



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

NO DECISION YET ON 'CONFINED' CHILD'S FUTURE	1
BOAT OWNERS MUST BEAR SHARE OF COSTS	2
SHIPPING FEES BILL COMES IN TIMELY	3
CONTROL ON MANUFACTURE, SALE OF MINERAL WATER WELCOMED ...	4
CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS RAISED BY 3 PER CENT	6
WAGE CEILING RAISED TO \$10 500	7
NUMBER OF SQUATTER FIRE VICTIMS DECLINING	7
COMMUNITY OPINION SOUGHT ON BETTING CENTRES	9
NO PLANS TO RAISE SEVERANCE PAY LIMITS	10
HK RESIDENTS ENTITLED TO CONSULAR PROTECTION	11
SATISFACTORY MONITORING OF LEAD IN CERAMICS	12
DTC DE-REGISTRATION: NOT MANY DEPOSITORS SUFFERED	12
LOW SUCCESS RATE IN FILLING VACANCIES FOR INSPECTORS	13
ELDERLY FESTIVAL DESERVES, RECEIVES SUPPORT	14
SEATING CAPACITY IN PRIVATE CARS EXPLAINED	14
TWO BILLS PASSED	15
JOBLESS RATE REMAINS STABLE	16
COMMITTEE ON CIVIC EDUCATION SET UP	18
GREEN MINIBUS FARE REVISION APPROVED	19

/BRIEFING ON

BRIEFING ON TOKYO SUMMIT	20
RESULTS OF LATEST CIGARETTE SURVEY RELEASED	20
\$5 MILLION DONATION TOWARDS HOSPITAL EXTENSION	21
SOCIAL WORKERS PLAY USEFUL PENAL ROLE	22
AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS ON SATURDAY	23
TALKS HELD ON U.S. EA CALL	24
JUNE DATE FOR HONG KONG-U.S. TEXTILE TALKS	24
SHA TIN PARKING SITE TO LET	24
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS MTR WESTERN EXTENSION	25
DB MEMBERS TO VISIT MEDICAL CENTRE	25
FORUM FOR MONG KOK DB BY-ELECTION	26
NO ENTRY TO PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES	26
SHEUNG SHUI PROHIBITED ZONE	27

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 1 -

NO DECISION YET ON 'CONFINED' CHILD'S FUTURE

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE INTENDS TO APPLY FOR A CARE AND PROTECTION ORDER TO REGULARISE THE POSITION UNTIL DECISIONS COULD BE TAKEN ON THE FUTURE OF A 6-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO HER HOME SINCE BIRTH, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE VARIOUS ASSESSMENTS, THE AIM WAS TO REUNITE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER IF THIS IS POSSIBLE, BUT +WHATEVER IS THE DECISION IT WILL BE TAKEN WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD IN MIND,+ SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR CHAMBERS SAID IT WAS NOT TRUE TO SAY, AS HAD BEEN WIDELY REPORTED, THAT THE CHILD HAD NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE HER HOME SINCE BIRTH.

GIVING A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE CASE, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S KWAI CHUNG FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE CAME TO KNOW OF THE CASE LAST NOVEMBER THROUGH A TELEPHONE REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT HOT-LINE THAT IT APPEARED THAT THE GIRL WAS NOT BEING PROPERLY CARED FOR BY HER MOTHER.

HE SAID THE CENTRE'S SOCIAL WORKER VISITED THE FLAT ON FIVE OCCASIONS BETWEEN NOVEMBER AND MAY BUT WAS UNABLE TO GAIN ACCESS.

+AS FAR AS COULD BEEN SEEN THE FLAT APPEARED TO BE CLEAN AND TIDY AND THERE WAS NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THE CHILD WAS BEING ABUSED,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT ACCORDING TO NEIGHBOURS, THE CHILD WAS TAKEN OUT BY HER MOTHER A FEW TIMES.

+SHE WAS SEEN TO SPEAK GENTLY TO THE GIRL AND THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO SIGN OF VIOLENCE,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHAMBERS SAID AS THE CASE WAS RECEIVING WIDE PUBLICITY AND THE FLAT WAS VIRTUALLY UNDER SIEGE BY THE PRESS, THE DEPARTMENT WAS AFRAID THAT THIS MIGHT UPSET THE MOTHER AND RESULT IN UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES; THEY THEREFORE ENLISTED THE AID OF THE POLICE TO BREAK INTO THE FLAT ON MAY 8 AND TO REMOVE THE CHILD UNDER THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THE GIRL HAD ADAPTED SATISFACTORILY TO HER NEW ENVIRONMENT AT CHUK YUEN CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE WHILE THE MOTHER WAS STILL UNDER OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT IN THE KWAI CHUNG HOSPITAL.

HE ADDED THAT A VISITING MEDICAL OFFICER FOUND THE GIRL TO BE IN GOOD GENERAL HEALTH BUT RECOMMENDED THAT SHE SHOULD BE SEEN BY A CHILD PSYCHIATRIST, A CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST AND A PAEDIATRICIAN.

/QUESTIONED ON

QUESTIONED ON THE NUMBER OF SUCH CASES THAT HAD NOT BEEN REPORTED AND THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS OCCURRING, MR CHAMBERS SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE ANY PRECISE FIGURES AND THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT WAS A +SIMILAR INCIDENT+ UNTIL A CASE WAS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND ASSESSED.

HE STRESSED THAT THE BEST MEANS OF PREVENTING SUCH CASES WAS FOR ANYONE WHO GENUINELY SUSPECTED THAT ABUSE OR NEGLECT WAS TAKING PLACE TO INFORM EITHER THE POLICE OR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SO THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES COULD BE INVESTIGATED AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TAKEN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OPERATED HOT-LINE SERVICE AND THE PUBLIC WERE ENCOURAGED THROUGH THE MEDIA TO REPORT SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE.

MR CHAMBERS ADDED THAT A SET OF STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH CHILD ABUSE CASES WAS DRAWN UP SEVERAL YEARS AGO FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH WERE ACTIVE IN THIS FIELD.

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BOAT OWNERS MUST BEAR SHARE OF COSTS
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IT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THOSE WHO USE SERVICES PROVIDED AT PUBLIC EXPENSE SHOULD PAY IN FULL FOR THAT USE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN CONCLUDING THE DEBATE ON THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (FEES) BILL 1986 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE BILL, SIR JOHN SAID HE SAW NO GOOD REASON WHY THE GENERALITY OF TAXPAYERS SHOULD SUBSIDISE THOSE WHO COULD AFFORD TO RUN PRIVATE BOATS AND YACHTS IN HONG KONG.

+THOSE WHO USE PLEASURE VESSELS IN HONG KONG WATERS MUST EXPECT TO BEAR THEIR PROPER SHARE OF THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN SUPPORT OF PLEASURE BOATING,+ HE SAID.

+WE SHALL DO THIS THROUGH SETTING FEES FOR VESSELS AND FOR THE KEEPING OF PRIVATE MOORINGS.+

SIR JOHN SAID THE BILL WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOVER MORE OF THE COSTS OF OPERATING HONG KONG'S PORT AND SHIPPING SERVICES. +IT WILL DO NO MORE THAN THAT.+

+MOREOVER, THE BILL DOES NOT INTRODUCE A TAX IN THE SENSE OF A RAISING OF GENERAL REVENUE,+ HE SAID.

/SIR JOHN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 3 -

SIR JOHN NOTED THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN AN INCREASE IN MOORING AND OTHER FEES SINCE 1970.

+AT LEAST TWO THIRDS OF CAUSEWAY BAY IS GIVEN UP TO PRIVATE BOATS. IF THEY DO NOT PAY A FAIR IMPOST THERE MUST BE A CASE FOR LAND RECLAMATION OR FOR EXPANDED TYPHOON-PROOF FACILITIES FOR WORKING CRAFT AND FISHING JUNKS,+ HE SAID.

SIR JOHN REITERATED THAT CHARITABLE OR WELFARE ORGANISATIONS NEED HAVE NO WORRY REGARDING THIS BILL AS ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY EXISTED FOR FEES TO BE REBATED, OR SUBVENTIONS INCREASED, TO ENSURE THAT ANY GENUINE ADVERSE EFFECTS MIGHT BE AMELIORATED.

ON THE MAKING OF REGULATIONS, SIR JOHN SAID THE HONG KONG YACHTING ASSOCIATION HAD BEEN GIVEN SIX WEEKS TO PROPOSE METHODS FOR CALCULATING MOORING FEES.

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SHIPPING FEES BILL COMES IN TIMELY
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THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (FEES) BILL 1986 IS A TIMELY PIECE OF LEGISLATION AND SERVES TO REAFFIRM THE POLICY THAT IT IS IN THE MACRO INTEREST OF HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW A POLICY OF LOW RATES OF DIRECT TAXATION, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHEONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO MAINTAIN IN REAL TERMS THE YIELDS FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES, HAVING REGARD TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT COST TO THE PUBLIC PURSE OF PROVIDING SERVICES AND FACILITIES SHOULD, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, BE PAID FOR BY THOSE WHO USED THEM.

+SUCH POLICIES, WHICH ARE REALLY FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR FUTURE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL, MUST BE WORTHY OF OUR SUPPORT,+ HE STRESSED.

+FURTHERMORE, THE SCALE OF CHARGES TO BE LEVIED AT HK\$500 PER MONTH FOR AN AVERAGE SIZE YACHT IS NOT MUCH MORE THAN THE AVERAGE MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTIONS NEEDED FOR BECOMING MEMBERS OF MOST RECREATIONAL CLUBS IN HONG KONG IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES PROVIDED,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, MR CHEONG APPLAUDED THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS HANDLING OF THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1985 AND THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (FEES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1985 WHICH HE SAID FULLY DEMONSTRATED HOW WELL HONG KONG'S SYSTEM HAD BEEN PERFORMING.

/+THESE REGULATIONS

+THESE REGULATIONS WERE INTRODUCED IN 1985 WITH A SIMPLE OBJECTIVE TO CONSTANTLY REVIEW AND UPDATE ALL FEES AND CHARGES LEVIED FOR VARIOUS SERVICES GOVERNMENT PROVIDES SO THAT THEIR YIELDS CAN BE MAINTAINED IN REAL TERMS AND THAT THE COST TO THE PUBLIC PURSE OF PROVIDING SUCH SERVICES MUST, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, BE PAID FOR BY THOSE WHO USED THEM,+ HE OBSERVED.

HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT TO STRONG PROTEST BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE YACHTING COMMUNITY, THE HONG KONG YACHTING ASSOCIATION HAD APPLIED FOR AND BEEN GRANTED BY THE HIGH COURT LEAVE TO APPLY FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE REGULATIONS.

MR CHEONG SAID THIS PRECIPITATED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ADMINISTRATIVELY REFUND THOSE AFFECTED BY THE 1985 REGULATIONS.

HE COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR CHOOSING THE ROUTE TO REFUND THUS AVOIDING THE TREMENDOUS COST TO THE PUBLIC PURSE OF A POSSIBLE PROTRACTED BATTLE OVER LEGAL JARGONS AND INTERPRETATIONS.

+AT THE VERY LEAST, GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIBES TO THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON HER THROUGH AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL SYSTEM AND THAT THOSE AGGRIEVED HAVE HAD A TEMPORARY RELIEF,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEONG ALSO APPLAUDED THE ADMINISTRATION IN HER RESOLVE TO EXAMINE AND TO TRY TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES WHICH WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE MACRO INTEREST OF HONG KONG.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WAS RIGHT IN NOT PURSUING THE MATTER OF THE 1985 REGULATIONS FURTHER THROUGH COURT, ITS DECISION TO REFUND DID NOT NECESSARILY SANCTIFY THE RATIONALE OF ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD BY PEOPLE WHO MIGHT EASILY HAVE BEEN PERCEIVED TO HAVE ACTED AND REACTED WITH A DEGREE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

+IN MY VIEW, THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (FEES) BILL 1986 COMES IN TIMELY, AND GOVERNMENT IS FULLY JUSTIFIED IN MERELY SEEKING TO CLARIFY ANY GREY AREAS THAT MIGHT HAVE EXISTED,+ MR CHEONG SAID.

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CONTROL ON MANUFACTURE, SALE OF MINERAL WATER WELCOMED
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THREE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WHICH PROPOSED THAT THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF +MINERAL WATER+ BE PUT UNDER THE EXISTING FOOD LAWS.

AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS OF MINERAL WATER.

THOUGH REGULAR SAMPLES WERE TAKEN FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL ANALYSIS, HE SAID HE CONSIDERED IT MOST UNDESIRABLE THAT THERE WAS NO PROVISION UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION TO REMEDY THE SITUATION AND TO MAKE IT AN OFFENCE TO SELL THE PRODUCT IN QUESTION SHOULD SAMPLES BE FOUND TO BE UNHYGIENIC OR UNSAFE.

MR CHEUNG NOTED THAT THE PROPOSAL UNDER THE BILL TO AMEND BOTH THE DEFINITIONS OF +FOOD+ AND +DRINK+ IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE WATER PLACED IN A SEALED CONTAINER FOR SALE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION WOULD BRING THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF +MINERAL WATER+ UNDER THE EXISTING FOOD LAWS REGARDING CONTROL OVER SALE, CONTENT AND LABELLING.

+ADDITIONALLY, MANUFACTURERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A FACTORY LICENCE FOR THE OPERATION,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG SAID HE BELIEVED THESE MEASURES WERE BOTH TIMELY AND NECESSARY AS PUBLIC HEALTH WOULD BE SAFEGUARDED.

HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION COST TO THE MANUFACTURERS WOULD VARY DEPENDING ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEIR EXISTING PROCESSES MET PROPOSED STANDARDS.

+HOWEVER, THE EFFECT ON THE PRICES OF SUCH BOTTLED 'MINERAL WATER' IS ON THE WHOLE EXPECTED TO BE MARGINAL.

+IT IS WELL WORTH PAYING A SMALL PREMIUM IN RETURN OF A GREATER HEALTH PROTECTION THEREBY MADE AVAILABLE,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

THE HON SELINA CHOW, IN SUPPORTING THE BILL, SAID SHE LOOKED FORWARD TO MORE OPPORTUNITIES WHERE THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COULD WORK CLOSELY IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CONSUMERS.

SHE SAID CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC ATTENTION HAD BEEN FOCUSED ON +MINERAL WATER+ WHICH HAD HITHERTO ESCAPED MUCH NOTICE SUBSEQUENT TO THE PUBLICATION OF A TEST REPORT ON IT BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL IN ITS MONTHLY PUBLICATION.

MRS CHOW NOTED THAT THE QUESTIONS POSED BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL ON WHETHER GOVERNMENT HAD ANY REGULATIONS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MINERAL WATER OR ANY CONTROL ON THE QUALITY OF IMPORTED MINERAL WATER AND NATURAL SPRING WATER, TOGETHER WITH PUBLIC REACTION TO THE REPORT, HAD PROVED INSPIRING TO GOVERNMENT AND LED TO THE AMENDMENT BILL.

ALSO SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID ITS PASSAGE WAS DESIRABLE AND WOULD ENABLE THE URBAN COUNCIL TO PREPARE A LICENSING POLICY SO THAT LOCAL PRODUCERS COULD BE PROPERLY LICENSED AS FOOD FACTORIES.

+THE PUBLIC CAN THEREAFTER BE ASSURED THAT WATER THAT IS BOTTLED OR PACKAGED IN ANY FORM FOR SALE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION WILL BE PROPERLY LABELLED AND WILL MEET THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION,+ HE ADDED.

THANKING MR CHEUNG, MRS CHOW AND MR CHEONG-LEEN FOR THEIR SUPPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, ASSURED THEM THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

+THIS LEGISLATION IS A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF THIS CO-OPERATION,+ HE ADDED.

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CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS RAISED BY 3 PER CENT

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A MOTION SEEKING TO RAISE THE PENSIONS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS BY THREE PER CENT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR WAS ADOPTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE MOTION UNDER THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) ORDINANCE AND WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (INCREASE) ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMIDGE, SAID THE TOTAL COST OF THE INCREASE WAS ESTIMATED AT \$21.7 MILLION FOR A FULL YEAR.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED POLICY WAS TO MAINTAIN THE ORIGINAL PURCHASING POWER OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS, WHICH WAS ACHIEVED BY PERIODIC ADJUSTMENTS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN THE COST OF LIVING.

SIR JOHN SAID: +DURING THE LATEST REVIEW PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1985 TO MARCH 31, 1986, THE MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 4.6 POINTS OR 2.94 PER CENT.+

+IN LINE WITH ESTABLISHED PRACTICE, PENSIONS IN PAYMENT ON APRIL 1, 1986, INCLUDING PREVIOUS INCREASES ALREADY APPROVED, SHOULD BE INCREASED BY THREE PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM THE SAME DATE,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 7 -

WAGE CEILING RAISED TO \$10 500
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A MOTION TO RAISE THE WAGE CEILING UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE FROM \$9 500 TO \$10 500 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID WHEN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN SEPTEMBER 1968, ITS PROVISIONS WERE APPLIED TO NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WHOSE WAGES DID NOT EXCEED \$1 500 PER MONTH.

+SINCE THEN, THIS WAGE CEILING HAS BEEN REVISED PERIODICALLY TO MAINTAIN ITS ORIGINAL VALUE,+ HE SAID.

+THE MOST RECENT REVISION WAS IN DECEMBER 1984, WHEN THE CEILING WAS RAISED TO \$9 500.+

MR HENDERSON SAID A RECENT REVIEW BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD INDICATED THAT THE ORIGINAL MONTHLY WAGE OF \$1 500 WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN ESTIMATED MONTHLY WAGE OF \$10 214 IN DECEMBER 1985.

AFTER SLIGHTLY ROUNDING UP THE FIGURE TO ALLOW FOR A LIKELY RISE IN THE OVERALL WAGE LEVEL BEFORE THE NEXT REVISION, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE WAGE CEILING BE RAISED TO \$10 500 PER MONTH.

THIS PROPOSAL HAD RECEIVED THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, MR HENDERSON SAID.

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NUMBER OF SQUATTER FIRE VICTIMS DECLINING
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THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS IN SQUATTER FIRES HAS DECLINED DRAMATICALLY IN THE PAST THREE YEARS ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MORE REPORTED FIRES OF A RELATIVELY MINOR NATURE, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MORE THAN 85 PER CENT OF SUCH FIRES WERE EXTINGUISHED BY INITIAL ATTENDANCE AND THERE WERE ONLY ONE FOURTH ALARM FIRE IN 1983, 1984 AND 1985 COMPARED TO FIVE IN 1981 AND 1982, HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, MR LIAO SAID THAT WHILE DATA ON THE CAUSES OF FIRES WERE AVAILABLE, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE FROM AN EXAMINATION OF SUCH INFORMATION AS TO WHY THE NUMBER OF SQUATTER FIRES HAD INCREASED OR DECREASED DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

/+THE NUMBERS

+THE NUMBERS FIRST DECREASED AND THEN INCREASED, BUT IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT WHILE THE NUMBER OF FIRES HAD INCREASED SINCE 1982, THE NUMBER OF FIRE VICTIMS HAD DECREASED CONSIDERABLY FROM MORE THAN 26 000 IN 1981 TO 1 260 IN 1985,+ HE SAID.

+SINCE SEPTEMBER 1982, A POLICY WHEREBY VICTIMS OF SQUATTER AREA FIRES ARE REHOUSED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ONLY HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

+THE DRAMATIC FALL IN THE NUMBER OF SQUATTER FIRE VICTIMS IN THE THREE YEARS FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS POLICY INDICATES THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAS ACTED AS A DETERRENT AGAINST DELIBERATE FIRES IN URBAN SQUATTER AREAS,+ HE ADDED.

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT OFFICERS INVESTIGATED THE CAUSE OF EACH FIRE, AND IN 1985 THE FINDINGS OF SUCH INVESTIGATIONS INDICATED THAT ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF SQUATTER FIRES RESULTED FROM FAULTY ELECTRICAL WIRING, 22 PER CENT FROM SMOKING MATERIALS, MOSQUITO COILS, JOSSTICKS, AND SO ON, 19 PER CENT FROM COOKING STOVES AND SEVEN PER CENT WERE SUSPECTED ARSON.

MR LIAO SAID MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT SQUATTER FIRES INCLUDED PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES, SETTING UP FIRE WATCH TEAMS AND IMPLEMENTING SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES.

+STAFF OF LOCAL FIRE STATIONS PAY REGULAR VISITS TO SQUATTER COMMUNITIES TO GIVE ADVICE ON FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

+FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO ORGANISED ESPECIALLY FOR SQUATTER COMMUNITIES BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT JOINTLY.

+LOCAL FIRE WATCH TEAMS COMPRISING SQUATTER RESIDENTS ARE TRAINED BY STAFF OF THE FSD TO RECOGNISE FIRE HAZARDS SO THAT THEY MAY BETTER GIVE ADVICE TO SQUATTER COMMUNITIES,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO SAID AS PART OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME, A NUMBER OF MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO MINIMISE FIRE RISKS IN SQUATTER COMMUNITIES.

+FOURTEEN SQUATTER AREAS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH A LEGAL AND PROPER ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, WHICH OBTVIATES THE NEED FOR TAPPING AND THEREBY REMOVES ONE OF THE PRIMARY FIRE RISKS,+ HE SAID.

OTHER MEASURES INCLUDED BUILDING FIRE BREAKS OF AT LEAST 10 METRES WIDE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF FIRE, PROVIDING FIXED PIPELINES FOR FIRE FIGHTING, AND IMPROVING ACCESS THROUGHOUT SQUATTER AREAS SO THAT FIREMEN CAN GET TO THE SCENE OF FIRES QUICKLY, MR LIAO SAID.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 9 -

COMMUNITY OPINION SOUGHT ON BETTING CENTRES
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT COMMUNITY OPINION WHEN CONSIDERING FUTURE APPLICATIONS FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TO OPEN OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LIAO SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO PROLIFERATION OF OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES IN RECENT YEARS.

+INDEED, THE NUMBER HAD DROPPED SLIGHTLY FROM 134 IN 1976 TO 128 NOW,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK LOCAL VIEWS THROUGH THE DISTRICT OFFICE WHENEVER AN APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB.

+IN THE PAST, OBJECTIONS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER FACTORS, SUCH AS POLICE INTELLIGENCE ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING, POTENTIAL CROWD CONTROL PROBLEMS, AND THE PROXIMITY OF SCHOOLS, YOUTH CENTRES AND OTHER OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES IN THE VICINITY, HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REJECTION OF A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO SAID THAT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, A TOTAL OF SEVEN NEW CENTRES HAD BEEN OPENED, THREE EACH IN 1984 AND 1985, AND ONE THIS YEAR.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AT PRESENT PROCESSING THREE APPLICATIONS FROM THE CLUB, ALL FOR CENTRES TO BE OPENED IN 1987.

MR LIAO ALSO SAID THAT OF THE TOTAL BETTING TURNOVER OF \$12 BILLION IN 1983, \$15 BILLION IN 1984 AND \$19 BILLION IN 1985, OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES ACCOUNTED FOR 47 PER CENT, 57 PER CENT AND 60 PER CENT IN EACH YEAR RESPECTIVELY.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 10 -

NO PLANS TO RAISE SEVERANCE PAY LIMITS

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THE PRESENT PREFERENTIAL LIMITS UNDER THE COMPANIES AND BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCES WERE ADEQUATE AS REGARDS WAGES IN ARREARS AND WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE, ALTHOUGH THE AVERAGE CLAIM FOR SEVERANCE PAY WAS SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE THE LIMIT, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR HENDERSON SAID THERE WERE NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO RAISE THE PREFERENTIAL LIMITS UNDER THESE TWO ORDINANCES.

HE ADDED THAT IF THESE LIMITS WERE RAISED, THEN HIGHER-PAID EMPLOYEES WOULD OBTAIN A SOMEWHAT LARGER SHARE OF THE FINITE SUM REALISED ON DISPOSAL OF A COMPANY'S REMAINING ASSETS, WHILE LOWER-PAID EMPLOYEES WOULD GET LESS.

MR HENDERSON EXPLAINED THAT THE PREFERENTIAL LIMITS UNDER THE COMPANIES AND BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCES WERE SET BY REFERENCE TO THE NON-MANUAL WAGE CEILING IN FORCE AT THAT TIME UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THE LIMITS IN RESPECT OF WAGES AND SEVERANCE PAYMENT WERE SET AT FOUR TIMES THE CEILING FIGURE OF \$2 000 PER MONTH AND THE LIMIT FOR WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE AT THE SAME AMOUNT AS THE CEILING FIGURE, REFLECTING THE LENGTH OF THE PREFERENTIAL PERIOD FOR WAGES IN ARREARS AND WAGES IN LIEU LAID DOWN IN THE FORMER TWO ORDINANCES.

ACCORDING TO REVIEWS OF PREFERENTIAL PAYMENT CLAIMS CONDUCTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SINCE 1977, THE LAST BEING COMPLETED IN APRIL THIS YEAR, THE RESULTS INDICATED THAT THE AVERAGE CLAIM IN 1985-86 FOR WAGES IN ARREARS AMOUNTED TO \$2 892, FOR WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE TO \$1 776 AND FOR SEVERANCE PAY TO \$13 068.

MR HENDERSON SAID THERE WAS LOGIC IN THE ARGUMENT THAT THE REAL VALUE OF PREFERENTIAL LIMITS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BY INCREASING THEM IN LINE WITH THE MANUAL WAGE CEILING.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE OBJECT OF THE WAGE CEILING IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WAS TO DEFINE THE CATEGORY OF EMPLOYEES COVERED, WHILE THE PREFERENTIAL LIMITS UNDER THE COMPANIES AND BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCES GOVERNED THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS IN THE EVENT OF WINDING UP OR BANKRUPTCY.

HENCE, THERE WAS NO NECESSARY LINK BETWEEN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE LATTER TWO ORDINANCES REGARDING THESE LIMITS, HE SAID.

/MR HENDERSON

MR HENDERSON ADDED THAT THE SCOPE AND OPERATION OF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND WAS RELEVANT TO THE WHOLE QUESTION.

HE SAID WHEN THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS WERE TO BE REVIEWED AFTER TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE, IT MIGHT BE OPPORTUNE TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF PREFERENTIAL LIMITS.

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HK RESIDENTS ENTITLED TO CONSULAR PROTECTION

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HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO ARE BRITISH NATIONALS ARE ENTITLED TO CONSULAR ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION FROM BRITISH CONSULAR AUTHORITIES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR THOMAS SAID, HOWEVER, NO SUCH ENTITLEMENT EXISTED WHEN SUCH PERSONS WERE TRAVELLING IN A COUNTRY WHOSE GOVERNMENT REGARDED THEM AS ITS OWN NATIONALS.

MR THOMAS SAID THE MAJORITY OF CHINESE HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO TRAVELLED TO CHINA DID SO, NOT ON BRITISH PASSPORTS, BUT ON RE-ENTRY PERMITS ISSUED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND +HOME VISIT PERMITS+ ISSUED BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

HE SAID: +BRITISH CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN CHINA HAVE NO FORMAL STANDING TO OFFER CONSULAR ASSISTANCE OR PROTECTION TO SUCH HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

+IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, INFORMAL APPROACHES TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ON BEHALF OF SUCH HONG KONG RESIDENTS CAN BE MADE.

+VARIOUS APPROPRIATE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION EXIST FOR SUCH APPROACHES,+ HE NOTED.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 12 -

SATISFACTORY MONITORING OF LEAD IN CERAMICS

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THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING THE LEVEL OF LEAD CONTENT IN CERAMIC WARE, ESPECIALLY ARTICLES USED IN RESTAURANTS, APPEAR TO BE SATISFACTORY AND THERE ARE NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON RICHARD LAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHAMBERS SAID NONE OF THE REPORTED CASES OF LEAD POISONING DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO CERAMIC UTENSILS.

HE SAID THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH HAD ADVISED RESTAURANT OPERATORS THAT CERTAIN TYPES OF HIGHLY COLOURED EATING UTENSILS MIGHT CONTAIN AN EXCESSIVE LEVEL OF LEAD AND THAT FOOD SHOULD NOT BE SERVED OR STORED IN THEM.

IMPORTERS, TRADERS AND LOCAL MANUFACTURERS OF EATING UTENSILS WERE ALSO ADVISED OF A NUMBER OF PRECAUTIONS THAT THEY SHOULD TAKE TO PROVIDE A SAFE PRODUCT FOR USE BY CONSUMERS, HE SAID.

+THE GUIDELINE LEVEL OF LEAD CONTENT WHICH HAS BEEN ADOPTED IS THAT OF THE BRITISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION WHICH IS SEVEN PARTS PER MILLION (PPM),+ HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD ALSO WARNED THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE DANGERS OF USING HIGHLY COLOURED POTTERY AND HAD OBTAINED AN ASSURANCE FROM CHINESE EXPORTERS, WHO WERE A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF EATING UTENSILS, THAT SUB-STANDARD UTENSILS WOULD NOT BE IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG.

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DTC DE-REGISTRATION: NOT MANY DEPOSITORS SUFFERED

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WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE CASE, NO DEPOSITORS HAD SUFFERED MONETARY LOSS AS A RESULT OF THE DE-REGISTRATION OF 44 DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SINCE APRIL 1985, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THIS SINGLE CASE,+ SIR JOHN SAID IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR, +IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE COMMERCIAL CRIME BUREAU AND THE LIQUIDATOR. IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR ME TO DISCLOSE DETAILS.+

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT NO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES LICENCES HAD BEEN REVOKED DURING THE PERIOD.

SIR JOHN SAID SMALL DEPOSITORS WITH LESS THAN \$100 000 WERE DEBARRED FROM DEPOSITING THEIR MONEY WITH REGISTERED DTC'S.

IT WAS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT DISTINCTION BETWEEN VOLUNTARY OR REQUESTED REVOCATION WAS MEANINGLESS AS IN MANY CASES VOLUNTARY REVOCATIONS WERE A FACE-SAVING ROUTE FOR INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED.

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LOW SUCCESS RATE IN FILLING VACANCIES FOR INSPECTORS

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THERE IS NO LACK OF RESPONSE TO RECRUITMENT EXERCISES FOR POLICE INSPECTORS, BUT THE SUCCESS RATE OF BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CANDIDATES REMAINS LOW, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR THOMAS SAID, IT WAS NOT THOUGHT NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES - RATHER NEW MEASURES WERE AIMED AT ATTRACTING AN INCREASED NUMBER OF SUITABLE LOCAL APPLICANTS.

MR THOMAS SAID THE VACANCY POSITION HAD REMAINED AT ONLY TWO-AND-A-HALF PER CENT OR LESS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

+IT IS OF COURSE NOT POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE FULL ESTABLISHMENT IN ANY LARGE ORGANISATION - RESIGNATIONS, RETIREMENTS AND CREATION OF NEW POSTS INEVITABLY MEAN THERE WILL BE VACANCIES ON ANY PARTICULAR DAY.

+INDEED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE OVERALL, THE VACANCY POSITION IS ABOUT THREE PER CENT,+ HE ADDED.

MR THOMAS POINTED OUT THAT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT, CANDIDATES WERE REQUIRED TO MEET CERTAIN MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ON SUCH MATTERS AS AGE, ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE FROM A RIGOROUS SELECTION PROCEDURE DESIGNED TO TEST COMMON-SENSE, MATURITY, SELF-CONFIDENCE, LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABLITY AND PHYSICAL FITNESS.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 14 -

ELDERLY FESTIVAL DESERVES, RECEIVES SUPPORT

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THE FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY, A COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROJECT INITIATED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE IN 1979, CERTAINLY DESERVES AND RECEIVES OFFICIAL SUPPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF JOINED WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN ORGANISING SPECIAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES FOR THE ELDERLY DURING THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL WHICH HAD TWICE RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND.

+I AM SURE THAT THE PRESENT BLEND OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES' INITIATIVE, ENTHUSIASTIC AND GENEROUS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OFFICIAL SUPPORT WILL ENSURE ITS CONTINUED SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND ITS MEMBER AGENCIES WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM CHARITABLE AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, DISTRICT BOARDS, BUSINESS FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS.

+AND ITS AIMS ARE TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY AND THE CONCEPT OF CARING FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE COMMUNITY TO PUBLICISE SERVICES PROVIDED FOR THE ELDERLY AND TO ENCOURAGE CO-OPERATION AMONG AGENCIES OPERATING IN THIS FIELD,+ HE ADDED.

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SEATING CAPACITY IN PRIVATE CARS EXPLAINED

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THE MAXIMUM PASSENGER SEATING CAPACITY FOR A PRIVATE CAR UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS IS SEVEN, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY PROFESSOR THE HON POON CHUNG-KWONG, MR MACPHERSON SAID THE SEATING CAPACITY FOR A PARTICULAR TYPE OR MODEL OF PRIVATE CAR WAS ASSIGNED HAVING REGARD TO REGULATION 27(4) OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

THIS PROVIDED THAT SEATS IN PRIVATE CARS SHOULD +MEASURE AT LEAST 380 MILLIMETRES FROM THE BACKREST TO THE FRONT EDGE SEAT AND 380 MILLIMETRES ALONG THE BACK,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 15 -

TWO BILLS PASSED

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THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (FEES) BILL 1986 AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986
WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO MAY 21.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 16 -

JOBLESS RATE REMAINS STABLE
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THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED STABLE IN THE QUARTER JANUARY-MARCH 1986 COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1985, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS POINTED OUT THAT THE DEFINITIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT HAVE BEEN MODIFIED SINCE JANUARY 1985 TO CONFORM WITH THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO).

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS COMPILED UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED FOR A YEAR, ALONG WITH THOSE COMPILED UNDER THE OLD DEFINITIONS. HOWEVER, FROM NOW ON, ONLY THE NEW SERIES WILL BE PUBLISHED.

UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1986 WAS 3.2 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 3.1 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1985 AND FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE INCREASES OF 0.1 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER JANUARY-MARCH 1986 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 85 000, COMPARED WITH 83 300 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1985 AND 81 100 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS, THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1986 WAS 2.3 PER CENT, WHICH IS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1985. THE RATE FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1985 WAS 1.5 PER CENT. THE INCREASE OF 0.8 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR THE QUARTER JANUARY-MARCH 1986 WAS 61 700, COMPARED WITH 62 100 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1985 AND 39 700 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

CONSISTENT WITH THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ILO, PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE EFFECT OF THE MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION ON THE ESTIMATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS MARGINAL, ITS EFFECT ON THE ESTIMATE OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT IS QUITE CONSIDERABLE.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES UNDER THE OLD AND THE NEW DEFINITIONS IS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FACT THAT PERSONS WORKING LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK FOR ECONOMIC REASONS WHO WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BUT WERE AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL WORK ARE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS BUT NOT UNDER THE OLD DEFINITIONS.

COMMENTING UPON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (THAT IS PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN THE FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR FEBRUARY-APRIL 1986 WAS 3.2 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 2.2 PER CENT. (THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1986 WAS 3.1 PER CENT.)

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 52 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1986 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND THE THIRD WEEK OF JUNE.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 18 -

COMMITTEE ON CIVIC EDUCATION SET UP
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A COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MRS RITA FAN HAS BEEN SET UP TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION OUTSIDE SCHOOLS.

THE INTENTION OF SETTING UP THE COMMITTEE IS TO STIMULATE INITIATIVES FROM THE COMMUNITY IN PROMOTING CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY GUIDELINES AND SUPPORT.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, WHICH COMPRISES 11 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, HELD ITS INAUGURAL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ARE:

- * TO STUDY, DISCUSS AND MAKE PROPOSALS ON THE OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF CIVIC EDUCATION;
- * TO LIAISE WITH AND ASSIST IN THE EFFORTS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION; AND
- * TO ENCOURAGE ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION AND TO PARTICIPATE IN RELATED ACTIVITIES, AND TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY GUIDELINES AND SUPPORT.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE MR SZETO WAH, MRS PAULINE NG, MR MAK HOI-WAH, DR C.Y. HUANG, MR CHENG KAI-NAM, MR CHAN WING-TAI, MISS NORA YAU, DR KWAN LAI HUNG, MRS KWAN KO SIU-WAH AND MR YIP JING PING, LUKE.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED ON THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION; EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT; RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG; SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT; THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, MEMBERS AGREED TO SET UP FOUR WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE COMMITTEE:

<u>WORKING GROUP</u>	<u>CONVENOR</u>
PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP	MR GEORGE YUEN, ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECTS WORKING GROUP	MR MAK HOI-WAH

/ORGANISING

ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR
CONFERENCE ON CIVIC
EDUCATION

MR C.M. LEUNG, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES
ADMINISTRATION

STUDY GROUP ON GUIDELINES
OF CIVIC EDUCATION

MR CHENG KAI-NAM

VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
WERE ALSO CONSIDERED AT TODAY'S MEETING.

IT WAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE 1986 CIVIC EDUCATION
PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE AIMED AT THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND IT
SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN TWO PARALLEL PHASES, THAT IS TO PROMOTE
PUBLIC AWARENESS THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA AND TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION.

THE AWARENESS PHASE WILL INCLUDE THE WORK AND FUNCTIONS OF THE
GOVERNMENT, THE LEGAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM OF
HONG KONG, AND THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PEOPLE.

ONE OF THE MAJOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS WILL BE A
CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION TO BE HELD LATER IN THE YEAR.

THE RESPECTIVE WORKING GROUPS WERE ASKED TO STUDY AND PURSUE
THESE PHASES IN GREATER DETAIL.

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GREEN MINIBUS FARE REVISION APPROVED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS APPROVED FARE INCREASE FROM
FRIDAY (MAY 16) FOR SIX GREEN MINIBUS PACKAGES IN THE NEW
TERRITORIES COMPRISING 18 ROUTES.

FARE INCREASES FOR THESE ROUTES, WHICH OPERATE IN SAI KUNG,
YUEN LONG, SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN, RANGE FROM 20 CENTS TO \$1.
ONLY TWO OF THEM WOULD CHARGE UP TO THE NEW FARE CEILINGS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT APPROVAL WAS GIVEN AFTER
CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE OPERATING DETAILS AND FINANCIAL
RETURNS SUBMITTED BY GREEN MINIBUS OPERATORS.

SO FAR, SIX PACKAGES OF GREEN MINIBUS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES
COMPRISING 19 ROUTES HAD APPLIED FOR A FARE REVISION AND THE
APPLICATION BY THE REMAINING ROUTE WAS BEING EXAMINED. AT PRESENT,
THERE ARE 66 ROUTES OPERATING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

OPERATORS ARE REQUIRED TO INFORM PASSENGERS OF THE FARE
REVISION BY PUTTING UP NOTICES AT THE GREEN MINIBUS TERMINI
AND INSIDE VEHICLES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 20 -

APPROVAL FOR HIGHER FARE CEILINGS FOLLOWED CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF THE TRADE'S OPERATING ECONOMICS IN 1985. IT WAS FOUND THAT SINCE THE LAST SURVEY IN 1982, OVERALL OPERATING COSTS PER GREEN MINIBUS HAD GONE UP 12 PER CENT WHILE THE REGIONAL INCREASE FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS ONE PER CENT.

FARE CEILINGS FOR GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES WERE LAST REVISED IN JULY 1982.

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BRIEFING ON TOKYO SUMMIT

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THE JAPANESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, MR SHINICHI YANAI, CALLED ON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO BRIEF HIM ON THE RECENT TOKYO SUMMIT.

HONG KONG IS THE SECOND STOP IN MR YANAI'S ASIAN TOUR TO BRIEF LEADERS OF SEVEN GOVERNMENTS ON THE SUMMIT.

MR YANAI ARRIVED SHORTLY BEFORE NOON TODAY FROM SEOUL AND WILL LEAVE FOR JAKARTA LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

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RESULTS OF LATEST CIGARETTE SURVEY RELEASED

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MORE THAN HALF OF THE BRANDS OF CIGARETTES ON SALE IN HONG KONG WERE OF +LOW TAR+ AND +LOW TO MIDDLE TAR+, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST IN THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD STARTING AUGUST 1985.

THE SURVEY WAS THE SIXTH OF AN ON-GOING SERIES OF TESTS CARRIED OUT SINCE 1983. THE FINDINGS PROVIDE CIGARETTE SMOKERS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE INHALING AND ENABLE THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY TO HAVE OFFICIAL TAR GROUP DESIGNATIONS FOR THEIR BRANDS.

A TOTAL OF 107 BRANDS OF CIGARETTE SAMPLES WERE INITIALLY DRAWN FOR THE SURVEY, BUT TWO BRANDS HAD SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN FROM THE LOCAL MARKET AND INCOMPLETE SAMPLES WERE DELIVERED BY 14 BRANDS OVER THE SIX MONTHS TESTING PERIOD.

RESULTS OF THE LATEST SURVEY, TO BE ADVERTISED TOMORROW (THURSDAY), CLASSIFIED 91 SAMPLE BRANDS INTO ONE OF THE FIVE TAR GROUPS RANGING FROM +LOW TAR+ TO +HIGH TAR+.

/OUT OF

OUT OF THESE 91 BRANDS, 18 BELONGED TO THE +LOW TAR+ GROUP, 32 WERE RANKED AS +LOW TO MIDDLE TAR+, 38 FELL INTO THE +MIDDLE TAR+ GROUP, AND THE REMAINING THREE BRANDS WERE CLASSIFIED AS +MIDDLE TO HIGH TAR+. NO +HIGH TAR+ CIGARETTE WAS DETECTED IN THE SURVEY.

IT WAS ALSO FOUND THAT THE NUMBER OF +MIDDLE TO HIGH TAR+ CIGARETTES DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THREE, AS COMPARED WITH SIX IN THE LAST SURVEY CONDUCTED IN THE PERIOD FEBRUARY-JULY 1985.

FINDINGS INDICATED THAT TAR GROUPS OF 12 BRANDS DEVIATED FROM THAT CLAIMED BY THE MANUFACTURERS. FOUR BRANDS WERE FOUND TO BELONG TO A HIGHER GROUP THAN THE LABELLED CLAIMS, WHILE EIGHT WERE IN A LOWER GROUP THAN THEIR CLAIMS.

THE AVERAGE TAR VALUE OF THE 91 BRANDS TESTED ROSE SLIGHTLY TO 15.2 MG PER CIGARETTE AFTER A CONTINUOUS DROP FOR TWO YEARS. THE VALUES OBTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS FIVE SURVEYS WERE 17.6 MG, 16.5 MG, 15.5 MG, 15.4 MG AND 15.0 MG RESPECTIVELY.

A COMPARISON WAS MADE BETWEEN IMPORTED AND LOCALLY MANUFACTURED CIGARETTES. RESULTS SHOWED THAT ALL OF THE +LOW TAR+ CIGARETTES WERE IMPORTED. OVERSEAS MANUFACTURERS ALSO MAINTAINED A HIGH PROPORTION OF +LOW TO MIDDLE TAR+ CIGARETTES, WHILE LOCAL MANUFACTURERS INCREASED THE PROPORTION OF +MIDDLE TAR+ BRANDS.

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\$5 MILLION DONATION TOWARDS HOSPITAL EXTENSION
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RECEIVED ANOTHER \$5 MILLION DONATION FROM PHILANTHROPIST SIR SHIU-KIN TANG FOR THE EXTENSION PROGRAMME AT TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL IN WAN CHAI.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, A BRIEF CEREMONY WAS HELD DURING WHICH SIR SHIU-KIN PRESENTED THE CHEQUE TO THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG.

DR THONG THANKED SIR SHIU-KIN FOR HIS CONTINUOUS SUPPORT IN PROVIDING THE PUBLIC WITH BETTER MEDICAL SERVICES AND FOR HIS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXTENSION WHICH WILL COST A TOTAL \$75.7 MILLION.

THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL WAS ENDORSED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING ITS FUNCTION AS A CASUALTY HOSPITAL IN THE DISTRICT.

/THE PROJECT

THE PROJECT INCLUDES A TEN-STOREY EXTENSION BLOCK TO BE BUILT ON TOP OF THE EXISTING HOSPITAL CARPARK AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON THE MAIN HOSPITAL BLOCK. CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1989.

THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE NEW BLOCK WILL BE A 40-BED WARD AND TWO OPERATING THEATRES AND X-RAY FACILITIES FOR THE EXISTING ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL BE REHOUSED THERE.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A PHYSIOTHERAPY AND AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT, A PATHOLOGY LABORATORY, AND NURSES' QUARTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES.

THE TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL, NAMED AFTER THE PHILANTHROPIST, WAS OPENED IN 1969. A DONATION FROM SIR SHIU-KIN COVERED HALF THE CONSTRUCTION COST.

THE HOSPITAL HAS TWO WARDS WITH 80 BEDS, AND IT PROVIDES BOTH EMERGENCY AND OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC.

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SOCIAL WORKERS PLAY USEFUL PENAL ROLE * * * *

SOCIAL WORKERS ARE POSTED IN ALL PENAL INSTITUTIONS TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO INMATES AND THE USEFULNESS OF THEIR ROLE IN THE REFORMING PROCESS HAS BEEN WELL PROVEN, A SUPERINTENDENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS WU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING, MR WU SAID ABOUT 160 TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS WERE INVOLVED IN TREATMENT PROGRAMMES IN VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND OVER 20 QUALIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS WERE ENGAGED IN ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TEAM WORK WAS IMPORTANT IN ASSISTING INMATES TO REFORM AND THE SOCIAL WORKER WAS A MEMBER OF THE +CORRECTION TEAM+ WHICH ALSO COMPRISED ADMINISTRATORS, CUSTODIAL STAFF, MEDICAL OFFICERS, NURSING STAFF, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS, TEACHING STAFF AND THE INMATES' FAMILIES.

A SOCIAL WORKER ACTED AS FRIEND, HELPER, ADVISER, COUNSELLOR, AND SUPERVISOR IN ASSISTING AN INMATE TO REFORM, HE SAID.

ON ADMISSION TO PENAL INSTITUTIONS, INMATES WERE HELPED BY SOCIAL WORKERS TO UNDERSTAND THE TREATMENT PROGRAMME AND WHAT COULD BE GAINED FROM IT, SO THAT THEY WERE PSYCHOLOGICALLY WELL PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMME.

SOCIAL WORKERS WOULD BUILD UP A GOOD WORKING RAPPORT WITH INMATES, AND ASSIST THEM IN DEALING WITH INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE FAMILY RECONCILIATION, CORRECT ATTITUDE TOWARDS STUDIES, MAKING FRIENDS AND DEVELOPING A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

WHEN INMATES WERE RELEASED FROM DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES, TRAINING CENTRES, DETENTION CENTRES OR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR YOUNG PRISONERS, SOCIAL WORKERS WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE DURING A STATUTORY SUPERVISION PERIOD.

MR WU NOTED THAT SUCH AFTER-CARE SERVICE HAD PROVED TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL IN THE TREATMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR DRUG ADDICTS AND YOUNG OFFENDERS.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS SERVICE WOULD BE EXTENDED TO ADULT PRISONERS THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A PAROLE SYSTEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS ON SATURDAY
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (MAY 17) AT 10 AM IN THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 35 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING.

THEY ARE:

DG2888	DJ638	DH3996	DJ102	XX1283
XX328	AT1386	DH500	DJ320	DJ179
BK6	DJ229	DJ3231	AL1313	AA3900
DG3888	DH838	DJ360	DJ3228	AL313
XX668	DJ812	DH3111	DH3987	AS863
CC9	CW2982	DH88	CK8866	DH8393
AT308	DH717	DJ981	DJ268	DD77

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 105TH ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 24 -

TALKS HELD ON U.S. EA CALL
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CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES TOOK PLACE IN WASHINGTON ON MONDAY ON AN EXPORT AUTHORISATION CALL ON CATEGORY 651 (MAN-MADE FIBRE PYJAMAS AND OTHER NIGHTWEAR) RECEIVED ON APRIL 1.

NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AFTER DISCUSSIONS. THE UNITED STATES EXERCISED ITS RIGHT UNDER THE HONG KONG/U.S. BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT TO IMPOSE A LIMIT OF 229 332 DOZEN ON HONG KONG EXPORTS IN CATEGORY 651 THIS YEAR. IN AGREEING TO HONOUR THIS LIMIT, HONG KONG RESERVED ITS RIGHTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND UNDER THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WAS LED BY MR PETER LO, COUNSELLOR (WASHINGTON). THE U.S. DELEGATION LEADER WAS MR P. PILKAUSKAS, OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

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JUNE DATE FOR HONG KONG-U.S. TEXTILE TALKS
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A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 16 HAD PROVISIONALLY BEEN SET FOR A SECOND ROUND OF TALKS REQUESTED BY THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING HONG KONG'S TEXTILES EXPORTS.

THE VENUE FOR THE TALKS HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED.

THE FIRST ROUND WAS HELD IN HONG KONG ON MARCH 19-20.

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SHA TIN PARKING SITE TO LET
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A SITE FOR PARKING MOTOR VEHICLES AT SHA TIN NEW TOWN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS TO BE LET ON SHORT TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE FEE-PAYING CAR PARK WILL MEASURE ABOUT 1.334 HECTARES IN AREA.

TENANCY IS INITIALLY FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTING TENDERS IS NOON ON MAY 30.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 25 -

COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS MTR WESTERN EXTENSION
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MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MTR WESTERN EXTENSION AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE TOPIC HAD BEEN RAISED FOR DISCUSSION AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF BOTH THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE COMMITTEE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION AT THE JUNCTIONS OF SANDS STREET AND BELCHER'S STREET, AND SMITHFIELD AND BELCHER'S STREET.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND A REVIEW OF PEDESTRIAN PROBLEM SPOTS IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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DB MEMBERS TO VISIT MEDICAL CENTRE
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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL VISIT THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE ON FRIDAY (MAY 16).

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MEDICAL CENTRE AND WILL TOUR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, WARDS, LABORATORIES AND THE SCHOOL FOR GENERAL NURSING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE VISIT ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE AT THE OFFICE OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN AT 39 TONKIN STREET, SECOND FLOOR, KOWLOON AT 9.30 AM.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 26 -

FORUM FOR MONG KOK DB BY-ELECTION
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AN OPEN FORUM WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO ALLOW THE FOUR CANDIDATES CONTESTING A SEAT ON THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD IN THE COMING BY-ELECTION TO INTRODUCE THEIR ELECTION PLATFORMS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE FORUM WHICH WILL START AT 8 PM IN KEI TSUN PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 150 TAI KOK TSUI ROAD.

THE FOUR CANDIDATES FOR THE TAI KOK TSUI CONSTITUENCY ARE MR LAI SHIU-NIN (52), AN AIRCRAFT TECHNICIAN; MR CHAN CHUNG-KIT (37), AN ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER; MR LEE CHUNG-MING (39), A SEWING MACHINE TECHNICIAN; AND MISS ELAINE WONG (26), A REPORTER.

THEY WILL ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

THE BY-ELECTION, TO BE HELD ON MAY 22, IS FOR A SEAT VACATED BY A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR CHAN KWOK-MING, WHO WAS RECENTLY ELECTED TO THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE FORUM IS ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE AND WILL BE MODERATED BY THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EARNEST CHEUNG.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPEN FORUM FOR THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION AT 8 PM TOMORROW IN KEI TSUN PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 150 TAI KOK TSUI ROAD.

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NO ENTRY TO PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES
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NO PUBLIC LIGHT BUS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER HEALTHY STREET WEST SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD 24 HOURS DAILY FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 17).

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

- 27 -

SHEUNG SHUI PROHIBITED ZONE
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THE SECTION OF SAN FUNG AVENUE BETWEEN LUNG SUM AVENUE AND
THE SHEUNG SHUI SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT WILL BE DESIGNATED A
PROHIBITED ZONE FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 17).

NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THIS SECTION OF SAN
FUNG AVENUE.

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