



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1980

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GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PROTECT TENANTS REAFFIRMED  
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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL AT ONCE INTRODUCE AMENDING LEGISLATION TO GIVE TENANTS THE PROTECTION ORIGINALLY INTENDED AND TO PUT THE MATTER BEYOND ARGUMENT IF THE APPEAL BY THE TENANT IN THE RECENT DISTRICT COURT CASE FAILS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS SAID HE WAS TOLD BY THE TENANT'S LAWYERS THAT THEY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO APPEAL AGAINST THE DECISION BY HIS HONOUR JUDGE BEWLEY LAST FRIDAY.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID IT WAS NOT TRUE THE BELIEF IN CERTAIN QUARTERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PURSUING THAT APPEAL.

+THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT A PARTY TO THE PROCEEDINGS WHICH WERE BETWEEN THE LANDLORD AND HIS TENANT, AND CONSEQUENTLY NEITHER THE ATTORNEY GENERAL NOR ANYONE ELSE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO APPEAR, SAVE IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE COURT SO INVITES,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE COURT OF APPEAL WAS LIKELY TO EXPEDITE THE HEARING OF THE CASE, WHICH CONCERNS A MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE. IT IS HOPED THAT THE HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS IMPROPER FOR HIM TO COMMENT ON THE DECISION OR THE LIKELY RESULT OF THE APPEAL.

+THE JUDICIARY IN HONG KONG IS INDEPENDENT AND IT IS THEIR JOB ALONE TO INTERPRET LEGISLATION AND DECIDE WHAT ARE THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS UNDER ORDINANCES PASSED BY THIS COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

IF THE APPEAL WAS LOST AND THE LEARNED JUDGE'S DECISION WAS UPHELD, +THEN IT WOULD SHOW THAT IN THE DRAFTING OF THIS ORDINANCE, I HAVE NOT CORRECTLY CARRIED FORWARD THE INTENTIONS OF THIS COUNCIL WHICH WAS EXPLAINED TO THE COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING IN HIS SPEECH ON JANUARY 16,+ HE SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, HE REPEATED HIS ADVICE TO BOTH LANDLORDS AND TENANTS THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR THEM TO AWAIT THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF APPEAL BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION THAT MAY AFFECT EXISTING TENANCIES.

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LEGO APPROVES STAR FERRY FARE RISE

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED FARE RISE ON THE STAR FERRY COMPANY'S EDINBURGH PLACE TO TSIM SHA TSUI SERVICE WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1.

THE FIRST CLASS FARES WILL BE RAISED FROM 30 CENTS TO 50 CENTS FOR ADULTS AND FROM 20 CENTS TO 30 CENTS FOR CHILDREN- AND THE SECOND CLASS FARES FOR BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN FROM 20 CENTS TO 30 CENTS.

THE CHARGE FOR MONTHLY TICKETS WILL ALSO RISE FROM \$12 TO \$22.50 FOR ADULTS, AND FROM \$6 TO \$11.30 FOR CHILDREN.

MOVING A MOTION TO AMEND A SCHEDULE IN THE +STAR+ FERRY COMPANY (SERVICES) ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID THE MAIN REASON FOR THESE FARE INCREASES WAS TO OFFSET A LOSS OF REVENUE EXPECTED BECAUSE OF A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING THE FERRY FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE CROSS HARBOUR SECTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

+ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL TOO SOON TO PREDICT PASSENGER FIGURES WITH CERTAINTY SO SOON AFTER THE OPENING OF THE MTR, EXPERIENCE SO FAR WOULD SEEM TO SHOW THAT THE COMPANY'S PREDICTION OF A 30 PER CENT LOSS OF PASSENGERS IS NOT UNREASONABLE,+ MR JONES SAID.

+A DROP IN PASSENGERS OF THIS MAGNITUDE WOULD VIRTUALLY WIPE OUT THE PROFITABILITY OF THE COMPANY IN 1980 AND IT IS CLEAR THAT AN INCREASE IN FARES IS REQUIRED TO OFFSET THIS,+ HE ADDED.

MR JONES POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS PREDICTED THAT THE INCREASES IN FARES WOULD GENERATE A PROFIT IN 1980 OF ABOUT \$3 MILLION, WHICH WAS SIMILAR TO THE PROFITS MADE BY THE COMPANY SINCE 1977 AND WAS REASONABLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

MR JONES ADDED THAT SINCE THE OPENING OF THE CROSS HARBOUR SECTION OF THE MTR, THE WAITING TIME FOR THE STAR FERRY AT PEAK PERIODS HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 12 MINUTES TO AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT THREE MINUTES.

+THIS, IN EFFECT, MEANS A BETTER SERVICE FOR THOSE USING THE FERRY AND IT SHOULD GO SOME WAY TO COMPENSATE PASSENGERS FOR THE INCREASE IN FARES I AM NOW PROPOSING,+ MR JONES SAID.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO VISIT CHINA

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CONFIRMED THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WILL VISIT CHINA IN EARLY MAY AT THE INVITATION OF MR XI YESHENG, DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE.

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY LADY HADDON-CAVE AND THE POLITICAL ADVISOR, DR DAVID WILSON.

DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT ARE STILL BEING MADE.

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YEAR OF TRIAL AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR HONG KONG  
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TWO CONTRASTING ASPECTS OF THE HONG KONG SCENE - THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY - ARE SPOTLIGHTED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW YEAR BOOK PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TWO TOPICS - ONE ABOUT A THREAT TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUING PROGRESS AND THE OTHER ABOUT A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE TERRITORY - ARE FEATURED IN TWO SPECIAL REVIEW CHAPTERS IN THE HONG KONG 1980.

THE BOOK, PRICED AT \$22 EACH, IS EXTENSIVELY ILLUSTRATED WITH PICTURE SECTIONS IN FULL COLOUR. IT IS AVAILABLE IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH EDITIONS AND IS BEING SOLD AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE - CITY DISTRICT OFFICES - NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES AND LEADING BOOKSHOPS.

THE TWO REVIEW CHAPTERS COVERING IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG IN 1979 ARE INDICATIVE OF THE EVENTFUL YEAR THE TERRITORY EXPERIENCED.

+THE INFLUX OF THESE (VIETNAMESE) REFUGEES, TOGETHER WITH LARGE-SCALE IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA, RAISED REAL FEARS THAT A DECADE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENT MIGHT BE UNDERMINED, COMMUNAL STABILITY IMPAIRED, AND PLANS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS THROWN OUT OF GEAR,+ THE YEAR BOOK SAYS IN ITS FIRST CHAPTER ENTITLED: +THE BOAT REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM+.

THE CHAPTER TRACES THE PROGRESS OF THE BURGEONING REFUGEE PROBLEM WHICH REACHED +CRISIS PROPORTIONS+ IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR WHEN HUNDREDS OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WERE FLOODING INTO HONG KONG EACH DAY, CROWDING INTO CAMPS ALREADY HOLDING 50 000 PEOPLE.

+THESE BOATS, ARRIVING DAILY IN HONG KONG, MOORED NOT AT SOME DISCREETLY DISTANT BEACH BUT IN THE HEART OF THE CITY,+ THE YEAR BOOK SAYS. +THEY MOVED THROUGH THE HARBOUR TO THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD AT CANTON ROAD, WHERE THEY TIED UP BESIDE ONE OF THE MOST CROWDED DISTRICTS OF KOWLOON, OBSERVED BY THOUSANDS OF APPREHENSIVE RESIDENTS.+

EQUALLY ALARMING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PATTERN OF IMMIGRATION, LEGAL AND ILLEGAL, FROM CHINA EXACERBATED ANXIETIES CAUSED BY THE INFLOW OF BOAT REFUGEES, THE YEAR BOOK SAYS. THE PRESSURE OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TRYING TO GET INTO HONG KONG ACROSS THE LAND BORDER OR BY SEA PERSISTED AT VARYING LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE SITUATION, HONG KONG'S GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE IS QUOTED AS SAYING: +BY HARD WORK, SOCIAL ADAPTABILITY AND REALISM BASED ON ACCEPTANCE OF THE FACT THAT RESOURCES ARE LIMITED, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE MADE FOR THEMSELVES A STRUCTURE OF LIFE ENORMOUSLY BETTER THAN 10 YEARS AGO. IT IS THE BENEFITS OF THIS STRUCTURE THAT THEY FEAR MAY BE ERODED BY THIS INFLUX OF BOAT REFUGEES OVER WHICH THEY HAVE NO CONTROL.+

WHEN 1979 ENDED, THERE WERE STILL MORE THAN 55 000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG CAMPS AWAITING RESETTLEMENT, AND THE SPECTRE OF MORE REFUGEES ARRIVING HUNG OVER 1980.

+IT WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO RECORD THAT 1979 ENDED WITH A CLEAR-CUT CONCLUSION,+ THE YEAR BOOK SAYS, +THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE UNDERTAKINGS AND PLEDGES GIVEN AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN JULY, HONG KONG WAS ASSURED THAT BY A CERTAIN DATE ALL OF THE REFUGEES IT HAD HARBOURED WOULD BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE, AND THAT THE FEAR OF A RENEWED INFLUX HAD BEEN DISPELLED.

+UNFORTUNATELY, REAL LIFE IS RARELY SO TIDY.+

HONG KONG 1980'S SECOND REVIEW CHAPTER ENTITLED: +ENTER THE MTR+ IS ABOUT THE OPENING OF HONG KONG'S MOST SPECTACULAR UNDERTAKING - THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

+HONG KONG HAS MARKED ITS ENTRY INTO THE 1980'S WITH A SIGNIFICANT NEW ACHIEVEMENT: AFTER 10 YEARS OF INVESTIGATION, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, A MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY IS NOW IN OPERATION LINKING MAJOR URBAN CENTRES IN KOWLOON WITH HONG KONG ISLAND,+ THE YEAR BOOK SAYS.

THE BOOK POINTS OUT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY IS NOT ONLY HONG KONG'S LARGEST-EVER ENGINEERING PROJECTS: IN WORLD TERMS, IT RANKS AS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST CHALLENGING PROJECTS EVER CARRIED OUT.

+IT HAS BEEN A MAJOR UNDERTAKING IN OTHER WAYS TOO - NOTABLY IN TERMS OF ALLEVIATING AND COPING WITH THE INEVITABLE DISRUPTION IT HAS CAUSED, IN VARYING DEGREES, TO VIRTUALLY ALL MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION,+ THE YEAR BOOK SAYS.

+EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO MINIMISE THIS, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN YEARS OF NOISE, DIRT AND INCONVENIENCE, WITH NOT A FEW PEOPLE HAVING TO MOVE HOMES OR BUSINESSES TO MAKE WAY FOR THE RAILWAY.+

THE CHAPTER DISCUSSES THE AMBITIOUS CONCEPT OF THE RAILWAY FROM ITS PLANNING THROUGH TO FINANCING, CONTRACT LETTING AND CONSTRUCTION. IT COVERS THE RAILWAY'S OPERATIONS, SAFETY AND SECURITY, RELATED DEVELOPMENT, AND LOOKS AT FUTURE TRANSPORT PLANS.

THE YEAR BOOK REVEALS THAT BY THE END OF 1979 THE GOVERNMENT HAD PAID \$259 MILLION IN COMPENSATION - \$28 MILLION FOR PECUNIARY LOSSES RESULTING FROM THE DISRUPTION CAUSED BY ADJACENT MTR WORKS AND \$231 MILLION FOR PROPERTIES RESUMED, SITES CLEARED AND CIVIC FACILITIES REPROVIDED.

THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OF THE MTR, RUNNING 15.6 KILOMETRES AND LINKING 15 STATIONS, COST \$5 800 MILLION. THE 10.5-KILOMETRE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION, SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN 1982, IS COSTING \$4 100 MILLION.

+BY THE MID-1980'S, THE NUMBER OF DAILY PASSENGER JOURNEYS IS EXPECTED TO REACH ONE MILLION ON THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM, WITH THE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION ADDING A FURTHER 800 000,+ THE YEAR BOOK SAYS.

+THESE FIGURES WILL MAKE THE RAILWAY THE MOST HEAVILY UTILISED IN THE WORLD. WHEN THE FULL MTR SYSTEM IS OPERATIONAL, 40 PER CENT OF ALL HOMES AND 50 PER CENT OF WORK PLACES WILL BE WITHIN 10 MINUTES' WALK OF A MTR STATION.+

HONG KONG 1980 WAS PRODUCED IN ENGLISH BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, TRANSLATED BY THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

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JAPAN URGED TO LIFT TRADE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HK  
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THE HONG KONG AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN HOLDING DISCUSSIONS FOR SOME TIME ON THE REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG PRODUCTS FROM THE JAPANESE GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON PETER TSAO SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG PO-YAN ON THE STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PERSUADE THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO LIFT ITS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG IN EXCLUDING SEVEN HONG KONG ITEMS FROM ITS GSP.

MR TSAO SAID: +THIS SUBJECT WAS ALSO RAISED BY THE HONG KONG DELEGATION AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE JAPAN/HONG KONG BUSINESS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEES HELD IN TOKYO IN NOVEMBER 1979. MY DEPARTMENT HAS SINCE MADE FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS THROUGH THE JAPANESE CONSUL-GENERAL IN HONG KONG, SETTING OUT THE GROUNDS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THIS DISCRIMINATION.

+ON FEBRUARY 26, 1980, THE JAPANESE CONSUL-GENERAL CALLED AT THE DEPARTMENT TO DELIVER HIS GOVERNMENT'S REPLY IN PERSON. THAT REPLY INDICATED THAT THE EXISTING SCHEME WOULD TERMINATE AT THE END OF MARCH 1981, AND THAT A MAJOR REVIEW WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN SHORTLY WITH A VIEW TO FORMULATING A SCHEME TO SUCCEED THE CURRENT ONE.

+THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS CONFIRMED THAT HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THIS REVIEW,+ MR TSAO SAID.

+THE LATEST OCCASION ON WHICH THE MATTER WAS RAISED WITH THE JAPANESE AUTHORITY WAS A MEETING THIS MORNING BETWEEN YOUR EXCELLENCY AND MR SONODA, THE FORMER JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO IS PASSING THROUGH HONG KONG ON HIS WAY BACK FROM A TOUR OF THE MIDDLE-EAST AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL ENVOY,+ HE ADDED.

THE ORIGINAL SCHEME, PROMULGATED BY JAPAN IN 1972, EXCLUDED HONG KONG IN 96 ITEMS.

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LAW ON CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT  
OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN INDUSTRY  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED THE TRANSFER OF THE REGULATIONS COVERING THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN INDUSTRY FROM THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THE NECESSARY AMENDING LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 AND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, WERE PASSED INTO LAW WITH AMENDMENTS IN THE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE OF THE TWO BILLS, THE HON PETER C WONG SAID THE INTENTION OF THE BILLS WERE TO RATIONALISE THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS BETWEEN THE TWO PRINCIPAL ORDINANCES SO THAT THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WOULD DEAL WITH ALL MEASURES OF A SOCIAL NATURE RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT LEAVING THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE TO DEAL WITH SAFETY AT WORK.

DURING THE COURSE OF EXAMINING THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, MR WONG DISCOVERED THE POWERS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WERE MUCH WIDER THAN WAS INTENDED.

HE SAID: +IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE DEALS WITH EMPLOYMENT IN BOTH THE INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTORS AND THE POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT APPROPRIATE TO THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE APPROPRIATE TO THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

+INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT IS, BY ITS VERY NATURE, COMPLEX AND INVOLVES GREATER RISKS. HENCE, MORE EXTENSIVE POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT ARE NECESSARY.+

AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY LAW DRAFTSMAN, IT WAS AGREED THAT AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE MADE SO AS TO CONFINE THE APPLICATION OF THE WIDER POWERS TO THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR ONLY, MR WONG SAID.

UNDER ANOTHER AMENDMENT THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY PUBLIC OFFICERS IS ONLY PERMITTED IN THE COURSE OF OFFICIAL DUTY.

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL FURTHER SEEKS TO BRING EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES DEALING WITH DOMESTIC SERVANTS WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WHICH MR WONG DESCRIBED AS +BOTH NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE+.

THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 WHICH WAS ALSO PASSED CONTAINS A NUMBER OF CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS MADE NECESSARY AS A RESULT OF THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

IN REPLY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J N HENDERSON, THANKED MR WONG FOR HIS VIGILANCE AND SUPPORT FOR THE TWO BILLS.

/MR HENDERSON .....

MR HENDERSON SAID: +WITH THE FORMER HE HAS RIGHTLY POINTED OUT THAT BY A GENERAL TRANSFER OF POWERS FROM ONE ORDINANCE TO ANOTHER, SOME POWERS WOULD HAVE BEEN WIDER IN APPLICATION THAN WAS EITHER NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE FOR THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, AND IN THE CASE OF CLAUSE 6 (G) A CLEAR ANACHRONISM WAS REVEALED.

+I AM SURE THAT WITH REGARD TO DISCLOSURE BY PUBLIC OFFICERS THE INTENTION WAS ALWAYS THAT THIS SHOULD ONLY BE DURING THE COURSE OF OFFICIAL DUTY -- BUT IT IS AS WELL TO PUT THIS BEYOND DOUBT.

+I AM GLAD FOR HIS AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR THE GENERAL INTENTION OF THESE LEGISLATIVE MOVES, AND SPECIFICALLY FOR THE LICENSING OF DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.+

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#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS \* \* \* \* \*

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO RAISE THE CEILING OF TOTAL BORROWINGS BY THE EXCHANGE FUND TO \$10 000 MILLION AND APPROVED A SCHEDULE OF FUNDS ON ACCOUNT.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR THE HIGHER CEILING, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID THE BORROWINGS ROSE SHARPLY THROUGH 1979, AND ON MARCH 10 THIS YEAR THEY AMOUNTED TO \$6 993 MILLION, ALMOST TO THE PREVIOUS LIMIT OF \$7 000 MILLION SET IN 1972.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCUMULATED FISCAL RESERVES ARE INVESTED BY THE GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND, AGAINST THE ISSUE BY THE FUND OF INTEREST-BEARING DEBT CERTIFICATES.

AT THE END OF THE PRESENT FINANCIAL YEAR, THE EXCHANGE FUND'S BORROWINGS FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT ARE LIKELY TO BE AROUND \$8 400 MILLION.

+IF MY RECENT FORECAST OF A SURPLUS ON GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT OF \$2 904 MILLION FOR 1980-81 IS CORRECT, THE FUND'S BORROWINGS WILL BE IN EXCESS OF \$10 000 MILLION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

+THIS MEANS THAT WE SHALL NEED TO RAISE THE BORROWING LIMIT YET AGAIN,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

REFERRING TO THE FUNDS ON ACCOUNT WHICH WERE APPROVED, SIR PHILIP EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE NEEDED TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT EXISTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE START OF THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR ON APRIL 1 AND THE ISSUE OF THE GENERAL WARRANT FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

THE ORDINANCE IS TO BE ENACTED ONLY AFTER APRIL 1 BECAUSE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IS EXTENDED INTO APRIL, AS HAS BECOME NORMAL PRACTICE, TO GIVE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TIME TO EXAMINE THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR 1980-81.

SIR PHILIP WAS ALSO GIVEN AUTHORITY BY THE COUNCIL TO USE CERTAIN RECEIPTS TO OFFSET EXPENDITURE INSTEAD OF CREDITING THEM TO GENERAL REVENUE DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE VOTE ON ACCOUNT.

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## MEASURES TO KEEP SUBWAYS SAFE FOR USERS

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FREQUENT POLICE PATROLS AND ADEQUATE LIGHTING WILL BE PROVIDED TO HELP KEEP PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS SAFE FOR USERS, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID: +NEW SUBWAYS ARE BEING LIT TO IMPROVE LIGHTING STANDARDS INTRODUCED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SINCE 1979.

+A SURVEY IS ABOUT TO BE UNDERTAKEN OF THE OLDER SUBWAYS, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE POLICE, TO ESTABLISH WHERE IMPROVED LIGHTING IS NEEDED AND THE PRIORITIES FOR ITS INTRODUCTION,+ HE SAID.

+FURTHER POLICE MEASURES INCLUDE CRIME PREVENTION PUBLICITY AIMED AT DISCOURAGING PEOPLE FROM CARRYING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY ON THEIR PERSON AND ALSO ADVISING WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS NOT TO WALK ALONE AT NIGHT,+ HE ADDED.

MR DAVIES POINTED OUT THAT A STUDY OF ALL CRIMES REPORTED TO THE POLICE SO FAR THIS YEAR HAD REVEALED ONLY TWO THAT WERE COMMITTED IN PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS: ONE CASE OF ROBBERY AND ONE OF SNATCHING.

+POLICE INVESTIGATIONS INTO A THIRD CASE INVOLVING HOMICIDE ARE NOT YET COMPLETE AND I DO NOT PROPOSE TO COMMENT ON THAT CASE FURTHER,+ HE SAID.

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## MORE NEW AMBULANCES ON WAY

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ORDERS HAVE BEEN PLACED FOR 47 NEW AMBULANCES AND PROVISION HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE 1980-81 DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR A FURTHER 51 UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME TO REPLACE AND EXPAND ITS AMBULANCE FLEET.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON E P HO IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER C WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HO ADDED THAT PROVISION WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE 1980-81 DRAFT ESTIMATES TO AIR-CONDITION TWO AMBULANCES FOR TRIAL PURPOSES.

MR HO EXPLAINED THAT THE QUESTION OF AIR-CONDITIONING FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S AMBULANCES HAD BEEN LOOKED INTO VERY CAREFULLY AND IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT AIR-CONDITIONING WAS DESIRABLE THOUGH, PERHAPS, NOT ESSENTIAL IN HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES OF RELATIVELY SHORT DISTANCES.

+FURTHERMORE, THERE COULD BE TECHNICAL COMPLICATIONS OVER THE OPERATION OF AIR-CONDITIONED AMBULANCES, PARTICULARLY HAVING REGARD TO OUR HILLY TERRAIN,+ MR HO SAID.

MR HO ALSO POINTED OUT THAT OF THE 135 AMBULANCES AT PRESENT IN SERVICE 72 WERE PURCHASED DURING THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS AS PART OF THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME.

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EDUCATION GREEN PAPER TO BE  
SUBMITTED TO GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL SOON  
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THE GREEN PAPER ON PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS FOR AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH IT.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON E P HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT.

MR HO SAID A COMPLETED DRAFT OF THE GREEN PAPER WAS READY BY THE END OF 1979 BUT IT COULD NOT MEET THE INITIAL PUBLICATION DATE.

+THE REASON FOR THIS DELAY IS THAT AS THE GREEN PAPER HAS TO COVER A RANGE OF ISSUES IT INVOLVES A NUMBER OF INTER-LOCKING CONSIDERATIONS, AND THE DRAFTING AND REVISING PROCESSES HAVE TAKEN A LITTLE LONGER THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED,+ HE EXPLAINED.

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NO SHORTAGE IN SUPPLY OF DRUGS  
IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS  
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THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS IS BEING MONITORED AT THREE DIFFERENT LEVELS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO SHORTAGE AT ANY TIME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, THE HON DR K L THONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG LAM.

DR THONG POINTED OUT THAT SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEES CONSISTING OF MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS, SENIOR PHARMACISTS AND HEADS OF THE CLINICAL UNITS CONCERNED HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET UP IN REGIONAL HOSPITALS TO KEEP CHECK ON THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

EXPERIENCES HAD SHOWN THAT THESE COMMITTEES WERE QUITE EFFECTIVE IN SO FAR AS SUPPLY OF DRUGS WITHIN THE HOSPITAL WAS CONCERNED, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, DR THONG SAID THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS IN INDIVIDUAL CLINICS SOMETIMES FELL SHORT FOR LIMITED PERIODS.

THIS WAS BECAUSE OF LOCAL PROBLEMS OF STOCK-KEEPING AND UNEXPECTED DEMANDS FOR SPECIAL DRUGS, WHICH +ARE DIFFICULT TO ANTICIPATE,+ HE SAID.

IN VIEW OF THESE, DR THONG SAID SIMILAR MONITORING TEAMS WERE BEING SET UP IN THREE MAJOR REGIONS TO KEEP CHECK ON THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF DRUGS IN DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.

IN ADDITION TO THIS MONITORING MECHANISM IN THE FIELD, A CENTRAL DRUGS COMMITTEE HAD ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED IN MEDICAL HEADQUARTERS TO CO-ORDINATE AND REVIEW THE SITUATION REGULARLY, HE SAID.

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MONITORING OF HEUNG YEE KUK ELECTIONS  
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE FORTHCOMING HEUNG YEE KUK ELECTIONS WOULD BE SUPERVISED, OR MONITORED, WITH GREAT CARE BY HIM PERSONALLY AS RETURNING OFFICER.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR AKERS-JONES SAID HE WOULD BE ASSISTED IN THIS WORK BY SENIOR STAFF OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

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SNT LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR NEW SCHOOL IN SHA TIN  
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THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS HAS A FINE RECORD OF DEVELOPING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN HONG KONG, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR AKERS-JONES WAS SPEAKING AT THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY FOR THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS' YOW KAM YUEN PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

HE SAID THE GROUP ALREADY OPERATED 13 PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SEVEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THREE NIGHT SCHOOLS, AND HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL TO MR YOW MOK-SHING, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, AND THE BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR +INITIATIVE, FORESIGHT AND GENEROUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN ESTABLISHING THIS NEW PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL.+

MR AKERS-JONES SAID PEOPLE STILL THOUGHT OF SHA TIN AS A DORMITORY TOWN BUT THIS WAS FAR FROM THE TRUTH.

THERE WAS ALREADY A DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL AREA WITH 209 000 SQUARE METRES (2.25 MILLION SQUARE FEET) OF FACTORY FLOOR SPACE AND A FURTHER SIX HECTARES (15 ACRES) OF INDUSTRIAL LAND CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT- OVER THE NEXT YEAR A FURTHER 3.2 HECTARES (EIGHT ACRES) OF LAND WOULD BE DISPOSED OF FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+THERE IS ALREADY A DEMAND FOR EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE HAD SOME TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION AS PART OF THEIR EDUCATION AND THIS DEMAND WILL GROW AS THE TOWN DEVELOPS,+ HE SAID.

+THIS SCHOOL, WHICH WILL OPEN IN 1982, WILL SPECIALISE IN PRINTING AND LIGHT ENGINEERING, AND IT WILL THUS PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN PREPARING THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SHA TIN FOR LIFE WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOL.+

MR YOW SAID THE GROUP HAD BEEN PROVIDING FREE EDUCATION TO THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG SINCE 1880.

AT PRESENT, A TOTAL OF 15 600 STUDENTS WERE ATTENDING SCHOOLS RUN BY THE GROUP, INCLUDING ADULT STUDENTS.

+THIS NEW SCHOOL IS GOING TO BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND OPERATED BY TUNG WAH,+ HE SAID. MR YOW HAS DONATED \$1 MILLION TOWARDS THE CONTRIBUTION COSTS OF THE SCHOOL WHICH IS NAMED AFTER HIS LATE GRANDFATHER.

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### LIVESTOCK POPULATION DOUBLES IN FOUR YEARS

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THE PIG AND POULTRY POPULATION IN HONG KONG HAS ALMOST DOUBLED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LIVESTOCK CENSUS UNDERTAKEN BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT BETWEEN 1975 AND 1979, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PIGS INCREASED FROM 386 000 TO 569 000 AND POULTRY FROM 3.7 MILLION TO 6.7 MILLION.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN MADE THESE REMARKS AT THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE MAIZE AND FEED IMPORTERS' ASSOCIATION.

HE DESCRIBED THE POPULATION GROWTH AS +A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE+ AND ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE IMPORTATION OF LIVESTOCK FEED CONSTITUENTS.

MAIZE IMPORTS ROSE FROM 160 000 TONNES TO 270 000 TONNES AND WHEAT BRAN FROM 50 000 TO 90 000 TONNES DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

+IT IS A MEASURE OF THE STRENGTH OF THE MAIZE AND FEED IMPORTERS' ASSOCIATION THAT MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE FEEDSTUFFS USED IN HONG KONG IS IMPORTED BY MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION. AND IT IS IN NO SMALL MEASURE DUE TO YOUR EFFORTS IN SEEKING BETTER AND CHEAPER SOURCES OF GRAINS THAT THE LIVESTOCK FARMERS HAVE AT PRESENT A STEADY SUPPLY OF HIGH QUALITY LIVESTOCK FEED AT REASONABLE PRICES,+ SAID MR RIDDELL-SWAN.

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### SPECIAL TRAINS TO SHA TIN RACE COURSE

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT ONE OF ITS THREE RACE COURSE SPECIAL TRAINS WILL STOP TO PICK UP PASSENGERS AT MONG KOK STATION THIS SATURDAY (MARCH 15).

THE THREE TRAINS WILL LEAVE KOWLOON STATION AT 12.05 PM, 12.23 PM AND 12.50 PM. THE SECOND TRAIN WILL ARRIVE AND PICK UP PASSENGERS AT MONG KOK AT 12.38 PM.

THE SINGLE JOURNEY FARE FROM MONG KOK TO RACE COURSE IS \$2.

ON THE RETURN JOURNEY, THREE SPECIAL TRAINS WILL DEPART RACE COURSE STATION AT 6.20 PM, 6.42 PM AND 7.17 PM. ALL THESE DOWN TRAINS WILL STOP AT MONG KOK STATION.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHA TIN AND WANG TAU HOM  
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THE UNDERPASS OF THE NEW GRADE-SEPARATED INTERCHANGE AT LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NEAR HUNG MUI KUK IN SHA TIN WILL OPEN TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 14) TO PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS FROM LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD TO WORLDWIDE GARDENS.

IN KOWLOON FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 15), THE SECTION OF WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD BETWEEN FU MEI STREET AND JUNCTION ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW LOK FU HOUSING ESTATE.

THE ARRANGEMENT WILL LAST FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR DURING WHICH KMB ROUTES 7B AND 103 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HENG LAM STREET AND FU MEI STREET EAST TO WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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