



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MOTION TO EXTEND IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE PROVISIONS

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THERE HAS BEEN A 54 PER CENT INCREASE IN ARRIVALS OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM THIS YEAR, AND, IN ADDITION ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA ALSO REMAINS A PROBLEM, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 3,119 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRIVED, COMPARED WITH 2,026 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1986, HE SAID.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 18,564 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA WERE ARRESTED WHEN ATTEMPTING TO ENTER HONG KONG, AND A FURTHER 3,432 WHO HAD EVADED SECURITY FORCES AT THE BORDER WERE ARRESTED SUBSEQUENTLY. THESE FIGURES COMPARED WITH 14,028 AND 2,969 RESPECTIVELY FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

MR JEAFFRESON CITED THE FIGURES WHEN MOVING A MOTION, WHICH WAS PASSED, TO EXTEND SECTION 18(3) AND PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE FOR A FURTHER YEAR FROM DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR.

HE EXPLAINED THAT SECTION 18(3) WAS FIRST ENACTED IN JANUARY 1979 TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

IT REMOVED THE LIMIT OF TWO MONTHS DURING WHICH AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER MIGHT REMOVE A PERSON REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND IN HONG KONG, IF IT APPEARED TO THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION THAT THAT PERSON WAS PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT IN VIETNAM. THE SUBSECTION HAD BEEN RE-ENACTED ANNUALLY.

PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE ORDINANCE WERE ENACTED IN AUGUST 1979 TO PROVIDE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF TRAFFICKING IN UNLAWFUL IMMIGRATION, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

"UNDER THESE PROVISIONS, ANY PERSON WHO AIDS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO ENTER HONG KONG COMMITS AN OFFENCE. OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO \$5 MILLION AND IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE, WHILE THE SHIPS AND OTHER PROPERTY INVOLVED ARE LIABLE TO FORFEITURE," HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATELY ONLY TOO CLEAR WHY THESE PROVISIONS WERE STILL NEEDED, SAYING, "OUR VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEMS ARE STILL WITH US."

HE SAID: "RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG HAS DECLINED DRASTICALLY, BY SOME 44 PER CENT COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR.

"AS A RESULT, OUR PRESENT REFUGEE POPULATION IS 14 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IT WAS WHEN I MOVED THE RETENTION OF SECTION 18(3) LAST YEAR. AND THE PROSPECTS FOR NEXT YEAR AS FAR AS RESETTLEMENT IS CONCERNED ARE NOT GOOD."

/MR JEAFFERESON

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MR JEAFFRESON SAID NO PARTICULAR REASON HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR THE INCREASED LEVEL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA THIS YEAR.

IT COULD WELL BE A COMBINATION OF THE USUAL FACTORS INCLUDING ABSOLUTELY UNFOUNDED RUMOURS CIRCULATING IN CHINA THAT AMNESTIES WOULD BE GRANTED AND THAT JOBS WERE EASILY AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG, EVEN TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO RETAIN THESE PROVISIONS IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

"BUT IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT NEITHER THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE NOR THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS WILL BE WITH US PERMANENTLY," HE ADDED.

LATER, IN RESPONDING TO THE SPEECHES BY THE HON RITA FAN AND THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR JEAFFRESON SAID HE HAD FULLY TAKEN THE POINTS MADE BY THEM, AND HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF REFUGEES WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY DIMINISH.

"OUR SOLUTIONS ARE, OF COURSE, RESETTLEMENT IN THE SHORT TERM, AND SCREENING AND REPATRIATION OF NEW ARRIVALS IN THE LONG TERM PROVIDED WE CAN BE SATISFIED THEY WILL NOT BE TREATED INHUMANELY ON RETURN," HE SAID.

CONCERNING MR HUI'S POINTS ABOUT EDUCATION AND WORK IN THE CLOSED CENTRES, HE SAID: "FOR MANY YEARS NOW WE HAVE IN FACT BEEN CONSIDERING WITH THE UNHCR AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED WAYS OF IMPROVING THE EDUCATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES' CHILDREN IN THE CLOSED CENTRES. IMPROVEMENTS HAVE, IN OUR VIEW AT ANY RATE, BEEN INTRODUCED STEADILY THROUGHOUT THE YEARS AS FAR AS EDUCATION IN THE CAMPS IS CONCERNED.

"WHAT WE ARE NOW LOOKING AT IS A FORMAL PROPOSAL FROM THE UNHCR THAT THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CHILDREN IN CLOSED CENTRES SHOULD BE EDUCATED IN HONG KONG SCHOOLS OUTSIDE THE CENTRES.

"ON THE FACE OF IT, THIS IS A VERY GOOD IDEA AND, IN PARTICULAR, IT MEETS THE MAJOR VALID CRITICISM OF THE CLOSED CENTRES WHICH IS THAT CHILDREN ARE BEING BROUGHT UP IN THESE CENTRES COMPLETELY DIVORCED FROM NORMAL LIFE.

"IF THESE CHILDREN CAN GO TO HONG KONG SCHOOLS THEN THEY WILL EXPERIENCE LIFE IN A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SOCIETY."

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE, NOT ONLY AS INDIVIDUALS BUT ALSO IN TERMS OF THEIR PROSPECTS OF RESETTLEMENT.

/BUT HE

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BUT HE WAS AFRAID THAT IT WAS NOT THAT EASY IN PRACTICAL TERMS. "WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING ALL THE VARIOUS ANGLES TO IT AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PUT PROPOSALS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY," HE SAID.

TURNING TO WORK OPPORTUNITIES, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT, AS HE HAD INFORMED THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP ON OCTOBER 10, THESE SUGGESTIONS WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY A WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE UNHCR.

"ON THE WHOLE, OUR PREVIOUS EFFORTS ATTRACT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS TO PROVIDE WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN CLOSED CENTRES HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION OF THE CENTRES.

"BUT REFUGEES ARE UNDERTAKING PIECE WORK RELEVANT TO A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIES ON A PAID BASIS, AND THEY ARE DOING THIS NOW. EXAMPLES OF THE SORT OF INDUSTRIES WHICH THEY ARE WORKING IN ARE TAILORING, KNITTING, ASSEMBLING TOYS, AND ASSEMBLING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

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COUNCILLOR EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER VR PROBLEM

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR THE HON RITA FAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER THE INCREASING BURDEN THAT WAS BEING IMPOSED ON HONG KONG BY THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

MRS FAN WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION THAT SECTION 18(3) AND PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE BE EXTENDED BY ONE YEAR TO DECEMBER 31, 1988. THE PROVISIONS IN THESE PARTS OF THE ORDINANCE WERE INTRODUCED IN 1979 TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE ARRIVALS IN LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA. AT THAT TIME IT WAS HOPED THAT THE NEED FOR THESE PROVISIONS WOULD BE SHORT-LIVED.

MRS FAN SAID SHE SUPPORTED THE MOTION ALTHOUGH SHE REGRETTED ITS NECESSITY.

SHE SAID LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS WERE CONCERNED THAT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND CLOSED CAMPS WERE BECOMING A PERMANENT FEATURE IN HONG KONG, JUST AS THE TEMPORARY, EMERGENCY PROVISIONS WHICH THE MOTION SOUGHT TO EXTEND WERE BECOMING A PERMANENT PART OF HONG KONG'S IMMIGRATION LAW.

SHE NOTED THAT BETWEEN THE END OF 1979 AND THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN STEADILY DECLINING.

/THIS YEAR,

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THIS YEAR, OWING TO A 54 PER CENT INCREASE IN ARRIVALS AND A 44 PER CENT DECLINE IN RESETTLEMENT, THE NUMBER HAD, FOR THE FIRST TIME, INCREASED SHARPLY.

ON DECEMBER 1, 1987 THERE WERE 9,331 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG, AND BY THE END OF THE YEAR IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE NUMBER WOULD PASS THE 10,000 MARK, WHICH WOULD REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 25 PER CENT OVER THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES REMAINING IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF LAST YEAR.

MRS FAN SAID SHE APPRECIATED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO FIND A LASTING INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION TO THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM, AND SHE SAID SHE UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE TIME.

"WHAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT, HOWEVER, IS THE CLAIM BY HMG THAT 468 REFUGEES OVER THE CURRENT TWO-YEAR PERIOD (I.E. 234 REFUGEES A YEAR) REPRESENTS THE LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES THAT THE UK IS CAPABLE OF ABSORBING FROM HONG KONG, OR THE CLAIM THAT THIS INITIATIVE WILL ENCOURAGE OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES TO INCREASE THEIR COMMITMENTS TO TAKING REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

SHE SAID SHE HAD RECEIVED SOME 60 LETTERS FROM LORDS AND MPS IN BRITAIN EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT FOR THE RECENT REQUEST MADE BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP, OF WHICH SHE IS CONVENER, THAT BRITAIN SHOULD INCREASE ITS COMMITMENT TO TAKING REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG.

AMONG THESE LETTERS, ONE WAS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASIA COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL, LORD ENNALS.

MRS FAN NOTED THAT THE BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL DESCRIBED THE ARRIVAL OF THE 468 REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG AT THE RATE OF ONLY 20 PER MONTH AS INEXPLICABLE, SINCE THE PREVIOUS INTAKE OF 40 PER MONTH WAS EASILY ABSORBED BY THE REFUGEE AGENCIES.

"THE COUNCIL REPORTS THAT INITIAL REACTION FROM OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES INDICATES THAT THEY FIND THE OFFER OF 234 PLACES IN A YEAR TO BE DERISORY SET AGAINST THEIR OWN EXISTING COMMITMENTS; AND THAT A FIGURE OF 1,000 PLACES IN A YEAR, ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY THE UNHCR, WOULD HAVE STIMULATED A FAR MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE," SHE NOTED.

THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED THAT THE UK'S COMMITMENT SHOULD BE INCREASED TO INCLUDE FAMILY REUNION CASES NOT COVERED BY EXISTING CRITERIA, VULNERABLE GROUPS SUCH AS THE HANDICAPPED AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS, AND HARD-TO-SETTLE CASES.

MRS FAN NOTED THAT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE VERY SIMILAR TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAD PUT FORWARD DURING THE PAST YEAR.

/"WE HAVE

"WE HAVE NOW BEEN TOLD EMPHATICALLY BY THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE UK'S RESETTLEMENT COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FOR THE TIME BEING: IF THIS IS SO, THEN IS IT SURPRISING THAT OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES REGARD THE UK'S RESETTLEMENT OF 234 REFUGEES A YEAR FROM HONG KONG AS DERISORY?" SHE QUESTIONED.

SHE NOTED THAT CANADA HAD ALREADY ADMITTED 724 REFUGEES SO FAR THIS YEAR; AUSTRALIA 483; AND THE U.S. 321. "AND HOW CAN WE IN HONG KONG OURSELVES AVOID SEEING THE UK'S CONTRIBUTION AS DERISORY WHEN WE NOW HAVE AN AVERAGE OF 300 REFUGEES ARRIVING IN HONG KONG EVERY MONTH?" SHE ASKED.

MRS FAN RECALLED THAT AT THE 1979 GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAD EMPHASISED THAT WHILE THE COUNTRIES OF INITIAL ARRIVAL WERE EXPECTED TO RESPECT FULLY THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST ASYLUM FOR REFUGEES COMING THERE BY LAND AND SEA, THEY IN TURN EXPECTED AN ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE BURDENED WITH THE RESIDUAL PROBLEMS AND THAT NO REFUGEES WOULD STAY IN THEIR COUNTRIES FOR MORE THAN A SPECIFIED PERIOD.

"IF THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ARE STILL VALID, AND IF WE ARE STILL FULFILLING TO THE LETTER OUR OBLIGATIONS AS A PLACE OF FIRST ASYLUM, THEN WHY IS THE REST OF THE WORLD NOT PLAYING ITS PART, AND WHY IS BRITAIN, WHICH COMMITTED HONG KONG TO THESE OBLIGATIONS, NOT TAKING THE LEAD?"

SHE ADDED THAT THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP HAD REQUESTED THAT THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY TO PURSUE VIGOROUSLY THROUGH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE POSSIBILITY OF REPATRIATION OVER THE COMING FEW MONTHS AND, BY APRIL NEXT YEAR, TO ARRIVE AT SOME ASSESSMENT OF HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND TO ACT UPON IT.

THE AD HOC GROUP HAD ALSO REQUESTED THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY TO EXAMINE THE EXISTING POLICY ON GRANTING FIRST ASYLUM TO ALL BOAT PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM, SHOULD IT BECOME CLEAR BY APRIL THAT LITTLE PROGRESS CAN BE MADE WITH THE REPATRIATION PROPOSAL.

MRS FAN ADDED THAT THE AD HOC GROUP'S EXASPERATION WITH THE POLICY OF FIRST ASYLUM SPRUNG FROM THE FAILURE OF RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES, AND PARTICULARLY THE UK, TO FULFIL THEIR ROLE IN THE ARRANGEMENTS DRAWN UP AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

"IT WOULD NOT HAVE ARISEN HAD HONG KONG BEEN ASSURED OF THE SPEEDY RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS OF ALL VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO ENTER HER WATERS," SHE SAID.

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GREATER RESETTLEMENT ONLY CONTROL FOR REFUGEE PROBLEM : HUI

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, BELIEVES THAT GREATER RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS IS THE ONLY WAY OF CONTROLLING THE LOCAL VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM, UNTIL A LASTING SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND TO STOP THE OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM.

SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF SECTION 18(3) AND PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR HUI EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE INCREASING BURDEN ON HONG KONG TAXPAYERS, IN VIEW OF THE 54 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE RATE OF ARRIVAL, THE 44 PER CENT DECLINE IN RESETTLEMENT, AND THE 16 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE POPULATION REMAINING IN CAMPS, IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1986-87, THE TOTAL COST OF CARING FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN BOTH OPEN AND CLOSED CENTRES WAS \$160.1 MILLION, THE BULK OF IT - \$122.7 MILLION - WAS BORNE BY THE HONG KONG TAXPAYER, HE SAID.

"IF WE ADD TO THAT THE COST OF THE EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WE ARE PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT A SUM OF MORE THAN \$200 MILLION," SAID MR HUI.

STRESSING THAT CARING FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE MUST NOW BE ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING ITEMS OF GOVERNMENT RECURRENT EXPENDITURE, MR HUI SAID THE FASTER IT GREW THE LESS THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO SPEND ON ITS MEDICAL, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS.

HE ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE INCREASING FRUSTRATION AND LACK OF MOTIVATION AMONG VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG, WITH THE DECLINING RATE OF OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT.

"ALREADY SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE CAMPS ARE REPORTING A MARKEDLY INCREASED INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE FAMILY, AND HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE EROSION OF THE FAMILY UNIT AND A DECLINE IN PARENTAL AUTHORITY CAUSED BY THE INSTITUTIONAL NATURE OF THE CAMPS," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE BOAT PEOPLE NOW COMING WERE PREDOMINANTLY FARMERS AND FISHERMEN FROM NORTHERN VIETNAM AND WERE NOT VERY ATTRACTIVE CANDIDATES FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAD LOST CONFIDENCE, SELF-ESTEEM AND MOTIVATION THROUGH YEARS OF CONFINEMENT IN CLOSED CAMPS, MR HUI SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN DANGER OF HAVING ON ITS HANDS REFUGEES WHO WERE INCAPABLE OF RESETTLEMENT AND WHO, WITH EVERY WASTED YEAR SPENT IN CLOSED CAMPS, WOULD BECOME INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED AND DESPERATE.

/HE REGRETTED

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HE REGRETTED THAT ONLY RECENTLY HAD HE LEARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNHCR WERE CONSIDERING IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN THE CLOSED CAMPS AND THAT SUGGESTIONS MADE SOME MONTHS AGO BY THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP THAT JOB OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE CLOSED CAMPS HAD NOT EVEN BEEN REPLIED TO.

MR HUI THOUGHT THAT JOBS PAID FOR AT SOMETHING NEAR THE MARKET RATE, COMBINED WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING, WOULD PRODUCE CANDIDATES FOR RESETTEMENT AND THE MONEY EARNED FROM IT COULD ALSO BE PUT PARTLY TOWARDS THE COST OF RUNNING THE CAMPS.

HE SAID WHILE MANY PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CLOSED CAMPS PUT TO AN END, THIS COULD ONLY HAPPEN WHEN THE GOVERNMENT HAD A LASTING SOLUTION THAT WOULD GUARANTEE THE REFUGEE POPULATION WOULD NOT INCREASE.

"IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A SOLUTION THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS DUTY BOUND TO FULFIL ITS MORAL OBLIGATION TO HONG KONG BY SETTING AN EXAMPLE IN ARRANGING OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT OF OUR REFUGEES," HE SAID.

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AMENDMENT BILL AIMED TO DETER NAME-DROPPING

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THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 ARE TO MAKE "NAME-DROPPING" IN ELECTIONS AN OFFENCE AND TO PERMIT THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY TO SPECIFY THE FORM OF RETURN AND DECLARATION OF ELECTION EXPENSES.

EXPLAINING THE BILL DURING ITS SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID "NAME-DROPPING" REFERRED TO A SITUATION IN WHICH A CANDIDATE IN AN ELECTION CLAIMED TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ANOTHER PERSON OR ORGANISATION, WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE PERSON OR ORGANISATION WHOSE NAME WAS BEING USED.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MISREPRESENTATION IN THE CONTENT OF SOME CAMPAIGN MATERIALS USED IN THE LAST ELECTIONS IN MARCH 1986 HAD ATTRACTED GENERAL CRITICISM FROM THE PUBLIC, MR LIAO SAID IT WAS NOW PROPOSED THAT AN ADDITIONAL PROVISION BE INCLUDED IN THE ORDINANCE WHEREBY CANDIDATES WERE REQUIRED TO SEEK AND OBTAIN PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT BEFORE USING THE NAME OF ANY OTHER PERSON OR ORGANISATION IN THEIR ELECTION ACTIVITIES AND BY MAKING A BREACH OF THIS PROVISION AN OFFENCE.

"THE PENALTIES FOR NAME-DROPPING WERE A FINE OF \$500 ON SUMMARY CONVICTION, OR A FINE OF \$2,000 ON CONVICTION OF INDICTMENT, TOGETHER WITH A DISQUALIFICATION FROM BEING REGISTERED AS AN ELECTOR FOR SEVEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF CONVICTION AS WELL AS DISQUALIFICATION FROM CANDIDATURE FOR 10 YEARS.

/ "THESE MEASURES

"THESE MEASURES ARE CONSIDERED AN ADEQUATE DETERRENT," MR LIAO ADDED.

ON ELECTION EXPENSE RETURNS, MR LIAO SAID IT WAS HELD THAT CANDIDATES SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO DESCRIBE THEIR ELECTION EXPENSES MORE FULLY TO HELP ASSESSMENT AND INVESTIGATION IF NECESSARY AND THAT SERVICES IN KIND, NAMELY CONTRIBUTIONS OR DONATIONS IN THE FORM OF GOODS AND SERVICES PROVIDED FREE, SHOULD BE CLEARLY INDICATED IN THE RETURN.

HOWEVER, THE EXISTING SCHEDULE TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WAS OUT OF DATE AND COULD NOT ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE, HE ADDED.

"IT WAS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT THE SCHEDULE BE DELETED AND THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY BE PERMITTED TO SPECIFY THE FORM OF RETURN AND DECLARATION OF ELECTION EXPENSES SO AS TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENT MORE FLEXIBLE IN THE FUTURE," MR LIAO SAID.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT BOTH OF THESE AMENDMENTS, AS WELL AS OTHERS WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPAL LEGISLATION WERE PROPOSED FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY AN AD HOC GROUP WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION IN THE MIDDLE OF 1986.

THE MORE IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEW GROUP WERE REFERRED TO IN THE GREEN PAPER "THE REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT" AND IT WAS PROPER THAT THE SUBMISSION OF THE BILL SHOULD FOLLOW THE PUBLICATION OF THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT.

SINCE THE CYCLE FOR NEXT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WOULD BEGIN IN EARLY 1988, LEGCO MEMBERS WERE THUS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE BILL NOW.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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AMENDMENT TO FACILITATE REDEVELOPMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, PROPOSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO AMEND THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE TO PUT BEYOND DOUBT THE AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TO CONTROL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN AREAS ZONED FOR COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TO REGULATE USES AND BUILDING WORKS IN THOSE AREAS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987, MR BARNES SAID IT ALSO SERVED TO CONFIRM THE VALIDITY OF ALL PREVIOUS AREAS ZONED FOR COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

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"THIS IS NECESSARY BECAUSE DOUBTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN EXPRESSED AS TO THE VALIDITY OF THE ZONING OF OTHER USES (COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT AREA)," MR BARNES SAID.

"THE OU(CRA) ZONING IS USED TO ENCOURAGE COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT OF A WHOLE AREA, OFTEN DILAPIDATED, RUN DOWN AREA.

"THE RESULTING DEVELOPMENT IS GENERALLY BETTER ENVIRONMENTALLY, AND BETTER SERVED WITH COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACES, BECAUSE IT IS PLANNED COMPREHENSIVELY AND CONSTRUCTED AS A WHOLE," HE ADDED.

SINCE THE OU(CRA) ZONING STARTED TO BE USED IN 1976, 43 COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT AREAS HAVE BEEN SO ZONED. SIX HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED, 10 UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND 27 YET TO BE DEVELOPED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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LEVELS OF COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES REVISED

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LEVELS OF COMPENSATION SPECIFIED UNDER VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE WILL BE REVISED AND UPDATED UNDER A RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PRESENT LEVELS HAD BEEN IN FORCE SINCE JANUARY 1, 1986, AND SO A FURTHER REVISION WAS NOW DUE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN INTRODUCING THE RESOLUTION.

"TO GIVE INSURERS SUFFICIENT TIME TO ADJUST THEIR RATES OF PREMIUM, IT IS PROPOSED TO BRING THE REVISED LEVELS OF COMPENSATION INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1, 1988," HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT THE LEVELS WERE CUSTOMARILY REVISED EVERY TWO YEARS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 1978 WORKING PARTY WHICH REVIEWED THE THEN WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

HE SAID IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT WAGES WOULD HAVE INCREASED BY ABOUT 15.5 PER CENT BETWEEN JANUARY 1 LAST YEAR AND DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR.

/MR BRIDGE

MR BRIDGE SAID: "ACCORDINGLY IT IS PROPOSED TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNTS OF COMPENSATION FOR DEATH AND FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY IN THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE ORDINANCE FROM \$299,000 TO \$345,000 AND FROM \$341,000 TO \$394,000; AND THE MINIMUM AMOUNTS FROM \$100,000 TO \$116,000 AND FROM \$114,000 TO \$132,000. COMPENSATION FOR THE NEED FOR CONSTANT ATTENTION WILL BE RAISED FROM \$137,000 TO \$158,000.

"A SIMILAR 15.5 PER CENT INCREASE IS PROPOSED IN SECTION 16C AND 16J IN RESPECT OF THE MAXIMUM PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY AN EMPLOYER TOWARDS THE COSTS OF SUPPLYING AND FITTING A PROSTHESIS OR A SURGICAL APPLIANCE AND FOR ITS REPAIR OR RENEWAL. THE PRESENT AMOUNTS, \$12,000 AND \$37,000, WILL ACCORDINGLY BE RAISED TO \$14,000 AND \$43,000."

HE SAID IT WAS PROPOSED TO INCREASE THE SURCHARGE PAYABLE BY EMPLOYERS TO EMPLOYEES WHERE EMPLOYERS FAILED TO PAY COMPENSATION FOR MINOR CLAIMS UNDER SECTION 16A(10) AND 17A.

THESE SURCHARGES, WHICH WERE INTRODUCED IN 1982, WERE \$100 AND \$200 AND IT WAS PROPOSED TO RAISE THEM TO \$200 AND \$400.

"THE INTENTION OF THESE SECTIONS IS TO DISCOURAGE LATE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION AND THE INCREASE OF 100 PER CENT ON THE CURRENT SURCHARGE BRINGS THEM INTO LINE WITH INCREASES OF 100 PER CENT IN LEVELS OF COMPENSATION FOR PERMANENT INJURY OR DEATH WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE 1982," HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE SAID THE MAXIMUM DAILY RATES PAYABLE BY THE EMPLOYER FOR HOSPITAL STAY AND OUT-PATIENT TREATMENT FOR AN EMPLOYEE RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT ALSO REQUIRED ADJUSTMENT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RECENT INCREASES IN THE DAILY CHARGES IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS.

INCREASES FROM \$30 TO \$40 FOR EACH DAY OF STAY IN A HOSPITAL AND FROM \$15 TO \$20 FOR EACH DAY OF OUT-PATIENT TREATMENT WERE PROPOSED.

HE SAID THE REVISED RATES SHOULD ENABLE AN EMPLOYEE TO RECOVER FULL MEDICAL EXPENSES FROM HIS EMPLOYER IF HE RECEIVED TREATMENT IN A GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED HOSPITAL OR TO RECEIVE A REASONABLE SUBSIDY IF HE CHOSE TO OBTAIN TREATMENT AT PRIVATE HOSPITALS OR FROM PRIVATE DOCTORS.

MR BRIDGE ALSO SAID THAT SECTION 11(5) OF THE ORDINANCE DEEMED AN EMPLOYEE'S MINIMUM EARNINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING COMPENSATION TO BE \$800. THIS FIGURE WAS BASED ON THE LEVEL OF SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR A SINGLE PERSON UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME. IT WAS PROPOSED TO INCREASE THIS FIGURE TO \$920 IN LINE WITH ITS CURRENT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE EQUIVALENT.

THE SECRETARY ADDED: "THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD WAS CONSULTED IN JULY AND UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THESE COMPENSATION RATES IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE IN WAGES. HOWEVER, THE ACTUAL FIGURES NOW PROPOSED HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN ADJUSTED IN THE LIGHT OF THE LATEST INFORMATION ON WAGE RATES."

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1987

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PROGRESS ON TRANSFER OF PRISONERS ISSUE

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SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THE ISSUE OF TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DESMOND LEE, MR JEAFFRESON SAID AN ORDER BY THE PRIVY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 21, 1987 HAD EXTENDED THE UK REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS ACT 1984 TO HONG KONG WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 16, 1987.

"THIS EXTENSION WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HONG KONG TO PARTICIPATE IN THOSE INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS ON THE TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS TO WHICH THE UK IS A PARTY," HE EXPLAINED.

"THE FIRST WILL BE THE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS. WE EXPECT THE APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION TO HONG KONG TO COME INTO FORCE IN FEBRUARY 1988," HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT WERE PARTY TO THE CONVENTION WERE AUSTRIA, CANADA, CYPRUS, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, SPAIN, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED STATES.

HE SAID THE APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION TO HONG KONG WOULD ENABLE SENTENCED PERSONS TO BE TRANSFERRED BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THESE COUNTRIES.

AS FOR THOSE HONG KONG RESIDENTS SERVING PRISON SENTENCES IN THAILAND, MR JEAFFRESON SAID UK WAS NEGOTIATING A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THAILAND.

"WE HAVE AGREED WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT IT SHOULD APPLY TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"WE CANNOT SAY YET WHEN IT WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE," HE ADDED.

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NORMAL RULES TO APPLY TO TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL CLEARANCE

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO APPLY NORMAL SQUATTER CLEARANCE RULES TO SQUATTERS AFFECTED BY THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR LIAO POINTED OUT THAT AS THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL CLEARANCE WAS A SQUATTER CLEARANCE, ONLY THOSE WHO SATISFIED THE NORMAL REHOUSING CRITERION, I.E. 10 YEARS' RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG FOR THE MAJORITY OF FAMILY MEMBERS, WOULD BE OFFERED PERMANENT REHOUSING UPON CLEARANCE.

DR LAM HAD ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO ACCORDING TO SQUATTERS AFFECTED BY THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT THE SAME REHOUSING PRIORITY AS THAT PROPOSED FOR THOSE LIVING IN THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY.

NOTING THAT THE REHOUSING AND COMPENSATION PACKAGE FOR PERSONS AFFECTED BY THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY CLEARANCE WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL ON DECEMBER 9, MR LIAO SAID IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR HIM TO PREJUDGE THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION AND HE WAS THEREFORE UNABLE AT THIS STAGE TO COMPARE THE REHOUSING CRITERIA FOR THE TWO CLEARANCES.

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GAMBLING LAW REVIEW AIMS AT BALANCE

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THE AIM OF THE REVIEW OF THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE IS TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE BETWEEN CONTROLLING ILLEGAL GAMBLING ENTERPRISES AND ENSURING THAT SOCIAL CLUBS WHICH OPERATE WITHIN THE LAW ARE NOT PENALISED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RICHARD LAI, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION WAS REVIEWING THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

"THIS REVIEW IS PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF MAHJONG PLAYING IN ESTABLISHMENTS REGISTERED OR EXEMPTED UNDER THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE AND TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE CEILING OF \$20 FOR THE HIRE OF A SET OF MAHJONG TILES, FIRST SET IN 1977, IS STILL APPROPRIATE," HE SAID.

"THE REVIEW IS IDENTIFYING A NUMBER OF AREAS WHICH MAY REQUIRE CHANGES TO THE LAW," HE ADDED.

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SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR SCHOOL ACTIVITY

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SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND TEACHERS ARE MADE CONSTANTLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CONDUCTING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES REQUIRING CLOSE SUPERVISION, SCHOOLS WERE ADVISED TO OBSERVE TEACHER/STUDENT RATIOS APPROPRIATE TO THE NATURE OF EACH ACTIVITY, THE TYPE OF PUPIL AND THE DEGREE OF RISK INVOLVED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN, MR BRIDGE SAID THE RATIOS FOR CANOEING WAS ONE INSTRUCTOR TO EIGHT CANOES AND ONE TEACHER TO 30 PRIMARY OR SECONDARY STUDENTS FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMPS.

FOR SEVERELY HANDICAPPED PUPILS THE RATIO WAS INCREASED TO ONE TEACHER TO TWO PUPILS; AND FOR MALADJUSTED CHILDREN THE CORRESPONDING RATIO WAS ONE TEACHER TO 15 PUPILS.

HE ADDED THAT IN THE "LEARN-TO-SWIM" SCHEME FOR PRIMARY PUPILS AGED 10 OR ABOVE, THE RECOMMENDED RATIO WAS ONE INSTRUCTOR TO 30 PUPILS.

"THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ADVISES SCHOOLS WHAT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE WHEN ORGANISING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES," MR BRIDGE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS ADVICE WAS CONTAINED IN PUBLICATIONS ISSUED TO ALL SCHOOLS, WHICH INCLUDED CURRENT SYLLABUSES PRODUCED BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND COMPREHENSIVE PAMPHLETS ON SAFETY, NOTABLY THAT RELATED TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

HE SAID THAT THIS MATERIAL WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY GENERAL SCHOOLS CIRCULARS AND UPDATED ANNUALLY, IN WHICH ADVICE WAS GIVEN ON THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN FOR SUCH OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AS SWIMMING GALAS, SCHOOL ATHLETIC MEETS, AND ORGANISED VISITS AND EXCURSIONS.

"THE INSPECTORATE ALSO REGULARLY RUNS IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES ON SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR TEACHERS.

"THE AIM IS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE SAFETY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN CONDUCTING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES," MR BRIDGE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THROUGH THESE CHANNELS, SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND TEACHERS WERE MADE CONSTANTLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CONDUCTING ACTIVITIES.

"THIS HELPS THEM TO AVOID UNNECESSARY RISKS AND REDUCES THE LIKELIHOOD OF ACCIDENTS," HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1987

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PRE-PRIMARY FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME 'EFFECTIVE'

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THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES HAS BEEN GENERALLY EFFECTIVE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS PAULINE NG, MR CHAMBERS SAID THIS SCHEME PROVIDED FOR FEE ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES TO ATTEND DAY NURSERIES AND KINDERGARTENS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SCHEME HAD HELPED AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 11,300 CHILDREN EACH YEAR TO ATTEND DAY NURSERIES AND A FURTHER 8,300 TO ATTEND KINDERGARTENS SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION IN 1982.

MR CHAMBERS SAID ELIGIBILITY FOR FEE ASSISTANCE AND THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE GRANTED IN EACH CASE WAS CALCULATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH QUITE A COMPLICATED FORMULA.

ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE HAD RISEN FROM NEARLY \$21 MILLION IN 1982/83 TO OVER \$40 MILLION IN 1986/87, INCREASES IN FAMILY INCOMES AND FEES SINCE 1982 HAD RESULTED IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ASSISTED FALLING BOTH IN ABSOLUTE NUMBERS AND AS A PROPORTION OF THE CAPACITY OF THE NURSERIES, HE SAID.

"THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS NOW REVIEWING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEE ASSISTANCE IN DAY NURSERIES TO SEE WHETHER ANY ADJUSTMENTS ARE REQUIRED. WE SHALL BE CONSULTING THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THIS REVIEW," HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO THE KINDERGARTENS, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER WAS REVIEWING THE FEE ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT NO. 2.

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ADVICE TO FISHERMEN TO STEER CLEAR OF FOREIGN WATERS

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HONG KONG FISHERMEN ARE ADVISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT OF THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC EXCLUSION ZONES DECLARED BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO HELP THEM AVOID STRAYING INTO FOREIGN WATERS DURING OFF-SHORE OPERATIONS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS RITA FAN, MR JACOBS SAID NOTICES WERE POSTED IN CONSPICUOUS LOCATIONS IN WHOLESALE FISH MARKETS AND FISHERIES OFFICES.

/REGULAR REMINDERS

REGULAR REMINDERS WERE GIVEN THROUGH RADIO BROADCASTS, AT MEETINGS WITH FISHERMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND AT VARIOUS VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES, HE SAID.

"ALSO, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT OFFERS TO LOCAL FISHERMEN TRAINING IN NAVIGATION AND THE USE OF MODERN NAVIGATIONAL AIDS."

IN THE EVENT OF A HONG KONG FISHING VESSEL AND HER CREW BEING DETAINED BY FOREIGN AUTHORITIES, MR JACOBS SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NORMALLY TAKE ACTION THROUGH BRITISH DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR CHANNELS, FIRST TO ASCERTAIN THE FULL FACTS IN RELATION TO THE INCIDENT AND THEN TO SEEK THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINEES.

"BOTH THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT LIAISE WITH DETAINEES' FAMILIES IN HONG KONG.

"IN CASES OF HARDSHIP, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD ASSIST.

"UPON REPATRIATION THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO OFFER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH LOANS TO HELP THE FISHERMEN RESUME FISHING," HE SAID.

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AMENDMENT BILL FOR WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE

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SOME URGENT AMENDMENTS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CHILD ABUSE CASES PROPOSED BY AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP WERE ENACTED IN JULY THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE WORKING GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED IN NOVEMBER 1986 TO REVIEW THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE WERE REQUIRED IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE PROVISIONS OF OTHER RELATED LEGISLATION, MR CHAMBERS EXPLAINED.

NOTING THAT DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE OVERALL REVIEW WERE BEING PREPARED, MR CHAMBERS HOPED TO BE ABLE TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN THE NEW YEAR, WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING AN AMENDMENT BILL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT SESSION.

COMPENSATION FOR PNEUMOCONIOSIS REVISED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A RESOLUTION TO REVISE AND UPDATE THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM LEVELS OF COMPENSATION SPECIFIED IN THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE FOR DEATH, TOTAL PERMANENT INCAPACITY AND CONSTANT ATTENTION, AND FOR DAILY RATES OF MEDICAL EXPENSES.

ALL THESE LEVELS WERE THE SAME AS THE EQUIVALENT LEVELS UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN INTRODUCING THE RESOLUTION.

IT WAS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT THESE LEVELS BE INCREASED IN LINE WITH THE EQUIVALENT LEVELS IN THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, AS PROVIDED FOR IN A RESOLUTION WHICH HE HAD MOVED EARLIER IN THE MEETING.

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SCIENCE PARK/TECHNOLOGY CENTRE PROPOSAL TO BE STUDIED

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THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT COMMITTEE OF THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB) IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCIENCE PARK/TECHNOLOGY CENTRE IN HONG KONG BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON K. Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON C. K. POON, MR YEUNG SAID THE IDB HAD ONLY LAST MONTH ADVISED THAT THE IDEA OF SETTING UP A SCIENCE PARK/TECHNOLOGY CENTRE IN HONG KONG MERITED DETAILED CONSIDERATION.

"ACCORDINGLY, THE COMMITTEE WILL SHORTLY INVESTIGATE TO WHAT EXTENT A SCIENCE PARK/TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WOULD BENEFIT HONG KONG, WHAT ITS OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE, WHAT MODEL WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, AND WHAT LOGISTICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE REQUIRED."

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SCREENING PROCEDURES BEING WORKED OUT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL WORKING OUT THE PROCEDURES TO BE ADOPTED FOR THE SCREENING OF NEW ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR JEAFFRESON WAS MAKING A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN.

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VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL MAKES GOOD PROGRESS

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THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS IN FULFILLING ITS FUNCTIONS OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING TO MEET THE DEVELOPING NEEDS OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1987, THE HON K.C. CHAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE VTC, WAS TABLING TO THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE NOTED THAT ON THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION FRONT, THE FIRST TWO TECHNICAL INSTITUTES PLANNED AND BUILT BY THE VTC AT SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN OPENED FOR CLASSES IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR WHILE THE LATEST INSTITUTE AT CHAI WAN STARTED TO ENROL STUDENTS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THUS BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INSTITUTES TO EIGHT.

"BY SEPTEMBER 1988, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME PLACES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WILL BE ABOUT 11,500 AND 50,500 WHICH WILL REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF SOME 158 PER CENT AND 41 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY SINCE THE VTC WAS ESTABLISHED AND TOOK OVER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

"BESIDES THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PLACES, THE INSTITUTES ARE NOW ABLE TO OFFER COURSES IN NEW AREAS OF TECHNOLOGY WHICH ARE VITAL TO HONG KONG'S FURTHER DEVELOPMENT," MR CHAN POINTED OUT.

"THE VTC ALSO HOPES TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE ANNEXES TO KWAI CHUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND THE KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND THE REPROVISIONING OF THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FACILITIES.

"WHEN THESE PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED IN LATE 1988 OR EARLY 1989, BOTH THE TEACHING FACILITIES AND STUDENT AMENITIES OF ALL THE OLDER PRE-VTC INSTITUTES WILL BE BROUGHT TO A LEVEL COMPARABLE TO THOSE PROVIDED FOR IN THE NEW ONES, THAT IS, TO THE LEVEL NEEDED IF THEY ARE TO OPERATE ADEQUATELY THE COURSES WHICH THEY NOW OFFER," HE CONTINUED.

TURNING TO THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FRONT, MR CHAN SAID THREE NEW TRAINING CENTRES - THE ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING, THE INSURANCE, AND THE PRECISION TOOLING - COMMENCED OPERATION IN THE YEAR 1986/87 WHILE THE JEWELLERY INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE HAD RECENTLY BEGUN OFFERING COURSES.

"WHEN THE NEW SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE AND THE BANKING TRAINING CENTRE START COURSES IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINING CENTRES ESTABLISHED BY THE VTC WILL BE 16 AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINING PLACES OFFERED ANNUALLY IN THESE CENTRES WILL BE ABOUT 12,000 FULL-TIME AND 5,000 PART-TIME," HE ADDED.

AT THE REQUEST OF GOVERNMENT, THE VTC HAD ALSO STARTED TO ADMINISTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT A TRAINING SCHEME UNDER WHICH ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS ARE SENT OVERSEAS FOR TRAINING IN THE VITALLY IMPORTANT FIELD OF APPLICATION SPECIFIC INTEGRATED CIRCUITS.

MR CHAN HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT TO THE VTC IN FUTURE TO HELP IT MEET THE EVER-CHANGING MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

SIR DAVID: HK HAS MUCH TO OFFER ECONOMIC ZONE

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HONG KONG HAS A GREAT DEAL TO OFFER THE SHANGHAI ECONOMIC ZONE AS A TRADING PARTNER AND AS AN INVESTOR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN SHANGHAI TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A SEMINAR ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE SHANGHAI ECONOMIC ZONE, AFTER HE HAD OPENED THE SHANGHAI OFFICE OF THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

HONG KONG TRADERS AND INVESTORS RECOGNISED HOW MUCH THE ZONE HAD TO OFFER, HE SAID, ADDING THAT HONG KONG WAS ALREADY A SIGNIFICANT TRADING PARTNER OF SHANGHAI, SECOND ONLY TO JAPAN.

"WE ARE THIS CITY'S LARGEST EXPORT MARKET, AND ITS SECOND LARGEST SUPPLIER.

"THERE IS, HOWEVER, MUCH SCOPE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TRADE, AND OF HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH THE SHANGHAI ECONOMIC ZONE AS A WHOLE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE TDC'S OFFICE IN SHANGHAI, WHICH WAS THE FIRST SUCH OFFICE IN CHINA OUTSIDE PEKING, WOULD PITCH ITS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING THAT DEVELOPMENT.

ON HONG KONG'S INVESTMENT IN THE ZONE, SIR DAVID SAID IT OUTSTRIPPED ALL OTHER EXTERNAL INVESTMENT.

"IN FUJIAN ALONE, HONG KONG INTERESTS ARE REPRESENTED IN MANY HUNDREDS OF JOINT VENTURES.

"IN SHANGHAI, NANJING, NINGBO AND MANY OTHER CITIES IN THE ZONE, HONG KONG ENTREPRENEURS ARE INVESTING IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE SCOPE FOR GROWTH IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE SHANGHAI ECONOMIC ZONE WAS CONSIDERABLE, AND NOT MERELY IN THE AREA OF DIRECT TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

"THE SHANGHAI ECONOMIC ZONE, LIKE HONG KONG, IS PART OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION - THE MOST DYNAMIC AREA OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE WORLD. IT IS A REGION THAT IS ONLY AT THE BEGINNING OF REALISING ITS VAST POTENTIAL."

"ALL OF US IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION DEPEND FOR OUR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ON STRENGTHENING THE LINKS BETWEEN US - OUR TRADE, OUR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND THE PHYSICAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN US," HE SAID.

TURNING TO ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG, SIR DAVID SAID IT HAD SEEN PHENOMENAL GROWTH IN THE LAST DECADE.

HONG KONG WAS NOW CHINA'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER AND LARGEST EXPORT MARKET, ACCOUNTING FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF ITS GLOBAL TRADE, HE SAID.

IN RETURN, CHINA WAS ALSO HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER AND SECOND LARGEST EXPORT MARKET, HE ADDED.

"WE ARE THE LARGEST SOURCE BY FAR OF EXTERNAL INVESTMENT IN CHINA. AND CHINA HAS BECOME A MAJOR INVESTOR IN HONG KONG.

"HONG KONG'S ROLE AS AN ENTREPOT AND AS A SERVICES CENTRE FOR CHINA'S TRADE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD HAD DEVELOPED FAST, AND HAS BECOME IMMENSELY VALUABLE BOTH TO CHINA AND HONG KONG," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON HONG KONG'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GUANGDONG IN PARTICULAR, SIR DAVID SAID THAT IN THE NINE YEARS SINCE CHINA ADOPTED THE POLICY OF OPENING UP TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THE GROWTH IN TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION HAD BEEN ENORMOUSLY BENEFICIAL TO HONG KONG'S GROWTH.

"IT IS HELPING TRANSFORM THE PEARL RIVER DELTA AREA OF GUANGDONG INTO ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC AND FASTEST GROWING ECONOMIC AREAS OF CHINA."

HONG KONG HAD PLAYED A FULL PART IN CHINA'S MODERNISATION AND WOULD REMAIN ABLE AND WILLING TO CONTINUE PLAYING THAT PART, HE SAID.

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THIRD QUARTER EXPORTS STATISTICS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN PUBLISHED
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THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY GROUPS IN TERMS OF THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WERE TEXTILES, WEARING APPAREL, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT, PLASTIC PRODUCTS, AND BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS.

TOGETHER THEY ACCOUNTED FOR 84 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE EXPORTS DURING THE PERIOD.

AMONG ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, THE LARGEST INCREASES IN ABSOLUTE VALUE OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 WERE : TEXTILES (+\$3,408 MILLION), WEARING APPAREL (+\$2,647 MILLION), ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS (+\$2,279 MILLION), PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT (+\$880 MILLION), BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS (+\$632 MILLION), AND MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+\$440 MILLION).

/IN PERCENTAGE

IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 WERE LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS (+97 PER CENT), MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+61 PER CENT), TOBACCO (+49 PER CENT), AND CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS (+47 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, A SLIGHT DECREASE IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VALUE COMPARED WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 WAS RECORDED IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY (-\$20 MILLION OR -5 PER CENT).

BESIDES THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS ORIGINATING FROM AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 (+\$3 MILLION OR +339 PER CENT).

THE INFORMATION WAS DERIVED FROM STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS ANALYSED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

THIS SERIES IS DERIVED BY REGROUPING ALL SIX-DIGIT MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS UNDER THE PRESENT 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.

WHEN REFERRING TO THESE RE-CLASSIFIED FIGURES, SOME CAUTION IS NECESSARY. CERTAIN MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS MAY REQUIRE SEVERAL INTERMEDIATE PROCESSING STAGES FOR THEIR PRODUCTION. IN SUCH CASES, THE INDUSTRY IN WHICH AN ITEM IS FINALLY PRODUCED IS NOT REALLY THE SOLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE EXPORT VALUE. HOWEVER, IN THIS RE-CLASSIFICATION, THE OVERALL VALUE OF THE ITEM IS WHOLLY ALLOCATED TO THAT INDUSTRY.

BESIDES, THE CLASSIFICATION OF A MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEM TO A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE ENTIRE VALUE OF THE ITEM IS ACTUALLY PRODUCED BY ESTABLISHMENTS OF THAT INDUSTRY, SINCE SOME MAY BE SECONDARY PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED UNDER OTHER INDUSTRIES.

A TABLE CONTAINING FURTHER DETAILS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS STATISTICS FOR MERCHANDISE RE-CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (ON TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-8234832). A TABLE ON THESE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED INDUSTRIES IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE REPORT "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE, SEPTEMBER 1987".

Value of domestic exports for merchandise,
reclassified by industrial origin for the third quarter of 1987

(HK\$ '000)

Industrial origin of the commodities exported	Merchandise domestic exports			
	3rd qtr. 1987	3rd qtr. 1986	Value change	% change
<u>Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing</u>				
Agricultural, livestock and poultry production	4,058	925	3,133	339
Ocean and coastal fishing	107,025	96,151	10,874	11
<u>Mining and Quarrying</u>	2,673	2,252	421	19
<u>Manufacturing</u>				
Food	346,457	366,412	-19,955	-5
Beverages	71,652	57,680	13,972	24
Tobacco	321,581	216,311	105,270	49
Textiles (including knitting)	12,196,077	8,788,512	3,407,565	39
Wearing apparel, except footwear and knitwear	11,814,240	9,167,032	2,647,208	29
Leather and leather products	218,977	110,916	108,061	97
Footwear	320,174	234,436	85,738	37
Wood and cork products, furniture and fixtures	222,926	207,123	15,803	8
Paper and paper products, printing and publishing	1,166,037	866,529	299,508	35
Chemicals and chemical products	702,538	477,145	225,393	47
Rubber products	41,802	34,739	7,063	20
Plastic products	4,207,798	3,945,189	262,609	7
Non-metallic mineral products	208,344	169,830	38,514	23
Basic metals and fabricated metal products	2,291,242	1,658,852	632,390	38
Machinery, except electrical	1,157,239	717,712	439,527	61
Electrical and electronic products	11,628,493	9,349,081	2,279,412	24
Transport equipment	45,001	34,146	10,855	32
Professional and optical equipment	4,538,464	3,658,055	880,409	24
Other manufacturing industries	3,610,991	2,749,179	861,812	31
<u>Electricity</u>	109,372	87,967	21,405	24
<u>Miscellaneous items</u> (e.g. developed photographic plates and film, antiques, and works of art)	14,066	16,587	-2,521	-15
Total	55,347,227	43,012,759	12,334,468	29

Individual entries of a column may not add up exactly to the corresponding total due to rounding.

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REPATRIATION OF EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE II'S BEGINS

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THE REPATRIATION OF EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BY SEA BEGAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH THE FIRST GROUP OF 508 LEAVING FOR GUANGXI ON THE FERRY LO SHAN THIS EVENING.

THE GROUP, COMPRISING 238 MEN, 125 WOMEN AND 145 CHILDREN, BOARDED THE LO SHAN AT THE LOK ON PAI DESALTING PLANT PIER AT 6 PM FOR THEIR 40-HOUR JOURNEY TO BEI HAI.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR NIGEL FRENCH, SAID THE REPATRIATION PROGRAMME, CONDUCTED WITH THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, SERVED AS A DETERRENT TO THOSE CONTEMPLATING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TO THE TERRITORY.

"ALL ECVII'S IN HONG KONG WHO HAVE THEIR STATUS CONFIRMED BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES WILL BE SENT BACK," MR FRENCH SAID.

ANOTHER 1,400 ECVII'S WILL BE REPATRIATED BY SEA TO GUANGXI IN THREE MORE VOYAGES, THE LAST TO LEAVE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE ABOUT 1,500 ECVII'S STILL IN THE TERRITORY.

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STAR FERRY GRANTED NEW ROUTE, HYF FARE INCREASE APPROVED

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO GRANT THE STAR FERRY COMPANY THE FRANCHISE TO OPERATE A NEW PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND WAN CHAI.

THE NEW SERVICE WILL OPERATE FROM KOWLOON POINT PIER TO THE WAN CHAI FERRY PIER AT A FARE OF \$1 FOR ADULTS AND 50 CENTS FOR STUDENTS OR CHILDREN. THE FARE STRUCTURE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

IN MAKING THE DECISION, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ALSO DIRECTED THAT THE SERVICE SHOULD START NOT LATER THAN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS ALSO APPROVED AN APPLICATION BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (HYF) FOR FARE INCREASES FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

/THE WEIGHTED

THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE RATES OF INCREASE WILL BE 4.7 PER CENT FOR CROSS-HARBOUR AND NEW TOWN SERVICES, 3.5 PER CENT FOR OUTLYING SERVICES AND THREE PER CENT FOR VEHICULAR SERVICES.

HYF'S LAST FARE INCREASE WAS IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

FOR CROSS-HARBOUR PASSENGER SERVICES, ADULT FARES WILL BE REVISED FROM \$1.70 TO \$1.80 AND MONTHLY TICKETS WILL COST \$75 INSTEAD OF \$70. FARES FOR CHILDREN AND THE TEMPORARY CENTRAL TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST HOVERFERRY SERVICE REMAIN UNCHANGED. THERE WILL BE NO FARE INCREASE FOR NEW TOWN PASSENGER SERVICES.

ON HYF'S OUTLYING ISLANDS AND TOLO HARBOUR SERVICES, THE DELUXE CLASS FARES DURING SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$11 TO \$12 FOR ADULTS AND FROM \$7 TO \$7.50 FOR CHILDREN. MONTHLY TICKETS WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$165 TO \$185.

THERE WILL BE NO FARE INCREASE FOR ALL WEEKDAY FARES AND ORDINARY CLASS FARES DURING SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

AS FOR VEHICULAR FERRY FARES, THERE WILL BE INCREASES FROM \$6 TO \$6.50 FOR PRIVATE CARS OR TAXIS; \$3 TO \$3.50 FOR MOTORCYCLES AND \$10 TO \$11 FOR BUSES. THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE FOR GOODS VEHICLES FOR THE TIME BEING.

CHARGES FOR FREIGHT CARRIED ON CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES WILL INCREASE FROM \$6 TO \$6.50 FOR EVERY 60 KG OR 0.12 CUBIC METRE. FREIGHT CHARGES ON OTHER SERVICES WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

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SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE BEGINS

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A MAJOR SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE COORDINATED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND INVOLVING A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND REGIONAL EMERGENCY UNITS, WILL BE HELD FROM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO FRIDAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE EXERCISE WAS TO TRAIN AND FAMILIARISE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER SUPPORTING UNITS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNIQUES.

"IT WILL ALSO SERVE TO TEST THE ALERTING AND COORDINATING PROCEDURES AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES," HE SAID.

/"IN ADDITION,

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"IN ADDITION, IT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES TO OBSERVE THE EXERCISE IN PROGRESS," HE CONTINUED.

COMPRISING A SHORT-RANGE AND A LONG-RANGE OPERATION, THE EXERCISE WILL CENTRE ON THE EVACUATION OF SURVIVORS BY VESSELS AND HELICOPTERS.

IN THE SHORT-RANGE EXERCISE THIS AFTERNOON, A SIMULATED AIR CRASH NEAR THE NINEPIN GROUP WILL ACTIVATE A FULL-SCALE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION.

UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PARA-RESCUERS OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE, THE MARINE POLICE AND THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL BE DESPATCHED TO THE "EMERGENCY" SCENE TO PICK UP STRANDED PASSENGERS AND CREWS.

THE LONG-RANGE EXERCISE SIMULATING THREE AIRCRAFT IN DISTRESS WILL BE CARRIED OUT TOMORROW AT ABOUT 100 MILES TO THE SOUTH OF HONG KONG. THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, AND THE U.S. AIR AND NAVAL FORCES WILL BE MOBILISED TO SEARCH AND LOCATE THE SURFACE TARGETS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

TAKING PART IN THE EXERCISE ARE THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE ROYAL NAVY, THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, THE U.S. AIR FORCE, NAVY AND COAST GUARD AND THE GUANGDONG MARINE EMERGENCY SEARCH AND RESCUE CENTRE.

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VOLUNTARY MOVEMENT NEEDED TO IMPROVE
SAFETY STANDARD AT WORKPLACE

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ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND FULL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS ARE THE PREREQUISITES IN RAISING THE STANDARD OF SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE, MR HAROLD KWOK, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TO ACHIEVE THIS TARGET, HE ADDED, EACH ESTABLISHMENT SHOULD SET UP A SELF-REGULATORY SYSTEM AND FORMULATE AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH RELATED POLICY.

MR KWOK WAS ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF A FORUM ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO EXPLORE WAYS OF PROMOTING VOLUNTARY SAFETY MOVEMENT IN INDUSTRY AT THE VICTORIA HOTEL IN CENTRAL.

/HE CALLED

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HE CALLED ON THE PARTICIPANTS TO ACTIVELY EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA.

OTHER SPEAKERS AT THE FORUM INCLUDED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JAPAN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION, MR TOSHIYUKI HIRAGA, THE CHIEF SAFETY AND SECURITY ADVISER OF THE SHELL COMPANY, MR WONG WING-HOU, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG AIR CARGO TERMINALS LIMITED, MISS ADA LEUNG.

MR HIRAGA SPECIALLY FLEW IN FROM JAPAN TO SHARE HIS EXPERIENCE IN PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AT WORK IN HIS COUNTRY THROUGH THE SELF-REGULATORY APPROACH.

HE GAVE A BRIEF ACCOUNT ON THE HISTORY, CURRENT STATUS AND THE PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION IN JAPAN.

MR WONG AND MISS LEUNG SPOKE RESPECTIVELY ON THE MANAGEMENT'S ROLE IN EFFECTIVE IN-PLANT VOLUNTARY SAFETY MOVEMENT AND THE BENEFITS OF SUCH MOVEMENT IN THE EYES OF EMPLOYEES.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, MR CHENG YIU-TONG, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PUBLICITY PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE, MR K. Y. TONGSON.

ABOUT 150 MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL AND WORKERS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES TOOK PART IN THE FORUM.

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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUTSTANDING DISABLED STUDENTS

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TEN DISABLED STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXCELLED IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, CONDUCT, LEADERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY WERE AWARDED THE SHELL-ISLAND JAYCEES SCHOLARSHIPS AT A CEREMONY TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING WHICH COMPRISED THE AWARDS RECIPIENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS AND PARENTS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES THAT THE RECIPIENTS HAD ENGAGED IN.

HE SAID THEY WERE LEADERS IN THEIR SCHOOLS AND HAD ALL SHOWN A HIGH DEGREE OF COMMITMENT AND PERSEVERANCE IN SPORTS AND MUSIC, IN SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY AND THE HANDICAPPED, IN COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS AND AS MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB.

/MR LI

MR LI ALSO PRAISED THE TEACHERS AND THE PARENTS WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE STUDENTS AND WERE SHARING THEIR PRIDE AND HAPPINESS TODAY.

THE AWARDS CAME INTO BEING BY THE DONATION OF \$100,000 BY THE SHELL COMPANY OF HONG KONG LIMITED TO SET UP A FUND FOR 10 SCHOLARSHIPS AS A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS IN 1981.

UNDER THIS FUND, 10 SCHOLARSHIPS AT \$800 EACH WERE AWARDED TO HANDICAPPED PUPILS AS A RECOGNITION OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENT IN SCHOOL WORK AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

THE AIM WAS TO ENCOURAGE HANDICAPPED PUPILS TO REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND TO DEVELOP THEIR CAPABILITIES AND POTENTIALS, TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES, AND TO BE INTEGRATED INTO THE COMMUNITY.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND TROPHIES WERE PRESENTED BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE SHELL COMPANY OF HONG KONG LIMITED, MR H.G. WEBB-PEPLOB. THE RECIPIENTS WERE NG HOI-CHUN OF THE MARGARET TRENCH RED CROSS SCHOOL, NG WAI-SZE OF JOCKEY CLUB SCHOOL, LUI HONG-FUK OF PINEHILL VILLAGE SCHOOL, LAM KWOK-WAH OF HOMANTIN GOVERNMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL, CHAN PUI-WAH AND LUI TAT-SHING OF HONG KONG SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, CHAN OI-LING OF LIONS MORNINGHILL SCHOOL, HO WAH-CHIU AND CHEUNG WOON-YEUNG OF KWAI FONG MORNINGLIGHT SCHOOL, AND HUI WAI-LAP OF MONGKOK LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

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FAMILY OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIM RECEIVES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AUTHORISED A SUM OF \$45,130 FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO THE FAMILY OF A TAXI DRIVER KILLED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ON NOVEMBER 22.

THE SUM, COMPRISING \$3,000 BURIAL GRANT, \$33,700 DEATH GRATUITY AND \$8,430 INTERIM ADJUSTMENT GRANT, WAS GRANTED TO THE FAMILY OF MR CHAN TIM-CHOI WHO WAS KILLED IN A COLLISION BETWEEN A TAXI AND A LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE AIRPORT TUNNEL AND THE EAST KOWLOON WAY.

AS FOR THE FOUR PEOPLE INJURED IN THE ACCIDENT, STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TAVA SECTION IS NOW PROCESSING THE APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THREE OF THEM. THE FOURTH HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO APPLY OR NOT.

/THE TAVA

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THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDES EARLY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR FAMILIES WITHOUT TAKING REGARD OF THE MEANS OF THE FAMILY OR THE ELEMENT OF FAULT IN CAUSING THE ACCIDENT.

ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TAVA SECTION ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF VICTORIA CENTRE, 15 WATSON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY OR BY CALLING 5-702342.

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ANTI-TRIAD NIGHT IN SOUTHERN

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A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE STAGED AT THE LEI TUNG COMMUNITY HALL IN AP LEI CHAU TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 8 PM TO SPREAD THE ANTI-TRIAD MESSAGE TO SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS.

THE ANTI-TRIAD NIGHT IS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE DISTRICT'S ANTI-TRIAD CAMPAIGN. THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE A PLAY ON THE ANTI-TRIAD THEME STAGED BY JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS AND PERFORMANCES BY TV ARTISTES AND SINGERS.

WINNERS OF THE ESSAY WRITING, SLOGAN, POSTER DESIGN, SOCCER AND TABLE TENNIS COMPETITIONS ORGANISED AS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS WILL BE PRESENTED PRIZES.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE SHOW ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES. THE ORGANISER HAS ALSO MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESIDENTS TO WATCH THE SHOW THROUGH TELEVISION MONITORS SET UP IN THE OPEN SPACE NEAR THE COMMUNITY HALL.

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR SIMON LORD; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER (WESTERN), MR E.J. STEVENSON; CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR JASPER LAM; CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR KAN MAN-LEE; AND A MEMBER OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ANTI-TRIAD CAMPAIGN ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MADAM SO CHOW YIM-PING WILL OFFICIATE AT THE FUNCTION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ANTI-TRIAD NIGHT TO BEGIN AT 8 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE LEI TUNG COMMUNITY HALL IN AP LEI CHAU.

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DISTRICT BOARD TO DISCUSS HAWKERS RE-ORDERING
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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE RE-ORDERING OF HAWKERS NEAR TAI KOK TSUI TEMPORARY MARKET AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE TEMPORARY MARKET, LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF FUK TSUN STREET AND IVY STREET, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR. IT WILL HAVE 20 MARKET STALLS AND 187 MINI STALLS.

THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER THE PROPOSED OCCUPATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ON-STREET WET GOODS HAWKERS IN THE VICINITY AND THE RE-ORDERING PLAN FOR THE NEARBY ON-STREET DRY GOODS HAWKERS FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE MARKET.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO REVIEW THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE BOARD AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE AND THE SIX AREA COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS
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MEMBERS OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS SEVERAL PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT.

THEY INCLUDE WAYS TO IMPROVE THE LIGHTING AT FAT KWONG STREET AND HAU MAN STREET IN HO MAN TIN, THE PAVEMENT AND ROAD SURFACING AT YAN FUNG STREET, AND THE POLLUTION PROBLEM AT A SITTING OUT AREA AT STATION LANE.

/AT THE

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AT THE MEETING, BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE NOISE NUISANCE FROM FACTORIES AND BETTER MONITORING OF ROAD WORKS IN THE DISTRICT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT 141, KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AWARD FOR MAC MEMBERS

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON A PROPOSAL BY AN AREA COMMITTEE THAT SOME FORM OF AWARD SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE MEMBERS TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING SUCH PROJECTS AS THE SHA TIN DB TERM REPORT, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, THE INSTALLATION OF DIRECTIONAL SIGNS FOR VILLAGES, AND THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF A YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMME.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE REVIEW OF WORKING GROUPS' ACTIVITIES, EXPENDITURE HEADS AND TENTATIVE CEILINGS FOR 1988-89, AS WELL AS THE FINANCIAL POSITION AND PROGRESS OF DB SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM.

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FIRING PRACTICE DAYS FOR DECEMBER

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON SEVERAL DAYS THIS MONTH.

THE PUBLIC IS WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

THE DATES AND TIMES OF THE PRACTICE ARE:

DATE -----	TIME -----
DECEMBER 3 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
DECEMBER 4 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
DECEMBER 5 (SATURDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
DECEMBER 9 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
DECEMBER 10 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
DECEMBER 12 (SATURDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
DECEMBER 14 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
DECEMBER 15 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
DECEMBER 16 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 11.59 PM
DECEMBER 17 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
DECEMBER 18 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM

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KWUN TONG DB TO DISCUSS PROVIDENT FUND ISSUE

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MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 4) TO DISCUSS THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND.

THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD BY THE BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE FINANCIAL SECURITY OF RETIRED PERSONS AND THE WELFARE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE.

AN OFFICER FROM THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, MR FEDERICK YEUNG, WILL ALSO BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET. THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

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TEMPORARY PROHIBITED ZONES IN REPULSE BAY

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 4), REPULSE BAY ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 113 AND ITS JUNCTION WITH BEACH ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED 24-HOUR DAILY PROHIBITED ZONES.

ONLY FRANCHISED BUSES, HEAVY AND MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES AND THOSE REQUIRING LOCAL ACCESS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PROHIBITED ZONE.

THE RESTRICTION WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS BECAUSE OF ROAD WORKS.

MEANWHILE, BEACH ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITED ZONE FOR ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING 11 METRES IN LENGTH DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1987

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MAINS BURST CAUSES TRAFFIC CHANGES

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OWING TO A WATER MAINS BURST AT THE JUNCTION OF CARPENTER ROAD AND TAK KU LING ROAD IN KOWLOON CITY, TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY REPAIR WORKS. THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, TAK KU LING ROAD AND THE SECTION OF CARPENTER ROAD BETWEEN SOUTH WALL ROAD AND KAI TAK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. HOWEVER, VEHICULAR ACCESS TO PREMISES ALONG TAK KU LING ROAD WILL STILL BE MAINTAINED.

THE SECTION OF NGA TSIN WAI ROAD BETWEEN TAK KU LING ROAD AND KAI TAK ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TO TWO-WAY, WHILE KAI TAK ROAD, CURRENTLY ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND, WILL BECOME ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

AT THE SAME TIME, VEHICLES ON CARPENTER ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR LOK SIN ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SOUTH WALL ROAD AND NGA TSIN WAI ROAD.

TRAFFIC ON NGA TSIN WAI ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR LOK SIN ROAD, INCLUDING GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 33, WILL HAVE TO USE KAI TAK ROAD.

IN ADDITION, KMB ROUTE NOS. 2D AND 10 ON NGA TSIN WAI ROAD EASTBOUND WILL HAVE TO OPERATE VIA JUNCTION ROAD, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST AND CHOI HUNG ROAD.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH

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TO FACILITATE THE HOLDING OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY FOR THE 1987 CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT "WE CARE ACTIVITIES", EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND HMS TAMAR WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC, EXCEPT EMERGENCY VEHICLES, FROM NOON TO 3.30 PM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 6).

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