



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1989

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR SPEAKS ON NEW MINISTER FOR HK	1
OMELCO CONSENSUS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT HELPFUL: CS	2
GOVERNOR LOOKS AT CHANGING FACES OF MONG KOK	4
INTERNATIONAL, COSMOPOLITAN CHARACTER MAKES HK SUCCESSFUL ...	5
ESTABLISHMENT OF HK COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION	6
TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS RISE BY 36 PER CENT	7
AMENDMENTS TO MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE PROPOSED	9
INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT PUBLISHES REPORT ON LOCAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	10
DELAYS IN COMPENSATION PAYMENT PROHIBITED	11
BAN ZONE ON GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER	11
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN KWJN TONG	11

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1989

- 1 -

GOVERNOR SPEAKS ON NEW MINISTER FOR HK

* * * * *

THE NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HONG KONG, MR FRANCIS MAUDE, IS A PERSON WHO HAS A GOOD REPUTATION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD EXPECT MR MAUDE TO LEARN ABOUT HONG KONG VERY QUICKLY AND TO BE AN EFFECTIVE MINISTER.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A TOUR OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT MR MAUDE WAS IN HONG KONG BRIEFLY EARLY THIS YEAR.

ON THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED OVER THE WEEKEND IN SHEK KONG VBP DETENTION CAMP, SIR DAVID SAID IT WOULD BE FULLY INVESTIGATED.

"IT WILL BE DONE IN THE NORMAL WAY IF THERE ARE COMPLAINTS ABOUT WHAT GOES ON. IF THERE IS A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE POLICE, AND IN THIS CASE THE CAMP WAS RUN BY THE POLICE, THEN THAT WOULD BE FULLY INVESTIGATED.

"THE POINT I WOULD MAKE IS, IF THERE ARE ANY COMPLAINTS, THEY'LL ALWAYS BE FULLY INVESTIGATED. AND IF A PROBLEM IS IDENTIFIED, THAT WOULD BE DEALT WITH," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD CONFIDENCE THAT THE INCIDENT WOULD BE FULLY INVESTIGATED AND THAT AN INQUIRY WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF REFUGEE CAMPS, SIR DAVID SAID CONDITIONS IN MANY OF THE CAMPS WERE FAR FROM IDEAL, AND THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS IN MANAGEMENT BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING IN AT A SHORT TIME.

"WE ARE DETERMINED THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THOSE CAMPS SHOULD BE AS GOOD AS POSSIBLE. AND IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS IN THE MANAGEMENT THAT WE WILL INVESTIGATE THOSE IMMEDIATELY AND TRY TO DEAL WITH ANY PROBLEMS WE IDENTIFIED," HE SAID.

ASKED HOW HE WOULD DEAL WITH A REPORT FROM THE UNHCR ALLEGING MISTREATMENT IN VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE CAMPS, SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD YET TO RECEIVE THE REPORT BUT WOULD LOOK AT IT VERY THOROUGHLY IF HE RECEIVED IT.

ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON THE REPATRIATION OF BOAT PEOPLE, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT AND VIETNAM WERE STILL ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THOSE WHO HAD BEEN SCREENED OUT AND GONE THROUGH THE APPEAL PROCEDURE WOULD BE SENT BACK TO THEIR HOMELAND UNDER ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS WITH PROPER MONITORING.

ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD GO TO PEKING, SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD NO PRESENT PLANS TO GO.

/"I DON'T

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1989

- 2 -

"I DON'T KNOW WHEN I WILL BE GOING TO PEKING. I WOULD NORMALLY GO ON THE REGULAR BASIS ABOUT ONCE A YEAR.

"I'VE GOT NO PRESENT PLANS TO GO, BUT I WOULD EXPECT TO GO SOMETIME OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY PRECISE DATES. I HAVE NO PLANS.

"BUT IF I WENT, I WOULD GO FOR THE SAME PURPOSE I'D ALWAYS GO -- AND THAT IS TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN DIRECTLY TO CHINESE LEADERS WHAT THE CONCERNS OF HONG KONG ARE AND WHAT IN MY VIEW NEEDS TO BE DONE TO TRY TO MEET THOSE CONCERNS." THE GOVERNOR SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OMELCO CONSENSUS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT HELPFUL: CS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WILL WANT TO RESPOND FAVOURABLY TO THE CONCENSUS REACHED BY OMELCO MEMBERS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IF THERE IS A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT IT IS WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT TO SEE BY WAY OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY AT THE NEW YMCA CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI, SIR DAVID SAID IT HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE ALL OMELCO MEMBERS AGREEING TO THE CONSENSUS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.

"IF WE CAN BUILD ON IT NOW IN THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, WE CAN BUILD ON IT IN THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND IN THE COMMUNITY GROUPS, IN THE POLITICAL GROUPS -- ALL OF WHOM ARE EXPRESSING A GREAT INTEREST IN THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

"AND THAT WE CAN HAVE THEN A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE CONSENSUS IS WHAT PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT TO SEE BY WAY OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, WE WOULD CERTAINLY WISH TO RESPOND TO IT VERY FAVOURABLY INDEED," SIR DAVID SAID.

ASKED FOR HIS RESPONSE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MR FRANCIS MAUDE AS THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW MR MAUDE PERSONALLY, IT WAS VERY USEFUL TO HAVE A MINISTER WHO WOULD BE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING MR MAUDE IN HONG KONG.

ASKED FOR HIS COMMENTS ON ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY AGAINST VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE DEPARTMENTS THAT HAD BEEN DEALING WITH THE PROBELM IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS AND IN RUNNING THE CAMPS HAD DONE A TREMENDOUS JOB.

/ "I THINK

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1989

- 3 -

"I THINK FIRST OF ALL WE'VE GOT TO SET THE WHOLE PROBLEM IN CONTEXT. WE'VE HAD 30,000 BOAT PEOPLE THIS YEAR. WE'RE LOOKING AFTER 50,000 IN ALL.

"IT'S PUT EVERYBODY UNDER GREAT STRAIN AND YOU KNOW THAT THERE'S A GREAT CONFLICT OF EMOTION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SAYING THAT WE SHOULD DO MORE, MAKE BETTER ARRANGEMENTS, MAKE MORE LIBERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL THE BOAT PEOPLE.

"AND THE NATURAL FEELING OF LOCAL PEOPLE THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE OVER-GENEROUS IN THE PROVISION OF SPACE AND FACILITIES."

INEVITABLY, SIR DAVID SAID, WITH THESE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN RESTRICTED SPACE, THERE WERE GOING TO BE SOME TENSIONS, AND THAT THESE SORT OF TENSIONS OCCASIONALLY OVER-SPILLED INTO VIOLENCE.

"OF COURSE WE DEPLORE ANY SORT OF VIOLENCE WHETHER IT'S ON BEHALF OF THE BOAT PEOPLE OR ANY OF OUR STAFF WHO ARE LOOKING AFTER THEM, AND THEREFORE WE ARE QUITE DETERMINED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF ANY ALLEGATIONS," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID A FULL REPORT HAD BEEN CALLED FOR AND THAT IT WOULD BE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO PERSUADE THE BOAT PEOPLE TO RETURN TO VIETNAM AS THEIR FUTURE WAS VERY BLEAK.

"THAT IS WHY WE'RE SO KEEN ON THE RETURN OF PEOPLE TO VIETNAM EITHER ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS OR ON AN INVOLUNTARY BASIS IF THAT PROVES TO BE NECESSARY," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SEND PEOPLE BACK UNTIL IT WAS TOTALLY SATISFIED THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE MONITORING OF CONDITIONS OF THOSE WHO WERE SENT BACK WERE PROPERLY ORGANISED AND ARRANGED.

"WE'VE GOT TO BE TOTALLY SATISFIED FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS COMPREHENSIVE AS THEY POSSIBLY CAN BE," SIR DAVID SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1989

- 4 -

GOVERNOR LOOKS AT CHANGING FACES OF MONG KOK

* * * * *

COMPREHENSIVE PLANS ARE NOW IN HAND TO REDEVELOP THE OLDER PARTS OF MONG KOK - THE TERRITORY'S MOST DENSELY POPULATED DISTRICT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON WERE TOLD DURING THEIR VISIT TO THE MONG KOK DISTRICT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE AREAS TO BE REDEVELOPED UNDER A LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROPOSAL ARE BOUNDED BY ARGYLE STREET, RECLAMATION STREET, SHANTUNG STREET AND PORTLAND STREET.

THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I AM IMPRESSED BY THE WORK THAT HAS ALREADY GONE INTO THE REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME. IT WILL DO A GREAT DEAL TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN THIS AREA.

"THE SCHEME WILL ALSO BRING ABOUT A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT TO COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN MONG KOK.

"I AM ALSO PLEASED TO HEAR THAT THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IS MAKING CAREFUL ARRANGEMENTS TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THOSE IN THE AREA AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT BOTH IN TERMS OF COMPENSATION AND REHOUSING."

THE GOVERNOR ADDED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD WOULD BE CONSULTED ON DETAILS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN BEFORE THE SCHEME WAS FINALISED SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE PLAN FITTED IN WITH THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON LATER VISITED HONG LOK STREET, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BIRD STREET, WHICH IS FAMOUS AS A MARKET FOR PET-BIRDS, BIRD FEED AND ACCESSORIES. THEY CHATTED WITH THE PET-BIRD TRADERS AND CUSTOMERS.

THE COUPLE ALSO VISITED JUNE GARDEN, A HOUSING SOCIETY RESIDENTIAL HOUSING PROJECT IN TAI KOK TSUI WHICH HAS PROVIDED A HIGH STANDARD OF MODERN AND COMFORTABLE HOUSING FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS. THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON VISITED A FAMILY LIVING IN THE PROJECT AND MET THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, MR LAM TSIG FUNG, AND HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.

THE PARTY THEN WENT TO SEE THE NEWLY COMPLETED URBAN COUNCIL MARKET COMPLEX - THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN MONG KOK - AT FA YUEN STREET.

THE GOVERNOR WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT A FULL RANGE OF FACILITIES INCLUDING LIBRARIES, DANCING STUDIO, MULTI-PURPOSE ARENA, FITNESS TRAINING ROOMS, GAMES ROOMS AND SEVEN SQUASH COURTS ARE PROVIDED UNDER ONE ROOF FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD IN IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE DISTRICT WERE ALSO SHOWN TO THE GOVERNOR.

/THE SYCAMORE

THE SYCAMORE ART GALLERY, LOCATED IN AN ACCESS LANE NEAR SYCAMORE STREET, IS ONE OF THE MORE IMPRESSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY THE DISTRICT BOARD. THROUGH IMAGINATIVE DESIGN, AN ORDINARY SMALL LANE HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A GALLERY FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES.

BEFORE ENDING THEIR VISIT, THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AT A TEA RECEPTION HELD IN THE UC COMPLEX.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER (MONG KOK), MRS LORNA MA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INTERNATIONAL, COSMOPOLITAN CHARACTER MAKES HK SUCCESSFUL
* * * * *

IT IS THE ABILITY OF HONG KONG TO TRANSCEND TERRITORIAL AND CULTURAL BOUNDARIES, AND THE HARMONY WITH WHICH PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES CAN WORK TOGETHER, THAT MAKE HONG KONG SO SUCCESSFUL, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THEREFORE THAT WE CONTINUE TO BUILD ON OUR INTERNATIONAL, COSMOPOLITAN CHARACTER," SIR DAVID SAID, WHILE OFFICIATING AT THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE YMCA RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

"WE SOMETIMES FORGET HOW LUCKY WE ARE IN HONG KONG TO BE FREE OF THE RACIAL TENSIONS WHICH PERVADE SO MANY OTHER COMMUNITIES," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID CITED THE YMCA MISSION STATEMENT FOR HONG KONG WHICH STATED THAT YMCA WAS DEDICATED TO FURTHERING PEACE, HOPE, JUSTICE AND TRUTH IN THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND TO THE FOSTERING OF INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND INTER-CULTURAL HARMONY.

"THE WORK OF ORGANISATIONS LIKE THE YMCA, AND OTHER GROUPS IN THE CULTURAL, EDUCATION, WELFARE AND BUSINESS SECTORS, IS OF IMMENSE VALUE IN BUILDING UP OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND OUR INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK," HE SAID.

"AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THEM FOR ALL THEIR EFFORTS."

COMMENDING THE YMCA FOR THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES IT HAD PROVIDED FOR THE LAST 88 YEARS, SIR DAVID SAID THE ORGANISATION HAD BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY.

"I AM SURE THAT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW CENTRE AND OTHER INITIATIVES, THE YMCA WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY FOR MANY MORE YEARS TO COME," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ESTABLISHMENT OF HK COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION

* * * * *

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THAT FINAL STEPS SHOULD NOW BE TAKEN TO ESTABLISH THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION (HKCAA) AS A STATUTORY BODY BY JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE DECISION WAS MADE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PROVISIONAL HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION (PHKCAA) SUBMITTED IN APRIL THIS YEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FORM OF A PROGRESS REPORT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT EARLIER IN 1987, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION TO ASSESS THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS OF DEGREES AWARDED BY LOCAL NON-UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS, THAT IS, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE.

"THE OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE THAT THESE DEGREES WOULD BE COMPARABLE IN STANDARD TO THOSE OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED DEGREES," HE SAID.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED THE PHKCAA IN NOVEMBER THAT YEAR TO PREPARE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOCAL ACCREDITATION BODY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE INITIAL ROLE OF HKCAA WOULD BE TO VALIDATE THE DEGREE COURSES OF THE TWO POLYTECHNICS, THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE AND THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE.

"OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS, THE PHKCAA HAS DEVELOPED DETAILED PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS FOR THE FUTURE OPERATIONS OF THE HKCAA AND ITS INTERNATIONAL LINKS HAVE BEEN GREATLY STRENGTHENED," HE SAID.

"TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON GOOD ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION PRACTICES, THE PHKCAA HAS PREPARED A HANDBOOK AND DETAILED GUIDELINES ON THE PRINCIPLES AND METHODOLOGY OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION.

"THE PHKCAA HAS OVER 400 LIBRARY ITEMS ON EVALUATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.

"WITH ITS OWN REGISTER OF HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS SPECIALISTS, AND ACCESS TO THE SPECIALIST REGISTERS OF THREE MAJOR ACCREDITING AGENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS (CNAA), THE HKCAA WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE EXPERTISE OF SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF EXPERIENCED AND WELL QUALIFIED VALIDATORS.

"THE PHKCAA IS CONFIDENT THAT THE HKCAA WILL BECOME AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION ON GOOD PRACTICES ON THE MAINTENANCE OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS.

/"WITH THE

"WITH THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS HAVING BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED, THE PHKCAA HAS NOW RECOMMENDED TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE HKCAA BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ENABLING LEGISLATION WAS BEING DRAFTED.

"WE AIM TO ENACT THE HKCAA ORDINANCE IN TIME SO THAT THE HKCAA CAN BE ESTABLISHED AS A STATUTORY BODY BY JANUARY 1990," HE SAID.

"SUITABLE PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC STAFF WILL BE RECRUITED TO THE NEW ORGANISATION.

"THE HKCAA WILL BE HEADED BY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHO WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A TEAM OF SENIOR OFFICERS.

"THE NEW COUNCIL, COMPRISING BETWEEN 15 TO 21 MEMBERS, WILL REPRESENT A REPERTOIRE OF EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF ACCREDITATION WORK, PROMINENT OVERSEAS AND LOCAL ACADEMICS AS WELL AS LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS WILL BE APPOINTED TO THIS COUNCIL."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE HKCAA WOULD LIAISE CLOSELY WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE TO WORK OUT A VALIDATION PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD TRANSFER THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VALIDATION FROM THE CNAAC TO THE HKCAA WITHOUT DISRUPTING THE LOCAL INSTITUTIONS' EXISTING DEGREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

"WHEN ESTABLISHED, THE HKCAA WILL BE ASSUMING THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION WORK AND GIVE PUBLIC ASSURANCE THAT THE DEGREES AWARDED BY ALL NON-UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE COMPARABLE TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS," HE SAID.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL ACCREDITATION BODY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF OUR HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM, THEREBY MEETING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES OF HONG KONG."

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS RISE BY 36 PER CENT

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 10,282 COMPLAINTS IN 1988-89, AN INCREASE OF 36 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE TCU, MR MOHAMMED RUMJAHN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS REMAINED THE MAIN SUBJECTS OF PUBLIC COMPLAINTS RECORDED IN THE UNIT'S ANNUAL REPORT JUST RELEASED.

AMONG THE 10,282 COMPLAINTS, 53 PER CENT WERE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND 24 PER CENT WERE ON TRAFFIC CONDITIONS. OTHER MAJOR COMPLAINT AREAS WERE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ROAD MAINTENANCE.

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1989

- 8 -

ON COMPLAINTS ABOUT BUS SERVICES, HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER INCREASED FROM 1,394 IN 1987-88 TO 2,201 IN 1988-89. THEY WERE MOSTLY RELATED TO INADEQUATE SERVICE AND STANDARD OF SERVICE.

REGARDING INADEQUATE SERVICE, THE UNIT RECORDED 185 COMPLAINTS IN 1988-89 (98 IN 1987-88) AGAINST THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY (CMB) AND 462 COMPLAINTS (340 IN 1987-88) AGAINST THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (KMB).

MOST OF THESE COMPLAINTS WERE ABOUT FREQUENCY OF BUS SERVICES OR ROUTINGS. PARTICULARLY TO NEW TOWNS.

FOR CROSS HARBOUR BUS SERVICES, THERE WERE 81 COMPLAINTS, 20 MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THE STANDARD OF SERVICE OF THE FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES INCLUDED FAILURE TO KEEP TO SCHEDULES AND DRIVERS' BEHAVIOUR. IN THIS REGARD, THE UNIT RECORDED 538 COMPLAINTS (377 IN 1987-88) CONCERNING CMB AND 656 (403 IN 1987-88) CONCERNING KMB.

ON TAXI SERVICE, MR RUMJAHN SAID AN IMPROVED COMPLAINT PROCEDURE AGAINST TAXI MALPRACTICE WAS INTRODUCED IN MAY LAST YEAR AND THIS COULD BE A FACTOR IN EXPLAINING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 1,995 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN 1988-89, AN INCREASE OF 60 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1987-88.

OF THESE, 1,856 CASES WERE RELATED TO TAXI MALPRACTICES (1,160 IN 1987-88) AND THE MAJOR AREA OF THE COMPLAINTS IS REFUSING HIRE AND SOLICITING PASSENGERS.

HOWEVER, MR RUMJAHN ADDED THAT THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ON TAXI MALPRACTICE RECEIVED IN EARLY 1989 HAD DROPPED COMPARED WITH THE LATTER PART OF 1988.

REGARDING TRAFFIC CONDITIONS, 2,469 COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED. OF THESE, 1,193 WERE RELATED TO ROAD CONGESTION. THE MAIN CONGESTION AREAS WERE WAN CHAI, CENTRAL AND WESTERN, KWUN TONG AND KOWLOON CITY.

THE PUBLIC HAD ALSO PUT FORWARD 1,114 SUGGESTIONS ON IMPROVING ROAD CONGESTION AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT. APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT WAS SET UP UNDER THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AND MONITOR COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON TRANSPORT MATTERS.

COMPLAINTS CAN BE MADE TO THE UNIT BY TELEPHONING THE 24-HOUR HOTLINE, 5-776866.

AFTER INVESTIGATING THE COMPLAINTS, THE UNIT WILL GIVE THE COMPLAINANT AN ANSWER EITHER VERBALLY OR IN WRITING, AS APPROPRIATE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1989

- 9 -

AMENDMENTS TO MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE PROPOSED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED, IN PRINCIPLE, AMENDMENTS TO THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE AND ITS REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE OWNERS OF LICENSED LAUNCHES AND FERRY VESSELS TO TAKE OUT THIRD PARTY INSURANCE COVER.

AT PRESENT, OWNERS OF THE MAIN PASSENGER-CARRYING VESSELS ARE NOT REQUIRED BY LAW TO PROVIDE THIRD PARTY INSURANCE PROTECTION FOR THEIR PASSENGERS.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 STIPULATES THAT COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE FOR DEATH OR BODILY INJURY WILL BE A PRE-LICENCE CONDITION FOR VESSELS LICENSED UNDER THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (LAUNCHES AND FERRY VESSELS) REGULATIONS.

IT ALSO REQUIRES OWNERS TO DISPLAY CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE ON THEIR VESSELS FOR PASSENGERS' INFORMATION.

VESSELS WHICH FALL WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE INTENDED LEGISLATION INCLUDE FRANCHISED FERRIES, LICENSED FERRIES, WATER-TOUR BOATS, LAUNCHES AND WALLA-WALLAS. KAITOS AND SAMPANS ARE, FOR THE TIME BEING, EXCLUDED FROM THE COMPULSORY INSURANCE SCHEME.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, OWNERS OF LAUNCHES AND FERRY VESSELS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES WITH A MINIMUM LIABILITY COVER OF \$3 MILLION PER ACCIDENT.

HE ALSO SAID THE BILL WILL BE GAZETTED ON AUGUST 4 AND INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS YEAR. THE NEW PROVISIONS WOULD COME INTO FORCE SIX MONTHS AFTER ENACTMENT TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR VESSEL OWNERS TO SEEK SUITABLE INSURANCE COVER AND FOR INSURERS TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS ALSO APPROVED THE REPEAL OF REGULATION 39 OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (LAUNCHES AND FERRY VESSELS) REGULATIONS WHICH EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO PRESCRIBE THE MAXIMUM HIRE CHARGES FOR WALLA-WALLAS.

AS THE WALLA-WALLA TRADE HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED OPERATING PUBLIC CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES, IT IS CONSIDERED NO LONGER NECESSARY TO FIX HIRING CHARGES FOR THESE VESSELS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT PUBLISHES REPORT ON LOCAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES
* * * * *

THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT RELEASED A NEW PUBLICATION TODAY (THURSDAY) GIVING AN OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SINCE THE 1950'S.

ENTITLED "HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES 1988", THE PUBLICATION WAS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S DATA AND SERVICES DIVISION, USING GOVERNMENT STATISTICS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED BY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE REPORT GAVE A PROFILE OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE AND OF 14 SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

"THESE INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN SELECTED EITHER BECAUSE THEY HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS OR HAVE EXHIBITED RAPID GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT OTHER SMALLER INDUSTRIES WILL BE TREATED IN GREATER DETAIL IN SUBSEQUENT ISSUES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REPORT IS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND WILL BE PRODUCED ANNUALLY TO INCORPORATE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

THE 14 SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN THIS YEAR'S REPORT INCLUDE CLOTHING, ELECTRONICS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, TEXTILES, PLASTICS, TOYS, METAL PRODUCTS, HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, PRINTING, PHOTOGRAPHIC GOODS, OPTICAL GOODS, JEWELLERY, INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND FOOD AND BEVERAGES.

THE REPORT HAS OUTLINED THESE INDUSTRIES' HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS, SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS, PRODUCTION, EXPORT TRADE, OVERSEAS INVESTMENT, STRENGTHS, CONSTRAINTS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK.

THE 207-PAGE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS 14 GRAPHICAL CHARTS AND 119 STATISTICAL TABLES WHICH PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE 1989 EDITION OF THE REPORT, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A SURVEY TO COLLECT MANUFACTURERS' VIEWS ON FACTORS OF INVESTMENT, CONSTRAINTS ON GROWTH AS WELL AS BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE 1989 ISSUE WILL BE RELEASED EARLY NEXT YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COPIES OF THE PUBLICATION ARE NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE DATA AND SERVICES DIVISION OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AT ROOM 1412, 14TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO OBTAIN A COPY MAY CALL AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR CONTACT MR M. O. CHEUNG AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 3-7372409.

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1989

- 11 -

DELAYS IN COMPENSATION PAYMENT PROHIBITED

* * * * *

EMPLOYERS WERE TODAY (THURSDAY) WARNED AGAINST DELAYS IN MAKING PERIODIC PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYEES SUFFERING FROM TEMPORARY INCAPACITY ARISING FROM THEIR WORK.

THE WARNING FOLLOWS A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH AN EMPLOYER WAS FINED \$2,000 BY A SHA TIN MAGISTRATE FOR FAILING TO MAKE THE DUE PAYMENTS TO AN INJURED EMPLOYEE WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYEE IS ENTITLED TO A COMPENSATION FOR HIS TEMPORARY INCAPACITY RESULTED FROM INJURY AT WORK.

"SUCH PAYMENT MUST BE MADE TO THE INJURED EMPLOYEE PERIODICALLY ON THE SAME DAYS AS WAGES WOULD HAVE BEEN PAYABLE TO HIM OR WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH SUCH PAYMENT FALLS DUE," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"AS THE EMPLOYER IN THIS CASE ONLY GAVE THE INJURED WORKER THE FULL AMOUNT OF HIS ENTITLED COMPENSATION FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE. PROSECUTION WAS TAKEN OUT AGAINST HIM."

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ANYONE WHO CONTRAVENES THE PROVISION IS LIABLE, UPON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BAN ZONE ON GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 8 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 29), ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING 11 METRES IN LENGTH WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER IN KOWLOON 24 HOURS DAILY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN KWUN TONG

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 11 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 29), TRAFFIC ON THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF JUNK BAY ROAD IN KWUN TONG WILL BE PERMITTED TO TURN LEFT TO THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LEI YUE MUN ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -