



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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DANGER OF MAN-MADE SLOPES

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SOIL CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG AND THE STEEP TERRAIN WERE SUCH THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF MAN-MADE SLOPES COULD BE SUBJECT TO DANGER OF FAILURE AT TIMES OF HEAVY RAIN, THE ACTING SECRETARY OF LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON N.K. CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG LAM, HE SAID PRELIMINARY GEOTECHNICAL INSPECTIONS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT ON MORE THAN 10 000 SLOPES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WHICH MIGHT AFFECT PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROPERTY.

+THE INFORMATION FROM THESE INSPECTIONS WAS USED TO RANK THE SLOPES IN PRIORITY ORDER FOR DETAILED GEOTECHNICAL STUDY OF THEIR STABILITY, THOSE SLOPES WHICH WOULD AFFECT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IF THEY FAILED BEING RANKED HIGHEST IN PRIORITY,+ HE SAID.

WHERE THE DETAILED STUDY HAD SHOWN THAT THE STABILITY WAS INADEQUATE, THE SLOPE HAD BEEN PUT INTO A PROGRAMME OF LANDSLIDE PREVENTIVE WORKS.

SINCE 1976, GOVERNMENT HAD CARRIED OUT MAJOR PREVENTIVE WORKS ON 252 SLOPES AND SMALL-SCALE PREVENTIVE WORKS ON MORE THAN 1 100 SLOPES. PRIORITY GIVEN IN THIS PROGRAMME TO FILL SLOPES HAD PROVED TO BE FULLY JUSTIFIED BY THE FACT THAT NO SIGNIFICANT FILL SLOPE FAILURES WERE REPORTED IN HOUSING AREAS, MR CHAN ADDED.

+WHILE CONCENTRATING OUR EFFORTS ON THOSE SLOPES WHICH MIGHT AFFECT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IF THEY FAILED IT HAS ONLY BEEN POSSIBLE TO MAKE PRELIMINARY SURVEYS OF OTHER SLOPES AND TO INSPECT SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+THE MOST UNSATISFACTORY AREAS FROM A SLOPE STABILITY POINT OF VIEW CONTINUE TO BE THE SQUATTER AREAS. A MAJORITY OF THESE ARE SITED ON SLOPES THAT COULD BECOME UNSTABLE LOCALLY DURING TIMES OF RAIN DUE TO THE DISTURBANCE OF THE SLOPE BY THE SQUATTERS,+ HE SAID.

OTHER SQUATTER SLOPES REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE OVERALL STABILITY OF THE HILLSIDE. THIS NECESSITATED THE UNDERTAKING OF EXTENSIVE WORKS AND THESE COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT LARGE-SCALE CLEARANCE AND REHOUSING.

+THIS SOLUTION IS THEREFORE LONG-TERM AND MUST BE TACKLED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL HOUSING PROGRAMME. IT IS RECOGNISED THAT SLOPE FAILURES IN SQUATTER AREAS CANNOT BE ELIMINATED WHILE SQUATTERS OCCUPY THE HILLSIDES THE WAY THEY DO.

+IN DEALING WITH THIS SITUATION THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WITH ADVICE WHEN REQUESTED AND WILL EXPLORE WITH THEM THE POSSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT MINOR SLOPE IMPROVEMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS AS PART OF THEIR SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES SO AS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF LANDSLIPS IN THE FUTURE,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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CONTINGENCY PLANS TO EVACUATE SQUATTERS

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THERE WERE CONTINGENCY PLANS TO EVACUATE SQUATTERS LIVING ON SLOPES IN THE EVENT OF A HEAVY RAINSTORM OR TYPHOON WARNING.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN, MR LIAO SAID NOTICES WERE PERMANENTLY DISPLAYED IN EACH SQUATTER AREA ADVISING RESIDENTS AS TO WHOM THEY SHOULD CONTACT FOR ASSISTANCE.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE RAINY SEASON EACH YEAR, ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE MADE REMINDING RESIDENTS OF THE POTENTIAL RISK AND GIVING THE LOCATION OF TEMPORARY SHELTERS WHERE THEY SHOULD SEEK REFUGE IN THE EVENT OF HEAVY RAIN OR A TYPHOON WARNING.

+DURING A RAINSTORM OR TYPHOON, STAFF OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE POLICE, AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT VISIT VULNERABLE SQUATTER AREAS, AND REPEAT THESE WARNINGS BY VARIOUS MEANS, INCLUDING POSTING OF NOTICES.

+AS A RESULT, DURING THE DOWNPOUR AT THE END OF LAST MONTH, 9 500 PEOPLE EVACUATED THEIR HUTS= OF THIS NUMBER ABOUT 2 000 MOVED TO TEMPORARY SHELTERS AND THE REMAINDER STAYED TEMPORARILY WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES.+

MR LIAO SAID THE RECENT RAINSTORMS HAD AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THE DANGERS OF SQUATTING ON NATURAL SLOPES, MOST OF WHICH WERE TO SOME EXTENT VULNERABLE TO LANDSLIDES IN EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS.

+THERE ARE OVER 200 000 SQUATTERS LIVING IN HUTS ON THE FRINGES OF THE MAIN URBAN AREAS. THESE HUTS, GENERALLY BUILT ON SLOPES, ARE THEREFORE AT RISK,+ HE SAID.

AS AN INDICATION OF THIS SITUATION, HE SAID, DURING THE RECENT RAINSTORMS WHICH WERE THE WORST FOR MANY YEARS, SOME 2 500 SQUATTER HUTS WERE IDENTIFIED AS BEING AT RISK AND WERE TEMPORARILY EVACUATED.

+ALL THE AREAS AFFECTED HAVE NOW BEEN INSPECTED BY ENGINEERS FROM THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE= OVER 1 000 HUTS MUST BE PERMANENTLY EVACUATED AND SOME 5 000 PERSONS REHOUSED,+ HE SAID.

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HOSPITAL PRAISED FOR EMERGENCY WORK

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MORE THAN 100 ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL STAFF WERE MOBILISED AT THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE TO TREAT THE INJURED DURING THE TRAGIC UN CHAU ESTATE INCIDENT EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR HARRY S.Y. FANG, THAT ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE, SUFFICIENT STAFF WITHIN THE HOSPITAL WERE MOBILISED TO HELP IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, THE OPERATION THEATRES AND THE WARDS.

HE COMMENDED THE PEOPLE CONCERNED FOR THEIR GOOD WORK.

TWENTY DOCTORS AND 19 NURSES HELPED IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, 17 DOCTORS AND NINE NURSES IN THE OPERATION THEATRES AND 10 DOCTORS AND 43 NURSES IN THE WARDS, HE SAID.

+THESE AREAS OF SERVICES WERE ABLY SUPPORTED BY THE PARA-MEDICAL STAFF IN THE LABORATORIES, THE X-RAY DEPARTMENT, AND THE MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE CENTRE, WHICH AMOUNTED TO 24,+ DR THONG SAID.

SENIOR STAFF FROM THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WERE ALSO ON HAND TO ASSIST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRAGEDY.

TWO ANAESTHETISTS AND SOME SUPPLY OF BLOOD AND EQUIPMENT WERE MADE AVAILABLE FROM PRINCESS MARGARET AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITALS, DR THONG SAID.

+ARRANGEMENTS WERE ALSO MADE FOR EMERGENCY CASES TO BE DIVERTED FROM THE CENTRE FOR FOUR DAYS FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE HOSPITAL TO CONCENTRATE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CASES ADMITTED RESULTING FROM THE TRAGEDY,+ HE ADDED.

DR THONG COMMENDED THE ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF OF THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE FOR THEIR HEROIC EFFORTS IN COPING WITH THE EXTREME PRESSURES RESULTING FROM THE CRISIS IN A MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER.

HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE IN THE HONG KONG RED CROSS AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHO HAD RESPONDED +MAGNIFICENTLY+ TO RENDER HELP IN THE INCIDENT.

+I THINK I AM ONLY EXPRESSING THE SENTIMENTS OF ALL CONCERNED WHEN I SAY THAT THIS INCIDENT IS MOST REGRETTABLE AND OUR UTMOST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES GO TO THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS AND THEIR RELATIVES,+ DR THONG SAID.

FARMERS ADVISED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ADVISING FARMERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS AND THEIR AFTERMATH, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY.

LIVESTOCK FARMERS OPERATING IN LOW-LYING AREAS OR ON THE BANKS OF RIVERS LIABLE TO FLOOD ARE ADVISED TO RE-LOCATE THEIR STOCK HOUSES ON HIGHER, SAFER GROUND WHEREVER THIS IS POSSIBLE, AND POND FISH FARMERS ARE ADVISED TO LOWER WATER LEVELS IN PONDS IF FLOODING THREATENS, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, SAID.

CROP FARMERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE PROTECTIVE DEVICES, SUCH AS PLASTIC NET HOUSES TO MINIMISE STORM DAMAGE. IN AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO FLOODING THEY ARE ADVISED TO GROW CROPS WHICH ARE RELATIVELY RESISTANT TO WATER, HE SAID.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON HO KAM-FAI, ABOUT ADVICE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO FARMERS, ON WAYS TO PROTECT THEIR CROPS.

THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE RECENT RAINSTORM, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID, WAS UNUSUALLY SEVERE.

HE SAID THERE HAD IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS BEEN ONLY TWO MAJOR TYPHOONS NECESSITATING LARGE SCALE AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION OPERATIONS.

THE FEASIBILITY OF FARMERS INSURING THEMSELVES AGAINST LOSSES AND DAMAGE HAD BEEN INVESTIGATED BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, AT THAT TIME, TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SCHEME SUITABLE FOR SMALL SCALE FARMERS.

HE WAS, HOWEVER, RE-EXAMINING THIS APPROACH, BUT THERE WERE PROBLEMS, AS SMALL SCALE FARMERS WERE PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE EFFECTS OF RANDOM FREAK STORMS WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO FORESEE. WHEN AFFECTED, THESE FARMERS LOSE NOT ONLY THEIR EXISTING LIVESTOCK AND CROP BUT ARE ALSO DEPRIVED OF EARNINGS UNTIL THEIR REPLACEMENT STOCKS ARE MATURE ENOUGH FOR SALE, HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR RIDDELL-SWAN REVEALED THAT 6 720 APPLICATIONS FOR AID FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM FARMERS AFFECTED BY THE RECENT HEAVY RAIN.

THESE CLAIMS WERE INVESTIGATED AND 6 453 GRANTS AMOUNTING TO \$2.9 MILLION WERE MADE, WHILE 231 APPLICATIONS WERE REJECTED AND 36 WERE AWAITING APPROVAL.

+I WOULD STRESS THAT THESE GRANTS ARE NOT COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES SUSTAINED BUT ARE BASED ON RE-ESTABLISHMENT COST AND ARE INTENDED TO ASSIST SMALL FARMERS TO RESUME PRODUCTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

+THIS CONTRIBUTES TO AN EARLY RETURN TO NORMAL SUPPLIES AND PRICES OF FRESH FOODSTUFFS,+ HE SAID.

WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA

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THE ANNUAL QUANTITIES OF WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA UNDER THE PRESENT AGREEMENT FOR THE YEARS 1983-84, 1984-85 AND 1985-86 ARE 220 MILLION CUBIC METRES, 255 MILLION CUBIC METRES AND 290 MILLION CUBIC METRES RESPECTIVELY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR N.K. CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON S.L. CHEN.

MR CHAN SAID THAT A RECENT APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE TO CHINA FOR AN EXTRA SUPPLY OF 35 MILLION CUBIC METRES FOR EACH OF THE THREE YEARS AND THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY CHINA AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

+FORMAL AGREEMENT WILL BE MADE WITH CHINA IN THIS REGARD ON APPROVAL OF THE NECESSARY FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

+TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXTRA SUPPLY, THE ANNUAL QUANTITIES WILL BECOME 255 MILLION CUBIC METRES, 290 MILLION CUBIC METRES AND 325 MILLION CUBIC METRES RESPECTIVELY IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE ABOVE SUPPLY OF WATER FROM CHINA COULD NOT ENSURE IN ABSOLUTE TERMS THAT REACTIVATION OF THE LOK ON PAI DESALTER WOULD BE UNNECESSARY, IT SERVED TO KEEP THE PROBABILITY OF HAVING TO OPERATE IT OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO A VERY LOW FIGURE.

+IN OTHER WORDS THE CHANCE OF HAVING TO REACTIVATE THE DESALTER IS NOT HIGH,+ MR CHAN CONCLUDED.

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MEASURES TO IMPROVE CMB'S FLEET AVAILABILITY

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THE MAINTENANCE SUB-GROUP OF A REVIEW COMMITTEE HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR POOR FLEET AVAILABILITY AT THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG WHO NOTED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE PROBLEM THE COMPANY HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN UNABLE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGREED ROUTE PROGRAMME.

THE MAINTENANCE SUB-GROUP FOUND THAT LAST YEAR THE LEVEL OF NON-AVAILABILITY OF BUSES DUE TO PLANNED MAINTENANCE WAS 11.2 PER CENT OF THE COMPANY'S FLEET OF 1 006 BUSES.

+MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, NON-AVAILABILITY DUE TO THE NEED FOR RUNNING REPAIRS, THAT IS UNSCHEDULED MAINTENANCE, WAS 27.9 PER CENT. FLEET AVAILABILITY WAS THEREFORE 60.9 PER CENT, A VERY LOW FIGURE,+ MR SCOTT POINTED OUT.

/BUT HE

BUT HE ADDED THAT SEVERAL AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED ON THE MAINTENANCE SIDE OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS. THEY INCLUDE:

- * REDUCING THE UNSATISFACTORY HIGH TURN-OVER OF KEY ENGINEERING STAFF AND REMEDYING THE SHORTAGE OF PROPERLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED STAFF IN THE TOP AND MIDDLE RANK ENGINEERING CATEGORIES.
- * EXTENDING AND IMPROVING MAINTENANCE FACILITIES AT DEPOTS, WHICH ARE CONGESTED AND LACK SUFFICIENT SPECIALISED TESTING EQUIPMENT. SUCH EQUIPMENT REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF TESTING WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE TO BE DONE ON ROAD.
- * IMPROVING SOME MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES WHICH ARE UNSATISFACTORY. THESE INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION AND ROUTINE CHECKS, WHERE LACK OF SYSTEMS AND CONTROL CONTRIBUTE TO THE HIGH BREAKDOWN RATE. MORE ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO TRAINING.

MR SCOTT DISCLOSED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN ACTION IN SEVERAL WAYS.

HE CITED THE DEPOT SUB-GROUP OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE, OF WHICH MR CHEONG WAS A MEMBER AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSING THE LIKELY SIZE OF THE CMB FLEET UP TO 1991, DEVELOPING STANDARDS OF DEPOT ACCOMMODATION FOR PARKING AND MAINTENANCE, AND COSTING THE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES RECOMMENDED.

MR SCOTT EXPLAINED THAT THE MAIN CONSTRAINT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEPOTS FOR MAINTENANCE AND PARKING WERE THE COST OF LAND AND THE SHORTAGE OF LAND FOR NEW DEPOTS.

BUT HE ADDED THAT A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE WAS MADE IN THE COURSE OF REVIEWING THE SITUATION WHEN IT WAS AGREED THAT A NUMBER OF OFF-STREET TERMINI COULD BE USED TO PROVIDE 700 OVERNIGHT PARKING SPACES BY 1985-1986.

+THE COMPANY'S FLEET IS PROJECTED TO REACH 1 200 BY THAT DATE. TOGETHER WITH SOME 700 SPACES AT CHAI WAN, WONG CHUK HANG AND A NEW DEPOT SITE AT WAH FU, THIS WOULD ENABLE ALL BUSES TO BE PARKED OFF-STREET BY 1985-86, + MR SCOTT SAID.

IF ALL SUITABLE TERMINI CAN BE USED FOR OVERNIGHT PARKING, ONE FURTHER MAJOR MULTI-STOREY DEPOT WILL BE NEEDED, HE SAID.

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WAS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMPANY ON THIS POINT, AND A SITE IN WAH FU WAS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY, MR SCOTT DISCLOSED.

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DEFEDERALISATION OF TICD ON SCHEDULE

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ALL MAJOR DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON THE DEFEDERALISATION OF THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AND ITS RESTRUCTURING IS PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY IN ANSWER TO A QUERY BY THE HON MISS LYDIA DUNN.

AFTER DEFEDERALISATION THERE WILL BE THREE SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS: AN INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, A TRADE DEPARTMENT AND A CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, WITH STAFF AND RESPONSIBILITIES MATCHING THOSE OF THE THREE SUB-DEPARTMENTS IN THE EXISTING FEDERAL DEPARTMENT, SIR PHILIP EXPLAINED.

A POLICY BRANCH, TO BE KNOWN AS THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH, WILL BE SET UP WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, WITH A SMALL STAFF DRAWN FROM THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH AND THE PRESENT DEPARTMENT, SIR PHILIP SAID.

THIS BRANCH WILL HAVE POLICY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AND FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT'S DUTIES ON TRADE CONTROLS AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF TRADE OBLIGATIONS.

IN ADDITION, THE NEW BRANCH WILL BE THE HOUSEKEEPING OR PARENT BRANCH FOR THE THREE SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS WHICH WILL REMAIN ANSWERABLE TO THE FINANCE BRANCH AND THE SECURITY BRANCH FOR PARTICULAR FUNCTIONS PERFORMED FOR THOSE BRANCHES, SIR PHILIP SAID.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OVERSEAS OFFICES IN WASHINGTON, BRUSSELS AND GENEVA WILL BE ASSUMED BY THE COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AS AN INITIAL STEP TRANSLATING THEM FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUB-OFFICES OVERSEAS INTO HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, HE SAID.

THESE OFFICES WILL BE +COMPARABLE IN STATUS, IF NOT IN RANGE OF FUNCTIONS, WITH OUR LONDON OFFICE+ WHOSE PARENT DEPARTMENT IS THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, HE EXPLAINED.

THE NEW DEPARTMENTS WILL REMAIN IN OCEAN CENTRE, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO MOVING THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND HIS IMMEDIATE STAFF TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE IN THE SUN HUNG KAI CENTRE.

+IN KEEPING WITH THE GENERAL POLICY THAT ALL SECRETARIES AND THEIR BRANCHES SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED TOGETHER, THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH WILL EVENTUALLY BE LOCATED WITH THE REST OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

+BUT SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE MADE AVAILABLE UNTIL EARLY 1983. IN THE MEANTIME, THE SECRETARY AND HIS BRANCH WILL OPERATE FROM OCEAN CENTRE,+ HE ADDED.

/SIR PHILIP

SIR PHILIP DISCLOSED THAT WHILE THERE ARE A FEW DETAILS STILL TO BE SETTLED, IT IS INTENDED FORMALLY TO ESTABLISH THE NEW BRANCH AND SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS ON AUGUST 1, 1982.

+THERE WILL BE NO NET INCREASE IN STAFF,+ HE STATED, +AND THERE WILL BE A REVIEW, IN PERHAPS 12 MONTHS' TIME, TO SEE HOW DEFEDERALISATION HAS WORKED IN PRACTICE AND WHAT ADJUSTMENTS NEED TO BE MADE.+

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WEATHER WARNING SYSTEMS RE-EXAMINED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS RE-EXAMINING ITS PUBLIC WARNING SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES FOLLOWING THE RECENT RAIN STORMS WHICH LED TO LOSS OF LIFE AND HOMES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR DAVIES SAID NO FIRM CONCLUSION HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE ADEQUACY OF THE PUBLIC WARNINGS ISSUED BEFORE AND DURING THE TRAGIC INCIDENTS.

+IT IS THE PRACTICE AFTER UNFORTUNATE EVENTS OF THIS SORT FOR AN URGENT EXAMINATION TO BE MADE TO SEE THE EXTENT TO WHICH EXISTING PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED, TO IDENTIFY ANY SHORTCOMINGS AND DECIDE WHAT, IF ANY, IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES CAN BE MADE.

+THIS IS NOW BEING DONE,+ MR DAVIES ADDED.

HE SAID THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED AND REGULAR WEATHER FORECASTS WERE MADE DURING THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE HEAVY RAINS. THESE WARNINGS WERE DISSEMINATED IN THE USUAL WAY TO THE NEWS MEDIA THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS ALSO MADE THAT PERSONS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES FOR SAFETY BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAIN COULD GO TO SHELTERS WHICH HAD BEEN OPENED, HE SAID.

+WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT, INCLUDING THE KNOWLEDGE THAT 653 MM OF RAIN FELL IN THE FOUR-DAY PERIOD (THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD), WE ARE LOOKING AGAIN AT OUR SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO TRY AND ASSIST THE PUBLIC IN SITUATIONS OF THIS SORT,+ MR DAVIES SAID.

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TRAINING OF CIVIL SERVANTS
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON THE TRAINING OF OFFICERS IN THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR DEPARTMENTS AMOUNTED TO \$2.4 MILLION IN 1980-81 AND TO \$4.3 MILLION IN 1981-82 WHILE THE ESTIMATED COST FOR 1982-83 IS \$4.1 MILLION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON MARTIN ROWLANDS, SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG PO-YAN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THESE OFFICERS RECEIVING TRAINING EXCLUDE EXECUTIVE, CLERICAL AND OTHER SUPPORT STAFF.

THE THREE DEPARTMENTS, MR ROWLANDS POINTED OUT, ARE MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH HONG KONG'S TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MATTERS ALTHOUGH MANY OTHER DEPARTMENTS EXERCISE SOME RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL.

THE FIGURES CITED BY MR ROWLANDS REPRESENT ABOUT ONE PER CENT OF TOTAL CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING EXPENDITURE IN EACH OF THE THREE YEARS.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF IN THE THREE DEPARTMENTS HAS REMAINED STEADY AT ABOUT ONE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL CIVIL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT, HE SAID.

THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES INCLUDE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS COURSES AND ATTACHMENTS, WHICH COVER COMMERCIAL POLICY, INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT. INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IS A KEY ELEMENT IN THE TRAINING COURSES FOR MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE.

+MUCH ADDITIONAL EFFORT GOES INTO ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, AIDED BY IN-HOUSE FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMMES, AS WELL AS BY DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURAL MANUALS.

+STAFF OF THE THREE DEPARTMENTS REGULARLY ATTEND OVERSEAS CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS AT WHICH MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG'S TRADE AND INDUSTRY, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, ARE DISCUSSED,+ MR ROWLANDS SAID.

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**\$7 MILLION PAID OUT IN PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION

A TOTAL OF \$7 MILLION HAS BEEN PAID OUT FROM THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND TO 162 APPLICANTS DURING THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD'S FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, IN A STATEMENT ON THE BOARD'S FIRST REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 7, 1980 TO DECEMBER 31, 1981, WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HENDERSON ALSO DISCLOSED THAT INCOME FROM LEVY ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRY INDUSTRIES AMOUNTED TO ONLY \$3.2 MILLION. THE DEFICIT, WHICH WAS WITHIN THE BOARD'S ESTIMATE, WAS MET BY LOANS FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

IT WAS EXPECTED THAT, WITH THE CONTINUING INCREASED INCOME FROM THE LEVY, THE BOARD SHOULD BE ABLE TO BALANCE ITS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN A YEAR OR TWO, HE ADDED.

MR HENDERSON EXPLAINED THAT THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD WERE TO ADMINISTER THE STATUTORY PNEUMOCONIOSIS FUND FINANCED BY LEVY FROM THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRY INDUSTRIES, AND TO PAY COMPENSATION FROM THE FUND TO PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOARD RESULTED FROM THE NEED TO DEVISE A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME FOR THE PROVISION OF COMPENSATION FOR PNEUMOCONIOSIS.

PNEUMOCONIOSIS WAS AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE WHICH TOOK A LONG PERIOD TO DEVELOP, RENDERING IT IMPRACTICABLE TO HOLD INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPENSATION PAYMENTS.

THE COMPENSATION SCHEME DEvised TOOK THE FORM OF COLLECTIVE LIABILITY BY WAY OF IMPOSING A LEVY ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRY INDUSTRIES, THE TWO MAIN UNDERTAKINGS IN WHICH THE DISEASE WAS CONTRACTED, MR HENDERSON ADDED.

MR HENDERSON SAID THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE BOARD WAS NOT ONLY THE DIRECT RESULT OF THE DEVOTION OF THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN, MR HO SAI-CHU, AND MEMBERS, BUT ALSO OF THE SUPPORT OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRY INDUSTRIES, TO ALL OF WHOM HE EXTENDED HIS THANKS AND GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1982

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LEGISLATION ON PYRAMID SELLING BEING EXAMINED FOR LOOPHOLES

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THE COMMERCIAL CRIME UNIT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBER IS NOW EXAMINING WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS ANY LOOPHOLE IN THE LEGISLATION PROHIBITING PYRAMID SELLING, AND IF SO, WHETHER AND WHAT AMENDING LEGISLATION IS REQUIRED.

THE UNIT IS ALSO EXAMINING THIS BY CONSIDERATION OF COMPARATIVE LEGISLATION IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO WHO ASKED HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD BEEN CHARGED AND CONVICTED UNDER THE PYRAMID SELLING PROHIBITION ORDINANCE SINCE IT WAS ENACTED IN 1980. MR SO ALSO ASKED WHAT WERE THE RANGE AND AVERAGE FINES OR SENTENCES IMPOSED AND WHETHER GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED WITH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LEGISLATION AND, IF NOT, WHAT STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO PLUG THE LOOPHOLES.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE MORE THAN 80 COMPLAINTS WERE RECORDED BY THE COMMERCIAL CRIME BUREAU OF THE POLICE.

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JOINT-FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR HK STUDENTS IN UK

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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CAREFULLY CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL THAT HONG KONG STUDENTS ATTENDING UNIVERSITIES IN THE UK SHOULD PAY THE HOME LEVEL OF FEES, WITH THE UK AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS JOINTLY MAKING UP THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS FEE LEVEL AND THAT FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, THE HON K.W.J. TOPLEY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE JOINT-FUNDING PROPOSAL WAS MADE IN A REPORT PUBLISHED RECENTLY BY THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS TRUST, A BRITISH EDUCATIONAL CHARITY.

MR TOPLEY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALEX WU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE UK GOVERNMENT'S VIEW ON FEE CONCESSIONS TO HONG KONG AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH STUDENTS IN UK UNIVERSITIES.

+HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS STATED THAT IT WILL CONSIDER THE REPORT VERY CAREFULLY, AND GIVE FURTHER STUDY TO THE JOINT-FUNDING PROPOSAL,+ MR TOPLEY ADDED.

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BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL: NECESSARY FOR STABILITY
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SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE HON PETER C. WONG, CONVENOR OF THE LEGISLATION SCRUTINY GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS, SAID BUILDING WORKS IN THE MID-LEVELS AREA WOULD BE PERMITTED AFTER JULY 31 THIS YEAR IF THEY COMPLIED WITH THE VERY COMPREHENSIVE AND STRINGENT CONTROLS STIPULATED IN THE BILL AND THE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE THEREUNDER.

THE BILL IS AIMED AT IMPROVING CONTROL OF BUILDING OPERATIONS IN THE MID-LEVELS AREA TO SAFEGUARD THE STABILITY OF SLOPES.

UNDER THE BILL, HE SAID, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS EMPOWERED TO GRANT AUTHORITY TO A DEVELOPER TO CARRY OUT AND MAINTAIN GROUNDWATER DRAINAGE WORKS BENEATH PRIVATELY-OWNED LAND OUTSIDE AS WELL AS WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT SITE.

IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE GIVING OF NOTICE TO ADJOINING LAND OWNERS, FOR THE MAKING OF OBJECTIONS AND FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE.

+ALTHOUGH THE GROUP IS NOT GENERALLY IN FAVOUR OF STATUTORY PROVISIONS WHICH INFRINGE ON PRIVATE RIGHTS, WE ARE REASONABLY SATISFIED THAT IN THE PRESENT CASE THEY ARE NECESSARY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE STABILITY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THAT SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSE ARE ADEQUATE,+ SAID MR WONG.

APART FROM GEOTECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS, HE ADDED, TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN THE MID-LEVELS AREA HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH REDEVELOPMENT MAY BE CONSIDERED DESIRABLE.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO MONITOR THESE AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS CLOSELY.

THE HON MARIA TAM COMMENTED ON THE NEW SECTION RELATING TO THE PREPARATION OF A PERFORMANCE REVIEW IN RESPECT OF A BUILDING IN THE SCHEDULED AREA.

A PERFORMANCE REVIEW, SHE EXPLAINED, IS +A REPORT IN RESPECT OF BUILDING WORKS SUBMITTED BY AN AUTHORISED PERSON, STATING AND JUSTIFYING THAT THE BUILDING WORKS HAVE BEEN INSPECTED AND MONITORED IN THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION AND THAT THE GEOTECHNICAL DESIGN ASSUMPTIONS UPON WHICH THE BUILDING WORKS HAVE BEEN BASED ARE VALID+.

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS HAD MADE REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS SECTION TO UMELCO, POINTING OUT THAT OVER 90 PER CENT OF AUTHORISED PERSONS ARE ARCHITECTS WHOSE ROLE IS TO CO-ORDINATE THE BUILDING WORKS.

THEY THOUGHT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SUPERVISING GEOTECHNICAL WORKS SHOULD BE PLACED SQUARELY ON THE SHOULDER OF A GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER SO THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST WOULD BE BETTER SERVED.

FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE LEGISLATION SCRUTINY GROUP AND THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE REPRESENTATIONS, THE POSITION IN RESPECT OF THE PREPARATION OF THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW HAD BEEN CLARIFIED.

+THE REPORT COULD BE SIGNED BY THE GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTANT AND SUBMITTED BY THE AUTHORISED PERSON WITH A COVERING LETTER,+ SHE SAID.

+AND THE AUTHORISED PERSON WOULD NOT BE HELD LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE UNLESS SOMETHING GOES WRONG AND THE AUTHORISED PERSON KNOWINGLY MADE MISREPRESENTATIONS TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY.+

THE HONG KONG LAND COMPANY LIMITED WERE ALSO CONCERNED THAT +PROPERTY DEVELOPERS MIGHT BE FACED WITH LENGTHY AND COSTLY DELAYS ON PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE NEW LEGISLATION, PARTICULARLY AT THE PLANNING SUBMISSION STAGE+.

+THE GROUP HAS BEEN ASSURED BY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT, UNDER BUILDING (ADMINISTRATION) REGULATION 30(3), GENERAL BUILDING PLANS AND OTHER RELATED PLANS, INCLUDING THOSE IN RESPECT OF GEOTECHNICAL WORKS, WOULD BE APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THEIR SUBMISSION OR 30 DAYS OF THEIR RE-SUBMISSION.

+SUCH TIME LIMITS, HOWEVER, DO NOT APPLY TO CERTAIN OTHER PLANS SUCH AS MASTER PLANS BECAUSE THEY ARE CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE LEASE CONDITIONS IN CERTAIN CASES AND ARE THEREFORE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE,+ MISS TAM ADDED.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON CHAN NAI-KEONG, STRESSED THAT GROUNDWATER DRAINAGE WORKS WHICH WOULD ENCROACH ON ADJOINING LAND WOULD ONLY BE AUTHORISED WHERE IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THEN ONLY IF THERE WAS NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE.

+THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED IN THE NEW SECTION 28B(4) IS TO ENABLE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO LAY DOWN SUCH CONDITIONS AS HE CONSIDERS NECESSARY IN THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES TO ENSURE THAT THE WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITH DUE CARE AND ATTENTION TO THE ADJOINING PROPERTY,+ MR CHAN ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON LEASE MODIFICATIONS AND NEW LAND SALES IMPOSED IN 1973 WOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR THE TIME BEING AND A STUDY OF MID-LEVELS TRAFFIC CONDITIONS WOULD BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR.

CONSULTANTS WOULD BE ENGAGED FOR THE STUDY WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE INVESTIGATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE PASSENGER MOVING SYSTEMS TO CONNECT THE MID-LEVELS AREAS WITH THE CENTRAL DISTRICT.

IT WAS PLANNED THAT THE STUDY BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 1983, HE SAID.

THE BILL WAS PASSED WITH A FEW TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS WHICH THE UNOFFICIALS CONSIDERED AMBIGUOUS.

DRUGS BILL PART OF ON-GOING EFFORTS TO PROTECT COMMUNITY
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THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 ARE PART OF GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE, FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE AND TO BRING OFFENDERS TO JUSTICE, THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR WONG, CONVENOR OF THE UNOFFICIALS' LEGISLATION SCRUTINY GROUP, SAID THE GROUP HAD HELD SEVERAL LENGTHY MEETINGS, INCLUDING ONE WITH THE BAR COMMITTEE, IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE VARIOUS POINTS AT ISSUE AND TO REACH AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

THE KEY CHANGES AGREED TO INCLUDE:

- * ONLY A POLICE OFFICER OR A MEMBER OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE OF OR ABOVE THE RANK OF INSPECTOR MAY REQUEST A SEARCH OF BODY CAVITIES.
- * THE PROPOSED SECTION WHICH GIVES BLANKET IMMUNITY TO A DOCTOR IN PERFORMING HIS STATUTORY DUTY WILL BE DELETED.
- * BODY CAVITY SEARCHES WILL BE CONDUCTED BY A PERSON OF THE SAME SEX, UNLESS THE SUSPECT OTHERWISE CONSENTS.

THE BILL IS DESIGNED TO CLOSE LOOPHOLES IN THE EXISTING LAW DEALING WITH TRAFFICKING AND MANUFACTURE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

IT ALSO PROVIDES A MEANS FOR DEALING WITH SUSPECTS CARRYING DRUGS IN BODY CAVITIES.

BUT, MR WONG POINTED OUT, THE RIGHT TO CONDUCT A SEARCH OF BODY CAVITIES DOES NOT CARRY WITH IT THE RIGHT TO AUTHORISE SURGERY ON THE SUSPECTED PERSON.

+THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT HAS NOW CONFIRMED THAT THE ACCEPTED VIEW WHICH IS SHARED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS THAT A PERSON MAY NOT BE SURGICALLY OPERATED UPON WITHOUT HIS CONSENT, SAVE IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, E.G. TO SAVE LIFE OR UNDER A COURT ORDER,+ HE ADDED.

THE HON JOHN SWAINE, WHO ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, WAS CONCERNED OVER THE PROVISION THAT +ANY QUANTITY OF A DANGEROUS DRUG SHALL BE A DANGEROUS DRUG FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ORDINANCE NOTWITHSTANDING THAT THE QUANTITY IS INSUFFICIENT TO BE MEASURED OR USED+.

HE NOTED THE EXPLANATION GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY THAT THE AMENDMENT WAS NECESSARY AS A CHARGE OF POSSESSING DRUGS MUST BE SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE THAT THE DRUGS FOUND ARE USABLE, WHICH COULD BE DIFFICULT IF THE QUANTITY INVOLVED WAS VERY SMALL.

HE ALSO CITED A CASE REPORTED IN THE TIMES ON APRIL 23 IN WHICH THE HOUSE OF LORDS RULED THAT THE +USABILITY+ TEST WAS INCORRECT IN LAW AND THE QUESTION WAS NOT USABILITY BUT POSSESSION.

+HOWEVER, MY CONCERN ARISES FROM OUR ALSO ENACTING THAT IT DOES NOT MATTER IF THE QUANTITY IS INSUFFICIENT TO BE MEASURED.

+WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF CHEMIST THAT THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF DANGEROUS DRUG WHICH IS MEASURABLE IS FIVE MICROGRAMS OR 0.000005 OF A GRAM.

+WHEN, THEREFORE, WE TALK OF A QUANTITY WHICH IS INSUFFICIENT TO BE MEASURED, WE ARE ENTERING THE REALM OF THE MICROSCOPE.

+I AM SURE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL WISH TO AVOID THE ABSURDITY OF CHARGING SOMEONE WITH POSSESSING A MICROSCOPIC AMOUNT OF A DANGEROUS DRUG, WHEN COMMON SENSE TELLS US, IN THE WORDS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS, THAT THIS CANNOT IN FACT AMOUNT TO ANYTHING,+ MR SWAINE SAID.

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SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

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SEVERAL AMENDMENTS WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH GIVES THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF CONTROLLING TRIAD INFILTRATION OF SOME MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATIONS.

THE CHANGES WERE RECOMMENDED BY AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS FORMED TO SCRUTINISE THE BILL.

GROUP CONVENOR, THE HON PETER C. WONG, SAID DURING THE BILL'S SECOND READING DEBATE THAT HIS GROUP WAS CONCERNED AT THE WIDE DISCRETIONARY POWERS GRANTED TO THE REGISTRAR AND THE REVISION OF THE APPEALS PROCEDURE.

FOLLOWING SOME LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS' TIME, CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF SEPARATE LEGISLATION FOR BETTER CONTROL OF MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATIONS AND THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-MEMBERS OF SUCH ASSOCIATIONS, E.G. EMPLOYEES.

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS WERE ALSO MADE:

- * THE SECTION WHICH ENABLES THE REGISTRAR TO DIRECT A SOCIETY TO AMEND ITS RULES OR CONSTITUTION WAS CHANGED SO AS TO BE CONFINED TO SOCIETIES REGISTERED BEFORE JULY 21, 1961.
- * TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY, CLAUSE 6(A) WAS AMENDED TO SUBSTITUTE +CRIMINAL+ FOR +ARRESTABLE+.
- * THE LEVEL OF FINES RELATING TO OFFENCES OF INTIMIDATION AND TO PROCUREMENT OF AID FOR UNLAWFUL SOCIETIES WAS INCREASED FROM THE PROPOSED \$5 000 TO \$20 000.
- * THE NEW SECTION 12 WAS AMENDED TO ALLOW ANY PERSON AGGRIEVED BY A DECISION OF THE REGISTRAR OR A DECISION OF THE SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TO APPEAL TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

+THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ASSURED US THAT IMPORTANT DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN AT VERY HIGH LEVELS AND THAT THE WIDE POWERS WILL BE EXERCISED WITH CARE AND CAUTION AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY,+ MR WONG SAID.

ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL, THE HON F.K. HU, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THERE WAS NO PROVISION IN THE BILL FOR THE SOCIETY TO KEEP RECORD OF ITS EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING INSTRUCTORS AND NON-MEMBERS WHO MAY BE ENROLLED TO TAKE PART AS TRAINEES IN CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE SOCIETY.

+THESE EMPLOYEES AND NON-MEMBERS MAY BE UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS WITH TRIAD BACKGROUND AND CONNECTION AND THE SOCIETY IS NOT REQUIRED TO KEEP RECORD OF THESE EMPLOYEES AND NON-MEMBERS.

+THIS IS A POSSIBLE LOOPHOLE WHICH MAY MAKE THE PROPOSED PROVISIONS LESS EFFECTIVE,+ HE SAID.

MR HU ALSO FELT THAT THE BILL DID NOT GIVE THE REGISTRAR SUFFICIENT POWER TO CONTROL MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER SOCIETIES WHICH MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO TRIAD INFILTRATION.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CLOSELY MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITIES AND +IF THE SITUATION DETERIORATES IN FUTURE, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ENACTING SEPARATE LEGISLATION FOR BETTER CONTROL OF MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATIONS+.

THE BILL WAS PASSED INTO LAW TODAY.

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POLICY ON OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS BEING REVIEWED
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS REVIEWING THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF ADMITTING DOMESTIC HELPERS FROM OVERSEAS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON L.M. DAVIES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE REVD THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, HE SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT CHANGES IN THE POLICY OF ALLOWING FILIPINA WOMEN TO ENTER HONG KONG FOR DOMESTIC SERVICE WOULD RESULT FROM THIS REVIEW.

HE ALSO SAID THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE 16 130 PHILIPPINE DOMESTIC WORKERS WERE WOMEN.

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CONSULTATION ON ANTIQUITIES URGED

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THE HON BENTON CHEUNG CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT THE PUBLIC BEFORE THE DECLARATION OF A PROPOSED MONUMENT TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DISPUTES.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, MR CHEUNG SAID THE BILL MADE NO REFERENCE TO SUCH CONSULTATION.

+MAY I THEREFORE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, AS THE REDESIGNATED AUTHORITY CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE VIEWS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY BEFORE MAKING SUCH A DECLARATION,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL INTRODUCES A NEW PROCEDURE FOR DECLARATION OF PLACES OR BUILDINGS AS +PROPOSED MONUMENTS+ AND PROVIDES INTERIM PROTECTION FOR BUILDINGS OR PLACES OF HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR PALAEOANTHROPOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

MR CHEUNG SAID IN THE EVENT THAT A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE OR PLACE IS DECLARED A PROPOSED MONUMENT, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT ONLY PRESERVE ITS PHYSICAL FORM, BUT ALSO ITS DIGNITY.

HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT PRESERVATION OFTEN IMPLIES RESTORATION, AND THIS IN TURN IMPLIES HIGH COST.

+DOES THE GOVERNMENT PLAN SUCH A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO COVER THE NEEDS OF RESTORATION WORK ONCE A PROPOSED MONUMENT HAS BEEN DECLARED?+

IN SOME CASES, HE POINTED OUT, HISTORICAL MONUMENTS HAD BEEN PRESERVED THROUGH ENDOWMENTS FROM TRACTS OF LAND SET ASIDE FOR REVENUE-EARNING PURPOSE.

+YET A NUMBER OF THESE LAND LOTS HAVE BEEN RESUMED BY THE GOVERNMENT, REDUCING THE ENDOWMENTS WHICH WOULD MAKE PRESERVATION POSSIBLE.

+MAY I PROPOSE THEREFORE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER RESUMING LAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND PLACES?+ HE ASKED.

IN MOVING THE THIRD READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, THANKED MR CHEUNG FOR SUPPORTING THE BILL, AND EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS +AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION BEFORE AND IN THE PROCESS OF PROCEEDING WITH THE DECLARATION OF A MONUMENT.+

+THIS IS COVERED UNDER THE NEW SECTION 2, WHICH SETS OUT THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED FOR DECLARATION OF A PROPOSED MONUMENT WHICH MAY BE MADE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL WAS PASSED INTO LAW.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1982

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SEVEN BILLS PASSED

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SEVEN BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY ARE THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) BILL 1982, THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 AND THE BUILDING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982.

THE FOLLOWING TWO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED: AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BILL 1982 AND THE SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982.

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SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL

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A BILL SEEKING TO EXTEND THE POWERS IN THE SUPREME COURT ORDINANCE TO MAKE RULES WITH REGARD TO A PAYMENT-INTO-COURT PROCEDURE IN CONNECTION WITH ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON G.P. NAZARETH.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, MR NAZARETH RECALLED THAT THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 WAS PASSED IN MARCH THIS YEAR, GIVING LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION ON THE SUBJECT OF COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION.

HOWEVER, BEFORE THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE CAN BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION, AND RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION IMPLEMENTED, CERTAIN CONSEQUENTIAL AND ENABLING AMENDMENTS HAVE TO BE MADE TO THE SUPREME COURT RULES.

ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IS THE PROVISION IN ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS OF A PAYMENT-INTO-COURT PROCEDURE, A STANDARD PROCEDURE WHICH ENABLES A DEFENDANT IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TO MAKE A PAYMENT INTO COURT.

MR NAZARETH SAID RULES TO PROVIDE THIS PROCEDURE HAD BEEN DRAFTED AND IF THE BILL WAS PASSED, THE RULES WOULD BE MADE WITHOUT DELAY, WITH A VIEW TO EARLY INTRODUCTION OF THE ADVANTAGES HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER AS AN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1982

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AIR POLLUTION BILL 'CAREFULLY CONSIDERED'

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY TODAY DESCRIBED THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BILL 1982 AS AN +ESSENTIAL AND CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED MEASURE, BALANCING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE ECONOMY+.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BRAY SAID AIR POLLUTION IN HONG KONG WAS NOT GENERALLY AT AN UNSATISFACTORY LEVEL. HOWEVER, THERE WERE GAPS IN EXISTING LEGISLATION PARTLY FILLED AT PRESENT BY CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.

+THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BILL AIMS TO FILL IN GAPS IN EXISTING LEGISLATION AND TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTROL OF THE GENERATION OF EXISTING AND NEW AIR POLLUTANTS FOR THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY SAID THE BILL HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF THE MOST EXHAUSTIVE CONSULTATION BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT AND THAT WAS WHY IT HAD TAKEN SO LONG TO GET TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BILL'S PROVISIONS, IN PARTICULAR, HAD BEEN EXTENSIVELY DEBATED IN EPCOM AND ITS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AIR POLLUTION AND THE VIEWS OF INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS HAD BEEN REPRESENTED ON BOTH, HE SAID.

MR BRAY ALSO SAID THAT THE BILL, IN COMMON WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORDINANCES, WOULD BE BINDING ON THE CROWN WHICH WOULD ADOPT THE SAME POLLUTION CONTROLS AS IT IMPOSED ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1982

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HONG KONG OPENS NEW INDUSTRIAL
INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS OFFICE IN UK

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OPENED A NEW INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS OFFICE IN LONDON TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE OFFICE HAS BEEN SET UP TO ASSIST BRITISH BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS INTERESTED IN EITHER JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS WITH HONG KONG INDUSTRIALISTS OR INVESTING IN THE BRITISH TERRITORY.

ITS MAIN AIM WILL BE TO ATTRACT HIGH-TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY AND EXPERTISE TO HELP BROADEN THE TERRITORY'S INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED AND DIVERSIFYING INDUSTRIAL BASE AND TO INCREASE BRITAIN'S SHARE IN THE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, SIR JACK CATER, SAID TODAY THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE SUCCESSFUL INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTORS, BRITISH COMPANIES HAD LARGELY IGNORED THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY HONG KONG INDUSTRY.

THERE WERE 40 BRITISH COMPANIES WITH MANUFACTURING INTERESTS IN HONG KONG, BUT THIS REPRESENTED ONLY EIGHT PER CENT OF TOTAL OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT COMPARED WITH 65 PER CENT HELD BY THE USA AND JAPAN COMBINED.

+TO THE EXTENT THAT HONG KONG IS TO BLAME FOR NOT MAKING BRITISH INDUSTRY AWARE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES, I HOPE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LONDON INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS OFFICE WILL REMEDY THIS,+ SIR JACK SAID AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW OFFICE.

SIR JACK EMPHASISED THE +STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY HONG KONG WHICH IS UNIQUE IN BEING BOTH A FOCAL POINT IN THE PACIFIC BASIN - THE FASTEST GROWING ECONOMIC REGION IN THE WORLD - AND THE GATEWAY TO CHINA+.

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG WANTED TO ATTRACT BRITISH COMPANIES THAT COULD NOT BE COMPETITIVE IN THE FAR EAST MARKETS FOR REASONS OF PRICE OR DISTANCE TO CONSIDER MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG, EITHER ALONE OR IN A JOINT VENTURE WITH LOCAL INTERESTS, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY AND MARKETING EXPERTISE IN THE REGION.

NOT ONLY WOULD THESE COMPANIES INCREASE THEIR WORLD MARKET SHARE, BUT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE INPUTS SUPPLIED TO THEIR HONG KONG VENTURES, HE SAID.

THE NEW PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT ON INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION, MR DONALD FLETCHER, SAID HONG KONG WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN INDUSTRIES WHICH HAD PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY, SKILLS NEW TO THE TERRITORY, OR WHICH COULD INTRODUCE NEW PRODUCTS AND SOPHISTICATED MANAGERMENTS.

+THERE ARE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH COMPANIES IN HONG KONG TO WIN NEW ORDERS, BOOST SALES OF BRITISH COMPONENTS AND CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES BACK HOME,+ HE SAID.

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PEAK TRAM FARE RISE APPROVED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A FARES INCREASE FOR THE PEAK TRAMWAY COMPANY TOGETHER WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A CHEAP MONTHLY TICKET FOR REGULAR COMMUTERS.

THE REVISED FARES, TO BE INTRODUCED ON FRIDAY (JUNE 18), WILL BE \$4 FOR ADULTS AND \$2 FOR CHILDREN, COMPARED WITH \$2 AND \$1 AT PRESENT.

THE MONTHLY TICKET, AT \$100, WORKS OUT ON AVERAGE AT NO MORE THAN \$2 PER TRIP.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE PEAK TRAMWAY'S SERVICES HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO RISING OPERATIONAL COSTS AND ADDED THAT THE SERVICE CARRIES ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF COMMUTERS, BEING NOW LARGELY A TOURIST FACILITY.

A SURVEY SHOWED THAT OVER A WHOLE YEAR SOME 90 PER CENT OF THE PASSENGERS WERE EITHER LOCAL OR OVERSEAS TOURISTS. THOSE WHO WISH TO COMMUTE TO OR FROM THE PEAK CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MONTHLY TICKET OR USE THE ALTERNATIVE AND CHEAPER BUS OR MAXICAB SERVICE.

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KOWLOON PLB MAXICAB ROUTE 4

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TO PROVIDE A BETTER SERVICE TO COMMUTERS, KOWLOON PLB MAXICAB ROUTE 4, BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND YAU YAT CHUEN, WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA THE MONG KOK RAILWAY STATION FROM FRIDAY (JUNE 18), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

ON JOURNEYS TO YAU YAT CHUEN, THE MAXICABS WILL USE TONG MEI ROAD, MONG KOK ROAD, TUNG CHOI STREET, ARGYLE STREET, LUEN WAN STREET, MONG KOK RAILWAY STATION AND BUTE STREET.

ON RETURN JOURNEYS, THE MAXICABS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KNIGHT STREET, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SAI YEE STREET, ARGYLE STREET, LUEN WAN STREET, MONG KOK RAILWAY STATION, BUTE STREET, SAI YEE STREET, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, FIFE STREET, TUNG CHOI STREET, ARGYLE STREET AND YIM PO FONG STREET INSTEAD OF USING PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, PERTH STREET AND GULLANE ROAD.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1982

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RESIDENTIAL COURSE FOR BIOLOGY TEACHERS

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A RESIDENTIAL COURSE FOR BIOLOGY TEACHERS ON +ECOLOGICAL METHODS AND TECHNIQUES USED IN MANGROVE STUDIES+, WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 3 AND 4 AT THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE TWO-DAY COURSE WILL INCLUDE FIELD WORK AT SAI KENG IN THREE FATHOMS COVE.

IT WILL CATER FOR 45 TEACHERS WITH PRIORITY FOR THOSE WHO ARE TEACHING FORM SIX OR WHO WILL TEACH THIS FORM IN THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. ACCEPTANCE WILL BE ON A +FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED+ BASIS.

APPLICATION FORMS, NOW AVAILABLE FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE INSPECTOR, FIELD STUDIES CENTRE, SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE BEFORE JUNE 22.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S FIELD STUDIES CENTRE AT 3-2814009.

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TENDERS SOUGHT FOR LAND TENANCIES

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF FIVE LOTS OF LAND.

THREE OF THE LOTS ARE SITUATED AT TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO, WITH AREAS OF ABOUT 903, 914 AND 1 064 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

THEY ARE ALL FOR CAR REPAIRS AND SPRAY-PAINTING PURPOSES. THESE TENANCIES WILL BE FOR ONE YEAR INITIALLY AND THEREAFTER MONTHLY.

THE REMAINING LOTS ARE IN THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL AREA. BOTH TENANCIES WILL BE FOR ONE-YEAR INITIALLY AND THEREAFTER QUARTERLY.

THE LARGER SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 7 758 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR CONCRETE BATCHING PLANTS AND MANUFACTURING OF ASSOCIATED CONCRETE PRODUCTS.

THE OTHER SITE IS FOR OPEN STORAGE ONLY WHICH MAY INCLUDE MOTOR VEHICLES AND EMPTY CONTAINER BOXES. IT COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3 180 SQUARE METRES.

THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVE TENDERS IS NOON, JULY 2.

TENDER FORMS AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LAND OFFICE, TAI PO, FOR THE TAI PO SITES AND FROM THE DISTRICT LAND OFFICE, YUEN LONG, FOR THE YUEN LONG SITES.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1982

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WATER CUT IN TAI PO

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN AREAS IN TAI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 18) TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN ST. CHRISTOPHER HOME AND THE ACCESS ROAD TO THE TAI PO POLICE STATION INCLUDING HA WONG YI AU TSUEN, TAI PO KAU SAN WAI, MEI WOON SAN TSUEN AND RURAL ESTATE, TAI PO KAU.

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