



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
<u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING :</u>	
BILL PROVIDES FOR BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF COMPANY LAW .	1
TAX EXEMPTION FOR TRAINING BUSES PROPOSED	3
INCREASE IN BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERSHIP PROPOSED	4
CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES	5
LANDLORD AND TENANT BILL PASSED	5
CO-OPERATION WILL HELP MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER	6
EFFORTS MADE TO CO-ORDINATE ROAD EXCAVATION WORKS	7
CNTA ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR LICENSING GUEST HOUSES .	8
UNQUALIFIED PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM GIVING TREATMENT ...	9
ORIENTATION PROGRAMME BEING UNDERTAKEN FOR REFUGEES	11
INCREASING NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR NEW COMPANY NAMES	12
CONTROL STRATEGIES ON VEGETABLE CONSIGNMENTS UNDER REVIEW	13
REPORTS MAKE REFERENCES TO PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE	14
STAFFING OF NEW HOSPITALS PLANNED IN ADVANCE	15
STUDY ON TRANSLATING COURT DOCUMENTS	16
REVIEW OF LEGAL AID ELIGIBILITY LIMIT PLANNED	17
MEASURES TO REDUCE RIVER POLLUTION	17
WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CHINA: GOVERNOR .	18
SEPARATE SALARY SCALE FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS	19
CIVIL SERVICE OFFERS CHALLENGING CAREER: SES	19
PROVIDING REGULATORS WITH TOOLS TO GET THE JOB DONE: SECURITIES CONSULTANT	20
SECURITIES MARKETS MEET INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS: SMA	23
TEACHING KITS WARN AGAINST TRILADS, SHOPTHEFT	25
HONG KONG/AUSTRIA TEXTILES AGREEMENT AMENDED	26
LABOUR RELATIONS CONFERENCE OPENS TOMORROW	26
BILL RAISES LEVEL OF PERMITTED RENT	27
DB TO DISCUSS LAND USE	28
NORTH DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS	28
REPROVISION PROJECT AT HOUSING ESTATES ON AGENDA	29
SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCOUT RALLY	30
CLOSURE OF HING FAT ST, HUNG MUI KUK RD	31
TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY IN KING KWONG STREET	32

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 1 -

BILL PROVIDES FOR BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF COMPANY LAW

* * * * *

A BILL CONTAINING A NUMBER OF MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID ITS PURPOSE WAS TO PROVIDE FOR THE BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF COMPANY LAW IN HONG KONG.

"THESE AMENDMENTS REFLECTED RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM, THE INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION AND BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL," MR JACOBS SAID.

"THE OPPORTUNITY HAS ALSO BE TAKEN TO CORRECT MINOR TEXTUAL ERRORS IN THE ORDINANCE AND TO DEAL WITH SOME PROCEDURAL MATTERS."

EXPLAINING THE MAIN AMENDMENTS, MR JACOBS SAID SECTION 265(1) PROVIDED THAT PAYMENT OF WAGES, SALARIES AND OTHER BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES AND WORKMEN AND STATUTORY CROWN DEBTS TOOK PRIORITY OVER OTHER DEBTS IN THE WINDING UP OF A COMPANY.

THERE WAS, HOWEVER, NO PROVISION FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH INSURANCE CLAIMS AGAINST AN INSURANCE COMPANY IN LIQUIDATION, WHO WERE REGARDED AS GENERAL UNSECURED CREDITORS.

"THIS SITUATION CAN GIVE RISE TO HARDSHIP WHERE, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, THE LIQUIDATION PROCESS IS LENGTHY OR THE ASSETS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET THE CLAIMS OF ALL CREDITORS," MR JACOBS SAID.

"WHILE THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE GIVES SOME PROTECTION TO CLAIMANTS UNDER CONTRACTS OF LIFE INSURANCE, THERE IS NO EQUIVALENT PROTECTION GIVEN TO CLAIMANTS UNDER CONTRACTS OF GENERAL, THAT IS NON-LIFE INSURANCE."

TO RELIEVE POSSIBLE HARDSHIP, MR JACOBS SAID CLAUSE 9 OF THE BILL SOUGHT TO AMEND SECTION 265 TO ESTABLISH A HIERARCHY OF PREFERRED CLAIMS IN THE EVENT OF THE WINDING UP OF AN INSURANCE COMPANY.

UNDER THE NEW HIERARCHY, THE FIRST CLASS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE EXISTING CLAIMS UNDER SECTION 265(1), WHILE A NEW SECOND CLASS WOULD BE CLAIMS UNDER AN INSURANCE CONTRACT WRITTEN BY AN AUTHORISED INSURER IN HONG KONG.

/"THIS WILL

"THIS WILL COVER DIRECT INSURANCE BUSINESS AND IS DESIGNED TO GIVE THE GREATEST PROTECTION TO INDIVIDUAL CLAIMANTS, THAT IS POLICY HOLDERS AND ENTITLED THIRD PARTIES," MR JACOBS SAID.

TO AVOID DOUBLE BENEFITS, CLAIMS ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF UNDER INSOLVENCY COMPENSATION SCHEMES SUCH AS THE MOTOR INSURERS' BUREAU INSOLVENCY FUND WOULD BE EXCLUDED.

"A NEW THIRD CLASS OF PRIORITY CLAIMS WILL BE CLAIMS UNDER CONTRACTS OF RE-INSURANCE, AFTER OFFSETTING ALL RECEIVABLES," MR JACOBS SAID, ADDING THAT THESE CLAIMANTS WOULD USUALLY BE OTHER INSURANCE COMPANIES.

ALSO TO AVOID DOUBLE BENEFITS, BOTH NEW CLASSES, WHICH WOULD RELATE ONLY TO GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS, WOULD EXCLUDE CLAIMS ACCORDED PRIORITY IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION.

TURNING TO FILING OF ANNUAL RETURNS, MR JACOBS SAID CLAUSE 13 SOUGHT TO AMEND SECTION 109 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE SO THAT ALL RETURNS SUBMITTED TO THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES FOR REGISTRATION WITHIN 42 DAYS OF A COMPANY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, WOULD ATTRACT A FEE OF \$50.

AT PRESENT, THE FEE PAYABLE UPON DELIVERY OF THE ANNUAL RETURN WAS \$50 FOR A PRIVATE COMPANY AND \$100 FOR ANY OTHER COMPANY.

IN ADDITION, CLAUSE 13 INTRODUCED A SCALE OF FEES, RANGING FROM \$500 FOR DELIVERY MORE THAN 42 DAYS AFTER BUT WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO \$1,500 FOR RETURNS FILED AFTER SIX MONTHS.

MR JACOBS SAID THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES HAD MOUNTED SEVERAL PROSECUTIONS BUT THESE HAD PROVED TO BE VERY TIME-CONSUMING.

"WE CONSIDER THAT A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO TACKLE THE GROWING PROBLEM OF DEFAULTS IS TO INTRODUCE PENALTY RATES UPON LATE FILING."

ON COMPANY PROSPECTUSES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO LIFT THE PROHIBITION AGAINST USING PHOTOGRAPHS OR ILLUSTRATIONS OF A PICTORIAL OR GRAPHIC NATURE IN THESE PUBLICATIONS.

IN LINE WITH THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION, THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO LOWER THE MINIMUM AGE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A COMPANY DIRECTOR FROM 21 TO 18.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- 3 -

TAX EXEMPTION FOR TRAINING BUSES PROPOSED
* * * * *

A BILL INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WOULD EXEMPT BUSES USED SOLELY FOR THE TRAINING OF BUS DRIVERS FROM FIRST REGISTRATION TAX AND REMOVE AN ANOMALY IN THE LAW BY MAKING SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES SUBJECT TO THIS TAX.

THE SECOND READING OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, WAS MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG.

BUSES USED BY FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION FOR OPERATING A PUBLIC BUS SERVICE WERE EXEMPTED FROM FIRST REGISTRATION TAX, MR LEUNG SAID.

HOWEVER, THIS TAX WAS IMPOSED ON BUSES USED FOR TRAINING DRIVERS BECAUSE THESE VEHICLES WERE CLASSIFIED AS PRIVATE BUSES.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT THESE VEHICLES SHOULD ALSO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE TAX BECAUSE TRAINING DRIVERS WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE OPERATION OF A PUBLIC BUS SERVICE.

MR LEUNG ALSO EXPLAINED THE AMENDMENT TO REMOVE AN ANOMALY IN THE PRESENT MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THAT SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES SUCH AS MOBILE CRANES, BULLDOZERS AND FORK-LIFT TRUCKS WERE FORMERLY INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL DEFINITION OF "MOTOR VEHICLES" UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND SUBJECT TO A 15 PER CENT FIRST REGISTRATION TAX.

HOWEVER, WHEN SEPARATE DEFINITIONS FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF VEHICLES WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE ORDINANCE IN 1983, THE DEFINITION FOR THIS TYPE OF VEHICLES WAS UNINTENTIONALLY OMITTED.

THIS RESULTED IN THEIR BEING EXCLUDED FROM THE TAX IN LAW ALTHOUGH IN PRACTICE THEY CONTINUED TO BE SUBJECT TO SUCH A TAX.

AS REGARDS SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES REGISTERED AFTER MAY 13, 1983 AND BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THE PRESENT BILL, IT WAS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO REFUND THE TAX TO VEHICLE OWNERS UPON APPLICATION, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

- 4 -

INCREASE IN BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERSHIP PROPOSED

* * * * *

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) A BILL INTENDED TO AMEND THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE INLAND REVENUE BOARD OF REVIEW AND TO FACILITATE THE COLLECTION OF PROFITS TAX FROM NON-RESIDENT PERSONS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1988, MR JACOBS SAID THE INLAND REVENUE BOARD OF REVIEW WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL RESPONSIBLE FOR DEALING WITH APPEALS FROM TAXPAYERS DISSATISFIED WITH DETERMINATIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE.

"AT PRESENT, THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL BACKLOG IN THE NUMBER OF APPEAL CASES AWAITING HEARING," HE SAID.

THE BILL SOUGHT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD FROM SIX TO 10 AND THE MAXIMUM SIZE OF THE PANEL OF MEMBERS FROM 100 TO 150, HE SAID.

"THE INCREASE WILL ENABLE MORE SITTINGS TO BE HELD SO THAT THE BOARD COULD CARRY OUT ITS WORK MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY."

TURNING TO THE SECOND ASPECT OF THE BILL, MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE PROVIDED THAT NON-RESIDENTS SHOULD BE CHARGEABLE TO TAX EITHER DIRECTLY OR IN THE NAME OF AN AGENT IN HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES HAD ARISEN FOLLOWING A HIGH COURT DECISION IN WHICH THERE WAS A FINDING AGAINST THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN A CASE WHERE HE SOUGHT TO TAX A NON-RESIDENT PERSON IN THE NAME OF A HONG KONG COMPANY.

"ESSENTIALLY THE DECISION AGAINST THE COMMISSIONER TURNED ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DEFINITION OF 'AGENT' IN RELATION TO A NON-RESIDENT PERSON UNDER THE ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD ENABLE A NON-RESIDENT TO BE CHARGED IN THE NAME OF A PERSON IN HONG KONG WHERE THAT PERSON, ALTHOUGH NOT AN AGENT OF THE NON-RESIDENT, WAS, NEVERTHELESS, A PERSON FROM WHOM THE NON-RESIDENT WAS IN RECEIPT OF PROFITS OR INCOME ARISING IN HONG KONG.

"IT IS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT A HONG KONG PERSON CHARGEABLE TO TAX IN RESPECT OF A NON-RESIDENT IS REQUIRED TO DEDUCT FROM ANY SUM PAID OR CREDITED BY HIM TO THE NON-RESIDENT AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO PRODUCE THE TAX DUE," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS EMPHASISED THAT THIS AMENDMENT WOULD NOT ALTER THE PRESENT TAXATION POLICY OR ITS APPLICATION.

IT WAS DESIGNED TO RESTORE THE POSITION TO THAT WHICH WAS THOUGHT TO EXIST PRIOR TO THE HIGH COURT DECISION, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 5 -

CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WILL SOON EMBARK ON A CONSULTATION EXERCISE TO SOLICIT THE COMMUNITY'S VIEWS ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAU WAS PRESENTING THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31 THIS YEAR.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS COVERED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, RESTRICTIONS ON SMOKING IN PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES, AS WELL AS ON THE SALE AND ADVERTISING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT AS A STATUTORY BODY SET UP IN 1987, THE COUNCIL'S MAJOR FUNCTIONS WERE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES AS WELL AS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SMOKING.

"ONE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SO FAR HAS BEEN THE FORMULATION OF A PACKAGE OF PROPOSED MEASURES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING POLICY," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LANDLORD AND TENANT BILL PASSED

* * * * *

THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY ARE THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1988, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1988 AND THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

DEBATES ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 6 -

CO-OPERATION WILL HELP MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER

* * * * *

WITH ADEQUATE CO-OPERATION, FOREBEARANCE AND GOOD SENSE ON ALL SIDES, THE GRADUAL LIBERALISATION OF VIETNAMESE CLOSED CENTRES SHOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE COMMUNITY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, MR BARNES SAID THAT THE OVERALL NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WERE RELATIVELY SMALL AND MOST OF THEM WERE LAW-ABIDING.

BUT HE NOTED THAT THE PRESENCE OF ADDITIONAL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THE COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR LAW AND ORDER, ADDING THAT THE EXTENT OF THESE WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT.

"WE SHALL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO SEE HOW THE SITUATION DEVELOPS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TAKING CERTAIN PRECAUTIONARY STEPS," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THAT THROUGH DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDERS AND THEIR POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS, AN EDUCATION PROGRAMME OF LIVE AND VIDEO-TAPED LECTURES ON THE LAWS OF HONG KONG HAD BEEN INTRODUCED FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

THESE LECTURES HIGHLIGHTED THE REFUGEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE REPORTING OF CRIME, CRIME PREVENTION, ROAD SAFETY AND MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF HONG KONG LIFE WITH WHICH THE REFUGEES WOULD COME INTO CONTACT WHEN THEY LEFT THE CAMPS.

"THESE PROGRAMMES WILL BE OPERATED IN ALL FORMER CLOSED CENTRES," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THAT AS THE CAMPS WERE LIBERALISED ADDITIONAL POLICE RESOURCES WOULD BE DEPLOYED TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT POLICE BEAT PATROLS.

"FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH TUEN MUN AND CASTLE PEAK DIVISIONS ARE BEING STRENGTHENED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF AREAS CLOSE TO THE CAMPS AND BUSY PARTS OF THE TOWN.

"DISTRICT COMMANDERS WILL KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON DEVELOPMENTS AND WILL DEPLOY FURTHER MANPOWER AS NECESSARY," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ADDED THAT THE PROGRAMMES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE POLICE WOULD BE REINFORCED BY PROGRAMMES OF OTHER AGENCIES WHICH WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE REFUGEES AS PART OF THE TRUST BEING PUT IN THEM IN RELAXING THE CLOSED CENTRE RESTRICTIONS.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT INEVITABLY ONE HAD TO RELY ON THE GOOD SENSE OF THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL TO ASSIST REFUGEES WHO MIGHT NOT BE FULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE WAYS OF LIFE AND PERHAPS SOME OF THE CONCEPTS OF LAW AND ORDER WHICH HONG KONG PEOPLE TOOK FOR GRANTED.

"WE SHALL BE RELYING ON THE AGENCIES CONCERNED, THE UNHCR, THE PUBLIC AND THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES TO CO-OPERATE IN SEEING THAT LAW AND ORDER IS MAINTAINED," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

EFFORTS MADE TO CO-ORDINATE ROAD EXCAVATION WORKS

* * * * *

SOME 20 PER CENT OF ROAD EXCAVATIONS ARE EMERGENCY OPENINGS AND THESE MAY HAVE NEGATED THE CO-ORDINATION INTENDED TO MINIMISE THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY ROAD OPENINGS PLANNED IN ADVANCE.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHENG TAK-KIN.

MR BARNES SAID THE FACT WAS THAT HIGHWAYS HAD TO PERFORM A DUAL ROLE.

THEY WERE A ROUTE FOR VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS ABOVE AND FOR INSTALLATION OF ESSENTIAL UTILITY SERVICES UNDERNEATH.

"ON AVERAGE, 100 NEW ROAD OPENINGS ARE STARTED EVERY WORKING DAY, OF WHICH, AGAIN ON AVERAGE, SOME 80 PER CENT ARE PLANNED AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION CO-ORDINATED BY THE HIGHWAYS REGIONAL ROAD OPENING CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES," MR BARNES SAID.

"THESE COMMITTEES INCIDENTALLY INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE PUBLIC UTILITY BODIES.

"BUT SOME 20 PER CENT OF EXCAVATIONS ARE EMERGENCY OPENINGS AND THESE, IMPOSED ON TOP OF THE PLANNED OPENINGS, MAY SOMETIMES SEEM TO NEGATE MUCH OF THE CO-ORDINATION.

"BUT BROKEN OR BREAKING UTILITIES MUST BE REPAIRED AND I CAN ONLY SAY THAT WITHOUT THE CO-ORDINATION THE SITUATION WOULD BE INFINITELY WORSE."

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THAT PROPOSALS FOR THE COMMON DUCTING OF UTILITIES HAD BEEN REJECTED BECAUSE OF THE ADDITIONAL COST OF WHAT WOULD IN MOST CASES BE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL TUNNEL, AND BECAUSE OF THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF CERTAIN DIFFERENT TYPES OF UTILITY.

"IT SEEMED, MOREOVER, INEVITABLE THAT EXCAVATIONS WOULD STILL BE INVOLVED FOR UTILITY CONNECTIONS FROM THE DUCTS TO BUILDINGS," HE SAID.

"WHEN WE LOOKED AT THE PROBLEM AGAIN, THESE PROBLEMS STILL SEEMED INTRACTABLE, AND IN ANY CASE IN THE NEW TOWNS IT HAS BEEN FOUND POSSIBLE TO DIRECT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THE UTILITIES INTO AMENITY STRIPS, SO THAT THE EXCAVATIONS BECOME A TEMPORARY ENVIRONMENTAL RATHER A THAN TRAFFIC AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM."

MR BARNES SAID THERE WAS NO REAL POSSIBILITY OF ANY FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF THIS KIND IN THE CROWDED URBAN AREAS, ALTHOUGH EVEN NOW IN MAJOR RECONSTRUCTIONS OF BUSY INTER SECTIONS, THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SOMETIMES COULD AND DID CONSTRUCT DUCTS WHICH COULD CARRY AT LEAST SOME OF THE UTILITIES.

/ "ON THE

- 8 -

"ON THE NEW CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION, MOREOVER, THE CONSULTANTS HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO PLAN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS SO AS TO MINIMISE THE PROBLEMS FROM UTILITIES' EXCAVATIONS," HE SAID.

"THE METROPLAN WILL ALSO DEVOTE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO UTILITIES IN URBAN REPLANNING SCHEMES FROM WHICH SOME GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT MAY EVENTUALLY BE EXPECTED."

- - - - 0 - - - -

CNTA ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR LICENSING GUEST HOUSES

* * * * *

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAD RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BUILDING MANAGEMENT, WOULD ASSUME THE LICENSING RESPONSIBILITY A TASK FORCE RECOMMENDED FOR GUEST HOUSES AND SIMILAR ACCOMMODATION, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM WHO ASKED ABOUT THE CAUSES OF THE TWO SERIOUS FIRES WHICH BROKE OUT IN GUEST HOUSES OPERATED IN PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS RECENTLY AND WHAT MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS.

ON THE QUESTION OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES, MR BARNES SAID A TASK FORCE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF A SECURITY BRANCH OFFICER WAS SET UP AFTER THE FIRE IN CHUNG KING MANSION IN FEBRUARY TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM OF FIRE HAZARDS IN GUEST HOUSES.

"THE TASK FORCE COMPLETED ITS WORK IN JULY AND RECOMMENDED THE INTRODUCTION OF A LICENSING SYSTEM FOR GUEST HOUSES AND SIMILAR ACCOMMODATION," MR BARNES SAID.

"THIS RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ADDED THAT FIRE SERVICES OFFICERS HAD MEANWHILE VISITED A LARGE NUMBER OF KNOWN GUEST HOUSES AND HAD GIVEN ADVICE AND DIRECTIONS ON A RANGE OF FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES COVERING THE REMOVAL OF FIRE HAZARDS, THE INSTALLATION OF EXIT SIGNS, PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS.

/ "OPERATORS HAVE

- 9 -

"OPERATORS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TWO TO FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS. FURTHER VISITS WILL CONTINUE AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY TO OTHER KNOWN GUEST HOUSES," HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE CAUSES OF THE TWO MAJOR FIRES IN RECENT MONTHS IN COMPOSITE BUILDINGS, THAT IS MIXED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, WHICH CONTAIN ALSO GUEST HOUSES, MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT THE FIRST FIRE OCCURRED IN MIRADOR MANSIONS, NATHAN ROAD ON AUGUST 7 AND MAINLY INVOLVED THE SHOPPING ARCADES ON THE LOWER FLOORS.

HE SAID THAT NO GUEST HOUSES WERE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE FIRE ALTHOUGH OCCUPANTS WERE EVACUATED TOGETHER WITH OTHER PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING.

"THE CORONER IS STILL CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT A DEATH INQUEST SHOULD TAKE PLACE AND IT IS THEREFORE NOT APPROPRIATE AT PRESENT TO RELEASE THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE," MR BARNES CONTINUED.

MR BARNES ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE SECOND FIRE OCCURRED IN CHATHAM ROAD ON SEPTEMBER 14. IT INVOLVED MAINLY THE ELEVENTH FLOOR OF THE BUILDING WHERE THE BACCARAT HOTEL WAS LOCATED AND WAS CAUSED BY AN ELECTRICAL SHORT CIRCUIT IN THE WIRING IN THE CORRIDOR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

UNQUALIFIED PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM GIVING TREATMENT

* * * * *

IT IS ILLEGAL FOR AN UNQUALIFIED PERSON TO DIAGNOSE AND TREAT PATIENTS USING LASER, ULTRASONIC WAVES, SHORTWAVES, MICROWAVES, MAGNETIC RESONANCE AND ELECTRICAL STIMULATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MR CHAU STATED THAT UNDER SECTION 28(2) OF THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, IT WAS AN OFFENCE FOR ANY PERSON TO PRACTISE MEDICINE OR SURGERY WHEN NOT REGISTERED OR PROVISIONALLY REGISTERED OR EXEMPTED FROM REGISTRATION.

/HOWEVER, HE

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT UNDER SECTION 28(3) OF THE SAME ORDINANCE, SECTION 28(2) SHOULD NOT APPLY TO TREATMENT:

- (A) BY WAY OF DENTISTRY PERFORMED BY A REGISTERED DENTIST;
- (B) BY WAY OF THE DISPENSATION OF MEDICINE OR POISON BY A REGISTERED PHARMACIST;
- (C) BY WAY OF THE DISPENSATION OF POISON BY A SELLER OF POISONS LISTED UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE;
- (D) IN THE COURSE OF PRACTICE OF ONE OF THE PROFESSIONS LISTED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE GIVEN BY A REGISTERED OR LICENSED PERSON;
- (E) BY WAY OF MASSAGE GIVEN IN A MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT BY OR UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PERSON LICENSED TO OPERATE THE MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT;
- (F) BY WAY OF CHIROPODY, CHIROPRACTIC OR OSTEOPATHY; AND
- (G) BY WAY OF FIRST AID.

"SECTION 31 OF THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE PERMITS A PERSON OF CHINESE RACE TO PRACTISE MEDICINE OR SURGERY ACCORDING TO PURELY CHINESE METHODS; BUT SUCH A PERSON IS NOT ALLOWED TO DIAGNOSE OR TREAT DISEASES OF THE EYE IF HE IS NOT A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER," MR CHAU ADDED.

EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS AT PRESENT NO LEGISLATIVE CONTROL ON THE IMPORT, POSSESSION OR USE OF DEVICES INVOLVING LASER, ULTRASONIC WAVES, SHORTWAVES, MICROWAVES, MAGNETIC RESONANCE AND ELECTRICAL STIMULATION, THE PUBLIC WAS GENERALLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PATIENTS BY UNQUALIFIED PERSONS WAS UNLAWFUL.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY WIDESPREAD ABUSE OF SUCH DEVICES FOR THE UNLAWFUL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PATIENTS, MR CHAU SAID.

THERE SEEMED TO BE NO NEED TO LICENSE THE APPLICATION OF THE DEVICES OR METHODS IN QUESTION, BUT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION.

MR CHAU ADDED THAT AS NO SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED, THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY PROSECUTIONS OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN SUCH UNLAWFUL DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME BEING UNDERTAKEN FOR REFUGEES

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IS EMBARKING ON A MAJOR ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAU WONG-FAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BARNES STRESSED THAT THE PROGRAMME'S SUCCESS WOULD ENHANCE THE RESETTLEMENT PROSPECTS OF REFUGEES.

IT WOULD ALSO HELP THEM TO BECOME MORE PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHILE AWAITING RESETTLEMENT.

OUTLINING THE MEASURES TAKEN TO HELP VIETNAMESE ADAPT TO THE LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLOSED CENTRES, MR BARNES SAID ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO BRIEF THEM ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE.

THE TOPICS INCLUDED LAW AND ORDER, ROAD SAFETY, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, LABOUR RELATIONS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, ANTI-CORRUPTION AND NARCOTICS.

"AT THE SAME TIME, UNHCR AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE CONDUCTING CULTURE ORIENTATION COURSES, HEALTH AND HYGIENE COURSES, CANTONESE CLASSES, FAMILIARISATION VISITS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE REFUGEES," MR BARNES SAID.

"AMONG THEM, THE CARITAS PLANS TO LAUNCH A HOST FAMILY PROJECT WHEREBY VOLUNTEER LOCAL FAMILIES WILL ENTERTAIN VIETNAMESE FAMILIES IN THEIR SPARE TIME WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY."

SOME AGENCIES WERE ALSO RUNNING A SOCIAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMME INCLUDING CANTONESE COURSES AND ORIENTATION VISITS, MR BARNES ADDED.

NOTING THAT MANY OF THESE PROGRAMMES WERE TAILOR-MADE TO SUIT PARTICULAR NEEDS, HE CITED THE JOB PLACEMENT AGENCY WHICH PROVIDED ESCORTS FOR REFUGEES GOING OUT TO WORK FOR AT LEAST A DAY OR TWO TO SORT OUT ANY ADAPTATION PROBLEMS WITH EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS.

"A NUMBER OF PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS ALSO OFFER TO PROVIDE ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES FOR THEIR VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES," HE SAID.

"LOCAL BANKS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO BRIEF REFUGEES ON THE BANKING FACILITIES TO WHICH THE REFUGEES WILL HAVE ACCESS," MR BARNES SAID, NOTING THAT THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN THE REFUGEES STARTED EARNING MONEY.

MR BARNES SAID SOME OF THE PROGRAMMES WERE ALREADY UNDERWAY AND HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE CO-OPERATION RECEIVED SO FAR FROM THE AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"I HOPE THAT THIS CO-OPERATION WILL CONTINUE BECAUSE IT WILL HELP THE REFUGEES, THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT TO OVERCOME MANY OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH WE ARE NOW FACING," HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 12 -

INCREASING NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR NEW COMPANY NAMES

* * * * *

ABOUT 22,000 APPLICATIONS FOR NEW COMPANY NAMES ARE NOW RECEIVED BY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY EACH MONTH AND THIS IS A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE OVER EARLIER YEARS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG HONG-YUEN, MR JACOBS SAID THE NUMBER OF NEW COMPANIES INCORPORATED LAST YEAR INCREASED BY 60 PER CENT AND THE NUMBER OF SEARCHES BY 10 PER CENT.

MR WONG ASKED WHY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY NEEDED TO TAKE SEVEN WEEKS TO APPROVE NEW COMPANY NAMES AND WHETHER IT WOULD CONSIDER REDUCING THE TIME REQUIRED.

"THE PROBLEM IS FURTHER COMPOUNDED BY A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN WORKLOAD IN OTHER AREAS OF THE COMPANIES REGISTRY. HENCE THE DELAYS," MR JACOBS SAID.

IN DEALING WITH AN APPLICATION FOR A COMPANY NAME THE REGISTRAR HAD TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT SO CLOSELY RESEMBLED THE NAME OF AN EXISTING COMPANY AS TO CAUSE CONFUSION IN THE PUBLIC MIND.

"THE DECISION IS NOT EASY SINCE THERE ARE NOW OVER 200,000 REGISTERED COMPANIES AND MORE THAN 50,000 RESERVATIONS OF COMPANY NAMES, WHICH ALSO HAVE TO BE CHECKED," MR JACOBS NOTED.

HE SAID ADDITIONAL POSTS HAD BEEN CREATED IN THE COMPANY REGISTRY TO HELP COPE WITH THE WORKLOAD.

FURTHERMORE, THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM FOR REVIEW.

AFTER CONSIDERING THE SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION EMPLOYED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS, THE STANDING COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM SYSTEM SHOULD BE ADOPTED.

UNDER THE SYSTEM, A NAME WAS REGISTRABLE PROVIDED THAT IT WAS NOT IDENTICAL TO THAT OF AN EXISTING COMPANY, AND THERE WAS NO RESERVATION SYSTEM.

"THE STANDING COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION IS NOW UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, IT IS OUR INTENTION TO INTRODUCE INTO THIS COUNCIL AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, HOPEFULLY IN THE CURRENT SESSION," MR JACOBS SAID.

"AT THE SAME TIME, STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO UPGRADE THE CAPACITY OF THE PRESENT COMPUTER SYSTEM IN THE COMPANIES REGISTRY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PUBLIC SEARCH FACILITIES," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 13 -

CONTROL STRATEGIES ON VEGETABLE CONSIGNMENTS UNDER REVIEW
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW CONTROL STRATEGIES, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES, TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FURTHER OUTBREAKS OF FOOD POISONING CAUSED BY CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG, MR CHAU SAID SINCE THE START OF THE CURRENT OUTBREAK, THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH HAD OBTAINED THE SHENZHEN IMPORT AND EXPORT COMMODITY INSPECTION BUREAU'S AGREEMENT TO PROHIBIT, WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 1, THE EXPORT OF UNTAGGED VEGETABLE CONSIGNMENTS TO HONG KONG.

"THIS MEASURE APPLIES TO ALL VEGETABLE CONSIGNMENTS EXPORTED TO HONG KONG THROUGH SHENZHEN, INCLUDING THOSE PRODUCED IN OTHER PARTS OF CHINA OUTSIDE SHENZHEN," HE ADDED.

OUTLINING THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT SINCE A PREVIOUS OUTBREAK OF SIMILAR FOOD POISONING CASES LAST YEAR, MR CHAU SAID THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH HAD KEPT THE SITUATION UNDER REVIEW.

"IT HAS INTENSIFIED INSPECTION AND SAMPLING AT THE POINTS OF ENTRY.

"IT HAS ALSO OBTAINED THE CO-OPERATION OF THE SHENZHEN IMPORT AND EXPORT COMMODITY INSPECTION BUREAU," HE SAID.

BOTH THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE BUREAU AGREED THAT CONTROL WAS BEST EXERCISED AT THE SOURCE OF PRODUCTION AND AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF EXPORT CONTROL SHOULD BE INTRODUCED.

"FARMERS IN SHENZHEN ARE NOW REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO THE BUREAU WRITTEN DECLARATIONS OF THE DATES ON WHICH PESTICIDE WAS SPRAYED, THE KIND AND CONCENTRATION OF PESTICIDE USED, AS WELL AS THE DATES OF HARVEST," MR CHAU SAID.

"THESE CONTROL MEASURES ARE SUPPLEMENTED BY RANDOM TESTS FOR RESIDUES. SUBJECT TO THE BUREAU'S CLEARANCE, EXPORT CONSIGNMENTS ARE TAGGED FOR IDENTIFICATION," HE NOTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 14 -

REPORTS MAKE REFERENCES TO PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE

* * * * *

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REFERENCES TO THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE HAVE BEEN MADE IN HONG KONG'S REPORTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

MR MATHEWS WAS ASKED BY DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG WHY HONG KONG'S REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE FAILED TO MENTION THE "FALSE NEWS" PROVISION IN THE PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE WHICH WAS PASSED IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

"A GENERAL REFERENCE TO THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE AS IT AFFECTS THE PRESS WAS INCLUDED IN PARAGRAPH 154 OF HONG KONG'S SECOND PERIODIC REPORT SUBMITTED LAST YEAR," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, A MORE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE 'FALSE NEWS' PROVISION IN SECTION 27 OF THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE WAS INCLUDED IN PARAGRAPH 15 OF A FURTHER REPORT WHICH SETS OUT THE UP-TO-DATE POSITION IN RESPECT OF THE ISSUES MENTIONED IN LAST YEAR'S MAIN REPORT."

MR MATHEWS SAID PARAGRAPH 15 STATED THAT A REVIEW OF SECTION 27 WHICH DEALT WITH FALSE NEWS WAS SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF THIS YEAR.

HE EXPLAINED THAT UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, PARTIES TO THE COVENANT, WHEN REQUESTED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, WERE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT REPORTS ON THE MEASURES THEY HAD ADOPTED WHICH GAVE EFFECT TO THE RIGHTS RECOGNISED IN THE COVENANT.

THIS HAD NOW BEEN DONE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG AND THE OTHER DEPENDENT TERRITORIES.

HE SAID THE REPORTS ON HONG KONG WOULD BE CONSIDERED TOMORROW BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE AS PART OF ITS HEARINGS AT PRESENT TAKING PLACE IN GENEVA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/15

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 15 -

STAFFING OF NEW HOSPITALS PLANNED IN ADVANCE

* * * * *

IN STAFFING NEW HOSPITAL PROJECTS IT IS THE NORMAL PRACTICE TO PLAN FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW STAFF REQUIRED SOME TWO OR THREE YEARS IN ADVANCE OF A HOSPITAL'S COMPLETION DATE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAU WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RONALD CHOW ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY REGARDING THE STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS OF HOSPITALS BOTH CURRENTLY AND OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND WHETHER EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO MEET EXISTING AS WELL AS FUTURE NEEDS.

HE SAID, "AS AT OCTOBER 1, 1,537 REGISTERED NURSES POSTS HAD BEEN CREATED FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL AND THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL EXTENSION PROJECTS."

ON REGISTERED AND STUDENT NURSES, MR CHAU SAID THEY FORMED THE LARGEST CATEGORY OF STAFF IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, WITH A CURRENT ESTABLISHMENT OF 9,262.

THE SHORTAGE AGAINST THIS ESTABLISHMENT AT APRIL 1988 WAS 108, OR 1.2 PER CENT, HE SAID.

OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE LOWEST SHORTAGE RECORDED WAS 7, OR 0.1 PER CENT IN 1986-87 AND THE HIGHEST WAS 120, OR 1.6 PER CENT IN 1985-86.

"DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988-89, A TOTAL OF 317 NURSES AND STUDENT NURSES LEFT THE SERVICE AND A TOTAL OF 213 WERE RECRUITED.

"DURING THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEAR PERIOD, THE LOWEST NUMBER OF LEAVERS, SOME 286, WAS RECORDED IN 1985-86 AND THE HIGHEST, A TOTAL OF 479 IN 1987-88," MR CHAU SAID.

THE WASTAGE RATE FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988 WAS 3.5 PER CENT AND DURING THE LAST FIVE-YEAR PERIOD HAD RANGED FROM A MINIMUM OF 3.8 PER CENT IN 1985-86 TO A MAXIMUM OF 5.6 PER CENT IN 1987-88, HE NOTED.

ON THE TRAINING OF NURSES, MR CHAU SAID IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988-89 A TOTAL OF 1,897 NURSES UNDERTOOK SOME FORM OF TRAINING, EITHER LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS.

"OVER THE PRECEDING FIVE YEARS THE RESPECTIVE NUMBERS WERE 1,898; 2,319; 2,769; 3,333 AND 4,150.

/"THESE FIGURES

- 16 -

"THESE FIGURES REPRESENT APPROXIMATELY 35 TO 40 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT DURING THE PERIOD. SOME 15 TO 20 NURSES WERE TRAINED OVERSEAS EACH YEAR," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST GRADE, MR CHAU NOTED THAT AS AT APRIL 1, THE ESTABLISHED STRENGTH OF THE GRADE WAS 222 AGAINST WHICH 24 POSTS REMAINED UNFILLED.

"SINCE 1983, 15 OFFICERS HAVE LEFT THE GRADE, THE GREATEST NUMBER BEING RECORDED IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

"AS AT OCTOBER 1, SIX OFFICERS HAD LEFT THE GRADE, COMPARED TO AN AVERAGE OF TWO PER YEAR FOR THE PREVIOUS THREE YEARS.

"THE ANNUAL WASTAGE RATES IN THIS GRADE HAVE REMAINED RELATIVELY LOW AT AROUND 1 TO 2 PER CENT PER ANNUM," HE SAID.

DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS, MR CHAU SAID, A TOTAL OF 322 OFFICERS UNDERTOOK LOCAL TRAINING COURSES AND 51 WERE TRAINED OVERSEAS, REPRESENTING, ON AVERAGE, SOME 28 PER CENT AND FIVE PER CENT OF THE GRADE RESPECTIVELY.

POINTING OUT THAT IT HAD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COMPILE ALL THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY MR CHOW IN THE TIME AVAILABLE, MR CHAU SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION IN WRITING ON THE REMAINING CATEGORIES OF HEALTH STAFF.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STUDY ON TRANSLATING COURT DOCUMENTS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF TRANSLATING COURT DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED IN CHINESE UPON COMPLETION OF A STUDY, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR TSAO SAID THAT A WORKING PARTY SET UP BY THE FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT MORE USE OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE IN THE COURTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

"A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WORKING PARTY WILL CARRY OUT A DETAILED STUDY ON THE RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION," HE SAID.

"THE STUDY WILL BEGIN WITH THE LOWER COURTS AND END UP WITH THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL.

"IT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN A FEW MONTHS' TIME."

- - - - 0 - - - -

- 17 -

REVIEW OF LEGAL AID ELIGIBILITY LIMIT PLANNED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE DESIRABILITY OF EXTENDING LEGAL AID TO A WIDER SECTOR OF THE PUBLIC AND IS CONSCIOUS OF THE RISING COST OF LITIGATION.

THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH.

MR TSAO SAID THAT THE LIMIT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID HAD BEEN REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME.

ANOTHER REVIEW WAS PLANNED TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"THE LEVEL OF DISPOSABLE CAPITAL ALLOWED FOR IN THE FORMULA FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY WAS LAST INCREASED IN 1984 FROM \$10,000 TO \$15,000; AND THE LEVEL OF DISPOSABLE INCOME WAS INCREASED IN 1986 FROM \$1,500 TO \$2,200 PER MONTH," HE SAID.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE LEVEL OF DEDUCTIBLE PERSONAL ALLOWANCES IS KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE AS NECESSARY.

"THE LEVEL WAS INCREASED TWICE IN 1988 IN LINE WITH SIMILAR ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO THE SCALE OF BASIC RATES OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME."

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEASURES TO REDUCE RIVER POLLUTION

* * * * *

NO DEFINITE CONNECTION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE RECENT INCIDENT IN SAI KUNG IN WHICH A NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS WERE AFFECTED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED GASEOUS EMISSION AND THE DUMPING OF INDUSTRIAL AND LIVESTOCK WASTES INTO THE HO CHUNG RIVER.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

MR BARNES SAID THAT ALTHOUGH OFFICERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WERE ON THE SCENE WITHIN 45 MINUTES OF RECEIVING A REPORT OF THE INCIDENT, THEY WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE ITS CAUSE, BECAUSE WHEN THE AREA WAS INSPECTED, NO STRANGE SMELLS WERE DETECTED.

"HOWEVER, MEMBERS MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT OF THE FOUR FACTORIES WHICH HAVE POLLUTED THE HO CHUNG RIVER FOR MANY YEARS, TWO HAVE CEASED OPERATION AS A RESULT OF LEASE ENFORCEMENT ACTION.

"THE OTHER TWO FACTORIES HAVE INSTALLED TREATMENT PLANTS. AND WHEN THESE ARE OPERATING PROPERLY, AND AFTER PROPOSALS FOR PREVENTING THE COLOURING OF THE RIVER WATER HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT, POLLUTION IN THE HO CHUNG RIVER WILL BE REDUCED TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL," MR BARNES SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 18 -

WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CHINA: GOVERNOR

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS WITH SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING THE BASIC LAW AND ITS RE-DRAFTING DURING HIS VISIT TO CHINA.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO PEKING AT THE AIRPORT, SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING CHINESE PREMIER, LI PENG; MR JI PENGFEI AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE STATE COUNCIL; VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR ZHOU NAN AND VICE MINISTER, MR SHEN JUEREN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TRADE.

HE SAID: "I HOPE THE CHINESE WILL BRIEF ME ON WHERE THEY ARE GETTING TO ON THE QUESTION OF THE BASIC LAW AND RE-DRAFTING OF THE FIRST DRAFT, TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE POINTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE HERE; DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND ELSEWHERE; AND ALSO WITH ISSUES LIKE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA."

SIR DAVID SAID HE REGARDED THESE VISITS AS BEING A VERY USEFUL MEANS FOR KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH SENIOR CHINESE LEADERS AND UPDATING THEM ON HAPPENINGS AND, IF NECESSARY, ANY OF THEIR CONCERNS IN HONG KONG.

ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD EMPHASISE THE NEED FOR THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT TO BE IN PLACE BEFORE 1997, SIR DAVID SAID: "I HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW TO MAKE SURE WHEN THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY TAKES PLACE IN 1997 AND THE SETTING UP OF THE FIRST SAR GOVERNMENT THAT THE PROCESS SHOULD BE SMOOTH, TROUBLE-FREE AND NON-DISRUPTIVE AS POSSIBLE."

HE SAID THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY REQUIRED A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION, ADDING THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF CO-OPERATION ON THE ISSUE.

SIR DAVID WILL ALSO PAY A BRIEF VISIT TO FUJIAN PROVINCE BEFORE RETURNING TO HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 7.

THE GOVERNOR IS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS VISIT BY LADY WILSON; THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR RICHARD CLIFT; AND HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, MR RICHARD HOARE.

THEY WERE SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD; THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, MISS LYDIA DUNN; THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ALLEN LEE; THE SENIOR CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, MR KE ZAISHUO; AND VICE-DIRECTOR OF THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, MR ZHENG HUA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/19

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 19 -

SEPARATE SALARY SCALE FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS
* * * * *

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TO ADOPT A SEPARATE SALARY SCALE FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN ORDER TO DISTANCE THE JUDICIARY FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE AND TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INDEPENDENCE.

THE "JUDICIAL OFFICERS SALARY SCALE" AS IT IS CALLED WOULD PROVIDE THAT JUDICIAL SALARIES WERE SIMPLY LISTED AND WERE NOT FIXED BY REFERENCE TO ANY SCALE. THIS WOULD INTRODUCE GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND ALLOW A FINER ADJUSTMENT OF RELATIVE REMUNERATION FOR EACH JUDICIAL POST.

MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WERE TOLD THAT FOR JUDICIAL SALARIES, THE MASTER PAY SCALE AND DIRECTORATE JUDICIARY/LEGAL GRADINGS WERE TOO WIDELY SPACED TO ACCURATELY REFLECT THE COMPARATIVE FUNCTIONS OF JUDICIAL POSTS.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "JUDICIAL OFFICERS SALARY SCALE" WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY REDUCE THE SCOPE OF THE DIRECTORATE JUDICIARY/LEGAL (DJL) SALARY SCALE WHICH WOULD THEN BE RETITLED DIRECTORATE LEGAL (DL) SALARY SCALE.

IN THE SCALE, SALARIES FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS WOULD BE STATED IN SIMPLE MONETARY TERMS AND THE LEVEL OF SALARIES WOULD INITIALLY REMAIN THE SAME.

THESE SALARIES WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL REVIEW SEPARATE FROM THAT CARRIED OUT IN RESPECT OF THE REST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING SUCH A REVIEW MIGHT, INITIALLY, BE THOSE APPLICABLE TO THE REVIEW OF CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES BUT WERE LIKELY TO BE VARIED IN DUE COURSE AS SPECIAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE JUDICIARY WERE IDENTIFIED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CIVIL SERVICE OFFERS CHALLENGING CAREER: SES
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOLD PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1988 CIVIL SERVICE CAREERS EXHIBITION THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE WOULD CONTINUE TO OFFER A REWARDING AND CHALLENGING CAREER UP TO AND WELL BEYOND 1997.

"FOR GOVERNMENT PLANNING DOES NOT FINISH IN 1997: INDEED MY OWN STAFF ARE HELPING TO PLAN FOR OUR MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSETS - THE PORT AND THE AIRPORT - TO TAKE US WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," MRS CHAN SAID.

/SPEAKING AT

- 20 -

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS SERVICE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, SHE SAID THAT PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX WORLD REQUIRED A CONSTANT INFUX OF FRESH MINDS AND NEW IDEAS.

SHE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT LOOKED TO THE GRADUATES OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPLY THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF THIS INFUX.

"THESE ARE EXCITING TIMES FOR HONG KONG. WITH CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AHEAD, THE CHALLENGE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONSIDERABLE.

"SO WILL THE REWARDS IN TERMS OF JOBS SATISFACTION AND OF BEING A PART OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY," SHE ADDED.

SOME 27 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES ARE TAKING PART IN THE TWO-DAY EXHIBITION WHICH DISPLAYS INFORMATION ON VARIOUS DEGREE ENTRY GRADES WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PROVIDING REGULATORS WITH TOOLS TO GET THE JOB DONE:
SECURITIES CONSULTANT

* * * *

DRAFT PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION BILL ARE AIMED AT GIVING THE REGULATOR THE TOOLS WHICH ARE TRULY NECESSARY TO DO HIS JOB IN THE PRACTICAL CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT SECURITIES CONSULTANT, MR ROBERT OWEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTES (HONG KONG) LIMITED, MR OWEN SAID AT PRESENT THERE WAS A COMPLETE ABSENCE OF DETAILED POWERS OF INVESTIGATION GIVEN TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES IN ANY OF THE ORDINANCES WHICH IT WAS HIS DUTY TO ENFORCE.

MR OWEN SAID ALTHOUGH SECTION 124 OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE GAVE THE COMMISSIONER POWER TO "MAKE SUCH INVESTIGATION AS HE THINKS EXPEDIENT" INTO BREACHES OF TRUST, DEFALCATIONS, FRAUD, MISFEASANCE, INSIDER TRADING AND OTHER OFFENCES, THERE WAS NO MENTION OF WHAT HE MIGHT ACTUALLY DO OR NOT DO IN THE PROCESS OF CARRYING OUT SUCH INVESTIGATIONS.

"THE SECTION HAS THEREFORE PROVED WORTHLESS IN PRACTICE AND THE COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN UNABLE TO LAUNCH ANY MAJOR INVESTIGATION UNDER IT," HE SAID.

/MR OWEN

MR OWEN SAID ANOTHER SERIOUS FLAW IN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION LAY IN THE AREA OF INSPECTION OF BOOKS AND RECORDS OF REGISTERED PERSONS.

"OBVIOUSLY IT IS FUNDAMENTAL THAT ANY REGULATOR OF REGISTERED PERSONS MUST HAVE ADEQUATE POWERS TO INSPECT THEIR BOOKS AND RECORDS," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE GAVE NO POWER TO THE COMMISSIONER IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA WHILE THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE GAVE CERTAIN LIMITED POWERS UNDER SECTIONS 122 AND 123, BUT THESE PROVISIONS WERE SERIOUSLY INADEQUATE.

ONE FURTHER EXAMPLE WAS SECTION 122 OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE WHICH GAVE THE COMMISSIONER POWERS TO INSPECT DOCUMENTS OF A REGISTERED PERSON AND TO MAKE COPIES AND TAKE EXTRACTS FROM THOSE DOCUMENTS, BUT THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC POWER AUTHORISING THE COMMISSIONER TO ENTER BUSINESS PREMISES FOR THAT PURPOSE, HE SAID.

THE NEW PROVISIONS AIM TO CLOSE THESE SERIOUS GAPS IN THE EXISTING STATUTORY POWERS WHICH HAD FRUSTRATED STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATIONS.

ON THE RIGHT TO ENTER AND SEARCH PREMISES WITHOUT A MAGISTRATE'S WARRANT WHICH HAD ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE MEDIA COMMENTS RECENTLY, MR OWEN SAID IT HAD BEEN MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT WHAT WAS BEING PROPOSED WAS THAT ENTRY TO THE PREMISES OF PERSONS OTHER THAN THOSE REGISTERED WITH THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC) WOULD REQUIRE A WARRANT.

ALSO, THERE IS SIMPLY NO SUGGESTION THAT THE REGULATOR SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL PREMISES WITHOUT A WARRANT, HE SAID.

"I DO NOT THINK ANY REASONABLE PERSON COULD QUARREL WITH THE REGULATOR'S HAVING AN EXPLICIT, AUTOMATIC RIGHT OF UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO THE BUSINESS PREMISES OF REGISTERED PERSONS TO DEMAND PRODUCTION OF AND INSPECT BOOKS AND RECORDS AND TO ASK QUESTIONS OF SUCH PERSONS ABOUT MATTERS RELATED TO THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH ANY PROVISIONS OF THE RELEVANT ORDINANCES.

"THIS IS A WHOLLY NORMAL PRIVILEGE OF REGULATORS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS. INDEED, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THEY CAN DO THEIR JOB WITHOUT IT," HE STRESSED.

MR OWEN SAID THE ISSUE TO DEBATE WAS WHAT HAPPENED WHEN OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION WERE OBSTRUCTED IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION OR DISCOVERED PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF A SERIOUS OFFENCE AND WISHED TO PRESERVE DOCUMENTS FROM DESTRUCTION OR REMOVE THEM FROM THE PREMISES.

"EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT IN THE TIME IT TAKES TO OBTAIN A MAGISTRATE'S WARRANT TO SEIZE SUCH DOCUMENTS (USUALLY TWO TO FOUR HOURS) THE EVIDENCE HAS A TENDENCY TO DISAPPEAR," HE SAID.

/"IN TH"

- 22 -

"IN THE LIGHT OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED, WE ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO FIND A MEANS OF ENSURING THAT THE COMMISSION CAN PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF REMOVAL OF RECORDS PENDING THE ISSUE OF A MAGISTRATE'S WARRANT FOR SEIZURE OF DOCUMENTS OR DETENTION OF PERSONS INTEND ON REMOVING THEM FROM THE PREMISES."

TURNING TO THE POWERS TO REQUIRE PERSONS BEING QUESTIONED IN THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATIONS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM, AND THE RELATED ISSUE OF THE USE WHICH CAN BE MADE OF THE EVIDENCE GIVEN BY THEM, MR OWEN SAID THERE WERE TWO POINTS INVOLVED.

FOR THE RIGHT OF SILENCE PER SE, THERE IS ALREADY PROVISION IN MANY ORDINANCES AND ACTS IN BOTH HONG KONG AND THE UK OBLIGING PERSONS TO ANSWER TRUTHFULLY ALL QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION, HE ADDED.

EXAMPLES IN HONG KONG LEGISLATION INCLUDED THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (SECTION 145(3A)), THE PRESENT SECURITIES ORDINANCE (SECTION 127(8)) AND THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) ORDINANCE (SECTION 36(4)).

"SIMILAR PROVISIONS EXIST IN THE 1986 UK FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT AND 1987 BANKING ACT.

"BOTH OF THESE UK ACTS HAVE AN ADDITIONAL PROVISION WHICH EXPLICITLY STATES THAT ANY STATEMENT BY A PERSON QUESTIONED MAY BE USED IN EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM," HE POINTED OUT.

HE SAID IT WAS THIS SECOND PROVISION WHICH WOULD BE NEW IN THE CONTEXT OF HONG KONG, THOUGH IT WAS IN LINE WITH THE GENERAL TREND OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE UK AND DID NOT AROUSE EXCITEMENT WHEN EITHER OF THESE ACTS WAS TAKEN THROUGH PARLIAMENT IN THE UK.

"WE ARE NEVERTHELESS SENSITIVE TO THE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BY SOME PARTIES ON THIS POINT, BEARING IN MIND THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG, AND WE DO NOT PLAN TO PRESS THE POINT ABOUT THE USE MADE OF EVIDENCE," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON LICENSING MATTERS AND ON USE OF INTERVENTION POWERS, MR OWEN SAID THE PRESENT DRAFT OF THE BILL PROVIDING FOR A BOARD OF APPEAL CONSISTING OF THE NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE COMMISSION HAD BEEN CRITICISED AS BEING "INCESTUOUS OR NOT SUFFICIENTLY INDEPENDENT."

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN DRAFTING THE CONSULTATIVE PROVISIONS THE AUTHORITIES DID START OFF WITH THE CONCEPT OF AN EXTERNAL TRIBUNAL BUT RECONSIDERED THIS BECAUSE EXPERIENCE HERE HAD SHOWN THAT A TRIBUNAL SYSTEM COULD BE CUMBERSOME AND SLOW, AND THIS COULD WORK TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE APPELLANT AS WELL AS OF THE REGULATOR AND THE PUBLIC.

/ANOTHER REASON

- 23 -

ANOTHER REASON WAS THAT IT WAS NOT EASY IN HONG KONG TO FIND SUITABLE PEOPLE WILLING AND WITH THE TIME AVAILABLE TO SERVE ON SUCH TRIBUNALS, WHO WERE SUFFICIENTLY CONVERSANT WITH THE SUBJECT MATTER AND YET DID NOT HAVE A POTENTIAL DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE.

MR OWEN ADDED THAT VIEWS ABOUT THE APPEALS PROCEDURE AMONG MARKET PARTICIPANTS CONSULTED VARIED FROM FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNAL APPEALS SYSTEM PROPOSED TO EQUALLY STRONG ADVOCACY OF AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL AND/OR APPEAL TO THE COURTS ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE.

"WE ARE PRESENTLY WEIGHING THE VARIOUS VIEWS WE HAVE RECEIVED AND WILL BE PUTTING FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO EXCO IN DUE COURSE," HE SAID.

MR OWEN SAID A KEY PART OF THE REGULATOR'S ROLE WAS TO TAKE A LEAD IN PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETS AND TO KEEP IN SIGHT LONGER-TERM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES.

HE NOTED THAT THE CONCENTRATION OF PUBLIC DEBATE IN RECENT WEEKS ON ISSUES SUCH AS POWERS OF ENTRY AND THE RIGHT OF SILENCE HAD TENDED TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SFC WAS SEEN PURELY AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND THAT HALF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MARKETS WERE VIEWED AS POTENTIAL CROOKS.

"THIS IS VERY FAR FROM THE TRUTH. BUT LAWS ARE ALL ABOUT THE POLICING ASPECTS OF THE REGULATOR'S JOB AND MUST ENABLE HIM TO DO THIS PROPERLY.

"THE PROMOTIONAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE IS ONE WHICH DERIVES FROM THE WAY THE ORGANISATION IS LED AND MANAGED, RATHER THAN LAW," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SECURITIES MARKETS MEET INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS: SMA

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ENSURING HONG KONG'S SECURITIES MARKETS FULLY MEASURE UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, TOLD AN AUDIENCE OF STOCKBROKERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY IN SAN FRANCISCO ON TUESDAY.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING SPONSORED BY THE PACIFIC STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ON THE FIRST LEG OF HIS NORTH AMERICAN TOUR, MR NENDICK SAID THAT IT WAS ENSHRINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION THAT HONG KONG WOULD REMAIN AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE BEYOND 1997.

/"THE HONG KONG

"THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WILL CONTINUE TO BE A FREELY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY AND THE SAR GOVERNMENT WILL ON ITS OWN DETERMINE ITS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL POLICIES," MR NENDICK ASSURED HIS AUDIENCE.

LOOKING BACK AT THE WORLDWIDE STOCK MARKET EVENTS IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, MR NENDICK SAID THE CRASH IN HONG KONG'S STOCK MARKET AND FUTURES MARKET WAS IN FACT A GREAT CATALYST FOR CHANGE.

IT ALSO EXPOSED THE WEAKNESSES IN THE SYSTEM; THE INADEQUATE SUPERVISORY PRESENCE; UNREPRESENTATIVE MARKET STRUCTURES; AND LACK OF STRONG, INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXCHANGES.

"WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING THE MARKETS FULLY UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SINCE THE EVENTS OF OCTOBER 1987 AND WE BELIEVE IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE TO REACT PROMPTLY," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORTED WITHIN SIX MONTHS AND THE GOVERNMENT PROMPTLY ACCEPTED THE GENERAL THRUST OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

"IN PARTICULAR, THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO THE SETTING UP OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION, A NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE. GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL EARLY NEXT YEAR," HE SAID.

"THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED FUNDAMENTAL REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND INTERNAL MANAGEMENT OF BOTH THE STOCK AND FUTURES EXCHANGES," MR NENDICK SAID, NOTING THAT A NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE STOCK EXCHANGE WAS PUT IN PLACE LAST MONTH, WITHIN A YEAR OF THE CRASH.

"THE FUTURE EXCHANGE IS ALSO AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF IMPLEMENTING A NEW CLEARING AND RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON AT THE END OF NOVEMBER OR IN DECEMBER," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID THAT OTHER LEGISLATION WAS ALSO IN TRAIN INCLUDING SUBSTANTIALLY ENHANCED PENALTIES AGAINST INSIDER DEALING AND DISCLOSURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF STOCKS AND SHARES WITH SANCTIONS AGAINST NON-ADHERENCE.

IN ADDITION, WHILST A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SECURITIES MARKETS MADE IN THE HAY DAVISON REPORT HAD ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED, A ROLLING PROGRAMME WAS EXPECTED TO IMPLEMENT THE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS TOTALLING WELL OVER 100 WITHIN TWO YEARS.

TEACHING KITS WARN AGAINST TRIADS, SHOPTHEFT
* * * * *

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED TWO SEPARATE TEACHING KITS - ONE ON ANTI-TRIADS AND THE OTHER ON ANTI-SHOPTHEFT - AS PART OF ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ASSIST SCHOOLS TO BRING HOME MESSAGES ON THESE TWO TOPICS TO STUDENTS.

THE ANTI-TRIADS KIT CONSISTS MAINLY OF A SET OF COLOUR SLIDES WITH COMMENTARY ON A CASSETTE TAPE, FIVE POSTERS, A TEACHER'S MANUAL ON HOW TO USE THE KIT AND AN EXPLANATORY NOTE ON HOW TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE TEACHING OF THIS TOPIC.

THE KIT HAS TWO DIFFERENT EDITIONS WHICH VARY MAINLY IN THE DEPTH OF LITERATURE AND APPROACH TO CATER FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS SEPARATELY.

THE ANTI-SHOPTHEFT KIT, WHICH ALSO HAS TWO DIFFERENT EDITIONS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS RESPECTIVELY, CONTAINS MAINLY A 20-MINUTE VIDEO DRAMA PROGRAMME, A SET OF SLIDES WITH SOUND COMMENTARY, TWO POSTERS, A TEACHERS' MANUAL, AND WORKSHEETS FOR PUPILS.

THE TWO KITS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE TWO TEACHING KITS WERE PRODUCED BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION WITH ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE FROM RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE POLICE, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND SECURITY BRANCH, AS WELL AS THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND SCHOOL HEADS.

"THE KITS AIM TO HEIGHTEN STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEMS OF SHOP-LIFTING AND TRIADS.

"THEY ALSO OFFER THOUGHT-SEARCHING SUGGESTIONS TO COMBAT THESE TWO PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD DO A LOT OF HARM TO STUDENTS IF THEY FELL PREY TO THEM," HE SAID.

TO ASSIST SCHOOL TEACHERS TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO USE THE TWO TEACHING KITS AND TO COLLECT INITIAL FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THEM, THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION WILL HOLD A NUMBER OF SEMINARS FOR BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS LATER THIS MONTH.

THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE KITS WITH A VIEW TO UPDATING AND IMPROVING THE CONTENTS FOR SCHOOL USE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE EVALUATION FORMS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE TEACHING KITS AND SCHOOL HEADS ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORMS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 26 -

HONG KONG/AUSTRIA TEXTILES AGREEMENT AMENDED
* * * * *

HONG KONG AND AUSTRIA HAVE AGREED ON CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE HONG KONG/AUSTRIA TEXTILES AGREEMENT WHICH RUNS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1987 TO JANUARY 31, 1990, A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE AMENDMENTS, WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 7, 1988, INCLUDE REMOVING QUOTA RESTRAINT ON KNITTED DRESSES OF SYNTHETIC FIBRE, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY PART OF QUOTA ITEM NO. 4, AND PLACING THEM UNDER EXPORT AUTHORISATION SURVEILLANCE.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT IS THE INTRODUCTION OF QUOTA RESTRAINT FOR MEN'S AND BOYS' WOVEN ANORAKS (INCLUDING SKI-JACKETS), WIND-CHEATERS AND WIND-JACKETS OF COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRES, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY SUBJECT TO THE EXPORT AUTHORISATION SYSTEM.

TO TIE IN WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS SUSPENDED, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THE ACCEPTANCE OF EXPORT AUTHORISATION APPLICATIONS FOR THE CONCERNED PRODUCTS.

DETAILS ON THE REVISED CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AFFECTED ITEMS WILL BE ANNOUNCED TO THE TRADE THROUGH NOTICE TO EXPORTERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AGREEMENT ON THE ABOVE AMENDMENTS WAS REACHED THIS AFTERNOON AFTER THREE DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS IN HONG KONG.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WAS LED BY MR STUART HARBINSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE. THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION WAS LED BY MR JOSEF MAYER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LABOUR RELATIONS CONFERENCE OPENS TOMORROW
* * * * *

LABOUR RELATIONS '88, A ONE-AND-A-HALF-MONTH PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN HONG KONG, BEGINS TOMORROW (THURSDAY) WITH THE OPENING OF A LARGE-SCALE CONFERENCE AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL.

THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ALLEN LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

/OTHER OFFICIATING

- 27 -

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS '88 ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR CHAN SUI-KAU, AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND.

FOLLOWING THE OPENING, 26 PROMINENT GUEST SPEAKERS WILL DELIVER TALKS ON SUCH TOPICS AS REVIEW OF LABOUR RELATIONS IN HONG KONG, LABOUR RELATIONS AND PRODUCTIVITY, LABOUR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN A MULTINATIONAL FIRM, AND THE ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS IN ESTABLISHING POSITIVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG LABOUR RELATIONS CONFERENCE AT 9 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL LOBBY BEFORE 8.45 AM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL RAISES LEVEL OF PERMITTED RENT

* * * * *

THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, WHICH WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), RAISES THE PERMITTED RENT OF CONTROLLED PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES.

THE RAISING OF THE PERMITTED RENT FROM 35 TO 39 TIMES THE STANDARD RENT - THAT PAYABLE AS AT DECEMBER 25, 1941 - WOULD AFFECT ABOUT 1,700 PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES EFFECTIVELY UNDER CONTROL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THIS WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 17 PER CENT OR \$229 PER MONTH, ON CURRENT PERMITTED RENTS, BRINGING SUCH RENTS TO ABOUT 76 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET LEVEL, HE SAID.

THE BILL ALSO MAKES SOME TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO FACILITATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF PART II OF THE ORDINANCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 28 -

DB TO DISCUSS LAND USE

* * *

MEMBERS OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE OVERALL LAND USE IN TSING YI AT A BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE BOARD WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF KWAI HING ESTATE BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE RELOCATION OF MOBIL OIL DEPOTS IN TSING YI BY THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10/F, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KWAI CHUNG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NORTH DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

* * * * *

THE RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONSIDER AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR ORGANISING RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO REVIEW THE USAGE OF MAJOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT AND ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS STAGED AT THE TOWN HALL DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, AND A REPORT FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 29 -

REPROVISION PROJECT AT HOUSING ESTATES ON AGENDA

* * * * *

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL BE ASKED TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF A LARGE SCALE REPROVISIONING PROJECT IN SIX PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN SHAM SHUI PO AT THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT IS TO OBTAIN SOME 600 VACANT UNITS TO REHOUSE SINGLETONS AND TWO-PERSON FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE PHASE IV REDEVELOPMENT OF THE LEI CHENG UK ESTATE.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO CONSIDER TWO MOTIONS CONCERNING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SHAM SHUI PO COMPLEX AT PEI HO STREET BY THE URBAN COUNCIL.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDE THE PROBLEM OF FOOD PROCESSING AND VENDING ON PAVEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT, NOISE NUISANCE AT THE HING WAH STREET TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, NOISE NUISANCE ASSOCIATED WITH RENOVATION OF THE CHEUNG SHA WAN POLICE QUARTERS, AND PROBLEMS ARISING FROM AFTERNOON REFUSE COLLECTION IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

FUNDS WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT FROM THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT SEVEN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE MEETING WILL THEN HEAR REPORTS ON THE PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE 1988-89 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT VOTE AND ON THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 55 FAT TSEUNG STREET, BEGINNING AT 2.15 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/30

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 30 -

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCOUT RALLY

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT URGED MOTORISTS TO WATCH OUT FOR THE SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN HAPPY VALLEY AND CAUSEWAY BAY ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5) FOR THE SCOUT RALLY AT HONG KONG STADIUM.

TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS

THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS WILL COME INTO EFFECT AT 2 PM AND BE IN FORCE UNTIL SPECTATORS HAVE DISPERSED:

- * CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN LINK ROAD AND STADIUM PATH WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND;
- * CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD AND LEIGHTON ROAD/PENNINGTON STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT THOSE VEHICLES REQUIRING ACCESS TO PREMISES;
- * CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN COTTON PATH AND LEIGHTON ROAD/PENNINGTON STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND;
- * EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD BETWEEN STADIUM PATH AND TUNG LO WAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND; BUT VEHICLES WILL STILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER ST PAUL'S HOSPITAL CARPARK FROM TUNG LO WAN ROAD;
- * LINK ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY DOWNHILL. VEHICLES HEADING FOR LEIGHTON HILL, HAPPY VIEW TERRACE AND UPPER BROADWOOD ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND BROADWOOD ROAD;
- * WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON HYSAN AVENUE WILL BE DIVERTED TO TURN LEFT TO LEIGHTON ROAD EASTBOUND;
- * SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES ON SUN WUI ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT TO LEIGHTON ROAD WESTBOUND;
- * THE SERVICE ROAD AROUND THE STADIUM WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC;
- * TRAFFIC CONES WILL BE PLACED ALONG LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN HYSAN AVENUE AND CAROLINE HILL ROAD FOR TWO-LANE EASTBOUND TRAFFIC.

FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE EVENT, THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL SPECTATORS HAVE LEFT THE STADIUM:

- * CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN STADIUM PATH AND LEIGHTON ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND;

/x CAROLINE HILL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 31 -

- * CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN LEIGHTON ROAD AND COTTON PATH WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC;
- * LINK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. VEHICLES TO AND FROM UPPER BROADWOOD ROAD, HAPPY VIEW TERRACE, LEIGHTON HILL AND THE LOCAL PREMISES IN LINK ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND BROADWOOD ROAD.

LEARNER DRIVERS PROHIBITION

ALL LEARNER DRIVERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER MATHESON STREET, RUSSELL STREET AND SHARP STREET EAST FROM NOON TO 9.30 PM.

ALSO, THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT FROM PERCIVAL STREET SOUTHBOUND TO LEIGHTON ROAD EASTBOUND OR TO ENTER TUNG LO WAN ROAD FROM CAUSEWAY ROAD.

PARKING SPACES

ALL PARKING SPACES IN SUN WUI ROAD, STADIUM PATH AND THE UNNAMED SERVICE ROAD AROUND THE STADIUM WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM NOON TO MIDNIGHT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CLOSURE OF HING FAT ST, HUNG MUI KUK RD

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT HING FAT STREET IN CAUSEWAY BAY BETWEEN LAU LI STREET AND CAUSEWAY ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 2.30 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 4) AND FROM 30 MINUTES PAST MIDNIGHT TO 6 AM ON NOVEMBER 6.

THESE MEASURES WILL FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT TIN HAU MTR STATION.

DURING THE CLOSURE, EASTBOUND VEHICLES ON CAUSEWAY ROAD HEADING FOR THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR AND ELECTRIC ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KING'S ROAD, TSING FUNG STREET AND HING FAT STREET.

MEANWHILE, WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD HEADING FOR VICTORIA PARK ROAD AND GLOUCESTER ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TSING FUNG STREET FLYOVER.

/THE TRANSPORT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1988

- 32 -

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ALSO REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT THE WESTBOUND MIDDLE LANE OF HUNG MUI KUK ROAD IN SHA TIN, FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TIN SAM STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM NOVEMBER 6 TO 26 TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

AS CONGESTION IS EXPECTED DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO AVOID USING THE AFFECTED ROAD SECTIONS. THEY SHOULD ALSO WATCH OUT FOR TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND PATIENCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY IN KING KWONG STREET

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ALONG THE NORTHERN SIDE OF KING KWONG STREET IN HAPPY VALLEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTIVE FOR ANOTHER SIX WEEKS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 4) BECAUSE OF ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

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

- - - - 0 - - - -