOMIES HAVE EXPERIENCED SUBSTANTIAL CAPITAL INFLOWS IN RECENT YEARS.

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY, MR JOSEPH YAM, POINTED OUT THAT OF AROUND 180 NON-ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD, THE 10 REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE ATTRACTED MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE US\$100 BILLION IN NET CAPITAL FLOW FROM THE OECD COUNTRIES IN 1993.

THE GENERAL VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE WAS THAT CAPITAL FLOWS ARE BASICALLY DESIRABLE IN ALLOWING A BETTER GLOBAL ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES. HOWEVER, SHORT-TERM FLOWS COULD QUICKLY BE REVERSED AND HENCE BE POTENTIALLY DESTABILISING.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THEIR OWN COUNTRY'S EXPERIENCE WITH AND POLICY RESPONSES TO STRONG CAPITAL FLOWS THAT HAVE POSED NEW CHALLENGES TO MONETARY AND EXCHANGE RATE MANAGEMENT.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL DOOLEY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ, PRESENTED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND PROFESSOR PETER GARBER OF BROWN UNIVERSITY WAS THE RESOURCE PERSON AND RAPPORTEUR.

THE PACIFIC BASIN CENTRAL BANK CONFERENCE IS HELD ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS. THE PREVIOUS CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE IN BEIJING IN 1992.

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SES CALLS ON JAPAN TRANSPORT MINISTER

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THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, WHO IS VISITING JAPAN, PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT OF JAPAN, THE HON SHIZUKA KAMEI, YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

MR SIU WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MR DAVID LAN, PRINCIPAL HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (TOKYO).

MR SIU AND MINISTER KAMEI HAD A FRUITFUL AND FRANK EXCHANGE ON ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN. ON THE ONGOING TALKS ON AIR SERVICES, MR SIU AND MINISTER KAMEI REITERATED THEIR DETERMINATION TO PROVIDE FURTHER IMPETUS TO THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS.

/MR SIU

MR SIU NOTED THAT ENCOURAGING PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE LAST ROUNDS OF AIR SERVICES CONSULTATIONS.

"THE DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER KAMEI WAS USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. BOTH HONG KONG AND JAPAN SHARED THE COMMON BELIEF THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES TO SEE THE SUCCESSFUL AND EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS ON AIR SERVICES," HE SAID.

HE ALSO BRIEFED MINISTER KAMEI ON THE GOOD PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF HONG KONG'S NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

APART FROM A CALL ON THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, MR SIU ALSO CALLED ON THE HON MASAHIKO KOMURA, MINISTER OF STATE AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY. MR SIU TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF MR KOMURA ON RECENT ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME.

HE WILL ALSO ATTEND THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS TO BE HELD IN OSAKA TODAY.

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USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NLCDP

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THE COMMITTEE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (NLCDP) MET THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING TO DISCUSS A RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND NLCDP TO MARK III TO VI PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S FIVE-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THE COMMITTEE, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, HAD AN INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL IN A POSITIVE AND AMICABLE MANNER.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MISS DORIS CHEUNG, WHO CHAIRED THE MEETING, STRESSED THAT NLCDP SERVICE WOULD CONTINUE SO LONG AS THERE WERE DEPRIVED AND TRANSIENT COMMUNITIES TO BE SERVED WITHIN EXISTING POLICY.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION TO TERMINATE NLCDP SERVICE IF THERE WERE SUCH TARGET GROUPS TO BE SERVED.

NLCDP WAS INTRODUCED IN THE 1970S TO DEPRIVED AND TRANSIENT COMMUNITIES INCLUDING SQUATTERS, TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES UNDER HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S FIVE-YEAR REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHERE THE PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES WAS INADEQUATE AND NON-EXISTENT.

MISS CHEUNG REITERATED THAT DIALOGUE WITH RESIDENTS' REPRESENTATIVES AND SOCIAL WORKERS ON THE FUTURE OF NLCDP WOULD CONTINUE.

/SENIOR OFFICIALS

SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, HAD MET VARIOUS GROUPS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF RESIDENTS AND SOCIAL WORKERS DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS ON THIS SUBJECT.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS WILL BE MEETING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE SHORTLY TO HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON NLCDP.

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APPEAL TO TAKE PART IN "TASK OF THE CENTURY"

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THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, DR JULIAN LEUNG, HAS CALLED HONG KONG'S MOVE TO IMPLEMENT TARGET ORIENTED CURRICULUM (TOC) "THE TASK OF THE CENTURY".

SPEAKING AT A TOC TRAINING SEMINAR ATTENDED BY SOME 300 KEY PRIMARY SCHOOL PERSONNEL, DR LEUNG SAID TOC WAS AN IMPORTANT MEASURE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND ENSURE EFFECTIVE LEARNING.

HE SAID HONG KONG WITH ITS WELL DEVELOPED PRIMARY SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS WELL PLACED TO JOIN THE WORLDWIDE TREND IN RAISING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION.

DR LEUNG SAID DELIBERATIONS AND PILOTING OF TOC SO FAR HAD BROUGHT OUT A NUMBER OF CLEAR MESSAGES.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CONCEPT OF TOC HAS SECURED WIDE SUPPORT AND THAT STUDENTS REALLY BENEFIT FROM THE SWITCH TO TOC," HE SAID.

"ULTIMATELY, WE SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE 500,000 PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN HONG KONG.

"MOREOVER, THE TRYOUT SCHEME AND VIEWS EXPRESSED HAVE REVEALED THE KEY FACTORS FOR SUCCESS, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR TEACHER TRAINING AND SUPPORT MEASURES. THESE WILL BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION."

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT TOC WILL BE EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED. THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE SUPPORT MEASURES AND SET UP A MONITORING MECHANISM FOR TOC.

DR LEUNG APPEALED TO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS TO WORK WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO MAKE "THE TASK OF THE CENTURY" A SUCCESS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT TOC WAS A LEARNER-CENTRED APPROACH TO EDUCATION IN WHICH SPECIFIC TARGETS WERE SET FOR INDIVIDUAL PUPILS, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL ABILITY AND PROGRESS.

THE CURRICULUM IS ARRANGED IN A MORE SYSTEMATIC AND EFFECTIVE WAY.

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IT IS AN EFFECTIVE MEANS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND REDUCE DIFFERENCE AMONG PUPILS.

TODAY'S IS ONE OF EIGHT SEMINARS CONDUCTED ON A REGIONAL BASIS FOR SCHOOL HEADS, TOC CO-ORDINATORS AND PANEL CHAIRMEN OF CHINESE, ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS. IT IS PART OF A FOUR-DAY TRAINING COURSE ON TOC.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A THREE-DAY COURSE FOR SCHOOL HEADS AND TOC CO-ORDINATORS, AND A THREE-DAY COURSE FOR PANEL CHAIRMEN.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL-BASED PREPARATORY TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS OF THE 70 SCHOOLS IMPLEMENTING TOC IN SEPTEMBER 1995, AND THREE-DAY FOLLOW-UP IN-SERVICE TRAINING CALLED "SCHOOL-BASED DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMME".

SUPPORT MEASURES BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A WEALTH OF TEACHING AND REFERENCE MATERIALS, SETTING UP OF TOC RESOURCE CENTRES, ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS AND AN INTENSIVE PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

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SHA TIN LOT TO LET
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF ON LAI STREET AND ON MING STREET, AREA 11, SHA TIN.

COVERING AN AREA OF 2,350 SQUARE METRES, THE LOT IS TO BE USED AS A CAR PARK FOR THE TENANT'S MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRAILERS, TRACTORS AND CHASSIS) AND MINOR REPAIRS OR MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES, OR AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS AT NOON ON NOVEMBER 18.

TENDER FORMS, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SHA TIN; THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

TENDER PLAN CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE OFFICES.

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BEST SERVICE AWARD WINNERS OF TRADE DEPARTMENT

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FIVE FRONT-LINE STAFF MEMBERS AND TWO DIVISIONS IN THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WERE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) GIVEN A PAT ON THE SHOULDER FOR THEIR HIGHEST SCORES IN A PUBLIC POLL FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S BEST SERVICE AWARDS.

VOTED THE WINNERS BY THE CUSTOMERS THEY SERVED, THE OFFICERS WERE PRESENTED WITH TROPHIES AND PRIZES AT A CEREMONY OFFICIATED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, AND TWO OTHER GUESTS.

"I AM VERY PLEASED THAT THEIR EFFORTS AND GOOD SERVICES HAVE GAINED PUBLIC RECOGNITION," MR MILLER SAID AT THE CEREMONY.

HE DESCRIBED AS ENCOURAGING THE NUMBER OF VOTES, TOTALLING 1,450, RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE TWO MONTHS OF VOTING IN JULY AND AUGUST.

"THE BEST SERVICE AWARD COMPETITION IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGE ACTIVITIES AIMED AT ENCOURAGING THE STAFF TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE," HE ADDED.

IN THE COMPETITION SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG TEXTILE COUNCIL, STAFF MEMBERS WERE VOTED FOR THEIR EFFICIENCY, KNOWLEDGE, EAGERNESS TO HELP AND POLITENESS.

THE WINNERS OF INDIVIDUAL BEST SERVICE AWARDS ARE MR TSE WAI-SING AND MS HO HO-KI OF THE NORTH AMERICA DIVISION; MR LIN SHUN-WAI AND MS YUNN NIM-CHI OF THE SYSTEMS DIVISION; AND MR TAM CHUNG-CHING OF THE OTHER REGIONS DIVISION.

THE NORTH AMERICA AND SYSTEMS DIVISIONS HAVE WON THE DIVISIONAL BEST SERVICE AWARDS.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S PRESENTATION CEREMONY WERE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG TEXTILE COUNCIL, MR KENNETH PANG, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT'S CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP, MR VICTOR CHA.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,798	0930	+1,176
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,043	1000	+1,176
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+1,185
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+1,170	1200	+1,186
LAF TODAY	-925	1500	+1,186
		1600	+1,170
LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER		TWI 120.4 *-0.2*	2.11.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.55	19 MONTHS	2605	6.35	99.92	6.51
1 MONTH	4.29	22 MONTHS	2608	6.15	95.25	6.91
3 MONTHS	5.00	30 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.78	7.27
6 MONTHS	5.33	33 MONTHS	3710	7.25	99.52	7.57
12 MONTHS	5.99	59 MONTHS	5909	7.45	97.43	8.26
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 48,192 MN						
CLOSED 2 NOVEMBER 1994						

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SUPPLEMENT

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MOTION DEBATE ON HEALTH CARE POLICY: SHW

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FOLLOWING IS THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS KATHERINE FOK, IN MOTION DEBATE ON HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

MR PRESIDENT,

I AM GRATEFUL TO MEMBERS FOR THEIR LIVELY INTEREST IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT AREA. I STRESSED LAST WEEK IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS THAT PREVENTION OF DISEASE WAS A PRIORITY ITEM ON THE HEALTH AGENDA. I POINTED OUT ALSO THAT THIS IS A CENTRAL THEME IN MY POLICY COMMITMENTS AND I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT VARIOUS MEMBERS AGREE WITH ME. THE HONOURABLE FUNG KIN-KEE MENTIONED THIS IN HIS ADDRESS. MISS CHRISTINE LOH ALSO MENTIONED THIS IN HER DEBATE AND VARIOUS OTHER MEMBERS ALSO EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTION OF DISEASE AS A PRIORITY ITEM ALSO ON THEIR HEALTH AGENDA. VARIOUS OTHER MEMBERS ALSO REFERRED TO THE DEFINITION OF IDEAL HEALTH PROVIDED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION. HERE MY AIM AND THEIRS ARE THE SAME: THAT IS WE WORK TOWARDS "A STATE OF COMPLETE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING, NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF DISEASE OR INFIRMITY". VARIOUS MEMBERS REFER TO OUR PAST HISTORY OF PREVENTION AND DISEASE AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND VARIOUS MEMBERS SUCH AS THE HONOURABLE SAMUEL WONG, THE HONOURABLE TANG SIU-TONG, ALSO AGREED THAT IN THE PAST WE HAVE MADE VERY REMARKABLE PROGRESS AND OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES WE HAVE PUT IN PLACE ALL THE BASIC DETERMINING FACTORS FOR HEALTH, NAMELY THINGS SUCH AS ADEQUATE SHELTER, NUTRITIOUS FOOD, EDUCATION, WIDESPREAD ACCESS TO HEALTH PROGRAMMES INCLUDING IMMUNISATION AND FAMILY PLANNING.

GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY IS ENSHRINED IN ITS EXISTING COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE POLICY WHICH PLACES INCREASING EMPHASIS ON HEALTH PROMOTION, PREVENTION OF DISEASE AND DISABILITY AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AS THE EFFECTIVE MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM BENEFITS FOR HEALTH.

MEMBERS MAY REMEMBER THAT IN 1989, WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND THE SUBSEQUENT ENDORSEMENT OF ITS 102 RECOMMENDATIONS, THIS REFLECTED QUITE CLEARLY THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS IN IMPLEMENTING ITS HEALTH CARE POLICY DIRECTIVES TOWARDS THESE GOALS.

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IN MORE SPECIFIC TERMS, I WOULD LIKE TO REFER MEMBERS TO THE RECURRENT SPENDING ON HEALTH CARE IN RECENT YEARS. FOR INSTANCE OUR RECURRENT SPENDING ON HEALTH CARE HAS INCREASED BY NEARLY SEVEN PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 1994/95 COMPARED WITH 1993/94. IT WILL INCREASE BY A FURTHER SEVEN PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 1995/96. OUR ROLE NOW IS INCREASINGLY TO ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES TO AVOID DISEASE AND DISABILITY, AND DEVELOP LIFESTYLES THAT ARE CONDUCIVE TO POSITIVE HEALTH. AND I AM PLEASED TO KNOW ALSO THAT VARIOUS MEMBERS INCLUDING THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL HO, MOSES CHENG, THE HONOURABLE K C LAM ALSO AGREE WITH ME. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARDS AN APPROACH WHICH FOCUSES MORE ON THE INDIVIDUAL PERSON RATHER THAN ON DISEASE. WE SHALL ENABLE PEOPLE TO GET A HEALTHY START TO LIFE, TO LIVE THAT LIFE PRODUCTIVELY, AND TO DIE WITH DIGNITY.

VARIOUS MEMBERS ALSO REFERRED TO THE ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY. THESE ARE, BUT SOME OF THE EXAMPLES OF THE DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION OF OUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTORS TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES.

I WOULD LIKE NOW TO FOCUS ON DISEASE PREVENTION. VARIOUS MEMBERS HAVE ALSO MENTIONED THIS VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN THROUGH IMMUNISATION AGAINST THE NINE COMMON CHILDHOOD INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THROUGH OTHER SERVICES IN OUR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES.

THE HONOURABLE K C LAM ALSO REFERRED TO THE NEW STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE AND I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1995. THIS WILL AIM AT PROMOTING AND MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM PRIMARY ONE TO SECONDARY SEVEN. EARLY DETECTION OF OUR HEALTH PROBLEMS WILL ENSURE TIMELY INTERVENTION. WHEN THIS SCHEME IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED, IT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL THE NEARLY 900,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN IN HONG KONG AND I AM SURE THIS WILL MAKE A MAJOR DIFFERENCE.

VARIOUS MEMBERS INCLUDING THE HONOURABLE HUANG CHEN-YA REFERRED TO SERVICES INCLUDING WOMAN AND ELDERLY HEALTH CENTRES. THESE HAVE STARTED AS PILOT PROJECTS, BUT WILL ULTIMATELY BE INTEGRATED WITH OTHER PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO PROVIDE A CONTINUITY OF CARE. THEY WILL DELIVER HEALTH PROMOTION, HEALTH SCREENING AND HEALTH MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES.

WE WILL INCREASE AND ENHANCE HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE TOP THREE KILLER DISEASES IN HONG KONG, AND VARIOUS MEMBERS MENTIONED OUR THREE MAIN KILLER DISEASES SUCH AS CANCER, HEART DISEASE AND STROKE.

OUR STUDIES SHOW THAT THESE THREE DISEASES ARE LINKED TO CERTAIN LIFESTYLES, AND THAT THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT THEM IS THE PROMOTION AND THE ADOPTION OF A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.

A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE IS NOT AN ABSTRACT AND UNATTAINABLE OBJECT. IT IS CENTRED AROUND THE THEMES OF NO SMOKING, HEALTHY EATING HABITS, WEIGHT CONTROL, REGULAR EXERCISE AND ALCOHOL MODERATION. THESE HABITS AND MEASURES LOOK SIMPLE, BUT TOGETHER, THEY FORM A MOST EFFECTIVE AGENDA AGAINST THE THREE KILLER DISEASES. TO THIS END, WE WILL PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP FOR DEVELOPING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE WILL MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CO-OPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND WILL DESIGN INTEGRATED PROGRAMMES ON OUR HEALTHY LIFESTYLES.

ON ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES, VARIOUS MEMBERS SPOKE ABOUT THIS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WILL AIM AT IMPLEMENTING FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE AND PROMOTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS. COUPLED WITH THE PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH, OUR MEASURES WILL REDUCE SMOKING-RELATED ILLNESSES AND DEATH.

THE HONOURABLE FUNG KIN-KEE MENTIONED THE WORK OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY. HERE I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT EMPHASIS HAS ALSO BEEN PLACED ON PREVENTION ESPECIALLY IN EARLY INTERVENTION TO PREVENT AND MINIMISE THE EFFECTS OF DISEASE AND DISABILITY. THE AUTHORITY COLLABORATES WITH OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS AND PATIENT AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO ACHIEVE THIS. PATIENT RESOURCES CENTRES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN MAJOR HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE A FOCAL POINT FOR HEALTH EDUCATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL. COLLABORATIVE HEALTH EDUCATION AND PREVENTIVE PROGRAMMES HAVE ALSO BEEN ORGANISED WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS. WE WILL ENCOURAGE MORE SUCH ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE.

THE HONOURABLE CONRAD LAM, THE HONOURABLE C H LEONG AND OTHER MEMBERS REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF AIDS. HERE OUR POLICY IS CLEAR. IT ENTAILS FOUR BASIC COMPONENTS :

- FIRST : PREVENTION OF HIV INFECTION AND TRANSMISSION
- SECOND : CARE OF PEOPLE WITH HIV OR AIDS
- THIRD : SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL
- FOURTH : PARTNERSHIP IN HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CARE

IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THIS DEADLY DISEASE, HEALTH EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION ARE ESSENTIAL. WE SHALL CONTINUE VIGOROUSLY TO PROMOTE AIDS AWARENESS AND TO COMBAT PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION. THE NEW INITIATIVES CALL FOR GREATER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE BATTLE AGAINST AIDS. IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR, THE LIONS INTERNATIONAL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL LAUNCH A COMMUNITY CHARTER ON AIDS. BY SIGNING THE CHARTER, COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS WILL PLEDGE THEMSELVES PUBLICLY TO SUPPORT OUR GOALS. THE GOVERNMENT, AS THE LARGEST EMPLOYER, WILL TAKE THE LEAD BY BEING THE FIRST TO SIGN THE CHARTER.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO TURN TO TARGET SETTING WHICH WAS REFERRED TO BY THE HONOURABLE C H LEONG AND MISS CHRISTINE LOH. TO HELP FORMULATE STRATEGIES AND SET TARGETS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING OUR HEALTH CARE POLICY, A WIDE RANGE OF INFORMATION IS NEEDED: FOR POPULATION SURVEILLANCE AS WELL AS FOR EVALUATION PURPOSES.

IN THIS RESPECT, MR PRESIDENT, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED A "PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT". THIS NEW INITIATIVE AIMS TO ANALYSE THE MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEMS AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITY WHICH ARE PREVENTABLE. IT ATTEMPTS TO PROVIDE SOME POINTERS TO THE DIRECTION IN WHICH WE SHOULD NOW MOVE, TO ENSURE THAT OUR FUTURE ASSESSMENTS OF THE TERRITORY'S STATE OF HEALTH ARE RELEVANT, THAT IT IS ACCURATE, THAT IT IS INTERPRETATIVE AND THAT IT IS DISSEMINATED IN A WAY WHICH WILL MAXIMISE THEIR IMPACT ON HEALTH POLICY. IT EMPHASISES THE NEED FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY: IN HEALTH PROMOTION, IN HEALTH RESEARCH, INFORMATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND IN DATA COLLECTION.

THE FIRST ISSUE OF THIS REPORT DEALS WITH TWO VERY IMPORTANT DISEASES IN HONG KONG, HEART DISEASE AND LUNG CANCER. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL AROUSE GREATER AWARENESS OF THESE HEALTH PROBLEMS, GENERATE FEEDBACK, STRENGTHEN OUR PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOR PRIORITY AREAS, AND STIMULATE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION BY PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THE PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT WITH MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH PANEL AND GETTING THEIR FEEDBACK ON OUR APPROACH.

IN CONCLUSION, "PUBLIC HEALTH IS THE SCIENCE AND ART OF PREVENTING DISEASE, PROLONGING LIFE AND PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH THE ORGANISED EFFORTS OF SOCIETY". IT CANNOT BE ISOLATED TO A SINGLE BRANCH OF POLICY MAKERS. HEALTH IMPACTS ACROSS MANY POLICY AREAS AND SECTORS OF SOCIETY. THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE REQUIRES THE CO-OPERATION OF ALL PARTIES. THERE IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, THE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY IN THIS ASPECT. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US CAN MAKE A LONG TERM DIFFERENCE TO OUR HEALTH THROUGH SIMPLE ACTIONS. LET US WORK TOGETHER TO HELP MAKE THAT DIFFERENCE.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
(AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1994
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FOLLOWING IS THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1994 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

MR PRESIDENT,

I MOVE THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1994.

/THE AMENDMENT

THE AMENDMENT SEEKS TO PLUG A LOOPHOLE IN THE PRESENT LEGISLATION WHICH IS IMPEDING EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL HAWKING ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE USE OF VEHICLES. AT PRESENT, THE SEIZURE AND SUBSEQUENT FORFEITURE OF HAWKING EQUIPMENT UPON CONVICTION OF A HAWKING OFFENCE IS AN IMPORTANT DETERRENT IN COMBATING ILLEGAL HAWKING. HOWEVER, A RECENT HIGH COURT RULING HAS EXPOSED A LEGAL LOOPHOLE IN THAT A LORRY SEIZED IN CONNECTION WITH ILLEGAL HAWKING HAD TO BE RETURNED TO A HAWKER AND THE ORIGINAL FORFEITURE ORDER SET ASIDE, ON THE GROUNDS THAT ONLY VANS BUT NOT LORRIES ARE MENTIONED IN THE RELEVANT PROVISION OF THE ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE FORFEITURE OF HAWKER EQUIPMENT. THIS ADDS TO THE ALREADY DIFFICULT TASK OF EFFECTIVE HAWKER CONTROL BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS DIMINUTION OF THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF SEIZURE OF VEHICLES.

THE AMENDMENT WILL ENSURE THAT ANY VEHICLE USED IN CONNECTION WITH HAWKING WILL BE LIABLE TO SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE UPON CONVICTION OF A HAWKING OFFENCE.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

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HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE (AMENDMENT) BILL

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FOLLOWING IS THE SPEECH BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE (AMENDMENT) BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

MR PRESIDENT,

I MOVE THAT THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE (AMENDMENT) BILL BE READ A SECOND TIME.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE CHANGE OF THE TITLE OF THE INSTITUTION TO READ "HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY" AND THAT OF THE EXECUTIVE HEAD TO READ "PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR". THE GOVERNOR WILL REMAIN AS THE TITULAR HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION BY ASSUMING THE NEW "CHANCELLOR" POST.

REGARDING THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE INSTITUTION, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE REPEAL OF THE EXISTING "BOARD OF GOVERNORS" AND ESTABLISHES A "COURT" AS THE SUPREME ADVISORY BODY OF THE UNIVERSITY. THE SENATE WILL REPLACE THE ACADEMIC BOARD AS THE SUPREME ACADEMIC BODY OF THE INSTITUTION. THE "COUNCIL" WILL BE RECONSTITUTED INTO THE HIGHEST EXECUTIVE BODY OF THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS NEW COMPOSITION WILL INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS THE DEANS, SENATE NOMINEES, SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS, STAFF REPRESENTATIVES AND A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE.

THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE "STATUTES" FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE WAS FOUNDED IN 1956. IT IS CURRENTLY OFFERING OVER 3,600 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES. IT HAS OVER THE YEARS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE AS A LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR OF HONG KONG. IT WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS UNIQUE ROLE IN THE PUBLICLY FUNDED PROVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

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CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HK (AMENDMENT) BILL

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FOLLOWING IS THE SPEECH BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

MR PRESIDENT,

I MOVE THE SECOND READING OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE BILL SEEKS TO GIVE LEGAL EFFECTS TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES OF THE TITLE AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG TO BETTER REFLECT THE SELF ACCREDITING STATUS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTION.

IN 1991, THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC HAVE NOTIFIED THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) OF THEIR INTENTION TO APPLY FOR UNIVERSITY TITLE AND STATUS. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED BETWEEN THE UPGC AND THE INSTITUTIONS THAT THE GRANTING OF UNIVERSITY TITLE SHOULD ONLY FOLLOW THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE PRINCIPLE AND TERMS OF A DIFFERENTIATION OF ROLES AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SELF-ACCREDITATION STATUS.

THE FIRST PRECONDITION WAS SATISFIED IN 1992 WHEN THE UPGC PROMULGATED A POLICY STATEMENT WHICH DESCRIBED THE AGREED ROLES AND MISSIONS OF ALL THE UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE. THE SECOND PRECONDITION WAS SATISFIED IN JULY 1993 WHEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPROVED THAT THE THREE INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCREDITING THEIR OWN DEGREE COURSES, SUBJECT TO PERIODIC EXTERNAL REVIEWS OF THEIR QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROCESSES BY THE UPGC.

TODAY, THREE AMENDMENT BILLS ARE PRESENTED TO THIS COUNCIL TO GIVE LEGAL EFFECT TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TITLES AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF THE THREE INSTITUTIONS. THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL PROVIDES FOR THE CHANGE OF THE TITLE OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC TO READ "CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG" AND THAT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO READ "VICE-CHANCELLOR". THE GOVERNOR WILL REMAIN THE TITULAR HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION BY ASSUMING THE NEW "CHANCELLOR" POST. THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "COURT" AS THE SUPREME ADVISORY BODY OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE REPLACEMENT OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD BY THE "SENATE" AS THE SUPREME ACADEMIC BODY.

THE COUNCIL WILL REMAIN THE HIGHEST EXECUTIVE BODY OF THE RETITLED INSTITUTION BUT ITS COMPOSITION WILL BE RECONSTITUTED TO INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS THE DEANS, A SENATE NOMINEE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONVOCATION AND STAFF AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES. THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE "STATUTES" FOR THE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE CITY POLYTECHNIC WAS FOUNDED IN 1984. IT IS CURRENTLY OFFERING OVER 11,000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES. IT HAS OVER THE YEARS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR OF HONG KONG, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PROFESSIONAL ORIENTED STUDIES. IT WILL CONTINUE TO PERFORM ITS UNIQUE ROLE IN THE PUBLICLY FUNDED PROVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

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HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC (AMENDMENT) BILL INTRODUCED TO LEGCO
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FOLLOWING IS THE SPEECH BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC (AMENDMENT) BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

MR PRESIDENT,

I MOVE THAT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC (AMENDMENT) BILL BE READ A SECOND TIME.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE CHANGE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL TITLE TO READ "THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY" AND THAT OF THE EXECUTIVE HEAD TO READ "PRESIDENT". THE GOVERNOR WILL REMAIN AS THE TITULAR HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION BY ASSUMING THE NEW "CHANCELLOR" POST.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE "ACADEMIC BOARD" BY THE SENATE. THE "COUNCIL" WILL REMAIN THE SUPREME GOVERNING BODY OF THE INSTITUTION BUT THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE CHANGE OF ITS COMPOSITION. THE NEW MEMBERSHIP WILL INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS MORE LAY MEMBERS, LESS PUBLIC OFFICERS, A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE, AN ALUMNI AND TWO DEANS. THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE POWER TO MAKE STATUES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WAS FOUNDED IN 1972. IT IS CURRENTLY OFFERING 12,000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES. IT HAS OVER THE YEARS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR OF HONG KONG, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PROFESSIONAL ORIENTED STUDIES. IT WILL CONTINUE TO PERFORM ITS UNIQUE ROLE IN THE PUBLICLY FUNDED PROVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

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REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG HONG-YUEN AND A REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : WILL THE ADMINISTRATION INFORM THIS COUNCIL:

- (A) OF THE NUMBER OF NEW OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES THAT HAVE BEEN REGISTERED OR SUBMITTED FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ORDINANCE;
- (B) OF THE RATIO BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF NEW OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES REFERRED TO IN (A) AND THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF EXISTING SCHEMES; AND
- (C) WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO AVOID AN OVERWHELMING RUSH TO REGISTER JUST BEFORE THE DEADLINE OF OCTOBER 1995?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) AS AT 1 NOVEMBER 1994, THERE WERE 300 NEWLY ESTABLISHED OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES WHICH HAD BEEN REGISTERED OR HAD APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ORDINANCE.
- (B) OF THE 1017 APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OR EXEMPTION OF NEW AND EXISTING OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES RECEIVED SO FAR, 30% ARE FOR NEWLY ESTABLISHED SCHEMES AND 70% FOR EXISTING SCHEMES. IT IS UNLIKELY HOWEVER THAT SUCH A RATIO WILL BE MAINTAINED AS WE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FULL REGISTRATION OF THE 20,000 TO 25,000 PRIVATE RETIREMENT SCHEMES ALREADY IN OPERATION IN HONG KONG.
- (C) TO AVOID AN OVERWHELMING RUSH TO REGISTER RETIREMENT SCHEMES JUST BEFORE THE DEADLINE OF OCTOBER 1995, THE FOLLOWING MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN :-
 - I) THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES HAVE MAINTAINED CLOSE LIAISON WITH MAJOR OPERATORS OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES, INCLUDING AUTHORIZED INSURERS, SCHEME ADMINISTRATORS, TRUST COMPANIES AND FUND MANAGERS, URGING THEM TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND ASSISTING THEM IN MAKING APPLICATIONS AS NECESSARY;

/II) A PUBLICITY

- II) A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN (BY WAY OF SEMINARS, POSTERS, PAMPHLETS AND ADVERTISEMENTS ON TELEVISION) HAS BEEN CONDUCTED OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE OBJECTIVES OF WHICH INCLUDE ENCOURAGING EMPLOYERS AND SCHEME ADMINISTRATORS TO REGISTER THEIR SCHEMES EARLY;
- III) WITH THE HELP OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL BUSINESS ENTITIES IN HONG KONG DRAWING THEIR ATTENTION, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES. LETTERS WILL BE SENT ONCE AGAIN TO ALL THE SCHEMES APPROVED BY THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT IN THE COURSE OF THIS MONTH TO URGE THEM TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION EARLY;
- IV) GUIDANCE NOTES EXPLAINING THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE, TOGETHER WITH SAMPLES OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS, ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO EMPLOYERS AND SCHEME OPERATORS TO ASSIST THEM IN MAKING APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION; AND
- V) FINALLY, STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO AMEND S.21 AND S.27 OF THE ORDINANCE TO GIVE SCHEME ADMINISTRATORS MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF ASSETS OF SCHEMES PARTICIPATING IN POOLING AGREEMENTS AND TO ENABLE FUND MANAGERS TO HAVE DISCRETION IN INVESTING SCHEME ASSETS, SUBJECT TO A LIMIT OF 15%, IN THE EMERGING STOCK MARKETS.

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LOCKERS TO BE PROVIDED IN SCHOOLS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG AND A REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN VIEW OF THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY PARENTS AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION ABOUT THE HARMFUL EFFECT ON THE SPINES OF STUDENTS CAUSED BY CARRYING HEAVY SCHOOL BAGS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHETHER :

- (A) MORE RESOURCES WILL BE ALLOCATED TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT LOCKERS IN SCHOOLS FOR THE STORAGE OF STUDENTS' TEXTBOOKS AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS; AND

/(B) GUIDELINES WILL

- (B) GUIDELINES WILL BE ISSUED TO PUBLISHERS SUGGESTING THE USE OF THE LIGHTER PAPER IN PRINTING TEXTBOOKS AND THE PUBLICATION OF TEXTBOOKS BY VOLUMES SO AS TO LIGHTEN THE LOAD OF SCHOOL BAGS CARRIED BY STUDENTS?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AIMS TO PROVIDE LOCKERS TO ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND IS CALLING FOR RETURNS FROM ALL THESE SCHOOLS ON THEIR REQUIREMENTS. TENDERS HAVE BEEN INVITED FOR AN INITIAL ORDER OF 36,000 LOCKERS, CATERING FOR 345 SCHOOLS. DELIVERY IS EXPECTED TO BE IN EARLY 1995. THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROGRESSIVELY INCREASE THE SUPPLY BASED ON THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE. NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS COMPLETED AFTER SEPTEMBER 1995 WILL ALL BE SUPPLIED WITH LOCKERS AS PART OF THEIR STANDARD EQUIPMENT.
- (B) THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY MADE SUGGESTIONS TO TEXTBOOK PUBLISHERS ON HOW TO REDUCE THE WEIGHT OF TEXTBOOKS, INCLUDING USING LIGHTER WEIGHT PAPER, ELIMINATING BLANK PAGES OR EXCESSIVE MARGINS, DIVIDING TEXTBOOKS INTO DIFFERENT VOLUMES ETC. PUBLISHERS' REACTION TO THESE PROPOSALS HAS BEEN POSITIVE. THE DEPARTMENT WILL MONITOR IMPROVEMENTS.

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CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AIRPORT

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP AND A REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE UP TO THE PRESENT MOMENT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON THE FINANCING OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, AND HAVING REGARD TO THE FACT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF THE LATTER PROJECT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DELAYED FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR BECAUSE OF THE SINO-BRITISH ROW, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHETHER:

- (A) IT WILL PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRPORT RAILWAY;
- (B) JUDGING FROM THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY TO BE COMPLETED AND BECOME OPERATIONAL IN PARALLEL WITH THE NEW AIRPORT; AND

- (C) THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANY PLANS TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTES BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS OVER THE AIRPORT FINANCING PLAN?

REPLY

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THE AIRPORT RAILWAY IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE OVERALL AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NEVER WAVERED FROM ITS DETERMINATION TO BUILD THE AIRPORT RAILWAY. IT WILL BE BUILT AND I CONFIRM THAT IT REMAINS OUR INTENTION TO COMPLETE IT TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE BY MID-1997, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT.

AS MEMBERS ARE AWARE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED ON THE CROSS-HARBOUR IMMERSSED TUBE SECTION AND IN RECLAIMING LAND NEEDED FOR CENTRAL STATION. IN ADDITION, ADVANCE WORKS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT ACP CONTRACTS TO PROTECT THE RAILWAY ALIGNMENT. DESIGN WORK HAS ALSO BEEN WELL ADVANCED AND THE MTRC STANDS READY TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENTIRE RAILWAY.

- (B) GIVEN THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH WE HAVE SO FAR ADOPTED, WE EXPECT THAT THE OPENING OF THE KOWLOON TO CHEK LAP KOK SECTION SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW AIRPORT.
- (C) WE HAVE ALREADY REACHED A COMMON VIEW WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON THE MAIN ELEMENTS CONTAINED IN OUR FOURTH FINANCING PROPOSAL FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY. WE HAVE BEEN TACKLING THIS SUBJECT AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY AND ARE NOW EXTREMELY CLOSE TO FINALISING THE OVERALL DEAL.

IMPORT OF MANAGERS FROM CHINA

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT AND A REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : THE RESPONSE TO THE SCHEME OF IMPORTING GRADUATE PROFESSIONALS AND MANAGERS FROM CHINA HAS BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC AND THE NUMBERS OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASES ARE EIGHT AND NINE TIMES THOSE OF THE QUOTA RESPECTIVELY. IN VIEW OF THIS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL :

- (A) OF THE RESPECTIVE BREAKDOWN OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASES BY PROFESSION AND POST;
- (B) WHETHER IT WILL CONSIDER INCREASING THE EXISTING QUOTA OF 1,000 WHEN THE SCHEME IS REVIEWED IN THE FUTURE; AND
- (C) WHETHER IT WILL CONSIDER CHANGING THE EXISTING BALLOTING SYSTEM USED IN THE ALLOCATION OF QUOTA SO THAT SEPARATE QUOTA CAN BE SET FOR INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONS TO MEET ACTUAL MARKET DEMAND?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THE RESPECTIVE BREAKDOWN OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASES BY PROFESSION AND POST ARE AT ANNEX 1 AND 2;
- (B) THE GOVERNMENT WILL EXAMINE THE ADEQUACY OF THE EXISTING QUOTA OF 1,000 WHEN THE SCHEME IS REVIEWED; AND
- (C) AS PART OF THE REVIEW, THE GOVERNMENT WILL EXAMINE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE EXISTING BALLOTING SYSTEM USED IN THE ALLOCATION OF QUOTA.

/ANNEX 1

ANNEX 1
-----APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY OF PRC PROFESSIONAL
-----BREAKDOWN BY INDUSTRY OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASES)

INDUSTRY -----	NO. OF APPLICATIONS -----
TRADING	686
CONSTRUCTION	404
FINANCE	319
ELECTRONICS	297
MANUFACTURE	260
TRANSPORT	142
OTHERS	129
PROPERTY	115
GARMENT	91
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	88
LEGAL	68
CATERING	43
FOOD	12
EDUCATION	11
TOURISM	10
HOTEL	8

TOTAL	2683

/ANNEX 2

ANNEX 2
-----APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY OF PRC PROFESSIONAL
-----BREAKDOWN BY POST OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASES)

POST -----	NO. OF APPLICATIONS -----
ENGINEER	735
GENERAL/OPERATIONS MANAGER	716
MARKETING/SALES MANAGER	301
ACCOUNTANT	168
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	165
PROJECT MANAGER	113
CONSULTANT	108
PROGRAMMER	105
OTHERS	80
ANALYST	66
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY	47
DESIGNER	37
PURCHASER	31
JOURNALIST	8
LECTURER	3

TOTAL	2683

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MEDIA COVERAGE OF DB ELECTIONS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN AND A REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IS THE GOVERNMENT AWARE OF ANY UNFAIRNESS RESULTING FROM OBVIOUS PARTIALITY SHOWN BY SOME NEWSPAPERS FOR CERTAIN CANDIDATES IN THE RECENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS? IF SO, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) HOW THE AUTHORITY CONCERNED WILL HANDLE SUCH CASES;
AND

/(B) HOW IT

(B) HOW IT CAN PREVENT SIMILAR PROBLEMS FROM RECURRING IN FUTURE ELECTIONS?

REPLY:

MR PRESIDENT,

THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS. PRIOR TO THE RECENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS THE BEC HAD ISSUED DETAILED GUIDELINES ON ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES. MEDIA REPORTING WAS COVERED BY THE GUIDELINES. THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE IN THESE GUIDELINES IS THAT EQUAL, FAIR AND CONSISTENT TREATMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALL CANDIDATES TO ENSURE THAT ELECTIONS ARE HELD IN AN OPEN AND HONEST MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY. THE BEC ALSO APPEALED TO THE MASS MEDIA TO PROVIDE EQUAL AND FAIR TREATMENT TO ALL CANDIDATES WHEN REPORTING THEIR ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES. ANY PUBLISHER WHO TREATS SOME CANDIDATES FAVOURABLY OVER OTHERS MAY BE PUBLICLY DENOUNCED OR CENSURED BY THE BEC. CASES INVOLVING ILLEGAL AND CORRUPT ACTIVITIES WILL BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY FOR FURTHER ACTION.

DURING THE RECENT DB ELECTIONS, THE BEC INVESTIGATED TWO COMPLAINTS ON ALLEGED PARTIALITY SHOWN BY ONE NEWSPAPER TO SOME CANDIDATES. UPON REQUEST, THE NEWSPAPER PROVIDED INFORMATION AND EXPLANATION TO FACILITATE THE BEC'S INVESTIGATION.

AFTER A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO IT, THE BEC FOUND THAT NO ILLEGAL OR CORRUPT PRACTICES WERE INVOLVED. THE BEC ALSO DID NOT FIND SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE COMPLAINTS THAT THE NEWSPAPER HAD DELIBERATELY FAVOURED ANY CANDIDATES. THE COMPLAINANTS WERE ACCORDINGLY INFORMED.

FOR THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN 1995, THE BEC WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLAIN ITS ELECTION GUIDELINES TO ALL CONCERNED AND WILL AGAIN REMIND THE MASS MEDIA OF THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUAL TREATMENT WHEN REPORTING ON CANDIDATES' ACTIVITIES.

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LONG-TERM POLICY FOR SINGLE PARENT FAMILY

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON FRED LI AND A REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS KATHERINE FOK, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 5,000 OF THE 35,000 SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES IN THE TERRITORY WHO ARE IN RECEIPT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE AND THAT THE NUMBER OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES HAS BEEN INCREASING AS A RESULT OF A RISING DIVORCE RATE IN RECENT YEARS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING:

/(A) WHAT SPECIFIC

- (A) WHAT SPECIFIC LONG-TERM POLICY HAS THE GOVERNMENT PUT IN PLACE TO ASSIST SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES IN OVERCOMING FINANCIAL AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN THEIR DAILY LIVES;
- (B) REGARDING THE STATEMENT IN THE GOVERNOR'S 1994 POLICY ADDRESS THAT EACH SINGLE-PARENT FAMILY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT OF \$200 IN 1995-96, WHAT CRITERIA HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF THE SUPPLEMENT; AND
- (C) WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THE DOWNWARD TREND IN THE PROPORTION OF THE SINGLE PARENT ALLOWANCE TO THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX ALLOWANCES SINCE 1992-93 (THE PROPORTION IN 1992-93 WAS 50% WHILE THE FIGURES FOR 1993-94 AND 1994-95 WERE 48% AND 44% RESPECTIVELY), AND WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN CALCULATING THE SINGLE PARENT ALLOWANCE?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

THE FAMILY IS THE CORNERSTONE OF SOCIETY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS A WELL-DEFINED FAMILY WELFARE POLICY TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY. THIS POLICY AIMS TO ASSIST FAMILIES TO COPE WITH THEIR PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.

TO ALLEVIATE THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WHICH MAY BE FACED BY SOME SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES CASH ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA) SCHEME. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO COORDINATES A RANGE OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE TO HELP SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES TO OVERCOME OTHER DIFFICULTIES WHICH THEY MAY ENCOUNTER IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, FAMILIES IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE HOUSING ASSISTANCE CAN BE REHOUSED UNDER THIS COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT. FURTHERMORE, TO HELP SINGLE PARENTS TO ACHIEVE SELF RELIANCE, THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD OFFERS SPECIFIC RETRAINING PROGRAMMES TO THOSE WHO WISH TO EQUIP THEMSELVES WITH SOME SKILLS FOR TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT. IN VIEW OF THEIR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES ARE ALSO ACCORDED PRIORITY FOR DAY NURSERY AND DAY CRECHE SERVICES.

AS REGARDS THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT FOR SINGLE PARENTS TO BE INTRODUCED NEXT APRIL, THE \$200 MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT IS ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF THE CSSA STANDARD RATE TO WHICH THESE SINGLE PARENTS ARE NOW ENTITLED. THIS IS ON TOP OF THE STANDARD RATE AND THE SPECIAL GRANTS WHICH THEY CURRENTLY RECEIVE. THE AMOUNT WAS DETERMINED HAVING REGARD TO ITS PURPOSE WHICH IS TO HELP THESE SINGLE PARENTS JOIN SUPPORT GROUPS AND ESTABLISH MORE SOCIAL CONTACTS WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

/SINGLE PARENT

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SINGLE PARENT TAXPAYERS ARE ENTITLED TO THE BASIC ALLOWANCE AND IN ADDITION, A SINGLE PARENT ALLOWANCE WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TAX RELIEF TO TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE THE SOLE OR PREDOMINANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN. IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXTRA FINANCIAL BURDEN THEY BEAR IN RAISING A FAMILY ON THEIR OWN, WE HAVE SET THE ALLOWANCE AT A LEVEL WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SOME APPRECIABLE RELIEF TO THIS PARTICULAR CATEGORY OF TAXPAYERS.

TAX ALLOWANCES ARE REVIEWED EACH YEAR IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BUDGET. ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE HAVING REGARD TO THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE REAL VALUE OF THE ALLOWANCE AND GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL POSITION. IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO MAINTAIN A RELATIVITY BETWEEN THE BASIC ALLOWANCE AND THE SINGLE PARENT ALLOWANCE.

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XI YANG CASE

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : REGARDING THE IMPRISONMENT OF MR XI YANG - THE MING PAO DAILY NEWS REPORTER - IN CHINA, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS RESPECTIVELY TO SEEK HIS EARLY RELEASE?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS CONVEYED TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES THE WIDESPREAD CONCERN IN HONG KONG, BOTH IN MEDIA CIRCLES AND MORE WIDELY, ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF MR XI YANG AND THE NEED FOR CLEARER GUIDELINES FOR JOURNALISTS WORKING IN CHINA. SIMILAR ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN PEKING WITH THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND BY THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WITH THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN LONDON. MORE RECENTLY, MR XI'S CASE WAS ALSO RAISED BY THE MINISTER WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HONG KONG, MR GOODLAD, DURING HIS VISIT TO CHINA IN JULY AND BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE VICE PREMIER QIAN QICHEN IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER.

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RECRUITMENT OF STAFF IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON TIK CHI-YUEN AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN HIS REPLY TO THE QUESTION ON OPEN RECRUITMENT OF POSTS IN THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE ON 2 MARCH 1994, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER INDICATED THAT THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL POSTS IN THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE TO BE FILLED BY OPEN RECRUITMENT WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 44 IN 1994/95. WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF :

- (A) THE PRESENT PROGRESS OF SUCH RECRUITMENT AND THE NUMBER OF STAFF RECRUITED BY PROFESSION SO FAR; AND
- (B) THE YEARLY RECRUITMENT TARGETS FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) SINCE MY REPLY OF 2 MARCH 1994, THREE ADDITIONAL CIVIL SERVICE POSTS IN THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE HAVE BEEN CONVERTED TO NON-CIVIL SERVICE STATUS, INCREASING THE NUMBER OF NON-CIVIL SERVICE POSTS FROM 44 TO 47.

OF THE 47 NON-CIVIL SERVICE POSTS, 29 ARE FILLED. RECRUITMENT FOR THE 18 VACANT POSTS IS IN PROGRESS. 13 SUITABLE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN SELECTED - 12 AS SUBJECT SPECIALISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING THE CURRICULUM OF SPECIFIC SUBJECTS AND THE REMAINING ONE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL AIDS. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE UP APPOINTMENT IN EARLY 1995. THE REMAINING VACANCIES WILL BE RE-ADVERTISED IN NOVEMBER 1994.

- (B) IT IS NOT PRACTICABLE TO SET PRECISE RECRUITMENT TARGETS FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS. BASED ON THE TREND IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO HAVE TO RECRUIT 6 TO 8 CONTRACT STAFF IN THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE IN EACH OF THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

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LANGUAGE FUND ALLOCATION RESULTS OUT AT YEAR END

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON TIK CHI-YUEN AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : REGARDING THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE GOVERNOR'S 1993 POLICY ADDRESS THAT A LANGUAGE FUND WOULD BE SET UP WITH AN INITIAL ALLOCATION OF \$300 MILLION, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) WHAT IS THE BREAKDOWN BY 'THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS MADE' AND 'THE AMOUNT APPLIED FOR' IN RESPECT OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF APPLICATIONS: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, SUBSIDISED TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOLS, EDUCATIONAL BODIES, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS, AND OTHER APPLICATIONS;
- (B) HOW ARE THE APPLICATIONS FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ASSESSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THOSE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHO ARE IN NEED OF SUCH FUNDING NOT SEEKING THE REQUIRED FUNDS THROUGH INTERNAL REDEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT; AND WHETHER SUCH APPLICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT COMPETING WITH THE PUBLIC FOR RESOURCES;
- (C) WHEN IS IT EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE PROCESSING OF THE FIRST BATCH OF APPLICATIONS; WHEN WILL THE SECOND ALLOCATION COMMENCE AND WHAT WILL BE THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION; AND
- (D) WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR FUNDING ALLOCATION ADOPTED BY THE LANGUAGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THE LANGUAGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (THE COMMITTEE) HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 177 APPLICATIONS, BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS -

APPLICANT'S GROUP	NO. OF APPLICATIONS	TOTAL AMOUNT APPLIED FOR
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		(\$M)
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	21	273
OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS	6	10

/SUBSIDISED TERTIARY

SUBSIDISED TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS	36	166
SCHOOLS	32	15
EDUCATIONAL BODIES	21	83
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	3	64
OTHER APPLICANTS	58	72
	-----	-----
TOTAL	177	683
	===	=====

- (B) THE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED THAT ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE TREATED ON AN EQUAL FOOTING AND ASSESSED SOLELY ON THEIR MERITS AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN IMPROVING PROFICIENCY IN CHINESE (INCLUDING PUTONGHUA) AND ENGLISH. AS STATED IN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE PAPER FCR(93-94)14 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND, ONE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IS TO ENHANCE EXISTING EFFORTS IN THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR AND MEET TEMPORARY SHORTFALLS IN RESOURCES. THUS, THE EDUCATION AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS' APPLICATIONS COME WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE FUND.
- (C) IT IS EXPECTED THAT RESULTS OF THE FIRST BATCH OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE END OF 1994. SINCE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS IS STILL IN PROGRESS, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE THE AMOUNT TO BE ALLOCATED AT THIS STAGE. THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE SECOND APPLICATION EXERCISE IS 31 MARCH 1995.
- (D) THE CRITERIA FOR FUNDING ALLOCATION ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE INCLUDE THOSE SET OUT IN PARA 7 OF THE SAID FINANCE COMMITTEE PAPER AND THE FOLLOWING -
1. THE PROJECT SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF PROFICIENCY IN CHINESE (INCLUDING PUTONGHUA) AND ENGLISH;
 2. ITS RESULTANT BENEFITS MUST ACCRUE TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, AND NOT JUST TO A SINGLE ORGANISATION OR INSTITUTION;
 3. IT SHOULD BE NON-PROFIT MAKING IN NATURE; AND
 4. IT SHOULD BE COST-EFFECTIVE.

HK MADE MORE COMPETITIVE

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY DR THE HON DAVID LI KWOK-PO AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN AN ATTEMPT TO MICRO-MANAGE THE ECONOMY OF THE TERRITORY, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ESTABLISHED A GOVERNOR'S BUSINESS COUNCIL AND WIDENED THE SCOPE OF WORK OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY. IN VIEW OF THIS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHAT SPECIFIC ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO ENHANCE HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS FROM A MACRO-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE?

REPLY :

I BELIEVE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WISHES TO KNOW ABOUT THE MACRO-ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING TO ENHANCE HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS. THE GOVERNOR AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAVE BOTH SPOKEN RECENTLY AND CLEARLY ON THIS VERY BROAD SUBJECT AND THEIR SUMMARIES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN THIS REGARD ARE SET OUT IN PARAGRAPHS 12 TO 21 OF THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE 1994/95 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 5 OCTOBER 1994 AND IN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S SPEECH DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 26 OCTOBER 1994. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO THESE RECENT STATEMENTS.

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ADMISSION TO INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : WITH REGARD TO THE ENROLMENT CRITERIA AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING -

- (A) WHAT IS THE GRADE POINT AVERAGE OBTAINED IN ONE EXAMINATION BY THE STUDENTS ADMITTED THIS ACADEMIC YEAR; HOW MANY OF THEM MET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND HAVE BEEN ADMITTED ON THE BASIS OF THE RESULTS OF ONE EXAMINATION (INSTEAD OF THE COMBINED RESULTS OF TWO EXAMINATIONS);

/(B) WILL THE

- (B) WILL THE INSTITUTE ADOPT THIS YEAR'S PRACTICE TO EXEMPT STUDENTS WITH BETTER RESULTS FROM INTERVIEWS AS ITS ADMISSION POLICY IN FUTURE; IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE AND MERITS OF THIS POLICY AND STATE WHETHER THERE IS A FIXED RATIO BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED DIRECTLY WITHOUT INTERVIEWS AND THE NUMBER ADMITTED AFTER INTERVIEWS;
- (C) WHAT IS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED THIS YEAR; HOW MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN ADMITTED WITHOUT INTERVIEWS, AND OF THESE, HOW MANY HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR PLACES; AND
- (D) HOW MANY CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN GRANTED INTERVIEWS THIS YEAR; HOW MANY HAVE BEEN ADMITTED AFTER INTERVIEWS; HOW MANY HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE WAITING LIST, AND OF THESE, HOW MANY HAVE EVENTUALLY BEEN ADMITTED AND HOW MANY OF THOSE ADMITTED HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR PLACES?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THE GRADE POINT AVERAGE FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, DEFINED AS THE MEAN VALUE OF THE BEST 6 GRADES OBTAINED BY THE 1170 STUDENTS CURRENTLY REGISTERED FOR THE FULL-TIME PRE-SERVICE COURSES IN ONE EXAMINATION SITTING IS 14.50, WITH GRADES A TO E IN THE HKCE EXAMINATION CONVERTED TO THE NUMERIC VALUE OF 5 TO 1.

OF THESE 1170 STUDENTS, 1153 MET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS ON THE BASIS OF THE RESULTS OF ONE EXAMINATION SITTING, 12 ON THE BASIS OF TWO SITTINGS, AND 5 ON THE BASIS OF OTHER EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS.

- (B) THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION WILL SOON REVIEW AND CONSIDER ITS ADMISSION POLICY, IN THE LIGHT OF THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE. THE QUESTION ABOUT ADMISSION INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION.

- (C) TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED OFFER OF ADMISSION 1372
- TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON REGISTER AS AT 28.10.94 1170
- TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS OFFERED ADMISSION WITHOUT INTERVIEW 1592
- TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED OFFER OF ADMISSION WITHOUT INTERVIEW 1212
- TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS GIVEN OFFER WITHOUT INTERVIEWS BUT DID NOT ACCEPT THEM 380

/(D) TOTAL NUMBERS

(D) TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS GRANTED INTERVIEWS THIS YEAR	1580
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS OFFERED ADMISSION AFTER INTERVIEW	204
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED OFFER OF ADMISSION AFTER INTERVIEW	160
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS GIVEN OFFER AFTER INTERVIEWS BUT DID NOT ACCEPT THEM	44

THERE WAS NO WAITING LIST AFTER THE INTERVIEWS. ALL INTERVIEWED CANDIDATES WERE PRIORITISED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR INTERVIEW PERFORMANCE AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS. 204 CANDIDATES ON THE PRIORITY LIST WERE CONTACTED TO ASCERTAIN THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF AN OFFER OF ADMISSION. 160 OF THEM RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND REGISTERED IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE NEW TERM BEGAN.

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DEBT SECURITISATION ISSUES

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL:

- (A) OF THE CURRENT VOLUME OF DEBT SECURITISATION IN HONG KONG AND ITS PROJECTED GROWTH; AND
- (B) WHAT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE LEVEL OF RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH INSTRUMENT OF DEBT SECURITISATION WILL BE PROPERLY DOCUMENTED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO INVESTORS?

REPLY:

- (A) WE ARE AWARE OF THREE DEBT SECURITISATION ISSUES TOTALLING \$2.04 BILLION IN 1994 SO FAR.

/IT IS

IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROJECT THE GROWTH OF DEBT SECURITISATIONS AS IT IS DEPENDENT ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS, NOT LEAST THE INTERNAL PLANS OF THE COMPANIES THAT ORIGINATE SUCH ISSUES AND THE DEMAND OF INVESTORS.

- (B) THE MAIN TAKERS OF SUCH INSTRUMENTS ARE PROFESSIONAL MARKET PARTICIPANTS RATHER THAN RETAIL INVESTORS; THE ISSUES IN 1994 WERE ALL PRIVATELY PLACED. THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH ISSUES FROM AN INVESTOR'S POINT OF VIEW ARE SET OUT IN THE INFORMATION MEMORANDUM OR PROSPECTUS THAT IS SENT TO INVESTORS INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING THE PAPER. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY ISSUES TO DATE THAT HAVE BEEN TARGETTED AT THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN HONG KONG, SUCH ISSUES WOULD ALSO HAVE TO COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS IN THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS ORDINANCE PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND ISSUE OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO SUCH INVESTMENTS.

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TRAINING OF CHINA WORKERS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG YING-YEN AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IT IS REPORTED THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF RESTAURANTS HAVE BEEN IMPORTING WORKERS FROM MAINLAND CHINA UNDER THE PRETENCE OF STAFF TRAINING. APART FROM RECEIVING PRACTICAL TRAINING, THESE TRAINEES ARE ALSO ASSIGNED TO PERFORM GENERAL DUTIES IN RESTAURANTS. THE WAGES THEY RECEIVE ARE EVEN LOWER THAN THOSE OF IMPORTED WORKERS, CONVERTING THEM TO BECOME CHEAP LABOUR AND THUS AFFECTING THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OF LOCAL WORKERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED RETRAINING UNDER THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME. IS THE GOVERNMENT AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND IF SO, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHETHER :

- (A) SUCH A TREND IS SPREADING AND HOW DO THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED MONITOR SUCH ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY BE IN BREACH OF THE LAW;
- (B) ANY EMPLOYER HAS BEEN WARNED OR PROSECUTED AS A RESULT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES; AND

/(C) THE GOVERNMENT

- (C) THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER INTRODUCING SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STOP SUCH ACTIVITIES?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT THE EXISTING POLICY ON THE ADMISSION OF WORKERS FROM CHINA FOR TRAINING PURPOSE IS BEING ABUSED. THE ANSWERS TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ARE -

- (A) UNDER THE EXISTING POLICY, A PERSON MAY BE ALLOWED TO ENTER AND STAY IN HONG KONG FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS TO ACQUIRE SPECIAL SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE NOT AVAILABLE AT HIS PLACE OF DOMICILE. THIS OFTEN INVOLVES ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AT PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT. TO PREVENT ABUSE, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, IN VETTING APPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING VISAS, REQUIRES THE SPONSORING COMPANIES TO PROVIDE TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND JUSTIFICATIONS FOR SUCH TRAINING IN HONG KONG AND ITS DURATION. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT EXAMINES THE BACKGROUND OF THE COMPANIES TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE INDEED ABLE AND COMPETENT TO PROVIDE SUCH TRAINING. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF THE POLICY BEING ABUSED BY EMPLOYERS.
- (B) GOVERNMENT IS NOT AWARE ANY SUCH ABUSES, SO THERE IS NO QUESTION OF WARNING OR PROSECUTION.
- (C) WHERE SPONSORING COMPANIES ARE FOUND TO HAVE ABUSED THE POLICY, THEIR FUTURE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED IN THE LIGHT OF THESE RECORDS.

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SPEECH EXPENDITURE WELL-SPENT

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL:

- (A) WHAT IS THE RESPECTIVE AVERAGE COST OF THE SPEECHES MADE BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT PUBLIC FORUMS IN THE TERRITORY AND AT OVERSEAS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES DURING 1993/94, AND WHAT IS THE RESPECTIVE TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF SUCH SPEECHES; AND

/(B) WHETHER SUCH ...

- (B) WHETHER SUCH EXPENDITURE ARE CONSIDERED TO BE WORTHWHILE; AND WHETHER THERE ARE ANY MEASURES TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS IN THIS RESPECT?

REPLY:

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF DIFFERENT RANKS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE SPEECHES AT A WIDE VARIETY OF PUBLIC FORUMS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS. FOR EXAMPLE, OVER 30 SUCH SPEECHES WERE MADE BY DIRECTORATE OFFICERS IN THE LAST MONTH OF 1993/94 (MARCH 1994) ALONE. THE COST OF MAKING THESE SPEECHES VARIES FROM ONE OCCASION TO ANOTHER, AS IT DEPENDS ON A WIDE RANGE OF FACTORS, SUCH AS THE PURPOSE OF THE FUNCTION AND THE LENGTH AND NATURE OF THE SPEECH. I REGRET THAT TO CALCULATE THE COST OF MAKING ALL THESE SPEECHES WOULD INVOLVE A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT - AND COST. VERY EXTENSIVE RESEARCH WOULD HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT, COVERING ALL THE DIFFERENT RANKS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN MAKING SUCH SPEECHES, AND THEIR SUPPORTING STAFF.

- (B) MAKING SPEECHES, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS, IS PART OF THE NORMAL WORK THAT WE EXPECT OF OUR SENIOR OFFICIALS. AS AN ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT, WE SHOULD BE, AND ARE, ACTIVE IN EXPLAINING OUR POLICIES TO VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ANSWERING THEIR QUESTIONS. IT IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT FOR OFFICIALS TO MAKE SPEECHES OVERSEAS TO PROMOTE HONG KONG. THE MORE THAT OTHERS KNOW OF OUR SUCCESS, AND THE MORE WE CAN DO TO COUNTER THE OFTEN NEGATIVE IMPRESSION THAT PEOPLE WHO DO NOT KNOW HONG KONG HAVE, THE MORE WE CAN SAFEGUARD OUR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL POSITION AND OUR CONTINUING PROSPERITY. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE EFFORT AND EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN MAKING THESE SPEECHES IS WELL SPENT.

LOCATION OF POLLING STATIONS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU WAI-HING AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN VIEW OF THE COMPLAINTS MADE BY SOME VOTERS THAT CERTAIN POLLING STATIONS WERE LOCATED AT TOO FAR A DISTANCE FROM RESIDENTIAL AREAS CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO VOTERS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL :

- (A) OF THE NUMBER OF POLLING STATIONS WHOSE LOCATIONS WERE NOT CLOSE TO RESIDENTIAL AREAS RESULTING IN VOTERS HAVING TO WALK MORE THAN HALF-A-KILOMETRE IN ORDER TO GET THERE; AND
- (B) WHETHER CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO OPENING UP MORE POLLING STATIONS TO FACILITATE VOTING AND THEREBY BOOSTING THE TURN-OUT RATE OF VOTERS?

REPLY :

IT IS NOT PRACTICABLE TO LOCATE AND DESIGNATE A POLLING STATION WITHIN A RIGID DISTANCE FROM THE MAIN POCKETS OF POPULATION IN THE CONSTITUENCY. THE MAIN CONSIDERATIONS FOR CHOOSING A POLLING STATION ARE WHETHER IT IS CENTRALLY LOCATED IN A CONSTITUENCY, EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND WELL KNOWN TO THE LOCAL RESIDENTS. POLLING STATIONS ARE LOCATED IN OR AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE MAIN RESIDENTIAL AREAS WITHIN THE CONSTITUENCY. FURTHERMORE, DEPENDING ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF POPULATION, SOME CONSTITUENCIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE RURAL AREAS, HAVE MORE THAN ONE POLLING STATION TO FACILITATE VOTING.

IN THIS RESPECT, FOR THE LAST DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, A TOTAL OF 442 POLLING STATIONS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR THE 346 DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCIES. DESPITE THESE ARRANGEMENTS, IT IS UNAVOIDABLE THAT ELECTORS WHO LIVE AWAY FROM THE POLLING STATION MAY HAVE TO TRAVEL A SLIGHTLY LONGER DISTANCE THAN THE MAJORITY OF ELECTORS WHO SHOULD BE RELATIVELY CLOSE TO THE POLLING STATION CHOSEN FOR THE CONSTITUENCY.

THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LAST DB ELECTIONS. THE REVIEW WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND THE FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTIES CONCERNED. DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW, ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT POLLING STATIONS MAY BE DESIGNATED TO FURTHER FACILITATE ELECTORS TO TURN UP TO VOTE.

INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOLS AVAILABLE TO PARENTS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : AS PARENTS LACK SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO SELECT SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN PROGRESSING TO HIGHER CLASSES, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :

- (A) WHETHER THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ENCOURAGED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO COMPILE INFORMATION PAMPHLETS OR LEAFLETS INTRODUCING THEIR OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, SIZE AND DEMANDS ON STUDENTS AND SO ON, SO THAT PARENTS MAY UNDERSTAND THE OPERATION OF THESE SCHOOLS IN GENERAL AND REFER TO SUCH INFORMATION WHEN DECIDING WHICH SCHOOL IS SUITABLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN; AND
- (B) WHETHER, IN THE DESIGN OF THE SCHOOL SELECTION FORM FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO SETTING ASIDE SOME SPACE IN THE FORM FOR SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS ABOUT THEIR POLICIES AND TEACHING METHODS SO THAT PARENTS MAY HAVE SOME BASIS ON WHICH TO SELECT SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHEN FILLING OUT THE FORM?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DOES ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO PRODUCE SUITABLE PUBLICITY MATERIALS PUBLICISING THEIR SCHOOL OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION. FOR SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE JOINED THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE SCHEME, THEY ARE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE AN ANNUAL SCHOOL PROFILE CONTAINING A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL, ITS MISSION AND GOALS, STUDENTS' APTITUDE AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, STAFF PROFILE, EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. SOME SCHOOLS HAVE ALSO PRODUCED VIDEO TAPES FOR THIS PURPOSE.
- (B) TO INCLUDE SUCH DETAILED INFORMATION IN THE SELECTION FORMS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL MAKE THE FORMS TOO BULKY. MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOLS IS ALREADY PROVIDED IN THE SCHOOL LISTS OR PARENTS' GUIDEBOOKS DISTRIBUTED WITH THE SELECTION FORMS TO STUDENTS. IN ADDITION, PARENTS CAN ACCESS THROUGH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT OFFICES TO INFORMATION ABOUT ALL PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG.

LANGUAGE SKILLS OF STUDENTS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY DR THE HON DAVID LI KWOK-PO AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IS THE GOVERNMENT AWARE THAT DESPITE THE GREATER EMPHASIS GIVEN BY MANY SCHOOLS IN THE TERRITORY TO THE LEARNING OF ENGLISH AT THE EXPENSE OF LEARNING CHINESE, MANY STUDENTS STILL FAIL TO LEARN EITHER ENGLISH OR CHINESE WELL? IF SO, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CONSIDERED FORMULATING A LANGUAGE POLICY WHICH REFLECTED THE FINE BALANCE BETWEEN HONG KONG AS A PREDOMINANTLY CHINESE SOCIETY AS WELL AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE WHERE THE USE OF ENGLISH IS CRUCIAL TO ITS SUCCESS?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE CONCERN ON THE PROFICIENCY OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH AMONG OUR STUDENTS. DESPITE THE PERCEPTION THAT THEIR LANGUAGE STANDARDS ARE FALLING, THERE IS NO OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS THE CASE. BASED ON THE RESULTS OF "TEST MONITORING THE STANDARDS OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION REFERENCE GROUP", THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY HAS OBSERVED THAT "THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS TO SUGGEST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE OVERALL STANDARD IN THESE TWO LANGUAGES IN RECENT YEARS". THE PERCEPTION MAY THEREFORE BE DUE TO HIGHER EXPECTATION IN THE EMPLOYMENT MARKET, ESPECIALLY THE SERVICE SECTOR, RATHER THAN LOWERING IN ABSOLUTE STANDARDS.

NEVERTHELESS, GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE NEED FOR HONG KONG TO TRAIN MORE PEOPLE PROFICIENT IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH. IN OUR 1993 STATEMENT OF AIMS FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION, SCHOOLS ARE ASKED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR COMPETENCE IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH IN DEVELOPING THE LANGUAGE SKILLS OF THEIR STUDENTS.

FOR MORE EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING, IT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ENCOURAGE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ADOPT CHINESE AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM. HOWEVER, THOSE SCHOOLS WHOSE STUDENTS HAVE THE PROVEN ABILITY TO LEARN EFFECTIVELY IN ENGLISH MAY USE ENGLISH AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM. IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO USE CHINESE AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM, WHILST AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT STUDENTS CAN ATTAIN A REASONABLE STANDARD OF COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH, A SERIES OF POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION MEASURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED SINCE 1987. THESE INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS AND LEARNING FACILITIES, AND MORE INTENSIVE ENGLISH LEARNING PROGRAMMES.

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AS AN EXTRA EFFORT TO RAISE THE STANDARDS OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH, AND TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVE USE OF BOTH LANGUAGES NOT ONLY IN SCHOOLS BUT ALSO AT WORK, A LANGUAGE FUND WITH AN INJECTION OF \$300M FROM GENERAL REVENUE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED EARLIER THIS YEAR TO FUND NEW INITIATIVES.

THE TARGET ORIENTED CURRICULUM WILL ALSO SET OUT CLEAR TEACHING AND LEARNING TARGETS AND WILL, IN TIME, ENABLE STUDENTS TO ATTAIN HIGHER STANDARDS OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

TO ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT'S LANGUAGE POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO CATER FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY HAS UNDERTAKEN A REVIEW OF THE POLICY AND HAS PUBLISHED A REPORT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN JULY THIS YEAR. THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO MAKE ITS FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN EARLY 1995.

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ON TUEN MUN ROAD

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : AS SOME OF THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED FREQUENTLY ON TUEN MUN HIGHWAY WERE CAUSED BY HEAVY CONTAINER TRUCKS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL :

- (A) OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CONTAINER TRUCKS THAT OCCURRED ON TUEN MUN HIGHWAY IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCH ACCIDENTS DUE TO OVERLOADING; AND
- (B) WHAT IS THE PRESENT PROGRESS REGARDING THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S PLAN TO SET UP THE TERRITORY'S SECOND WEIGH-STATION ON TUEN MUN HIGHWAY TO STOP AND INSPECT OVERLOADED GOODS VEHICLES?

REPLY

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THERE WERE 40 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN 1992 INVOLVING CONTAINER VEHICLES ON TUEN MUN ROAD, 13 IN 1993 AND 13 IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. THE POLICE HAVE ADVISED THAT NONE OF THESE ACCIDENTS WERE CAUSED BY "OVERLOADING".

/(B) THE CONTRACT

- (B) THE CONTRACT FOR BUILDING A WEIGH-STATION AT TAI LAM CHUNG COMMENCED ON 19 AUGUST 1994. THE PROJECT COMPRISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WEIGH-STATION, AN OFFICE AND AREAS FOR TRAFFIC CIRCULATION AND SPACE FOR THE TEMPORARY STORAGE OF GOODS WHICH HAVE TO BE UNLOADED FROM THOSE VEHICLES WHICH ARE FOUND TO HAVE AN EXCESSIVE LOAD. IT IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN APRIL 1995. WORK IS PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE.

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MEASURES TO ENHANCE FREIGHT TRANSPORT TRADE

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TIEN AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : AS CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 10 WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL LATE 1997 OR EARLY 1998, WHICH WILL BE SOMETIME AFTER THE PLANNED COMPLETION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 9 IN MID-1995, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHAT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN IN THE MEANTIME TO ENHANCE HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS IN THE FREIGHT TRANSPORT TRADE?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT

AS I INDICATED IN THIS COUNCIL ON 12 OCTOBER THE NOW INEVITABLE DELAY IN COMPLETION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. (CT9) HAS DEALT A SEVERE BLOW TO OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S POSITION AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT CONTAINER PORTS. FOR MANY YEARS IT HAS BEEN OUR POLICY TO MATCH THE SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL CONTAINER TERMINAL FACILITIES WITH FORECAST DEMAND FOR THEIR USE. WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED THIS POLICY, ENTIRELY THROUGH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, BY A JUDICIOUS COMBINATION OF PUBLIC TENDERS AND PRIVATE TREATY GRANTS.

IN THE ABSENCE OF CT9, THE FIRST BERTH OF WHICH WILL BE NEEDED BY MID 1995, THIS WILL NO LONGER BE THE CASE. WE WILL ALSO LOSE A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE COMPETITION IN THE CONTAINER HANDLING BUSINESS BY BRINGING IN A NEW PLAYER.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENT DAMAGE TO THE HONG KONG ECONOMY WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF EXISTING PORT OPERATORS TO MOVE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF BUSINESS THROUGH EXISTING FACILITIES.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE COMING YEAR :

- WE SHALL BE PROVIDING OVER 20 HECTARES OF NEW LAND TO SUPPORT CONTAINER OPERATIONS;
- WE SHALL BE ENSURING THAT ALL SUITABLE WATERFRONT SITES CAN BE UTILISED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FOR CARGO HANDLING PURPOSES;

/- WE SHALL

- WE SHALL BE STARTING ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RIVER TRADE TERMINAL AT TUEN MUN. THE TERMINAL WILL CONSOLIDATE CARGOES BOUND FOR THE CONTAINER TERMINALS WITH THE AIM OF A SMOOTHER TRANSFER OF CARGO BETWEEN PORTS IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA AND KWAI CHUNG;
- WE SHALL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE ALL PORT OPERATORS TO REVIEW THEIR OPERATIONS WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE PUTTING IN PLACE MORE STREAMLINED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST PHASES OF THE LANTAU PORT. THE AIM WILL BE TO DRIVE FORWARD PLANNING AND ENGINEERING WORK SO AS TO ACHIEVE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPENING OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF BERTHS ON LANTAU ISLAND.

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MOTION ON HEALTH CARE POLICY PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION MOVED BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA ON HEALTH CARE POLICY.

THE MOTION URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO FORMULATE A HEALTH CARE POLICY ORIENTED TO THE PREVENTION OF DISEASES, TO SET TARGETS AND TO STEP UP THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICES AT LOW CHARGES.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS KATHERINE FOK, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE MOTION.

TWO OTHER MOTIONS MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SEEKING APPROVAL FOR AMENDING TWO ORDERS UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE AND THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY WERE ALSO CARRIED.

DURING THE SITTING, FOUR BILLS - THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1994, THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 - WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

A TOTAL OF 10 SESSIONAL PAPERS WERE ALSO PRESENTED AT THE SITTING, INCLUDING THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT 1993-94 BY THE HON PETER WONG AND THE REPORT OF THE SECURITY PANEL ON THE ENQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE TERMINATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF MR ALEX TSUI, FORMER SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW.

AT THE SITTING, COUNCILLORS ASKED A TOTAL OF 19 QUESTIONS.

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