



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
BILINGUAL EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT TO YOUNGER GENERATION	1
IDB BACKS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DRIVE	2
MRS FAN APPOINTED AN EXCO MEMBER	4
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ALSO GOOD FOR INDUSTRY	5
ART GROUPS URGED TO BE MORE BUSINESS-MINDED	6
HELPING NEW RESIDENTS SETTLE IN	9
EXCO APPROVES KMB FARE INCREASE	10
13 QUESTIONS, 10 BILLS ON LEGCO AGENDA	11
DB TO DISCUSS AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES	11
GAMES CENTRE LICENSING GUIDELINES ON AGENDA	12
POA RESULTS TO BE RELEASED ON FRIDAY	12
NEW SYSTEM TO DETECT TAINTED VEGETABLES	14
AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS	15
FUNDS SOUGHT FOR EXPEDITING LEGAL DEPT LOCALISATION	16
OPEN DAYS AT TUEN MUN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS	17
RO CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS SERVICE FOR AVIATION	18
ROAD PROJECT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO CONTAINER PORT	19
DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED	19
SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY TO TWO DISTRICTS	20
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN FANLING	20
URBAN CLEARWAY AT BELCHER'S STREET	20

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 1 -

BILINGUAL EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT TO YOUNGER GENERATION

* * * * *

HONG KONG HAS TAKEN THE VIEW THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION MUST BE EDUCATED TO BE COMPETENT IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR LI WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 34TH LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BEING HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

HE SAID THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DEPTH THE STYLES OF LEARNING AND TEACHING LANGUAGES IN EDUCATIONAL SITUATIONS IN WHICH, AT SOME POINT, MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE WAS OFFERED TO PUPILS.

MR LI SAID A FREQUENTLY HEARD OBJECTION TO BILINGUAL EDUCATION WAS THAT TO STUDY A FOREIGN LANGUAGE WAS TO DISTURB ONE'S OWN LANGUAGE, TO SPREAD A FALSE OVERLAY UPON ONE'S PERSONALITY, TO INTRODUCE ALIEN INGREDIENTS INTO ONE'S BACKGROUND.

"THE ANALOGY IS OFTEN BROUGHT FORWARD TO PROVE THE POINT, THAT IN ART, FOR EXAMPLE, TO MARRY THE ACADEMIC TO THE IMPORTED IS ALL TOO FREQUENTLY TO PRODUCE A HYBRID WHICH HAS THE QUALITY AND ARTISTRY OF NEITHER," HE SAID.

"THE ANALOGY IS UNSOUND, FOR THE MARRIAGE OF ARTS IS A FUSION WHEREAS A SECOND LANGUAGE IS AN ADDITION, A PLACING SIDE BY SIDE OF TWO CULTURES WHICH INTERACT AND ENRICH EACH OTHER, WHILST PRESERVING THEIR INDEPENDENCE."

MR LI SAID THE ACQUISITION OF A CULTURE OTHER THAN ONE'S OWN, WHETHER TOTAL OR PARTIAL, WAS A VALUABLE AND ENRICHING EXERCISE, AND PERHAPS THE GREATEST SATISFACTION WAS ON THE PERSONAL LEVEL, THAT OF COMING IN FRIENDSHIP WITHIN THE CONFINES OF SOMEONE ELSE'S PERSONALITY UPON HIS OWN LINGUISTIC TERRITORY.

"THE FIRST STEPS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE CAN THUS BE AS SATISFYING AS THE FIRST EFFORTS OF A CHILD TO WALK, AND THE PROGRESS MADE A REVELATION OF THE UNCONSCIOUS ABSORPTIVE AND ADAPTIVE PROCESSES OF THE MIND," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, THE ART OF THE SCIENCE OF LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE IS ONE ABOUT WHICH THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE COMPREHENDED.

"IN PARTICULAR, THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE UNDERSTOOD ABOUT THE IMPORTANT INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STUDENT AND TEACHER WHICH DETERMINE THE OUTCOMES OF LEARNING."

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, PROFESSOR CHARLES KAO, SAID THE CULTURAL MAKE-UP OF THE PERSON WOULD SHOW IN NUMEROUS WAYS.

/"IT IS

"IT IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING PROBLEMS FACING US IN OUR QUEST FOR CREATING A BRAVE NEW WORLD IN WHICH HUMAN BEINGS WILL COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER AND MACHINES," HE SAID.

"WE MUST TAKE COGNISANCE OF BOTH OUR MOOD AND BEHAVIOUR WHICH ARE CULTURALLY MOUDED.

"NO TWO PEOPLE'S CULTURE IS EXACTLY THE SAME, JUST AS NO TWO PEOPLE'S LANGUAGE IS EXACTLY THE SAME.

"IF WE WISH TO UNDERSTAND ANOTHER PERSON, THERE IS NO SHORT CUT AND WE MUST COME TO KNOW HIS 'WORLD OF REALITY'."

PROF KAO SAID IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT AN APPRECIATION OF THIS WAS OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE IN THE DOMAIN OF LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING AND, IN PARTICULAR, WHICH LEARNING AND TEACHING STYLES AND APPROACHES WITHIN CULTURES AND ACROSS CULTURE AND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION ARE MORE THAN 300 LANGUAGE EDUCATIONALISTS FROM 21 COUNTRIES AND HONG KONG.

A TOTAL OF 146 PAPERS WOULD BE PRESENTED ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS RELATED TO THE MAIN THEME ON "TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES WITHIN AND ACROSS CULTURES : IMPLICATIONS FOR LANGUAGE PEDAGOGY".

AMONG THE PAPERS, 87 WILL BE PRESENTED BY OVERSEAS SCHOLARS AND 59 BY LOCAL SCHOLARS. IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE 12 WORKSHOP SESSIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

IDB BACKS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DRIVE

* * * *

A MAJOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DRIVE FOR INDUSTRY IS TO BE LAUNCHED IN EARLY 1990, THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD AGREED TODAY.

THE BOARD, CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, ENDORSED PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD SEE A SERIES OF STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY RECEIVED FULL SUPPORT IN UPGRADING QUALITY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

THE QUALITY CAMPAIGN WOULD LAST FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS AND WOULD BE TARGETTED AT DECISION MAKERS IN MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AS WELL AS THEIR EMPLOYEES.

/"THE PRINCIPAL

"THE PRINCIPAL MESSAGE WILL BE THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS WILL HELP REDUCE COSTS, IMPROVE OUTPUT AND SECURE MARKETS," SAID MR JACOBS.

"THIRD PARTY ENDORSEMENT AND A HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPORT ON THE PART OF BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS WILL BE ESSENTIAL," HE ADDED.

SEVERAL NEW INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN PLANNED. A VOLUNTARY SCHEME OF ACCREDITATION WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT, REPRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, WOULD CONFER OFFICIAL RECOGNITION ON COMPANIES THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ADOPTED ALL-EMBRACING QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

AN ORGANISATION IS TO BE SET UP TO UNDERTAKE QUALITY INSPECTION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY. THIS WOULD CONSIST OF A SMALL CORE OF STAFF AND A PANEL OF ASSESSORS, WITH ASSISTANCE ALSO COMING FROM THE BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION.

PROMOTIONAL AND PUBLICITY TOOLS WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CAMPAIGN, INVOLVING PUBLICATIONS, VIDEOS, FILMS, SEMINARS, ADVERTISEMENTS, COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS.

TO OVERSEE THE ENTIRE QUALITY DRIVE A SMALL QUALITY ASSURANCE SECTION WOULD BE SET UP WITHIN THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

EXISTING SERVICES WOULD ALSO BE STRENGTHENED TO BACK UP THE CAMPAIGN.

THE PRODUCT STANDARDS INFORMATION BUREAU OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WOULD BE UPGRADED. THIS BODY HOLDS STANDARDS SPECIFICATIONS FOR A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS AND FOR MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD.

IMPROVED TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINKS WITH THE BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION WOULD BE INTRODUCED.

THE MEASUREMENT SERVICES OF THE STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY WOULD BE EXTENDED TO MEET UPGRADED DEMAND.

PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO GAINING EXTENSIVE EXTERNAL RECOGNITION FOR THE HONG KONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME.

MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF STRONG REASONS FOR PROMOTING QUALITY ASSURANCE.

HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS ARE PLACING FAR GREATER EMPHASIS ON QUALITY ASSURANCE. ADOPTION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE, INVOLVING DESIGN, MATERIALS SOURCING, PRODUCTION AND TESTING, WOULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL COST SAVINGS ---- AS OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE SHOWED THAT AS MUCH AS 15 TO 20 PER CENT OF PRODUCTION COSTS COULD BE REDUCED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 4 -

THE QUALITY MOVEMENT IS ACCELERATING IN THE EEC WITH OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE OF ASIA, RAPIDLY FOLLOWING SUIT.

PART OF THE REASON IS THE GROWTH OF CONSUMER PROTECTION INTERESTS AND PARTLY THE NEED FELT AMONGST THIRD WORLD EXPORTING NATIONS TO INCREASE MARKET ACCESS RIGHTS AGAINST TECHNICAL BARRIERS.

WITH THE THREAT OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO TRADE GROWING, POOR QUALITY ASSURANCE COULD RENDER HONG KONG VULNERABLE TO TECHNICAL AND QUALITY-BASED BARRIERS.

IN OTHER BUSINESS THE BOARD ALSO CONSIDERED THE OVERSEAS MARKET ANALYSES FOR HONG KONG'S PLASTIC PRODUCTS, PREPARED BY SRI INTERNATIONAL.

A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD WAS SET UP FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THIS REPORT AND THE BOARD ADOPTED A NUMBER OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH RESULTED FROM THIS GROUP'S CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT.

ALSO CONSIDERED WAS A STUDY OF HONG KONG'S HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE INDUSTRY, PREPARED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, COVERING THE DEVELOPMENT, STRUCTURE, PRODUCTION, AND EXPORT PRODUCTS OF THE INDUSTRY.

BOTH STUDIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MRS FAN APPOINTED AN EXCO MEMBER

* * * * *

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD APPOINTED MRS RITA FAN AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM JANUARY 1, 1989 TO OCTOBER 31, 1991.

IN MAKING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, THE GOVERNOR PAID TRIBUTE TO MRS FAN'S ADMIRABLE RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE VERY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF SIR QUO-WEI LEE SINCE HE WAS FIRST APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 1976.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT SIR Q.W. LEE'S RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE WAS EXCEPTIONAL BY ANY STANDARDS : HE WOULD BE GREATLY MISSED.

SIR Q.W. LEE RETIRES FROM THE COUNCIL AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 5 -

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ALSO GOOD FOR INDUSTRY

* * * * *

"GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS GOOD FOR INDUSTRY" WAS THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, AT THE INTERCHEM 88 CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE CONFERENCE, ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CHEMICAL SOCIETY, IS BEING HELD AT THE HONG KONG EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE.

DR REED SAID: "ANY INVESTMENT TARGET COUNTRY THAT CAN OFFER A SENSIBLE AND WELL REGULATED ENVIRONMENTAL REGIME, TOGETHER WITH GOOD FACILITIES FOR THE RECEPTION OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE WATERS AND THE DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL WASTES, IS LIKELY TO BE FAVOURED, RATHER THAN FEARED, BY THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL COMPANIES.

"THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY WE IN HONG KONG HAVE SET OUT TO ESTABLISH A WELL THOUGHT OUT SCHEME OF REGULATORY CONTROLS AS WELL AS INVESTING MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO PROVIDE THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR THE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER WASTES."

DR REED ALSO OUTLINED THE PROGRESS MADE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WORK OVER THE PAST DECADE.

THIS INCLUDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NECESSARY INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, NEW LEGISLATION, AND INVESTMENT IN FACILITIES FOR THE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF WASTES.

IT ALSO INCLUDED THE ALL IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ENSURING THAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AT THE EARLIEST STAGE IN PLANNING OF MAJOR PROJECTS.

"WE HAVE STILL A LONG WAY TO GO, BUT WE HAVE ALREADY A SENSIBLE AND REASONABLE SCHEME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AS WELL AS WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES THAT COMPARE VERY FAVOURABLY WITH THOSE ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION," DR REED ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

ART GROUPS URGED TO BE MORE BUSINESS-MINDED

* * * * *

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE ARTS GROUPS DO NOT BECOME OVER-RELIANT ON PUBLIC FUNDS AND THEY SHOULD BE MORE BUSINESS-MINDED, THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR CLIVE OXLEY SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"IN USA, THE PERCENTAGE OF BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP AND DONATIONS TO THE ARTS ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 95 PER CENT OF NON-BOX-OFFICE INCOME, WITH THE BALANCE COMING FROM STATE OR FEDERAL SOURCES.

"IN HONG KONG, IT IS THE OTHER WAY ROUND WITH ONLY ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT COMING FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL BALANCE FROM THE PUBLIC PURSE," HE NOTED.

ADDRESSING A JOINT DINNER MEETING OF THREE LIONS CLUBS OF KOWLOON CENTRAL, LION ROCK AND BAUHINIA; MR OXLEY SAID IT WAS, THEREFORE, INCUMBENT UPON ARTS BODIES TO SEEK FUNDING FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES INCLUDING SPONSORSHIP.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG BUSINESS COMMUNITY REMAINED SOMEWHAT SCEPTICAL OF THE MANAGEMENT QUALITIES OF SOME ARTS ADMINISTRATORS.

"A MAJOR EFFORT BY ALL OF THEM WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE A CHANGE IN ATTITUDES WILL OCCUR TO COUNTER THE VIEW THAT SPONSORSHIP OF THE ARTS MEANS 'THROWING MONEY AT POORLY-RUN ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE NO APPRECIATION OF THE CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH HONG KONG BUSINESS HOUSES OPERATE' - AS ONE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TOLD ME RECENTLY," HE ADDED.

MR OXLEY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS THE GOVERNOR HAD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF BUSINESS AND THE COMMUNITY IN SUPPORTING THE ARTS, THE MESSAGE MUST BE THAT THE ARTS COMMUNITY MUST NOT SIMPLY EXPECT MONEY TO BE HANDED TO IT ON A PLATE.

"THEY HAVE TO MARKET THEIR PRODUCT IN A THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL AND COMPETITIVE MANNER.

"THEY NEED TO WORK ON THEIR PUBLIC RELATIONS IMAGE AND THEY NEED TO BECOME ULTRA-RESPONSIBLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS WITH WHICH THEY ARE ENTRUSTED," HE POINTED OUT.

MR OXLEY STRONGLY REFUTED CRITICISM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING TOO LITTLE, HAD LITTLE INTENTION TO COMMIT GREATER RESOURCES TO THE ARTS AND THAT DECISIONS MADE WERE BASED ON THE DILETTANTE MACHINATIONS OF A FEW ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS WHO HAD NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE HONG KONG ARTS SCENE.

/HE EXPLAINED

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WORKS ON A THREE-TIER SYSTEM, NAMELY, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

"IF WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT EACH OF THESE TIERS IS DOING, WE FIND THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ACTING ON THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL FOR PERFORMING ARTS IS ESSENTIALLY SUPPORTING TERRITORY-WIDE ORGANISATIONS.

"IT ALSO OPERATES THROUGH THE MUSIC OFFICE A TERRITORY-WIDE MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND PROVIDES THE BULK OF THE FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS (APA)," HE EXPLAINED.

"THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS ARE HONG KONG'S LARGEST ENTREPRENEURS PROVIDING PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS GROUPS. THEY ALSO MANAGE THE MAJORITY OF THE ARTS FACILITIES IN HONG KONG.

"IN ADDITION, THE URBAN COUNCIL MAINTAINS ITS OWN PERFORMING GROUPS," HE ADDED.

MR OXLEY SAID THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE SOME FUNDS WITH WHICH TO SUPPORT DISTRICT-BASED ARTS ACTIVITIES.

"I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT MOST DISTRICTS NOW HAD THEIR OWN DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND THAT MOST DISTRICTS HAD A DISTRICT ARTS ASSOCIATION WHICH ENCOURAGED BOTH THE PERFORMING AND THE VISUAL ARTS," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION TO ALL THESE ACTIVITIES WE SHOULDN'T FORGET THE WORK OF THE SCHOOLS AND THE POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS WHERE MUCH MEANINGFUL WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT," HE ADDED.

"THE RECURRENT COST OF ALL THESE ENDEAVOURS IS SUBSTANTIAL WITH \$81 MILLION COMING FROM THE GOVERNMENT (\$18 MILLION FOR SUBVENTIONS TO PERFORMING ARTISTS AND ORGANISATIONS; \$10 MILLION FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE AND \$53 MILLION FOR THE APA), \$66 MILLION FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND \$2 MILLION FROM THE DISTRICT BOARDS EACH FOR 1987/88.

"THIS MAKES A RECURRENT TOTAL OF \$149 MILLION FOR 1987/88 WHICH EXCLUDES THE SIGNIFICANT SUM BEING SPENT IN OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS," HE EMPHASISED.

"I DO NOT CONSIDER THIS TO BE INSIGNIFICANT," HE SAID.

MR OXLEY ALSO NOTED THAT IN HIS POLICY SPEECH THE GOVERNOR INDICATED THAT HIS FIRM INTENTION WAS THAT THE LEVEL OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR SHOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED.

"THERE ARE ALSO STRONG INDICATIONS THAT THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND THE FUNDING AND HUMAN RESOURCES THEY MAKE AVAILABLE FOR THE ARTS.

/"IT IS

"IT IS CLEAR THEN THAT THERE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN THE RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ARTS SCENE IN THE YEAR AHEAD, PROVIDED OF COURSE THE ECONOMY REMAINS SOUND," HE SAID.

IN REFUTING CRITICISM CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT'S "SO-CALLED" DILETTANTE DECISION MAKING, MR OXLEY POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT, AS IN MANY AREAS OF PUBLIC LIFE, DID NOT HAVE A MONOPOLY ON EXPERTISE.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS TO THIS END THAT THE SYTEM OF ADVISORY BOARDS HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE SO USEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE CONSIDERABLE AND VARIED ARTISTIC EXPERTISE, ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE PERFORMING ARTS INCLUDING THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

"THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS IN EFFECT MY BRANCH, RELIES HEAVILY ON THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY IN PUBLIC THAT THE NUMBER OF OCCASIONS ON WHICH THE COUNCIL'S ADVICE HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED IS VERY FEW INDEED.

"IN FACT, DURING MY TERM OF OFFICE, I DO NOT RECALL EVEN ONE INSTANCE," MR OXLEY POINTED OUT.

"THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT THEREFORE TAKE ARBITRARY DECISIONS IN AN ARTISTIC VACUUM," HE STRESSED.

MR OXLEY SAID THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE THRIVING ARTISTIC ACTIVITY IN HONG KONG BY INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE COUNCIL CONCERNING LOCAL ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES THROUGH THE COUNCIL'S REPORT WRITING SCHEME, AND ALSO BY THE DETAILED EXAMINATION OF PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THESE ART GROUPS TO THE SPECIALIST SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE CFPA.

"THIS YEAR I HAVE INTRODUCED A SYSTEM WHEREBY THE ADMINISTRATORS AND ARTISTIC DIRECTORS OF LOCAL GROUPS ARE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THEIR PLANS AND THEIR FUNDING NEEDS WITH THE RELEVANT COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE (THAT IS THE DANCE, MUSIC OR DRAMA SUB-COMMITTEES).

"A VERY POSITIVE INTERFLOW OF IDEAS AND OF UNDERSTANDING HAS FOLLOWED AND I KNOW THAT GENERAL MANAGERS TAKE THEIR COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES VERY SERIOUSLY INDEED," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR OXLEY FELT THAT THERE WAS GREAT DYNAMISM AND INITIATIVE IN THE ARTS SCENE IN HONG KONG AND HE WAS OPTIMISTIC IN BELIEVING THAT PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND ARTS ORGANISATIONS WAS A REAL POSSIBILITY GIVEN A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSTRAINTS OF EACH.

"SO LET US BE CONSTRUCTIVE IN OUR CRITICISM GIVING PRAISE WHERE PRAISE IS DUE, AND LET US BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE DEDICATION AND TALENT OF OUR PERFORMING ARTISTS.

"FOR WITH THAT TALENT, AND GIVEN GOODWILL, SOUND AND DIVERSIFIED FUNDING AND GOOD ADMINISTRATION, I AM CONFIDENT THE ARTS WILL FLOURISH HERE," HE ADDED.

HELPING NEW RESIDENTS SETTLE IN

* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS RECOGNISE THAT WAYS HAVE TO BE FOUND TO HELP NEW RESIDENTS OVERCOME INITIAL DIFFICULTIES, FORM NEW FRIENDSHIPS AND BUILD UP KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL RESOURCES, LADY WILSON SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY'S FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE AT BUTTERFLY ESTATE IN TUEN MUN, LADY WILSON SAID NEW COMMUNITIES TOOK TIME TO BECOME ESTABLISHED.

"DESPITE A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING, BETTER HOUSING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, FAMILIES IN HONG KONG ARE FACING MANY OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH EXIST IN OTHER SUCCESSFUL AND FAST MOVING CITIES.

"INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES OFTEN HAVE TO BE MORE MOBILE TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES.

"THIS MOBILITY CAN SOMETIMES CAUSE DISRUPTION TO FAMILY LIFE, LOOSENING FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP TIES, AND SOMETIMES REQUIRING RELOCATION OF JOBS AND SCHOOLING FOR CHILDREN," LADY WILSON SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES IN THE NEW TOWNS HAVE BEEN FORMED TO PROVIDE FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT TO NEW RESIDENTS.

"THIS IS MOST WELCOME. IF THIS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE CAN PROVIDE A WELCOMING AND INFORMAL ENVIRONMENT AND BE A SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND ADVICE FOR FAMILIES WHO COME INTO THE AREA, IT WILL BE FILLING AN ENORMOUS GAP," LADY WILSON SAID.

THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE OFFERS AN INFORMAL FACILITY FOR FAMILIES AT BUTTERFLY AND NEARBY ESTATES, AND PROVIDES AN INFORMATION AND ADVICE SERVICE FOR SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

LADY WILSON SAID THE RECOGNITION OF THE NEEDS OF SINGLE OR ONE-PARENT FAMILIES IN HONG KONG WAS A NEW DEVELOPMENT.

"UNLIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THE TERM 'SINGLE PARENT' OFTEN MEANS AN UNMARRIED PARENT, HERE IN HONG KONG IT USUALLY REFERS TO A WIDOWED, DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PARENT.

"THE NUMBER OF THESE FAMILIES, WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 20, IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 11.5 PER CENT OF DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLDS. THIS IS NOT AN INSIGNIFICANT FIGURE," SHE NOTED.

SHE SAID IT WAS SAD AND REGRETTABLE THAT A NUMBER OF TRAGEDIES HAVE OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF CHILDREN BEING LEFT ALONE AT HOME BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS HAD LONG WORKING HOURS OR THAT THEY HAD TO BE ABSENT FROM HOME.

/WHILE SUCH

- 10 -

WHILE SUCH INCIDENTS HAVE SHOCKED THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, LADY WILSON SAID: "WE MUST NOT WAIT FOR THESE TRAGEDIES."

"THIS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE IS AN EXCELLENT STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO HELP AVOID THESE SITUATIONS," SHE SAID.

"I HOPE ALSO THAT PARENTS WILL BE HELPED TO BECOME MORE AWARE OF THESE DANGERS AND PERHAPS THIS WILL ENCOURAGE MUTUAL CARE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN FAMILIES, SO THAT PARTICULARLY YOUNG CHILDREN WILL NEVER BE LEFT ALONE," SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EXCO APPROVES KMB FARE INCREASE

* * * *

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN APPLICATION BY THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (KMB) FOR A FARE INCREASE TO TAKE EFFECT ON JANUARY 29 NEXT YEAR.

UNDER THE NEW FARE SCALE, 90 PER CENT OF KMB PASSENGERS WILL PAY AN ADDITIONAL 20 CENTS TO 30 CENTS AND NINE PER CENT AN ADDITIONAL 40 CENTS TO 60 CENTS.

THE REMAINING ONE PER CENT, MOSTLY ON LONG-DISTANCE EXPRESS ROUTES AND AIR-CONDITIONED COACH SERVICES, WILL PAY AN ADDITIONAL 70 CENTS TO \$1.

FOR CROSS HARBOUR BUS SERVICES WHICH ARE JOINTLY OPERATED WITH THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY (CMB), FULL FARES ON MOST SERVICES WILL INCREASE FROM \$2.80 TO \$3 AND THE "AFTER TUNNEL" SECTION FROM \$1.20 TO \$1.50.

IN APPROVING THE FARE RISE, THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS EXAMINED KMB'S FINANCIAL POSITION, INCLUDING INFLATION SINCE FEBRUARY LAST YEAR WHEN KMB'S FARES WERE LAST REVISED, RISES IN OPERATING COSTS PARTICULARLY WAGES AND SPARES, AND ADDITIONAL COSTS ARISING FROM IMPROVEMENTS IN SERVICE LEVELS.

THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP ON THE KMB FARE INCREASE WAS ALSO NOTED.

EXPLANATIONS FOR THE FARE INCREASE WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE AD HOC GROUP BY THE ADMINISTRATION AT A MEETING ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 16).

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 11 -

13 QUESTIONS, 10 BILLS ON LEGCO AGENDA
* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK 13 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER 10 BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

SECOND READING DEBATES ON NINE BILLS ARE TO BE RESUMED, AND THE BILLS ARE THEN DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGES AND THIRD READINGS.

THESE ARE THE DISTRICT BOARDS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1988, REGIONAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, PENSION BENEFITS (JUDICIAL OFFICERS) BILL 1988, PENSION BENEFITS (REFUSAL TO GRANT, SUSPENSION, REDUCTION AND CANCELLATION) BILL 1988, BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, PUBLIC BUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1988 AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

IN ADDITION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL MOVE A MOTION THAT CERTAIN AMENDMENTS BE MADE TO THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DB TO DISCUSS AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES
* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS PROPOSED MORE STRINGENT LICENSING GUIDELINES FOR AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES AT A MEETING ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 15).

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY WILL EXPLAIN THE NEW GUIDELINES AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS AIR POLLUTION, CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE AT LOWU, AND ASK FOR A REVIEW OF THE EXISTING POLICY ON NURSING STAFF.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD MEETING BEGINNING AT 2.15 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 15) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12 *****

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 12 -

GAMES CENTRE LICENSING GUIDELINES ON AGENDA
* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE LICENSING GUIDELINES IN RESPECT OF AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES AT THEIR MEETING ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 15) AFTERNOON.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY/ENTERTAINMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH, MR DAVID WEBB, AND THE SENIOR LICENSING OFFICER OF THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY, MISS MEANA YUNG, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE NEW LICENSING GUIDELINES.

A MEMBER WILL ALSO RAISE A QUESTION ON THE IMPLICATIONS THAT A SALES TAX WOULD HAVE FOR THE PUBLIC.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING MARINE FUELLING STATIONS AS PART OF THE ALDRICH BAY RECLAMATION PROJECT AND THE PROGRESS OF THE BOARD'S "MEET-THE-PUBLIC" SCHEME.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 15) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD, BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POA RESULTS TO BE RELEASED ON FRIDAY
* * * * *

RESULTS OF ALLOCATION OF DISCRETIONARY PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 1989 UNDER THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION (POA) SYSTEM WILL BE RELEASED ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 16) BY ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 46,000 OF THE 80,200 APPLICANTS WOULD BE OFFERED A DISCRETIONARY PLACE IN PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOLS.

PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO GO BACK TO THE SCHOOL TO WHICH THEY HAVE APPLIED FOR A PRIMARY 1 PLACE, WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE SCHOOL OR NOT, ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 16) BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM OR ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 17) BETWEEN 9 AM AND 12 NOON TO FIND OUT THE RESULTS OF THEIR APPLICATIONS.

/REGISTRATION OF

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 13 -

REGISTRATION OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 19) AND TUESDAY (DECEMBER 20) DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

FOR PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN OFFERED A PRIMARY 1 PLACE, THEY ARE ADVISED TO NOTE CAREFULLY THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND ANY REQUIREMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS, SUCH AS PRODUCING PARENT'S COPY OF THE POA APPLICATION FORM, AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEIR CHILDREN FOR REGISTRATION PURPOSES.

"THE REGISTRATION WILL BE REGARDED AS BINDING ON THE PART OF THE SCHOOL AND THE PARENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARENTS UNABLE TO REGISTER THEIR CHILD WITH THE SCHOOL WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TWO-DAY PERIOD ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL CONCERNED OR THE POA UNIT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENTON TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-724383 TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

PARENTS WHO FAILED TO HEED THE ADVICE WOULD BE DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN UP THE PLACE OFFERED TO THEIR CHILDREN, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE POA SYSTEM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID A GOVERNMENT OR AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL COULD FILL UP TO 65 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL NUMBER OF PRIMARY 1 PLACES AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION.

THE REMAINING 35 PER CENT OF PRIMARY 1 PLACES WOULD BE RESERVED FOR CENTRAL ALLOCATION AT A LATER DATE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

PARENTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY PLACES WILL BE INFORMED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN MARCH NEXT YEAR OF THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION ARRANGEMENTS.

PARENTS, WHO HAVE CHILDREN COMING UP TO PRIMARY 1 SCHOOL AGE BUT HAVE NOT APPLIED FOR A DISCRETIONARY PLACE, WILL ALSO BE INFORMED AT THE SAME TIME.

THEY WILL BE ASKED TO GO TO A DISTRIBUTION/COLLECTION CENTRE IN THEIR HOME DISTRICT TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE "CHOICE OF SCHOOLS" FORM AND A LIST OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL THEN ALLOCATE A PRIMARY 1 PLACE UNDER THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION SYSTEM TO THEIR CHILDREN WITHIN THEIR HOME DISTRICT WITH PARENTAL CHOICES FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

DETAILS OF THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED EARLY NEXT YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 14 -

NEW SYSTEM TO DETECT TAINTED VEGETABLES

* * * * *

A NEW SYSTEM DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE SALE OF TAINTED VEGETABLES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 16) AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION (VMO) CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET.

AS FROM THAT DAY, VEGETABLES MARKETED THROUGH THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET WILL BE RANDOMLY SAMPLED AND CHECKED FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES.

CONSIGNMENTS OF VEGETABLES THAT APPEAR TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION WILL BE DETAINED AND FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS AND ACTION WILL BE ARRANGED BY THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (TUESDAY), A VMO SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE NEW SYSTEM, WHICH AIMED AT SAFEGUARDING THE HEALTH OF CONSUMERS AT LARGE, WAS THE RESULT OF CLOSE CO-OPERATION AMONG THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

HE SAID THE SYSTEM WOULD INVOLVE THE PHYSICAL CHECKING OF VEGETABLES IN THE VMO'S LABORATORY, USING A NEW METHOD RECENTLY DEVELOPED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

"WITH THIS METHOD IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES ON VEGETABLE SAMPLES AND THE LEVEL OF PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION IS REFLECTED BY THE EXTENT OF INHIBITION OF AN ENZYMIC ACTIVITY IN CHICKEN SERUM.

"THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE AND QUICK AND WILL ONLY TAKE BETWEEN 30 AND 45 MINUTES FOR THE RESULTS TO BE DETERMINED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SAMPLES FOUND WITH AN EXCESS OF PESTICIDE WOULD BE FOLLOWED UP BY MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND TOP PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY TO SAMPLES OF DETAINED VEGETABLES, HE ADDED.

THE VMO WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN HANDLES SOME 500 TONNES OF VEGETABLES A DAY WHICH IS ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL DAILY VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION IN THE TERRITORY.

/OF THE

OF THE VEGETABLES MARKETED THROUGH THE VMO MARKET, 60 PER CENT ARE IMPORTED FROM CHINA.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PRESS BRIEFING AND DEMONSTRATION OF THE SAMPLING PROCEDURE AND THE LABORATORY METHOD EMPLOYED IN THE DAILY CHECKING OF VEGETABLES WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 15) AT 10 AM AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET, 757 LAI CHI KOK ROAD, KOWLOON.

IT WILL BE GIVEN BY THE VMO'S SENIOR MANAGER, MR EDWARD LAI. ALSO ON HAND TO EXPLAIN THE NEW TECHNIQUE WILL BE THE SENIOR CROP DEVELOPMENT OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MISS VERA SO.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE EVENT. AFD INFORMATION STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

-----0-----

AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS

* * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS STARTING AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 17) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 40 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

DY1688	DY180	DD73	DD1122
DU189	DY6788	DY9968	DY1728
DD6633	DY113	DX802	DY163
DY728	CF28	916	DW8828
DV132	DY996	DY6138	BW4455
DD21	DY1823	BD391	DY369
DY378	CS10	DY2868	DY102
DY1668	AH8663	CH17	DY821
DW999	DY278	DY6378	DY722
DX6638	DY162	DY168	DY1283

/SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 16 -

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF A BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 133RD ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FUNDS SOUGHT FOR EXPEDITING LEGAL DEPT LOCALISATION

* * * * *

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SECOND PROMOTION LADDER FOR LOCAL CROWN COUNSEL TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

THE FUNDING IS ESTIMATED AT \$30.4 MILLION.

THE PROPOSAL IS AIMED AT EXPEDITING THE LOCALISATION POLICY SO THAT BY 1992 HALF OF THE 91 SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL POSTS WILL BE FILLED BY LOCAL COUNSEL.

THE "DOUBLE LADDER" IS A MEANS BY WHICH LOCAL CROWN COUNSEL, WHO WOULD OTHERWISE NOT BE CONSIDERED READY FOR PROMOTION BUT WHO HAVE IDENTIFIED POTENTIAL, CAN REACH THE SENIOR LEVEL EARLIER.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT BY \$18.2 MILLION TO \$24.2 MILLION FOR THE PROVISIONAL SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION LIMITED (PSFC).

THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT IS NECESSITATED BECAUSE OF SOME SLIPPAGE IN THE VERY TIGHT TIMETABLE FOR SETTING UP SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC).

/THE SFC

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 17 -

THE SFC BILL IS NOW DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLY NEXT YEAR AND THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL BY THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989.

THE PSFC WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO CONTINUE ITS OPERATION LONGER THAN WAS EXPECTED WHEN IT WAS GRANTED FUNDS IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

ON ESTABLISHMENT MATTERS, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TO CONSIDER THE IMMEDIATE CREATION OF 27 POSTS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS.

THE PROPOSED PERSONNEL, NAMELY A DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND 26 NON-DIRECTORATE STAFF, WILL ENABLE THE OFFICE TO START OPERATION ONCE THE COMMISSIONER IS IN POST.

ON TOMORROW'S AGENDA WILL ALSO BE 22 OTHER ITEMS AND A RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OPEN DAYS AT TUEN MUN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

* * * * *

RESIDENTS OF TUEN MUN ARE BEING INVITED TO THE OPEN DAYS OF FIVE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS IN THE DISTRICT ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (DECEMBER 15 AND 16) IN ORDER TO GAIN AN INSIGHT INTO INTEGRATION OF THE DISABLED AND THE PROVISION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM.

THIS IS AMONG ACTIVITIES INITIATED IN OCTOBER BY A DISTRICT ORGANISING COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF A TERRITORY-WIDE EDUCATIONAL DRIVE ON "EMPLOYMENT FOR THE DISABLED".

THE COMMITTEE COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

THE ACTIVITIES, WHICH WILL CONTINUE UNTIL MID-JANUARY, INCLUDE A SLOGAN COMPETITION, TALKS, VISITS, AND EXHIBITIONS.

THE FIVE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS ARE THE ON TING WORKSHOP/HOSTEL OF THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG; BUTTERFLY BAY WORKSHOP OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT; FACTORY FOR THE BLIND OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND; CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY UNIT; AND NEW LIFE FARM OF THE NEW LIFE PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION.

/THEY WILL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 18 -

THEY WILL BE OPEN FROM 9.30 AM TO NOON AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM ON BOTH DAYS. INTERESTED PARTIES WISHING TO VISIT THE WORKSHOPS IN GROUPS MAY OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS BY TELEPHONING 0-4513133 OR 0-4513126.

MEANWHILE, TO COINCIDE WITH THE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS' OPEN DAYS, THE COMMITTEE HAS ORGANISED A LECTURE ON EMPLOYMENT FOR THE DISABLED.

THIS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 15) AT THE TUEN MUN PALACE RESTAURANT IN TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD.

THE LECTURE WILL BE GIVEN BY MR LAI KING-KAY, A LABOUR OFFICER OF THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THOSE BEING INVITED TO ATTEND THE LECTURE INCLUDE INDUSTRIALISTS, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE RELATED FIELD IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY WILL ALSO TOUR THE FIVE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS AFTERWARDS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

"YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LECTURE AND THE TOUR TO THE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS IN TUEN MUN ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 15).

THE LECTURE WILL BEGIN AT 12.30 PM AT THE TUEN MUN PALACE RESTAURANT IN TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RO CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS SERVICE FOR AVIATION

* * * * *

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S CALENDAR FOR 1989, WHICH HAS THE THEME "METEOROLOGY IN THE SERVICE OF AVIATION", IS NOW ON SALE AT \$32.

THE CALENDAR HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TO "SHOW ITS APPRECIATION OF THE EXCELLENT CO-OPERATION OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY METEOROLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR AVIATION SAFETY AND REGULARITY".

THE BILINGUAL CALENDAR CONTAINS INFORMATION ON SUNRISE AND SUNSET, TIDES, ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS, AS WELL AS USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR WEATHER ENQUIRIES AND OTHER GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION.

/IT ALSO

- 19 -

IT ALSO CONTAINS MANY BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF AVIATION.

AN ATTRACTIVE WALL CALENDAR MAKING A SPLENDID GIFT, IT IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, 134A NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

PURCHASERS OF THE CALENDAR WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF BUYING THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S CENTENARY PUBLICATION, "FROM TIME BALL TO ATOMIC CLOCK", AT A SPECIAL PRICE OF \$19.

THE BOOK TRACES THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS OVER A CENTURY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ROAD PROJECT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO CONTAINER PORT

* * * * *

ACCESS TO THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING CONTAINER PORT WILL BE IMPROVED FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF A \$98.9 MILLION ROAD IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE NORTHERN SECTION OF CONTAINER PORT ROAD IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE WIDENED AND REALIGNED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CAPACITY AND IMPROVED ACCESS FOR TRAFFIC TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE CONTAINER PORT.

IN ADDITION, THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BOX CULVERT TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY OF KWAI CHUNG NULLAH BELOW KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

WORK WILL COMMENCE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 22 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED ON CHIU WAI-MAN AND TAM SZE-FOON ON JANUARY 20 LAST YEAR SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO SENTENCES OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

THE TWO PRISONERS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF NICOLA SHARON MYERS AND KENNETH MCBRIDE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1988

- 20 -

SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY TO TWO DISTRICTS

* * * * *

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN CHA KWO LING PREMISES WILL BE SUSPENDED AT 11 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 15) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES ALONG KO FAI ROAD, SHUNG TAK WAI, TUNG YUEN STREET AND YAN YUE WAI.

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 7 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 15) TO 8 AM THE NEXT DAY BECAUSE OF WATER WORKS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN FANLING

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN FANLING FROM 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 16) FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FOR DRAINAGE WORKS.

THE RIGHT-TURN FROM SHA TAU KOK ROAD EASTBOUND TO LOK YIP ROAD IN ON LOK TSUEN WILL BE BANNED. VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE ROAD JUNCTION AT SHA TAU KOK ROAD AND ON KUI STREET.

THE RIGHT-TURN FROM LOK YIP ROAD TO SHA TAU KOK ROAD EASTBOUND WILL ALSO BE BANNED. VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TAI PO ROAD AND FANLING ROUNDABOUT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

URBAN CLEARWAY AT BELCHER'S STREET

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE EXISTING PEAK HOUR (I.E. 7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF BELCHER'S STREET, KENNEDY TOWN, FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SANDS STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES TO THE EAST WILL BE EXTENDED EASTWARDS FOR ABOUT 50 METRES FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 16).

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

- - - - 0 - - - -