



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ASSOCIATION OF BANKS BILL PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED WITH AMENDMENTS THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS BILL WHICH SOUGHT TO INCORPORATE A NEW ASSOCIATION TO REPLACE THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION AND TO INCLUDE ALL REGISTERED BANKS AS MEMBERS.

AT ITS SECOND READING, THE HON LI FOOK-WO COMMENTED THAT AS THE NUMBER OF LICENSED BANKS HAD INCREASED FROM 74 IN 1977 TO THE PRESENT TOTAL OF 115, IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR THE BANKING INDUSTRY TO BE BETTER COORDINATED IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE BANKS THEMSELVES AND OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

THIS IMPROVED COORDINATION WILL BE EFFECTED THROUGH THE INCORPORATION OF THE NEW ASSOCIATION. +THIS ASSOCIATION WILL TAKE OVER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAS HITHERTO ADMINISTERED THE INTEREST RATE AGREEMENT CURRENTLY FOLLOWED BY THE EBA MEMBER BANKS,+ HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE AGREEMENT IS IN THEORY BINDING ON ALL MEMBERS, MR LI NOTED THAT THERE WAS IN PRACTICE VERY LITTLE THAT THE EBA, WHICH IS NOT A STATUTORY BODY, COULD DO SHOULD A BREACH OCCUR.

INTEREST RATES COULD BE DISRUPTED MERELY BECAUSE A FEW BANKS DECLINE TO COOPERATE AND, FURTHERMORE, OTHER EBA RULES COULD ONLY BE APPLIED THROUGHOUT THE BANKING INDUSTRY IF THERE IS VOLUNTARY ACCEPTANCE BY ALL ITS MEMBERS.

+IT IS OBVIOUS THAT FOR ITS RULES TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE, MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW ASSOCIATION MUST BE MANDATORY FOR ALL LICENSED BANKS OPERATING IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

MR LI SAID THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS APPRECIATED THAT RESERVATIONS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED ON THE CLAUSE PROVIDING FOR THE OFFICES OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW ASSOCIATION TO ALTERNATE BETWEEN THE CHARTERED BANK AND THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

HOWEVER SINCE THESE TWO BANKING INSTITUTIONS ARE BY LAW THE ONLY NOTE-ISSUING BANKS IN HONG KONG, +IT IS BOTH SENSIBLE AND LOGICAL FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP TO BE HELD IN ROTATION BETWEEN THEM FOR PERIODS OF TWO YEARS EACH,+ HE SAID.

THE HON WILLIAM BROWN, WHO IS THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION, SAID THE EBA SEES THE INCORPORATION OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS AS +A NECESSARY MOVE TO ENABLE THE BANKING INDUSTRY'S TRADE ASSOCIATION TO CONTINUE ITS FUNCTIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF ITS NOW WIDER MEMBERSHIP, AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT FOLLOWING THE GAZETTING OF THE BILL, THE EBA HAD INVITED ALL LICENSED BANKS TO SUBMIT THEIR COMMENTS BUT VERY FEW DID SO.

+THIS COULD PERHAPS BE MISTAKEN FOR INDIFFERENCE, OR APATHY, BUT FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH A FAIR CROSS-SECTION OF THE BANKING COMMUNITY I BELIEVE THE LACK OF COMMENT INDICATES GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE BILL AS DRAFTED.

+WITHOUT WISHING TO OVERSTATE THE ROLE OF THE EBA IN THIS MATTER, I FEEL IT FAIR COMMENT THAT THE BILL'S ACCEPTANCE BY MOST BANKERS REFLECTS THE CO-OPERATION, MENTIONED EARLIER, BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.+

SOME CRITICAL COMMENTS ON THE BILL WERE MADE BY A MINORITY OF THE BANKING COMMUNITY, MR BROWN SAID.

FIRST, THERE IS AN UNEASE THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION CAN MAKE AND ENFORCE RULES RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF THE BUSINESS OF BANKING.

SOME SEE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ONE GROUP OF BANKS, THAT IS THOSE ON THE COMMITTEE, TO FRAME RULES TO THEIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AGAINST THOSE NOT ON THE COMMITTEE.

BUT MR BROWN SAID: +THE AFFAIRS OF THE NEW ASSOCIATION WILL BE VERY MUCH IN THE PUBLIC EYE AND THIS - WHEN ADDED TO THE NEED FOR LIAISON AND CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT - MAKE IT UNREALISTIC TO BELIEVE THAT DECISIONS WOULD BE, OR INDEED COULD BE MADE OTHER THAN IN COMMON INTEREST.+

SECONDLY, THERE IS SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN MORE POWER.

+IT IS TRUE THAT THE BILL DOES NOT REQUIRE THE COMMITTEE TO ACT ON MATTERS REFERRED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL, BUT NEVERTHELESS THE COUNCIL'S VOICE WILL BE A POWERFUL ONE,+ MR BROWN SAID.

+THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP OF 23 BANKS - OUT OF A TOTAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP OF 113, AND PROBABLY 115 BY THE TIME THE COUNCIL COMES INTO BEING, REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.

+IF A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE WAS REFERRED BY THIS VERY REPRESENTATIVE BODY TO THE COMMITTEE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE LATTER WOULD BE ABLE TO IGNORE IT WITHOUT GOOD REASONS.

+AND THIS IS THE MORE SO BEARING IN MIND THAT THE COMMITTEE ITSELF WILL CONSIST OF 12 MEMBERS OF WHICH FIVE OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS WILL BE PROVIDED BY BANKS INCORPORATED OUTSIDE HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE, AND HE SAID THIS WAS SHARED BY MOST BANKERS, THAT THE NEW ASSOCIATION OF BANKS WOULD PROVIDE A BETTER VEHICLE THAN THE EXISTING EBA TO DISCHARGE THE IMPORTANT ROLE ACCORDED THE BANKING INDUSTRY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HONG KONG'S MONETARY SYSTEM.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN REPLY TO MR LI AND MR BROWN SAID THEIR SPEECHES REFLECTED THE GENERAL VIEW OF BANKERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO RE-DEFINE THE ROLE OF THE BANKS' ASSOCIATION AND RECAST ITS CONSTITUTION.

+IN SO DOING, I BELIEVE WE HAVE EVOLVED AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WILL, TOGETHER WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WHICH WE HAVE EFFECTED IN RECENT YEARS, ENABLE US TO PRESERVE, EVEN IN THIS TURBULENT WORLD, THAT TRADITION OF COMPETITIVE FREEDOM WHICH HAS BEEN THE MAINSPRING OF THE GROWTH RATE AND DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR ECONOMY,+ HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, SIR PHILIP SAID, HE ENVISAGED THAT THE THREE-TIER STRUCTURE OF THE NEW ASSOCIATION - COMMITTEE, CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL AND ANNUAL MEETING - WOULD ENABLE ALL LICENSED BANKS ACTIVELY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

+THIS, IN ITSELF, SHOULD ENSURE BOTH THAT THE MARKET IS AN ORDERLY ONE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THAT THE SCOPE FOR COMPETITION BETWEEN BANKS IS NOT UNNECESSARILY RESTRICTED- AND I WOULD STRESS THAT, WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS, IT IS NO PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S THINKING THAT THE INNOVATIVE SPIRIT SHOULD BE CRAMPED,+ HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW ASSOCIATION - ITS COMMITTEE AND ITS SECRETARIAT.

+FOR ITS PART, THE GOVERNMENT WILL RESPECT THE MARKET PLACE AND I BELIEVE THE ASSOCIATION WILL TOO- BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO EXPRESS A CERTAIN VIEW, FROM TIME TO TIME, OF WHERE THE BROADER PUBLIC INTEREST LIES AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE ASSOCIATION WILL RESPOND APPROPRIATELY,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

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HELP FOR INSOLVENT CIVIL SERVANTS SUPPORTED BY UNOFFICIALS
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UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS HAVE COME OUT IN FAVOUR OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS (ASSIGNMENT OF EMOLUMENTS) BILL WHICH INTRODUCED A REFINANCING SCHEME TO ASSIST CIVIL SERVANTS IN DEBT. THE BILL WAS PASSED TODAY BY THE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING AT ITS SECOND READING, THE HON LI FOOK-WO SAID: +THE REFINANCING SCHEME, IN OFFERING AN OPPORTUNITY TO CIVIL SERVANTS TO RELIEVE THEMSELVES OF THE BURDEN OF THEIR EXISTING DEBTS, WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS ASSISTING THOSE IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES TO TURN A NEW LEAF.

+THIS SCHEME, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MENTIONED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE WHEN HE INTRODUCED THE BILL, WILL NO DOUBT HELP TO ENHANCE THE INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.+

MR LI DESCRIBED THE SCHEME AS +A BOLD VENTURE TO PROVIDE A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO A PRACTICAL PROBLEM+ BUT STRESSED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FINANCED FROM PUBLIC FUNDS.

THE CAPITAL REQUIRED TO REFINANCE THE DEBTS OF CIVIL SERVANTS WILL COME FROM A NUMBER OF BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHEME

/+THEY WILL

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+THEY WILL BE CHARGING INTEREST AT AN APPROPRIATE COMMERCIAL RATE.

+THE PART GOVERNMENT WILL PLAY IN PROMOTING THIS SCHEME IS CONFINED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CIVIL SERVICE FINANCE ADVISORY OFFICE WHICH IS TO ASSIST CIVIL SERVANTS TO APPLY FOR REFINANCING LOANS AND GENERALLY TO GIVE ADVICE ON PERSONAL FINANCIAL PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

MR LI ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WORKING GROUP SET UP TO REVIEW EXISTING GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADVANCES OF SALARY AND LOANS AND RULES GOVERNING THE BORROWING OF MONEY BY CIVIL SERVANTS, ANY INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE BY CIVIL SERVANTS TO THE FINANCE ADVISORY OFFICE WOULD BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

+I HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE THAT, WHEN THE SCHEME IS INTRODUCED, EVERY EFFORT AND CARE WOULD BE MADE TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY.

+CIVIL SERVANTS NEED THEREFORE HAVE NO FEAR THAT INFORMATION GIVEN BY THEM TO THE FINANCE ADVISORY OFFICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE INDEBTEDNESS WOULD BE PASSED BACK TO THEIR DEPARTMENTS OR THE SECRETARIAT TO THE DETRIMENT OF THEIR CAREERS.

+AS THE SUCCESS OF THE REFINANCING SCHEME DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON THE TRUST WHICH CIVIL SERVANTS PLACE ON THE ADVISORY OFFICE'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY, I HOPE THIS POINT WILL BE MADE VERY CLEAR TO CIVIL SERVANTS WHEN THE SCHEME IS ANNOUNCED.+ MR LI SAID.

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IMPROVEMENTS IN BUS SERVICES

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OVER THE PAST YEAR KMB HAS INCREASED ITS FLEET SIZE BY MORE THAN 200 BUSES, AFTER ALLOWING FOR SCRAPPING- AND CMB BY OVER 100 BUSES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN, MR JONES SAID KMB SHOULD ADD A FURTHER 400 BUSES OR SO BY THE END OF 1981 AND CMB A FURTHER 120.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT OVERALL EXCESSIVE OVERCROWDING ON MANY BUS ROUTES HAS BEEN REDUCED, ALTHOUGH THE POSITION IS STILL NOT SATISFACTORY.

HOWEVER HE SAID PART OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN SERVICES THAT THE TWO BUS COMPANIES HAVE INTRODUCED SO FAR HAVE BEEN NULLIFIED BY THE EFFECTS OF GROWING ROAD CONGESTION. +THIS HAS SLOWED DOWN, AND IN SOME CASES SERIOUSLY SLOWED DOWN, THE SPEED OF BUSES, PARTICULARLY IN THE PEAK HOURS WHEN COMMUTER DEMAND IS HEAVY.+

/MR JONES

MR JONES HOPED THAT THE GRADUAL INTRODUCTION OF BUS-ONLY LANES ON SOME OF THE MORE CONGESTED ROUTES WILL HELP TO SPEED UP SERVICES AGAIN AND HE STRESSED THAT IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S SERIOUS INTENTION TO INTRODUCE MORE PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY MEASURES OF THIS NATURE.

ON THE PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS INCORPORATED IN THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH THE TWO BUS COMPANIES AT ABOUT THE TIME OF THE LAST BUS FARE INCREASES, MR JONES SAID IT COVERED FIVE MAIN AREAS:

- * PLANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW BUSES AND SPARE PARTS RELATED TO ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES TO BE AGREED WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND UPDATED ANNUALLY-
- * IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING OF BUSES-
- * BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS AND WAGES FOR DRIVERS, MECHANICS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES AND THE RECRUITMENT OF MORE STAFF TO MAN AND MAINTAIN THE NEW BUSES-
- * THE PROVISION OF MORE DEPOT FACILITIES FOR THE PARKING, SERVICING AND REPAIRING OF BUSES- AND
- * REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES OF THE COMPANIES.

MR JONES SAID BOTH BUS COMPANIES HAD TAKEN THE AGREEMENTS SERIOUSLY, ALTHOUGH THEY DIFFERED IN SOME RESPECTS IN THE RATE AT WHICH THE VARIOUS OBJECTIVES WERE BEING MET.

KMB HAS, IN GENERAL, REACTED QUICKLY AND HAS TAKEN EFFECTIVE STEPS TO MEET THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE AGREEMENT. IN PARTICULAR, THEY HAVE PLACED ORDERS FOR NEW BUSES ON TIME AND IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO MEET THE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT. ADEQUATE ADDITIONAL STAFF HAVE ALSO BEEN RECRUITED AND TRAINED, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING IMPROVED, NEW DEPOT FACILITIES ARE BEING PLANNED AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS STREAMLINED, MR JONES SAID.

MR JONES SAID RECENT MONITORING EXERCISES CONFIRMED THAT KMB WAS ABLE TO MEET ITS SCHEDULED DAILY COMMITMENT OF BUSES IN FULL, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS MAKING BIG DEMANDS ON THE COMPANY'S MANPOWER AND ITS MAINTENANCE FACILITIES. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW ROUTES TO THE NEW TOWNS AND HOUSING ESTATES AND FOR MTR FEEDER SERVICES WERE ALSO STRETCHING KMB'S RESOURCES TO THE LIMIT.

TURNING TO CMB, MR JONES SAID THE COMPANY HAD PLACED ORDERS FOR NEW BUSES SUFFICIENT TO MEET ITS TARGET FLEET SIZE. BUT, IN SOME OTHER AREAS OF THE AGREEMENT, PROGRESS HAD NOT BEEN AS RAPID AS COULD HAVE BEEN HOPED. NEVERTHELESS, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVES OF IMPROVED MAINTENANCE, BETTER WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR STAFF AND THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL DEPOT SPACE. SOME IMPROVEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE IN MANAGEMENT, ALTHOUGH FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE WOULD APPEAR TO BE REQUIRED.

AS A RESULT, HE SAID, CMB WAS ONLY ABLE TO MEET ABOUT 92 PER CENT OF ITS DAILY SCHEDULED COMMITMENT OF BUSES, ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION IN THIS RESPECT WAS GETTING BETTER AND IT SHOULD IMPROVE FURTHER NEXT YEAR.

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INDEMNITY INSURANCE FOR SOLICITORS MADE COMPULSORY
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THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL 1980, WHICH PROPOSED A COMPULSORY PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE SCHEME, PASSED ITS THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY. AT ITS COMMITTEE STAGE IT WAS RETITLED THE NO. 2 AMENDMENT BILL.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON GERALD NAZARETH SAID SUCH A SCHEME WOULD BE OF ADVANTAGE TO SOLICITORS, WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO SECURE INSURANCE AT FAVOURABLE RATES AND ON ADVANTAGEOUS TERMS.

IT WILL ALSO BE OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO THE PUBLIC IN ENSURING THAT CLIENTS WHO SUSTAIN LOSS OR DAMAGE THROUGH THE DEFAULT OF THEIR SOLICITORS WILL NOT FAIL, WITHIN THE LIMITS, TO OBTAIN COMPENSATION BECAUSE THEIR SOLICITORS MAY NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS, HE SAID.

MR NAZARETH SAID THE SCHEME WAS TO BE FUNDED BY ANNUAL PREMIUMS PAID BY ALL SOLICITORS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, AND WAS SIMILAR IN CONCEPT TO SCHEMES IN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA.

THE LIMITS OF ALL CIVIL LIABILITY FOR EACH CLAIM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * FOR A SOLE PRACTITIONER, UP TO \$350 000,
- * IN THE CASE OF PARTNERS, UP TO \$240 000 FOR EACH PARTNER, AND UP TO \$125 000 FOR ASSISTANT SOLICITORS OR CONSULTANTS= AND
- * IN THE CASE OF FIRMS OF SOLICITORS, THE AGGREGATE OF THE INDIVIDUAL SUMS FOR EACH PARTNER.

MR NAZARETH SAID IN TODAY'S INFLATIONARY TIMES, THESE LIMITS MIGHT SEEM A LITTLE LOW. +ON THE OTHER HAND THEY REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT AND USEFUL BEGINNING AND, OF COURSE, THEY ARE MERELY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE BILL PASSED ALL ITS READINGS IN THE COUNCIL TODAY.

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+IN LEGAL AND PRACTICAL TERMS, PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE WILL BECOME COMPULSORY BY REFERENCE TO THE ISSUE OF PRACTISING CERTIFICATES. THESE CERTIFICATES BECOME RENEWABLE ON THE 1ST OF JANUARY EACH YEAR,+ HE EXPLAINED.

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EXCHANGE FUND BORROWING CEILING RAISED
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THE BORROWING LIMIT ON THE EXCHANGE FUND HAS BEEN RAISED BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RESOLUTION TODAY FROM \$15 000 MILLION TO \$20 000 MILLION.

IN MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE EXPLAINED THAT THE BULK OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCUMULATED FISCAL RESERVES, THE GENERAL REVENUE BALANCE, WERE INVESTED BY THE TREASURY WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND, AGAINST THE ISSUE BY THE FUND OF INTEREST-BEARING CERTIFICATES.

THE RESERVES ARE HELD WITH THE FUND TO AVOID THE NECESSITY OF THEIR HAVING TO BEAR EXCHANGE RISKS, AND TO PLAY A PART IN THE EXERCISE OF LEVERAGE ON THE LIQUIDITY RATIOS OF THE BANKING SYSTEM, HE SAID.

EXCHANGE FUND DEBT CERTIFICATES ISSUED TO THE TREASURY HAVE CONTINUED TO RISE THROUGHOUT THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE APPROVED BORROWING LIMIT OF \$15 000 MILLION MAY BE REACHED IN JANUARY 1981, SIR PHILIP SAID.

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STATEMENT ON DELAYS TO SOME HOS ESTATES
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SITE DIFFICULTIES AND FOUNDATION PROBLEMS COMPOUNDED BY A SERIES OF FURTHER PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS HAVE DELAYED THE COMPLETION OF THREE HOME OWNERSHIP ESTATES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HU FA-KUANG.

ALL FOUR BLOCKS AT SHAN TSUI COURT IN CHAI WAN ARE NOW EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BETWEEN NEXT FEBRUARY AND APRIL, HE SAID.

AT CHUN MAN COURT IN HO MAN TIN, SIX OF THE 12 BLOCKS HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THE OTHER SIX WERE EXPECTED TO BE HANDED OVER WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

AT YUET LAI COURT IN KWAI CHUNG, TWO BLOCKS HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THE REMAINING TWO SHOULD BE FINISHED BY NEXT FEBRUARY.

+THE REASONS FOR THE SLIPPAGES ON THESE THREE CONTRACTS ARE LARGELY PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL,+ SAID MR LIAO. +AT BOTH SHAN TSUI COURT AND CHUN MAN COURT UNFORESEEN SITE DIFFICULTIES AND FOUNDATION PROBLEMS WERE ENCOUNTERED, AND AT YUET LAI COURT THERE WERE SITE ACCESS PROBLEMS.

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+ADDED TO THESE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS WAS THE GENERAL SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR AND BUILDING MATERIALS, WHICH AFFECTED THE INDUSTRY GENERALLY DURING THE PERIODS OF THESE CONTRACTS.

+THESE DIFFICULTIES WERE COMPOUNDED BY INCREASES IN LABOUR AND MATERIAL COSTS SINCE THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACTS WHICH WERE NOT FULLY COVERED BY PRICE ESCALATION CLAUSES IN THE CONTRACTS, AND THEREFORE RESULTED IN FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FOR THE MAIN CONTRACTOR.+

MR LIAO SAID RE-ENTRY ON THE CONTRACTS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BUT THIS WAS NOT DONE SINCE IT WOULD HAVE BROUGHT EVEN GREATER DELAYS.

ON THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE COMPENSATION TO PURCHASERS, RAISED BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN, MR LIAO SAID HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS WERE SOLD AT COST AND THERE WAS NO PROVISION UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF SALE FOR ANY FORM OF COMPENSATION.

+THE PURCHASERS MAY DERIVE SOME SATISFACTION FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEIR FLATS WERE BOUGHT AT PRICES CONSIDERABLY BELOW CURRENT MARKET LEVELS,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE THREE PROJECTS WERE AMONG 65 MAJOR FOUNDATION AND BUILDING CONTRACTS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY AND THE OUTSTANDING WORK ON THE THREE CONTRACTS REPRESENTED JUST OVER TWO PER CENT OF THE 97 000 OR SO FLATS INVOLVED.

FINALLY, SAID MR LIAO, IN FUTURE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES, FLATS WOULD NOT BE SOLD UNTIL MUCH CLOSER TO THE EXPECTED COMPLETION DATES.

+IN THIS WAY IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO GIVE SUCCESSFUL PURCHASERS A FAR MORE RELIABLE ESTIMATE OF WHEN THEIR FLATS WILL BE READY,+ HE SAID.

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APPROPRIATE FOR GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT INSURANCE POLICY HOLDERS
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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT INSURANCE WAS AN AREA IN WHICH SOME DEGREE OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION WAS APPROPRIATE.

+THIS IS BECAUSE A POLICY HOLDER IS RARELY IN A POSITION TO ASSESS THE FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE COMPANY WHICH OFFERS HIM COVER,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANIES DEPOSIT (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, MR JACOBS SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT POLICY HOLDERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO RELY UPON THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

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+IN MANY CASES INSURANCE IS EFFECTED TO COVER THE POLICY HOLDER AGAINST CALAMITY, AND AN INSURANCE COMPANY'S FAILURE TO MEET ITS LIABILITIES CAN BE DISASTROUS FOR INDIVIDUAL POLICY HOLDERS,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS DISCLOSED THAT THE FIRST DRAFT OF A COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE BILL, MENTIONED BY THE GOVERNOR AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE COUNCIL, WAS CIRCULATED AND COMMENTED UPON BY A WORKING GROUP COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRY AND CHAIRED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

THE COMMENTS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN A SECOND DRAFT BILL, WHICH IS IN THE COURSE OF PREPARATION, HE SAID.

HE EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE OVERNIGHT TO BRING THE WHOLE OF THE LEGISLATION INTO EFFECT OR TO ENJOY THE SAFEGUARDS THAT THE LEGISLATION WOULD PROVIDE.

THE INTERIM LEGISLATION NOW INTRODUCED IS NOT A COMPLETE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM.

+BUT I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BRING ABOUT A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN RELATION TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND WILL THUS BE OF VALUE TO POLICY HOLDERS,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

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REASONS FOR DECISION ON WOMEN OFFICERS' FRINGE BENEFITS
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ONE OF TWO MAIN REASONS WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS FELT UNABLE TO ACCEPT IN FULL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AS REGARDS FRINGE BENEFITS FOR MARRIED WOMEN OFFICERS IS THAT IT CONSIDERS IT UNDESIRABLE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE TO MOVE TOO FAR AHEAD OF PRIVATE SECTOR PRACTICE.

THE SECOND REASON IS THAT IT SEES OBJECTION TO THE TAXPAYER SUBSIDISING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AS COULD HAPPEN WHERE THE HUSBAND OF A WOMAN CIVIL SERVANT WORKS FOR A PRIVATE EMPLOYER, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON MARTIN ROWLANDS SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO A QUESTION BY THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT.

MR ROWLANDS EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT DECISION DID NOT GO AS FAR AS THE STANDING COMMISSION RECOMMENDED, IT NONETHELESS REPRESENTED A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROVISION OF FRINGE BENEFITS FOR MARRIED WOMEN OFFICERS.

DETAILED RULES OF ELIGIBILITY USING THE NEW CRITERIA ARE NOW BEING DRAWN UP, AND WILL HOPEFULLY COVER COMPASSIONATE AND OTHER EXCEPTIONAL CASES, HE SAID.

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OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

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THE EFFECT OF THE UNCERTAINTY IN THE ECONOMIES OF HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS MARKETS IS CLEARLY SEEN IN THE HESITANCY OF LOCAL MANUFACTURERS TO EMBARK ON SUBSTANTIAL NEW INVESTMENTS AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE HON LI FOOK-WO SAID TODAY.

BUT THERE IS EQUALLY CLEAR EVIDENCE, FROM THE MANY ENQUIRIES RECEIVED, THAT INVESTORS CONTINUE TO REGARD HONG KONG AS THE LOGICAL VENUE TO SERVICE THE VAST POTENTIAL MARKET IN CHINA AND ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, HE SAID.

MR LI WAS SPEAKING AT THE TABLING OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1980.

+THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, BY MAKING LAND AVAILABLE TO INDUSTRIES OFFERING NEW HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROCESSES AND NEW PRODUCTS FOR THIS REGION'S VAST EMERGING MARKET, PROVIDE THE BEST MEANS BY WHICH PRUDENT INVESTORS CAN ENJOY THE MANY OTHER ADVANTAGES WHICH HONG KONG HAS TO OFFER.

+THESE ESTATES REMAIN THE MOST TANGIBLE AND VALUABLE ASSET FOR THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION AND INVESTMENT, AND A GUARANTEE OF THE FUTURE OVERALL ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

MR LI NOTED THAT LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS ARE ALMOST EQUALLY REPRESENTED BY 32 SITES WHICH HAVE SO FAR BEEN GRANTED OR EARMARKED, AND TOGETHER THEY ARE COMMITTED TO A TOTAL MINIMUM INVESTMENT OF ABOUT \$1 000 MILLION AND A MINIMUM ANNUAL SALES VALUE OF \$2 000 MILLION.

+ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR SITES BEING RECEIVED BY THE CORPORATION IN RECENT MONTHS HAS DECREASED, THE NUMBER APPROVED HAS GENERALLY REMAIN CONSISTENT WITH THOSE APPROVED IN EARLIER YEARS.

+HAVING REGARD, HOWEVER, TO THE AREA OF FULLY SERVICED LAND NOW AVAILABLE BOTH AT TAI PO AND YUEN LONG, THE CORPORATION WOULD WISH TO SEE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SITES BEING GRANTED,+ HE SAID.

MR LI SAID THE MAIN EVENTS DURING THE YEAR WERE THE COMMENCEMENT OF MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS AND THE GRANT OF A NEW LOAN FROM THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STANDARD FACTORY BLOCK AT THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 10 GRANTEES WILL HAVE COMPLETED THEIR FACTORIES AND STARTED PRODUCTION AND 45 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL SITES WILL BE FORMED AND SERVICED.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME OF THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HAD UNFORTUNATELY FALLEN BEHIND SCHEDULE DUE TO A COMBINATION OF UNFORESEEN +FUNG SHUI+ OBJECTIONS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS AND UNANTICIPATED ROCK CONDITIONS IN THE DESIGNATED BORROW AREA.

+AS A RESULT, THE PROJECT HAS MADE MINIMAL PROGRESS IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS, AND INSTEAD OF THE PLANNED 20 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL SITES ONLY FIVE HECTARES ARE AT PRESENT AVAILABLE,+ MR LI SAID.

THE ESCALATION IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS, COUPLED WITH THE EXTRA COSTS INCURRED DUE TO THE DELAYS AT YUEN LONG, HAS NECESSITATED THE CORPORATION TO INCREASE THE LAND PREMIUM TO \$700 PER SQUARE METRE AS FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 18 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS RATE FIXED IN DECEMBER 1978.

+IN RELATION TO CURRENT LAND PRICES IN HONG KONG, THIS INCREASED PREMIUM IS NOT EXCESSIVE.

+HOWEVER, THE EFFECTS OF CONTINUING INFLATION AND POTENTIALLY HIGHER COSTS AT YUEN LONG WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE TO BE REFLECTED BY APPROPRIATE FUTURE INCREASES IN THE PREMIUM.

+THE PLANNED EXTENSION OF THE ESTATE AT TAI PO BY FURTHER RECLAMATION TO FORM A THIRD STAGE WILL PARTIALLY COMPENSATE FOR THE DELAY EXPERIENCED AT YUEN LONG, BUT THE ESTIMATED COST OF FORMING THE ADDITIONAL 20 HECTARES WILL AGAIN MAKE FURTHER INCREASES IN THE LAND PREMIUM INEVITABLE,+ MR LI ADDED.

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CRITERIA FOR INCREASES IN PUBLIC UTILITY CHARGES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAD APPLIED ITS CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING INCREASES IN PUBLIC UTILITY CHARGES TO THE TARIFF INCREASES RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY THE TWO POWER COMPANIES, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS SAID TODAY.

THE GOVERNMENT TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE EFFECT OF THE INCREASES ON INDUSTRY, ALTHOUGH FOR MOST COMPANIES, POWER CHARGES FORM ONLY A SMALL PART OF THEIR PRODUCTION COSTS, HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE HON FRANCIS TIEN.

THE CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OF THE POWER COMPANIES TO MINIMISE THE EFFECT ON INDUSTRY OF INCREASED POWER CHARGES IS EVIDENCED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT, BY BOTH COMPANIES, OF DEPARTMENTS WHICH WILL ADVISE LARGE CONSUMERS, FREE OF CHARGE, AS TO HOW THEY CAN REDUCE THEIR ENERGY COSTS, MR JACOBS SAID.

THE CRITERIA, WHICH ARE INTERRELATED, ARE:

- * THE PUBLIC SHOULD GET, AS FAR AS IS PRACTICABLE, THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE,
- * TARIFFS, TOGETHER WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SHAREHOLDERS, MUST BE SUCH AS TO ENABLE THE UTILITY COMPANY TO REMAIN FINANCIALLY VIABLE, THUS ENSURING THE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO MEET DEMAND IN THE FUTURE.
- * THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANY SHOULD NOT MAKE EXCESSIVE PROFITS.

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EVERYTHING REASONABLE DONE TO EXPLAIN NEED FOR CLEARANCES
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ALL REASONABLE EFFORTS ARE MADE TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE CONCERNED, AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE REASONS FOR CLEARANCES OF SQUATTERS ON CROWN LAND REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, GAVE THIS ASSURANCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT ANY GIVEN TIME, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WAS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS STAGES OF 80 CLEARANCE OPERATIONS.

+IN ALL CASES, CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS ARE MADE TO EXPLAIN FULLY TO ALL THOSE IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED THE APPROPRIATE REPROVISIONING AND CASH ENTITLEMENTS, AND THE REASONS FOR THE CLEARANCES,+ HE SAID.

+THE FACT THAT SO FEW OF THE MANY CLEARANCES BEING UNDERTAKEN COME TO THE NOTICE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS AN INDICATION OF THE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THOSE AFFECTED.+

WHEN PUBLIC INTEREST IS AROUSED OVER A PARTICULAR CLEARANCE, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OUTLETS SUCH AS GIS AND RTHK MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FULLY EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND TO THE CLEARANCE, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPROVISIONING AND COMPENSATION, HE SAID.

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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S ROLE RECOGNISED
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THE SENIOR MASTER/MISTRESS AND EDUCATION OFFICER GRADES IN SCHOOLS HAVE NOW BEEN COMBINED RESULTING IN A LEVELLING UPWARDS OF THE PAY SCALE OF THE LATTER IN ADDED RECOGNITION OF THEIR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT CONCERNING THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED 5TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

MR HAYE SAID THAT SENIOR MASTERS/MISTRESSES IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS IN AIDED SCHOOLS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE RECOGNISED FINANCIALLY AS THEY WERE NOW ON THE MASTER PAY SCALE UP TO POINT 43.

+THE STANDING COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED, THAT THE PREVIOUS DISTINCTION BETWEEN SENIOR MASTER/MISTRESS AND EDUCATION OFFICER SCALES BE REMOVED BECAUSE FUNCTIONAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO RANKS ARE NOT THOUGHT TO WARRANT SEPARATE SCALES,+ HE SAID.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT, HE ADDED, OUGHT TO FIND THE IMPROVED SCALE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE FREER ALLOCATION OF DUTIES.

+I WELCOME IT FOR THE CAREER INCENTIVES IT SUPPLIES AND THE WIDER CHOICE IT AFFORDS IN THE SELECTION OF PRINCIPALS,+ HE SAID.

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STUBBS RD FLYOVER READY BY JULY

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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE STUBBS ROAD FLYOVER WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY JULY 1981 WITH SECTIONS OF THE SCHEME BROUGHT INTO USE IN ADVANCE OF THAT DATE.

THE FIRST STAGE, WHICH IS THE WIDENED SECTION OF WONG NAI CHUNG GAP ROAD, WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN JANUARY. THE WIDENED SECTION OF LOWER STUBBS ROAD WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MAY AND THE MAIN JUNCTION FLYOVER IN JUNE.

ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON OSWALD CHEUNG MR MCDONALD ALSO SAID THAT THE APPROVED ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT WAS \$116 MILLION BUT SOME ADDITIONAL SLOPE PROTECTION WORKS IN THE LOWER STUBBS ROAD AREA COULD ADD TO THE FINAL COST. HE ESTIMATED THE COST FOR ADDITIONAL WORKS COULD BE OF THE ORDER OF \$10 MILLION BRINGING THE OVERALL COST TO \$126 MILLION.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT WHILE THE NEW FIGURE WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN THE ESTIMATE OF \$61 MILLION APPROVED AT THE TENDER STAGE OF THE PROJECT, THE ADDITIONAL COSTS ARE DUE TO MANY FACTORS. THESE FACTORS WERE FLUCTUATIONS IN THE COSTS OF LABOUR AND MATERIALS (AMOUNTING TO \$26.8 MILLION) SLOPE PROTECTION, AND MODIFIED FOUNDATION WORKS (WHICH TOGETHER ACCOUNT FOR A FURTHER \$34.5 MILLION) AND INCREASED CONSULTANTS' FEES AND SITE STAFF COSTS (\$3.7 MILLION).

HE SAID THAT THE ANTICIPATED COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, THIRTEEN MONTHS LATER THAN THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT COMPLETION DATE, WAS DUE ENTIRELY TO THE ADVERSE GROUND CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

+THESE ADVERSE CONDITIONS WERE NOT DISCOVERED WHEN LIMITED SITE INVESTIGATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT SOME YEARS AGO BUT BECAUSE IT WAS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO PUT THE PROJECT WORKS IN HAND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IT WAS AGREED THAT FURTHER SITE STUDIES AND ANY FOUNDATION MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED SHOULD BE MADE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. AS A RESULT OF THAT DECISION WORKS STARTED MORE THAN A YEAR EARLIER THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE THE CASE FOR PROJECTS OF THIS SCALE AND COMPLEXITY+ HE EXPLAINED.

+HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT SITE INVESTIGATIONS INDICATED THAT THE PROTECTION WORKS REQUIRED TO ENSURE SLOPE STABILITY WERE VERY MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED WITH CONSEQUENTIAL INCREASES IN BOTH THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT AND THE CONTRACTOR'S WORKS PERIOD.+ HE ADDED.

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POLICE ACTION AGAINST POOR BUS DRIVING

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IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, SUMMONSES WERE ISSUED IN RESPECT OF 30 FRANCHISED AND 11 PRIVATE BUSES FOR SPEEDING, AND OF SIX FRANCHISED AND TWO PRIVATE BUSES FOR DISOBEYING TRAFFIC SIGNALS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID TODAY.

NO BUS DRIVER WAS PROSECUTED FOR FAILING TO GIVE PRECEDENCE TO PEDESTRIANS AT ZEBRA CROSSINGS, MR DAVIES SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON OSWALD CHEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THESE OFFENCES WERE MAINLY DEALT WITH BY MEANS OF FIXED PENALTY TICKETS BUT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO TELL FROM THE RECORDS HOW MANY OF THEM HAD INVOLVED BUSES, FRANCHISED OR OTHERWISE.

SUMMONSES ARE TAKEN OUT IN A RELATIVELY FEW CASES, SUCH AS WHEN A DRIVER FAILS TO PRODUCE HIS DRIVING LICENCE OR WHEN AN OFFENCE IS DISCLOSED AS A RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT, HE SAID.

HE SAID A MORE MEANINGFUL ILLUSTRATION OF POLICE ACTION AGAINST POOR BUS DRIVING COULD BE GIVEN BY THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS FOR THE OFFENCES OF DANGEROUS DRIVING AND CARELESS DRIVING.

IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THE NUMBERS WERE:

- * FOR DANGEROUS DRIVING, 32 CASES INVOLVING FRANCHISED BUSES= AND
- * FOR CARELESS DRIVING, 634 CASES INVOLVING FRANCHISED BUSES AND 42 CASES INVOLVING PRIVATE BUSES.

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FERRY COMPANY CONCESSION ARRANGEMENTS EXTENDED A YEAR

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS EXTENDED THE EXISTING CONCESSIONS TO THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY AND TO THE 'STAR' FERRY COMPANY FOR A FURTHER YEAR TO DECEMBER 31, 1981.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES, IN MOVING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW, EXPLAINED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR OPERATION OF FERRY SERVICES WERE TAKING LONGER THAN WAS EXPECTED.

+BECAUSE OF THIS IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE INTRODUCED BEFORE THE END OF 1981 AND IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO EXTEND THE EXISTING PROVISIONS FOR A FURTHER YEAR,+ HE SAID.

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH MR JONES SAID WERE BOTH DETAILED AND COMPLICATED, THERE WOULD BE A NEW FERRY SERVICES BILL UNDER WHICH IT WAS INTENDED THAT FRANCHISES SHOULD BE GRANTED TO MAJOR FERRY OPERATORS, AND LICENCES TO MINOR OPERATORS.

THE AMENDMENTS PASSED TODAY HAD THE CONSENT OF BOTH FERRY COMPANIES.

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ID CARDS OF HK EMIGRANTS
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LEGAL PROVISION ALREADY EXISTS WHEREBY HONG KONG RESIDENTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO SURRENDER THEIR IDENTITY CARDS UPON LEAVING FOR SETTLEMENT ABROAD, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR DAVIES SAID OVER 7 000 IDENTITY CARDS HAD BEEN SURRENDERED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SO FAR THIS YEAR.

+THROUGH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION WRITES TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND REQUESTS THE RETURN OF THE CARD,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HOWEVER THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN ENFORCING THE PROVISION ABSOLUTELY BECAUSE SOME EMIGRATION TAKES PLACE WITHOUT THE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THERE ARE ALSO CASES WHERE PERSONS WHO HAVE SETTLED ABROAD MAINTAIN CLOSE LINKS WITH HONG KONG AND RETURN HERE REGULARLY, MR DAVIES SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE SOME HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS LEFT IN THE HANDS OF PERSONS SETTLED ABROAD.

+THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO PREVENT THESE FROM BEING MISUSED BY OTHERS AND STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN IN THIS DIRECTION,+ HE SAID.

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COOKED FOOD STALLS INCLUDED IN NEW TOWN PROGRAMME
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COOKED FOOD STALLS ARE BEING BUILT IN FACTORY AREAS AS PART OF THE OVERALL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM MR ALEX WU WHO ASKED WOULD GOVERNMENT STATE WHETHER SUFFICIENT SPACE HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR COOKED FOOD STALLS AS MORE INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WERE MOVING TO THE NEW TOWNS.

+THE SCALE OF PRESENT PROVISION IS GOVERNED BY STANDARDS WHICH HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY WORKED OUT BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

SO FAR 220 COOKED FOOD STALLS HAD BEEN PROVIDED IN 10 COOKED FOOD CENTRES IN INDUSTRIAL PARTS OF THE NEW TOWNS, AND THERE WERE CURRENTLY 18 ITEMS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE COOKED FOOD CENTRES, IN KEEPING WITH THE PACE OF NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

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TOP LEVEL GROUP TO OVERSEE NEW 'CLEAN' DRIVE
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A HIGH LEVEL STEERING GROUP IS BEING ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO OVERSEE A NEW TERRITORY-WIDE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL IN OCTOBER NEXT YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR JONES SAID THE GROUP WOULD COMPRISE SENIOR OFFICIALS AND PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

+A POST OF CO-ORDINATOR OF THE CAMPAIGN HAS RECENTLY BEEN FILLED AND THE OVERALL STRATEGY AND AN OUTLINE OF PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES IS NOW BEING DRAWN UP,+ HE SAID.

MR JONES SAID THAT WITHIN THE URBAN AREA, THE URBAN COUNCIL WOULD CONTINUE TO CARRY THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH ITS 'KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE', AND SEPARATE COMMITTEES WERE BEING SET UP TO CONDUCT THE CAMPAIGN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MR JONES ADDED THAT THE CHIEF SECRETARY WOULD MAKE A MORE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AFTER THE OUTLINE OF PROGRAMMES WAS DRAWN UP.

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INVESTIGATION INTO KWAI CHUNG EXPLOSION CONTINUES
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THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION IN THE TRANSFORMER ROOM OF THE SOUTH INDUSTRIAL BUILDING AT KWAI CHUNG ON SEPTEMBER 18 HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED, SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN, MR DAVIES SAID THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE HAVE COMPLETED THEIR PARTS OF THE INVESTIGATION BUT FURTHER TECHNICAL INPUT IS AWAITED FROM THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY BEFORE THE FULL REPORT CAN BE COMPILED.

+INFORMATION FROM THE POWER COMPANY IS EXPECTED EARLY IN JANUARY,+ HE ADDED.

MR DAVIES SAID AS THE INCIDENT HAD RESULTED IN ONE DEATH AND 23 INJURIES, THE FULL REPORT, WHEN AVAILABLE, WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CORONER FOR EXAMINATION WITH A VIEW TO DECIDING WHETHER AN INQUEST SHOULD BE HELD.

THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL THE TIME OF THE INQUEST, IF ONE IS TO BE HELD.

+IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CORONER DECIDES NOT TO HOLD AN INQUEST, DETAILS OF THE REPORT WILL BE RELEASED WHEN THAT DECISION IS REACHED AND A STATEMENT WILL THEN BE MADE,+ SAID MR DAVIES.

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EXPIRY DATE OF LAW STUDENT ENROLMENT LEGISLATION EXTENDED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS EXTENDED THE EXPIRY DATE OF SECTION 26AA OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE, WHICH RESTRICTS THE ENROLMENT OF NON-LAW GRADUATE STUDENTS, BY THREE MONTHS TO MARCH 31, 1981 TO GIVE MORE TIME TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO STUDY THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON NOVEMBER 28, 1980.

THIS IS NECESSARY BECAUSE IF THE SECTION EXPIRES BEFORE THE BILL IS ENACTED, THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO PREVENT NON-GRADUATES FROM ENROLLING AS STUDENTS AND CREATING THE VERY DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION WAS INTENDED TO PREVENT.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION APPROVED
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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR COVERING A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$122 MILLION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING IN THE COUNCIL TODAY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE EXPLAINED THAT \$106 MILLION OF THE SUM WAS REQUIRED FOR EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AS A RESULT OF MORE RAPID PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF EXISTING PROJECTS AS WELL AS THE UPGRADING OF NINE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION HAD NOT RESULTED IN A NET INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE, SINCE OFFSETTING SAVINGS HAD BEEN FOUND ELSEWHERE.

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BILLS PASSED
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SIX BILLS PASSED THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY ARE THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS BILL 1980, THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1979-80) BILL 1980, THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE PUBLIC OFFICERS (ASSIGNMENT OF EMOLUMENTS) BILL 1980 AND THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1980.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1980

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WHERE HAVE ALL THE TOYS GONE ...?

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY, TODAY GENTLY CHASTISED HONG KONG EXPORTERS FOR +DEPRIVING+ US OF OUR TOYS AND CLOTHES.

EVERYTHING FROM TOYS AND GARMENTS, HE LAMENTED, +WATCHES AND CLOCKS, WIRELESSES AND ELECTRONIC MAGIC -- ANYTHING THAT IS REALLY INTERESTING IS PACKED UP IN CARTONS, LOADED INTO CONTAINERS AND SWUNG ON SHIPS BEFORE ANY ONE HAS A CHANCE TO ENJOY IT.

+INDEED IF IT WERE NOT FOR THOSE DREADED QUOTAS YOU WOULD PROBABLY HAVE THE SHIRTS OFF ALL OUR BACKS,+ HE COMPLAINED AT A CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION AT WHICH HE WAS GUEST OF HONOUR.

BUT IT WAS WITH MORE THAN A TINGE OF PRIDE AND SATISFACTION THAT MR BRAY WAGGED AN ACCUSING FINGER AT HIS HOSTS.

+AS THE LAST 1980 QUOTA LADEN SHIP SLIPS FROM KWAI CHUNG ON DECEMBER 31 ABOUT ONE MINUTE BEFORE MRS BREMRIDGE FIRES THE JARDINE'S MIDNIGHT GUN AT EAST POINT,+ HE SAID, +I HOPE YOU WILL ALL ENJOY THE CHAMPAGNE YOU SO RICHLY DESERVE AND RESOLVE THAT IN 1981 YOU WILL BE ABLE AGAIN TO CONFOUND GLOOMY CRITICS, SELL EVERYTHING HONG KONG CAN MAKE AND BRING US ALL PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR.+

MR BRAY SAID THE YEAR HAD NOT BEEN AN EASY ONE BUT LOCAL EXPORTERS AND THEIR SUPPLIERS HAD STAGGERED EVERYONE BY THE WAY THEY HAD KEPT THOSE BOXES GOING OUT AT A TIME WHEN OUR RICH CUSTOMERS WERE BEWAILING THEIR DEPRESSION.

+SO SUCCESSFUL HAVE YOU BEEN THAT WHEN I WAS WORKING IN LONDON I REALLY HAD QUITE A JOB HIDING YOUR LIGHT UNDER A BAMBOO UMBRELLA WHILE EXTOLLING THE VALUE OF HONG KONG AS A MARKET FOR BRITAIN.

+THEY WERE ALWAYS GRUMBLING ABOUT IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG SO I THOUGHT THE ONLY DEFENCE WAS TO ATTACK,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG BUYS MORE FROM BRITAIN THAN ANY COUNTRY IN ASIA EXCEPT JAPAN, AND BRITISH EXPORTS TO HONG KONG ARE TWO-THIRDS OF THOSE OF JAPAN.

HONG KONG'S APPETITE FOR TEXTILES -- THE MATERIAL NOT GARMENTS -- WAS SO COLOSSAL THAT OUR IMPORTS OF TEXTILES ARE 90 PER CENT THE VALUE OF THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION, HONG KONG IS ALSO THE SECOND LARGEST NET IMPORTER OF TEXTILES IN THE WORLD AFTER RUSSIA.

MR BRAY RECALLED THAT PROTECTIONISM IN BRITAIN GOT TO SUCH A STATE THAT SOME TEXTILE MP'S MADE A FRIGHTFUL FUSS WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT THE BARMEN IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WERE SUPPLIED WITH SHIRTS MADE IN HONG KONG.

/+THERE WAS

+THERE WAS NO TRACE OF PRIDE IN THIS IMPERIAL TRIBUTE TO THE MOTHER OF PARLIAMENTS,+ HE OBSERVED, ADDING THAT THE BARMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WERE A HARD WORKING LOT AND DESERVED THE BEST.

+I HAD TO EXPLAIN WITH SORROW THAT IF THE BARMEN GOT THREE DOZEN SHIRTS BETWEEN THEM THIS MEANT THAT SOME OTHER GOOD CITIZENS HAD TO BE DEPRIVED OF THREE DOZEN SHIRTS FOR SHIRTS ARE UNDER QUOTA. NO WAY COULD WE SHIP EXTRA SHIRTS, NOT EVEN FOR BARMEN IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.+

MR BRAY SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO ADD THAT HONG KONG'S QUOTA WAS 21 MILLION SHIRTS -- WHICH IS JUST ABOUT ENOUGH TO ENABLE EVERY MAN AND BOY IN ENGLAND TO BUY JUST ONE HONG KONG SHIRT A YEAR EACH.

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GIFT OF AMERICAN BOOKS TO NT PUBLIC LIBRARIES
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THE COLLECTION OF BOOKS AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS TODAY BOOSTED BY 180 VOLUMES ON CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PERFORMING ARTS.

THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION WAS MADE TO THE KWAI CHUNG PUBLIC LIBRARY BY THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

ACCEPTING THE BOOKS AT A BRIEF CEREMONY AT THE LIBRARY, THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR BRIAN WILSON, SAID THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES WERE MOST PLEASED TO HAVE THE AGENCY WITH THEM TODAY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THE BOOKS WHICH COVER CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN DANCE, DRAMA, MUSIC, FILM AND TELEVISION WOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE BOOK STOCK OF THE KWAI CHUNG PUBLIC LIBRARY.

+THEY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL RESIDENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES THROUGH THE INTER-LIBRARY LOAN NETWORK.

+THE COLLECTION WILL ALSO LEND SUPPORT TO THE THIRD TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL, WHICH IS NOW BEING PLANNED,+ HE SAID.

PRAISING THE AGENCY WHICH IS WELL-KNOWN AS A PIONEER IN THE PROMOTION OF LIBRARY SERVICES AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG, MR WILSON SAID: +WE LOOK FORWARD TO CLOSE COOPERATION IN THE YEARS AHEAD.+

AT THE CEREMONY, MR WILSON ACCEPTED THE BOOKS FROM MR THOMAS SHOESMITH, THE US CONSUL-GENERAL IN HONG KONG.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO MR SHOESMITH AND THROUGH HIM TO THE 44 AMERICAN PUBLISHERS FOR THEIR GIFT.

+WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AND WE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THIS EVIDENCE OF THEIR INTEREST IN THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ MR WILSON SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1980

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MORE LAND FOR TAI PO NEW TOWN

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO PRODUCE ANOTHER 22 HECTARES OF LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE RAPIDLY GROWING TAI PO NEW TOWN.

A \$55 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE WORK, INCLUDING SITE FORMATION, ROADS AND DRAINAGE, WAS AWARDED TODAY BY THE TAI PO AND FANLING NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE PWD'S NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

IT WAS SIGNED BY MR GEORGE CHIEN, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE OFFICE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GAMMON (HONG KONG) LTD. THIS AFTERNOON.

MR CHIEN SAID THE CONTRACT COMPRISED THE FORMATION OF ABOUT 6.2 HECTARES OF LAND NEAR WAN TAU TONG AND THE RECLAMATION OF ABOUT 16 HECTARES OF LAND NEAR YUE KOK.

HE SAID, +THE LAND FORMED NEAR WAN TAU TONG WILL BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTING ROAD NETWORKS, AND SITES FOR LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AND GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTE AND COMMUNITY PURPOSES.

+THE RECLAIMED LAND NEAR YUE KOK WILL BE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL AND ALSO GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTE AND COMMUNITY USES.+

MR CHIEN SAID ENGINEERING WORK WOULD INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF 450 METRES OF A NEW RIVER CHANNEL AND THE BUILDING OF PART OF A HIGHWAY NETWORK ON NEWLY FORMED LAND NEAR WAN TAU TONG. THIS WOULD INCLUDE A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY AND A TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE, ALL ASSOCIATED ROADWORKS, CYCLE TRACKS, FOOTPATHS, DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE WORKS.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT WILL START LATER THIS WEEK AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 26 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT WAS DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE PWD.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1980

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AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS
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ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 20) AT 10 AM IN THE CITY HALL LECTURE HALL.

A TOTAL OF 35 NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE :

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| CK 663 | CG 3500 | CH 1668 | CH 9980 | CH 311 |
| AW 1132 | CH 1291 | CH 2888 | CH 1698 | CH 1136 |
| CC 28 | CH 51 | CJ 161 | CF 828 | CK 1 |
| CH 500 | CF 31 | CJ 13 | CJ 500 | CJ 200 |
| CH 17 | CC 6666 | CC 828 | CK 6 | CK 1234 |
| CG 7776 | CH 168 | CH 1947 | CG 8138 | CH 1798 |
| XX 2140 | CH 3288 | CG 7899 | CG 6088 | AJ 619 |

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED THEM THAT THE NUMBERS WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

PROCEEDS WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 59TH ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAFFIC TO TENNIS COURT
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NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON WONG NAI CHUNG GAP ROAD WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TURN RIGHT INTO THE WONG NAI CHUNG GAP TENNIS COURT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 19).

VEHICLES COMING OUT OF THE TENNIS COURT WILL ALSO NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN INTO WONG NAI CHUNG GAP ROAD NORTHBOUND.

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