



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

TOO EARLY FOR STATEMENT ON HANG LUNG BANK	1
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES 'STILL A PROBLEM'	1
PLAN FOR NEW CITY POLYTECHNIC HALLED	2
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROVIDES BASIC NEEDS	5
OVER 900 000 ELECTORS REGISTERED	6
RED TIDES NO CAUSE FOR ALARM : CHING	7
WORDS REAFFIRMED ON PROPOSED EXHIBITION CENTRE	7
PLAN TO MAKE LIFE TOUGH FOR CRIMINALS	8
SYSTEM OF HANDLING COURT EXHIBITS SATISFACTORY	9
REPORT ON +SPENT CONVICTION+ SCHEME EXPECTED	10
+GANGES WATER NOT PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT+	11
CROSS-BETTING IS AN ENTERTAINMENT - SIR JOHN	11
COMPUTERS SEEN AS BEST FOR IMMIGRATION USE	12
LEGISLATION TO CONTROL OPTICAL PROFESSION	12
CLINICS WITHOUT MEDICAL PRACTITIONER STILL PERFORM USEFUL SERVICE	13
TELECOMMUNICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983	14
KCRC STAFF EMPOWERED TO ARREST PICKPOCKETS	15
TDC MAINTAINS HIGH LEVEL OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES	15
INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION MAKES PROGRESS	18
PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION CONSIDERED	19
FIVE BILLS PASSED	20
WORK BEING DONE TO CLEAR KAI TAK SMELLS	21
LIONS CLUB THANKED FOR ANTI-DRUG EFFORT	21
NEW TYPHOON WARNING SIGNAL PROPOSED	22
VARIETY SHOW	22
NEW TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA FOR FANLING	23
METHADONE CLINIC TO MOVE	23

TOO EARLY FOR STATEMENT ON HANG LUNG BANK

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IT WAS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL STATEMENT ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE HANG LUNG BANK, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN OVER ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY.

+BUT ITS PROBLEMS HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE GREATER AND MORE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE THAN FIRST SEEMED LIKELY. THIS IS, I FEAR, A NORMAL EXPERIENCE IN SUCH MATTERS.

+AS WE LIFT UP STONES, FURTHER BUGS CRAWL OUT,+ SIR JOHN SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. RITA FAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL TO MRS FAN FOR ASKING THE QUESTION, AS IT GAVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT PART OF WHAT HE HAD SAID ON SEPTEMBER 27 WHEN HE INTRODUCED THE HANG LUNG BANK (ACQUISITION) BILL, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+I THEN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT STANDS BEHIND THE BANK'S DEPOSITORS AND THAT THE HANG LUNG BANK UNDER SOUND MANAGEMENT WILL IN DUE COURSE REVERT TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.

+THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THIS POSITION,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE THE STATEMENT AGAIN BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT IN SOME QUARTERS DOUBTS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS.

+I HOPE THAT THIS REAFFIRMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND WILL DISPEL THOSE DOUBTS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION TO THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE HANG LUNG BANK +FOR THEIR RECENT TOILS+.

HE WAS PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO THE ABLE MEMBERS OF THE NEW BOARD, SIR JOHN SAID.

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VIETNAMESE REFUGEES 'STILL A PROBLEM'

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY PASSED TWO RESOLUTIONS TO EXTEND BY A FURTHER YEAR VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE POWERS TO DEAL WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

MOVING THE MOTIONS UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE AND THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL FACED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND OF TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ALTHOUGH THE ARRIVAL RATES OF BOTH CATEGORIES HAD FALLEN IN 1983.

/AMONG THE

AMONG THE LEGISLATIVE POWERS EXTENDED BY TODAY'S RESOLUTIONS TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1984 ARE:

- * VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, HAVING BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND IN HONG KONG, ARE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL FROM HONG KONG AT ANY TIME AND NOT JUST WITHIN TWO MONTHS AS APPLIES TO OTHERS REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND.
- * THE PROVISION OF PENALTIES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES FOR PERSONS WHO AID ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO GET INTO HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE FORFEITURE OF THE PROPERTY INVOLVED.
- * THE PROVISION FOR THE FORFEITURE OF A VESSEL IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVING THE CARRIAGE OF EXCESS PASSENGERS.

MR JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT THAT THE PROSPECTS OF MASTERING THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WERE REASONABLY GOOD, WITH THE ISSUE OF THE NEW IDENTITY CARDS GOING SO WELL.

BUT IN THE CASE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES THE FUTURE REMAINED BLEAK, HE SAID.

+WE HAVE OVER 600 MORE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES THAN WE HAD AT THE START OF 1983, AND RESETTLEMENT PROSPECTS FOR NEWCOMERS ARE NOW VERY POOR.

+WHILE ARRIVALS SO FAR THIS YEAR ARE DOWN BY OVER 50 PER CENT ON ARRIVALS DURING THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, DEPARTURES FOR RESETTLEMENT ARE DOWN BY TWO THIRDS.

+EVEN AT THE CURRENT RATE OF RESETTLEMENT, AND WITH NO FURTHER ARRIVALS HERE, IT WOULD TAKE FOUR YEARS TO RESETTLE THOSE ALREADY IN OUR OPEN AND CLOSED CENTRES, OVER 3 000 OF WHOM HAVE ALREADY BEEN HERE FOR OVER THREE YEARS,+ HE SAID.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT FIRM POLICY TOWARDS ANY FURTHER UNINVITED ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM AND TO MAINTAIN ALL THE LEGISLATIVE POWERS NECESSARY TO ENFORCE IT, HE ADDED.

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PLAN FOR NEW CITY POLYTECHNIC HAILED

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THE PLANNED NEW CITY POLYTECHNIC WILL ASSURE HONG KONG INDUSTRIES OF AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF TECHNICALLY TRAINED AND EDUCATED MANPOWER, DR THE HON HARRY FANG SAID IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG BILL 1983 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE FOR OUR YOUNG PERSONS WISHING TO JOIN THE INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL SECTOR WITH AN INCREASED OPPORTUNITY IN GETTING THE NECESSARY PREPARATION,+ HE ADDED.

DR FANG ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT IMPLICATION OF ALL, IN UNDERTAKING THE HUGE EDUCATION PROJECT, WAS THE SHOW OF CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE.

/LTP SHOWS

+IT SHOWS THAT WE ARE NOT LOOKING AHEAD FOR JUST 10 OR 20 YEARS. WE ARE INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE AND WE ARE PLANNING ON MUCH LONGER TERMS,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE LEGCO SOCIAL SERVICES GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO STUDIED THE BILL SUPPORTED ALL ITS PROVISIONS.

DR FANG IS THE CONVENER OF THE GROUP WHICH COMPRISES THE REV HON PATRICK MCGOVERN, HON WONG LAM, DR HON HO KAM-FAI, HON ANDREW SO, HON F.K. HU, HON K.C. CHAN, HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, HON MRS SELINA CHOW, DR HON HENRIETTA IP, HON CHAN YING-LUN, HON MRS RITA FAN, HON MRS PAULINE NG AND HON YEUNG PO-KWAN.

DR FANG MENTIONED THAT AT FIRST UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED WITH CLAUSE 12 WHICH ALLOWS THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC TO BE DEALT WITH BY CIRCULATION TO ITS MEMBERS.

+AT FIRST WE FELT THAT THIS PROVISION MIGHT RESULT IN CERTAIN CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS BY-PASSING DISCUSSIONS AT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

+WE ARE SATISFIED AFTER BEING INFORMED BY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE PROVISION IS INTENDED TO ENABLE SIMPLE MATTERS TO BE TRANSACTED EFFICIENTLY, AND THAT ANY SUBJECT PROPOSED TO BE DEALT WITH BY CIRCULATION WILL BE BROUGHT BACK FOR DISCUSSION AT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS IF ANY OF ITS MEMBERS SO SUGGESTS,+ DR FANG ADDED.

TURNING TO CLAUSE 7(F) WHICH EMPOWERS THE CITY POLYTECHNIC TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS, DR FANG SAID, +WE HOPE THIS PROVISION WILL NOT MERELY BE CONTINGENT, AND SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS CAN BE GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF STUDENTS' HOSTELS, SAY FOR 20-30 PER CENT OF THE STUDENT POPULATION.

+APART FROM FACILITATING SOCIAL INTERACTION AMONG STUDENTS, SUCH HOSTELS WILL ALSO PROVIDE THOSE WHO CAME FROM POOR FAMILIES AND REMOTE DISTRICTS WITH A BETTER PLACE FOR STUDY.+

THE HON S.L. CHEN AND DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.

MR CHEN POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF AN INCREASING DEMAND BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FOR A POLYTECHNIC TYPE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION, AND AN INCREASING DEMAND ALSO BY LOCAL COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR POLYTECHNIC-TRAINED GRADUATES.

+IT WAS, I BELIEVE, A TIMELY DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A SECOND SUCH INSTITUTION, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL, THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG WILL BE OFF TO A GOOD START,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY POLYTECHNIC, MR CHEN THANKED THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER FOR HIS TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, SIR S.Y. CHUNG AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

+I CAN PERSONALLY TESTIFY TO THE ACCURACY OF HIS ASSERTION THAT THIS WAS A HARD-WORKING COMMITTEE, LIKE ANY OTHER CHAIRED BY SIR S.Y. CHUNG, BUT IT WAS HARD WORK OF THE MOST REWARDING KIND,+ HE SAID.

+I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT WE HAVE HAD THE FULLEST POSSIBLE CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT FROM ALL LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, FOR WHICH WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHEN ALSO THANKED THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WHICH PROVIDED THE COMMITTEE NOT ONLY WITH SECRETARIAL AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, BUT ALSO WITH ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND DATA COMPUTERISED OVER THE PAST DECADE WHICH ENABLED THE COMMITTEE TO PREDICT FUTURE TRENDS AND ESTIMATE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS WITH SPEED, ACCURACY AND CONFIDENCE.

+WHILST THERE IS NO INTENTION THAT THE HONG KONG AND CITY POLYTECHNICS SHOULD BE IDENTICAL TWINS, OR THAT THE FIRST SHOULD IN ANY SENSE BE REGARDED AS THE PARENT OF THE SECOND, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT IN THE BIRTH OF THIS NEW POLYTECHNIC, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC HAS PLAYED A COMPETENT AND SIGNIFICANT ROLE,+ HE SAID.

DR HO SAID, +THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION WILL NOT ONLY LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE SUPPLY OF A TECHNOLOGICALLY COMPETENT MANPOWER TO MEET THE NEED OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION, BUT WILL ALSO REFLECT THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE AND VIGOROUS INVESTMENT IN THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE.+

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT A PROPER INDUSTRIAL INFRA-STRUCTURE AND A SOUND ECONOMY REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AT ALL LEVELS.

HE SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL MANPOWER AND AVOID A TOP-HEAVY STRATEGY IN TRAINING.

+THE DANGERS OF AN EXCESSIVE SUPPLY OF TECHNOLOGISTS TRAINED AT UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS ARE OBVIOUS.

+A BALANCED MIX OF GENERALS AND RANK AND FILE, SO TO SPEAK, IS A MORE VIABLE PROPOSITION,+ HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT HAD DONE EXCELLENT JOBS IN CO-ORDINATING, PROMOTING AND ADMINISTERING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AT THE TECHNICIAN AND CRAFTSMAN LEVELS, DR HO SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM GIVEN THE SAME STRONG SUPPORT, IF NOT MORE, BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THANKING DR FANG, MR CHEN AND DR HO FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON SAID HE NOTED DR FANG'S REMARKS ABOUT HOSTELS.

+HOWEVER THE SITING OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC WAS VERY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED TO GIVE MAXIMUM ACCESSIBILITY TO BOTH FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STUDENTS,+ HE ADDED.

/HE AGREED

HE AGREED WITH DR HO THAT A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL MANPOWER WAS IMPORTANT AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CERTAINLY AIM TO ACHIEVE THIS IN PLANNING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

IT HAD GIVEN HIM PARTICULARLY PERSONAL PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE BILL AFTER HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE EARLY STAGES OF THE PROJECT, HE SAID.

+AND I CAN READILY CONFIRM MR S.L. CHEN'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE VERY GREAT CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE STAFF OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

+SIR, TO-DAY A NEW EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION WILL HAVE BEEN FORMALLY LAUNCHED, MAY EVERY SUCCESS ATTEND 'ALL THOSE WHO SAIL IN HER',+ HE CONCLUDED.

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROVIDES BASIC NEEDS

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THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAID IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE IS CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF APPROVED RATES AND HAS REGARD TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE RECIPIENT AND HIS FAMILY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS INTENDED TO BRING A FAMILY'S INCOME TO A LEVEL WHERE BASIC NEEDS, SUCH AS FOOD AND CLOTHING, CAN BE MET, HE EXPLAINED.

THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE THEREFORE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE SIZE OF THE FAMILY AND THE FAMILY'S INCOME, HE ADDED.

THE COST OF ACCOMMODATION IS COVERED SEPARATELY BY A RENTAL ALLOWANCE, AND OTHER ALLOWANCES ARE PAID FOR SPECIAL EXPENSES.

SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENTS ARE ALSO MADE FOR LONG TERM AND OLD AGE RECIPIENTS.

MR CHING PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG.

+THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAID IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE WILL THUS VARY FROM TIME TO TIME, DEPENDING UPON THE FAMILY'S CIRCUMSTANCES AS THEY CHANGE.

+REVIEWS OF THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAID ARE CONDUCTED IN ALL CASES, AND THE FREQUENCY OF THESE REVIEWS DEPENDS ON THE NATURE OF THE CASE.

+FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE BREADWINNER HAS LOW EARNINGS OR IS UNEMPLOYED, THE CASE MAY BE REVIEWED MONTHLY- IN CERTAIN FAMILY CASES, THE REVIEW MAY BE CONDUCTED EVERY THREE TO FOUR MONTHS- AND IN CASES WHERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES TEND TO BE MORE STABLE, SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING ELDERLY PERSONS, A REVIEW MAY BE CONDUCTED EVERY TWO YEARS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

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AS A RESULT OF THESE REVIEWS, THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS ADJUSTED, UPWARDS OR DOWNWARDS, AS NECESSARY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID.

IN THIS WAY, THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE IS DETERMINED SO THAT THE TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED IS NEITHER TOO LITTLE NOR TOO MUCH, HE ADDED.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ADEQUACY OF THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN IS LARGELY DEPENDENT UPON THE APPROVED RATES WHICH ARE KEPT UP-TO-DATE BY REFERENCE TO AN INDEX OF PRICES.

+THE LAST UP-DATING WAS IN JUNE 1982- PROPOSALS FOR A FURTHER UP-DATING ARE CURRENTLY BEING EXAMINED AND SHOULD SHORTLY BE PUT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

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OVER 900 000 ELECTORS REGISTERED
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THE FINAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS NOW CONTAINS THE NAMES OF 904 916 REGISTERED VOTERS ALL OF WHOM ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON DENIS BRAY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

OF THIS TOTAL, 708 119 ARE RESIDENT IN THE URBAN AREAS AND ARE THEREFORE ALSO REGISTERED VOTERS FOR URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS, MR BRAY SAID, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON ANDREW SO.

MR BRAY GAVE THE FOLLOWING TURNOUT RATES IN PERCENTAGE TERMS OF REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN 1982 AND 1983:

THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN MARCH 1982	-	51.3 %
THE URBAN AREAS DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER 1982	-	35.5 %
THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MARCH 1983	-	22.4 %

THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO LAUNCH A MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME IN 1984/85 WITH FULL SCALE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN ORDER TO ENHANCE PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS, HE SAID.

VIGOROUS PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES ARE BEING PLANNED TO PROMOTE THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS IN 1984 AND TO ENCOURAGE REGISTERED ELECTORS TO VOTE IN THE NEXT GENERAL DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN MARCH 1985, HE ADDED.

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RED TIDES NO CAUSE FOR ALARM : CHING
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MOST RED TIDES IN HONG KONG CONTAIN NO TOXIC MATTER AT ALL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+AND WITH ONE RECENT EXCEPTION, EVEN WHERE SUCH MATTER HAS BEEN FOUND IT HAS BEEN IN SUCH MINUTE QUANTITIES AS TO GIVE NO CAUSE FOR ALARM,+ MR CHING SAID, REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN LUNG.

MR CHING EXPLAINED THAT WHEN FISH DIE AS A RESULT OF SUCH RED TIDES, THEY NORMALLY DIE FROM SUFFOCATION IN THE SAME MANNER AS IF PULLED FROM THE SEA IN A FISHERMAN'S NET.

IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, IN THE PRESENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE, TO PREVENT RED TIDES, WHICH ARE A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM AND, TO AN EXTENT, A NATURAL PHENOMENON, HE SAID.

MR CHING SAID ALSO THAT THERE ARE STANDING ARRANGEMENTS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT FISH RENDERED UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AS A RESULT OF RED TIDES DO NOT REACH THE MARKETS.

STAFF OF DEPARTMENTS WHOSE WORK HABITUALLY TAKES THEM INTO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT REPORT INSTANCES OF RED TIDE TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, WHICH ACTS AS THE FOCAL-POINT FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION.

THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS ALSO IMMEDIATELY ALERTED WHEN RED TIDES ARE SIGHTED.

+SHOULD RED TIDE AFFECT ANY AREA OF FISH-FARMING, THE FARMER WOULD BE WARNED NOT TO SELL HIS FISH FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION PENDING TESTS. IF THE TESTS SHOWED THAT THE FISH WERE NOT FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, THEY WOULD BE DESTROYED,+ MR CHING SAID.

HE SAID ALSO THAT SHELLFISH NEED TO BE WATCHED MORE CAREFULLY BECAUSE OF THEIR ABILITY TO ABSORB AND ACCUMULATE A HIGHER LEVEL OF TOXIN AND OTHER POLLUTANTS, AND ARE THEREFORE REGULARLY TESTED AS A SAFETY PRECAUTION.

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WORDS REAFFIRMED ON PROPOSED EXHIBITION CENTRE
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO TODAY REAFFIRMED THE WORDS HE USED IN HIS REPLY TO THE PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSED EXHIBITION CENTRE PROJECT.

MR HO MADE THE REAFFIRMATION IN RESPONSE TO A FOLLOW-UP QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN IN THE COUNCIL.

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORDS HE USED WERE +A REVIEW INDICATES THAT THIS COUNCIL'S RE-KINDLED INTEREST IN THE EXHIBITION CENTRE PROJECT MAY BE DATED FROM MR ALEX WU'S SPEECH OF OCTOBER 26, 1977.....+

+THIS IS MATERIALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT MISS DUNN ATTRIBUTED TO ME THAT THIS COUNCIL'S INTEREST IN THE EXHIBITION CENTRE DATED FROM 1977,+ HE SAID.

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PLAN TO MAKE LIFE TOUGH FOR CRIMINALS
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PROSPECTS FOR HAVING ENTRANCES AND COMMON AREAS OF FUTURE BUILDINGS DESIGNED SO AS TO MAKE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR CRIMINALS WERE ENCOURAGING, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE LONGER TERM CRIME PREVENTION MEASURES TO DEAL WITH MASS ROBBERIES IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS, MR JEAFFRESON SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM FAI.

MR JEAFFRESON RECALLED THAT AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING HE HAD MENTIONED THAT THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WOULD BE EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVISING A CODE OF PRACTICE TO ENCOURAGE THIS POINT TO BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DESIGN OF NEW BUILDINGS.

+THE COMMITTEE HAS SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY. THE RESULTS SO FAR ARE ENCOURAGING -- AND NOT JUST IN RESPECT OF NEW BUILDINGS,+ HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED THAT THE WORKING GROUP WAS ALSO DEVELOPING FOR THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE SOME IDEAS ON HOW TO HELP THE POLICE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU MAKE OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS MORE CONSCIOUS OF WHAT THEY COULD DO TO MAKE CRIME MORE DIFFICULT.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID ALSO THAT, AS A MORE IMMEDIATE PREVENTIVE MEASURE, AN EDUCATION PROGRAMME WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED FOR BUILDING MANAGERS AND TENANTS IN THE BASIC MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT CRIME ON THEIR PROPERTY.

HE SAID THAT TWO RECENT CASES OF ROBBERY IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS HAD SO FAR BEEN SUCCESSFULLY INVESTIGATED BY POLICE.

THESE WERE AMONG THE 31 CASES SINCE SEPTEMBER WHERE +TWO OR MORE ROBBERS HAVE ROBBED GROUPS OF PEOPLE ON THE LOWER FLOORS OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS,+ HE SAID.

/THE SUCCESSFUL

THE SUCCESSFUL DETECTION OF SUCH CRIMES WAS +EXTREMELY DIFFICULT+, AS THE ROBBERS LEAVE NO EVIDENCE, HE SAID.

+THEY INVARIABLY TIE UP THEIR VICTIMS SO THAT THEY CAN BE WELL AWAY FROM THE SCENE BY THE TIME THE VICTIMS HAVE FREED THEMSELVES AND RAISED THE ALARM.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE CASES INVOLVED A TOTAL OF 233 VICTIMS. POLICE WERE TAKING IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO STOP THESE ROBBERIES BY INCREASING PATROLLING WITHIN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS IN THE AREAS THE ROBBERS ARE MOST LIKELY TO OPERATE.

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SYSTEM OF HANDLING COURT EXHIBITS SATISFACTORY

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COURT EXHIBITS AND PROSPECTIVE COURT EXHIBITS IN CRIMINAL CASES ARE HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICE ORDERS GOVERNING THE HANDLING AND STORAGE OF ALL PROPERTY HELD IN POLICE CUSTODY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN THE CASE OF CASH AND DRUGS, THERE ARE RULES DICTATING WHERE GIVEN AMOUNTS MAY BE STORED, MR JEAFFRESON SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON K.C. CHAN.

+THE GREATER THE VALUE, THE MORE STORAGE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MORE SENIOR OFFICERS ENDING, AS IT WERE, WITH LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH BEING STORED IN THE TREASURY'S VAULTS AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS IN A SPECIALLY DESIGNED STORE IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS,+ HE SAID.

THE POLICE REVIEW THE PROCEDURES FROM TIME TO TIME, WITH THE LATEST REVIEW RESULTING IN THE INTRODUCTION OF A NUMBER OF MEASURES WITHIN THE LAST 18 MONTHS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE SUPERVISION AND SECURITY OF ALL PROPERTY IN THEIR CARE, HE SAID.

+ON NOVEMBER 5, 1983, THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL REVIEWED THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT FOR 1982/83 ON THE HANDLING OF PROPERTY BY THE POLICE AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT PROCEDURES,+ MR JEAFFRESON REPORTED.

IN ADDITION TO THE REVIEWS, TWO EXPERIMENTAL SCHEMES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO REFLECT THE MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF COMMAND LEVELS AND GENERAL REORGANISATION OF THE POLICE AT REGIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS IN 1982, HE ADDED.

ONE SCHEME DEALS WITH THE SITUATION IN BUSY URBAN POLICE STATIONS AND THE OTHER IS APPLICABLE TO SMALLER STATIONS WITH LESS STAFF.

+DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THESE EXPERIMENTAL SYSTEMS IN ACTION, INCLUDING A CORRUPTION PREVENTION STUDY UNDERTAKEN BY THE ICAC, HAS SHOWN THAT THEY ARE WORKABLE AND EFFECTIVE.

+A STUDY ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT A FULL SCHEME IS NOW IN HAND AND THE NEW SYSTEMS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED NEXT YEAR,+ HE SAID.

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REPORT ON +SPENT CONVICTION+ SCHEME EXPECTED
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THE ADMINISTRATION HOPES TO PUBLISH NEXT YEAR A SHORT REPORT AND A DRAFT BILL ON A POSSIBLE +SPENT CONVICTION+ SCHEME FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

DIFFERENT STATUTORY +SPENT CONVICTION+ SCHEMES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE U.K., CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, MR THOMAS POINTED OUT, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON MARIA TAM ON THE SUBJECT.

THEIR COMMON FEATURE IS THAT A CONVICTED OFFENDER AFTER A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF YEARS IS PERMITTED TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT HIS PREVIOUS CONVICTION IN HIS BUSINESS AND SOCIAL DEALINGS, SUCH AS IN APPLICATIONS FOR JOBS, HIRE PURCHASE, INSURANCE AND THE LIKE, HE EXPLAINED.

+MEMBERS MAY THINK THAT IS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OFFENDERS WHO GO STRAIGHT TO LIVE DOWN THEIR PAST. BUT OBVIOUSLY THE FACT OF A CONVICTION CANNOT BE FORGOTTEN FOR ALL PURPOSES.

+IF AN OFFENDER IS RECONVICTED, IT IS GENERALLY THOUGHT THAT THE JUDGE OUGHT TO BE AWARE OF SPENT CONVICTIONS,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

AND IT IS A FACT OF LIFE THAT FOREIGN COUNTRIES NOT SUBJECT TO HONG KONG LAWS MAY REQUIRE APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS TO BE FILLED IN CORRECTLY AND ACCURATELY, HOWEVER FAR BACK IN THE PAST THE INFORMATION ABOUT CONVICTIONS IS SOUGHT, HE POINTED OUT.

+SO OFFENDERS CANNOT EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM ANY STATUTORY SCHEME,+ MR THOMAS ADDED.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HIS CHAMBERS, TOGETHER WITH THE SECURITY BRANCH, WERE CONTINUING TO EXAMINE THE KIND OF SCHEME THAT MIGHT SUIT HONG KONG.

+THERE IS THE PROBLEM OF THE LINE TO BE DRAWN BETWEEN SERIOUS OFFENCES WHICH CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED AND LESS SERIOUS OFFENCES WHICH CAN PROPERLY BE WIPED OUT.

+THERE IS ALSO BALANCE TO BE STRUCK BETWEEN THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH OFFENCES CAN BE OVERLOOKED IN THE INTERESTS OF REHABILITATION AND THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR WHICH FULL DISCLOSURE IS PARAMOUNT.

+WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE REPORT WHICH THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF 'JUSTICE' HOPE TO PUBLISH NEXT MONTH IN ORDER TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THEIR PURPOSES AS WELL,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS RECOGNISED THIS WAS A TOPIC ON WHICH THE PUBLIC WOULD WISH TO EXPRESS VIEWS.

+THIS KIND OF MEASURE WILL ONLY SUCCEED IF ITS PURPOSES ARE WELL UNDERSTOOD AND THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN FULLY CONSULTED,+ HE SAID.

+GANGES WATER NOT PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT+

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THE WATER QUALITY OF THE STREAM FEEDING THE PUMPHOUSE ON THE RIVER GANGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL NOT CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH AS FAR AS ABSTRACTION FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IS CONCERNED, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN, REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM MR S.L. CHEN, SAID THE RIVER GANGES PUMPING STATION WAS PLANNED FOR THE ABSTRACTION OF FLOOD FLOWS IN THE RIVER GANGES TO AUGMENT OTHER WATER RESOURCES IN HONG KONG.

+A WATER QUALITY SURVEY CARRIED OUT PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME SHOWED THAT THE QUALITY OF WATER WAS SUITABLE FOR ABSTRACTION DURING PERIODS OF FLOOD FLOWS,+ MR CHAN TOLD THE COUNCIL.

+WHEN THE FIRST HEAVY SUMMER RAINSTORM OCCURS,+ HE ADDED, +THE WATER IN THE RIVER GANGES IS ALLOWED TO RUN DOWNSTREAM TO EFFECT FLUSHING, AND FLOOD PUMPING ONLY COMMENCES WHEN WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE,+ HE SAID.

THE WATER WAS PUMPED TO PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR AND WAS DILUTED IN THIS LARGE BODY OF WATER PRIOR TO TREATMENT AT THE TREATMENT WORKS. THE FINAL WATER FROM THE TREATMENT WORKS WAS SUBJECT TO STRINGENT QUALITY CONTROL BEFORE IT WAS SUPPLIED TO CONSUMERS.

+THE QUALITY OF SUPPLY CONFORMS IN ALL RESPECTS, BOTH CHEMICALLY AND BACTERIOLOGICALLY, TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION,+ MR CHAN STATED.

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CROSS-BETTING IS AN ENTERTAINMENT - SIR JOHN

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DOUBTS ON WHETHER A CROSS-BETTING MEETING WAS A RACE MEETING WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF ENTERTAINMENT UNDER THE ENTERTAINMENTS TAX ORDINANCE WERE CONFIRMED ON LEGAL ADVICE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE ENTERTAINMENTS TAX (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL 1983, SIR JOHN SAID ADMISSION TO CROSS BETTINGS AND RACE MEETINGS SHOULD NOT BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY AND THE AMENDMENT WAS AIMED AT REMOVING ANY DOUBT.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT RACING SEASON, ENTERTAINMENT TAX IS NOT BEING COLLECTED ON PAYMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO CROSS-BETTING MEETINGS PENDING THE ENACTMENT OF THE AMENDMENT BILL.

/+THIS BILL

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+THIS BILL SEEKS FIRSTLY TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT A CROSS-BETTING MEETING IS AN ENTERTAINMENT, AND THUS REQUIRES TO BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS A RACE MEETING FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, AND SECONDLY TO BACK-DATE THIS PROVISION TO SEPTEMBER 17, 1983,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO VALIDATE THE COLLECTION OF TAX AT CROSS-BETTING MEETINGS PRIOR TO THAT DATE, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED UNTIL DECEMBER 7.

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COMPUTERS SEEN AS BEST FOR IMMIGRATION USE
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A COMPUTER BASED SYSTEM SEEMS TO BE THE BEST METHOD FOR CHECKING PROCEDURES AT ALL IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY.

THIS WAS THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S DATA PROCESSING AGENCY, WHICH HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THE WORK OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, MR JEAFFRESON SAID, REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON BILL BROWN, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE AGENCY STUDIED THE METHODS IN THE CONTEXT OF ESTIMATES OF THE GROWTH IN PASSENGERS TO BE PROCESSED OVER THE COMING YEARS.

IT WAS NOW MOVING INTO A SECOND PART OF THE STUDY TO DETERMINE A SUITABLE COMPUTER CONFIGURATION AND ITS COST, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

AS 500 TERMINALS AND 40 TERMINAL PRINTERS IN 15 LOCATIONS WILL BE INVOLVED, THIS TASK WILL NOT BE PARTICULARLY EASY, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

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LEGISLATION TO CONTROL OPTICAL PROFESSION
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LEGISLATION TO CONTROL THE OPTICAL PROFESSION COMPRISES, INITIALLY, SOME SIMPLE AMENDMENTS TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, NEW REGULATIONS TO GOVERN THE REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE OF PERSONS IN THE PROFESSION.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO.

+IT IS INTENDED THAT THE BILL TO AMEND THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE, WHICH WILL ALSO CONTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS, WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION,+ MR CHING SAID.

/IT WOULD

IT WOULD THEN BE POSSIBLE FOR THE NECESSARY REGULATIONS TO BE MADE, HE ADDED.

SOME DIFFICULT POLICY ISSUES WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE LEGISLATION COULD EFFECTIVELY BE IMPLEMENTED, HE EXPLAINED.

CHIEF AMONG THESE WAS THE QUESTION OF THE DESIRED STANDARDS THAT OPTOMETRISTS SHOULD REACH BEFORE THEY BECAME ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION.

THESE ISSUES WOULD NORMALLY BE A MATTER FOR THE STATUTORY BOARD WHICH WOULD BE ESTABLISHED, UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COUNCIL, IN RESPECT OF THE OPTICAL PROFESSION, HE SAID.

THIS BOARD COULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE ESTABLISHED UNTIL THE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WERE MADE, HE ADDED.

+CONSIDERATION IS THEREFORE BEING GIVEN TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH EXPERT ADVICE PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATUTORY BOARD.

+IT IS HOPED THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO APPOINT THIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHORTLY,+ MR CHING SAID.

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CLINICS WITHOUT MEDICAL PRACTITIONER
STILL PERFORM USEFUL SERVICE

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THE EXISTING 282 CLINICS EXEMPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER WILL BE GIVEN THE SAME EXEMPTION FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS FROM JANUARY 1, 1984.

IN MOVING A RESOLUTION GRANTING THIS EXEMPTION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THESE CLINICS STILL PROVIDE A USEFUL SERVICE AT A REASONABLE COST.

+THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE SUPERVISED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THEIR STANDARDS ARE STILL SATISFACTORY, AND THEIR CLOSURE WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST,+ MR CHING SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MEDICAL CLINICS ORDINANCE, ENACTED IN 1963 TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CLINICS OF DOUBTFUL STANDARDS, REQUIRES THAT A CLINIC MUST HAVE A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF THE CLINIC AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE THERE.

IT WAS NOT, HOWEVER, THE INTENTION TO BRING TO AN ABRUPT CLOSE ALL CLINICS WHICH DID NOT MEET THIS REQUIREMENT, MANY OF WHICH WERE RUN BY CHARITABLE OR NON-PROFIT MAKING BODIES AND WERE PERFORMING A USEFUL FUNCTION.

/THE REGISTRAR

THE REGISTRAR OF CLINICS WAS THEREFORE GIVEN POWERS TO EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENT ANY CLINIC WHICH WAS IN EXISTENCE BEFORE 1963, AND WHICH COULD SATISFY HIM OF CERTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDS, MR CHING SAID.

THESE POWERS WERE LIMITED TO A SPECIFIED PERIOD, BUT PROVISION WAS MADE IN THE ORDINANCE FOR THE PERIOD TO BE EXTENDED BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE EXPLAINED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PERIOD HAD BEEN EXTENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, WITH THE LAST THREE-YEAR EXTENSION MADE IN JANUARY 1981.

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TELECOMMUNICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS HAS MADE IT NECESSARY TO REVISE THE EXISTING LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT ITS PROVISIONS ADEQUATELY COVER THE USE OF ALL EXISTING AND LIKELY NEW FORMS OF RADIOCOMMUNICATION, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THESE FORMS INCLUDE THE MARITIME SATELLITE SERVICE AND THE PROSPECTIVE INTRODUCTION OF A PUBLIC MARITIME MOBILE RADIO TELEPHONE SERVICE.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL DOES NOT INTRODUCE ANY NEW PRINCIPLES BUT PROVIDES FOR A NUMBER OF MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

+THE FIRST OF THE PROPOSED SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENTS (CLAUSE 3), CONCERNING THE USE OF RADIOCOMMUNICATION APPARATUS ON VESSELS IN HONG KONG WATERS, IS DESIGNED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF PRESENT DAY CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID CLAUSE 4 OF THE BILL DEALS WITH THE USE OF RADIOCOMMUNICATION APPARATUS ON BOARD A VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT AND PROVIDES THAT THIS USE MUST NOT CAUSE INTERFERENCE WITH OTHER TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES EXCEPT WHERE LIFE OR SAFETY IS AT RISK.

UNDER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, CHARGES FOR MESSAGES EXCHANGED WITH VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT WILL BE SPECIFIED IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHER TELECOMMUNICATION CHARGES.

THIS SPECIFICATION WILL BE MADE BY CABLE AND WIRELESS (HONG KONG) LIMITED, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE COMPANY'S LICENCE OF OCTOBER 1, 1981, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO DECEMBER 7.

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KCRC STAFF EMPOWERED TO ARREST PICKPOCKETS

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SINCE THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY BECAME INCORPORATED ON FEBRUARY 1, 1983, THERE HAVE BEEN 229 REPORTED CASES OF PICKPOCKETING ON ITS TRAINS AND RAILWAY PREMISES.

ARRESTS WERE MADE IN 68 OF THESE CASES, 23 OF THEM ON TRAINS AND 45 ON OTHER RAILWAY PROPERTY.

THESE FIGURES WERE GIVEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM.

MANAGEMENT HAD ISSUED CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO KCRC STAFF THAT THEY MUST ASSIST IN MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER ON RAILWAY PROPERTY, MR JEAFFRESON TOLD THE COUNCIL.

+THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 372) EMPOWERS A RAILWAY EMPLOYEE TO ARREST, WITHOUT WARRANT, ANY PERSON HE SUSPECTS OF COMMITTING AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ORDINANCE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

THIS POWER RELATES PRIMARILY TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS MADE UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND CONCERNS SUCH MATTERS AS TRESPASSING ON RAILWAY PROPERTY, NOT PAYING FARES AND HAWKING.

+UNDER THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 221) RAILWAY EMPLOYEES, LIKE ALL OTHER CITIZENS, ALSO HAVE THE POWER OF CITIZEN'S ARREST IN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEY SUSPECT THAT AN OFFENCE, SUCH AS PICKPOCKETING, HAS BEEN COMMITTED,+ HE EXPLAINED.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CORPORATION'S STAFF IS TO RUN THE RAILWAY SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY.

+SOMETIMES THIS OBLIGATION MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER SPENDING THE TIME REQUIRED TO APPREHEND A PERSON WHO APPEARS TO HAVE COMMITTED AN OFFENCE.

+THIS CONFLICT BETWEEN OBLIGATIONS OCCURS PARTICULARLY AT SMALLER STATIONS WHERE FEW STAFF ARE AVAILABLE AND AT BUSY TIMES WHEN INNER SUBURBAN TRAINS MIGHT BE CARRYING ANYTHING UP TO 1 500 PASSENGERS AT THREE-AND-A-HALF-MINUTE INTERVALS,+ MR JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT.

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TDC MAINTAINS HIGH LEVEL OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

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THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IS POISED AND READY TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE IMPROVED TRADING OUTLOOK WHILE REMAINING FLEXIBLE AND ALERT TO SHIFTS AND CHANGES IN DEMAND HERE AND ABROAD, THE HON LYDIA DUNN SAID TODAY.

MISS DUNN, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE TDC, WAS TABLING ITS ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1982-83 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

/+WHILE THE

+WHILE THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC BACKGROUND TO THE TDC'S WORK LAST YEAR WAS CLEARLY UNFAVOURABLE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR POINT TO AN UPTURN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE,+ SHE SAID.

MISS DUNN POINTED OUT THAT THIS HAD BEEN CLEARLY EVIDENT FROM HONG KONG'S TRADE FIGURES IN RECENT MONTHS.

SHE ADDED THAT AMONG HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS, THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY HAD SHOWN SIGNS THAT THE RECOVERY IN DEMAND SHOULD BE SUSTAINED WHILE IN EUROPE, THIS TREND HAD BEEN LESS WELL DEFINED.

BUT SHE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THERE WERE GROUNDS FOR HOPE THAT THE RECOVERY IN EUROPE WOULD BE MORE PRONOUNCED IN 1984.

SHE SAID, +ALTHOUGH THE LOWER VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAS PLACED SOME STRAINS ON OUR FINANCES, GIVEN THAT MOST OF OUR EXPENSES ARE OVERSEAS, WE ARE PLANNING FOR AN EXPANDED, DYNAMIC AND COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES.+

REVIEWING 1982-83, MISS DUNN SAID THAT THE WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC RECESSION HAD AFFECTED THE DEMAND FOR CONSUMER MANUFACTURES IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS BUT THE COUNCIL HAD CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

+THESE INCLUDED ATTENDANCE AT 28 TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS, 10 OUTWARD BUSINESS GROUPS, FOUR HIGH LEVEL ECONOMIC MISSIONS OVERSEAS, 11 RESEARCH PROJECTS AND 12 GENERAL PROMOTIONAL AND PUBLICITY EVENTS, AMONG A TOTAL OF SOME 80 MAJOR PROJECTS DURING THE YEAR,+ SHE SAID.

FOR THE JAPANESE MARKET, THE TDC DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF HIGH PROFILE PROMOTIONS WITH WELL-KNOWN CHAIN STORE GROUPS IN A BID TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES IN PENETRATING THE COMPLEX JAPANESE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

TO TACKLE THE +IMAGE+ PROBLEM CONNECTED WITH HONG KONG PRODUCTS, THE COUNCIL STAGED A MAJOR FASHION GALA OF TOP QUALITY HONG KONG GARMENTS IN TOKYO, DRAWING SOME 3 000 TRADE AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND THE MEDIA.

+I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT WE ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO SEE THE FRUITS OF THESE EFFORTS IN THIS CURRENT YEAR AND IT IS OUR AIM TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS IN THIS MARKET,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT A SIGNIFICANT NEW INITIATIVE DURING THE YEAR HAD BEEN THE FIRST TDC HONG KONG ECONOMIC DELEGATION TO CHINA.

THE DELEGATION VISITED BEIJING, SHANGHAI, GUANGZHOU AND SHENZHEN.

THE VISIT HELPED TO OPEN NEW CHANNELS FOR HONG KONG'S FAST DEVELOPING TRADE WITH CHINA IN VARIOUS PROVINCES AND ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH THE CHINESE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (CCPIT), THE CHINESE COUNTERPART OF THE TDC.

/+THESE CONTACTS

+THESE CONTACTS ARE BEING MAINTAINED AT THE WORKING LEVEL AND WE HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF RECEIVING SEVERAL OFFICIALS AND DELEGATIONS FROM THE CCPIT SINCE THEN,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

+AS A FOLLOW-UP, WE WILL BE HOLDING THE FIRST EVER TRADE FAIR DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO HONG KONG IN GUANGZHOU NEXT JANUARY,+ SHE REPORTED.

TURNING TO PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS IN HONG KONG'S TRADITIONAL MARKETS, MISS DUNN SAID THAT AN IMPORTANT PROMOTION IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR NEXT JANUARY AND THIS WOULD INCLUDE A GALA FASHION PRESENTATION AS WELL AS A MAJOR PRODUCT EXHIBITION.

+THIS IS BEING ARRANGED TO COINCIDE WITH THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION - A BODY REPRESENTING 45 000 TOP RETAIL OUTLETS THROUGHOUT THE USA,+ SHE EXPLAINED.

+IN ADDITION, AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH THE WORLD FAMOUS HARRODS' DEPARTMENT STORE IN LONDON TO MOUNT, IN MARCH NEXT YEAR, A STORE-WIDE PROMOTION OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS,+ SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WOULD BE HARRODS' BIGGEST EVER PROMOTION DEVOTED TO OVERSEAS MERCHANDISE.

MISS DUNN EXPLAINED THAT WHILE STAGING LARGE-SCALE PROMOTIONS WAS NECESSARY AND INDEED VALUABLE IN PROMOTING THE IMAGE OF HONG KONG AS A PRODUCER OF HIGH QUALITY MERCHANDISE, THIS EFFORT ONLY REPRESENTED A SMALL FRACTION OF THE TDC'S WORK.

SHE SAID THAT A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF THE WORK OF THE TDC'S 30 OFFICES AND CORRESPONDENTS AROUND THE WORLD WAS TAKEN UP BY THE PROCESSING OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUAL TRADE ENQUIRIES AND MAINTENANCE OF CLOSE LIAISON WITH OVERSEAS AUTHORITIES CHARGED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AS WELL AS THE PROVISION OF CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT HONG KONG TO THE OVERSEAS MEDIA.

+TO GIVE YOU SOME IDEA OF THE EXTENT OF THIS DAY TO DAY WORK, DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW, THE TDC PROCESSED OVER 120 000 SPECIFIC TRADE ENQUIRIES. IT LOOKED AFTER 130 INCOMING TRADE MISSIONS TO HONG KONG FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD; AND HANDLED OVER FIVE AND A HALF THOUSAND RESEARCH ENQUIRIES FROM THE HONG KONG BUSINESS COMMUNITY THROUGH OUR ECONOMIC INFORMATION UNIT.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE TDC HEAD OFFICE PUBLISHED OVER ONE AND A HALF MILLION COPIES OF TRADE MAGAZINES, BROCHURES AND PAMPHLETS AND DISSEMINATED SEVERAL HUNDRED PRESS ARTICLES ABOUT HONG KONG TO THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA.

+SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE THE STAPLE OF SENSIBLE AND PRAGMATIC TRADE DEVELOPMENT - THE MEANS BY WHICH THE TDC PROVIDES EFFECTIVE AND RELEVANT SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

+INDEED, OVER THE YEARS, THE TDC HAS BECOME A MODEL WHICH MANY OTHER COUNTRIES STRIVE TO EMULATE,+ MISS DUNN ADDED.

BEFORE CONCLUDING HER SPEECH, SHE PAID TRIBUTE TO HER PREDECESSOR, SIR Y.K. KAN, WHO RETIRED FROM THE COUNCIL LAST YEAR.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION MAKES PROGRESS

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THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION ACHIEVED SOME PROGRESS IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR DESPITE ADVERSE INVESTMENT AND REINVESTMENT CLIMATE COMMON TO ALL MAJOR MARKET ECONOMIES, THE HON WONG PO-YAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR WONG, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE CORPORATION, WAS MAKING A STATEMENT ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1983 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THERE ARE NOW 38 COMPANIES AT TAI PO AND ONE AT YUEN LONG. OF THESE, 21 HAVE COMMENCED MANUFACTURING. THESE 39 COMPANIES REPRESENT A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF HK\$1 300 MILLION IN LAND, BUILDING, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY,+ HE SAID.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MR WONG SAID THAT THE STANDARD FACTORY BLOCK ALREADY COMPLETED WOULD SOON BE LEASED TO A LOCAL MANUFACTURER AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD STAGE AT THE ESTATE WAS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE YEAR, FOUR MORE COMPANIES WERE GRANTED SITES - THOMAS DE LA RUE (HONG KONG) LTD, HONG KONG OXYGEN AND ACETYLENE CO LTD, THE WING ON FOODS CO LTD AND BUILDERS FEDERAL (HONG KONG) LTD.

+WITH THE ADDITIONS OF THESE COMPANIES, THE LIST OF PRODUCTS TO BE MANUFACTURED ON THE ESTATE WOULD BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE BANKNOTES AND OTHER TYPES OF SECURITY DOCUMENTS, HIGH PURITY GASES, FOOD PROCESSING AND PACKAGING, AND STEEL AND ALUMINIUM CURTAIN WALLING,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THREE COMPANIES STARTED PRODUCTION AT THE TAI PO ESTATE, NAMELY, DAIDO CONCRETE (HONG KONG) LTD, BBC BROWN BOVERI LTD AND THE WINNER FOOD PRODUCTS LTD.

MR WONG SAID, +THESE THREE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED PROJECTS ARE GOOD ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE CONFIDENCE SHARED BY LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

+JAPANESE, SWISS AND UNITED STATES INTERESTS ARE REPRESENTED IN THESE BUSINESS VENTURES RESPECTIVELY, AND THEY ARE SOLID EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORT THE FACT THAT HONG KONG HAS NOT FAILED TO ATTRACT OVERSEAS INVESTMENT EVEN DURING DIFFICULT TIMES.+

+FURTHERMORE, IN TESTIMONY TO THE FAVOURABLE INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDED BY THE ESTATE, DAIDO CONCRETE HAS APPLIED AND SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN GRANTED A SECOND SITE IN SEPTEMBER 1983 FOR THE EXPANSION OF THEIR OPERATION, AND CARLSBERG BREWERY HK LTD CELEBRATED THE EXPANSION OF THEIR BREWERY AT TAI PO IN OCTOBER 1983 WITH AN ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT OF \$20 MILLION TO INCREASE PRODUCTION BY 50 PER CENT,+ MR WONG SAID.

TURNING TO THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH CONSTRUCTION WORK HAD PROGRESSED MORE SLOWLY THAN PLANNED, THE ESTATE WAS DUE FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1983.

THE FIRST FACTORY ON THE ESTATE, THAT OF MESSRS MODERN METAL AND REFINING LIMITED, HAD RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED AND HAD COMMENCED OPERATIONS, HE SAID.

MR WONG ADDED, +THE COMING ON STREAM OF LARGE AREAS OF LAND AT YUEN LONG HAS CREATED A SHORT-TERM SURPLUS, AND NECESSITATED AN APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT FOR THE LOAN REPAYMENTS TO BE RESCHEDULED.+

FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF THE CORPORATION'S SELECTION AND LEASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, THE BOARD DECIDED TO OFFER SITES AT YUEN LONG ESTATE BY TENDER TO COMPANIES WHICH SATISFY THE DEFINITIVE CRITERIA.

+THIS LEASING OF LAND BY MEANS OF TENDER SUPPLEMENTS THE NORMAL APPLICATION METHOD AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS DIRECT APPROACH WILL ENCOURAGE MORE PROGRESSIVE INDUSTRIALISTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACILITIES OFFERED BY THE ESTATE,+ MR WONG SAID.

MEANWHILE, TO UTILISE THE RELATIVELY LARGE AREAS OF LAND BECOMING AVAILABLE AT YUEN LONG, THE GOVERNMENT HAS, BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE CORPORATION ORDINANCE AND CONDITIONS OF GRANT, AUTHORISED THE CORPORATION TO GRANT SHORT-TERM LEASES OF LAND FOR STORAGE PURPOSES, THUS ENABLING INCOME TO BE DERIVED FROM THE LAND IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE LONG TERM OBJECTIVES.

+IN VIEW OF CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS, THE CORPORATION HAS REVISED ITS PROGRAMME FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD FACTORY BLOCKS BUT IS PROCEEDING WITH ONE BLOCK AT YUEN LONG ESTATE, WHICH IS DUE FOR COMPLETION EARLY IN 1984,+ MR WONG SAID.

TURNING TO LAND PREMIUM, MR WONG SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM HK\$925 TO HK\$800 PER SQUARE METRE FROM JULY 1, 1983 TO REFLECT REALISTICALLY THE CURRENT MARKET RATE FOR LAND AND PROPERTY AND TO HELP STIMULATE INTEREST.

HOWEVER HE STRESSED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE PROCEDURAL MODIFICATIONS IN NO WAY CHANGED THE CORPORATION'S POLICY OF ENSURING THAT THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES MET THE OBJECTIVE OF BROADENING HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE.

MR WONG SAID, +I WOULD LIKE TO ECHO THE CORPORATION CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING OBSERVATION THAT WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE A TURNAROUND IN WORLD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND THAT THE YEAR FROM APRIL 1, 1983 WILL SEE THE SUSTAINED GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, TOWARDS WHICH I AM SURE THE CORPORATION WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION.+

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PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION CONSIDERED

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THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE IS CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION IN HONG KONG, THE HON ALLEN LEE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

TABLING THE CENTRE'S ANNUAL REPORT ENDING MARCH 31, 1983, MR LEE SAID THERE HAD BEEN GOOD RESPONSE TO THE CENTRE'S FACILITIES.

/THESE FACILITIES

THESE FACILITIES INCLUDE A MICROPROCESSOR APPLICATION LABORATORY, A HEAT TREATMENT UNIT, A METALS FINISHING LABORATORY AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SERVICE.

MR LEE SAID THAT THE CENTRE HAD MADE +SATISFACTORY PROGRESS+ DURING FISCAL 1982-83 DESPITE A CONTINUED ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN HONG KONG DUE TO THE GLOBAL RECESSION AND +OTHER ADVERSE FACTORS+.

FEE INCOME DERIVED FROM SERVICES ROSE BY 26 PER CENT OVER 1981-82 AND THE CENTRE'S STAFF ESTABLISHMENT INCREASED BY FOUR PER CENT, HE REPORTED.

+THESE FIGURES DEMONSTRATE THE GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF THE WORK OF HKPC BY INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT, ACCOMPANIED BY A SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNAL EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY,+ HE SAID.

WITH THE CENTRALISATION OF MOST ACTIVITIES WITHIN ITS HEADQUARTERS, THE CENTRE WAS ABLE TO OPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY AS A +UNITED AND COHESIVE ENTITY DEDICATED TO PROVIDING AN INTEGRATED RANGE OF SERVICES TO INDUSTRY,+ MR LEE SAID.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE CENTRE WOULD BE ABLE TO FURTHER EXPAND ITS ROLE IN THE IMPROVEMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION OF INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

BESIDES ASSISTING EXISTING INDUSTRIES, THE CENTRE UNDERTAKES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH CREATE A GREATER IMPACT ON THE INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY.

DURING THE YEAR, THE CENTRE COMPLETED A MAJOR TECHNO-ECONOMIC STUDY ON THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, MR LEE SAID.

OTHER PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE CENTRE INCLUDE A TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER STUDY AND A STUDY ON THE DESIGN OF MULTI-STOREY FACTORY BUILDINGS.

MR LEE SAID THAT THE CENTRE WAS IN A POSITION TO UNDERTAKE WORK CAPABLE OF GENERATING MULTIPLIER EFFECTS.

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FIVE BILLS PASSED
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FIVE BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

THEY ARE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1983, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1983 AND THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG BILL 1983.

TWO OTHER BILLS - THE ENTERTAINMENTS TAX (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL 1983 AND THE TELECOMMUNICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WERE READ A SECOND TIME. DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED TILL THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 7.

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WORK BEING DONE TO CLEAR KAI TAK SMELLS

WORK WAS BEING CARRIED OUT IN STAGES TO COMBAT THE POLLUTED STATE OF KAI TAK NULLAH, WHICH IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF SMELLS IN THE AREA, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON T.S. LO, MR CHING EXPLAINED THAT THE FIRST PHASE OF WORK WAS BEGUN LAST YEAR TO PROVIDE FOR THE UP-RATING OF EXISTING PUMPING FACILITIES AND THE INSTALLATION OF NEW PUMPING STATIONS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TO INTERCEPT THE POLLUTED DRY WEATHER FLOW IN THE UPPER STRETCHES OF KAI TAK NULLAH AND REDIRECT IT AWAY FROM THE NULLAH INTO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

HE SAID THAT THE SECOND PHASE, WHICH IS BEING RECOMMENDED FOR UPGRADING TO CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AT THE FORTHCOMING ANNUAL REVIEW, PROVIDES FOR THE DREDGING OF THE ACCUMULATED SEDIMENT IN THE LOWER PART OF THE NULLAH AND IN THE CHANNEL RUNNING ALONGSIDE THE AIRPORT. IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR DIRECT OXYGEN INJECTION INTO THE WATER IN THE LOWER PART OF THE NULLAH TO ASSIST IN IMPROVING ITS QUALITY.

+BOTH THESE PHASES, AT A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF SOME \$50 MILLION, ARE EXPECTED TO BE LARGELY COMPLETED BY MID-1985,+ HE SAID.

MR CHING FURTHER SAID THAT SHOULD A SIGNIFICANT POLLUTION PROBLEM REMAIN AFTER COMPLETION OF THE TWO PHASES, PROPOSALS WILL BE PUT FORWARD FOR A THIRD PHASE COMPRISING THE DREDGING OF THE TYPHOON SHELTER AT THE SEAWARD END OF THE NULLAH, AND THE MECHANICAL AERATION OF THE WATER IN THE WHOLE OF THE CHANNEL ADJACENT TO THE AIRPORT.

THE NEED FOR THIS PHASE WILL BE JUDGED IN THE LIGHT OF RESULTS OF THE FIRST TWO PHASES, HE CONCLUDED.

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LIONS CLUBS THANKED FOR ANTI-DRUG EFFORT

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GORDON MORTIMER, PRAISED THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, DISTRICT 303 MEMBERS LAST NIGHT (TUESDAY) FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER HELD BY THE CLUBS IN HONOUR OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, DR JAMES FOWLER, MR MORTIMER POINTED OUT THAT DRUG ABUSE IS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD TODAY AND THAT THE INCREASING INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN DRUGS WAS MOST DISTURBING.

+IN THE FACE OF THESE DANGERS, THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS HAS DECLARED A WORLDWIDE LIONS WAR ON DRUGS,+ HE SAID.

MR MORTIMER RECEIVED, ON BEHALF OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, A CHEQUE FOR \$30 000 DONATED BY THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, DISTRICT 303 TO HELP FINANCE THE ANTI-NARCOTICS YOUTH CAMP IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR, ORGANISED BY THE CIVIL AID SERVICES CADET CORPS.

NEW TYPHOON WARNING SIGNAL PROPOSED

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EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO HAVE AN EXTRA TYPHOON WARNING SIGNAL - THE NO. 5 SIGNAL - AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PROPOSED NEW SIGNAL, RAISED BY AN UNOFFICIAL BOARD MEMBER, WOULD SERVE AS AN INDICATION OF +NO SCHOOL+ FOR STUDENTS.

THIS WOULD SAVE THE STUDENTS' TROUBLE IN REVERTING HOME ON THEIR WAY TO SCHOOL AND FACING CHAOTIC TRAFFIC CONDITIONS WHEN THE WEATHER SITUATION DETERIORATES.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES AND THE BOARD'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AS AT NOVEMBER 15.

OTHER TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED WILL INCLUDE AN INFORMATION GUIDE TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT AND BOARD MEMBERS' OVERSEAS STUDY TRIP IN 1984.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S CONFERENCE ROOM AT 880-886 KING'S ROAD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

VARIETY SHOW

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THIS YEAR'S FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL START OFF WITH A VARIETY SHOW TO BE HELD AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 8 PM.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR HAROLD KWOK, WILL JOINTLY OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1983

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NEW TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA FOR FANLING

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SITE FORMATION, ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORK IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IN FANLING SOUTH WILL START SOON WITH THE AWARD OF A \$30 MILLION CONTRACT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO MCCONNELL DOWELL CONSTRUCTORS LTD.

THIS IS THE FIRST CONTRACT AWARDED IN CONNECTION WITH FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF FANLING SOUTH AND CALLS FOR FORMATION OF 12 HECTARES OF LAND, AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION OF 1.5 KILOMETRES OF DISTRIBUTOR ROADS WITH ASSOCIATED FOOTPATHS AND CYCLETRACKS.

THE WHOLE AREA OF FANLING SOUTH WILL BE DEVELOPED TO ACCOMMODATE 60 000 PEOPLE AND PROVIDE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING, COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRIAL AREAS, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATIONAL SPACE.

THE PRESENT CONTRACT, WHICH WILL TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, WAS SIGNED BY MR M.K. PAU, DEPUTY PROJECT MANAGER OF TAI PO/FANLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, AND MR W.J. NYE, GENERAL MANAGER OF MCCONNELL DOWELL CONSTRUCTORS LTD.

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METHADONE CLINIC TO MOVE

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THE CHAI WAN METHADONE EVENING CLINIC, WILL MOVE FROM THE CHAI WAN HEALTH CENTRE TO THE SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 27).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT THE EXISTING CLINIC WILL BE USED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF X-RAY FACILITIES URGENTLY NEEDED BY THE CHAI WAN ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CENTRE.

THE NEW METHADONE CLINIC, SITUATED AT ROOM 6, 2ND FLOOR, SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC, WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 6 PM TO 10 PM, INCLUDING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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