



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LEGCO APPROVES YAUMATI FERRY FARE INCREASES

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO GRANT INCREASES FOR BOTH PASSENGER FARES AND FREIGHT CHARGES ON ALL SCHEDULED SERVICES OF THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY.

THE INCREASES WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 1 AND UNDER THE NEW FARE STRUCTURE, THE CROSS-HARBOUR FARES WILL BE RAISED FROM 40 CENTS TO 50 CENTS FOR ADULTS AND FROM 20 CENTS TO 30 CENTS FOR CHILDREN.

THE FARE INCREASES FOR OUTLYING DISTRICT AND TOLO HARBOUR SERVICES ARE IN THE ORDER OF 50 PER CENT. HOWEVER, ON THE WELL PATRONISED SERVICES FROM CHEUNG CHAU AND SILVERMINE BAY TO CENTRAL, THE WEEKDAY INCREASES WOULD BE A THIRD FROM \$1.50 TO \$2.

THE FREIGHT CHARGE INCREASES WOULD BE IN THE ORDER OF 100 PER CENT, BUT THERE WILL BE NO INCREASES IN VEHICULAR FERRY CHARGES.

MOVING THE MOTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID WITH THESE INCREASES, THE COMPANY'S PROFITS ON FERRY OPERATIONS, GIVEN THE INCREASED COSTS AND THE PROSPECTIVE LOSS OF CROSS-HARBOUR PASSENGERS TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN RELATIVELY LOW AND NO HIGHER ON AVERAGE IN 1979 AND 1980 THAN IN 1978.

THE RATE OF RETURN ON AVERAGE NET FIXED ASSETS IS PREDICTED TO BE ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT IN 1979 AND SIX PER CENT IN 1980 COMPARED WITH SIX PER CENT IN 1978.

+THIS IS NOT A GOOD PROSPECT AND, GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE SITUATION, CAREFUL MONITORING OF DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS WILL BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE FERRIES REMAIN VIABLE,+ MR. JONES SAID.

HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER INCREASE IN FARES ON THE CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES DURING 1980 AND THAT SOME OF THE LESS PROFITABLE SERVICES MAY HAVE TO BE CURTAILED.

MR. JONES POINTED OUT THAT THE YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY THIS YEAR HAS HAD TO FACE VERY SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN COSTS.

+THE MOST DRAMATIC INCREASE HAS BEEN IN FUEL COSTS WHICH ARE EXPECTED ON AVERAGE THIS YEAR TO BE ABOUT 60 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN 1978, AND ARE PROJECTED NEXT YEAR TO BE AS MUCH AS 140 PER CENT GREATER THAN LAST YEAR.

+IF THIS TRANSPIRES THE INCREASE IN FUEL COSTS ALONE IN 1980 COMPARED WITH 1978 WILL COME TO MORE THAN TWICE THE 1978 PROFITS ON FERRY OPERATIONS.

+ON TOP OF THIS, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN WAGES, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER COSTS. AND IN 1980, THE COMPANY EXPECTS TO EXPERIENCE A DROP OF UP TO A FIFTH IN PASSENGERS ON ITS CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES AS A RESULT OF COMPETITION FROM THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.+

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+ALL OF THESE FACTORS TAKEN TOGETHER WILL INEVITABLY MEAN THAT THE COMPANY WILL MAKE LOSSES ON ITS PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES AS A WHOLE UNLESS THERE IS AN INCREASE IN CHARGES,+ MR. JONES SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT SINCE 1974, A NUMBER OF MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE COMPANY'S FERRY OPERATIONS.

THESE INCLUDE THE WAIVING OF ROYALTIES AND LICENCE FEES, THE ABOLITION OF SECOND CLASS FARES ON CROSS-HARBOUR AND TOLO HARBOUR SERVICES, AND FARE INCREASES ON ALL PASSENGER SERVICES. THE COMPANY HAS ITSELF ALSO TAKEN MEASURES TO IMPROVE ITS OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY, PRINCIPALLY BY REDUCING STAFF NUMBERS AND BY SELLING OFF 14 COST-INEFFECTIVE VESSELS. DESPITE THESE MEASURES, THE RATE OF RETURN ON THE COMPANY'S NEXT FIXED ASSETS HAS REMAINED LOW OF BETWEEN ONE AND SIX PER CENT FOR THE YEARS 1975 TO 1978, AGAINST A FORECAST RETURN OF EIGHT PER CENT.

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CLOSE TOURISM RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA ARE TO DEVELOP FURTHER
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THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION HAD DEVELOPED CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE TOURIST AUTHORITIES IN CHINA AND IT WAS CONFIDENT THAT THESE RELATIONSHIPS WOULD DEVELOP STILL FURTHER TO MUTUAL BENEFIT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION, THE HON. DAVID NEWBIGGING WHEN HE COMMENTED ON THE ASSOCIATION'S 1978-79 REPORT TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+WITH THE HIGH PRIORITY PLACED ON TOURISM IN CHINA, WE BELIEVE HONG KONG HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY- BOTH AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA AND AS A SOURCE OF INVESTMENT AND ADVICE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA'S OWN TOURIST INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TOURISM IN HONG KONG HAD BECOME AN INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE ECONOMY. IN 1978 HONG KONG HAD OVER TWO MILLION VISITORS FOR THE FIRST TIME, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 17 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

GROSS REVENUE FROM TOURISM WAS ALSO A RECORD- UP NEARLY 26 PER CENT TO HK\$5 100 MILLION. ANOTHER RECORD WAS THE PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE WHICH WAS NINE PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN 1977.

MR. NEWBIGGING SAID THE +HONOURABLE MENTION+ GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY WAS AN ENCOURAGEMENT AND WAS JUSTIFIED BY THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST SIX MONTHS THIS YEAR. THEY SHOWED A FURTHER INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VISITORS OF MORE THAN 10 PER CENT OVER 1978. MORE IMPORTANTLY, TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY TOURISTS GREW BY 32 PER CENT IN TOTAL TERMS AND BY 21 PER CENT IN PER CAPITA TERMS.

+EVEN ALLOWING FOR THE CURRENT HIGH RATE OF INFLATION, THIS IMPLIES SIGNIFICANT REAL GROWTH, A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ECONOMY, AND SOME SUCCESS IN OUR POLICY OF 'TRADING UP',+ MR. NEWBIGGING SAID.

HE REPORTED THAT CONCURRENT WITH THE GROWTH IN THE INDUSTRY THERE HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIAL NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENT, INCLUDING NEW HOTELS ON PRIME SITES WHICH WOULD ADD 5 000 ROOMS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO THE 14 000 ROOMS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

DURING THE YEAR, THE ASSOCIATION OPENED NEW OVERSEAS OFFICES IN CHICAGO AND OSAKA. IT WAS CONTINUING WITH ITS +COURTESY+ CAMPAIGN TO UNDERSCORE TOURISM AS A SERVICE INDUSTRY.

REFERRING TO SUGGESTIONS IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE THAT WE WERE IN DANGER OF PRICING OURSELVES OUT OF THE TOURIST MARKET, MR. NEWBIGGING SAID HONG KONG HAD TRADITIONALLY MAINTAINED GREAT FLEXIBILITY IN ALL SECTORS OF ITS ECONOMY IN ITS PRICE STRUCTURE RELATIVE TO WHAT ANY INDUSTRY COULD BEAR. THE TOURIST INDUSTRY WAS NO EXCEPTION AND THE RESULTS OF THE PAST YEAR TESTIFIED TO THIS.

+HOWEVER, AT THE RISK OF BEING REPETITIVE, VISITORS WILL ONLY BE PREPARED TO PAY IF THEY FEEL THEY ARE RECEIVING GOOD AND COURTEOUS VALUE FOR MONEY,+ HE SAID.

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FIRST FACTORY AT TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
TO START PRODUCTION SOON
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THE FIRST OF THE 24 FACTORIES ALREADY ALLOCATED SITES AT THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IS EXPECTED TO START PRODUCTION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, AND BUILDING OF OTHER FACTORIES HAS BEGUN.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, THE HON. LI FOOK-WO WHEN HE TABLED THE CORPORATION'S LATEST ANNUAL REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE 24 INDUSTRIAL SITES WERE ALLOCATED TO LOCAL COMPANIES AND THE REST TO OVERSEAS FIRMS. TOGETHER, THEY PROPOSED A TOTAL MINIMUM INVESTMENT OF ABOUT \$600 MILLION OF WHICH ABOUT HALF WOULD BE FROM OVERSEAS, MR. LI SAID.

HE SAID THE CORPORATION'S MAIN TASK OF FORMING LAND AND PROVIDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE AT TAI PO, AND AT THE SECOND ESTATE AT YUEN LONG, HAD GENERALLY BEEN ON SCHEDULE.

AT TAI PO, SOME 34 HECTARES OUT OF THE 45 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL SITES COMPRISING STAGES I AND II, HAD BEEN FORMED. A THIRD STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION, APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE GOVERNMENT, WOULD PRODUCE ANOTHER 20 HECTARES, HE SAID. AT YUEN LONG, THE FIRST SITE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR LEASING EARLY IN 1980.

ABOUT 45 PER CENT WITHIN STAGE I OF THE 34 HECTARES OF LAND FORMED AT TAI PO HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED WITH ROADS AND SERVICES. SOME 15 HECTARES, MAINLY IN THE SAME STAGE, HAD BEEN OR WERE EARMARKED TO BE GRANTED. THE ROADWORKS AND SERVICES TO STAGE II WERE BEING CONSTRUCTED.

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MR. LI SAID THE CORPORATION WAS, HOWEVER, MOST CONCERNED THAT SOME ESSENTIAL ROADWORKS TO THE ESTATE WERE BEING DELAYED BY THE CUT-BACK IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING. THESE INCLUDED THE COASTAL TRUNK ROAD FROM SHA TIN TO TAI PO, AND THE DISTRIBUTOR ROAD BY-PASSING THE TOWN CENTRE.

THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPLETED EARLY TO FACILITATE FASTER AND MORE EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION OF MATERIALS AND GOODS BY CONTAINERS AND TRUCKS TO AND FROM THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MR. LI SAID.

HE REPORTED THAT DUE TO QUICKER LAND FORMATION AT TAI PO, THERE WAS A MORE ACCEPTABLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONSTRUCTION AND LEASING PROGRAMMES. THIS OBIATED UNDUE INTERFERENCE BETWEEN FACTORY CONSTRUCTION AND THE CORPORATION'S OWN INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS.

THE RATE OF APPLICATIONS FOR SITES WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S BUT A GREATER PROPORTION OF THEM MET THE SELECTION CRITERIA. HOWEVER, WITH INCREASING PRODUCTION OF LAND IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, BOTH THE RATE OF APPLICATIONS AND THE RATE OF APPROVALS SIMILARLY HAD TO INCREASE, HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES TO THOSE INVESTMENTS INVOLVING HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROCESSES AND NEW PRODUCTS WHICH HAD HITHERTO BEEN LOST TO HONG KONG THROUGH SCARCITY OF LAND. THESE INDUSTRIES WOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN DIVERSIFYING THE ECONOMY AND IN SUSTAINING AND IMPROVING OUR EXPORT PERFORMANCE.

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GOVERNMENT URGED TO IMPLEMENT INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHEMES
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS URGED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO IMPLEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE INDUSTRY-WIDE TRAINING SCHEMES PROPOSED BY THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUE, THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN WHO WAS ABSENT, LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON. ALEX WU ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER URGENTLY THE APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PIECE OF LAND FOR A SECOND TRAINING CENTRE BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY.

THE APPEALS WERE MADE WHEN HE TABLED THE 1978 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THESE SCHEMES ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED TO ENABLE THE INDUSTRIES TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN THE FACE OF INCREASING EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL PRESSURES,+ HE STRESSED.

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REFERRING TO THE REPORTS, MR. WU SAID THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY CONTINUED TO BE THE LARGEST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG IN TERMS OF BOTH TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED AND HONG KONG REMAINED THE WORLD'S PREMIER EXPORTER OF CLOTHING.

IN 1978, THE TOTAL VALUE OF CLOTHING ITEMS MANUFACTURED IN AND EXPORTED FROM HONG KONG AMOUNTED TO SOME \$15 700 MILLION, REPRESENTING ABOUT 39 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS.

THE NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY WAS MORE THAN 260 000 OR ABOUT 33 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL WORKFORCE IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

LAST YEAR ALSO SAW AN UNPRECEDENTED SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER AT THE OPERATIVE LEVEL IN THE INDUSTRY.

TO ASSIST THE INDUSTRY TO COUNTER THIS PROBLEM, THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE HAS ASSISTED IN SUPPLYING WELL-TRAINED OPERATIVES.

LAST YEAR, OVER 3 100 TRAINEES COMPLETED TRAINING IN THE CENTRE, AND NEW TRAINING COURSES FOR IN-SERVICE SUPERVISORS, QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTORS AND PRESSING OPERATIVES WERE STARTED.

IN ADDITION TO SKILL TRAINING, INCULCATING CORRECT WORKING ATTITUDE, DISCIPLINE AND SAFE WORKING HABITS FORMED AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

TURNING TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, MR. WU SAID LAST YEAR WAS ALSO A RECORD YEAR FOR THE INDUSTRY.

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY'S TRAINING CENTRE CONTINUED TO TURN OUT YOUNG PEOPLE WELL GROUNDED IN BASIC SKILLS IN KEY CONSTRUCTION TRADES. TRAINEES WERE READILY ABSORBED AND WELL RECEIVED BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AFTER COMPLETING THEIR 11-MONTH COURSES AT THE CENTRE.

THE HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, MR. WU CONTINUED, HAD INDUCED CONTRACTORS TO BECOME MORE MECHANISED. CONSTRUCTION PLANT OPERATORS AND OTHER SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS SUCH AS BAR BENDERS, LEVELLERS AND CONCRETORS WERE, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE, IN GREAT DEMAND.

THEREFORE, PLANS FOR PROVIDING SHORT COURSES AT THE CENTRE TO CATER FOR SUCH NEEDS WERE BEING IMPLEMENTED.

AS THE AUTHORITY'S CENTRE COULD ACCOMMODATE ONLY ABOUT 700 TRAINEES, THERE WAS, THEREFORE, AN URGENT NEED FOR A SECOND TRAINING CENTRE.

+THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY HAS APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE GRANT OF A PIECE OF LAND IN KWAI CHUNG. I URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO TREAT THIS APPLICATION AS A MATTER OF URGENCY,+ MR. WU SAID.

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PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS LAST YEAR

THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS LAST YEAR- ONE WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SERVICE TO HELP LOCAL INDUSTRIES, THE HON. S.L. CHEN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR. CHEN WAS SPEAKING AT THE TABLING OF THE 1978-79 REPORT OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, OF WHICH HE IS THE CHAIRMAN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE HONG KONG DID NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF ITS OWN, THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SERVICE WOULD ASSIST INDUSTRIES TO FIND APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY SOURCES AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON THE ADAPTATION OF IMPORTED TECHNOLOGY. THIS WAS A PREREQUISITE FOR RAPID INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION.

HE REPORTED THAT DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE'S RANGE OF TECHNICAL SERVICES WAS EXPANDED AND NOW INCLUDED A HEAT TREATMENT UNIT TO HELP UPGRADE A WIDE VARIETY OF LIGHT METAL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES. IN ADDITION, THE CENTRE CONTINUED TO UNDERTAKE MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THE IMPACT OF WHICH WAS LIKELY TO BE GREATER.

ITS TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICES WERE CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHENED AND AN ON-LINE INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM LINKING MAJOR DATA BASES IN THE U.S.A. WAS SET UP TO PROVIDE RAPID ACCESS TO THE LATEST TECHNICAL INFORMATION.

THE CENTRE CONDUCTED 170 CONSULTANCY AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND PROVIDED TRAINING FOR OVER 6 500 PARTICIPANTS. IT ALSO HELPED A NUMBER OF COMPANIES IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR SETTING UP TECHNOLOGICALLY-ADVANCED AND CAPITAL-INTENSIVE PRODUCTION PLANTS, AND SUBMITTED PROPOSALS FOR ESTABLISHING NEW AND EXTENDED ACTIVITIES ESSENTIAL FOR HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION.

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FIRMS PROTECTED FROM CLAIMS
FOR LOST SHARES REPLACEMENT

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 WHICH IS AIMED AT PROVIDING STATUTORY PROTECTION FOR LISTED PUBLIC COMPANIES AGAINST CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF THEIR REPLACING LOST SHARE CERTIFICATES, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THAT AT PRESENT THE ONLY STATUTORY PROVISION GOVERNING THE ISSUE OF REPLACEMENT SHARE CERTIFICATES PROVIDED THAT THE REGISTERED HOLDER OF SHARES, OR SOMEONE CLAIMING SO TO BE, MAY APPLY TO A COMPANY FOR THE ISSUE OF A NEW SHARE CERTIFICATE WHEN HE NO LONGER HAS THE ORIGINAL.

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+IF THE COMPANY THEN ISSUES A NEW ONE, IT IS INDEMNIFIED AGAINST ALL LOSS SUBSEQUENTLY INCURRED BY ANY PERSON OF ITS HAVING DONE SO,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THIS PROVISION ONLY APPLIED TO COMPANIES INCORPORATED BEFORE DECEMBER 25, 1941.

HE SAID THAT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY WERE NOT COVERED BY A STATUTORY INDEMNIFICATION, COMPANIES INCORPORATED AFTER DECEMBER 1941 WERE LEFT TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISHED TO ISSUE REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATES.

IN MOST CASES, HE SAID, THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO DO SO UNLESS THE APPLICATIONS WERE COVERED BY AN INDEMNITY FROM A BANK OR SOME OTHER FORM OF GUARANTEE.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE SECOND REPORT BY THE COMPANIES LAW REVISION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROTECTION PROVIDED IN THE COMPANIES (RECONSTRUCTION OF RECORDS) ORDINANCE BE EXTENDED TO ALL COMPANIES.

+AFTER CONSULTING THE FEDERATION OF SHARE REGISTRARS AND THE EXCHANGE BANKS ASSOCIATION, WE CONCLUDED THAT ONLY LISTED PUBLIC COMPANIES SHOULD BE COVERED,+ HE SAID.

+THE ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE NUMBER OF CASES INVOLVING LOST SHARE CERTIFICATES IN RESPECT OF PRIVATE OR NON-LISTED PUBLIC COMPANIES WAS SMALL AND IDENTIFYING THE RIGHTFUL OWNERS OF THEIR SHARES WAS RARELY A PROBLEM,+ HE ADDED.

A TWO-TIER SYSTEM WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE AMENDMENT BILL. ONE PROCEDURE BROADLY SIMILAR TO A PROVISION IN THE COMPANIES (RECONSTRUCTION OF RECORDS) ORDINANCE IS PROPOSED FOR SHAREHOLDINGS EXCEEDING \$20 000 OR WHEN APPLICATIONS ARE MADE WITHOUT THE REGISTERED SHAREHOLDERS' CONSENT, HE EXPLAINED.

+ANOTHER SIMPLER PROCEDURE IS PROPOSED FOR SHAREHOLDINGS WORTH NOT MORE THAN \$20 000 WHEN THE APPLICATIONS ARE MADE BY THE REGISTERED OWNERS OR WITH THEIR CONSENT.+

HE SAID THE AMENDMENT BILL WILL PROVIDE THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AS OFFICIAL RECEIVER, WITH THE RIGHT TO ATTEND THE HEARINGS OF PETITIONS FOR THE WINDING UP OF COMPANIES.

+UNTIL RECENTLY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER DID APPEAR IN SUCH HEARINGS AND CLAIMED HIS COSTS IN APPROPRIATE CASES. BUT IN A RECENT CASE HIS CLAIM FOR COSTS WAS SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE DID NOT HAVE A STATUTORY RIGHT OF APPEARANCE,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS FINDING HAS BROUGHT THE LACK OF HIS STATUTORY RIGHT OUT INTO THE OPEN AND THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER WAS NOW CONCERNED THAT HE COULD BE EXCLUDED FROM HEARINGS IN THE FUTURE.

+THE AMENDMENT TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED WILL GIVE HIM THE STATUTORY RIGHT,+ HE SAID.

THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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81 000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS EVADED
ARREST SO FAR THIS YEAR
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ABOUT 81 000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE EVADED ARREST AND REMAINED IN HONG KONG SO FAR THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO, MR. DAVIES SAID THAT UP TO OCTOBER 14, ABOUT 57 000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA HAD BEEN APPREHENDED THIS YEAR.

+THIS COMPARES WITH 8 200 FOR THE WHOLE OF 1978 AND 1 800 IN 1977,+ HE SAID.

MR. DAVIES NOTED THAT THE AVERAGE DAILY RATE OF ARRESTS SO FAR IN OCTOBER WAS 243, AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 60 A DAY ON THE SEPTEMBER FIGURE.

ON LEGAL IMMIGRATION, MR. DAVIES SAID THAT UP TO OCTOBER 14, 58 288 IMMIGRANTS ENTERED HONG KONG LEGALLY FROM CHINA THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 67 495 FOR THE WHOLE OF 1978 AND 25 373 IN 1977.

THE AVERAGE RATE OF ENTRY SO FAR IN OCTOBER WAS 154 PER DAY, HE ADDED.

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VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HK
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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT A TOTAL OF 486 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRIVED IN HONG KONG SO FAR THIS MONTH WHILE 8 046 ARRIVED IN JULY= 3 247 IN AUGUST AND 2 581 IN SEPTEMBER.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN, MR. DAVIES SAID THE MONTHLY FIGURE OF DEPARTURES FOR RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS WAS 3 097 IN AUGUST= 3 499 IN SEPTEMBER AND 1 139 SO FAR THIS MONTH.

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INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 7) BILL
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A BILL SEEKING TO RAISE FROM 7.75 PER CENT TO 9.25 PER CENT THE CEILING ON THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S AUTHORITY TO SPECIFY THE RATE OF EXEMPTION FROM INTEREST TAX WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 7) BILL, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THE BILL HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO FORCE ON AUGUST 21 UNDER A REVENUE PROTECTION ORDER AND ON THE SAME DAY, HE HAD SIGNED A NOTICE SPECIFYING 9.25 PER CENT AS THE RATE OF EXEMPTION FOR THE TIME BEING.

MR. HADDON-CAVE POINTED OUT THAT IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE IN THE INTEREST RATE ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, THE CEILING HAD BEEN RAISED FROM FIVE PER CENT TO 7.5 PER CENT IN JANUARY THIS YEAR- TO 7.75 PER CENT IN APRIL AND TO 9.25 PER CENT IN AUGUST.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR EXEMPTION FROM TAX OF INTEREST PAYABLE BY THE GOVERNMENT BY LICENSED BANKS AND BY CERTAIN SPECIFIED PUBLIC UTILITIES, PROVIDED THAT THE RATES OF INTEREST DO NOT EXCEED THE PERCENTAGE RATE SPECIFIED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, FROM TIME TO TIME, BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE.

+THIS PERCENTAGE RATE HAS, FOR MANY YEARS, BEEN VARIED TO ACCORD WITH THE RATE PAID BY BANKS ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, WHICH IS ALSO THE RATE PAID ON ITS SURETY DEPOSITS BY ONE OF THE POWER COMPANIES,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

+IF THIS INTEREST WERE NOT EXEMPTED, LARGE NUMBERS OF SMALL DEPOSITORS AND CONSUMERS OF POWER WOULD BECOME LIABLE TO TAX, WHICH THE BANKS AND THE UTILITY COMPANIES WOULD BE OBLIGED TO DEDUCT AND ACCOUNT FOR AND THERE WOULD, SUBSEQUENTLY, BE A LARGE NUMBER OF CLAIMS FOR REFUNDS UNDER THE PROVISIONS FOR PERSONAL ASSESSMENT,+ HE ADDED.

THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS FOR FOURTH QUARTER
OF 1978-79 AMOUNT TO \$961 MILLION
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 1978-79 TOTALLING \$961 MILLION.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID \$382 MILLION WERE REQUIRED FOR EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, \$220 MILLION FOR PAYMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND FOR FINANCING PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS AND \$151 MILLION TO AUGMENT PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS SUBHEADS ON ACCOUNT OF THE 1978 SALARIES REVISION.

HE SAID THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RESULTED IN A NET INCREASE OF \$482 MILLION IN THE EXPENDITURE APPROVED FOR THE YEAR, WITH THE REMAINDER BEING OFFSET BY SAVINGS UNDER OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE AND BY THE FREEZING OF FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

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PLAN FOR A NEW CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO DEVELOP THE SITE OF THE FORMER MENTAL HOSPITAL IN HIGH STREET INTO A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING, MR. JONES SAID THE SITE WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO SPECIALIST CLINIC FACILITIES IN THE LOCALITY, SUCH AS THE DAVID TRENCH REHABILITATION CENTRE AND THE SAI YING PUN POLYCLINIC.

HE SAID THE NEED FOR THE NEW FACILITY HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

+THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY SEEKING THE INCLUSION OF A NEW ITEM IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WITH A VIEW TO WORK COMMENCING IN 1981/82,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

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INSPECTION ON UNROADWORTHY VEHICLES EFFECTIVE

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THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE PRESENT POLICY OF CONDUCTING A REGULAR ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF INSPECTION OF VEHICLES PRIOR TO RELICENSING IS THE BEST WAY TO REMOVE UNROADWORTHY VEHICLES FROM THE ROADS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+THE GOVERNMENT IS AS ANXIOUS AS ANYONE TO ENSURE THAT ALL VEHICLES USING THE ROADS ARE MECHANICALLY SAFE AND FOR UNROADWORTHY VEHICLES TO BE REMOVED UNTIL THEY CAN BE BROUGHT UP TO STANDARD,+ HE ADDED.

MR. JONES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY DR. THE HON. RAYSON HUANG ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER MOUNTING A CRASH PROGRAMME TO IDENTIFY AND TAKE OFF THE ROADS UNROADWORTHY BUSES AND LORRIES.

HE SAID THAT FROM THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR IT WOULD BE COMPULSORY FOR EVERY FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUS TO BE EXAMINED AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR BEFORE LICENSING OR RELICENSING, AND A SIMILAR PROGRAMME HAD ALSO BEEN STARTED FOR AN ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF GOODS VEHICLES.

REGARDING BUSES, MR. JONES SAID, IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT VEHICLE EXAMINERS HAD CARRIED OUT 2 167 THOROUGH INSPECTIONS OF FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUSES BEFORE THE ISSUE OR RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATES OF ROADWORTHINESS OR FITNESS FOR EACH BUS.

+SPOT SAFETY CHECKS HAVE ALSO BEEN CARRIED OUT ON A REGULAR BASIS AT THE MAIN BUS DEPOTS,+ HE ADDED.

AS FOR GOODS VEHICLES, MR. JONES SAID, FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS MONTH ALL GOODS VEHICLES FIRST REGISTERED IN 1970 OR BEFORE MUST BE EXAMINED AT THE NEW KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE BEFORE THEY WERE RELICENSED.

TO DATE ABOUT A HALF OF THOSE EXAMINED HAD BEEN REJECTED AS UNROADWORTHY, HE ADDED.

+THE INTENTION IS TO WORK UP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO AN ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF ALL GOODS VEHICLES BEFORE THEY CAN BE RELICENSED,+ MR. JONES SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

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NEW ROAD TRAFFIC BILL ON THE WAY
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A NEW TRAFFIC BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM, MR. JONES SAID THAT A GENERAL REVISION OF ALL ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION WAS ALMOST COMPLETE AND THE PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION WOULD PROVIDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL REGULATIONS TO BE MADE TO COVER THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS BASED ON UNITED NATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS BUT ADAPTED TO LOCAL CONDITIONS.

+THE NEW SIGNS WILL BE EASIER TO READ AND THEY WILL GENERALLY INCORPORATE REFLECTORISED MATERIAL TO MAKE THEM CLEARER,+ MR. JONES ADDED.

+WHEN THEY ARE READY TO BE INTRODUCED A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW WILL BE CARRIED OUT OF THE LOCATION AND POSITIONING OF ALL TRAFFIC SIGNS.+

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COMPANIES (FEES AND PERCENTAGES)(AMENDMENT) ORDER
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THE COMPANIES (FEES AND PERCENTAGES)(AMENDMENT) ORDER 1979, WHICH SEEKS TO SET THE MAXIMUM FEE OF \$20 000 PAYABLE TO THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER IN EACH LIQUIDATION WHEN MONEY IS PAID OUT OF THE COMPANIES LIQUIDATION ACCOUNT, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WAS NO MAXIMUM LIMIT TO THE FEES CHARGED.

UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AND THE COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) RULES, MONEYS IN THE HANDS OF LIQUIDATORS AND REPRESENTING ASSETS UNCLAIMED OR UNDISTRIBUTED FOR SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF RECEIPT, ARE REQUIRED TO BE PAID INTO THE COMPANIES LIQUIDATION ACCOUNT MAINTAINED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES FOR PAYMENTS FROM THE ACCOUNT TO PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE MONEY CONCERNED. ON EVERY SUCH PAYMENT, FEES, ORDERED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE WITH THE SANCTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS SET OUT IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE COMPANIES (FEES AND PERCENTAGES) ORDER ARE PAYABLE AT A RATE OF 40 CENTS PER \$10 TO THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

MR. JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED THAT HOWEVER, IF PAYMENT INVOLVES A LARGE AMOUNT, THE FEES PAYABLE CAN BE GREATLY IN EXCESS OF THE COSTS TO THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

+TO REMOVE THIS ANOMOLY, THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER RECOMMENDED TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE THAT THE MAXIMUM FEE IN RESPECT OF PAYMENTS UNDER SECTION 285 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE SHOULD BE SET AT \$20 000, A FIGURE BASED ON HIS ESTIMATE OF HIS LIKELY COSTS,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

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BILLS TO TIDY UP THREE STATUTORY BODIES

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THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID ALL THREE AMENDMENT BILLS INCLUDED A PROVISION FOR THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO GIVE DIRECTIONS TO THE THREE ORGANISATIONS.

+THIS IS A 'LONG-STOP' PROVISION DESIGNED TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO ACT QUICKLY IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH AN ORGANISATION IS FAILING TO ACT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR. JEAFFRESON ADDED THAT ON THE PRESENT PERFORMANCE OF ALL THREE ORGANISATIONS, IT WAS CLEARLY MOST UNLIKELY THAT THESE PROVISIONS WOULD EVER HAVE TO BE INVOKED.

HE SAID THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL HE INCLUDED IN THE BILL AN AMENDMENT TO THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL'S PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CENTRE.

+TWO OTHER AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED IN RESPECT OF THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

THEY ARE:

- * PROVISION FOR THE TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION'S EXECUTIVE HEAD TO BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR, AND
- * PROVISION FOR THE INVESTMENT OF FUNDS NOT IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED BY THE ASSOCIATION TO BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

THE DEBATE ON THE THREE MOTIONS WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

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MEDICAL AND WELFARE SERVICES AT TAI O ADEQUATE
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THE MEDICAL AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AVAILABLE AT TAI O ARE ADEQUATE, CONSIDERING THE SMALL SIZE OF ITS POPULATION, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY DR. THE HON. HO KAM FAI, MR. HO SAID THAT THE TAI O JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC PROVIDED GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICES, INCLUDING HAVING A DOCTOR ON CALL ROUND THE CLOCK.

MR. HO ADDED THAT A 15-BED MATERNITY HOME WAS ATTACHED TO THE CLINIC AND THAT FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES AND EMERGENCY DENTAL TREATMENT WERE ALSO AVAILABLE ON A PART-TIME BASIS.

+FOR EMERGENCY CASES REQUIRING HOSPITAL TREATMENT THERE ARE STANDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PATIENTS TO BE SENT BY HELICOPTER OR POLICE LAUNCH TO ONE OF OUR MAJOR REGIONAL HOSPITALS,+ HE SAID.

ON SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, MR. HO NOTED THAT STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT VISITED TAI O EACH WEEK TO RECEIVE AND PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND TO DEAL WITH OTHER SOCIAL WELFARE ENQUIRIES.

+CASES REQUIRING DETAILED ATTENTION ARE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE SECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT,+ HE SAID.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AND BY THE LOCAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT YOUTH AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR. HO SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

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PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

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A BILL SEEKING TO AMEND THE PENSIONS ORDINANCE TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO DELEGATE TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND HIS DEPUTIES THE POWER TO DECLARE OFFICES TO BE +PENSIONABLE OFFICES+ WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE A CIVIL SERVANT IS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR A PENSION IF HE IS EMPLOYED IN AN OFFICE WHICH HAS BEEN DECLARED A +PENSIONABLE OFFICE+.

AT PRESENT THESE DECLARATIONS TAKE THE FORM OF AN ORDER WHICH HAS TO BE MADE PERSONALLY BY THE GOVERNOR, HE SAID.

+SINCE SUCH DECLARATIONS ARE ROUTINE, AND FOLLOW NORMALLY FROM THE CREATION OF PERMANENT POSTS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR TO DELEGATE THEIR MAKING TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND HIS DEPUTIES,+ MR. ROWLANDS SAID.

THE DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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HK TIME BACK TO GMT +8 ON SUNDAY

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HONG KONG TIME (GMT +8) WILL BEGIN AT 3.30 A.M. ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 21).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO PUT BACK THEIR CLOCKS ONE HOUR FROM THAT TIME.

THE CURRENT DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME (GMT +9) WAS INTRODUCED ON MAY 13 THIS YEAR AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO CONSERVE ENERGY.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

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LEGCO BIDS FAREWELL TO MR. JORDAN

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN WHO IS RETIRING AFTER 28 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN HONG KONG.

IN HIS VALEDICTORY TO MR. JORDAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID, MR. JORDAN CONTRIBUTED GREATLY FROM HIS STORE OF OUTSTANDING ABILITY DURING HIS 28 YEARS OF HIGHLY DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE. HE HAD SERVED IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE GRADE IN VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE SECRETARIAT INCLUDING THE HOME AFFAIRS, THE SECURITY, THE FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC SERVICES. HE WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS SEVEN YEARS AGO.

SIR MURRAY SAID: +HIS INTELLECT, PRECISION OF THOUGHT, CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND DETERMINATION ARE QUALITIES WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE WITHOUT.

+IT WAS THESE QUALITIES, TOO, WHICH HAVE BEEN SO EVIDENT IN HIS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEBATES IN THIS COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID MR. JORDAN WOULD BE GREATLY MISSED IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG ALSO PRAISED MR. JORDAN.

HE SAID: +HONG KONG OWES A VERY LARGE DEBT TO HIM FOR HIS SKILL, PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE IN DIFFICULT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH HERE AND ABROAD, WHERE SO OFTEN HE FOUND CARDS STACKED AGAINST HIM.

+EVERY TIME HE SET FORTH ON THESE ROUNDS, OUR TEXTILE MEN WOULD HAVE SILENTLY VOICED TO THEMSELVES WORDS FROM THE NATIONAL ANTHEM:

SCATTER OUR ENEMIES
CONFOUND THEIR POLITICS,
FRUSTRATE THEIR KNAVISH TRICKS.

+AND IN THE FACE OF THE TOUGHEST AND BIGOTTED OPPOSITION, HE ALWAYS TRIED TO OBTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE BARGAIN FOR HONG KONG.

+MR. JORDAN HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARDS HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY.

+HIS FORTHRIGHT SPEECH AND KEEN WIT WILL BE MISSED BY THIS COUNCIL, AND HIS PUBLIC SERVICE DESERVES TO BE LONG REMEMBERED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

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OVER 500 SEVERELY MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE IN HK
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ON RECORD A TOTAL OF 532 SEVERELY MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ANDREW SO, DR. THONG ADDED THAT 122 OF THESE PEOPLE WERE ON THE WAITING LIST FOR ADMISSION INTO HOSPITAL.

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THREE-MONTH TRAINING COURSE
FOR TEACHER-LIBRARIANS
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A SERIES OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES ON LIBRARIANSHIP FOR TEACHERS WILL BE HELD AT THE END OF THE YEAR TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE TAKING UP THE NEW POST.

THE COURSE IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES.

SPEAKING ON THE RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG PROGRAMME +TALKABOUT+ TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE LIBRARIAN OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MRS. BARBARA LUK SAID THE INITIAL TRAINING COURSE WOULD LAST FOR THREE MONTHS.

+THE COURSE WILL BE HELD IN THE EVENINGS AND ON SATURDAY MORNINGS, AND FURTHER TRAINING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT A LATER STAGE,+ SHE SAID.

THE TEACHER-LIBRARIAN SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR BASED ON PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER +THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION+ PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

UNDER THE SCHEME, ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH 18 CLASSES OR MORE CAN APPOINT A NON-GRADUATE TEACHER TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY ON A FULL-TIME BASIS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION.

+THE TEACHER-LIBRARIAN WILL BE A NON-GRADUATE TEACHER WITH A MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS' TEACHING EXPERIENCE.

/+SERVICE AS

+SERVICE AS A TEACHER-LIBRARIAN WILL COUNT AS TEACHING EXPERIENCE FOR PROMOTION PURPOSES,+ MRS. LUK SAID.

MORE THAN 200 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL EVENTUALLY BENEFIT FROM THIS SCHEME, SHE SAID.

THE MAIN DUTIES OF A TEACHER-LIBRARIAN ARE THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY.

+TEACHER-LIBRARIANS SHOULD ALWAYS BE READY TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO USE THE LIBRARY AS A MEDIUM OF LEARNING, AND TO ENSURE THAT AFTER THEY GRADUATE STUDENTS CAN EFFECTIVELY MAKE USE OF FACILITIES IN PUBLIC AND OTHER LIBRARIES TO ENRICH THEIR KNOWLEDGE,+ MRS. LUK SAID.

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TICD SAYS FAREWELL TO RETIRING HEAD ATTENDANT

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STAFF OF THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BID FAREWELL TO A LONG-TIME COLLEAGUE, HEAD ATTENDANT MR. WONG HOK-LING, WHO IS RETIRING AFTER 38 YEARS SERVICE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

AT A BRIEF CEREMONY HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS, THE DIRECTOR, MR. DAVID JORDAN, PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF A SOUVENIR GIFT TO MR. WONG, AND THANKED HIM FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

MR. WONG, AGED 60, FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1941 AS A MESSENGER. SIX YEARS LATER, HE WAS POSTED TO THE THEN IMPORT AND EXPORT DEPARTMENT, THE PREDECESSOR OF THE PRESENT TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT. DURING HIS LONG SPAN OF SERVICE, MR. WONG SAW THE DEPARTMENT GROW TO ITS PRESENT STRENGTH OF 2 500 STAFF TO MEET ITS INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS LONG AND LOYAL SERVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT, MR. WONG WAS AWARDED THE BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN 1973.

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NEW TIMETABLE FOR TRAIN SERVICES BETWEEN KOWLOON AND GUANGZHOU

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THROUGH TRAIN SERVICES BETWEEN KOWLOON AND GUANGZHOU WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART ONE HOUR EARLIER STARTING THIS SUNDAY (OCTOBER 21).

FROM THAT DAY, THE PASSENGER TRAIN WILL ARRIVE AT 11.26 A.M. AND DEPART AT 1 P.M.

OTHER REGULAR TRAIN SCHEDULES WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

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ROAD CLOSURES IN CENTRAL
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT EDINBURGH PLACE EAST BETWEEN ITS EASTERN END AND STAR FERRY CONCOURSE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 2 P.M. TO 6.30 P.M. ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 19) BECAUSE OF THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HARBOUR VIEW STREET AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL EASTBOUND BETWEEN JUBILEE STREET AND PEDDER STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1.15 A.M. AND 5.30 A.M. THIS SUNDAY (OCTOBER 21) AND MONDAY (OCTOBER 22) TO FACILITATE THE HOISTING OF BEAMS FOR THE FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEM.

TRAFFIC MOVING EASTWARDS ALONG CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED TO JUBILEE STREET, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, AND PEDDER STREET TO REJOIN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP AND POLICE WILL BE ON HAND TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT IN WESTERN AND YAU MA TEI
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WESTERN DISTRICT AND YAU MA TEI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS FROM FRIDAY (OCTOBER 19) NIGHT TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN WESTERN, SUPPLY WILL BE STOPPED FROM 11 P.M. ON FRIDAY UNTIL 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE BUILDINGS THAT WILL BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY HILL ROAD, DES VOEUX ROAD WEST, CHIU KWONG STREET, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, INCLUDING LAI ON LANE, SAI ON LANE AND WHITTY STREET.

IN YAU MA TEI, SUPPLY WILL BE CUT OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON THAT DAY TO 6 A.M. ON SATURDAY.

PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY KANSU STREET, NATHAN ROAD, NING PO STREET AND CANTON ROAD, INCLUDING PAK HOI STREET, SAIGON STREET, WOOSUNG STREET, TEMPLE STREET AND SHANGHAI STREET.

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