



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

1991 ELECTIONS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD: CS	1
STAND TOGETHER AND MAKE '91 ELECTIONS A SUCCESS	3
PUBLIC URGED TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS	5
PROPOSED POLITICAL MODEL NOT ACCEPTABLE	6
DEVELOPMENT ALONG DEMOCRATIC LINES FORESEEN	8
SUCCESSFUL START WILL ENTITLE US TO MORE DEMOCRACY	9
RESTRICTION ON NATIONALITY NOT RIGHT	10
CHANGE IN CHINA'S ATTITUDE PREDICTED	11
CLOSE AND EAGER PARTICIPATION ADVOCATED	14
COMMUNITY MUST SHOW COURAGE AND DETERMINATION	15
TIME TO DISCUSS ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR 1991	16
LEGCO PASSES MOTION ON FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM	18
RIGHT TIME FOR QUALITY DRIVE IN MANUFACTURING: GOVERNOR	19
SOCIETY'S OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES	21
1989 EXPORTS STATISTICS RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRY ORIGIN	22
HK TO SET UP COMMITTEE FOR PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION	25
AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT RAILWAY STUDY SIGNED	26
APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR UNDER COMPANIES ORDINANCE	27
CENTRAL AND WESTERN ROAD SAFETY CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY	27
APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND	28
DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OWNERS URGED TO AVOID BUDGET DAY RUSH	29
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT, WAN CHAI AND MID-LEVELS	30

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 1 -

1991 ELECTIONS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD: CS

* * * * *

THE 1991 ELECTIONS WILL MARK A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG, AND THEY WILL BE A TANGIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF OUR RESOLVE TO DEVELOP A POLITICAL SYSTEM BASED ON ELECTORAL CHOICE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

"WITH CHOICE COMES RESPONSIBILITY: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ABLEST IN OUR COMMUNITY TO STAND FOR OFFICE; THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ELECTORATE TO EXERCISE THEIR CHOICE, AND TO EXERCISE IT WISELY; AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERSHIP," SIR DAVID SAID IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD BE INCREASINGLY LOOKING TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE COUNCIL FOR LEADERSHIP TO SEE THEM THROUGH THE UNCERTAINTIES WHICH LAY AHEAD.

"WE NEED PEOPLE OF COMMITMENT AND VISION TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE OF LEADING HONG KONG INTO THE NEXT CENTURY; LEADERS WHO WILL ACT IN THE OVERALL INTEREST OF HONG KONG RATHER THAN ON THE BASIS OF NARROW FACTIONAL INTEREST," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD NOT HELP IF WE WASTED OUR TIME CASTIGATING CHINA OR BRITAIN FOR WHAT HAD GONE WRONG IN THE PAST OR INDEED WHAT MIGHT GO WRONG IN THE FUTURE.

"ABOVE ALL WE MUST LOOK FORWARD RATHER THAN BACKWARD. AT THIS POINT IN OUR HISTORY WE MUST ACCEPT THAT IF HONG KONG IS TO CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL OUR FUTURE DESTINY LIES WITH US," THE CHIEF SECRETARY NOTED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE CONCLUSION OF THE DRAFTING OF THOSE PARTS OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH DEALT WITH POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BROUGHT TO AN END THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH HAD BEEN UNSETTLING FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAD TAKEN A KEEN INTEREST IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

"THERE IS A STRONG SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT IN THIS COUNCIL THAT THE OMELCO CONSENSUS WAS NOT ADOPTED AS THE BASIS FOR THE POLITICAL MODEL IN THE BASIC LAW, AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND MEMBERS' FRUSTRATION IN NOT BEING ABLE TO ACHIEVE MORE ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THAT TAKING A WIDER VIEW SOMETHING ELSE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE PERIOD OF THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH WAS WORTHY OF COMMENT.

"THIS COMMUNITY HAS FACED UP TO, AND GRAPPLED WITH, THE TASK OF SECURING PROGRESSIVE CHANGE TO THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE THROUGH THE TRANSITION OF SOVEREIGNTY.

/"MANY PEOPLE

"MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL. BUT IT FELL TO THIS COUNCIL TO SET DOWN A FIRM MARKER ON WHERE THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS LAY," HE SAID.

"MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL HAMMERED OUT A CONSENSUS, IN ITSELF NO MEAN ACHIEVEMENT, AND STUCK RESOLUTELY TO IT. THE FINAL OUTCOME DOES NOT MEET MEMBERS' EXPECTATIONS IN FULL, BUT THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, AND THERE HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS, WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THEIR FIRM RESOLVE," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT CLEARLY, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE BASIC LAW WAS A MATTER FOR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, ADDING: "WE HOPE THAT THAT GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON THE PACE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT HERE."

"CLEARLY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE 1991 LEGISLATURE WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN INFLUENCING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON THE WAY FORWARD," SIR DAVID SAID.

NOTING THAT ATTITUDES IN HONG KONG HAD CHANGED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD RESPONDED TO THE DEMAND FOR A FASTER PACE OF DEMOCRACY BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY SEATS FROM THE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED 10 IN THE 1988 WHITE PAPER TO 18 IN 1991.

"THE SUCCESS OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON THE QUALITY OF CANDIDATES WHO COME FORWARD IN THAT ELECTION AND THE TURNOUT OF THE VOTERS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL IN 1991, THE CONSTITUTIONAL BOUNDARIES AND THE TYPE OF VOTING SYSTEM WOULD BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

"IN CONSIDERING ALL THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS OUR CONCERN IS TO DEVISE AS FAIR A SYSTEM AS POSSIBLE, A SYSTEM WHICH WILL NOT FAVOUR ANY PARTICULAR GROUP IN THE COMMUNITY OVER ANOTHER, AND TO ENCOURAGE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE AND VOTE," HE SAID.

"THIS COUNCIL WILL OF COURSE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SCRUTINISE AND DEBATE THE LEGISLATION WHICH WILL GIVE EFFECT TO THOSE ARRANGEMENTS," HE ADDED.

"BUT ELECTIONS ARE NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS. IN ORDER TO SUCCEED WE MUST HAVE THE WHOLEHEARTED AND ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY IN 1991," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE BASIC LAW PROVIDED A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH HONG KONG COULD CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL, NOTING THAT THE FUNDAMENTALS ON WHICH THE TERRITORY'S SUCCESS IN THE PAST HAD BEEN BUILT, HAD NOT BEEN CHANGED NOR WERE THEY LIKELY TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE.

"WE STILL HAVE A HARDWORKING AND RESILIENT WORKFORCE, UNRIVALLED ENTREPRENEURS, A SOUND ECONOMY, PERSONAL FREEDOMS, AND A STABLE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

"IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WE FACE ARE NOT THE PRACTICAL TANGIBLE PROBLEMS. WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT WE CAN DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THOSE. THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY ARE IN OUR MINDS. WE FOCUS OUR WORRIES ON AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

"BUT IF WE CONTINUE TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE FUTURE ARE WE NOT IN DANGER OF INCREASING THAT UNCERTAINTY BY FAILING TO RECOGNISE AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE NOW TO BUILD A SOLID BASE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COMMUNITY?

"AND SO THE SOLUTION TO MOST OF OUR PROBLEMS ARE HERE, WITH US IN HONG KONG, NOT IN CHINA AND NOT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS NOW FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AS ONE OF THE COMMERCIAL CAPITALS OF THE WORLD, WITH A MATURE AND STABLE ECONOMY.

"THE SAME SPIRIT AND DETERMINATION WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THAT MATERIAL SUCCESS MUST SURELY NOW BE DIRECTED TOWARDS MAKING THE FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG WORK, AND WORK WELL," HE SAID.

"THOSE WHO WOULD LEAD HONG KONG OWE IT TO ALL WHO ARE PROUD TO CALL HONG KONG THEIR HOMES AND WHOSE FUTURE RESTS HERE, TO SEIZE THAT CHALLENGE WITH BOTH HANDS, AND SO ENABLE HONG KONG TO GO FORWARD TO THE NEXT CENTURY WITH CONFIDENCE," SIR DAVID SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STAND TOGETHER AND MAKE '91 ELECTIONS A SUCCESS
* * * * *

THE HON RONALD ARCULLI APPEALED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) TO THOSE WHO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO HONG KONG, BELIEVING THAT THE TERRITORY HAS THE ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO STRIVE AND PROSPER, TO STAND TOGETHER IN MAKING NEXT YEAR'S DIRECT ELECTIONS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.

SPEAKING ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MR ARCULLI SAID HE SUPPORTED THE MOTION MOVED BY THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON ALLEN LEE.

HE COMMENTED THAT CRITICISMS COULD NEVER CORRECT PREJUDICE, BUT ACTION, PRACTICE AND PERSUASION MIGHT IN HONG KONG'S BID FOR DEMOCRACY.

IT WOULD NOT SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE TO CONTINUE LASHING OUT AT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT HEEDING OUR WISHES, OR AT WHITEHALL FOR YET ANOTHER SELLOUT.

/NEVERTHELESS, THIS

NEVERTHELESS, THIS DID NOT MEAN HONG KONG SHOULD NOT CONTINUE ITS BID FOR DEMOCRACY, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BALANCE OUR DESIRE WITH REALITY.

MR ARCULLI SAID IT WOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY UNSOUND TO COMPARE THE QUEST OF HONG KONG WITH THAT OF EASTERN EUROPE BECAUSE THE EASTERN BLOC'S CAUSE WAS FOUNDED NOT ONLY ON A LOVE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY BUT ALSO ON THEIR ECONOMIC PLIGHT.

"HONG KONG HAS A LOT TO LOSE IF WE TIP THE BALANCE THE WRONG WAY. ONE WRONG STEP MAY COST US DEARLY.

"IN THIS CONTEXT I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND OURSELVES THAT THE LESSON TO BE LEARNT FROM ALL THIS IS SIMPLY THAT WE IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN MASTERS OF COMPROMISES IN OUR DEALINGS WITH CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. WE HAVE HAD TO ALTER AND ADAPT TO SURVIVE AND BE SUCCESSFUL. WE CAN DO IT AGAIN" HE SAID.

MR ARCULLI POINTED OUT THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE WAS THE FIRST AND GIANT STEP TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, BUT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT THAT THE FIRST DIRECT POLLS WOULD NOT END UP AS A FAILURE OR A FARCE.

THE FIRST THING WAS TO DECIDE UPON THE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES AND THEIR BOUNDARIES BECAUSE DIFFERENT METHODS OF DIVIDING HONG KONG FOR ELECTION PURPOSES COULD BRING ABOUT DIFFERENT POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES.

"A BALANCE SHOULD BE STRUCK TO AVOID GERRYMANDERING BY THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS TO ENSURE THAT A SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WOULD BE ABLE TO REFLECT VIEWS OF HIS CONSTITUENTS AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HONG KONG'S INTERESTS AS A WHOLE WHEN MAKING DECISIONS," HE SAID.

MR ARCULLI NOTED THAT THE BASIC LAW PROPOSED TO RETAIN FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES IN THE FUTURE SAR LEGISLATURE FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE SAR ADMINISTRATION SHOULD ENSURE THAT ALL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS BE HELD DEMOCRATICALLY AND THAT SECTOR INTERESTS, BE THEY PROFESSIONAL PROTECTIONISM OR TRADE UNIONISM, SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED.

MR ARCULLI ALSO REFERRED TO MONEY.

HE BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE POTENTIAL COMMUNITY LEADERS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC AND STAND FOR LEGCO DIRECT ELECTIONS BY GRANTING FUTURE CANDIDATES A SUBSIDY, SET AT A REALISTIC LEVEL, FOR RUNNING CAMPAIGNS.

IT SHOULD BE PAYABLE TO A CANDIDATE ON A REIMBURSEMENT BASIS ACCORDING TO ACTUAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING THE CAMPAIGN, HE SAID.

SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD HELP SUBSTANTIALLY IN REMOVING ANY CRITICISM THAT THE RICH HAD AN EDGE OVER THE NOT SO WELL-OFF IN PUBLIC ELECTIONS.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 5 -

HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT DIRECTLY ELECTED CANDIDATES SHOULD BE GIVEN A STIPEND AND ALLOWANCE WHICH WOULD BE HIGHER THAN THAT OF THEIR FUNCTIONAL OR APPOINTED COLLEAGUES BECAUSE THEY MIGHT HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIR FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT TO SERVE THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

MR ARCULLI SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO UPDATE AND REVIEW EXISTING ELECTORAL LAWS, SUCH AS A CLEARER DEFINITION OF THE TERM "PUBLIC OFFICE", AND OTHER LEGAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED.

HE ALSO SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR EFFECTIVE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND BEIJING IN THE COMING SEVEN YEARS, WHICH WOULD SERVE TO ENHANCE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION.

SUCH CHANNELS WOULD BE CRUCIAL AFTER THE DISBANDING OF THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES.

"I BELIEVE THAT IT IS RIGHT FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THIS ADMINISTRATION TO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE AND NURTURE THE SINO-HONG KONG DIALOGUE AND RELATIONSHIP AT ALL LEVELS SO AS TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND HANDOVER," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PUBLIC URGED TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS

* * * * *

IT WILL BE THE RESPONSE OF THE HONG KONG POPULACE, THE RESPONSE OF EVERY ONE OF US, WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF DEMOCRATISATION, THE HON PAUL CHENG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SUPPORTING THE MOTION OF THE SENIOR MEMBER IN THE DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MR CHENG SAID THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THE OMELCO CONSENSUS HAD NOT BEEN ADOPTED, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT FACED WITH NEW REALITIES, WE MUST CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON NEXT YEAR'S DIRECT ELECTIONS.

"NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, WE MUST FOCUS SOME ENERGIES ON COMMUNICATING WIDESPREAD CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AMONG HONG KONG PEOPLE SO THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE AND COMPETENT TO GET OUT AND VOTE.

"THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THOSE WHO CAN REPRESENT THEM WELL - THOSE WHO ARE ARTICULATE AND CONVERSANT WITH THE MANY ISSUES THAT HONG KONG IS FACING TODAY," HE SAID.

MR CHENG SAID THAT LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS ON THEIR PART MUST SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS TO INFORM CITIZENS IN PUBLIC POLICY, BASED ON EDUCATION AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL.

/"WE ARE

"WE ARE LOOKING AT A TRANSFORMATION IN HOW HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE TO BE INVOLVED IN POLITICS. IT IS THIS NEW 'HOW' - THE 'HOW TO BE INVOLVED' - THAT IS AT THE CRUX OF OUR SUCCESSFUL GOVERNANCE THROUGH THE 1990S AND BEYOND," HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT FACED WITH SO MUCH NEGATIVE NEWS EVERY DAY, WE NEED TO STRIVE FOR BALANCE IN SHARING INFORMATION, AND SEE THE POSITIVE THAT WAS A BIG PART OF HONG KONG.

THE MEDIA COULD GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING TO REBUILD HONG KONG'S CONFIDENCE.

MR CHENG ALSO SAID IT WAS TIME TO STOP THE PLETHORA OF SURVEYS THAT BUFFETTED US WITH HOW MANY OF OUR BEST AND BRIGHTEST WERE LEAVING HONG KONG AND TO MOVE OUR SURVEYS TO TORONTO, SYDNEY AND NEW YORK, TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND HONG KONG PEOPLE BACK TO HONG KONG.

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PART, HE SAID IT MUST BE THOUGHTFUL AND WELL-ORGANISED, AND MUST HAVE VISION.

"IT MUST ADDRESS THE HONG KONG IMAGE PROBLEM FORCEFULLY AND POSITIVELY. FOR THE PEOPLE IT SERVES, THE HONG KONG CITIZENRY, IT MUST ALSO ADDRESS THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BY PUTTING A WELL-DEFINED POLITICAL SYSTEM IN PLACE WITH AN ESTABLISHED ELECTION PROCESS," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PROPOSED POLITICAL MODEL NOT ACCEPTABLE
* * * * *

THE FUTURE POLITICAL MODEL PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT BASIC LAW WILL NOT ACHIEVE THE IDEALS UNDERLAID BY THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION TO ALLOW HONG KONG PEOPLE TO RULE HONG KONG WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

THE HON DAVID CHEUNG SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

MR CHEUNG SAID THAT ON THIS GROUND, HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE POLITICAL MODEL NOR COMMEND IT TO HONG KONG PEOPLE.

HE CRITICISED THE PROPOSED MODEL AS FALLING FAR SHORT OF THE OMELCO CONSENSUS AND FAILING TO MEET THE GENERAL WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY.

HE DISAGREED THAT THE PROPOSED MODEL WAS A BIG IMPROVEMENT ON THE VERSION PROPOSED IN GUANGZHOU AND THAT IT SHOULD SATISFY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

/"WHY SHOULD

- 7 -

"WHY SHOULD IT BE WHEN THE COMMUNITY'S OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE OMELCO CONSENSUS HAS NOT EVEN BEEN DISCUSSED, LET ALONE ADOPTED?"

MR CHEUNG CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT HONG KONG HAD BEEN PLAYING A NUMBERS GAME.

HE SAID: "EVEN IF IT WAS SO, THEY ARE NOT TO BLAME BECAUSE BY 2003, BETWEEN THE TWO MODELS THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF 30 DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS IN THE LEGISLATURE, AND 30 IS CERTAINLY A LARGE NUMBER."

REFUTING THE ALLEGATION THAT THE OMELCO CONSENSUS WAS BRITISH, HE SAID: "THE PAINSTAKING EFFORTS ON THE PART OF OMELCO MEMBERS TO STRIVE TO REACH A CONSENSUS AMIDST TWO POLARISED CONCEPTIONS OF DEMOCRATISATION AND TO STICK TO THE SAME MODEL AFTER WHAT HAS HAPPENED ON JUNE 4, 1989 SHOW THAT WE, AS RESPONSIBLE OMELCO MEMBERS, HAVE TAKEN THE ENTIRE SITUATION INTO CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE CHINESE LEADERS."

MR CHEUNG DISMISSED AS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY THE MOVE TO BRUSH ASIDE THE OMELCO CONSENSUS SIMPLY BECAUSE OF FACE AND TO PROVE WHO WAS HONG KONG'S SOVEREIGN MASTER.

"IT WOULD ONLY DISCOURAGE HONG KONG PEOPLE FROM EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS, KNOWING THAT CHINA HAS NO DESIRE TO HEED THEIR CRIES. THIS WILL FURTHER ERODE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE COMPELLED BY REALITY TO LIVE WITH THE PROPOSED MODEL FOR THE TIME BEING, THEIR PRAGMATISM SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, MR CHEUNG SAID.

"THE FIRE OF OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR A MORE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL STRUCTURE WILL CONTINUE TO KINDLE AND SPARK."

HE URGED THE COMMUNITY TO FACE UP TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE ACID TEST IN THE 1991 ELECTION BY VOTING FOR THOSE WHO COULD BEST REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS, AND TO PROVE TO THOSE WHO WERE LESS DEMOCRATICALLY MINDED THAT DEMOCRACY WAS NOT AN EVIL TO BE STIFLED AT ALL COSTS.

"ONLY THROUGH ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF OURSELVES IN THE ELECTION OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL WE, IN TIME, BE THE MASTERS OF OUR OWN DESTINY," MR CHEUNG CONCLUDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 8 -

DEVELOPMENT ALONG DEMOCRATIC LINES FORESEEN

* * * * *

THE BASIC LAW FOR THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE TERRITORY CAN PROSPER, IN PEACE AND STABILITY, THE HON NELLIE FONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MRS FONG SAID SHE WAS GLAD THE DRAFTING STAGE WAS OVER NOW, AS PEOPLE COULD FOCUS THEIR MINDS ONCE MORE ON BUILDING HONG KONG, AND THE BASIC LAW FORESAW A CONTINUATION OF DEVELOPMENT FOR HONG KONG ALONG DEMOCRATIC LINES, SHE SAID.

"THE CHANGES AS FORESEEN WILL BE GRADUAL. I SEE NO REASON FOR THE CHANGE TO BE DISRUPTIVE."

WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG REALLY WANTED WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETAIN THE LIFESTYLE THEY HAD GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO, FREEDOM TO TRAVEL AND TO TRADE.

"WE WANT A HONG KONG THAT ENCOURAGES BUSINESS AND FOSTERS THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH BUSINESS CAN PROSPER ... WE WANT A HONG KONG THAT CONTINUES TO BE A RECOGNISED CENTRE OF CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC POWER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA," MRS FONG SAID.

"THESE THINGS ARE DESCRIBED BY THE BASIC LAW; BUT THEY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED BY ANY PIECE OF PAPER. THEY CAN ONLY BE ATTAINED, BY DETERMINATION, BY GOOD AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS AND WITH THE RIGHT LEADERSHIP."

CALLING FOR UNITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF HONG KONG. MRS FONG SAID WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO CHERISH OUR VALUES OF FREEDOM, OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND FREE TRADE, AND WORK DILIGENTLY FOR OUR FUTURE STABILITY.

SHE ALSO APPEALED TO THOSE WHO HAD THE ABILITY AND THE INCLINATION TO LEAVE TO RECONSIDER, AND THOSE WHO HAD LEFT TO RETURN TO HELP BUILD THIS CITY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 9 -

SUCCESSFUL START WILL ENTITLE US TO MORE DEMOCRACY

* * * * *

IT WE CAN MAKE A SUCCESSFUL START TO OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO FURTHER NEGOTIATE WITH CHINA FOR RELAXATION OF THE GAG ON DEMOCRACY AND FOR OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BASIC LAW, THE HON MIRIAM LAU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE SENIOR MEMBER'S MOTION IN THE DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MRS LAU SAID IT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE DECIDED AT A TIME WHEN THE SINO-BRITISH RELATIONSHIP WAS MOST STRAINED AND MUTUAL TRUST AND RESPECT APPEARED TO BE LOWEST.

THE TRAGIC EVENTS LAST JUNE HAD SHOCKED HONG KONG AND THE WORLD BUT REPERCUSSIONS ON CHINA CAUSED BY WORLDWIDE REACTIONS AND THOSE OF HONG KONG'S COULD NOT HAVE BEEN UNFELT, SHE SAID.

CHINA HAD BECOME PARANOID ABOUT DEMOCRACY BREEDING SUBVERSION, AND WAS OBSESSED WITH THE MISCONCEPTION THAT IF HONG KONG SHOULD GET TOO MUCH DEMOCRACY, IT WOULD BECOME A BASE FOR SUBVERSION.

"THIS BEING THE CASE, WE MUST TRY TO CORRECT THE MISCONCEPTION AND TAKE STEPS TO FOSTER BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA," SHE SAID.

MRS LAU SAID WE MUST PROVE BY ACTION THAT WE COULD BE ENTRUSTED WITH DEMOCRACY, AND THAT SUBVERSION HAD NO PART TO PLAY IN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WHICH WE SOUGHT.

"WE ARE NOT ABLE AT THIS STAGE TO PROCURE A POLITICAL MODEL OF OUR CHOICE, BUT LET US THINK AND ACT POSITIVELY RATHER THAN RECRIMINATE.

"THE FRAMEWORK AVAILABLE IS NOT ONE WHICH WE CANNOT WORK WITH, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO 1991," SHE SAID.

MRS LAU STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT JUST THE POLITICAL MODEL THAT MADE A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, AND THERE WERE MANY OTHER AREAS WHICH WE HAD YET TO WORK ON.

SHE SAID THAT A SUCCESSFUL DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM DEPENDED ON WHETHER WE HAD THE RIGHT PERSONS TO FILL THE ELECTED SEATS, WHETHER WE COULD GET ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION FROM THE COMMUNITY, AND WHETHER WITH THE DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS WE COULD STILL MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT.

CIVIC EDUCATION AND PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE IN POLITICS WERE PRIORITY ITEMS WE HAD STILL TO WORK ON, SHE SAID.

MRS LAU SAID SHE DID NOT ACCEPT THE STATEMENT BY CHINESE OFFICIALS THAT THERE WAS NO WAY THE BASIC LAW COULD BE CHANGED AFTER IT HAD BEEN RATIFIED BY THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.

/GIVEN THE

GIVEN THE POLITICAL WILL AND DETERMINATION, SHE SAID, WE COULD MAKE REVISIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BASIC LAW TO COPE WITH THE CHANGING POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

"FOR THE TIME BEING, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAINTAIN OUR SENSE OF DIRECTION, BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE," SHE SAID.

----- 0 -----

RESTRICTION ON NATIONALITY NOT RIGHT

* * * * *

IT IS NOT RIGHT FOR THE BASIC LAW DRAFT MODEL TO INCLUDE A 20 PER CENT RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS HOLDING FOREIGN PASSPORTS OR RIGHT OF ABODE OVERSEAS, FOR THESE PEOPLE STAND FOR HONG KONG AND HONG KONG ALONE, DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, DR LEONG SAID THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS TO SAFEGUARD THE FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE AFTER 1997, FOR 50 YEARS.

THE EXISTING SYSTEM DID NOT FORBID ANYBODY, WHETHER HE HELD A FOREIGN PASSPORT OR RIGHT OF ABODE OVERSEAS, FROM TAKING PART IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATURE SO LONG AS HE WAS QUALIFIED AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT HERE.

"CHINA HAS PLEDGED NOT TO CHANGE HONG KONG'S SYSTEM. TO IMPOSE SUCH A RESTRICTION IS TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM," DR LEONG SAID.

IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD CO-OPERATE AND ALLOW AN ISSUE THAT CLEARLY VIOLATED THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

ON A TECHNICAL BASIS, DR LEONG SAID, THE NATIONALITY RESTRICTION IN THE FUTURE LEGISLATURE SIMPLY DID NOT WORK, AS THE SYSTEM COULD NEVER ENSURE THAT NO MORE THAN 20 PER CENT OF THE LEGISLATORS WOULD BE RETURNED BY THE END OF THE DAY.

FURTHERMORE, PROBLEMS WOULD ARISE IF MORE THAN 20 PER CENT OF THE LEGISLATORS HOLDING FOREIGN PASSPORTS WERE ELECTED.

DR LEONG ALSO SAID THAT FOR CONSTITUENCIES LIKE THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL ONES, IT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF QUALITY PEOPLE COULD BE ATTRACTED TO JOIN THE ELECTIONS AS MANY OF THEM WERE HOLDING FOREIGN PASSPORTS OR RIGHT OF ABODE OVERSEAS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT DISAPPOINTED AS WE WERE, WE SHOULD NOT GIVE WAY TO DESPAIR.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 11 -

"THE PROMULGATION OF THE BASIC LAW SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS THE END OF HONG KONG, FAR LESS THE END FOR DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MUST STAND FIRM, AND OMELCO MUST TAKE A LEAD AND MUST SHOW THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THEIR DETERMINATION IN THEIR DRIVE FOR DEMOCRACY.

COMMENDING THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR'S MOTION TO HIS COLLEAGUES, DR LEONG SAID THEY MUST SHOW CONVICTION FOR WHAT THEY STOOD FOR, AND OMELCO SHOULD STAND FIRM ON THEIR OWN CONSENSUS.

HE SAID THE 1991 ELECTION WOULD BE VITAL FOR HONG KONG, AND THE ELECTION PACKAGE AND ELECTION METHODS MUST BE OPEN, FAIR, EQUAL AND FREE TO ENSURE THAT GENUINE REPRESENTATIVES OF HONG KONG WERE BEING ELECTED.

DR LEONG ALSO SAID THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MUST BE STIMULATED AND SELF MOTIVATED TO COME OUT TO VOTE EN MASSE TO REFLECT THEIR CONCERN AND TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHANGE IN CHINA'S ATTITUDE PREDICTED

* * * * *

THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR PREDICTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE NEXT FEW YEARS WILL SEE CHANGES FOR THE BETTER IN CHINESE ATTITUDES AND POLICIES TOWARDS HONG KONG.

"I BELIEVE THAT CHINA WILL RECOGNISE THAT WE POSE NO THREAT, THAT OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM IS VASTLY SUPERIOR TO THEIRS, THAT AN ESSENTIAL PART OF IT IS CONFIDENCE, BOTH PERSONAL AND CORPORATE, AND THAT GREATER DEMOCRACY IN GOVERNMENT IS THE BEST WAY OF ENSURING THAT OUR SYSTEM CONTINUES TO FLOURISH AND TO SUPPORT CHINA," HE SAID IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

AND CHANGE IN CHINA WAS HONG KONG'S GREATEST HOPE, HE ADDED.

IT WAS BASED ON THIS CONVICTION AND ON THE VIEW THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COULD NOT ABANDON THE VERY MODERATE POLITICAL MODEL IT HAD CHAMPIONED FOR SO LONG AND WHICH HAD BEEN SO WIDELY SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT HE WOULD BE MOVING HIS MOTION IN THE DEBATE.

/HIS MOTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 12 -

HIS MOTION READS: "THAT THIS COUNCIL DEPLORES THE EXTREMELY UNDEMOCRATIC POLITICAL MODEL PROPOSED FOR THE BASIC LAW AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND URGES THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN THEIR FUTURE AFTER 1997 BY ACCEPTING A MORE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL MODEL FOR THE BASIC LAW BASED UPON THE OMELCO CONSENSUS WHICH RECOMMENDS A FULLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE BY THE YEAR 2003, REFLECTING THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG; AND URGES THE ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR NO LESS THAN 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SEATS TO BE DIRECTLY ELECTED BY 1995."

MR MCGREGOR SAID THAT FIVE YEARS WAS A VERY LONG TIME IN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS, AND MANY CHANGES COULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY CONTINUED NEGOTIATION AND PRESSURE ON THE TWO SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY IF THE 1991 ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG WERE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND THE SUBSEQUENT TRACK RECORD OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS ENLIGHTENED AND HELPFUL TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE VAST AND UNPREDICTED CHANGES NOW SWEEPING THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS FOR CHINA AND ITS LEADERS.

"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHAT THESE EFFECTS WILL BE BUT THEY MUST SURELY BE BENEFICIAL TO HONG KONG AND TO THE SYSTEM WHICH WE HAVE BUILT HERE AND WHICH CHINA SO EARNESTLY WISHES TO PRESERVE," HE SAID.

"WE CAN THEN SEEK THE SPECIFIC CHANGES I PROPOSE IN MY MOTION."

IN ADDITION TO WHAT HE HAD PROPOSED IN HIS MOTION, MR MCGREGOR SUGGESTED THAT THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR 1991 BE RESTRICTED TO 54, THUS MAINTAINING THE FIRST LEG OF THE OMELCO CONSENSUS AT ONE THIRD OF MEMBERS BEING ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

TURNING TO THE PRESENT, MR MCGREGOR DESCRIBED THE POLITICAL MODEL PROPOSED IN THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW AS "A PALE SHADOW OF WHAT IS NEEDED TO GUARANTEE OUR FUTURE VIGOUR AND VITALITY AND TO ENSURE THE SUPPORT OF THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG".

HE BLAMED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MORE THAN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS.

"WE DESERVED BETTER FROM THE MOTHER OF DEMOCRACY," HE SAID.

MR MCGREGOR SAID THAT BRITAIN HAD ENJOYED FULL DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM IN THE ELECTION OF ITS GOVERNMENT FOR MOST OF THIS CENTURY; THE PRIME MINISTER HERSELF WAS A FIERCE AND DETERMINED SUPPORTER OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS; AND HER GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FULLY AWARE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE'S WISH FOR A FASTER PACE OF DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT.

/HE WAS

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 13 -

HE WAS SURPRISED THAT AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, MR DOUGLAS HURD AND MR FRANCIS MAUDE SHOULD ENTER THE LATTER STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA WITH SOME PERCEPTION THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE READY TO CONCEDE TO A SLOWER PACE OF DEMOCRATIC REFORM.

WHERE ON EARTH DID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT GET THIS IDEA, HE WONDERED.

IN MR MCGREGOR'S VIEW, CHINA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS HONG KONG WAS MORE EXCUSABLE, BEARING IN MIND THAT THE COUNTRY HAD NEVER TASTED DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM, NOR DID IT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE VITAL CONTRIBUTION THAT DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM WOULD MAKE TO THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG.

"THEY (THE CHINESE LEADERS) APPEAR TO EXPECT THAT WHAT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR BRITAIN SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR CHINA; THAT SUCCESSFUL COLONIAL HONG KONG SHOULD BECOME SUCCESSFUL SAR OF CHINA WITHOUT ANY GREAT CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

BUT THE DIFFERENCE WAS THAT WHILE THE BRITISH TRACK RECORD IN ADMINISTERING HONG KONG HAS BEEN BENIGN AND NON-INTERVENTIONIST IN CHARACTER, CHINA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS HAD INSPIRED LITTLE FAITH AMONG THE HONG KONG PEOPLE.

ALTHOUGH CHINA HAD BEEN TRYING TO LIBERALISE ITS ECONOMIC SYSTEM, IT HAD NOT RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR CORRESPONDING CHANGE TO ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHANGE WERE INTERDEPENDENT AND ONE COULD NOT SUCCEED WITHOUT THE OTHER, MR MCGREGOR EMPHASISED.

HE SAID THE LACK OF FAITH IN CHINA WAS NOW CAUSING THE GREATEST BRAIN DRAIN IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY.

"PEOPLE WHO HAVE A CHOICE ARE CHOOSING TO LEAVE AND NOTHING THAT CHINA HAS DONE SO FAR WITH THE BASIC LAW WILL PROVIDE THE ASSURANCES NECESSARY TO SLOW IT DOWN," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE SENIOR MEMBER'S MOTION, MR MCGREGOR SAID THAT HE DID NOT OPPOSE IT ALTHOUGH HE FELT IT WAS TOO CONCILIATORY TO BOTH THE BRITISH AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD IMPOSED THEIR AGREED POLITICAL MODEL ON HONG KONG IN DISREGARD OF THE CLEARLY EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"INDEED I WILL VOTE IN FAVOUR OF IT," HE CONCLUDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 14 -

CLOSE AND EAGER PARTICIPATION ADVOCATED

* * * * *

THE HON JAMES TIEN ADVOCATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) THE CLOSE AND EAGER PARTICIPATION BY ALL SECTORS OF HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

BETWEEN ALL THE ELECTED MEMBERS, EITHER BY ONE MAN, ONE VOTE OR BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY, HONG KONG COULD MAKE A SOLID BASE FOR FUTURE PROGRESS, HE SAID.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE SENIOR MEMBER'S MOTION IN THE DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MR TIEN SAID HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLE OF A BALANCED LEGISLATURE, IN PARTICULAR IN THOSE AREAS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE COMMERCIAL SUCCESS OF HONG KONG, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT OPPOSE SOME DIRECT ELECTION.

"I URGE GREATER REALISATION OF THE FACT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS HERE IS ONLY A MEANS TO AN END. I HAVE SUPPORTED THE 4-4-2 MODEL AS THE BEST PACE. THAT IS STILL MY VIEW.

"I KNOW THAT SOME PEOPLE SEE GRADUAL, BUT NEVERTHELESS IN THE HONG KONG'S CONTEXT, DYNAMIC CHANGE WITH DISAPPROVAL. THEY REFER TO IT AS 'TOOTHPASTE DEMOCRACY', SQUEEZED OUT BIT BY BIT.

"BUT CONSIDER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SQUEEZE THE TOOTHPASTE TUBE TOO HARD. THE ANSWER IS A MESS.

"FOR MY PART, I FAVOUR PUTTING ONLY AS MUCH TOOTHPASTE ON THE BRUSH AS IS NECESSARY. THE RESULT IS HOPEFULLY A BRIGHT AND HEALTHY SMILE," HE SAID.

MR TIEN NOTED THAT THE BASIC LAW HAD PLACED NATIONALITY RESTRICTIONS ON ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC OFFICE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATURE, WHICH HE FOUND WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE AND WOULD DETER BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS FROM PARTICIPATING IN POLITICS.

ON A SEPARATE VOTING MECHANISM, MR TIEN SAID IT WOULD SURELY SUIT THE FUTURE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO HAVE DIVISION, ARGUMENT AND CONFRONTATION WITHIN THE CHAMBER AND SO DIVIDE AND RULE, BECAUSE SEPARATE PARTS OF A SINGLE CHAMBER COULD ONLY PROMOTE DISUNITY AND DISHARMONY.

HE ALSO SAID THERE WERE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN THE MOVE TO DIRECT ELECTIONS. AMONG THEM WERE THE DANGER OF MOVING HONG KONG TOWARDS BEING TURNED INTO A WELFARE STATE AND INCREASING THE CHANCE OF MORE BUREAUCRACY, WHICH MIGHT DRIVE ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS FROM HONG KONG.

MR TIEN NOTED THAT FOR 150 YEARS HONG KONG DID NOT HAVE DEMOCRACY BUT IT HAD HAD FREEDOM.

HE SAID: "I PREFER FREEDOM TO DEMOCRACY... DEMOCRACY IS ALL TOO OFTEN USED AS A SLOGAN, BUT THIS IS TO DEBASE IT.

/"FREEDOM IS

"FREEDOM IS NOT GUARANTEED BY DEMOCRACY AS EXPRESSED BY DIRECT ELECTION... FREEDOM IS GUARANTEED WHERE FREE MEN LIVE IN DIGNITY UNDER JUST LAWS.

"A LOT OF TIMES DEMOCRACY FAILS TO GUARANTEE THIS DIGNITY AND JUSTICE. FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE SENSE OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE IS MERELY A MEANS TO AN END."

"I THINK," HE SAID, "DEMOCRACY SUCCEEDS BEST WHEN IT RESTS ON A SOLID BASE. THOSE WHO CREATE WEALTH ARE THE TRUE DEMOCRATS."

WHAT THE COUNCIL NEEDED, NOW, AND IN THE FUTURE, WAS A BALANCED VOICE, WITH NOT ONLY LIBERALS BUT COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS ALSO FIRMLY REPRESENTED THROUGH THEIR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, MR TIEN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COMMUNITY MUST SHOW COURAGE AND DETERMINATION

* * * * *

THE HON ELSIE TU URGED THE COMMUNITY TODAY (THURSDAY) TO MUSTER COURAGE AND DETERMINATION TO SECURE HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MRS TU SAID HONG KONG PEOPLE MUST FACE THE TASK AHEAD OF THEM, AND THEY MUST BEGIN TO DO SO NOW.

WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, THERE WAS NOTHING MORE WE COULD DO EXCEPT TO PICK OURSELVES UP AND LOOK FOR OTHER WAYS TO SUCCEED.

"IF WE STOP TO FLOG A DEAD HORSE (THE POLITICAL MODEL WHICH WE STILL THINK BEST FOR HONG KONG), WE MAY MISS THE REMAINDER OF THE RACE (1997)," SHE SAID.

MRS TU BELIEVED THAT HARSH WORDS, FIST-RAISING AND EFFIGY-BURNING WOULD ONLY SERVE TO FUEL PUBLIC FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY, WHEREAS POSITIVE ACTIONS COULD INFLUENCE CHINA FAR MORE.

"WE MUST SEEK FREEDOM, EQUALITY, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL SECURITY, AND ALL THESE THINGS ARE INTERDEPENDENT. ONLY BY THIS MEANS CAN WE PROVE TO CHINA THAT DEMOCRACY WILL SUCCEED IN THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION," SHE SAID.

CITING EXAMPLES OF ISSUES THAT MUST BE ATTENDED TO IN THE YEARS AHEAD, TO ENSURE THAT OUR SOCIETY WAS TRULY DEMOCRATIC, MRS TU SAID WE MUST ADDRESS THE SHORTCOMINGS IN OUR RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT WE HAD TRUE FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA WHICH WOULD BE THE MOUTHPIECE OF DEMOCRACY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MEDIA SHOULD HOLD TRUTH MORE VALUABLE THAN SENSATION.

/MRS TU

- 16 -

MRS TU POINTED OUT THAT THE PROBLEM WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS THAT WHEN IT WAS SIGNED FIVE YEARS AGO, NO ONE REALISED THAT THE WORDS "THE LEGISLATURE SHALL BE CONSTITUTED BY ELECTION" DID NOT MEAN DEMOCRATIC ELECTION, BUT ONLY PARTIAL DIRECT ELECTION, MAINLY INDIRECT ELECTION, AND EVEN SOME SELECTION.

"THE BLAME FOR THIS PUBLIC MISUNDERSTANDING RESTS NOT ONLY ON CHINA BUT ON BRITAIN," SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD RESISTED DEMOCRACY FOR HONG KONG FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, AND EVER SINCE BRITAIN REALISED THE COLONIAL SYSTEM WAS COMING TO AN END, IT HAD BEEN INTRODUCING A SYSTEM OF INDIRECT ELECTION INSTEAD OF DIRECT ELECTION.

"CHINA HAS COTTONED ON TO THIS IDEA, AND NOW WE HAVE A KIND OF MISSHAPEN OFFSPRING CONCEIVED BY THE MOTHER OF PARLIAMENTS," SHE SAID.

MRS TU CONSIDERED IT A PITY THAT CHINA DID NOT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF ALLAYING HONG KONG'S FEARS AND RESTORING ITS CONFIDENCE BY ADOPTING A FOUR-PHASE PATH TO DEMOCRACY AS PROPOSED BY OMELCO AND OTHER GROUPS.

NOW THAT BRITAIN AND CHINA HAD LEFT US WITH NOTHING TO CLING TO IN OUR DILEMMA, WE MUST STAND FIRM AND UNITED IN SECURING OUR OWN FUTURE, COME WHAT MAY, SHE CONCLUDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TIME TO DISCUSS ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR 1991

* * * * *

THE TIME OF ARGUING ABOUT THE ABSTRACT DRAFT BASIC LAW IS ABOUT TO PASS AS WE HAVE TO FACE THE REALITY THAT THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WILL PROMULGATE THE BASIC LAW SHORTLY, THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE TIME HAD NOW COME TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR 1991, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MR WONG SAID: "IN THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG, WE MUST WORK HARD TO CONSTRUCT A TRULY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM THAT WILL ALLOW US TO CONTINUE WITH OUR LIFE STYLES AND YET BE RESPONSIVE TO THE CHANGES THAT MUST INEVITABLY COME," HE SAID.

IN WORKING OUT THE NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM, MR WONG SAID IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DENY MINORITY GROUPS A VOICE, ESPECIALLY THOSE MINORITY GROUPS WHOSE INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED BY THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

/"AT THE

"AT THE SAME TIME, ALL OUT PROPORTIONALITY MUST NOT BE PURSUED AT THE EXPENSE OF POLITICAL COHESION," HE ADDED.

"THE REPRESENTATION OF TOO MANY DIVERSE INTERESTS CAN ONLY RESULT IN PREVARICATION, INDECISION AND SOMETIMES PURE ANTAGONISM. A CLEAR MAJORITY WORKS WONDERS TO GET LEGISLATION THROUGH."

NOTING THAT STRONG LINKS BETWEEN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS MUST BE FORGED, MR WONG SAID HONG KONG PEOPLE MUST HAVE A CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH THEY COULD EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS TO GOVERNMENT.

"YET IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT THIS COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BECOME A MERE STAGE FOR LOCAL POLITICS.

"CONCERN WITH LOCAL ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CROWD OUT THE DEBATE ON ISSUES THAT CONCERN THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM WE ADOPT MUST BE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL. THE EQUALITY OF POPULATION BETWEEN CONSTITUENCIES IS PARAMOUNT, AND THE CURRENT GROSS IMBALANCE OF THE NUMBER OF VOTERS BETWEEN DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCIES CANNOT BE CONTINUED," MR WONG SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE THREE MORE ISSUES WITH WHICH WE SHOULD CONCERN OURSELVES.

"FIRSTLY, WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE VITAL ROLE PLAYED BY POLITICAL PARTIES IN A MODERN DEMOCRACY IN ARTICULATING POLICIES AND PROVIDING REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PEOPLE.

"THE SYSTEM WHICH WE CHOOSE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THOSE PARTIES WHICH ARE FORMED ARE STRONG AND COHESIVE, AND NOT WEAK AND FRAGMENTED.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, WE SHOULD BE EXAMINING THE SORT OF LEGISLATION THAT WILL GOVERN THE FORMATION AND RUNNING OF POLITICAL PARTIES; HOW THEY CAN SOLICIT FUNDS AND RUN POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS," HE SAID.

"SECONDLY, WE MUST ENSURE THAT THIS COUNCIL REMAINS EFFECTIVE IN ITS TASK OF SCRUTINISING THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND IN THE FUTURE, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE. ITS MEMBERS MUST BE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING LEADERSHIP FOR HONG KONG THROUGHOUT THE TESTING TIMES AHEAD.

"FINALLY, IT IS VITAL THAT WE ADOPT A SYSTEM THAT IS FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTABLE."

MR WONG ADDED: "LET US TAKE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD UP A SYSTEM THAT WILL TRULY ENABLE HONG KONG PEOPLE TO RULE HONG KONG AND CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE TO EVERYONE THAT WE CAN INDEED DO SO IN A DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT. ONLY THUS, CAN WE CONVINCED EVERYONE THAT WE ARE FIT AND PROPER TO RULE OURSELVES."

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 18 -

LEGCO PASSES MOTION ON FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM

* * * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PASSED A MOTION TODAY (THURSDAY) ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, AFTER TWO DAYS OF DEBATE.

THE MOTION, WHICH WAS MOVED BY THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON ALLEN LEE, WAS PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

IT READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL EXPRESSES DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE OMELCO CONSENSUS HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE FUTURE POLITICAL MODEL BUT URGES THE COMMUNITY, IN THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG, TO BE UNITED IN ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM."

AFTER THE VOTE WAS TAKEN ON MR LEE'S MOTION, ANOTHER MEMBER, THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR, FORMALLY MOVED HIS MOTION ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

THIS READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL DEPLORES THE EXTREMELY UNDEMOCRATIC POLITICAL MODEL PROPOSED FOR THE BASIC LAW AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND URGES THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN THEIR FUTURE AFTER 1997 BY ACCEPTING A MORE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL MODEL FOR THE BASIC LAW BASED UPON THE OMELCO CONSENSUS WHICH RECOMMENDS A FULLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE BY THE YEAR 2003, REFLECTING THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG; AND URGES THE ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR NO LESS THAN 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SEATS TO BE DIRECTLY ELECTED BY 1995."

THE MOTION WAS NOT CARRIED. A DIVISION SHOWED THAT SEVEN MEMBERS VOTED FOR IT, 27 AGAINST, AND 11 ABSTAINED.

THE COUNCIL HAD DEBATED BOTH MOTIONS TOGETHER AS THEIR CONTENT RELATED TO THE SAME SUBJECT.

A TOTAL OF 32 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE, AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/19

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 19 -

RIGHT TIME FOR QUALITY DRIVE IN MANUFACTURING: GOVERNOR

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THAT CONDITIONS ARE RIPE FOR A SUSTAINED QUALITY DRIVE FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE QUALITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE FUTURE FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR LAY IN PRODUCING HIGH VALUE-ADDED, HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS AND THE TIMING OF THE CAMPAIGN WAS DELIBERATE.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HONG KONG HAD BEEN DEVELOPING ITS QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND WE NOW HAD A MANUFACTURING SECTOR WHICH COULD ACHIEVE HIGH LEVELS OF PRECISION.

"WE ALSO HAVE IN PLACE, THROUGH A RANGE OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR AGENCIES, THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT WHICH OUR MANUFACTURERS NEED," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE AIM OF THE QUALITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, WHICH HAD HIS FULL SUPPORT, WAS TO INFLUENCE MANUFACTURERS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS QUALITY MANAGEMENT, TO CONVINCED THEM, WHERE NECESSARY, THAT PROPER QUALITY MANAGEMENT WAS WORTHWHILE, AND TO HELP THEM TO ACHIEVE IT.

"IN DOING THIS WE CAN USE THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND AVOID THE MISTAKES THEY HAVE MADE," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT CONCERN FOR QUALITY WAS SO OBVIOUSLY IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG NEEDED A CAMPAIGN TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE BECAUSE EXPERIENCE IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, WHERE SIMILAR CAMPAIGNS HAD BEEN RUN, HAD SHOWN THAT THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF CONFUSION OVER HOW TO ACHIEVE QUALITY IN MANUFACTURING.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT IT USED TO BE THOUGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT A MANUFACTURER COULD BEST SHOW HIS COMMITMENT TO QUALITY BY EMPLOYING LARGE NUMBERS OF TRAINED STAFF IN A QUALITY CONTROL UNIT.

"AT CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE TO THEIR EMPLOYER, THESE STAFF SPENT THEIR TIME REJECTING PRODUCTS WHICH HAD GONE THROUGH THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS AND FAILED TO MEET A GIVEN STANDARD.

"IT IS NOW REALISED THAT IT MAKES MUCH MORE SENSE TO PLAN QUALITY INTO A PRODUCT RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING AND USE STAFF TO PRODUCE GOODS, NOT TO REJECT THEM.

"ADVANCED COMPANIES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE NOW MADE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS, WE IN HONG KONG NEED TO CATCH UP AND TO ABANDON WHAT IS NOW SEEN AS AN OUTDATED APPROACH," SIR DAVID SAID.

/THE GOVERNOR

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 20 -

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE CAMPAIGN, WITH THE SLOGAN "MAKE IT BETTER IN HONG KONG", WOULD RUN FOR THREE YEARS AND HAD A MANAGEABLE TARGET - THE 2,500 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES IN HONG KONG.

NOTING THAT THE TERRITORY HAD SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 50,000 FACTORIES, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE 2,500 COMPANIES IN THE TARGET GROUP ACCOUNTED FOR OVER HALF OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL MANUFACTURING OUTPUT.

"MANY OF THEM ARE REPRESENTED IN THE AUDIENCE HERE TONIGHT. IF THESE COMPANIES ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF QUALITY, THE MESSAGE WILL QUICKLY SPREAD TO OTHERS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE QUALITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN WAS ONLY ONE PART OF OUR WIDER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

"WE ARE BROADENING OUR RANGE OF SERVICES, TO PROVIDE MANUFACTURERS BOTH WITH THE INFORMATION THEY NEED ON OVERSEAS STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS AND WITH THE TECHNICAL SERVICES THEY REQUIRE TO ENSURE THEIR PRODUCTS MEET THOSE STANDARDS.

"WE HAVE INTRODUCED A VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION SCHEME, RUN BY A NEWLY ESTABLISHED HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S KEY AIM WAS THAT THE "HONG KONG SEAL OF QUALITY" AWARDED BY THE AGENCY SHOULD BE RECOGNISED, BOTH HERE AND OVERSEAS.

THE SYMBOL WAS A Q FOR QUALITY, AND A HAND THAT REACHED OUT FOR HIGHER STANDARDS AND NEW MARKETS.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE HOPED THAT ALL MANUFACTURERS IN HONG KONG WOULD MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE USE OF THIS SCHEME.

"IN EVERY SENSE THE KEY TO QUALITY AWARENESS LIES IN THEIR OWN HANDS.

"I HOPE THAT OUR COMMUNITY - AND INDUSTRIALISTS PARTICULARLY - WILL SEIZE ON TWO MESSAGES: - HONG KONG NEEDS QUALITY; AND QUALITY IS PROFITABLE," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AFTER THE LAUNCH CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID THE MESSAGE OF THE CAMPAIGN WAS QUITE CLEAR : "IF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS PAY ATTENTION TO QUALITY, THEY CAN SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE THEIR PROFITS. IF THEY DON'T, THEY WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS."

MR BARMA SAID THE STAGE HAD BEEN SET FOR AN INTENSIVE THREE-YEAR CAMPAIGN TO GET THIS MESSAGE ACROSS.

REFERRING TO THE SMALL GROUP OF 2,500 IMPORTANT MANUFACTURERS CHOSEN AS THE TARGET, HE SAID: "IF WE CAN GET THEM ON SIDE, THEIR SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS WILL FOLLOW THEIR LEAD AND THE MESSAGE WILL SPREAD ACROSS THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR."

/MR BARMA

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 21 -

MR BARMA SAID THERE WAS NO MAGIC ABOUT QUALITY MANAGEMENT.

"WE DRESS IT UP WITH TECHNICAL JARGON, BUT ESSENTIALLY IT IS AN ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORK.

"IF YOU GET IT RIGHT FIRST TIME, EVERY TIME, YOUR PRODUCTS WILL BE MORE RELIABLE IN THEMSELVES AND CHEAPER TO MANUFACTURE.

"IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT," HE SAID.

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSTILLING QUALITY INTO A COMPANY'S MANUFACTURING PROCESS RESTED WITH ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVE, "BUT HE WILL NOT BE ALONE".

"THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH CAN HELP. IF ANY MANUFACTURER WANTS HELP IN MOVING TOWARDS BETTER QUALITY, I URGE HIM TO CONTACT THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL EXTENSION SERVICE," HE SAID.

NOW THAT THE CAMPAIGN WAS UNDERWAY, HE CALLED ON MANUFACTURERS TO ATTEND THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S SEMINAR, "MAKING QUALITY HAPPEN", AT THE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE ON MARCH 5, 6 AND 7.

HE SAID THIS SEMINAR WOULD SHOW MANAGERS THE FIRST STEPS IN IMPROVING QUALITY AND WOULD FEATURE ADVICE FROM FAMOUS QUALITY EXPERTS WITH MANY YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN QUALITY MANAGEMENT.

AS SOME PLACES WERE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE SEMINAR, MR BARMA URGED INTERESTED MANUFACTURERS TO CONTACT THE IES ON TEL. 7360722 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SOCIETY'S OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES

* * * * *

THE PROVISION OF CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES IS AN OBLIGATION THAT EVERY SOCIETY SHOULD MEET, LADY WILSON SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE HELPING HAND TAI WO HAU CHRISTA TISDALL JOCKEY CLUB CARE HOME, LADY WILSON SAID IT WAS ONLY RIGHT THAT THOSE WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE BUILDING UP OF HONG KONG SHOULD, IN THEIR LATER YEARS, HAVE HOMES WHERE THEY COULD LIVE IN DIGNITY, AND SHARE IN THE PROSPERITY OF THIS TERRITORY.

LADY WILSON NOTED THAT THE HOME WAS THE 19TH PROJECT OF HELPING HAND SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1978 AND ITS SIXTH SUCH HOME TO PROVIDE CARE AND NURSING FOR THE ELDERLY.

"IN TERMS OF THE LARGE NUMBERS OF ELDERLY STILL IN NEED, THIS MAY SEEM LIKE A SMALL EFFORT. IN TERMS OF THE MANY PEOPLE STILL ON THE WAITING LIST, THIS MIGHT SEEM LIKE ONLY A FEW MORE BEDS. BUT I ASSURE YOU, SUCH IS NOT THE CASE," LADY WILSON SAID.

/SHE STRESSED

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 22 -

SHE STRESSED THAT IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE CONCERTED EFFORT OF SO MANY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, INCLUDING HELPING HAND, THAT STRIDES HAD BEEN MADE IN PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL CARE SERVICES FOR THE OLD AND FRAIL.

"THERE IS A CHINESE SAYING THAT 'A JOURNEY OF 10,000 MILES BEGINS WITH ONE STEP'. EACH NEW PROJECT, EACH NEW HOME THAT IS OPENED, IS ANOTHER STEP ALONG THE WAY.

"HOPEFULLY MANY, MANY MORE SUCH STEPS WILL BE TAKEN, BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, SO THAT SOON, WE WILL SEE A DAY WHEN NO ONE IN DIRE NEED WILL EVER BE KEPT WAITING," LADY WILSON ADDED.

LADY WILSON SAID IT WAS A FITTING MEMORIAL TO HAVE THE HOME NAMED AFTER MRS CHRISTA TISDALL, FOUNDER OF HELPING HAND WHO SPENT MANY YEARS OF HER LIFE HERE IN HONG KONG PROMOTING THE CAUSE OF CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.

"WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HELPING HAND, ITS GROWTH AND EXPANSION, BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, ITS CONTINUING DESIRE TO CARE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL PERSON, IS PARTLY DUE TO THOSE EARLY SEEDS SOWN BY CHRISTA AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON PAID TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT.

"I KNOW THIS HOME WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE EFFORT AND WORK OF SO MANY PEOPLE - THE JOCKEY CLUB FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, THE ARCHITECTS AND CONSTRUCTION PEOPLE FOR THEIR BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS AND WORKMANSHIP, AND TO ALL THOSE IN HELPING HAND WHO GAVE OF THEIR TIME AND TALENTS," SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

1989 EXPORTS STATISTICS RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRY ORIGIN

* * * * *

THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY GROUPS IN TERMS OF THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1989 WERE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS; TEXTILES, INCLUDING KNITTING; WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR AND KNITWEAR; PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT; PLASTIC PRODUCTS; AND BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THEY TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 81.9 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1989.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES IN THE ABSOLUTE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1989 OVER 1988 WERE: TEXTILES, INCLUDING KNITTING (+\$3,620 MILLION); WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR AND KNITWEAR (+\$2,081 MILLION); MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+\$1,083 MILLION); CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS (+\$858 MILLION); AND PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING (+\$483 MILLION).

/IN PERCENTAGE

IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1989 OVER 1988 WERE: PRODUCTS OF PETROLEUM AND COAL (+44.7 PER CENT); TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+31.6 PER CENT); CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS (+22.5 PER CENT); MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+16.4 PER CENT); AND TOBACCO (+14.0 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, SEVERAL INDUSTRIES RECORDED DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1989 AS COMPARED WITH 1988.

AMONG THEM WERE: PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-\$1,682 MILLION OR -13.9 PER CENT); ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS (-\$721 MILLION OR -1.3 PER CENT); BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS (-\$213 MILLION OR -2.0 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-\$206 MILLION OR -16.7 PER CENT); AND WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS, FURNITURE AND FIXTURES (-\$130 MILLION OR -15.1 PER CENT).

OUTSIDE THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS ORIGINATING FROM OCEAN AND COASTAL FISHING DECREASED BY \$22 MILLION OR 3.5 PER CENT IN 1989 AS COMPARED WITH 1988, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ELECTRICITY INCREASED BY \$145 MILLION OR 28.2 PER CENT.

THE ABOVE STATISTICS ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS ANALYSED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN ARE DERIVED BY RE-GROUPING ALL SIX-DIGIT MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS UNDER THE EXTERNAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THESE MERCHANDISE ITEMS ARE NORMALLY PRODUCED. TRANSACTIONS IN GOLD AND SPECIE ARE EXCLUDED.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN IS STRUCTURED UPON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (I.S.I.C.), AS DISTINCT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (S.I.T.C.) WHICH IS ADOPTED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN REFERRING TO THESE RECLASSIFIED STATISTICS. CERTAIN MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS MAY REQUIRE SEVERAL INTERMEDIATE PROCESSING STAGES IN THEIR PRODUCTION.

IN SUCH CASES, THE INDUSTRY IN WHICH AN ITEM IS FINALLY PRODUCED IS NOT THE SOLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE EXPORT VALUE OF THAT ITEM. HOWEVER, THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE ITEM HAS WHOLLY BEEN ALLOCATED TO THAT INDUSTRY IN THIS RECLASSIFICATION.

BESIDES, THE CLASSIFICATION OF A MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEM TO A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE ENTIRE EXPORT VALUE OF THE ITEM IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ESTABLISHMENTS OF THAT INDUSTRY, SINCE PART OF THE VALUE MAY BE DUE TO PRODUCTION BY ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED UNDER OTHER INDUSTRIES AS SECONDARY PRODUCTS.

A TABLE CONTAINING FURTHER DETAILS OF MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS STATISTICS RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (ON TEL. 8234832).

A TABLE SHOWING MORE DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF SIMILAR STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE REPORT "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE, DECEMBER 1989".

Value of merchandise domestic exports
reclassified by industrial origin for the whole year of 1989

(Value in HK\$ million)

Industrial origin of the commodities exported	Merchandise domestic exports			
	1989 whole year	1988 whole year	Value change	% change
<u>Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing</u>				
Agricultural, livestock and poultry production	6	11	-5	-48.1
Ocean and coastal fishing	604	626	-22	-3.5
<u>Mining and Quarrying</u>	5	7	-2	-23.0
<u>Manufacturing</u>				
Food	1,652	1,508	+144	-9.5
Beverages	334	338	-3	-1.0
Tobacco	2,013	1,765	+248	-14.0
Textiles (including knitting)	44,946	41,326	+3,620	-8.8
Wearing apparel, except footwear and knitwear	44,499	42,418	+2,081	-4.9
Leather and leather products	964	901	+63	-7.0
Footwear	1,030	1,236	-206	-16.7
Wood and cork products, furniture and fixtures	729	859	-130	-15.1
Paper and paper products, printing and publishing	5,438	4,955	+483	-9.7
Chemicals and chemical products	4,672	3,814	+858	-22.5
Products of petroleum and coal	7	4	+2	-44.7
Rubber products	132	182	-50	-27.3
Plastic products	10,382	12,063	-1,682	-13.9
Non-metallic mineral products	691	747	-56	-7.6
Basic metals and fabricated metal products	10,166	10,379	-213	-2.0
Machinery, except electrical	7,694	6,611	+1,083	-16.4
Electrical and electronic products	52,792	53,512	-721	-1.3
Transport equipment	229	174	+55	-31.6
Professional and optical equipment	20,705	20,380	+325	-1.6
Other manufacturing industries	13,612	13,239	+373	-2.8
<u>Electricity</u>	662	517	+145	-28.2
<u>Miscellaneous items</u> (e.g. developed photographic plates and film, antiques, and works of art)	140	90	+50	-55.5
Total	224,104	217,664	-6,440	-3.0

Individual entries of a column may not add up exactly to the corresponding total due to rounding. All percentage changes are calculated based on unrounded figures.

Industrial Research Section, (Tel. : 823 4832)
Census & Statistics Department,
Hong Kong.
February 1990

- - - - 0 - - - -

HK TO SET UP COMMITTEE FOR PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
* * * * *

A HONG KONG COMMITTEE FOR PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WILL BE SET UP SHORTLY WITH A VIEW TO JOINING THE PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION CONFERENCE (PECC), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THE PECC WAS A NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION SET UP IN 1980 COMPRISING 15 MEMBER COMMITTEES FROM AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI, CANADA, CHINA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, KOREA, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, THE PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN (STYLED AS CHINESE TAIPEI), THAILAND AND THE USA.

"ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP CLOSER CO-OPERATION IN TRADE AND ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES IN THE PACIFIC REGION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARTICIPATION IN PECC IS BASED ON THE "TRIPARTITE" FORMULA: EACH DELEGATION CONSISTS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND ACADEMICS, ALL ATTENDING IN THEIR PRIVATE CAPACITIES.

"THE HONG KONG COMMITTEE WILL COMPRISE MEMBERS FROM THE BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC SECTORS AND FROM WITHIN GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

"WE ARE JUST IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP THE COMMITTEE AND ITS MEMBERSHIP HAS YET TO BE FINALISED."

HONG KONG HAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE PECC AND ATTENDED AS AN OBSERVER AT THE SEVENTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE ORGANISATION IN AUCKLAND LAST NOVEMBER.

PECC'S WORK IS CONDUCTED BY TASK FORCES AND PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION COMMITTEES.

TASK FORCES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO DEAL WITH SUBJECTS SUCH AS TRADE POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM.

GENERAL MEETINGS OF PECC ARE HELD EVERY 12 TO 19 MONTHS WITH MEMBER COMMITTEES TAKING TURNS TO BE HOST.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 26 -

AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT RAILWAY STUDY SIGNED

* * * * *

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SIGNED A \$15.6 MILLION AGREEMENT FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED RAILWAY TO THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED TODAY (THURSDAY) BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF FREEMAN FOX MAUNSELL, MR DOUG MORTON.

MR KWEI SAID THE PROPOSED AIRPORT RAILWAY WOULD RUN FROM HONG KONG ISLAND VIA THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION TO THE NEW AIRPORT.

THERE WOULD BE TWO SERVICES OPERATED - A DEDICATED SERVICE FOR AIRPORT PATRONS AND A COMMUTER SERVICE SERVING WEST KOWLOON, TSING YI AND THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ON NORTH LANTAU.

WHEN IN OPERATION, THE RAILWAY IS EXPECTED TO ASSIST IN RELIEVING CONGESTION ON THE NATHAN ROAD SECTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

HE SAID THE NINE-MONTH FEASIBILITY STUDY WOULD COVER ENGINEERING, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER STUDIES, WOULD SELECT THE OPTIMUM ROUTE FROM CENTRAL TO TSING YI.

IT WOULD RECOMMEND THE TYPE OF TRAINS, SIGNALLING AND CONTROL SYSTEMS TO BE USED THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE AS WELL AS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LOCATION AND OUTLINE DESIGN OF STATIONS.

THE STUDY WOULD ALSO ASSESS THE BENEFITS OF PROVIDING CONNECTIONS TO EXISTING AND FUTURE LINES TO ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT SERVICE BASED ON ITS PASSENGER DEMANDS FORECASTS.

ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE RAILWAY, THE STUDY WOULD LOOK INTO THE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD ARISE FROM THE CONSTRUCTION AND SUBSEQUENT OPERATION OF THE RAILWAY, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINIMISING THE EFFECTS OF THESE PROBLEMS.

MR KWEI ADDED THAT THE STUDY WOULD PROVIDE IMPORTANT INPUT FOR A FINANCIAL STUDY WHICH WOULD COMMENCE LATER THIS YEAR.

THE AIRPORT RAILWAY DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WILL MANAGE THE STUDY WITH THE PARTICIPATION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

FREEMAN FOX MAUNSELL IS A CONSORTIUM COMPRISING ACER CONSULTANTS (FAR EAST LIMITED) AND MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA LIMITED/PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF (ASIA) LIMITED, THE MVA CONSULTANCY, CES CONSULTANTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (ASIA) LIMITED/ACER ENVIRONMENTAL AND LLEWELYN-DAVIS WEEKS HONG KONG LIMITED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 27 -

APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR UNDER COMPANIES ORDINANCE

* * * * *

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, HAS ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF MR JOHN ROBERT LEES, PRINCIPAL OF FERRIER HODGSON SPICER & MARFAN, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, AS INSPECTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFIARS OF PALADIN LIMITED.

THIS FOLLOWS INFORMATION DISCOVERED TODAY BY MR LEES THAT MR MICHAEL STIASSNY OF AUCKLAND, RECEIVER AND MANAGER OF NEW ZEALAND EQUITIES LTD, HAS DECLARED HIS INTENTION TO JOIN FERRIER HODGSON & CO. IN AUCKLAND AS A PARTNER.

IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED ON HIM BY SECTION 143(1)(C) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 32), THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS NOW APPOINTED MR MARVIN K.T. CHEUNG, RESIDENT PARTNER OF KPMG PEAT MARWICK, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, TO BE INSPECTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF PALADIN LTD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CENTRAL AND WESTERN ROAD SAFETY CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY

* * * * *

A CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IN CENTRAL ON SUNDAY (MARCH 4) TO ENHANCE RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ROAD SAFETY.

IN ADDITION TO AN AUXILIARY POLICE BAND PARADE AND TELEMATCHES, THERE WILL BE DEMONSTRATIONS ON SAFE CYCLING, QUIZZES AND A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION ON BASIC ROAD SAFETY RULES.

CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO GET THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGES THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES SPECIALLY LINED UP FOR THEM.

TELEVISION ARTISTE MR LEE YAU-NGAI WILL BE THE COMPERE. THERE WILL ALSO BE A PERFORMANCE BY POPULAR SINGER MR CHAN TAK-CHEONG.

THE CARNIVAL WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM. OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR AMBROSE LAU; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER; AND THE DISTRICT'S ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR NGAI WAI-MING.

IT IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE POLICE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

/REQUIRIES ABOUT

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CARNIVAL CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 8523484.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (MARCH 4) AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IN CENTRAL.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND

* * * * *

ALL REGISTERED NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS CAN NOW APPLY FOR GRANTS FROM THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND FOR THE YEAR 1990-91 FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN MUSIC, DANCE AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES.

GRANTS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY AWARDED TO SCHOOLS AND MUSIC AND DANCE ORGANISATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, DANCE EQUIPMENT, MUSIC SCORES AND PARTS, PAYMENT OF INSTRUCTORS' FEES FOR TRAINING, AND ORGANISING MUSIC AND DANCE EVENTS INCLUDING CONCERTS, MUSIC CAMPS AND DANCE WORKSHOPS.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FOR OTHER PURPOSES CAN ALSO BE MADE AS LONG AS THEY CONFORM WITH THE OVERALL EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE FUND.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC FUND SAID GRANTS TOTTALLING \$770,000 WERE APPROVED IN 1989-90 FOR 131 SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION PAMPHLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND SECRETARIAT, 25TH FLOOR, WAN CHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AND FROM ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED ON TEL. 8235343. THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 12.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OWNERS URGED TO AVOID BUDGET DAY RUSH

* * * * *

DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OWNERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY CAN SAVE TIME BY APPLYING TO RENEW THEIR DRIVING OR VEHICLE LICENCES BY POST.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THE LICENSING OFFICES WERE USUALLY EXTREMELY CROWDED DURING THIS PERIOD WHEN PEOPLE RUSHED TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES JUST BEFORE THE ANNUAL BUDGET WAS ANNOUNCED.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT ACCEPTED POSTAL APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF DRIVING LICENCES; LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCES AND VEHICLE LICENCES; THE ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS; AND THE TRANSFER OF VEHICLE OWNERSHIP.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL POST OFFICES, ENQUIRY CENTRES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXISTING LICENCE FEES WOULD STILL BE APPLIED TO APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BEARING POSTAL CHOPS BEFORE 2.30 PM ON BUDGET DAY WHETHER OR NOT THE FEES WILL BE INCREASED.

IN RENEWING THE VEHICLE LICENCE, THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED VEHICLE OWNERS THAT ONLY THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION DOCUMENT SHOULD BE SENT WITH THE POSTAL APPLICATION.

ON EXTREMELY BUSY DAYS, THE LICENSING OFFICES WILL ADOPT A QUOTA SYSTEM UNDER WHICH APPLICANTS ARE GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT DISC FOR A SPECIFIED TIME TO HAND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS. THE APPOINTMENT DISCS WILL BE HANDED OUT ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED THOSE WHO WISH TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEIR LICENCES EXPIRE. THEY CAN APPLY ANY TIME DURING THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD PRIOR TO THE EXPIRY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1990

- 30 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT, WAN CHAI AND MID-LEVELS

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 3), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS IN NORTH POINT WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY:

- * TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH HEALTHY STREET WEST AND A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * HEALTHY STREET WEST BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

IN WAN CHAI, CONVENTION AVENUE EASTBOUND FROM FLEMING ROAD TO ITS JUNCTION WITH HARBOUR ROAD AND FENWICK STREET WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

IN THE MID-LEVELS, EASTBOUND ROBINSON ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ALBANY ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE FOR VEHICLES WITH GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OVER THREE TONNES.

ALL VEHICLES WITH GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OVER THREE TONNES, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMIT ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE ZONE 24 HOURS DAILY.

THE EXISTING WEIGHT LIMIT ON THIS SECTION OF ROBINSON ROAD FOR ALL VEHICLES WITH GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OVER 2.5 TONNES WILL BE CANCELLED.

- - - - 0 - - - -