



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988

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AGE LIMIT TO STAY IN MEANTIME

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE AGREED THAT THE MINIMUM AGE LIMIT FOR COMPANY DIRECTORS SHOULD NOT BE LOWERED FROM 21 TO 18 AT PRESENT.

HE SAID THE CHANGE SHOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL OTHER RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION ON THE AGE OF YOUNG PERSONS HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

SPEAKING ON THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1988 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR JACOBS SAID HE SUPPORTED THE COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENT TO THIS EFFECT AS MOVED BY THE HON RONALD ARCULLI.

HE ALSO THANKED MR ARCULLI AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP FOR THE CONSIDERATION THEY HAD GIVEN TO THE BILL.

EARLIER, SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR JACOBS SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH THE HON PETER WONG THAT THERE MIGHT BE EXCEPTIONAL CASES WHERE THE FEES PAYABLE UPON LATE FILING OF ANNUAL RETURNS SHOULD BE REDUCED OR WAIVED.

"SUCH CASES, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE FEW IN NUMBER BECAUSE THE NEW STRUCTURE SHOULD HELP TO ENCOURAGE THE PROMPT FILING OF ANNUAL RETURNS," HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, IN APPROPRIATE CASES, CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO REDUCING OR WAIVING THE FEES UNDER SECTION 96 OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE, HE ADDED.

THE BILL IN ITS AMENDED FORM WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

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MINIMUM AGE FOR DIRECTORS SHOULD REMAIN AT 21

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THE HON RONALD ARCULLI MOVED A COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENT TO THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL 1988 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS AMENDMENT SERVED TO DELETE CLAUSE 5 OF THE BILL THAT SOUGHT TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM AGE FOR COMPANY DIRECTORS FROM 21 TO 18.

MR ARCULLI SAID A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP, OF WHICH HE WAS CONVENER, WAS FORMED TO SPECIFICALLY LOOK AT MATTERS RELATING TO CLAUSE 5, THOUGH THE BILL CONTAINED A NUMBER OF MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

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HE SAID THE AD HOC GROUP DID NOT CHALLENGE THE SPIRIT OF THE BILL'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO LOWER THE MINIMUM AGE OF COMPANY DIRECTORS.

THIS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION FOR REDUCING THE AGE OF MAJORITY FROM 21 TO 18.

THE GROUP WAS, HOWEVER, CONCERNED THAT BEFORE THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD GIVE EFFECT TO THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS WAS IMPLEMENTED, THE DISPARITY IN THE MINIMUM AGE FOR COMPANY DIRECTORS AND THE AGE OF MAJORITY MIGHT PROVIDE A VENUE FOR CIRCUMVENTING THE LAW, HE SAID.

"MINORS WHO AT PRESENT HAVE NO CONTRACTUAL CAPACITY MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS VIA A COMPANY IN THEIR CAPACITY AS COMPANY DIRECTORS," HE POINTED OUT.

MR ARCULLI SAID THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOWER THE MINIMUM AGE OF COMPANY DIRECTORS SHOULD BETTER BE DEALT WITH AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION DEALING WITH THE REDUCTION OF THE AGE OF MAJORITY FROM 21 TO 18.

THIS WOULD HELP AVOID THE POSSIBLE SITUATION IN WHICH THE VALIDITY OF CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO BY MINOR DIRECTORS ON BEHALF OF THEIR COMPANIES MIGHT BE CHALLENGED.

DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE HON PETER WONG, HAD COMMENTED ON CLAUSE 13.

THIS SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE A NEW SCALE OF FEES ON THE FILING OF ANNUAL RETURNS.

WHILE ACCEPTING THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME DISINCENTIVE FOR THOSE WHO WERE LATE IN FILING AND THAT THEY WOULD PAY A HIGHER FEE, MR WONG SAID THERE MIGHT BE OCCASIONS, SUCH AS DURING OVERSEAS POSTAL STRIKES, WHEN LATE FILING WAS UNAVOIDABLE.

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THERE SHOULD BE A DISCRETION TO WAIVE THE HIGHER FEE, AS ENVISAGED BY THE GENERAL PROVISION IN SECTION 96(B) OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

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MAXIMUM THREE-YEAR DETENTION PERIOD PROPOSED

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A MAXIMUM THREE-YEAR DETENTION PERIOD FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS IS SUFFICIENTLY LONG FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAINING, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"PROLONGED DETENTION HAS BEEN FOUND TO HAVE NO POSITIVE EFFECT ON OFFENDERS AND CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS," HE SAID.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE REFORMATORY SCHOOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, MR CHAU SAID THE MEASURE SOUGHT TO UPDATE THE REFORMATORY SCHOOLS ORDINANCE TO DEAL WITH CERTAIN PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN APPLICATION.

AT PRESENT, A YOUNG OFFENDER MIGHT BE DETAINED IN A REFORMATORY SCHOOL FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR AND NOT MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.

"DURING THIS PERIOD, AN OFFENDER UNDERGOES A TRAINING PROGRAMME WHICH IS INTENDED TO PRODUCE BENEFICIAL CHANGES IN THE OFFENDER AND IN HIS BEHAVIOUR," MR CHAU SAID.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT PROPOSED WAS TO CHANGE THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF SENTENCE FROM FIVE TO THREE YEARS, HE SAID.

THE OTHER MAIN CHANGE RELATED TO YOUNG OFFENDERS FOUND TO BE DRUG-ADDICTED.

"AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR THE COURT TO REFER DRUG-ADDICTED INMATES OF REFORMATORY SCHOOLS TO A DRUG-ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE," HE SAID.

"THE BILL PROPOSES A NEW PROVISION TO ENABLE THE COURT TO TAKE SUCH A STEP," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID ANOTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENT WAS TO REPLACE THE TERM "INCORRIGIBLE" BY THE MORE ACCURATE PHRASE "UNSUITABLE FOR FURTHER TRAINING IN A REFORMATORY SCHOOL".

A FURTHER CHANGE WAS TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "YOUTHFUL OFFENDER" TO ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO CERTIFY YOUNG OFFENDERS OF 16 AND 17 AS UNSUITABLE FOR FURTHER TRAINING.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL PROVIDES FOR INCREASE IN PLB SEATING
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WHEN CONSIDERING THE REQUEST FOR INCREASING THE SEATING CAPACITY OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES (PLB'S), THE GOVERNMENT GAVE REGARD TO MAKING BETTER USE OF THE PASSENGER CARRYING POTENTIAL OF THESE VEHICLES BUT WITHOUT AFFECTING THE LEVEL OF COMFORT PROVIDED.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1988.

THE BILL PROPOSED THAT THE MAXIMUM SEATING CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES BE INCREASED FROM 14 TO 16, MR LEUNG SAID.

ALTHOUGH PLB'S NO LONGER SERVED AS A MAJOR CARRIER WITH THE ADVENT OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, THE MODERNISED KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND THE EXPANSION OF FRANCHISED BUS NETWORKS, THEY STILL MAINTAINED A USEFUL COMPLEMENTARY SERVICE, CARRYING SOME 1.6 MILLION PASSENGERS A DAY.

UNDER THE EXISTING REGULATIONS, THE MAXIMUM GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF A PLB WAS FOUR TONNES. WITHIN THIS WEIGHT LIMIT, ALL NEW MODELS NOW IN USE COULD CARRY MORE THAN 14 PASSENGERS.

"BUT IF THE COMFORT STANDARDS ARE TO BE MAINTAINED, ONLY TWO ADDITIONAL SEATS COULD BE ALLOWED. THUS, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THEIR MAXIMUM SEATING CAPACITY SHOULD ONLY BE INCREASED TO 16," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG STRESSED THAT THE INCREASE UP TO 16 SEATS WOULD BE FINAL AS ANY FURTHER RELAXATION COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED ON TRANSPORT GROUNDS.

NO FURTHER RELAXATION IN THE DIMENSIONS, WEIGHT OR SEATING CAPACITY WOULD THUS BE ALLOWED.

THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD SUPPORTED THESE PROPOSALS.

MR LEUNG ALSO SAID THE MINIMUM SEATING CAPACITY OF A BUS WAS TO BE AMENDED SO THAT THE VEHICLE HAD TO CARRY MORE THAN 16 PASSENGERS.

THIS WOULD PROVIDE A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN A LIGHT BUS AND A BUS.

THE 30 VEHICLES NOW REGISTERED AS PRIVATE OR PUBLIC BUSES WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF 15 OR 16 WOULD KEEP THEIR EXISTING CLASSIFICATION. THEY WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

THE BILL ALSO MADE MINOR CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THREE RELATED ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BOILERS ORDINANCE BEING UPDATED

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THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS ORDINANCE NEEDS UPDATING IN SEVERAL PLACES TO BRING IT IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS AND PRACTICE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT FOR HISTORICAL REASONS THERE WERE TWO SEPARATE AUTHORITIES ADMINISTERING THE ORDINANCE -- THE REGISTRAR AND THE PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR.

THIS ARTIFICIAL SEPARATION OF AUTHORITIES CAUSED ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES.

"CLAUSE 6 OF THE BILL THEREFORE PROVIDES FOR A SINGLE AUTHORITY, THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS AUTHORITY, TO REPLACE THEM," HE SAID.

"OUR INTENTION IS TO APPOINT THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AS THE NEW AUTHORITY."

MR BRIDGE SAID THE PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR NOW APPOINTED EXAMINERS TO INSPECT BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS. HE COULD ALSO REVOKE AND SUSPEND SUCH APPOINTMENTS.

THERE WAS NO PROVISION FOR APPEAL AGAINST HIS DECISION TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND.

"CLAUSE 6 PROVIDES FOR APPEAL TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY THE AUTHORITY'S DECISION WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE EFFECT PENDING AN APPEAL."

MR BRIDGE SAID EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE EXISTING DEFINITION OF "PRESSURE RECEIVER" WAS INVARIABLY REFERRED TO AS A "PRESSURE VESSEL" IN ENGINEERING PRACTICE; AND EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE EXISTING DEFINITION OF "PRESSURE VESSEL" SHOULD BE REFERRED TO AS A "PRESSURISED FUEL CONTAINER".

CLAUSE 3(H) OF THE BILL SOUGHT TO REVISE THESE DEFINITIONS ACCORDINGLY.

AS A RESULT, THE TITLE OF THE ORDINANCE ALSO NEEDED TO BE CHANGED TO BOILED AND PRESSURE VESSELS ORDINANCE.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE ORDINANCE NOW REFERRED TO BOTH IMPERIAL UNITS AND THEIR EQUIVALENT IN METRIC UNITS.

/"SINCE IT

"SINCE IT IS NOW THE PRACTICE TO REFER ONLY TO METRIC UNITS, CLAUSES 13(1) AND 19 DELETE ALL REFERENCES TO IMPERIAL UNITS," HE SAID.

"AS BOILERS AND OTHER PRESSURE EQUIPMENT ARE NOW MANUFACTURED ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, CLAUSE 30 REPLACES ALL REFERENCES TO 'THE CURRENT BRITISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION' BY 'A RECOGNISED ENGINEERING STANDARD OR CODE'.

"SINCE THERMAL OIL HEATERS ARE BEING INTRODUCED IN INDUSTRY, CLAUSE 3(G) PROVIDES THAT THEY BE PLACED UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ORDINANCE."

MR BRIDGE SAID THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDINANCE.

CLAUSE 10 STIPULATED A SINGLE SET OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EQUIPMENT WHETHER MADE LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS. CLAUSE 11 ENABLED THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE CODES OF PRACTICE FOR THE SPECIFICATION, OPERATION AND APPROVAL OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT.

CLAUSE 13(2) PROVIDED THE AUTHORITY WITH THE FLEXIBILITY TO EXTEND OR REDUCE THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR A BOILER OR PRESSURE VESSEL ON THE BASIS OF OPERATIONAL AND SAFETY NEEDS.

CLAUSES 16, 17, 18 AND 21 PROVIDED THAT THE AUTHORITY MIGHT, IF NECESSARY, APPROVE A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT AT A REDUCED MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE WORKING PRESSURE.

ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, MR BRIDGE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION WHICH SOUGHT TO MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE FILM CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS 1988.

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY THE HON SZETO WAH UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

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SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL TO MR SZETO FOR MOVING THE MOTION WHICH ADDRESSED THE PARTICULAR CONCERNS OF THE FILM INDUSTRY WHILE IMPROVING THE CHINESE TRANSLATION OF THE REGULATIONS.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF COST RECOVERY, OR WHETHER FILM CENSORSHIP PROCEDURE ITSELF SHOULD ATTRACT A FEE, MR TSAO SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION WITH THE OMELCO AD HOC GROUP.

"BUT I CAN ASSURE THE COUNCIL THAT THESE FEES ARE CHARGED ACCORDING TO A FORMULA THAT IS COMMONLY USED IN GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE GUIDE TO CENSORS WHICH WAS ISSUED BY HIMSELF, MR TSAO SAID HE WOULD BE EQUALLY HAPPY TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH THE OMELCO GROUP TO SEE IF ANY IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT Tabled

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S 1987-88 ANNUAL REPORT, WHICH REVIEWS THE WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, WAS Tabled IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

CONTAINING A LOCATION MAP OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND MORE THAN 100 PHOTOGRAPHS AND CHARTS IN FULL COLOUR, THE 180-PAGE, BILINGUAL REPORT CARRIES A REVIEW BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, MR JOHN TODD, AND SIX CHAPTERS ON THE WORK OF THE AUTHORITY'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND ITS EXECUTIVE ARM, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

IT ALSO CONTAINS 60 PAGES OF APPENDICES GIVING STATISTICS ON THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME AND ON THE AUTHORITY'S INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

THE REPORT IS NOW ON FOR SALE AT \$20 FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

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JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT TABLED

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THE 1987-88 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REPORT COVERS THE FIRST YEAR OF THE CENTRE'S OPERATION SINCE ITS DIVESTMENT FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB ON APRIL 1 LAST YEAR.

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE HAD CONTINUED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNING BODIES OF SPORT AND HAD MADE A MAJOR INPUT INTO TRAINING TOWARDS THE 1988 OLYMPIC GAMES.

HE NOTED THAT THE FIRST YEAR OF THE SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME INITIATED BY THE CENTRE HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL. THERE WAS NOW MORE PROFESSIONAL INPUT TO SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERED TO ATHLETES.

DURING THE YEAR, SEVERAL PROJECTS WERE UNDERTAKEN TO ENHANCE THE FACILITIES OF THE CENTRE, AND REMEDIAL WORK JOINTLY FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WAS CARRIED OUT, HE ADDED.

MR LIAO POINTED OUT THAT THE CENTRE FELT IT HAD THE CAPACITY TO PLAY A MUCH BROADER ROLE IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS THROUGH CO-OPERATION AND COMMITMENT FROM ALL ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION.

"THE CENTRE VIEWS ITS ROLE AS BEING AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SPORTS SYSTEM, AND WILL SUPPORT FULLY ANY INITIATIVE WHICH FURTHER DEVELOPS TALENTED ATHLETES," HE ADDED.

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COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL PASSED

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THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1988 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THESE WERE THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1988 AND THE REFORMATORY SCHOOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

DEBATES ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL PASSED A MOTION THAT CERTAIN AMENDMENTS BE MADE TO THE FILM CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS 1988.

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY THE HON SZETO WAH UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

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STEPS BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE CENTRE'S OPERATIONS

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THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES HAS REVIEWED THE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, STANDING ORDERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE HEI LING CHAU VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE CENTRE AND HAS MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT AND PROCEDURES THERE.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU CONCERNING THE REPORT MADE BY TWO JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ON THE TREATMENT OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ON HEI LING CHAU.

"THE STANDING ORDERS AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES ARE BEING REVISED ACCORDINGLY AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION," MR BARNES SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT HAD NEVER BEEN THE PRACTICE TO PUBLISH DETAILS OF OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND STANDING ORDERS, WHICH WERE RESTRICTED DOCUMENTS.

"I AM PREPARED TO ARRANGE A VERBAL BRIEFING ON THESE MATTERS FOR THE OMELCO SECURITY PANEL IF MEMBERS WOULD FIND THIS USEFUL," HE SAID.

MR BARNES OUTLINED A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN INTRODUCED ON HEI LING CHAU:

- AN IMPROVED FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND DIETARY SCALE;
- THE PROVISION ON REQUEST OF A PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE FOR DOCUMENTS AND FURTHER PUBLICITY ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF A SAFE CARE SERVICE AT THE CENTRE;
- APPROPRIATE COUNSELLING FOR THOSE WHO HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM A CENTRE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME;
- IMPROVEMENTS TO STAFFING LEVELS;
- THE USE OF PLAIN CLOTHES FOR REGULAR STAFF AT THE CENTRE INSTEAD OF CUSTODIAL STAFF UNIFORM;
- DISPOSING WITH THE CARRIAGE OF TRUNCHEONS AS NORMAL EQUIPMENT;

/- ATTENDANCE BY

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- ATTENDANCE BY CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF AT SPECIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSES AND SHORT COURSES IN BASIC VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE;
- THE PREPARATION OF AN INFORMATION BOOKLET ON ARRANGEMENTS AND LIFE IN DETENTION CENTRES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO VIETNAMESE;
- ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO EMPLOY AN AGENCY TO RUN A WORKS PROGRAMME FOR VIETNAMESE IN THE CENTRE;
- OVERALL REDUCTION IN CENTRE POPULATION.

ON DISCIPLINARY ACTION, MR BARNES SAID THIS QUESTION, TOGETHER WITH THE FINDINGS OF THE JPs' REPORT, WAS BEING EXAMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, AS DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

"AS ENQUIRIES ARE STILL CONTINUING IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ANY FURTHER AT THIS STAGE," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF THE JPs' REPORT, MR BARNES SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE INVESTIGATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, THE QUESTION OF FOLLOW-UP ACTION WAS NOW UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION.

MEANWHILE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM OF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AT HEI LING CHAU AND LAI CHI KOK WERE NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED, HE SAID. THESE INCLUDED:

- A MORE EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF REFERRALS AND MEDICAL EXAMINATION;
- AN IMPROVED MEDICAL REPORT FORM WHICH WOULD ENSURE A MORE PRECISE RECORD OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND ANY INJURIES;
- INSTRUCTIONS TO MEDICAL STAFF ON THE PROPER COMPLETION OF THE MEDICAL RECORDS.

"IN THE BROADER CONTEXT I HAVE ASKED FOR A URTHUR REVIEW OF MEDICAL SERVICES WHICH WOULD COVER ALL VIETNAMESE CENTRES. THIS IS NOW UNDERWAY," MR BARNES ADDED.

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51 PHARMACISTS REGISTERED ANNUALLY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY SHORTAGE OF REGISTERED PHARMACISTS IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T. H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR CHAU SAID THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE COMPLETED DEGREE COURSES IN PHARMACY OVERSEAS AND RETURNED TO HONG KONG TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT.

"OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, AN AVERAGE OF 51 QUALIFIED PHARMACISTS HAVE REGISTERED EACH YEAR WITH THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD," HE SAID .

"THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED PHARMACISTS IS CURRENTLY 644."

THERE WERE NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE TRAINING IN PHARMACY AT TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

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LANGUAGE TRAINING BASED ON NEED

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THE GOVERNMENT'S LANGUAGE TRAINING POLICY IS BASED ON CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS, RATHER THAN THE CALENDAR, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR TSAO WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON NELLIE FONG.

MRS FONG HAD ASKED WHAT STEPS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE CIVIL SERVANTS' PROFICIENCY IN PUTONGHUA IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING CONTACTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND CHINESE OFFICIALS AS 1997 APPROACHED.

"MOST HONG KONG PEOPLE USE ENGLISH OR CANTONESE, OR BOTH," MR TSAO SAID.

"BEARING IN MIND THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND THAT CIVIL SERVANTS SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME TALKING TO EACH OTHER, OR TO THE PUBLIC THEY SERVE, PROFICIENCY IN THOSE TWO LANGUAGES WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE MOST IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE."

/MR TSAO

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MR TSAO NOTED THAT THERE WERE CIVIL SERVANTS SUCH AS OFFICERS AT CUSTOMS OR IMMIGRATION CHECKPOINTS AND STAFF MANNING PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS WHO HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH PUTONGHUA SPEAKERS.

"THEY NEED AND RECEIVE JOB-RELATED TRAINING IN PUTONGHUA," HE SAID.

"SIXTY-SIX SUCH COURSES HAVE BEEN RUN SO FAR FOR SELECTED GROUPS OF OFFICERS FROM 13 DEPARTMENTS AS PART OF A CONTINUING PROGRAMME."

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASING CONTACT OVER THE YEARS WITH MAINLAND OFFICIALS, WHICH HAD DEVELOPED NATURALLY FOR PRACTICAL REASONS - SUCH AS WATER SUPPLIES, POSTAL SERVICES, FOOD IMPORTS, FIGHT CRIME - WOULD DOUBTLESS CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN THE SAME WAY.

"THE NEEDS OF OFFICERS ARE MET THROUGH BASIC AND ADVANCED LEVEL PUTONGHUA COURSES WHICH AIM TO DEVELOP THE COMPETENCE AND CONFIDENCE OF OFFICERS TO A LEVEL WHERE THEY CAN CONDUCT OFFICIAL BUSINESS IN PUTONGHUA," HE SAID.

SINCE 1985, A TOTAL OF 28 BASIC COURSES HAD BEEN OFFERED.

IN ADDITION, SIX ADVANCED COURSES HAD ALSO BEEN HELD SINCE 1987.

"WHERE INTERPRETATION HAS TO BE THE SUBSTITUTE FOR PUTONGHUA PROFICIENCY, SUCH INTERPRETATION FACILITY IS AVAILABLE," MR TSAO ADDED.

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EXISTING LEGISLATION ADEQUATE

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EXISTING LEGISLATION IS ADEQUATE TO CONTROL THE PLACING OF OBJECTS ON THE PARAPETS OF BALCONIES OR BY THE SIDES OF WINDOWS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO TIGHTEN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION.

"I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT NEW LEGISLATION TO CONTROL THE PLACING OF OBJECTS ON PARAPETS OR WINDOW LEDGES WOULD ADD ANYTHING TO THE EXISTING PROVISIONS," HE SAID.

"INDEED, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO FORMULATE SUCH LEGISLATION OR TO ENFORCE IT IF IT WERE ENACTED."

MR BARNES SAID LEGISLATION WAS AT BEST ONLY A PARTIAL SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

GREAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO PREVENT OCCURRENCES OF THIS SORT BY MEANS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988

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NEW VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROLS PLANNED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS A PLAN TO INTRODUCE NEW CONTROLS ON VEHICLE EMISSIONS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER WONG, MR BARNES SAID SUCH CONTROLS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT TO USE LEAD-FREE PETROL.

"WE ARE CURRENTLY RECRUITING A MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROL EXPERT TO REVIEW OUR EXISTING VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROLS AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO INTRODUCE MORE STRINGENT CONTROL," HE SAID.

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TOUGHER DRIVING RULES ON EXPRESSWAY PLANNED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DRAFTING LEGISLATION TO PRESCRIBE TOUGHER DRIVING RULES FOR EXPRESSWAYS TO ENSURE THEY ARE USED SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAU WONG-FAT, MR LEUNG SAID THE NEW LEGISLATION WOULD REQUIRE ALL VEHICLES TO KEEP LEFT EXCEPT WHEN OVERTAKING AND TO OVERTAKE ONLY TO THE RIGHT OF ANOTHER VEHICLE.

SLOW MOVING VEHICLES, SUCH AS MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE OUTSIDE LANE OF A CARRIAGEWAY THAT HAD THREE OR MORE LANES, EXCEPT AT JUNCTIONS.

REGARDING EXISTING MEASURES TO PREVENT HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES USING THE FAST LANES ON TRUNK ROADS, MR LEUNG SAID THAT "KEEP LEFT UNLESS OVERTAKING" SIGNS WERE ERECTED ALONG THE MAJOR TRUNK ROADS SUCH AS TUEN MUN AND TOLO HIGHWAYS.

THIS SIGN REQUIRED VEHICLES TO KEEP TO THE NEARSIDE LANE EXCEPT WHEN OVERTAKING.

IT APPLIED TO ALL VEHICLES, AND WAS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO SLOWER MOVING ONES.

THE SIGN WAS REGULATORY AND FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH IT WAS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) REGULATIONS.

/MR LEUNG

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MR LEUNG SAID THE ROAD USERS' CODE, WHICH PROVIDED COMPREHENSIVE GUIDANCE TO ROAD USERS, ALSO ADVISED DRIVERS TO KEEP TO THE LEFT EXCEPT WHEN OVERTAKING.

SPECIFIC ADVICE WAS GIVEN TO DRIVERS OF MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, BUSES, COACHES AND VEHICLES WITH A TRAILER NOT TO DRIVE IN THE RIGHT-HAND LANE OF A THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY UNLESS EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILED.

SUCH ADVICE WAS PUBLICISED REGULARLY THROUGH RADIO AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS, HE ADDED.

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MINIMAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS IN WATER CONTROL ZONE

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THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE IN TOLO HARBOUR HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE MINIMAL.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES TIEN.

MR BARNES SAID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORDINANCE WAS INITIALLY CONFINED TO TOLO HARBOUR, DECLARING IT A CONTROL ZONE, TO ASSESS ITS ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS BEFORE EXTENDING IT TO COVER OTHER AREAS.

AS A RESULT OF THE ASSESSMENT, THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY DECLARED THE SOUTHERN WATER CONTROL ZONE, WHICH COVERED SOUTH LANTAU AND SOUTH HONG KONG, AND WOULD IMPLEMENT THE ORDINANCE THERE NEXT APRIL, MR BARNES SAID.

"IN EARLY 1989, WE INTEND TO DECLARE WATER CONTROL ZONES IN JUNK BAY AND PORT SHELTER. AND THEREAFTER, WE WILL STEADILY DECLARE ALL REMAINING ZONES OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS," HE ADDED.

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION PLANNED TO TIGHTEN UP CONTROLS IN THE EXISTING LAW.

"ITS PROPOSALS WILL INCLUDE A REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF EXEMPTION FOR EXISTING INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS WHEREBY DISCHARGES ARE AT PRESENT PERMITTED TO INCREASE IN QUANTITY OR CONCENTRATION OF POLLUTANTS BY UP TO 30 PER CENT BEFORE THE EXEMPTION BECOMES INVALID AND A LICENCE MUST BE SOUGHT," HE SAID.

THE PROPOSALS WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE IMPOSITION OF A REQUIREMENT TO CONNECT SEWERAGE OUTFALLS TO PUBLIC SEWERS WHERE THEY EXISTED.

"I AM AIMING TO FINALISE PROPOSALS FOR AN AMENDING BILL BY MID-1989," HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988

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89 TENANTS SURRENDER FLATS

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A TOTAL OF 89 TENANTS WHO HAD BEEN PAYING DOUBLE NET RENT AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW POLICY ON HOUSING SUBSIDY ON APRIL 1 LAST YEAR HAD SURRENDERED THEIR PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING UNITS.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON DANIEL TSE.

THE 89 TENANTS WERE AMONG THE FIRST BATCH OF TENANTS, ABOUT 8,700 IN NUMBER, WHOSE HOUSEHOLD INCOME EXCEEDED THE SUBSIDY INCOME LIMIT.

THEY WERE THEREFORE REQUIRED TO PAY DOUBLE NET RENT UNDER THE POLICY WHICH WAS AIMED AT REDUCING THE LEVEL OF SUBSIDY TO THOSE PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WHO WERE NO LONGER IN NEED.

MR LIAO SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE TENANTS' DECISION TO GIVE UP THEIR FLATS WAS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY BECAUSE TENANTS WERE NOT ASKED TO GIVE REASONS FOR VACATING THEIR FLATS.

"HOWEVER, THERE ARE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT TENANTS PAYING DOUBLE RENT ARE TAKING A GREATER INTEREST IN OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTED HOUSING," HE POINTED OUT.

MR LIAO SAID THAT 1,750 SUCH TENANTS HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS TO BUY FLATS IN THE MOST RECENT PHASE OF HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS SALE.

THIS REPRESENTED ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TENANTS AFFECTED BY THE NEW POLICY.

IN ADDITION, 195 OF THE AFFECTED TENANTS HAD APPLIED FOR A LOAN UNDER THE NEW HOME PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

"IF THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL, MORE RENTAL FLATS WILL BE RECOVERED IN DUE COURSE FOR ALLOCATION TO THOSE IN GREATER NEED," HE NOTED.

MR LIAO SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DOUBLE RENT POLICY AS IT HAD ONLY BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

"BUT JUDGING FROM THE ENCOURAGING SIGNS DESCRIBED EARLIER, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT SOME POSITIVE RESULTS CAN BE ACHIEVED," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WOULD REVIEW THE POLICY FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO MAKE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES AT THIS STAGE.

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ASSURANCE ON AIRPORT PASSENGER PROCESSING TIME

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET THE CURRENT STANDARD OF CLEARING ALL ARRIVING PASSENGERS AT KAI TAK AIRPORT WITHIN 30 MINUTES.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, STATED THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW.

MR BARROW HAD ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO STATE THE REASONS FOR CUTTING BY HALF THE APPROVED INCREASE IN THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S STAFF ESTABLISHMENT TO COPE WITH ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD ARISING FROM THE OPENING OF THE STAGE V EXTENSION AT KAI TAK.

"THE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED ON OCTOBER 20, 1988 THAT ON COMPLETION OF THE STAGE V EXTENSION OF THE AIRPORT, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IMMIGRATION AIRPORT DIVISION WOULD BE INCREASED BY 59 POSTS," MR BARNES SAID.

"THIS FIGURE WAS BASED ON THAT IN THE ESTIMATES.

"SINCE THEN THE GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE OPERATING PROCEDURES OF IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE AT THE AIRPORT.

"AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT, WITH CERTAIN PROCEDURAL CHANGES, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT CAN MANAGE INITIALLY WITH 38 ADDITIONAL POSTS."

MR BARNES SAID A FURTHER 38 POSTS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR 1989-90, SUBJECT TO THE USUAL DETAILED CONSIDERATION, WITH A VIEW TO THEIR CREATION FROM NEXT APRIL.

THE DEPARTMENT WOULD MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT A HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE WAS MAINTAINED, HE ADDED.

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11TH JLG MEETING IN HK NEXT WEEK

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THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE ANNOUNCED THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING THAT THE 11TH MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON HONG KONG WILL TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG FROM DECEMBER 6 TO 9.

THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE LED BY THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, MR ROBIN MCLAREN (ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE (ASIA), FCO).

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE MR DONALD LIAO (SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, HONG KONG), MR DICK CLIFT (POLITICAL ADVISER, HONG KONG), MR CHRISTOPHER HUM (HEAD OF HONG KONG DEPARTMENT, FCO) AND MR DOUG MARTIN (COUNSELLOR, OFFICE OF THE BRITISH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, HONG KONG).

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PROPOSAL TO REPEAL CLAUSE IN PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE

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THE PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, WHICH SEEKS TO REPEAL SECTION 27 OF THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 2) AND INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 14, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT VARIOUS CONTROL PROVISIONS UNDER THE CONTROL OF PUBLICATIONS CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE, INCLUDING THE POWER TO SUPPRESS NEWSPAPERS, SEIZE PRINTING PRESSES ETC, WERE REPEALED IN 1987 FOLLOWING A GOVERNMENT REVIEW.

"THE ONLY REMAINING CONTROL PROVISION, WHICH BANNED THE PUBLICATION OF FALSE NEWS LIKELY TO CAUSE PUBLIC ALARM, WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE CONTROL OF PUBLICATIONS CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE TO THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE.

"THE INTENTION WAS THAT THIS REMAINING PROVISION WOULD ONLY BE USED AS A LAST RESORT IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

"TO UNDERLINE THIS POINT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL LATER PUBLISHED GUIDELINES THAT HE HAD ISSUED TO ALL PROSECUTING COUNSEL IN HIS CHAMBERS SETTING OUT HOW TO HANDLE POTENTIAL SECTION 27 CASES," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CAREFULLY MONITORING THE EFFECTS OF THE NEW LEGISLATION. NO ONE HAD BEEN PROSECUTED UNDER SECTION 27.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD JUST COMPLETED A REVIEW OF THE SECTION AND FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THE OPERATION OF THE LOCAL MEDIA HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY IT IN ANY WAY.

"THE MEDIA HAS CONTINUED TO REPORT FREELY, HAS REMAINED FORTHRIGHT, AND HONG KONG HAS CONTINUED TO ENJOY ONE OF THE FREEST PRESSES IN THE WORLD. THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED IN 1986 IN SUPPORT OF THE PROMULGATION OF SECTION 27 REMAIN VALID.

"HOWEVER DESPITE THIS BACKGROUND, A DIFFERENT PUBLIC PERCEPTION HAS ARISEN IN THAT THE LAW WAS SEEN AS A MEANS TO RESTRICT THE PRESS. THIS WAS NEVER THE INTENTION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE TOOK THE VIEW THAT RETENTION OF SECTION 27 WOULD BE LIKELY TO CAUSE CONCERN TO THE PUBLIC OUT OF PROPORTION TO THE VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY OF KEEPING THE PROVISION.

OVERSEAS, THERE HAD ALSO BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE POSITION.

"IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THESE FACTORS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE TIME WAS RIGHT TO SEEK THE REPEAL OF SECTION 27 OF THE ORDINANCE AS A LOGICAL FINAL STEP OF THE PROCESS OF LIBERALISING CONTROL OVER PUBLICATIONS, STARTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TWO YEARS AGO," HE SAID.

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JOINT ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION MOUNTED
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A TERRITORY-WIDE ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, AND THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 90 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

OF THE ARRESTED PERSONS, 15 WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT AT THE BORDER. THEY HAVE BEEN SENT TO SAN UK LING FOR REPATRIATION.

THE REMAINING 75 HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

/ "OUR LATEST

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"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING HIMSELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM YESTERDAY AND ENDED THIS MORNING, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 24,478 PERSONS, 1,716 VEHICLES WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

TWENTY-TWO PERSONS WERE SUMMONED AND TWO PERSONS CHARGED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PROPER PROOF OF IDENTITY AND A FURTHER 17 WERE WARNED IN RESPECT OF THIS OFFENCE, WHICH CARRIES A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$1,000.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,661 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF FIVE PERSONS IN FIVE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND WITHOUT PROPER PROOF OF IDENTITY AND HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

ANOTHER TEN ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND TO BE POSSESSING NO RECORD OF EMPLOYEES AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$50,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO A YEAR IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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SHIPPING POLICY SHOULD MEET CHANGES: SES
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GOVERNMENT'S SHIPPING POLICY MUST EVOLVE IN THE LIGHT OF BOTH CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND ADVICE FROM THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE BALTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COUNCIL ON HONG KONG'S SHIPPING POLICY AND HOW IT AFFECTED MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMMUNITIES.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE CURRENT PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STUDY WOULD PROVIDE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LOCATION, NATURE AND EXTENT OF FUTURE PORT FACILITIES SO THAT HONG KONG'S PORT CAPACITY COULD STAY AHEAD OF TRADE DEMANDS.

"GIVEN HONG KONG'S GDP GROWTH RATES FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS OF 11.2 PER CENT AND 13.6 PER CENT AND EVEN ASSUMING MORE MODERATE GROWTH RATES IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THIS IS A 'CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCE' OF VERY CONSIDERABLE PROPORTIONS, AND ONE THAT WE WOULD IGNORE ONLY AT OUR PERIL," SHE SAID.

THE OTHER FACTOR WHICH CAUSED THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW ITS POLICIES WAS ADVICE FROM THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY, MRS CHAN SAID, NOTING THAT A NETWORK OF PORT ADVISORY COMMITTEES WAS PROVIDING SUCH ADVICE.

THESE COMMITTEES COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL ASPECTS OF THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG LINER SHIPPING ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE HONG KONG SHIPPERS COUNCIL.

THE THREE CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATORS, THE HONG KONG CONTAINER TRACTORS ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG CONTAINER DEPOT AND REPAIRER ASSOCIATION AND THE CONTAINER LEASING COMPANIES WERE ALSO REPRESENTED, MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DEVELOPED A FIVE-POINT SHIPPING STRATEGY AIMED AT CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH HONG KONG TRADE COULD BEST PROSPER.

AMONG THESE COMPONENTS WERE THE CO-ORDINATION OF SHIPPING MOVEMENTS WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS, THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR THE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF SEABORNE FREIGHT AND THE PROVISION OF SHIPPING SUPPORT SERVICES.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT SERVICE FOR THE REGISTRY OF SHIPS IN HONG KONG, MODIFIED AS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE TRANSITION IN 1997 WITH A MINIMUM OF CHANGE.

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STIPULATE AND ENFORCE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED STANDARDS OF CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT, MANNING AND OPERATION OF VESSELS LICENSED IN HONG KONG FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS OR REGISTERED IN HONG KONG FOR WORLD-WIDE OPERATIONS, SHE ADDED.

FULL EFFORTS DEVOTED TO ELDERLY SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS ENERGETICALLY DEVELOPING VARIOUS SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE DEFICIENCIES IN SERVICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE GRADUALLY ELIMINATED WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A FUNCTION - CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE ELDERLY - HELD AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL.

THE FUNCTION, COMPRISING A VARIETY SHOW AND A DINNER RECEPTION, WAS ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO SHARE JOY WITH OVER 1,400 SENIOR CITIZENS IN CELEBRATING THE DEPARTMENT'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY.

IT WAS SPONSORED BY THE HEART-TO-HEART FUND AND THE KWAN FONG CHARITABLE FUND.

MRS WONG NOTED THAT IN 1958 WHEN THE DEPARTMENT WAS FIRST SET UP, ELDERLY PEOPLE OVER 60 ONLY ACCOUNTED FOR SOME FOUR PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WHILE SERVICES FOR THEM WERE MAINLY CONFINED TO EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RESIDENTIAL CARE.

SINCE THEN, SHE SAID, THE ELDERLY POPULATION HAD BEEN INCREASING AND A WORKING GROUP WAS FORMED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1972 TO STUDY THE SITUATION.

"THEN IN 1977, A GREEN PAPER ON WELFARE FOR THE ELDERLY WAS PUBLISHED, SETTING OUT A PACKAGE OF LONG-TERM POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ELDERLY SERVICE.

"NOW THE ELDERLY ACCOUNT FOR 12.2 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION AND THERE HAVE BEEN EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT, BOTH IN TERMS OF QUANTITY AND QUALITY, IN ELDERLY SERVICE," SHE ADDED.

"FOR FINANCIAL HELP, THERE ARE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AND HIGHER DISABILITY ALLOWANCE.

"IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO CO-OPERATES WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN PROVIDING A SERIES OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, INCLUDING SOCIAL CENTRES; HOME HELP; DAY CARE CENTRES; HOSTELS; SHELTERED HOUSING; HOMES FOR THE AGED AND CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG THANKED THE HEART-TO-HEART FUND, THE KWAN FONG CHARITABLE FUND AND THE PARTICIPATING ARTISTES FOR THEIR HELP IN PROMOTING THE SPIRIT OF CARE AND CONCERN FOR THE ELDERLY.

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NO CHANGE TO SIZE CRITERIA FOR BANKING LICENCES

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THE SIZE CRITERIA FOR BANKING LICENCE APPLICATIONS FOR FOREIGN BANKS AND LOCALLY INCORPORATED COMPANIES ARE TO REMAIN UNCHANGED.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT APPLICATIONS FOR BANKING LICENCES WERE JUDGED AGAINST CERTAIN SPECIFIED CRITERIA, ONE OF WHICH WAS SIZE AS MEASURED BY TOTAL ASSETS (LESS CONTRA ITEMS) FOR FOREIGN APPLICANTS, AND TOTAL ASSETS (LESS CONTRA ITEMS) AND DEPOSITS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR LOCAL APPLICANTS.

THE SIZE CRITERIA FOR BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL APPLICANTS ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL REVIEW, HE POINTED OUT.

"THE 1988 REVIEW HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE SIZE CRITERIA.

"THE ASSET THRESHOLD REMAINS AT US\$14 BILLION FOR FOREIGN APPLICANTS. AS REGARDS LOCAL APPLICANTS, THE SIZE CRITERIA REMAINS AT HK\$2,500 MILLION FOR TOTAL ASSETS AND AT HK\$1,750 MILLION FOR DEPOSITS FROM THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

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SEPARATE PAY SCALE A WELCOME STEP: CP

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THE POLICE FORCE REGARD THE SEPARATE PAY SCALE RECOMMENDED BY THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AS A VERY SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR RAYMON ANNING SAID YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

"WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE AGREED BY THE GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN FROM THE INTERPOL CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK.

ASKED IF HE THOUGHT POLICE MORALE HAD SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE, HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK MORALE WAS LOW.

"I THINK IF YOU LOOK AT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FORCE, AND SEE THE WAY THE FORCE IS WORKING, IT IS TURNING IN SOME TREMENDOUS WORK, MAKING SOME TREMENDOUS ARRESTS AND VERY GOOD RESULTS. IN FACT, ALL THE NORMAL INDICATORS OF MORALE SHOW THE FORCE AS BEING EXTREMELY EFFICIENT AT THE MOMENT.

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"I AM AWARE, OF COURSE, THERE ARE DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE OVER THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW ON POLICE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH I WILL DISCUSS WITH THE FORCE MANAGEMENT NOW I'M BACK.

"I ALSO HAVE MEETINGS LINED UP WITH THE FORCE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATIONS AND I SHALL DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH THEM.

"WE NOW HAVE TO CONSIDER WHAT WAS SAID IN THE REPORT AND OUR RESPONSE TO IT. THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH I WILL DISCUSS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF FORCE MANAGEMENT.

"THERE ARE ALSO, OF COURSE, MATTERS OF TREMENDOUS INTEREST AND CONCERN TO ALL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE FORCE. SO I THINK IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ME TO TALK TO MEMBERS OF THE FORCE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATIONS ABOUT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT, AND THAT I SHALL BE DOING."

COMMENTING ON THE INTERPOL CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK, MR ANNING SAID: "IT WAS A VERY USEFUL AND POSITIVE MEETING, IN WHICH A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED.

"IT ALSO GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME NEW CONTACTS AND RENEW SOME OLD ACQUAINTANCES.

"IN GENERAL IT IS A VERY GOOD CONFERENCE FOR HONG KONG TO ATTEND."

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KWUN TONG DB MEMBERS VISIT TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
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KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON VISITED TWO OPERATIONAL SECTIONS OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AS PART OF AN ORIENTATION PROGRAMME TO ENABLE THEM TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE ORGANISATION AND DAILY OPERATIONS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

LED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, MR MA CHI-KEUNG, THE GROUP FIRST VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE IN CHEUNG YIP STREET, KOWLOON BAY.

THEY WERE BRIEFED BY THE ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR C.C. CHAN, ON THE STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS TRAFFIC PROJECTS BEING CARRIED OUT IN KWUN TONG.

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TOURING THE CENTRE THEY SAW THE OPERATION OF AUTOMATIC INSPECTION EQUIPMENT FOR THE EXAMINATIONS OF VEHICLES, WHICH INCLUDE GOODS VEHICLES, SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES AND TRAILERS.

THEY WERE TOLD THAT IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF VEHICLES BEING INSPECTED, ANOTHER EXAMINATION CENTRE WOULD SOON BE BUILT ALSO IN KOWLOON BAY.

AT THE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE DIVISION IN NATHAN ROAD, THEY WERE BRIEFED BY THE ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER, MR F.K. LAI, ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM IN THE TERRITORY, PARTICULARLY ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE KOWLOON REGION.

AT THE KOWLOON AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE, MEMBERS OBSERVED HOW CONTROL STAFF, USING CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION MONITORS AND COMPUTER TERMINALS, SELECTED A SET OF COMPUTERISED SIGNAL TIMINGS BEST SUITED TO THE ROAD SITUATION TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH FLOW OF TRAFFIC.

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PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN KWAI TSING

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A PROMOTION SCHEME ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH WILL BE LAUNCHED IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 2) TO AROUSE THE AWARENESS OF EMPLOYERS AND FACTORY WORKERS TOWARD SAFETY MEASURES AND PREVENTION OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

UNDER THE SCHEME, A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE S.K.H. LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE WITH A BUDGET OF \$130,000.

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SCHEME WILL BE HELD AT THE KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL, TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN EXHIBITION WHICH IS THE FIRST ACTIVITY OF THE SCHEME.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHEME, MR CHOI HING-SHUN; KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PAUL TANG KWOK-WAI; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LEE WING-TAT AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR S.Y. MAK WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF PROMOTION SCHEME ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT WHICH WILL START AT 3.30 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 2) AT KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL (NEAR KWAI FONG MTR STATION), LAI FONG STREET, KWAI CHUNG.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988

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PEDESTRIAN PROBLEMS AND PLANNING TO BE DISCUSSED

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THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO REVIEW THE 1987 ACTION PROGRAMME ON PEDESTRIAN PROBLEM SPOTS IN THE DISTRICT AND THE PLANNING FOR THE COMMITTEE WORK FOR THE YEAR 1988/89.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS PAPERS ON THE PROVISION OF A SIGNALISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT CAINE ROAD AND THE CONNAUGHT ROAD CONGESTION PROBLEM.

A SURVEY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 1) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, 14/F., HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, HONG KONG.

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DB FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS TO SUBSIDISE COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES WITH DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER 21 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING MONTHS, SUCH AS VARIETY SHOWS; CIVIC EDUCATION EXHIBITIONS; CARNIVALS; ANTI-SHOP THEFT AND KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGNS, AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE ELDERLY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING BEGINNING AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL IN SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988

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JOINT EFFORTS PRAISED IN DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT
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JOINT EFFORTS MADE BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD, REGIONAL COUNCIL, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL, AT DIFFERENT LEVELS, IN FOSTERING DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH DISTRICT, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HUI WAS SPEAKING AT A DINNER HOSTED BY THE FUNG YING SIN KOON LIMITED, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 1929, AND REGISTERED AS A NON-PROFIT MAKING CHARITABLE ORGANISATION IN 1972.

HE COMMENDED THE KOON FOR ITS EFFORTS IN SERVING RESIDENTS, SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

"THE KOON PROVIDES FREE MEDICAL SERVICES, BOTH CHINESE AND WESTERN, TO THE PUBLIC.

"ON SOCIAL SERVICES, IT OPERATES A STUDY ROOM IN CHOI YUEN ESTATE, SHEUNG SHUI, WHICH IS WELL RECEIVED BY STUDENTS," MR HUI SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE KOON HAD ALSO OPENED A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IN CHEUNG WAH ESTATE, FANLING, OFFERING A RANGE OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

"THE KOON IS ALSO LOOKING INTO OTHER POSSIBILITIES OF EXPANDING THEIR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH IS NOW BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED," HE ADDED.

MR HUI HOPED THAT THE KOON, TOGETHER WITH OTHER LOCAL GROUPS, WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT.

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SAI KUNG CLEAN VILLAGE COMPETITION
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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT CLEAN VILLAGE COMPETITION TO BE HELD FROM MID-FEBRUARY TO MID-MARCH, 1989.

THE COMPETITION IS DESIGNED TO MOTIVATE VILLAGERS TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE PART IN KEEPING THEIR VILLAGES CLEAN AND TO PROMOTE A CLEAN AND TIDY ENVIRONMENT IN RURAL AREAS.

/OTHER ITEMS

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OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A DISCUSSION ON WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY 1989 AND THE CLEARANCE OF ABANDONED MARKET STALLS AT SEE CHEUNG STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN. THE MEETING WILL START AT 10 AM.

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RETIRING SENIOR POLICE OFFICER HONOURED

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HUNDREDS OF FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ATTENDED A TRADITIONAL GUARD OF HONOUR CEREMONY TO SAY FAREWELL TO SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR ROBERT BROWN, WHO IS RETIRING AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

THE ASSEMBLY, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND, WAS LED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR RAYMON ANNING. IT WAS ATTENDED BY REGULAR AND AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS, CIVILIAN STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE GUARD WAS DRAWN FROM THE FOXTROT COMPANY OF THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT, UNDER THE COMMAND OF SUPERINTENDENT KEVAN COOPER.

MR BROWN WAS SECONDED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM POLICE FORCE TO JOIN THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE IN 1980 AS A SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

DURING HIS CAREER, HE HAS HELD THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES, AND HAS, ON EIGHT OCCASIONS, ACTED AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MANAGEMENT, BETWEEN 1985 AND 1988.

BEFORE JOINING THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, MR BROWN WAS THE DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE OF THE DORSET POLICE. HE WILL DEPART FROM HONG KONG LATER TODAY, PROCEEDING ON LEAVE PRIOR TO RETIREMENT.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988

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BOE MEMBERS VISIT CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (CIS) AT EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, TO SEE HOW EDUCATION IS PROVIDED IN A MULTI-CULTURAL SETTING.

THE PARTY INCLUDED THE CHAIRMAN, MRS RITA FAN AND MEMBERS, MR CHAN YING-LUN; MR DAVID C.K. CHEUNG; PROFESSOR BRIAN COOKE; MR ERIC LI; DR JOHN CHEN; MR TIMOTHY HA; MISS BOW SUI-MAY AND MR TAM MAN-KWAN.

THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SCHOOL), MR S.W. WONG, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER, MR P.K. CHIU.

THE VISITORS WERE BRIEFED BY THE HEADMASTER, DR PETER GIBBONS THAT CIS WAS A PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOL OPERATING CLASSES FROM PRE-PRIMARY UP TO SECONDARY 2 LEVELS. THE TOTAL ENROLMENT OF THE SCHOOL WAS ABOUT 430.

THE SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED IN 1983 BY A GROUP OF REPUTABLE PERSONALITIES WITH AN AIM TO PROVIDE AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THROUGH A BALANCED CURRICULUM FOR CHILDREN OR DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES WHO ARE NATIVE SPEAKERS OF CHINESE OR ENGLISH.

THE VISITING BOE MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE SCHOOL WAS SO POPULAR THAT IT HAD A LONG WAITING LIST OF SOME 350 CHILDREN SEEKING ADMISSION.

TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND, THE CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION WAS PLANNING TO TAKE OVER THE PREMISES OF KENNEDY ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL WHEN THEY WERE VACATED BY THE ENGLISH SCHOOL FOUNDATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES CLEARED IN TO KWA WAN
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TWENTY-SIX ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AT REAR LANES IN TO KWA WAN WERE CLEARED IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OPERATION TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, 25 WERE LOCATED IN SIX REAR LANES BOUNDED BY KOWLOON CITY ROAD, MA TAU KOK ROAD, TO KWA WAN ROAD AND SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD.

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THE OTHER ILLEGAL STRUCTURE WAS BOUNDED BY PAK TAI STREET, MOK CHEONG STREET, PAU CHUNG STREET AND MA TAU KOK ROAD.

SIX OF THE STRUCTURES WERE USED AS DOMESTIC UNITS, 18 FOR COMMERCIAL AND STORAGE PURPOSES AND THE REMAINING TWO WERE ABANDONED.

THE CLEARANCE WAS PART OF A CONTINUING PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT.

TODAY'S OPERATION WAS CO-ORDINATED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND JOINTLY CARRIED OUT BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS, AS WELL AS THE POLICE.

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ABANDONED SIGNBOARDS IN YAU TSIM TO BE CLEARED

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AN OPERATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO REMOVE 10 ABANDONED SIGNBOARDS.

THE OPERATION IS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN TO REMIND RESIDENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT CLEAN AND TIDY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPERATION TO REMOVE ABANDONED SIGNBOARDS IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT WHICH WILL START AT 9 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 108 WOOSUNG STREET, JORDAN ROAD AREA.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN FOUR DISTRICTS

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING DISRUPTIONS TO FRESH WATER SUPPLY DUE TO WATER WORKS:

- * THE SUPPLY TO THE AREA BOUNDED BY WING KIN ROAD, WING CHONG ROAD, WING KEI ROAD, WING LAP STREET AND KWAI HEI STREET IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE CUT OFF BETWEEN 10 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.
- * THE SUPPLY TO SHEK TSAI LENG VILLAGE, DILLS CORNER CAMP, TUNG FONG, TONG KOK VILLAGE, FUNG KONG VILLAGE, MA TSO LUNG SAN TSUEN, HO SHEUNG HEUNG VILLAGE, TSUNG YUEN AND LO WU CAMP, AND KWU TUNG IN SHEUNG SHUI WILL BE SUSPENDED BETWEEN 10 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.
- * THE SUPPLY TO TAI AU MUN, SEUNG SZ WAN, SIU HANG HAU, TAI HANG HAU, MAU PO, TSIU WO AND TAI WAN TAU IN SAI KUNG WILL BE CUT OFF BETWEEN 10 AM AND 5 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).
- * THE SUPPLY TO BLOCK NO. 1 - 17, SAU MAU PING ESTATE WILL BE CUT OFF BETWEEN 11 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN WAN CHAI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT SEVERAL ROAD SECTIONS IN WAN CHAI WILL BE MADE URBAN CLEARWAYS DURING THE FOLLOWING PERIODS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 3):

FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY:

- * QUEEN'S ROAD EAST BETWEEN KENNEDY STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 70 METRES TO THE WEST OF MORRISON HILL ROAD;
- * STUBBS ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES TO THE SOUTH;
- * KENNEDY ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES TO THE SOUTH; AND
- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE OF KENNEDY STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES TO THE SOUTH.

IN ADDITION, THE WESTERN KERBSIDE OF KENNEDY STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES TO THE SOUTH WILL BECOME A PEAK HOUR (I.E. 7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SO KON PO AND NORTH POINT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT CAROLINE HILL ROAD IN SO KON PO BETWEEN COTTON PATH AND LEIGHTON ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 3).

AFFECTED VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA COTTON PATH, EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD AND TUNG LO WAN ROAD.

MOREOVER, NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS ALONG CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH LEIGHTON ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES TO THE SOUTH FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

THESE MEASURES WILL LAST FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS FOR ELECTRIC CABLE LAYING WORKS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN NORTH POINT WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS FOR ROADWORKS:

- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF POWER STREET; AND
- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF KING'S ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH POWER STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS, ROAD CLOSURE ON HONG KONG ISLAND

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TWO ROAD SECTIONS ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 3).

THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CATCHICK STREET IN KENNEDY TOWN FROM A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SMITHFIELD TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BECOME A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

MEANWHILE, THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF BEACH ROAD IN REPULSE BAY FROM A POINT ABOUT 23 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH AN UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO SEAVIEW PROMENADE TO A POINT ABOUT 124 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS FOR ROAD WORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

AT THE SAME TIME, EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND H.M.S. TAMAR WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC, EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES, FROM 7 AM TO 6 PM DAILY ON DECEMBER 3 AND 4 FOR THE HOLDING OF THE NAVY DAY - HMS TAMAR.

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