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GOVERNOR'S MEDIA BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA BRIEFING BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL WASHINGTON, DC, ON MAY 5 (WEDNESDAY).

GOVERNOR: GOOD MORNING. I'VE MADE 4 SPEECHES SO FAR THIS WEEK, AND DONE ABOUT 10 STAND-UPS, ANSWERED YOUR QUESTIONS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, AND I GUESS THE SENSIBLE THING FOR ME TO DO IS TO LET YOU ASK SOME MORE, RATHER THAN SUBJECT YOU TO ANOTHER OF MY SPEECHES.

WHO WOULD LIKE TO START? YES.

MR CHUGANI: I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK YOU THIS: OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS YOU HAVE DESCRIBED AS ABSURD CERTAIN CHINESE CHARGES THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO INTERNATIONALISE HONG KONG. OVER THE PAST 3 DAYS YOU HAVE MET WITH THE PRESIDENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE, YOU HAVE MET WITH OTHER VERY SENIOR AMERICAN LEADERS. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT SO FAR MET WITH SENIOR CHINESE LEADERS, AND AFTER MEETING WITH YOU THESE AMERICAN LEADERS HAVE GIVEN ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT TO YOUR PROPOSALS FOR GREATER DEMOCRACY.

GOVERNOR: WELL, THAT IS TRUE.

MR CHUGANI: WELL, THAT'S TRUE. WITH THIS MIX OF FACTORS, HOW DO YOU THINK THIS WILL PLAY IN CHINA? DO YOU THINK IT WILL INCREASE TENSION BETWEEN THE ALREADY TENSE RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG?

GOVERNOR: WELL, IT'S NOT FOR ME TO MAKE UP ON THE HOOF THE POLICY OF A NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION ON CHINA, THOUGH I'M SURE THAT WHEN SENIOR CHINESE LEADERS VISIT WASHINGTON THEY WILL BE TREATED WITH THE SAME COURTESY AND INTEREST THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO ME.

BUT LET ME GO BACK TO YOUR -- TO THE PREMISE, THE TRUTH AS RECORDED BY THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, OR SOMETHING APPROACHING TO WHAT THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY SAYS IS THE TRUTH, THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF HONG KONG.

IT IS AN ABSURD ARGUMENT OR CHARGE. HONG KONG IS AN OPEN CITY. IT'S AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT'S THE TENTH LARGEST TRADING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD, HUGELY IMPORTANT REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY AS A COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE. IT IS NOW, AND IT IS ALL OUR AIMS TO MAKE SURE THAT IT IS FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE.

SO JUST AS THE 28TH BRITISH GOVERNOR FINDS IT NECESSARY TO TRAVEL TO REPRESENT HONG KONG'S INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD, SO WILL THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE SAR AFTER 1997 IF SHE OR HE IS DOING HER OR HIS JOB PROPERLY. IT'S A STATEMENT OF THE BLINDINGLY OBVIOUS TO MOST OF US.

IT'S ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT AT THE MOMENT A RELATIVELY NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO SHAPE ITS POLICY ON CHINA, ON TRADE, AND PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO US, ON MFN STATUS FOR CHINA. SO THIS IS A PARTICULARLY GOOD MOMENT FOR HONG KONG TO BE PUTTING ITS CASE ON TRADE AND ON MFN TO A NEW ADMINISTRATION AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.

/AGAIN, I

AGAIN, I THINK IF I WASN'T DOING THAT, I'D BE FALLING DOWN ON MY JOB. SO I THINK THAT PUTTING HONG KONG'S CASE HERE THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK IS IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG, IS IMPORTANT FOR THE REGIONAL ECONOMY. AND I'VE SAID ALREADY THIS WEEK AND WILL CONTINUE TO SAY THAT IN MY VIEW ALMOST THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN SECURING THE LONG-TERM PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG IS A GOOD AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND OPEN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR TRIP IN WASHINGTON, DC? IS IT IS A FAILURE OR A SUCCESS? BECAUSE THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE VIEW STILL SUPPORT THE VIEW, AND THOSE WHO DOESN'T STILL DOESN'T. AND YOU ARE HERE, BUT YOU MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, I THINK THAT THE ACCESS THAT I'VE BEEN GIVEN AND THE AMOUNT OF TIME WHICH HAS BEEN PAID TO HONG KONG HAS BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS. WE'VE INSURED THAT THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG ARE ON THE AGENDA WHEN PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERING REVIEWING POLICY ON MFN AND POLICY ON TRADE. I THINK IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCEIVE OF HOW WE COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TREATED, HOW WE COULD HAVE GOT MORE TIME.

SECONDLY, IF YOU EXPECTED ME TO COME TO HONG KONG AND CHANGE REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI'S VIEWS ON MFN, YOU HAD A MUCH HIGH REGARD FOR MY ELOQUENCE THAN I HAVE MYSELF. WHAT WE HAVE MANAGED TO DO IS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE, FROM CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO LEADERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, IS PAYING SERIOUS ATTENTION TO HONG KONG'S POSITION WHILE IT REVIEWS ITS POLICY ON MFN.

THIS IS A NEW ADMINISTRATION WITH A CONCERN FOR BOTH THE THINGS THAT WERE SAID IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AND THE NEED TO BUILD BRIDGES TO THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP. I DON'T THINK ANYBODY WAS EXPECTING THINGS TO BE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THEY WERE LAST YEAR; ALL THE MORE REASON FOR US THIS YEAR MAKING OUR OWN PITCH.

MR ELLIOTT: MIKE ELLIOTT FROM THE ECONOMIST. GOVERNOR, DO YOU THINK THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH THE BROAD POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE MITCHELL-PELOSI BILL COULD BE ADVANCED WITHOUT USING THE THREAT OF REMOVING MFN? IN OTHER WORDS, ARE THERE OTHER METHODS IN WHICH THE THINGS THAT MOTIVATE NANCY PELOSI AND GEORGE MITCHELL AND THEIR SUPPORTERS COULD BE TAKEN FORWARD? HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THAT?

GOVERNOR: YES, I HAVE, IN TERMS BOTH WITH THE SENATOR AND THE REPRESENTATIVE AND WITH OTHERS. IT'S, OF COURSE, NOT FOR ME TO CONSTRUCT A POLICY FOR THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, BUT IN EACH OF THE SECTORS THAT ARE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE SENATOR AND THE REPRESENTATIVE AND TO OTHERS, I THINK THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT AND SPECIFIC ROUTES THAT COULD BE FOLLOWED.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CONTEXT OF WEAPONS PROLIFERATION THERE ARE PARTICULAR MODALITIES LAID DOWN NOT ONLY IN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, BUT ALSO IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION, FOR PURSUING PARTICULAR INTERESTS. THE PURCHASE OF AVIONICS AND OTHER SPACE PRODUCTS, FOR INSTANCE, IS ONE OF THE DOMESTIC LEGISLATION POSSIBILITIES FOR BREACHES FOR MTR.

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SECONDLY, IN RELATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS, AND PEOPLE IN HONG KONG UNDERSTAND CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, THERE HAVE BEEN PARTICULAR -- THERE ARE PARTICULAR EXAMPLES -- THE UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA -- OF COUNTRIES WHICH ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE MATTERS PURSUING THEM BILATERALLY IN A DIALOGUE WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SET OUT THEIR POSITION VERY CLEARLY, BUT I THINK THERE HAS BEEN A USEFUL DIALOGUE ON THOSE MATTERS. I HAVE MET, FOR EXAMPLE, MEMBERS OF BOTH THE UK AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS TO CHINA, WHICH DISCUSSED THEM.

ON SPECIFIC TRADE ISSUES, AGAIN THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH THOSE CAN BE PURSUED ON THEIR MERITS. WE'VE SEEN THAT ALREADY WITH THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS IN RELATION TO 301, IN RELATION TO MARKET ACCESS, IN RELATION TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. SO I'M VERY MUCH IN FAVOUR OF HORSES FOR COURSES RATHER THAN RUNNING THE MFN ANIMAL OVER THE FENCES. END OF THAT METAPHOR.

QUESTION: GOVERNOR, WHAT KIND OF ADVERSITIES DO YOU FACE AS FAR AS BALANCING -- TRYING TO GET INITIAL MFN AND AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT HONG KONG'S DEMOCRATIC REFORMS STAY, AND BALANCED BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN POWERS, AND THE MATERIAL KIND OF IMPACT YOU THINK YOUR VISIT WILL HAVE ON AN EXPECTED JLG TALK IN BEIJING THIS MONTH?

GOVERNOR: WELL YOU MUST TELL ME ABOUT THE JLG TALK.

FIRST OF ALL, I THINK THAT EVERYONE IN WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY, OF COURSE, THE PRESIDENT, HAS BEEN SCRUPULOUS IN MAKING THE POINT THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IS A MATTER FOR BRITAIN AND CHINA, THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN POWER AND THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWER.

AT THE SAME TIME, THEY'VE EXPRESSED, UNDERSTANDABLY, THEIR CONCERN THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION SHOULD BE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED, AND THAT'S A CONCERN AND AN INTEREST WHICH IS FELT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THAT'S NOT TRAMPLING OVER BRITAIN'S PRESENT SOVEREIGNTY OR CHINA'S FUTURE SOVEREIGNTY. IT'S AN EXPRESSION, AS I SUGGESTED EARLIER, OF HONG KONG'S INTEREST TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

I DON'T THINK THAT MAKING THE PITCH THAT WE HAVE ON MFN AND TRADE, AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLITICAL DISAGREEMENTS THAT WE'VE HAD WITH CHINA, HAVE GOT INTERMINGLED OR CONFUSED. BUT I'M NOT SURPRISED THAT WE'VE HAD QUESTIONS ON POLITICS SINCE THAT TOUCHES ON THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

ONE MORE THING ON MFN. I REPEAT THAT AT A MOMENT WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION IS CLEARLY IN THE THROES OF REVIEWING ITS POLICY, AT A TIME WHEN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ARE TALKING TO THE ADMINISTRATION ABOUT THAT REVIEW OF POLICY, I THINK IT'S RIGHT AND APPROPRIATE FOR US TO BE HERE PUTTING OUR OWN ARGUMENT. I DON'T THINK THAT MANY PEOPLE EXPECTED THERE TO BE NO CHANGE AFTER THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT, AND A NEW PRESIDENT WHO HAD SAID QUITE A LOT ABOUT THE ISSUE WHILE HE WAS CAMPAIGNING.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: SENATOR MITCHELL, WHEN HE WAS INTRODUCING THIS LEGISLATION SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, SAID HIMSELF THAT HE HOPED THAT IT WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY, IMPLYING POSSIBLY THAT JUST BY PUTTING THIS LEGISLATION ON THE TABLE THERE MIGHT BE ENOUGH PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE SOME OF THE U.S. OBJECTIVES VIS-A-VIS CHINA. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A PRODUCTIVE APPROACH TO ACCOMPLISHING THOSE OBJECTIVES, OR DO YOU THINK THAT IT'S COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO PUT THE MFN LEGISLATION OUT FOR CONSIDERATION?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT THE LEGISLATIVE ROUTE IS A PARTICULARLY SENSIBLE ONE, AND I VERY MUCH AGREED WITH -- I'M SORRY TO ADVERTISE IT AGAIN, AS IF IT NEEDED IT. I VERY MUCH AGREED WITH THE LEADER IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL LAST FRIDAY WHICH INDICATED SOME OF THE WEAKNESSES IN THE LEGISLATIVE APPROACH TAKEN IN THOSE TWO BILLS, SENATOR MITCHELL'S BILL AND REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI'S BILL.

SO I HAVE PARTICULAR VIEWS ABOUT THE LEGISLATION. I ALSO DON'T THINK IT'S VERY HELPFUL FOR ME TO MAKE COMMENTS ON WHAT CHINA'S REACTION MAY BE TO A PARTICULAR APPROACH TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION OR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, BECAUSE THAT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY MAKE ADJUSTMENTS OF POLICY OR INITIATIVES BY THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP LESS LIKELY RATHER THAN MORE LIKELY.

I THINK THAT THERE IS A BODY OF OPINION THAT, LIKE POLITICAL LEADERS ELSEWHERE, THOSE IN CHINA LIKE TO FEEL THAT THEY'RE TAKING THE INITIATIVE RATHER THAN REACTING. AND THAT CONDITIONS, I THINK, ALL OUR DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY.

FRANCIS.

MR MORIARTY: GOVERNOR, PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS SAID THAT HE CONSIDERS THE SPREAD OF DEMOCRACY TO BE AN INVESTMENT IN AMERICA'S FUTURE, AND HE IS SAID TO BE OUTLINING A WHOLE RANGE OF WAYS OF GOING ABOUT DOING THAT AT A GRASSROOTS LEVEL: USAID, VOICE OF AMERICA, ET CETERA. DO YOU FEEL -- HAVE YOU SAID TO HIM AND, IF ASKED, WOULD YOU SAY TO HIM THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE FOR AMERICA TO MAKE SUCH AN INVESTMENT?

GOVERNOR: I WOULDN'T SUGGEST THAT HONG KONG WAS THE BEST PLACE TO START SINCE WE'RE DOING RATHER A LOT OURSELVES AT THE MOMENT. FIRST OF ALL, IT'S -- AS PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID TO ME AND TO YOU ON MONDAY, IT'S SCARCELY SURPRISING TO DISCOVER THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IN FAVOUR OF DEMOCRACY. IT IS, AFTER ALL, ONE OF THE GREATEST DEMOCRACIES IN THE WORLD. AND AS HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY THE CASE OVER DECADES, AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IS INFUSED WITH A SENSE OF VALUES, AND THOSE INCLUDE THE VALUES OF AN OPEN SOCIETY.

I THINK -- SPEAKING AS CHRIS PATTEN RATHER THAN THE 28TH BRITISH GOVERNOR, I THINK THAT THE U.S.'S COMMITMENT TO HELP FLEDGLING DEMOCRACIES AROUND THE WORLD -- I THINK THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY, AN UNDER SECRETARY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITH THAT RESPONSIBILITY IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL. AND IF I WAS A POLITICIAN IN CENTRAL OR EASTERN EUROPE, FOR EXAMPLE, I WOULD WELCOME THAT ASSISTANCE.

/BUT SECONDLY,

BUT SECONDLY, IN HONG KONG WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR US IN DEVELOPING DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES IS ALREADY PREORDAINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND WE'RE MOVING AT A STEADY AND PREDETERMINED PACE TOWARDS DEMOCRACY. I DON'T, THEREFORE, THINK THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE FOUNDATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY HAVE A PLACE TO -- HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN HONG KONG.

WE HAVE TO WORK OUT OUR OWN ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA HAS BEEN OVER NOT THE PACE OF DEMOCRATISATION BUT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC ARRANGEMENTS THAT WE MAKE BEFORE 1997. THAT'S A DISAGREEMENT THAT WE'RE TRYING TO RESOLVE, I BELIEVE IN A SPIRIT OF GOOD FAITH ON BOTH SIDES.

I HOPE WE WILL RESOLVE IT. IT INVOLVES -- AS SHEN-ZIENG, THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE HONG KONG MACAO OFFICE SAID, IT INVOLVES QUITE A STIFF CLIMB. I THINK HE SAID A CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA. AND WE'RE ALL FINDING THE JOURNEY BRACING.

JONATHAN.

QUESTION: YES. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS HAVE COME OUT IN THE OTHER NEWSPAPERS, IN BOTH THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AND THE POST, I THINK THE TIMES, I THINK, THAT SAID THAT DIPLOMATS, BRITISH DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER IF YOU HAD JUST BEEN SEEN PHOTOGRAPHED WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT HADN'T MADE HIS BIG PLAY ON DEMOCRACY. AND THERE'S BEEN SOME FEELING THAT MAYBE A LOT OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN -- THAT THE HIGH PROFILE YOU'VE BEEN GETTING HAS ACTUALLY BEEN EMBARRASSING FOR THEM, BECAUSE YOU ARE HERE TO TRY AND SHOW THAT YOU CARE ABOUT -- THAT YOU ARE HERE TO SHOW THAT YOU ARE DOING SOMETHING WHICH WILL HELP BOTH CHINA AND HONG KONG.

AND THE AMERICANS KEEP HARPING ON ABOUT -- AND YOU ARE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH MFN IF THE AMERICANS KEEP HARPING ON ABOUT DEMOCRACY. DO YOU THINK THAT'S ACTUALLY SERVED YOUR PURPOSE OR DO YOU THINK IT COULD HAVE DAMAGED HONG KONG'S CAUSE AND YOUR OWN CAUSE IN CHINA?

GOVERNOR: IF THIS IS EMBARRASSMENT, GIVE ME MORE OF IT. I THINK THAT -- I CANNOT BELIEVE -- START A DIFFERENT WAY. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THERE IS REALLY, EVEN IN THE DEEPEST BASEMENTS OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE, A DIPLOMAT WHO COULD TAKE THE POINT OF VIEW WHICH HAS BEEN ASCRIBED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE BY JONATHAN, THOUGH IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THERE MAY BE THE ODD RETIRED DIPLOMAT WHO MIGHT HAVE SAID THAT IN THE BAR OF THE TRAVELER'S CLUB.

WHO COULD EXPECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHILE SETTING OUT VERY CLEARLY THE PARAMETERS OF AMERICA'S INTEREST IN THESE MATTERS, WHO COULD EXPECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO DO OTHER THAN EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR CREDIBLE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN PLAYING AT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

/SECONDLY, I

SECONDLY, I THINK THAT WHILE EVERYONE SENSIBLE RECOGNISES THAT U.S. POLICY THIS YEAR IS UNLIKELY TO BE IDENTICAL WITH U.S. POLICY LAST YEAR, THIS IS AN EXTREMELY GOOD MOMENT FOR US TO BE EXPRESSING OUR VIEWS ON WHAT THAT POLICY SHOULD BE. AND THE ACCESS THAT I HAVE HAD AND THE OPPORTUNITY THAT I HAVE HAD OF MEETING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND LEADERS IN CONGRESS HAS, I HOPE, ENSURED THAT WHATEVER POLICY EMERGES WILL REFLECT THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG. AND IN MY JUDGMENT, THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG ARE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTERESTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE, WITH CONSIDERABLE ELAN, BEEN PROMOTING ECONOMIC REFORM IN CHINA.

SO I DON'T ACCEPT THE PARADOX POSED BY EITHER JONATHAN OR NAMELESS DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, WHOEVER THEY MAY BE. AND I SPEAK AS A RECENTLY ESTABLISHED DIPLOMAT.

QUESTION: IF I COULD FOLLOW THAT?

GOVERNOR: YES.

QUESTION: IT'S THE OTHER SIDE OF REALLY THE SAME QUESTION. PEOPLE HERE IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN TOTALLY IMPRESSED BY THE AMOUNT OF ACCESS YOU'VE GOTTEN AND THE AMOUNT OF PLAY ON DEMOCRACY. AND YOU SEEM NOT TO (INAUDIBLE). AND ALSO HAVE BEEN QUESTIONING THE WAY YOUR SPEECH WHICH YOU MADE AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, PEOPLE SAYING YOU APPEARED TO BE ALMOST SNUBBING THE PRESIDENT, WHO IS GOING -- YOUR SPEECH APPEARED TO PLAY DOWN THE WHOLE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY HONG KONG UNDERSTANDS YOU. DO YOU THINK THE PLAY HERE HAS ACTUALLY BEING SYMPATHETIC ON THE MFN FRONT?

GOVERNOR: I TOLD THE PRESIDENT WHAT I WAS PROPOSING TO SAY AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, AND WHAT I SAID AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB WAS NOT VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I SAID TO THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, IN A SPEECH BEFORE I LEFT HONG KONG. SO I GUESS THE PRESIDENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE BEEN WELL APPRISED OF MY POSITION.

I THINK THEY UNDERSTAND THAT, AS A MATTER OF BOTH PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE, AND THE PRINCIPLE IN MY CASE IS SOMEWHAT BUTTRESSED BY THE FACT THAT FREE TRADE IS SOMETHING I FEEL STRONGLY IDEOLOGICAL ABOUT. I THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION RECOGNISE THAT WE WOULD SET OUT OUR ARGUMENT ON MFN BOTH IN TERMS OF PRINCIPLE AND AS A MATTER OF UTILITARIAN FRONT LINE FACT.

IF MFN WERE TO BE CANCELLED OR IF MFN WERE TO BE SO QUALIFIED BY CONDITIONALITY AS TO MAKE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES, THEN PEOPLE DO NEED TO RECOGNISE THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE HIT, AND WHATEVER THE OBJECTIVES, WHATEVER THE JUSTIFICATION SOME PEOPLE MAY FEEL FOR THOSE OBJECTIVES, THAT IS A FACT WHICH EVERYONE HAS TO RECOGNISE. I GUESS THAT YOU COULD DESIGN SOME FORMS OF EXPECTATION OR MODERATE CONDITIONALITY AROUND MFN WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE THAT EFFECT ON HONG KONG.

/BUT WHAT

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BUT WHAT I PLAINLY CAN'T DO, JONATHAN, WHEN I MAKE A SPEECH, IS TO CONCEDE THE POINT OF PRINCIPLE. AND TO MAKE A SPEECH ABOUT THE SORT OF MODEST CONDITIONALITY WHICH HONG KONG MIGHT FIND BEARABLE, THAT WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE AS A NEGOTIATING TACTIC, AND IT WOULD RAISE, I THINK, DOUBTS IN THE MINDS OF ALL BUT THE MOST SOPHISTICATED MEMBERS OF AN AUDIENCE LISTENING TO ME.

SO ONE, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS KNOWN ALL ALONG WHAT ARGUMENTS WE WOULD BE PUTTING THIS WEEK ON MFN. TWO, I HAVE MADE IT CONSISTENTLY CLEAR THAT WE UNDERSTAND WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING, IS SAYING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. WHO, MORE THAN PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS? BUT THAT WE DON'T THINK THAT THE REMOVAL OF MFN OR THE STRICT HEDGING ABOUT OF MFN WITH SUBSTANTIAL CONDITIONS IS THE RIGHT WAY TO APPROACH THAT ISSUE.

IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULT CORNERS TO TURN ON BOTH THESE MATTERS, YOU'RE DEAD RIGHT.

LAST ONE. WHO'S PUT THEIR HAND UP MOST?

QUESTION: OKAY. IN YESTERDAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, NANCY PELOSI, THE CONGRESSWOMAN, MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT SHE THINKS THAT YOU NOT GOING TO CHANGE THE MIND OF THE CONGRESS FOR CONDITIONING MFN, THAT'S THE FIRST THING, AND THEN THE SECOND THING SHE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT EVEN THOUGH WITHOUT THE MFN, IF THERE IS SOME TRADE PACKAGE WHICH CREATES SOME RETALIATION FROM THE UNITED STATES TO CHINA, FOR EXAMPLE -- FOR EXAMPLE, LIKE IN SUPER 301 OR WHATEVER, SOME OTHER TERMS -- WE CAN STILL KEEP HONG KONG, EVEN THOUGH WITHOUT MFN. THAT, I THINK YOU COULD JUST INTERPRET THE OTHER WAY. SO WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS COMMENT?

GOVERNOR: WELL, AS I SAID EARLIER, IF I HAD CHANGED REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI'S MIND, I THINK YOU ALL WOULD HAVE ALL BEEN HUGELY IMPRESSED BY MY SILVER-TONGUED CAPACITY.

WHAT I HOPE I HAVE DONE WITH REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI AND SENATOR MITCHELL AND OTHERS, AND WHAT I HOPE I WILL BE DOING AT MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES IN BOTH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE TODAY, IS ENSURING THAT ON THE TABLE, WHEN THEY CONSIDER THESE MATTERS IN THE COMING 3 OR 4 WEEKS, THERE IS THE IMPACT ON HONG KONG OF WHATEVER DECISION THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE. AND I HOPE THAT THAT WILL HOPE TO AFFECT THE DECISION AND MODERATE WHATEVER DECISION THEY MAKE. I COULDN'T EXPECT TO DO MORE THAN THAT, BUT I HOPE WE'VE DONE THAT REASONABLY EFFECTIVELY.

SECONDLY, YOUR ENTIRELY RIGHT TO SAY THAT THERE ARE OTHER ISSUES, AS WELL AS MFN, WHICH CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC AND TRADING POSITION AND ON CHINA'S. SUPER 301 ADDED, FOR EXAMPLE, AS A BOBBLE ON A CHRISTMAS TREE TO FAST TRACK AUTHORITY ON THE URUGUAY ROUND. THAT CAN HAVE AN EFFECT ON HONG KONG, AS WELL. SO I HOPE THAT WHAT I HAVE SAID ABOUT HONG KONG ON MFN INFUSES WHAT IS SAID AND THOUGHT ABOUT ON OTHER SUBJECTS.

/A LAST

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A LAST REPETITION: THE U.S. IS IN THE THROES OF MAKING UP ITS MIND ABOUT MFN AND TRADE POLICY WITH CHINA. I STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO ARRIVE AT A POLICY WHICH FIRST OF ALL HAD THE MAXIMUM SUPPORT IN CONGRESS AND DID NOT INVOLVE A FIGHT BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS, AND SECONDLY, WHICH MEANT THAT THE DEBATE ABOUT MFN EACH YEAR DIDN'T BECOME THE CENTERPIECE OF AMERICA'S POLICY TOWARDS CHINA.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PARTICULARLY WISE OR PERCEPTIVE TO REACH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT'S UNLIKELY THAT THE POLICY THAT AMERICA ADOPTS WILL PROBABLY BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM THE POLICY ADOPTED BY A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION. BUT I WANT THAT POLICY TO RECOGNISE HONG KONG'S INTEREST, WHATEVER IT IS AT THE END OF THE DAY.

IT'S NOT FOR ME TO COME HERE, AS THE NCNA WOULD TELL YOU, AS A SPOKESMAN FOR CHINA. IT'S NOT FOR ME TO COME AND LECTURE AMERICANS ON WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD BE ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IF THINGS WENT WRONG IN ITS TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. THAT'S, I'M SURE, WHAT A NUMBER OF AMERICAN SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE SAYING.

IT IS FOR ME TO SAY WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD BE ON THE TENTH LARGEST TRADING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD, WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD BE ON HONG KONG. AND THAT, I HAVE BEEN DOING, AND THAT, I SHALL DO HERE AND ELSEWHERE IN THE FUTURE. THAT'S NOT INTERNATIONALISING HONG KONG, THAT'S STANDING UP FOR HONG KONG AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

QUESTION: WILL YOU BE HERE NEXT APRIL AND MAY, SIR, AGAIN ARGUING THIS, AS YOU INDICATED, PERHAPS THE GOVERNOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE SAR WILL BE HERE EVER APRIL AND MAY?

GOVERNOR: I THINK ALL OF US LOOK FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN WHATEVER THE OTHER REASONS FOR RETURNING TO WASHINGTON IN THE SPRING, NOT BEING ON MFN ISN'T ONE OF THEM. BUT SO LONG AS MFN LOOMS LARGE IN OUR CONCERNS, THIS GOVERNOR AND FUTURE CHIEF EXECUTIVES WILL, IN MY JUDGMENT, BE HERE ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE AND THE BLOSSOMS AND THE RAIN AND THE SIGHTS.

AND YESTERDAY, I ENJOYED MEETING AT THE AWAKENING STATUTE A LARGE DELEGATION FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, INDEED.

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SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION
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THE TWO SIDES OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION HAVE AGREED THAT THE COMMISSION'S TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 7 MAY 1993. THE MEETING WILL DISCUSS THE 1993/94 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME.

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LAND COMMISSION MEETING VERY IMPORTANT: SIR DAVID
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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT A MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION HAD BEEN ARRANGED THIS WEEK.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SIR DAVID SAID: "IT'S CLEARLY VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE DO GET ON WITH THESE PRACTICAL ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

"THERE'S MUCH TO DISCUSS AND WE'RE VERY PLEASED THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A MEETING."

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY TO DISCUSS THE 1993/94 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME.

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GOVERNOR'S SECOND DAY VISIT IN WASHINGTON
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, STARTED HIS SECOND DAY OF MEETINGS DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON D C YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) WITH A CALL ON SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL (DEMOCRAT, KENTUCKY).

HE ALSO ATTENDED A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB WHERE HE DELIVERED A SPEECH BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 400 MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS AND GUESTS.

HEAD TABLE GUESTS INCLUDED MRS PATTEN, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES SIR ROBIN RENWICK, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NPC MR ALAN ADAMS AND LEADING MEMBERS OF THE PRESS.

AFTER THE LUNCHEON, MR PATTEN CONTINUED WITH THE MEDIA BY BRIEFING AN EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE WASHINGTON POST.

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IN THE AFTERNOON, THE GOVERNOR ATTENDED A MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, SENATOR MAX BAUCUS (DEMOCRAT, MONTANA).

SENATOR BAUCUS IS RECOGNISED AS A MAJOR FORCE IN THE SENATE ON FREE TRADE AND FOREIGN TRADE AGREEMENT. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, REPRESENTATIVE DON ROSTENKOWSKI, WAS ALSO PRESENT.

THE GOVERNOR ENDED THE DAY BY GIVING A DINNER SPEECH AT THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

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ROYAL NAVY MOVE TO STONECUTTERS GATHERS PACE
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WITH LESS THAN TWO WEEKS TO GO BEFORE THE ROYAL NAVY LEAVES THE PRESENT HMS TAMAR SITE IN CENTRAL AND TRANSFERS TO STONECUTTERS ISLAND, THE CURRENT STORES AND OFFICES ARE RAPIDLY EMPTYING AS EQUIPMENT IS TRANSFERRED BY BARGE AND LANDING CRAFT TO THE NEW BASE.

THE ROYAL NAVY WILL LEAVE THE PRESENT HMS TAMAR ON MAY 17 AND WILL RAISE THE ENSIGN ON THE NEW HMS TAMAR ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND ON MAY 18.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FINAL MOVE ARE WELL ON SCHEDULE.

THE PRESENT SITE WILL BE RENAMED PRINCE OF WALES BARRACKS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE HEADQUARTERS BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ON THURSDAY (MAY 6) THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PHOTOGRAPH NAVAL STORES AND EQUIPMENT AS THEY ARE LOADED ON TO BARGES AND LANDING CRAFT.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THIS SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE MAIN GATE, HMS TAMAR AT 10 AM.

THE LOADING, UNLOADING AND MOVEMENT OF EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY NOON.

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GOVERNMENT DETERMINED TO FURTHER IMPROVE NT ENVIRONMENT
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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

DURING HIS VISIT TO INSPECT LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IN SHA TIN AND TAI PO, MR LAM SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED MORE THAN \$34 MILLION UNDER THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME TO CARRY OUT PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS FOR THE 1993/94 FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE AMOUNT WILL BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOOTPATHS, PARKING AREAS, DRAINAGE CHANNELS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SITTING-OUT AREAS. THE PROJECTS WILL BE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE NINE DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE ACCESS ROAD TO WU KAI SHA VILLAGE IN SHA TIN, HE SAID, WAS COMPLETED LAST SUMMER AT A COST OF \$370,000. THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST PUT TO THE DISTRICT OFFICER BY VILLAGERS IN 1990.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE CAN BE FOUND IN SAN UK TSAI, TAI PO, WHERE WORK ON A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND A VAN TRACK ARE IN PROGRESS.

THESE TWO PROGRAMMES COST ABOUT \$640,000 AND ARE UNDERTAKEN BY WORKS STAFF OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE WORKS ARE WARMLY WELCOME BY THE VILLAGERS.

"ALL THESE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES WILL UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS," MR LAM SAID.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS COVERED BY HIS INSPECTION TOUR ARE THE IMPROVEMENT TO AN ACCESS ROAD TO MA ON SHAN TSUEN, THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO RAIN SHELTERS IN MUI TZE LAM VILLAGE IN SHA TIN, AND A FOOTBRIDGE IN SAN TONG VILLAGE, TAI PO.

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CONSULTANTS APPOINTED TO REVIEW PUBLIC WORKS PROCEDURES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPOINTED CONSULTANTS TO REVIEW THE PUBLIC WORKS PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND UPLIFT OVERALL PERFORMANCE.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE NINE-MONTH CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS SIGNED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE MCKINSEY AND COMPANY INC HONG KONG, MR TREVOR MACMURRAY.

/MR BLAKE

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MR BLAKE SAID: "UNDER THE AGREEMENT, THE CONSULTANTS WILL BE WORKING ON TWO FRONTS: FIRSTLY TO IMPROVE THE FLOW OF INFORMATION RELATED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME; AND SECONDLY ON OVERALL STRUCTURE ORGANISATION, SYSTEMS, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES."

"ON THE INFORMATION SIDE A SIGNIFICANT PRODUCT WILL BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROTOTYPE COMPUTER-BASED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM LINKING TOGETHER ALL THE MAJOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME."

"THE ORGANISATIONAL SIDE OF THE CONSULTANT'S WORK WILL BE TO CARRY OUT A FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF THE WAY WE HANDLE PUBLIC WORKS. AS WELL AS LOOKING AT PROCEDURES, IT WILL FOCUS ON ISSUES SUCH AS THE DEGREE TO WHICH WE MAY ENTRUST PUBLIC WORKS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE EXTENT TO WHICH CONSULTANTS SHOULD BE USED AND ON OVERALL STAFFING AND SKILL LEVELS OF THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS."

THE CONSULTANTS WILL BE GUIDED BY A STEERING COMMITTEE WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, AND PROMINENT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FIGURES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL MEET LATER THIS MONTH TO CONSIDER THE CONSULTANT'S INCEPTION REPORT.

SPEAKING AT THE CONTRACT-SIGNING CEREMONY, MR MACMURRAY SAID: "WE ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THIS ASSIGNMENT GIVEN THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THAT PUBLIC WORKS MAKE TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND ITS GENERAL WELLBEING."

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AFTER THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. OF THE \$34 MILLION APPROVED, \$12 MILLION IS FOR PAYMENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL FEES FOR THIS CONSULTANCY.

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HK URGES ADB MEMBERS TO DEVELOP FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND MARKETS

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THE MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ADOPTED BY THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR ITS OPERATION BETWEEN 1992 AND 1995 IS VERY APPROPRIATE, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY, MR JOSEPH YAM, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE 26TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE ALTERNATE GOVERNOR FOR HONG KONG, MR YAM SAID: "FOR CERTAIN DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES (DMC'S), SOME EMPHASIS MAY VERY PRODUCTIVELY BE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND FINANCIAL MARKETS," HE SAID.

/HOWEVER SIMPLE

HOWEVER SIMPLE THESE FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND MARKETS MIGHT BE, WHEN PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED THEY SERVED A USEFUL PURPOSE OF EFFECTIVELY CHANNELLING SAVINGS TO PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT, ENABLING THE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF MONEY AND PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR SOME FORM OF MACRO ECONOMIC CONTROL WHICH MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY AS THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS GAINED MOMENTUM, HE SAID.

"WHEN PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED AND SUPPORTED BY CREDIBLE FINANCIAL POLICIES, THEY MAY SERVE ALSO TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND ENCOURAGE THE INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF PRIVATE CAPITAL RESOURCES," HE SAID.

"IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY THE LIKELY BENEFITS OF SUCH AN EFFORT. IT IS PERHAPS MORE OF A CATALYST TO DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN A STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE IN ITSELF.

"BUT SPEAKING AS THE MONETARY AUTHORITY OF A FINANCIAL CENTRE, I THINK IT IS CERTAINLY SOMETHING THAT DESERVES GREATER EMPHASIS," MR YAM SAID.

ON ADB'S DISCUSSIONS AND DIALOGUE WITH DMC GOVERNMENTS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF POLICY AND THE STATUTORY, REGULATORY AND FISCAL FRAMEWORKS THAT HAVE A BEARING ON THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, MR YAM SAID:

"PERHAPS THESE DISCUSSIONS AND DIALOGUE COULD BE INTENSIFIED AND EMPHASIS GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND FINANCIAL MARKETS, WHERE THE BANK FEELS THAT THE CATALYTIC EFFECT I REFERRED TO HAS A HIGH LIKELIHOOD TO MATERIALISE IN INDIVIDUAL DMC'S".

"I AM SURE THERE ARE FINANCIAL EXPERTS IN THE BANK AND IN MEMBER COUNTRIES WHO ARE VERY CAPABLE OF GIVING ADVICE IN THIS FIELD AND ARE WILLING TO DO SO," HE ADDED.

HE URGED THAT MORE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTED BY THE BANK TO DMC'S FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

"THIS WILL BE MONEY WELL SPENT. AT MERELY US\$5.59 MILLION IN 1992, THERE IS CLEARLY ROOM FOR EXPANSION IN THIS AREA, WITHOUT RISKING ANY SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE BANK," MR YAM SAID.

HE SAID THE TERRITORY WOULD PLAY ITS PART IN ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL MARKETS.

"WHERE OUR EXPERIENCE MAY BE USEFUL FOR THOSE INTERESTED, WE ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO SHARE IT," HE SAID.

CITING THE ISSUE OF DRAGON BOND AS EXAMPLE, MR YAM SAID HONG KONG LOOKED FORWARD TO MORE OF THIS ACTIVITY BY THE BANK AND WOULD COMPLEMENT THIS WITH THE TERRITORY'S EFFORTS.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, MR YAM BRIEFED FELLOW GOVERNORS OF THE BANK ON THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD FINALLY JOINED THE CENTRAL BANKING FRATERNITY AND LOOKED FORWARD TO MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OF THAT FRATERNITY.

"WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FROM INDIVIDUAL CENTRAL BANKS, PARTICULARLY FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND THE PEOPLE'S BANK OF CHINA," HE SAID.

MR YAM IS CURRENTLY LEADING A HONG KONG DELEGATION TO THE 26TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ADB IN MANILA.

OTHER HONG KONG DELEGATES ARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (MONETARY MANAGEMENT), MR NORMAN CHAN; HEAD, MONETARY POLICY DIVISION, MR JAMES LAU JR AND SENIOR MANAGER (MONETARY MANAGEMENT) OF THE HKMA, MR EDDIE YUE.

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"BE MY TEACHER" CAMPAIGN ENTERS SECOND PHASE
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THE SECOND PHASE OF THE "BE MY TEACHER" RECRUITMENT DRIVE BEGAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF FIVE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

THE DRIVE TO RECRUIT MORE TEACHERS TO IMPROVE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOLS WAS LAUNCHED ON MONDAY WHEN APPLICATION FORMS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO POTENTIAL CANDIDATES AT THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED TEACHER RECRUITMENT INFORMATION OFFICE, THE 19 DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES, AND 10 EMPLOYMENT OFFICES OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE SECOND PHASE INVOLVED THE INSTALLATION OF FIVE APPLICATION FORM AND LEAFLET DISPENSERS AT THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE, LINGNAN COLLEGE, HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, AND SHUE YAN COLLEGE.

COPIES OF THE APPLICATION FORM ARE ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FAX SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SYSTEM.

"IN FACT, THERE WERE 185 CALLERS WHO DIALLED 891 0088 ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY REQUESTING THE FAX VERSION OF THE APPLICATION FORM WHILE THE NUMBER OF CALLERS BEFORE THE START OF THE CAMPAIGN INCREASED FROM AN AVERAGE OF JUST OVER 500 TO 1,164 ON TUESDAY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE CAMPAIGN ALSO RESULTED IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG REQUESTING 500 COPIES OF THE APPLICATION FORM FOR THEIR STUDENTS.

"APART FROM HELPING TO RECRUIT 780 TEACHERS NEEDED IN THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR WHEN PRIMARY 1 CLASSES WILL BE REDUCED FROM 40 TO 35 STUDENTS, PARTICULARS OF THE APPLICANTS WILL FORM A DATABANK WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A SOURCE OF POTENTIAL TEACHING FORCE TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE DATABANK WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AS FROM MAY 17, TO SCHOOLS WITH FULL OR PART-TIME VACANCIES.

SCHOOL AUTHORITIES CAN CONTACT OFFICERS OF THE TEACHER RECRUITMENT INFORMATION OFFICE IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE AND THEY WILL RESPOND BY FAX A LIST OF TEACHERS SATISFYING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THE SCHOOLS' REQUIREMENTS.

"THE SCHOOLS CAN APPROACH THE CANDIDATES AND MAKE THEIR OWN INTERVIEW ARRANGEMENTS," HE SAID.

THE "BE MY TEACHER" CAMPAIGN ALSO INCLUDES PUBLICITY, INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF A 10-MINUTE VIDEO, TO ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF TEACHERS AIMED AT INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHERS IN THE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED TO STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD THROUGH SPECIAL ARTICLES WHICH, WITH THE HELP AND CO-OPERATION OF THE PRINT MEDIA, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OVERSEAS EDITIONS OF HONG KONG NEWSPAPERS.

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TSUEN WAN SITE TO LET
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

OCCUPYING ABOUT 2,760 SQUARE METRES AT YEUNG UK ROAD, TSUEN WAN THE LAND IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR VEHICLES, INCLUDING GOODS VEHICLES BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON MAY 21.

THE TENDER FORM, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN, 10TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN;
- * THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; AND
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

THE TENDER PLAN IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICES.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1993

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SALT WATER CUT IN HUNG HOM
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN HUNG HOM WILL GO OFF FROM 9.30 AM TO 5 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 7) TO FACILITATE CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY WUHU STREET, CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, BULKELEY STREET AND DOCK STREET.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS ON FRIDAY
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 7) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE CHAMBER'S PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,700
REVERSAL OF LAF	+450
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-610
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,540
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 111.7 *+0.0* 5.5.93

/HONG KONG

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.25 PCT	12 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.51	3.04
1 MONTH	2.54 PCT	15 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.51	3.19
3 MONTHS	2.69 PCT	18 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.83	3.42
6 MONTHS	2.83 PCT	21 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.96	3.63
12 MONTHS	3.01 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 16,354 MN

CLOSED 5 MAY 1993

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Received by PRO
on 11 MAY 1993

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1993

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STEPS TO IMPROVE CO-ORDINATION OF GOVT ACTIVITIES

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN STEPS TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF LACK OF CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

HE WAS TABLING BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE GOVERNMENT MINUTE IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 LAST YEAR, AND THE RESULTS OF VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS.

"FIRST, ALL STAGES IN THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS ARE NOW BEING CO-ORDINATED BY THE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AGENCY," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO TAKEN A NUMBER OF NEW INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE CO-ORDINATION OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS NOW CHAIRS A NEW PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE WHICH INCLUDES ALL POLICY SECRETARIES HAVING A CLOSE INVOLVEMENT WITH PUBLIC WORKS.

THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS.

"ITS MAIN TASK IS TO CO-ORDINATE THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO DELIVER PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, A WIDE-RANGING REVIEW OF EXISTING PUBLIC WORKS PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS IS BEING CARRIED OUT.

"THIS WILL INVOLVE A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF HOW PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ARE PLANNED, CO-ORDINATED, FINANCED AND EXECUTED," MR MACLEOD SAID.

"THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL THAT A PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR BE APPOINTED FOR PROJECTS INVOLVING MORE THAN ONE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE REVIEW," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD SAID A MORE SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER-BASED INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WOULD BE DEVELOPED TO LINK ALL WORKS DEPARTMENTS AND RELEVANT POLICY BRANCHES.

"WE ARE, OF COURSE, NOT CONTENT WITH SIMPLY IMPROVING CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITY," HE SAID.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND POLICY SECRETARIES WOULD ALSO BE IMPROVED, HE ADDED.

APART FROM THE WORK OF THE EFFICIENCY UNIT, IN THE COMING MONTHS FURTHER WORK WILL BE REQUIRED TO REFINE PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TO INTRODUCE REGULAR PROGRAMME REVIEWS BETWEEN BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS, MR MACLEOD SAID.

"THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL FACILITATE A MORE PROACTIVE APPROACH TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THE BEST VALUE FOR MONEY IN DELIVERING THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMMES," HE SAID.

PORT DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT PLANNING

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THE GOVERNMENT TAKES GREAT CARE TO CO-ORDINATE FUTURE PORT DEVELOPMENT AND LAND TRANSPORT PLANNING THROUGH THE STRATEGIC PLANNING, LAND-USE AND TRANSPORT PLANNING PROCESS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A MOTION DEBATE ON WATERBORNE AND LAND TRANSPORT SYSTEMS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID ABOUT 88 HECTARES OF NEW BACK-UP AREAS WILL BE PROVIDED UPON COMPLETION OF CONTAINER TERMINALS NOS. 8 AND 9.

FOR THE LANTAU PORT, MR LEUNG SAID, SUCH PROBLEMS WOULD NO LONGER EXIST FROM THE OUTSET WITH 10 HECTARES OF BACK UP LAND TO BE PROVIDED FOR EACH CONTAINER BERTH.

TO COPE WITH THE PHENOMENAL GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF FREIGHT MOVING ACROSS THE BORDER BY ROAD, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DOUBLE THE CAPACITY OF THE MAN KAM TO VEHICLE HOLDING AREA TO 220 VEHICLES AND WILL CONSIDER WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FURTHER EXTENSIONS TO OPENING HOURS AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF VEHICLE CHANNELS IN OPERATION AT LOK MA CHAU.

IN THE LONG TERM, THE ROUTE 3 COUNTRY PARK SECTION WILL PROVIDE A THIRD MAJOR ROAD CORRIDOR FOR BORDER TRAFFIC.

MR LEUNG SAID THERE HAD BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BUILD THIS ROAD UNDER A FRANCHISE ARRANGEMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING THE PROPOSALS BEFORE MAKING DECISIONS ON THE TENDERING ARRANGEMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL ROAD BUILDING PROGRAMME UNDERWAY IN NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES. THE TUEN MUN - YUEN LONG EASTERN CORRIDOR WILL OPEN IN JULY, FOLLOWED BY THE YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

"WE ARE ALSO SPENDING AS MEMBERS KNOW \$1 BILLION ON FOUR CLIMBING LANES ON TUEN MUN HIGHWAY," HE SAID.

IN THE EAST, THE GOVERNMENT IS TO COMMISSION LATER THIS YEAR A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ROUTE 16 WHICH WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL ROAD LINK BETWEEN CONTAINER PORT AND SHA TIN.

ON RAIL FACILITIES, MR LEUNG SAID TO HELP INCREASE THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION FREIGHT HANDLING CAPABILITY, FIVE HECTARES OF LAND ON THE HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION WILL BE GRANTED TO THE CORPORATION FOR EXPANSION OF ITS MAIN FREIGHT TERMINAL. THIS WILL INCREASE THE TERMINAL CAPACITY BY 140 WAGONS A DAY.

IN THE LONG TERM, THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY HAS RECOMMENDED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PORT RAIL LINE FOR COMPLETION BY 2001.

THE RECOMMENDED LINE, WHICH COULD ALSO INCORPORATE A LINK TO THE LANTAU PORT AT A LATER DATE, COULD CARRY UP TO 4,000 CONTAINERS A DAY.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1993

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MOREOVER, THE FREIGHT TRANSPORT STUDY WILL RECOMMEND A STRATEGY FOR ROAD, RAIL AND WATERBORNE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS BEST SUITED TO THE ECONOMY OF HONG KONG.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS YEAR, MR LEUNG ADDED.

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SPEECH BY ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY KEN WOODHOUSE
AT MOTION DEBATE ON LAW REFORM COMMISSION REPORT
ON ARREST IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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MR PRESIDENT,

I AM GRATEFUL TO HONORABLE MEMBERS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY THIS DEBATE TO LISTEN TO THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE VIEWS ON THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION REPORT ON ARREST. I AM HAPPY TO CONFIRM THAT THEY WILL BE FULLY CONSIDERED WHEN A POLICY DECISION IS TAKEN ON THE REPORT.

THE TASK ASSIGNED TO THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION FOUR YEARS AGO WAS DAUNTING; IT WAS ASKED TO EXAMINE THE THEN EXISTING LAW AND PRACTICE GOVERNING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE POLICE, OTHER PUBLIC OFFICERS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS, RELATING TO STOP AND SEARCH, ARREST AND DETENTION. IT WAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO CONSIDER WHETHER PROVISIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE ACT 1984, KNOWN AS PACE, SHOULD BE ADOPTED IN HONG KONG. THE REPORT IS A VERY DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT CONTAINING OVER 60 RECOMMENDATIONS, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION FOR THEIR HARD WORK.

PACE DEFINES THE LIMITS OF POLICE POWERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SETS OUT PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS TO AVOID THE ABUSE OF THESE POWERS. THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION PROPOSES THE ADOPTION OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THE PROVISIONS IN PACE, INCLUDING THOSE ON ROAD CHECKS AND DETENTION, SUITABLY MODIFIED TO SUIT HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION APPLY NOT ONLY TO THE POLICE, BUT TO OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AS WELL. FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT, WE SOUGHT INITIAL COMMENTS FROM THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AFFECTED BY ITS RECOMMENDATIONS; THEIR PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS MAY HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT; THEY WILL CERTAINLY REQUIRE LEGISLATION AND MAY GIVE RISE TO SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. WE CONCLUDED, THEREFORE, THAT CAREFUL, DETAILED CONSIDERATION WAS REQUIRED.

/MR PRESIDENT

MR PRESIDENT, I HOPE THAT HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL NOT MISUNDERSTAND IF, EVEN AT THIS EARLY STAGE, I SOUND A NOTE OF WARNING AND ECHOED SOME OF THE REMARKS MADE THIS EVENING. PACE HAS NOT BEEN A PANACEA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM; THE LEGAL PROFESSION, SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY HAVE PUBLICLY VOICED THEIR RESERVATIONS. THERE ARE ALSO DIFFERENCES IN THE SOCIAL ILLS PERCEIVED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PRIOR TO 1984, WHEN PACE WAS INTRODUCED, AND THOSE IN HONG KONG TODAY. PACE WAS INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AT A TIME WHEN THE POLICE FORCES THERE WERE FAR FROM HOMOGENOUS, AND THERE WAS INCREASING CRIME AND RACIAL TENSION IN THE COUNTRY. THERE WERE ALSO DOUBTS ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH THE POLICE THERE HANDLED SOME INVESTIGATIONS. A NUMBER OF HIGH PROFILE CASES, WHICH HAD RESULTED IN THE IMPRISONMENT OF PEOPLE, HAD SERIOUSLY CALLED INTO QUESTION POLICE POWERS. THESE FACTORS ARE NOT PRESENT IN HONG KONG WHICH, UNLIKE THE UNITED KINGDOM, HAS ENJOYED A COMPARATIVELY LOW RATE OF CRIME FOR MANY YEARS, FREE FROM RACIAL TENSION.

UNLIKE HONG KONG, THE UNITED KINGDOM DOES NOT HAVE A DOMESTIC BILL OF RIGHTS AND THIS MADE IT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE LAWS THERE TO SET OUT CLEAR LIMITS ON POLICE POWERS AND THE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE DO HAVE A BILL OF RIGHTS IN HONG KONG WHICH, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, DOES SET LIMITS ON POLICE POWERS AND PROVIDES SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSE.

THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH APPLIED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PRIOR TO 1984 AND THOSE WHICH EXIST IN HONG KONG NOW. THEREFORE, WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS IN OUR APPROACH TO THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S REPORT.

NEVERTHELESS, MR PRESIDENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS MUCH IN PACE, WHICH HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION AS BEING OF BENEFIT TO HONG KONG. WE WILL NEED TO STUDY CAREFULLY THE 60 RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT IN GREATER DETAIL BEFORE WE CAN MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, SET UP AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY MYSELF, WITH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS.

THE WORKING GROUP HAS ALREADY STARTED WORK. THE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED ARE COMPLEX, BUT WE HAVE AGREED THAT THIS MUST BE A MATTER OF PRIORITY. AT THIS STAGE, I CANNOT PREDICT HOW LONG OUR DELIBERATIONS WILL TAKE, BUT I HOPE THAT, ONCE WE HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR A LITTLE TIME, THE SCALE OF THE TASK WILL BECOME CLEARER AND I WILL THEN BE ABLE TO FORECAST COMPLETION.

WE HAVE, HOWEVER, AGREED THAT SEVERAL PRINCIPLES SHOULD GOVERN OUR EXAMINATION OF THE REPORT. FIRST, WE MUST ENSURE THAT ANY PROPOSALS WE MAKE ON ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL NOT HINDER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DISCIPLINARY SERVICES IN MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER. I AM REFERRING HERE NOT ONLY TO THE POWER TO INVESTIGATE CRIMES WHICH HAVE BEEN COMMITTED, BUT ALSO TO THE POWER TO PREVENT CRIMES FROM HAPPENING, SUCH AS THE POWER TO STOP AND SEARCH A PERSON AND TO SET ROAD BLOCKS.

SECOND, ANY OF OUR PROPOSALS SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE. WE NEED TO STEER A CAREFUL BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

THIRD, THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. DISCIPLINARY SERVICES' POWERS ARE BY THEIR VERY NATURE CONTROVERSIAL AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT IN FORMULATING OUR PROPOSALS ON THE REPORT'S

RECOMMENDATIONS, FULL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PUBLIC OPINION. WE INTEND TO SEEK VIEWS AND WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING HOW BEST THIS SHOULD BE DONE. THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL BE TAKEN CAREFULLY INTO CONSIDERATION IN THIS REGARD.

MR PRESIDENT, THE ABILITY OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER IS THE BASIS OF OUR STABILITY. WE MUST ENSURE THAT THEIR POWERS ARE NECESSARY AND ADEQUATE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, CONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS. THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION REPORT HAS PROVIDED A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WE MUST NOW CAREFULLY REVIEW. I HOPE THAT THE OUTCOME OF OUR DELIBERATIONS WILL BE APPROPRIATE TO MEET HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES AND WILL ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY.

WITH THESE REMARKS, MR PRESIDENT, I SUPPORT THE MOTION.

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TRANSFER OF EXECUTIVE DUTIES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL IN DUE COURSE DEVELOP PLANS TO ENSURE AN ORDERLY AND SMOOTH TRANSFER OF DUTIES FROM THE EXISTING EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES TO THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT IN 1997.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG, MR SZE SAID: "SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE PUT IN PLACE BEFORE OR BY JUNE 30, 1997."

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RULES FOR EXCO MEMBERS DECLARING INTERESTS

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THERE ARE ALREADY A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS WHICH HELP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AVOID ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND OBSERVE THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE ADVICE TENDERED TO THE GOVERNOR IS DISINTERESTED AND IMPARTIAL.

THE REMARK WAS MADE BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, WHEN HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST OR OTHER MATERIAL BENEFIT WHICH A MEMBER MAY RECEIVE WHICH MIGHT BE THOUGHT TO INFLUENCE HIS DECISIONS IN TENDERING ADVICE TO THE GOVERNOR, MR MACLEOD SAID.

"IN THIS CONTEXT WE CAN SEE THE MERIT OF KEEPING THE SCOPE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RULES RELATING TO REGISTRATION AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS UNDER PERIODIC REVIEW.

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"WE ARE VERY READY TO RE-EXAMINE THE PRESENT RULES TO SEE WHETHER IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE," HE SAID.

AND SPECIFICALLY TO LOOK CAREFULLY AND POSITIVELY AT THE SUGGESTION OF INTRODUCING A SYSTEM OF REGISTERING AND DECLARING TRANSACTIONS IN LOCAL INVESTMENT MARKETS, POSSIBLY ALONG THE LINES OF THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF INVESTMENT HOLDINGS BY DIRECTORS OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION, HE ADDED.

MR MACLEOD SAID THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW WOULD BE ANNOUNCED.

UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE RULES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 1991 MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER INVESTMENT HOLDINGS IN RESPECT OF LAND AND PROPERTY OF SUBSTANTIAL VALUE (OR FROM WHICH A SUBSTANTIAL INCOME IS DERIVED).

ALSO, THE NAMES OF COMPANIES IN WHICH MEMBERS, EITHER THEMSELVES OR WITH OR ON BEHALF OF THEIR SPOUSES AND INFANT CHILDREN, HOLD IN EXCESS OF ONE PER CENT OF THE ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL, HAVE TO BE REGISTERED.

IN ADDITION TO THIS INFORMATION ON INVESTMENTS, OTHER INTERESTS ALSO HAVE TO BE REGISTERED SUCH AS REMUNERATED DIRECTORSHIPS AND EMPLOYMENTS, FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIPS AND SO ON.

MEMBERS ALSO HAVE A DUTY TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ANY SUBJECT WHICH IS PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

"MEMBERS' INTERESTS ARE MONITORED ON A MEETING-BY-MEETING BASIS AND THESE PROCEDURES ARE SCRUPULOUSLY APPLIED," MR MACLEOD SAID.

MOREOVER, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN LEGAL PROVISIONS WITH REGARD TO THE USE OR DISCLOSURE OF PRIVILEGED INFORMATION.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) ORDINANCE APPLY IN RELATION TO THE USE OR DISCLOSURE OF RELEVANT INFORMATION IN TERMS OF THAT ORDINANCE.

AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ARE REGARDED AS PUBLIC SERVANTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE.

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GOVERNOR COMPLETES REGISTER OF DECLARABLE INTERESTS

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THE GOVERNOR, ON A PURELY VOLUNTARY BASIS, COMPLETED A REGISTER OF HIS DECLARABLE INTERESTS ON APRIL 22 THIS YEAR, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID.

GIVING A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID: "THE GOVERNOR HAS NO DECLARABLE INTERESTS IN HONG KONG."

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FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR 103 PROJECTS TO BE SETTLED

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THERE ARE 103 FINAL ACCOUNTS IN RESPECT OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN/SUPERVISED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ASD) WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SETTLED.

ACTION ON 86 HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY ASD AS REQUIRED UNDER THE CONTRACTS AND THEIR FINAL CONTRACT SUMS ARE NOW AWAITING THE CONTRACTORS' AGREEMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RONALD ARCULLI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DELAYS TO THE REMAINING 17 ACCOUNTS, WHICH RANGED FROM ONE MONTH TO 17 MONTHS, WERE LARGELY DUE TO THE TIME NEEDED TO VERIFY INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE CONTRACTOR REGARDING THE MEASUREMENT AND VALUATION OF AUTHORISED VARIATIONS.

OF THESE, MR BLAKE SAID THE ONE RELATING TO STAGE II OF QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL WAS UNDER ARBITRATION.

"DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING HELD WITH CONTRACTORS ON THE OTHERS, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF SETTLEMENT OTHER THAN BY ARBITRATION OR LITIGATION," HE SAID.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS 72 FINAL ACCOUNTS IN RESPECT OF BUILDING AND SITE FORMATION CONTRACTS CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING, OF WHICH THE CONTRACTORS OF 63 ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH PRICED BILLS OF VARIATIONS.

IT WAS EXPECTED THAT ALL ACCOUNTS WOULD BE SETTLED BY NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND ITS CONTRACTORS, HE ADDED.

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TREASURY SECRETARY EXPLAINS WORKS TENDERS

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SINCE TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE INTRODUCED IN RESPECT OF NON-AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PROJECTS, NO TENDERS HAVE BEEN CALLED IN ADVANCE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE UPGRADING THE PROJECTS TO CATEGORY A.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K Y YEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI WAH-MING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WITHIN RECENT MONTHS, ONLY ONE PROJECT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR UPGRADING TO CATEGORY A, WITHOUT PREVIOUSLY BEING SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

THIS WAS AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND DEALT WITH THE PURCHASE OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AT A COST OF \$1.6 BILLION.

"SUCH ITEMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE," MR YEUNG SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCOUNTS DO NOT PERMIT YEAR-END PAYMENTS MADE UNDER THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS TO BE SEPARATELY AND READILY IDENTIFIED, NOR ARE YEAR-END PAYMENTS MADE FOR COMPLETED PROJECTS, HE SAID.

THESE PAYMENTS ARE MERELY AN ACCELERATION OF PAYMENTS WHICH HAVE OR SHOULD HAVE FALLEN DUE BY THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR, AND ARE MADE ON THE EXPRESS CONDITION THAT THEY ARE ADJUSTABLE AGAINST SUBSEQUENT PAYMENTS DUE TO THE CONTRACTORS, HE ADDED.

IT IS ROUGHLY ESTIMATED THAT THESE YEAR-END PAYMENTS AMOUNTED TO SOME \$2 BILLION.

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PLANS IN HAND TO OPTIMISE HOSPITAL SERVICES

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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, HAS ASSURED LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE UTILISATION OF HOSPITAL RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE OPTIMUM EFFICIENCY IN SERVICE DELIVERY.

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THIS NEED "TO ENSURE THAT RESOURCES ARE DEPLOYED IN A WAY THAT MEETS THE MODERN NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND IS COST-EFFECTIVE".

MRS WONG WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU WAHING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE NOTED A RECENT REVIEW ON THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF PUBLIC HOSPITAL BEDS IN HONG KONG UP TO THE YEAR 2000 HAD POINTED TO THE NEED TO SHIFT THE EMPHASIS OF THE PRESENT PROVISION OF PUBLIC HOSPITAL SERVICES.

THIS IS MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE POPULATION SHIFT FROM THE OLDER URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON TO THE NEW TERRITORIES; THE AGEING POPULATION WHICH WILL INCREASE THE DEMAND FOR INFIRMARY FACILITIES; AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY TO FACILITATE DAY SURGERY AND OTHER AMBULATORY CARE PROCEDURES, THUS REDUCING THE NEED FOR GENERAL IN-PATIENT BEDS AND INCREASING THE INTERFACE WITH PRIMARY HEALTH CARE.

"I AM AWARE THAT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAS PLANS IN TRAIN TO OPTIMISE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND IMPROVE HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY," MRS WONG SAID.

THESE INCLUDE:

- * THE FORMULATION OF PLANS TO REDESIGNATE SOME 1,000 GENERAL BEDS AS INFIRMARY OR PSYCHIATRIC BEDS TO MEET THE SHORTFALL IN THESE SERVICES;
- * THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW SERVICES IN THE AREAS OF ACUTE HIGH TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES AND HOSPICE CARE SO AS TO PROVIDE A MORE DIVERSIFIED RANGE OF SERVICES;
- * THE NETWORKING OF HOSPITALS TO FACILITATE REFERRALS; AND

/* THE UPGRADING

* THE UPGRADING OF GERIATRIC SERVICES AT KWONG WAH HOSPITAL, UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL AND BUDDHIST HOSPITAL TO MEET NEW DEMANDS AND TO ALLEVIATE THE HEAVY WORKLOAD AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL.

"IN ADDITION, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IS LOOKING INTO WAYS AND MEANS TO MEET THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF NEW TOWNS," SHE SAID.

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WAYS TO REDUCE PEAK DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY

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THE GOVERNMENT AND POWER COMPANIES ARE LOOKING INTO POSSIBLE MEANS OF REDUCING THE DAYTIME PEAK DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY BY SHIFTING PART OF THE LOAD TO THE NIGHT-TIME OFF-PEAK HOURS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR SIU SAID THE INSTALLATION OF ICE STORAGE AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEMS IN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS MIGHT BE ONE MEANS OF ACHIEVING SUCH A REDUCTION.

THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF INSTALLING AND OPERATING SUCH SYSTEMS IN HONG KONG IS BEING ASSESSED, HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY SAID OTHER MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING PEAK DEMAND HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

"FOR EXAMPLE, CHINA LIGHT & POWER NOW OFFERS CONCESSIONARY OFF-PEAK TARIFFS TO LARGE POWER USERS AND TO THE USERS OF DOMESTIC STORAGE-TYPE WATER HEATERS," HE SAID.

FURTHER, UNDER THE NEW SCHEME OF CONTROL AGREEMENTS, THE POWER COMPANIES ARE REQUIRED TO PROPOSE WAYS OF REDUCING THE GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY AND PROMOTING GREATER ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

MR SIU SAID THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD BEGUN TO DISCUSS WITH THE POWER COMPANIES ABOUT THE MOST APPROPRIATE APPROACH TO ENERGY CONSERVATION IN HONG KONG.

"THESE DISCUSSIONS COMPLEMENT THE CURRENT PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY DRAWN UP BY THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ONGOING PUBLIC CONSULTATION OVER STANDARDS FOR ENERGY USE IN BUILDINGS," HE SAID.

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MEASURES TO HELP STUDENTS FIGHT CRIME

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THERE WERE 14 STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR WOODHOUSE SAID THE POLICE USED OFFICERS IN DISTRICT SCHOOL TEAMS TO LIAISE DIRECTLY WITH SCHOOLS TO IDENTIFY TRIAD ELEMENTS ACTIVE IN RECRUITMENT.

THEY ALSO RELY ON OTHER INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, HE ADDED.

ON WAYS TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO REPORT CRIME, HE SAID: "A STUDENT CRIME INFORMATION FORM IS CURRENTLY BEING TESTED ON A PILOT BASIS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN WESTERN DISTRICT AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT."

THESE FORMS ARE LEFT IN THE SCHOOL AND STUDENTS CAN PICK UP A COPY, REPORT ANY CRIME AND POST IT TO GPO BOX 999, HONG KONG.

"IF THIS PILOT SCHEME PROVES SUCCESSFUL, THE STUDENT CRIME INFORMATION FORMS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN ALL SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY," MR WOODHOUSE SAID.

A CRIME REPORT, AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, CAN ALSO BE USED TO REPORT DRUG TRAFFICKING TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

"STUDENTS ARE ASSURED OF ANONYMITY," HE SAID.

ON HELP PROVIDED BY SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS, HE SAID THERE WERE COUNSELLING SERVICE, INTERVIEWS, HOME VISITS AND TREATMENT GROUPS.

INTENSIVE COUNSELLING WILL BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS KNOWN, OR SUSPECTED, TO HAVE TRIAD INVOLVEMENT, OR STUDENTS BEING INDUCED TO TAKE PART IN THE DELIVERY AND TRAFFICKING OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

PROTECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE WITH THE CONSENT OF THE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS, INCLUDING HELPING THEM TO REPORT TO THE POLICE, ARRANGING FOR THEM TO CHANGE SCHOOLS OR RECEIVE TEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL CARE WHERE NECESSARY.

IF THEY ARE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE TENANTS, ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR TRANSFER THROUGH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

"THESE MEASURES HELP TO PREVENT THEM FROM FALLING PREY TO TRIAD INFLUENCE AND THREATS," MR WOODHOUSE SAID.

FOR MORE SERIOUS CASES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE MAY APPLY TO THE JUVENILE COURT FOR A CARE AND PROTECTION ORDER TO PLACE THEM UNDER STATUTORY SUPERVISION.

TURNING TO PREVENTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, HE SAID THE NARCOTICS DIVISION, AND THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS LAUNCHED ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

/MR WOODHOUSE

MR. WOODHOUSE SAID A WORKING GROUP WAS SET UP LAST AUGUST IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CO-ORDINATE THE WORK OF TEACHERS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND THE POLICE IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST TRIADS AND TRIAD-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

GUIDELINES AND TRAINING COURSES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR DISCIPLINE MASTERS IN SCHOOLS.

THE WORKING GROUP ALSO HELPS IN STRENGTHENING THE POLICE DISTRICT SCHOOL TEAMS, HE SAID.

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CONTROL MECHANISM ON FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS EFFECTIVE
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OVER 1,700 CASES OF OFFENCES INVOLVING FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WERE INVESTIGATED LAST YEAR, RESULTING IN 759 HELPERS AND 48 EMPLOYERS BEING PROSECUTED.

OF THE CASES, FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WHO HAD OVERSTAYED OR TAKEN UP UNAPPROVED EMPLOYMENT, INCLUDING STREET HAWKING, WERE FINED BETWEEN \$1,000 AND \$2,000 WHILE EMPLOYERS WHO HAD UNLAWFULLY DEPLOYED THEIR HELPERS WERE FINED BETWEEN \$1,000 AND \$5,000.

"THE SITUATION IS REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME TO ENSURE THAT THE EXISTING POLICY AND LEGISLATION ON THE CONTROL MECHANISM ARE SUFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE," THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT ALL FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS COULD ONLY PERFORM DOMESTIC DUTIES FOR A SPECIFIED EMPLOYER AS STIPULATED IN THEIR STANDARD CONTRACT.

ANY HELPER FOUND TAKING UP UNAPPROVED EMPLOYMENT IS LIABLE TO PROSECUTION FOR BREACHING A CONDITION OF STAY UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

EMPLOYERS WHO UNLAWFULLY DEPLOY FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS IN NON-DOMESTIC WORK ARE ALSO LIABLE TO PROSECUTION FOR AIDING AND ABETTING THE HELPERS TO BREACH THEIR CONDITIONS OF STAY.

IN BOTH CASES THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

EMPLOYERS WITH PROVEN ADVERSE RECORDS WITH THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL NORMALLY BE DEBARRED FROM EMPLOYING FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS IN FUTURE WHEREAS FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WHO HAVE BREACHED THEIR CONDITIONS OF STAY MAY BE DEBARRED FROM WORKING IN HONG KONG UNLESS THERE ARE GENUINE MITIGATING GROUNDS.

MR CHAN SAID TO ENFORCE THESE REQUIREMENTS, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PAID SURPRISE VISITS TO BARS, SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS AND RAIDED VICE ESTABLISHMENTS JOINTLY WITH THE POLICE.

ON THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WORKING IN HONG KONG IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, MR CHAN SAID THERE WERE 45,200 IN 1988, 58,000 IN 1989, 70,300 IN 1990, 84,600 IN 1991 AND 101,200 IN 1992.

THE GREAT MAJORITY CAME FROM THE PHILIPPINES. THE REST WERE FROM THAILAND, INDONESIA, INDIA, SRI LANKA, NEPAL, MALAYSIA AND BANGLADESH.

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POSITION ON GOODS VEHICLE PARKING EXPLAINED

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COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO THE GOODS VEHICLE PARKING PROBLEM WILL BE IDENTIFIED IN THE FREIGHT TRANSPORT STUDY, WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW WONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID IN THE INTERIM, THE GOVERNMENT WAS IDENTIFYING MORE ON-STREET PARKING FOR MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES IN AREAS OF NEED.

"WE ARE ALSO SEEKING CONVENIENTLY LOCATED SITES OFF-STREET TO BE OPERATED UNDER SHORT-TERM TENANCY ARRANGEMENTS."

MR LEUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE STANDARDS FOR GOODS VEHICLE PARKING WERE LAID DOWN IN THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.

IN INDUSTRIAL ZONES, THE STANDARD IS 1 SPACE PER 900 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA OR 400 SQUARE METRES OF SITE AREA, WHICHEVER PROVIDES THE GREATER NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES. HALF OF THE SPACE SO PROVIDED ARE TO BE SET ASIDE FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING.

THE NUMBER OF MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES REGISTERED IN HONG KONG AND REGULARLY IN OPERATION IS ABOUT 32,200.

THERE ARE ABOUT 30,600 PARKING SPACES DESIGNATED FOR SUCH VEHICLES, INCLUDING ON-STREET PARKING AND SPACES IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC OFF-STREET VEHICLE PARKS.

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INFORMATION ON SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED

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THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH IS CONTACTING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA WITH REGARD TO ITS RECENT STUDY WHICH FOUND THAT WOMEN EXPOSED TO GLYCOL ETHERS FACED A HIGH RISK OF MISCARRIAGE.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL STUDY THE FINDINGS CLOSELY AND APPROPRIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AS NECESSARY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID A SURVEY ON SOLVENT EXPOSURE IN SCREEN PRINTING WAS CONDUCTED BY THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN 1986.

"THIS SURVEY REVEALED THAT OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE OF WORKERS TO ETHYLENE GLYCOL MONOETHYL ETHER ACETATE WAS WITHIN THE CURRENT THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE OF FIVE PARTS PER MILLION AND 27 MILIGRAMMES PER CUBIC METER, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS," SHE NOTED.

GLYCOL ETHERS, WHICH ARE COMMONLY USED IN THE SCREEN PRINTING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, ARE AMONG THE 231 LISTED SUBSTANCES UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES) REGULATIONS.

"THESE REGULATIONS REQUIRE ALL LISTED SUBSTANCES TO BE SUITABLY AND CLEARLY LABELLED ON THE CONTAINERS WITH THE PARTICULAR RISKS INVOLVED AND THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN," THE SECRETARY SAID.

"PROPRIETORS ARE REQUIRED UNDER THE REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE GENERAL SAFETY INFORMATION AND TRAINING IN THE HANDLING, USE AND STORAGE OF THE CHEMICALS AND TO SUPPLY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR WORKERS HANDLING THESE CHEMICALS."

IN ADDITION, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED TWO REFERENCE BOOKLETS ON THE USE OF CHEMICALS AT WORK AND A LEAFLET ON SOLVENT HAZARDS IN SCREEN PRINTING, WHICH ARE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED TO PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS.

ADVICE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY IS ALSO GIVEN TO PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS BY FACTORY INSPECTORS, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH OFFICERS AND OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENISTS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES WHILE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSES OF THE DEPARTMENT GIVE TALKS ON HEALTH HAZARDS TO WORKERS, INCLUDING KNOWN HAZARDS FROM GLYCOL ETHERS.

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CROSS-LINKING SERVICE TO EXTEND VISA VALIDITY
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A CROSS-LINKING SERVICE IS AVAILABLE FOR HOLDERS OF BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS (BDTC'S) PASSPORTS TO ENABLE THEM TO CONTINUE TO USE VALID VISAS IN THEIR OLD PASSPORTS AFTER RENEWAL OR AFTER REPLACEMENT BY A BN(O) PASSPORT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIMOTHY HA WING-HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR WOODHOUSE SAID: "CROSS-LINKING IS AN ENDORSEMENT MADE IN THE NEW PASSPORT, STATING THAT THE HOLDER HAS PREVIOUSLY TRAVELLED ON A PASSPORT WHICH BEARS A VALID VISA.

"THE NUMBER AND ISSUE DATE OF THE OLD PASSPORT ARE ALSO STATED."

AT THE SAME TIME, AN ENDORSEMENT IS MADE ON THE OLD PASSPORT.

"IT STATES THAT THE OLD PASSPORT IS EXTENDED BY THE ISSUE OF THE NEW OR REPLACEMENT PASSPORT, WITH THE NUMBER AND ISSUE DATE OF THE NEW PASSPORT SPECIFIED," HE ADDED.

A FEE OF 7.5 POUNDS STERLING, CHARGEABLE UNDER THE CONSULAR FEES ACT, THAT IS, ABOUT HK\$89 IS AT PRESENT CHARGED FOR THIS SERVICE.

ABOUT 160 BDTC'S HAVE SO FAR USED THIS SERVICE TO EXTEND THE USE OF VALID VISAS IN THEIR OLD PASSPORTS FOR ENTRY INTO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE USA, WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM.

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HIV-INFECTED HAEMOPHILIACS TO GET PAYMENTS SOON

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THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE FIRST BATCH OF PAYMENTS TO HAEMOPHILIACS WHO HAVE BEEN INFECTED WITH HIV THROUGH THE TRANSFUSION OF CONTAMINATED BLOOD PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG PRIOR TO AUGUST 1985, WILL BE MADE LATER THIS MONTH.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM KUI-SHING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID FOLLOWING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE AIDS TRUST FUND ON APRIL 20, THE SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PROSPECTIVE CLAIMANTS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THEIR ATTENDANT DOCTORS.

"AS SOON AS CLAIMS ARE VALIDATED BY THE COUNCIL AND APPROVED, THE SECRETARY WILL CONTACT THE CLAIMANTS AGAIN TO ARRANGE PAYMENT IN A MANNER CONVENIENT TO THE RECIPIENTS," SHE SAID.

"WE EXPECT THE FIRST BATCH OF PAYMENTS TO BE MADE SHORTLY AFTER THE COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING ON MAY 17."

THE RATES OF PAYMENT TO ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

* FOR THE DIRECTLY INFECTED:	
- MARRIED WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN	\$1,000,000
- MARRIED WITHOUT DEPENDENT CHILDREN	\$750,000
- SINGLE	\$600,000
* FOR AN INFECTED SPOUSE OR CHILD OF THE ABOVE	\$300,000
* FOR THE FAMILY OF A VICTIM WHO HAS DIED AND NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE	\$300,000

MRS WONG ALSO SAID ANY REQUESTS FROM HAEMOPHILIACS FOR URGENT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

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JOINT SURVEY ON INDOOR RADON LEVEL

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AN EXTENSIVE SURVEY ON INDOOR RADON LEVEL IS BEING CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS SURVEY WILL COVER SOME 1,500 SITES IN DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND SCHOOL PREMISES AND RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE READY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

MR EASON SAID THE EPD WAS ALSO COLLABORATING WITH TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VARIOUS RADON CONTROL MEASURES.

"WHEN THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST SURVEY AND STUDIES HAVE BEEN ASSESSED, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ISSUE AN INFORMATION PAMPHLET ON MEASURES TO MITIGATE RADON LEVELS IN BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE PAMPHLET IS LIKELY TO BE ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC EARLY NEXT YEAR, HE ADDED.

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POSTAL PLANNING CRITERIA SERVE RESIDENTS WELL

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THE LATEST REVIEW IN JANUARY LAST YEAR CONCLUDED THAT THE EXISTING PLANNING STANDARDS FOR POST OFFICE PROVISION, FLEXIBLY APPLIED, SERVE THE COMMUNITY WELL, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, SAID.

WITHIN THESE CRITERIA THERE ARE WELL-ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES ENSURING THAT SHIFTS IN POPULATION AND NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ARE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PLANNING OF NEW POST OFFICES, HE SAID.

LAST YEAR, FOR INSTANCE, FOUR NEW POST OFFICES WERE OPENED TO SERVE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENTS IN SHA TIN, TAI PO, TSUEN WAN AND TIN SHUI WAI.

GIVING A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR SIU SAID: "IN 1993, WE PLAN TO OPEN NEW POST OFFICES WHICH WILL SERVE THE MA ON SHAN AND TSEUNG KWAN O AREAS."

AS A GENERAL GUIDE, POST OFFICES ARE TO BE PROVIDED SO THAT LARGE GROUPS OF POPULATION IN URBAN AREAS CAN HAVE ACCESS TO FACILITIES WITHIN 0.8 KILOMETRES FROM WHERE THEY LIVE OR WORK. FOR RURAL AREAS THE DISTANCE IS 3.2 KILOMETRES.

OTHER FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED INCLUDE POPULATION IN THE PROPOSED CATCHMENT AREAS WHICH SHOULD NORMALLY NOT BE LESS THAN 30,000 PERSONS; THE NATURE OF THE TERRAIN OVER WHICH CUSTOMERS MUST TRAVEL; PHYSICAL FEATURES SUCH AS BUSY MAIN ROADS AND PARTICULAR SOCIAL NEEDS OR SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR POSTAL SERVICES.

HOWEVER, MR SIU POINTED OUT THAT THE CRITERIA WERE APPLIED FLEXIBLY WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFIED.

"FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE URBAN COMMERCIAL AREAS OF CENTRAL, WAN CHAI AND TSIM SHA TSUI, WE HAVE RECOGNISED THAT HEAVY DEMAND FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY FOR POSTAL SERVICES JUSTIFIES A MORE GENEROUS PROVISION OF FACILITIES," HE SAID.

"THE PROVISION OF POST OFFICES ON THE OUTLYING ISLANDS ALSO DEMONSTRATES THIS FLEXIBILITY," THE SECRETARY SAID.

PENG CHAU AND LAMMA ISLAND HAVE POST OFFICES WITH CATCHMENTS OF ONLY 3,189 AND 2,943 PEOPLE RESPECTIVELY.

FOR RURAL AREAS WHERE THE POPULATION IS DISTRIBUTED MORE SPARSELY, THE POST OFFICE OPERATES A FLEET OF MOBILE POST OFFICES TO CATER FOR DEMAND.

THE PLANNING CRITERIA WERE DRAWN UP IN 1975 AND HAVE SINCE BEEN REGULARLY REVIEWED.

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CHARGING FOR DOMESTIC POTABLE WATER

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THE PRESENT TIERED CHARGING STRUCTURE FOR DOMESTIC POTABLE WATER IS APPLICABLE ON THE SAME BASIS TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN A RESIDENTIAL BUILDING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BLAKE SAID HOUSEHOLDERS SHARING A COMMON WATER METER IN AN OLD TENEMENT BUILDING WERE TREATED NO DIFFERENTLY THAN OTHER REGISTERED CONSUMERS.

"EACH SUCH HOUSEHOLDERS IS ENTITLED TO A FREE ALLOWANCE OF 14 CUBIC METRES OF WATER, THAT IS, THE SAME ALLOWANCE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALLY METER HOUSEHOLDS," HE SAID.

HOUSEHOLDS SHARING COMMUNAL METERS MAY ACTUALLY BE CHARGED LESS THAN THOSE USING SEPARATE METERING BECAUSE COMMON-METERED USERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY GIVEN THE WHOLE 14 CUBIC METRES FREE ALLOWANCE, WHEREAS THOSE SEPARATELY METERED ARE GIVEN ACTUAL USAGE, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 14 CUBIC METRES.

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CRITERIA FOR EMPLOYING CONSULTANTS BY EPD EXPLAINED

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THE AVAILABILITY OF EXISTING RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE A PARTICULAR PROJECT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE WHETHER CONSULTANTS SHOULD BE EMPLOYED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR EASON SAID A CONSULTANCY MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EXTRA STAFF FOR A PARTICULAR PROJECT OR TO CARRY OUT WORK TO MEET PRESCRIBED TIME SCALES AND COPE WITH FLUCTUATING DEMAND FOR RESOURCES.

CONSULTANTS MIGHT ALSO BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SPECIALIST EXPERTISE, TO GIVE INDEPENDENT ADVICE OR TO PERMIT A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH, AS IN THE CASE OF THE MAJORITY OF EPD CONSULTANCIES.

"CONSULTANTS ARE NOT ENGAGED IF SUITABLE EPD STAFF ARE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE THE SAME SERVICE OR EXPERTISE AGAINST THE SAME DEADLINES," HE SAID.

MR EASON SAID IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT DIRECTLY AWARDED 40 CONSULTANCIES AT A TOTAL COST OF \$380 MILLION.

"OF THIS FIGURE, \$266 MILLION IS FOR CONSULTANCY FEES AND THE REMAINDER FOR INVESTIGATIONS.

"EXPENDITURE TO DATE ON THESE PROJECTS IS \$175 MILLION ON FEES AND \$87 MILLION ON INVESTIGATIONS," MR EASON SAID.

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SMALL RURAL SCHOOLS NOT EDUCATIONALLY VIABLE

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FIVE VERY SMALL RURAL SCHOOLS ENROLLING ONLY A FEW PUPILS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE CLOSED THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID.

ALL AFFECTED PUPILS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE PLACED IN OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE VICINITY, HE ADDED.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR CHAN SAID 20 SUCH SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED BETWEEN 1990 AND 1992.

HE EXPLAINED: "THE CURRENT POLICY ON VILLAGE OR RURAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS IS TO REPLACE THOSE OPERATING LESS THAN SIX CLASSES BY LARGER SCHOOLS SERVING A WIDER CATCHMENT AREA, WHEREVER POSSIBLE."

"THE SMALL SCHOOLS ARE NOT CONSIDERED EDUCATIONALLY VIABLE IN TERMS OF FACILITIES AND THE ABILITY TO DELIVER A BROAD CURRICULUM."

PRESENT USES OF FORMER RURAL SCHOOLS INCLUDE VILLAGE OFFICERS, SOCIAL AND RECREATION CENTRES FOR VILLAGERS, STUDY ROOMS AND ACTIVITY CENTRES FOR SCOUTS.

"IF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS NO FURTHER USE FOR THEM, THE BUILDING AND THE LAND WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION TO OTHER USERS BY THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE CONCERNED," MR CHAN ADDED.

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TAX CASES SUPPLEMENT READY IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

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THE NEXT SUPPLEMENT TO THE 'HONG KONG TAX CASES' WILL BE AVAILABLE IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K Y YEUNG, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG HONG-YUEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR YEUNG SAID: "PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE PUBLICATION OF CASES ON HAND IS IN PROGRESS."

"MOST OF THE TAX CASES NOT YET PUBLISHED IN 'HONG KONG TAX CASES' HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN THE HONG KONG LAW REPORTS," THE SECRETARY SAID.

THE PRESENT PRACTICE IS FOR A SUPPLEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED WHEN SUFFICIENT MATERIALS HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATED TO MAKE PRINTING WORTHWHILE.

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IMPROVED COMPENSATION FOR PNEUMOCONIOTICS

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A BILL PROPOSING A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR PNEUMOCONIOSIS SUFFERERS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT WAS TO INTRODUCE A SYSTEM OF MONTHLY PAYMENTS PAYABLE FOR THE LIFETIME OF A PNEUMOCONIOTIC.

"ASSESSMENT FOR COMPENSATION WILL BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF PHYSICAL INCAPACITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH A FORMULA WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ANY LIKELY REDUCTION IN EMPLOYABILITY OR LOSS OF QUALITY OF LIFE," HE SAID.

UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WHICH WAS ENACTED IN JANUARY 1981, COMPENSATION IS PAID EITHER IN A LUMP SUM OR BY TWO INSTALMENTS.

THIS HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE INADEQUATE BECAUSE NO FURTHER RELIEF IS AVAILABLE TO THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS SUFFERERS IF THEIR HEALTH DETERIORATES FURTHER.

IN VIEW OF THE PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF THE DISEASE, MR CHAN SAID, THE BILL ENABLES A PNEUMOCONIOTIC TO ASK FOR RE-EXAMINATION EVERY TWO YEARS.

"IF HE IS FOUND TO HAVE SUFFERED ADDITIONAL INCAPACITY, THE AMOUNT OF MONTHLY PAYMENT WOULD BE INCREASED.

"THIS ALSO APPLIES TO PNEUMOCONIOTICS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED COMPENSATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE," MR CHAN ADDED.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR COMPENSATION TO BE GIVEN TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF A PERSON WHO DIES OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS.

FUNERAL EXPENSES WOULD BE REIMBURSED TO ANY PERSON WHO HAS INCURRED THEM FOR THE BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DECEASED.

IN ADDITION, THE NEW COMPENSATION SCHEME PROVIDES REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE SUPPLY OR USE OF APPROVED MEDICAL APPLIANCES AND COMPENSATION FOR BEREAVEMENT TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF A PNEUMOCONIOTIC WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY COMPENSATION PRIOR TO HIS DEATH.

SOME 2,000 PNEUMOCONIOTICS WHO WERE DIAGNOSED BETWEEN JANUARY 1981 AND MARCH 1993 ARE ESTIMATED TO BE ABLE TO BENEFIT UNDER THE NEW SCHEME.

TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW COMPENSATION SCHEME, MR CHAN SAID, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INCREASE THE RATE OF LEVY CHARGED ON THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRYING INDUSTRIES FROM 0.02 PER CENT TO 0.3 PER CENT IN 1993.

HE SAID: "I INTEND TO MOVE THE NECESSARY RESOLUTION IN THIS COUNCIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

"I SHOULD ALSO GIVE NOTICE THAT A FURTHER INCREASE IN THE RATE OF LEVY TO 0.4 PER CENT OR 0.45 PER CENT MAY WELL BE REQUIRED IN 1994, DEPENDING ON THE ACTUAL PATTERN OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE."

THE IMPROVED COMPENSATION SCHEME ENVISAGED IN THE BILL WILL APPLY, AS THE EXISTING ORDINANCE, ONLY TO PNEUMOCONIOTICS DIAGNOSED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1981.

FOR THOSE WHO WERE DIAGNOSED BEFORE 1981 TO HAVE CONTRACTED THE DISEASE AND WHO WERE GIVEN EX-GRATIA PAYMENT ON A ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL BASIS BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1981, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO PROVIDE FURTHER EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO THEM AT A RATE OF \$2,200 PER MONTH FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 WOULD BE GIVEN TO ANY PERSON WHO HAS PAID FOR THE FUNERAL EXPENSES OF A PERSON WHO HAD DIED OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS.

A SUBMISSION WILL BE MADE TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO SEEK APPROVAL OF THE FUNDS REQUIRED FOR THIS PURPOSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

BILL INTRODUCED TO PLUG CAR TAX LOOPHOLE

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A BILL PROPOSING TO CLOSE A MAJOR FIRST REGISTRATION TAX (FRT) LOOPHOLE AND TO PROVIDE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K Y YEUNG, SAID THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO PROTECT BOTH THE PUBLIC REVENUE AND THE CONSUMER.

AT PRESENT, THE AMOUNT OF FRT PAYABLE ON A VEHICLE IS CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF ITS COST, INSURANCE AND FREIGHT (CIF) VALUE.

THUS MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS ARE ABLE LAWFULLY TO UNDER-DECLARE THE CIF VALUE OF THEIR VEHICLES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF FRT PAYABLE.

BECAUSE THE PRESENT LEGISLATION LEAVES ROOM FOR TAX AVOIDANCE, AND IS DEFICIENT IN ITS PROVISIONS TO COUNTER TAX EVASION, INDIVIDUAL DEALERS WHO ABUSE THE SYSTEM CAN ENJOY AN UNFAIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE OVER THE MAJORITY WHO ABIDE BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW.

MR YEUNG SAID BY LIMITING THE SCOPE FOR AVOIDANCE AND EVASION, THE BILL WOULD CREATE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD AMONG ALMOST ALL THE NEARLY 40 MOTOR VEHICLE DISTRIBUTORS IN HONG KONG.

EXPLAINING THE NEW APPROACH, HE SAID THE BILL WOULD REQUIRE ANY PERSON WHO CARRIED ON THE BUSINESS OF IMPORTING AND DISTRIBUTING MOTOR VEHICLES FOR USE IN HONG KONG TO REGISTER WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

"THIS IS A BASIC REQUIREMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE EXTENT OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE MARKET AND AS A MEANS OF MONITORING THE UNAUTHORISED SALE OF VEHICLES FOR USE IN THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

SECONDLY, A REGISTERED DISTRIBUTOR WILL HAVE TO PUBLISH A LIST OF THE RETAIL PRICES OF ALL MAKES OF MOTOR VEHICLE WHICH HE IS OFFERING FOR SALE.

THE FRT ON EACH VEHICLE WILL BE CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF THIS PUBLISHED LIST PRICE, AND IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE TO SELL THE VEHICLE AT A PRICE HIGHER THAN THE PUBLISHED VALUE.

"I EMPHASISE THAT THIS IN NO WAY CONSTITUTES INTERFERENCE WITH THE FREE MARKET OR AN ATTEMPT AT PRICE CONTROL BY THE GOVERNMENT," MR YEUNG SAID.

NOT ONLY WILL DEALERS BE FREE TO SELL VEHICLES AT PRICES LOWER THAN THE PUBLISHED VALUE, IF THEY WISH, BUT THEY WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE PRICE AT ANY TIME, PROVIDED THAT THEY NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER FIRST, HE ADDED.

"PUBLICATION WILL PROVIDE THE CRITICAL INFORMATION FROM WHICH THE COMMISSIONER WILL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE, AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE PROPER AMOUNT OF FRT TO BE PAID."

WHEN A VEHICLE IS SOLD, THE DISTRIBUTOR AND THE PURCHASER WILL SIGN A FORM SETTING OUT THE PUBLISHED RETAIL PRICE AND THE ACTUAL PURCHASE PRICE OF THE VEHICLE.

THE PURCHASER WILL THUS BE FORMALLY ADVISED OF THE SHARE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE ATTRIBUTABLE TO TAX.

THE FORM INDICATING THE DECLARED VALUE WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE COMMISSIONER.

TO ENSURE THAT THE SYSTEM OPERATES FAIRLY, MR YEUNG SAID THE BILL WOULD EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER OR PUBLIC OFFICERS AUTHORISED BY HIM TO SEARCH FOR AND EXAMINE RECORDS RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION AND SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

NOTING THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE FRT SYSTEM, HE SAID: "IT IS NOT TO RAISE ADDITIONAL REVENUE."

SINCE THE PUBLISHED RETAIL PRICE WILL INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE CIF VALUE BUT ALSO OTHER INCIDENTAL COSTS AND THE PROFIT ELEMENT, TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT RATES OF FRT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE COST OF CARS TO ORDINARY PURCHASERS.

"WE HAVE THEREFORE DEvised A NEW SCHEDULE OF RATES, BASED ON A SLIDING SCALE OF PUBLISHED RETAIL PRICES.

"THIS SCHEDULE IS DESIGNED SO THAT THE EFFECT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION, TAKEN AS A WHOLE, WILL BE ALMOST 'REVENUE-NEUTRAL'," MR YEUNG SAID.

WHILE THE BILL WILL THEREFORE GENERALLY BE 'REVENUE-NEUTRAL', THE GOVERNMENT WILL IN FUTURE BE ABLE TO RAISE OR LOWER THE RATES SET OUT IN THE SCHEDULE, WHETHER FOR FISCAL OR TRANSPORT POLICY REASONS, WITH GREATER CONFIDENCE THAT THE INTENDED EFFECT OF ANY SUCH ADJUSTMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED, AND THAT THE PLANNED AMOUNT OF REVENUE WILL BE COLLECTED, HE ADDED.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL ISSUE A PRACTICE NOTE TO GIVE GUIDANCE TO VEHICLE DISTRIBUTORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON HOW THE DETAILED PROVISIONS OF THE LAW WILL BE INTERPRETED AND ENFORCED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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CONTAINER VEHICLES PARKING ON FOOTPATHS NOT ALLOWED
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PARKING CONTAINER VEHICLES ON FOOTPATHS IS NOT ALLOWED AND THE POLICE WILL TAKE ENFORCEMENT ACTION WHEN THIS OCCURS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW WONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"TO DETER SUCH ILLEGAL PARKING AND TO SAFEGUARD PEDESTRIANS, RAILINGS OR BOLLARDS MAY BE ERECTED ON THE FOOTPATHS," HE SAID.

/MR LEUNG

MR LEUNG EXPLAINED THAT CONTAINER VEHICLE LOADING/UNLOADING ACTIVITIES SHOULD NORMALLY BE CONFINED TO OFF-STREET SITES FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY REASONS.

IN AREAS WHERE SUCH ACTIVITIES OCCUR ON STREET, CAUSING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY OR TRAFFIC CONGESTION PROBLEMS, NO STOPPING RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED.

LOADING AND UNLOADING SPACES FOR CONTAINER VEHICLES ARE USUALLY PROVIDED WITHIN BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS OR ON LAND ALLOCATED FOR THE PURPOSE BY MEANS OF SHORT-TERM TENANCIES (STTS).

THE AREA NORMALLY REQUIRED FOR AN ARTICULATED CONTAINER VEHICLE TO LOAD OR UNLOAD IS ABOUT 16 METRE BY 3.5 METRE, EXCLUDING ACCESS AND CIRCULATION SPACE REQUIRED AT OFF-STREET LOCATIONS.

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BILL TO BETTER REGULATE PORT INTRODUCED
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A BILL THAT SEEKS TO BETTER REGULATE SHIPPING AND PILOTAGE MATTERS WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BILL ENABLES THE PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BETTER COPE WITH THE INCREASINGLY COMPLEX MANAGEMENT OF SHIPPING MATTERS AS THE PORT BECOMES MORE BUSY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PILOTAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, SAID THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE NEEDED TO BE ADJUSTED TO TAKE IN A BROADER SPECTRUM OF EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE AND OPINION.

"THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BENEFIT FROM MEMBERSHIP OF A MORE VARIED BACKGROUND," HE ADDED.

MR SIU NOTED THAT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR PILOTS INVOLVED A DETAILED PRELIMINARY INQUIRY FOLLOWED BY EXAMINATION BY A BOARD OF INVESTIGATION.

"THESE PROCEDURES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR NORMAL CASES BUT THEY ARE INEFFICIENT AND INFLEXIBLE IN THE CASE OF MINOR COMPLAINTS WHERE THERE IS OFTEN NO NEED FOR SUCH ELABORATE PROCEDURES.

"IN ADDITION, THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY A BOARD OF INVESTIGATION, NAMELY THE CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF A PILOT'S LICENCE, ARE INAPPROPRIATE FOR MINOR OFFENCES WHERE A WARNING, CAUTION OR REPRIMAND WOULD SUFFICE," HE SAID.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF DISCIPLINE TO DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH MINOR OFFENCES.

NO FORMAL JUDICIAL OR QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEDURES WILL BE INVOLVED, AND THE BOARD MAY RECOMMEND A RANGE OF LESSER SANCTIONS.

A PROVISION FOR APPEAL IS INCLUDED.

/"THESE MEASURES

"THESE MEASURES SHOULD ENABLE LESS SERIOUS INCIDENTS TO BE HANDLED EXPEDITIOUSLY, EFFECTIVELY AND FAIRLY," HE SAID.

OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL INCLUDED:

- * GRANTING TO AN OFFICER CONDUCTING A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY CERTAIN POWERS, FOR EXAMPLE, POWERS TO CALL WITNESSES AND TO DEMAND THE RELEASE OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS; AND
- * DESIGNATING A NEW "DOCKYARD APPROACH" AREA ON NORTH LANTAU SO THAT SHIPS NAVIGATING TO AND FROM DOCKS LOCATED THERE WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME EXEMPTION FROM COMPULSORY PILOTAGE AS THE EXISTING DOCKYARD APPROACH AREA NEAR TSING YI ISLAND.

MR SIU SAID: "THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN FORMULATED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY, THE HONG KONG PILOTS ASSOCIATION AND THE PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE."

"ALL PARTIES SUPPORT THE PROPOSALS."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO REGULATE LAWYERS INTRODUCED

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THE PRINCIPAL OBJECT OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WAS TO PROVIDE A STATUTORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADMISSION AND REGULATION OF FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS IN HONG KONG, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN WOOD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE BILL REPRESENTED THE DETERMINATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION TO ERADICATE TOUTING AND IMPROPER COMMISSION-TAKING WITHIN THE PROFESSION.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR WOOD SAID THE PROPOSED STATUTORY FRAMEWORK WOULD REPLACE THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS THAT GOVERNED THE ENTRY OF FOREIGN LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS INTO HONG KONG.

"IT IS CLEARLY INAPPROPRIATE THAT THE ADMISSION AND REGULATION OF A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF FOREIGN LAWYERS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH PURELY BY ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS, IN DISTINCTION TO LOCAL LAWYERS WHOSE ADMISSION AND REGULATION ARE LAID DOWN IN THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THIS COUNCIL," HE SAID.

MR WOOD POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AS A CENTRE FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES, SO THAT THOSE DOING BUSINESS IN OR THROUGH HONG KONG HAD ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LEGAL ADVICE.

"FOREIGN LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THAT DEVELOPMENT, ADDING TO THE IMPRESSIVE RANGE OF LEGAL SERVICES ALREADY AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL LAWYERS," HE SAID.

THERE ARE SOME 29 FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AND OVER 180 FOREIGN LAWYERS NOW WORKING HERE.

THE BILL REQUIRED FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS TO REGISTER WITH THE LAW SOCIETY.

ONLY FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS REGISTERED WITH THE LAW SOCIETY, AS WELL AS SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS ADMITTED TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG, WOULD BE PERMITTED TO PRACTISE FOREIGN LAW.

FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS WOULD BE ABLE TO FORM ASSOCIATIONS WITH LOCAL LAW FIRMS, AND BE ABLE TO SHARE OFFICE SPACE, PERSONNEL AND FEES.

MR WOOD SAID THIS MEASURE WOULD BENEFIT LOCAL AND FOREIGN FIRMS, AND THE CLIENT, WHO COULD OBTAIN HIS LEGAL SERVICES AT ONE PLACE.

FOREIGN LAWYERS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE LAW SOCIETY'S RULES OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY POWERS.

UNDER SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION TO BE MADE UNDER POWERS CONTAINED IN THE BILL, A FOREIGN LAWYER WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW.

FURTHER, THE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION WOULD ALLOW A FOREIGN LAW FIRM, AFTER PRACTISING IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS, AND WHERE ALL OF THE PARTNERS IN HONG KONG WERE ADMITTED TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG, TO ESTABLISH A HONG KONG PRACTICE.

THE BILL WOULD ALSO ENABLE FOREIGN LAWYERS TO QUALIFY AS LOCAL LAWYERS, THUS ENABLING THOSE FOREIGN LAWYERS WHO WISHED TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW TO DO SO, AS HONG KONG LAWYERS.

FOREIGN LAWYERS WOULD BE ABLE TO SO QUALIFY ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE, NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND COMPETENCY-BASED CRITERIA.

BEFORE ADMISSION, FOREIGN LAWYERS, WHETHER FROM A COMMON LAW OR A NON-COMMON LAW JURISDICTION, WOULD BE SUBJECT TO A TRANSFER TEST ADMINISTERED BY THE LAW SOCIETY.

ON THE PROBLEM OF TOUTING AND IMPROPER COMMISSION-TAKING WITHIN THE LEGAL PROFESSION, MR WOOD SAID THESE INSIDIOUS AND UNPROFESSIONAL PRACTICES ATTACKED THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW BY DEPRIVING CITIZENS OF THEIR RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN SOLICITOR AND HAVE ACCESS TO HIM OR HER, BY GREATLY INCREASING THE COST OF LEGAL SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, AND BY ATTRACTING UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS TO PREY ON THE UNSUSPECTING CLIENT.

HE SAID AN IMPORTANT PART IN THAT FIGHT WAS THE PROPOSAL IN THIS BILL THAT WOULD EMPOWER A LAW SOCIETY INSPECTOR TO REQUIRE A SOLICITOR TO PRODUCE ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE SOCIETY'S RULES FOR GOOD PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT HAD BEEN FOLLOWED.

THE LAW SOCIETY'S NEW PRACTICE RULES TO STRENGTHEN ITS POWER TO DEAL WITH TOUTING WERE GAZETTED LAST FRIDAY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1993

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TWO MOTIONS PASSED IN LEGCO

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A MOTION MOVED BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG, URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE LAND AND WATERBORNE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS, WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AFTER A ONE-AND-A-HALF-HOUR DEBATE.

A TOTAL OF 12 MEMBERS SPOKE. THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU; AND THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

A MOTION MOVED BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER ALL VIEWS ON THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION REPORT ON ARREST WAS ALSO PASSED AFTER MORE THAN ONE HOUR OF DEBATE.

A TOTAL OF 11 MEMBERS SPOKE. THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ONE BILL - MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, WAS PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

FOUR OTHER BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

THE BILLS WERE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993, PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND PILOTAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

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