



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MEASURES TO BRING RENTS UP TO REALISTIC LEVEL

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THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE IN RESPECT OF RENT CONTROL IS THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ACCELERATE THE PHASING OUT OF RENT CONTROL, PROVIDED THAT SOCIAL DISRUPTION AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP CAN BE AVOIDED, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS MOVING THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) RESOLUTION 1990 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE FIRST PROPOSAL IN THE RESOLUTION SEEKS TO RAISE THE PERMITTED RENT OF PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES COVERED BY PART I OF THE ORDINANCE, TO A MORE REALISTIC LEVEL.

THE SECOND PROPOSAL IS TO RAISE THE SO-CALLED "MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT" IN THE RENT INCREASE MECHANISM THAT APPLIES TO POST-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES PROTECTED UNDER PART II OF THE ORDINANCE.

MR TSAO SAID THOSE RENT CONTROLS WOULD BE REVIEWED AGAIN NEXT YEAR, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE STATE OF THE PROPERTY MARKET AND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES.

"IF THE CURRENT PROPERTY AND RENTAL MARKETS CONTINUE TO BE REASONABLY STABLE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE ADMINISTRATION EXPECTS THAT THE MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT CAN BE REVISED ANNUALLY SO THAT, WITHIN ABOUT TWO TO THREE YEARS OR EVEN EARLIER, RENTS WILL HAVE INCREASED TO A LEVEL AT WHICH PART II CONTROLS CAN BE ALLOWED TO LAPSE WITHOUT CAUSING UNDUE HARDSHIP TO THE TENANTS. IT IS ALSO INTENDED TO PHASE OUT PART I CONTROLS AT THE SAME TIME," HE SAID.

"AT THAT POINT, THE WHOLE ORDINANCE INCLUDING PART IV WILL BE LOOKED AT TO SEE WHAT CHANGES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO BRING THE PROVISIONS UP TO DATE," HE ADDED.

ON THE INCREASE IN THE PERMITTED RENT OF PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES, MR TSAO EXPLAINED THAT THE RENT OF SUCH PREMISES WAS DERIVED FROM A "STANDARD RENT" PAYABLE AS AT DECEMBER 25, 1941.

THE CURRENT "PERMITTED RENT" WAS SET AT 43 TIMES THIS LEVEL, AND IT WAS NOW PROPOSED TO INCREASE THIS TO 48 TIMES THE STANDARD RENT, HE SAID.

HE NOTED THIS CHANGE WOULD BRING THE AVERAGE PERMITTED RENT OF PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES UP FROM 71 PER CENT TO 76 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET LEVEL.

IT WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 12 PER CENT, OR \$180 PER MONTH, ON CURRENT PERMITTED RENTS AND WOULD AFFECT ABOUT 1,200 DOMESTIC PREMISES.

REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE "MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT", MR TSAO SAID THE AMOUNT OF INCREASE IN RENT IN RESPECT OF TENANCIES PROTECTED UNDER PART II OF THE ORDINANCE WAS LIMITED TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CURRENT RENT AND THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT, BUT SUBJECT TO A CEILING OF 30 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT RENT.

"HOWEVER, IF THE NEW RENT CALCULATED ACCORDING TO THIS FORMULA IS LESS THAN A SPECIFIED PERCENTAGE (AT PRESENT 65 PER CENT) OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT, THE PERMITTED RENT INCREASE SHALL BE THE AMOUNT WHICH WILL BRING THE NEW RENT UP TO THIS MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.

"THE REASON FOR SPECIFYING THIS MINIMUM PERCENTAGE, WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT IS TO ENSURE THAT CONTROLLED RENTS DO NOT FALL TOO FAR OUT OF LINE WITH THE PREVAILING MARKET RENTS AND TO ENABLE RENT CONTROLS TO BE PHASED OUT WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME WITHOUT ADVERSE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES," HE SAID.

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT THE AVERAGE CONTROLLED RENTS FOR PART II TENANCIES NOW STOOD AT ABOUT 62 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT. HOWEVER, FOR ABOUT 54 PER CENT OF THESE TENANCIES, THE CONTROLLED RENT WAS BELOW THIS OVERALL AVERAGE.

"IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT CONTROLLED RENTS DO NOT FALL TOO FAR BEHIND THE PREVAILING MARKET RENTS, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT FROM 65 PER CENT TO 70 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT," HE SAID.

"ASSUMING THAT MARKET RENTS REMAIN RELATIVELY STABLE, THIS WILL HAVE A NET EFFECT OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TENANCIES AFFECTED BY THE MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT FROM ABOUT 7,200 TO 9,500.

"THE RESULTING ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE CONTROLLED RENT OF THE AFFECTED TENANCIES WILL BE \$129 PER MONTH," HE ADDED.

ELABORATING FURTHER ON HOW THE PERMITTED INCREASE IN RENT IS DETERMINED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE PERMITTED INCREASE WAS DETERMINED BY TAKING THE LESSER AMOUNT OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT AND THE CURRENT RENT OR 30 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT RENT.

"HOWEVER, IF THE INCREASE SO DETERMINED, WHEN ADDED TO THE CURRENT RENT, RESULTS IN A SUM OF LESS THAN 70 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT, THE PERMITTED INCREASE WILL BE AN AMOUNT NECESSARY TO BRING THE CURRENT RENT UP TO 70 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT," HE SAID.

THE METHOD OF DETERMINING THE PERMITTED INCREASE AND THE PERCENTAGE COMPONENTS CONTAINED THEREIN ARE PRESCRIBED IN THE ORDINANCE, WHEREAS THE CURRENT RENT IS THE RENT ACTUALLY PAID BY THE TENANT. ONLY THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT IS AN ASSESSMENT MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION.

THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT IS ASSESSED BY REFERENCE TO EVIDENCE OF FREELY-NEGOTIATED OPEN MARKET RENTS, BUT NOT CONTROLLED RENTS, OF SIMILAR PREMISES IN THE LOCALITY. FINANCIAL STATUS AND PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE LANDLORD AND THE TENANT ARE NOT FACTORS WHICH CAN PROPERLY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE ASSESSMENT.

SECOND READING OF SECURITIES AND
FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

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THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH AIMS TO ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO WAIVE OR MODIFY CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS IN RESPECT OF PERSONS APPLYING TO BE REGISTERED AND REGISTERED PERSONS UNDER THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION ORDINANCE, THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE AND THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID: WE BELIEVE THE BILL WILL BE OF ASSISTANCE TO MARKET INTERMEDIARIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLYING WITH THE RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS.

"I SHOULD ADD, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROPOSED DISCRETION IS NOT UNFETTERED".

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO EXERCISE ITS DISCRETION IF COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS CREATED AN UNDUE BURDEN FOR THE PERSON CONCERNED, AND PROVIDED THAT WAIVER OR MODIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS DID NOT RESULT IN UNDUE RISK TO THE INVESTING PUBLIC.

HE SAID DURING THE PASSAGE OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION BILL EARLY LAST YEAR, HE HAD STRESSED THE NEED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN CONTROLS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN MARKET INTEGRITY AND FREEDOM TO ENCOURAGE MARKETS TO GROW AND INNOVATE.

THE ENACTMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE REPRESENTED A FIRST BUT IMPORTANT PHASE OF A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SECURITIES LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION, SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT ON MAY 1 LAST YEAR HAD BEEN CONTINUING THE REVIEW PROCESS.

"IN REVIEWING THE SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION OF MARKET INTERMEDIARIES, THE COMMISSION HAS FOUND THAT CERTAIN STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED ON MARKET INTERMEDIARIES GIVE RISE TO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES, NOT ONLY FOR SUCH INTERMEDIARIES BUT ALSO FOR THE COMMISSION.

"TO AVOID UNNECESSARY RIGIDITY IN THE WAY THE COMMISSION PERFORMS ITS FUNCTIONS, WE CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE COMMISSION BE ENABLED TO WAIVE OR MODIFY THESE REQUIREMENTS IN RESPONSE TO MARKET NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENTS," SIR PIERS SAID.

/THE STATUTORY

THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS IN QUESTION RELATED TO THE REGISTRATION OF DIRECTORS, CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS, MAINTENANCE OF A REGISTER OF SECURITIES, TRUST ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS AND RECORD KEEPING.

"THESE ARE ALL ISSUES WHICH ARE UNDER REGULAR REVIEW BY THE COMMISSION.

"THE PROPOSED DISCRETION IS REQUIRED SO THAT THE COMMISSION CAN APPLY THE REQUIREMENTS FLEXIBLY," SIR PIERS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL EXPLAINED
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THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AIMS TO REMOVE THE RIGIDITIES IN EXISTING LEGISLATION WHICH IMPAIRED THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT EXERCISE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR PIERS SAID THESE RIGIDITIES WERE IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION IN THE COURSE OF ITS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OVER THE PAST 14 MONTHS.

SIR PIERS SAID AT PRESENT, THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE RULES RELATING TO THE FUTURES EXCHANGE AND ITS CLEARING HOUSE WAS ONLY TWO WEEKS.

"THIS HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE INADEQUATE.

"WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO EXTEND THIS TIME LIMIT TO SIX WEEKS, AS IS ALREADY THE CASE FOR THE STOCK EXCHANGE, AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY BY ENABLING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO EXTEND THE PERIOD FURTHER IN PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID.

HE SAID THERE WAS ALSO NO STATUTORY PROVISION ALLOWING EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITS BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

"WE PROPOSE THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO FURTHER EXTEND THE TIME LIMITS SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT BY THE EXCHANGE OR CLEARING HOUSE CONCERNED," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT PUBLISHED IN JUNE 1988 HAD POINTED OUT THAT PROPER AND ADEQUATE REGULATION LAY AT THE HEART OF ITS PROPOSALS.

/"BOTH THE

"BOTH THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE EXCHANGES WOULD HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES, AND THIS REQUIRED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE EXCHANGES," HE SAID.

"SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT ON MAY 1, 1989, THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE EXCHANGES ON POLICY MATTERS RELATING TO TRADING PRACTICES AND THE FUNCTIONING AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETS, AS WELL AS IN REVIEWING RULES AND PROCEDURES WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THAT RISK MANAGEMENT AND CLIENT PROTECTION SYSTEMS ARE EFFECTIVE, AND THAT THE RULES ARE DEVELOPED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE MARKET AS A WHOLE," SIR PIERS SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IT WAS THE COMMISSION'S INTENTION TO COMPLETE ITS EXAMINATION OF ANY PROPOSED RULES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT A RULING MAY BE GIVEN.

"IT IS JUST THAT A LITTLE MORE LEEWAY NEEDS TO BE GIVEN FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL CASES," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 EXPLAINED
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THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 SEEKS TO EXTEND THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION TO APPROVE RULES RELATING TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS SAID THIS PROVISION WAS SIMILAR TO THE ONE PROPOSED IN THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE REASONS FOR ITS INTRODUCTION WERE IDENTICAL.

"THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE COMMISSION TO RECOGNISE A CLEARING HOUSE AND TO APPROVE ITS RULES AND CONSTITUTION.

"THIS TIES IN WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS," SIR PIERS SAID.

"THE PROVISIONS IN RESPECT OF THE TIME LIMITS FOR APPROVAL WILL BE IN LINE WITH THOSE WHICH ARE PROPOSED FOR THE CLEARING HOUSE OF THE FUTURES EXCHANGE IN THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

"IN ADDITION, WE PROPOSE THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD CONSULT ME BEFORE EXERCISING ITS POWER TO RECOGNISE A CLEARING HOUSE, AND THAT IT SHOULD TAKE BOTH THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE MARKET REGULATION INTO ACCOUNT IN REACHING ITS DECISION," SIR PIERS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL EXPLAINED

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THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990 SEEKS TO SPECIFY THAT THE PROPOSED POWER IN THE EXCHANGES UNIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 TO RECOGNISE A CLEARING HOUSE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS AND APPROVE ITS RULES AND CONSTITUTION CANNOT BE DELEGATED, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR PIERS SAID THAT IN THE PASSAGE OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION BILL THROUGH THIS COUNCIL IN 1989, MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED THAT IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR DECISION BY THE FULL COMMISSION.

"SCHEDULE 1 TO THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION ORDINANCE SPECIFIES A NUMBER OF FUNCTIONS THE PERFORMANCE OF WHICH ARE NOT TO BE DELEGATED BY THE COMMISSION TO ITS COMMITTEES, INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS OR STAFF.

"AMENDMENTS TO THIS SCHEDULE CAN ONLY BE EFFECTED BY A RESOLUTION OF THIS COUNCIL," SIR PIERS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ENTRY POINT FOR TAIWANESE UNIVERSITIES' GRADUATES BEING CONSIDERED

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING WHETHER DEGREE HOLDERS FROM TAIWAN UNIVERSITIES AND HOLDERS OF OTHER NON-STANDARD QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD HAVE THEIR ENTRY POINT REVISED, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE RESULTS OF THIS EXERCISE WERE BEING FINALISED AND WOULD SHORTLY BE FORWARDED TO THE RELEVANT POLICY BRANCHES FOR CONSIDERATION, HE ADDED.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SZETO WAH, MR YEUNG STRESSED THAT NO TAIWAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATE HAD EVER BEEN HIRED TO TEACH IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG.

"THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE ENTRY POINT SPECIFIED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS REGRETTABLE BUT THEORETICAL, IN AS MUCH AS ITS EXISTENCE HAS NOT AFFECTED ANY TEACHER," HE SAID.

/MR YEUNG

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE DISCREPANCY AROSE AS A RESULT OF LACK OF CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES INVOLVED, BUT HAD NOW BEEN REMOVED.

"IN JANUARY 1989, THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AMENDED THE ENTRY POINT FOR GRADUATES FROM TAIWAN UNIVERSITIES FROM MASTER PAY SCALE 17 TO MASTER PAY SCALE 15 SO AS TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THE GENERAL PRACTICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

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CABLE AND SATELLITE TV POLICY UNDER REVIEW
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THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING ITS POLICY ON CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER WONG, MR TSAO SAID THERE WAS AT PRESENT NO ESTABLISHED POLICY ON SATELLITE TV.

"WE ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR A GENERAL INTENTION TO EXEMPT FROM LICENSING SATELLITE TELEVISION RECEPTION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS WHICH ARE DESIGNED FOR GENERAL RECEPTION AND ARE RESTRICTED TO SINGLE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS.

"IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION WE ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING OUR POLICY IN THIS AREA."

HE ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN HONG KONG CABLE COMMUNICATIONS LTD AND THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM AND A SECOND TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK.

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GOVT PREFERS TO IMPROVE TEACHER TRAINING AND TO SET MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH
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AT PRESENT 292 SECONDARY SCHOOLS USE OR CLAIM TO USE ENGLISH AS THEIR MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WHILE 136 USE CHINESE FULLY OR PARTLY AS THEIR MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K. Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, MR YEUNG SAID: "WE DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY TO WHAT EXTENT TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH USE OR CLAIM TO USE ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION ARE PROFICIENT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE."

/NEVERTHELESS, THE

NEVERTHELESS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES, PUBLISHED IN MAY 1989, HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE ENGLISH OF SOME OF THESE TEACHERS WAS NOT UP TO THE SCRATCH, HE ADDED.

"THIS HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS FOURTH REPORT, WHICH INCLUDES A REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION," MR YEUNG SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID, WITHOUT WISHING TO MAKE A PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS, HE THOUGHT THE WAY FORWARD MIGHT BE PARTLY TO DEVELOP A MECHANISM BY WHICH THE LANGUAGE ABILITY OF ALL STUDENTS WAS ASSESSED OBJECTIVELY, AND PARTLY FOR SCHOOLS TO MAKE A CLEAR-CUT CHOICE AS TO WHICH MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION THEY WOULD USE.

"THE AIM WOULD BE TO PLACE STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS USING THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION BEST SUITED TO THEIR COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

"THUS, RATHER THAN DEPLOYING SCARCE RESOURCES ON RESEARCH TO ESTABLISH THE PROFICIENCY OF EXISTING TEACHERS USING ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, WE WOULD PREFER TO DEPLOY THESE RESOURCES TO SET MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH AND TO IMPROVE TEACHER TRAINING," MR YEUNG ADDED.

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USE OF LOUDSPEAKERS IN PUBLIC PLACE REQUIRES POLICE APPROVAL
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THE USE OF LOUDSPEAKERS IN A PUBLIC PLACE REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE, UNLESS THE USE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN SEPARATELY AUTHORISED UNDER THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT.

HE SAID THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE ALSO PROHIBITED THE USE OF LOUDSPEAKERS WHICH WERE A SOURCE OF ANNOYANCE TO THE PUBLIC.

"EACH APPLICATION TO USE LOUDSPEAKERS IS CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS.

"IN GENERAL, A PERMIT IS ISSUED IF THE COMMISSIONER IS SATISFIED THAT THE USE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT IS NECESSARY AND WILL NOT CAUSE A NUISANCE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC," MR ASPREY SAID.

AS APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WERE NOT CATEGORISED BY THE TYPE OF PERSON OR BODY MAKING THE APPLICATION, STATISTICS ON APPLICATIONS FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND SCHOOLS ALONE WERE NOT AVAILABLE, HE SAID.

/HOWEVER, THERE

HOWEVER, THERE WERE FIGURES FOR THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED, AND PERMITS ISSUED IN THE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

IN 1988, THERE WERE 487 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND 481 PERMITS ISSUED. LAST YEAR, THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES WERE 402 AND 391. FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1990, 285 APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED AND 272 PERMITS ISSUED. TWELVE APPLICATIONS WERE STILL BEING PROCESSED.

"IN SUM, IN THE LAST 30 MONTHS, NEARLY 1,200 APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED, OF WHICH SOME 97 PER CENT HAVE BEEN APPROVED," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE NOTED THAT SINCE THE POLICE LICENSING OFFICE ISSUED MANY DIFFERENT LICENCES AND PERMITS, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO CALCULATE SEPARATELY THE COST OF PROCESSING APPLICATIONS TO USE LOUDSPEAKERS.

"HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THE TOTAL ANNUAL COST IS SMALL," MR ASPREY ADDED.

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CRITERIA USED IN APPROVING FUND-RAISING APPLICATIONS
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, BEFORE APPROVING FUND-RAISING APPLICATIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS, FIRST NEEDS TO ESTABLISH THAT THERE WILL BE AN ACTIVE SOLICITATION OF FUNDS, AND THAT THE COLLECTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN A PUBLIC PLACE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. RONALD CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SHE SAID: "WHEN THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED EACH APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS, HAVING REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- * THE STATUS OF THE ORGANISATION - WHETHER THE APPLICANT IS A BONA-FIDE NON-PROFIT-MAKING CHARITABLE OR WELFARE ORGANISATION;
- * THE NATURE OF THE ACTIVITY - WHETHER THE ORGANISATION'S ACTIVITIES ARE CHARITABLE OR WELFARE RELATED; AND
- * THE FUND-RAISING OBJECTIVE - WHETHER THE MONEY RAISED WOULD SUPPORT CHARITABLE OR WELFARE WORK."

THE STATUTORY POWER FOR THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO GRANT PERMITS FOR FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC PLACES WAS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4(17) OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE, CAP. 228, MRS WONG ADDED.

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MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST EMPLOYERS ESSENTIAL

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID HE BELIEVED THAT MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST EMPLOYERS IS ESSENTIAL TO COMBAT THE THREAT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR ASPREY SAID: "I THEREFORE INTEND TO SEEK THIS COUNCIL'S APPROVAL EARLY NEXT SESSION OF MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE PROSECUTION OF EMPLOYERS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND TO PROVIDE MORE STRINGENT PENALTIES FOR EMPLOYERS CONVICTED OF THIS SERIOUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE OFFENCE."

HE NOTED THAT THE SUB-CONTRACTING SYSTEM USED ON CONSTRUCTION SITES MADE IT DIFFICULT IN MOST CASES TO IDENTIFY THE EMPLOYER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOUND WORKING ON SUCH SITES.

"AS A RESULT, IT HAS USUALLY NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO BRING PROSECUTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYERS IN SUCH CASES, DESPITE EXTENSIVE POLICE ENQUIRIES," HE SAID.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE NORMALLY RELUCTANT TO IDENTIFY THEIR EMPLOYER, MR ASPREY ADDED.

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PLANS AND MEASURES TO SOLVE FLOODING PROBLEMS OUTLINED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BOTH LONG-TERM STRATEGIES AND CONTINGENCY MEASURES TO PREVENT AND SOLVE THE FLOODING PROBLEMS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES DURING THE RAINY SEASON.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR BARNES SAID THE LONG TERM STRUCTURAL MEASURES INCLUDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DRAINAGE CHANNELS, IMPROVING EXISTING CHANNELS AND PROVIDING PROTECTIVE WORKS AND FLOOD PUMPING STATION IN VILLAGES WHICH WERE AT PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE LOCATIONS.

HE NOTED THAT THESE PROJECTS, WITH A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF SOME \$6 BILLION, HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE TUEN MUN, NORTH WEST AND NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENT OFFICES.

"THESE ARE MAJOR AND DIFFICULT WORKS AND CAN ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS," HE SAID.

"ALSO BECAUSE OF THE TERRAIN, MOST OF THESE AREAS ARE NOT ONLY AFFECTED BY RAINFALL BUT ALSO BY TIDE AND STORM SURGES.

"SO TOTAL PREVENTION OF FLOODING IS NOT PRACTICAL AND THE LONG-TERM STRATEGY IS AIMED AT REDUCING THE FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF FLOODING," HE ADDED.

MR BARNES SAID OTHER LONG-TERM MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDED THE DRAWING UP OF RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS BY THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS THE DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION TO CONTROL LAND USE IN FLOOD PRONE AREAS.

"THE BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS WILL IDENTIFY THE FUNCTION OF MAIN STREAMCOURSES, THE CAPACITY OF FLOW WHICH THEY MUST MAINTAIN AND THE WORKS AND CONTROL NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THESE CAPACITIES ARE MAINTAINED.

"DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR A LAND DRAINAGE ORDINANCE ARE BEING PREPARED AND UNDER THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAINAGE IMPACT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WHICH IS LIABLE TO HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE DRAINAGE OF A BASIN," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ALSO NOTED THAT WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE WAS CURRENTLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS. IT WOULD BE CENTRALISED WITH THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS IN ORDER TO ENSURE A CLEAR LINE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND A MORE EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE SERVICE.

"AS FOR CONTINGENCY MEASURES, THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH WAS SET UP LAST YEAR, ALSO CO-ORDINATES FLOOD PREVENTION AND REMEDIAL ACTION AGAINST FLOODING."

IF FLOODING OCCURRED, MR BARNES SAID, THERE WERE PRACTICAL MEASURES THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO RELEASE THE WATER. VILLAGES COULD TELEPHONE THE DISTRICT OFFICES OR THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR HELP. A MAINTENANCE GANG WOULD BE DESPATCHED TO THE AREA TO REMOVE MATERIALS FROM CULVERTS OR TO CLEAR BLOCKED DRAINS.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN A MAJOR FLOOD, SUCH AS WAS EXPERIENCED DURING TYPHOON BRENDA, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE THAT COULD BE DONE.

"IN SUCH AN EVENT, THE POLICE, AMBULANCE, FIRE SERVICES ARE DEPLOYED TO EFFECT RESCUES AND THEY IN TURN MAY HAVE TO CALL IN THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE AND THEIR HELICOPTER TEAMS," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON MAINTENANCE OF FLOODING BLACK SPOTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS SOMETHING LIKE \$35 MILLION PER ANNUM.

THE WORKS INCLUDED ROUTINE INSPECTION OF SEWERS AND STORMWATER DRAINS AND CARRYING OUT CLEARANCE TO BLOCKAGES.

FROM NOVEMBER 1989 TO MAY 1990, NEW FLAPGATES HAD ALSO BEEN INSTALLED, PARTICULARLY IN THE YUEN LONG NULLAH AREA IN WHICH ALL OR PART OF 125 VILLAGES WOULD BE BENEFITTED, HE SAID.

MR BARNES NOTED THAT A TOTAL OF 197 BLACK SPOTS HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED.

PAYMENT OF OLD AGE ALLOWANCE EXPLAINED

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OLD AGE ALLOWANCE WAS WITHHELD FROM 5,400 RECIPIENTS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABSENT FROM HONG KONG FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS IN A YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MRS WONG SAID THE AVERAGE PERIOD OF ABSENCE IN THESE CASES WAS 210 DAYS.

MRS WONG EXPLAINED THAT OLD AGE ALLOWANCE WAS A NON-CONTRIBUTORY WELFARE PAYMENT FUNDED BY GENERAL REVENUE, AND WAS INTENDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR ELDERLY FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS TO MEET EXTRA EXPENSES ARISING FROM OLD AGE.

"WHILE IT IS ASSUMED THAT RECIPIENTS WILL BE RESIDING IN HONG KONG IF THEY ARE TO RECEIVE THE ALLOWANCE, AT PRESENT THEY ARE PERMITTED TO BE ABSENT FOR UP TO 90 DAYS A YEAR IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR NEED TO GO ANYWHERE OVERSEAS FOR SHORT VISITS, BE THESE FOR MEDICAL OR SOCIAL REASONS," SHE SAID.

AT PRESENT, WHEN INTENDING TO BE ABSENT FROM HONG KONG FOR OVER 90 DAYS TO GO TO CHINA OR, INDEED, ELSEWHERE FOR MEDICAL REASONS, THE RECIPIENT MIGHT SEEK PERMISSION TO EXTEND HIS ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUED PAYMENT OF THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE.

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MERITS OF THE CASE, SUCH PERMISSION MAY BE GIVEN FOR PERIODS OF TIME AS REQUIRED IN THAT PARTICULAR CASE," SHE SAID.

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USA ENCOURAGED TO TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH

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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO TAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS TO THE MIGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW, MR ASPREY SAID: "FOR ITS PART, HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT RECOGNISE THE NEED TO TACKLE THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE MIGRATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE."

ON MAY 17 THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL SCHEME TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGO'S) IN THOSE PARTS OF NORTHERN VIETNAM FROM WHICH BOAT PEOPLE HAD PREDOMINANTLY COME IN RECENT YEARS, HE SAID.

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"UNDER THE SPECIAL SCHEME, THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ODA) WILL MEET 80 PER CENT OF THE COSTS OF AGREED HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC PROJECTS PUT FORWARD BY BRITISH NGO'S IN THE TARGET AREAS."

HE NOTED THAT A SUM OF ONE MILLION POUND STERLING HAD BEEN SET ASIDE TO SUPPORT THESE PROJECTS.

"IN ADDITION, HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ADD VIETNAM TO THE LIST OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE GENERAL JOINT FUNDING SCHEME, UNDER WHICH THE ODA MEETS 50 PER CENT OF THE COSTS OF AGREED NGO PROJECTS," MR ASPREY SAID.

"THERE ARE NO GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS UNDER THIS SCHEME," HE ADDED.

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SKETCH PLANS FOR SMITHFIELD JOINT USER BUILDING TO BE PREPARED

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THE SCHEDULE FOR ACCOMMODATION FOR ALL THE USERS OF THE SMITHFIELD ROAD JOINT USER BUILDING WAS APPROVED EARLIER THIS MONTH AND SKETCH PLANS WILL NOW BE PREPARED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, STATED THIS IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN LEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS PROJECT WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS UNDER THE 1989 RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM.

"IT WILL HAVE TO COMPETE AGAINST OTHER PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDS THIS YEAR.

"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THEREFORE AT THIS STAGE TO INDICATE A NEW START OR COMPLETION DATE FOR THE PROJECT," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE COMPLETION DATE OF DECEMBER 1993 ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER FOR THE PROJECT WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC AND WAS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE ANNUAL ALLOCATION EXERCISE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THAT PREPARATION OF SKETCH PLANS WOULD COMMENCE IN JUNE 1989.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990

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RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY PLANNED FOR 1991

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO COMMISSION A RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY EARLY NEXT YEAR IN ORDER TO TAKE AN OVERALL VIEW ON PRIORITIES AND TIMING OF FUTURE RAIL PROJECTS, SUBJECT TO FUNDS BEING AVAILABLE.

THIS WAS STATED IN A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY WOULD REASSESS AND UPDATE FUTURE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH PASSENGER AND FREIGHT TRAFFIC IN THE TERRITORY.

THE STUDY, TAKING FULL ACCOUNT OF THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, WOULD EVALUATE A NUMBER OF POTENTIAL RAILWAY PROJECTS WITHIN A TIME FRAME EXTENDING TO 2011.

THESE MIGHT INCLUDE, APART FROM THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES RAIL LINK, THE EXTENSION OF MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY TO TSEUNG KWAN O, A THIRD RAIL HARBOUR CROSSING, AND OTHER RAIL LINKS IDENTIFIED IN RECENT DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, SUCH AS THE METROPLAN.

MR LEUNG SAID THE RAIL PROJECTS SELECTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION WOULD THEN BE SUBJECT TO MORE DETAILED INVESTIGATION TO ESTABLISH THEIR ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY, FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMES.

THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UP TO THE YEAR 2001 RECOMMENDED BY THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY (CTS-2) INCLUDED A PROPOSED NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES RAIL LINK TO SERVE THE NEW TOWNS OF TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG AND TIN SHUI WAI, HE ADDED.

TWO ALTERNATIVE ROUTES WERE IDENTIFIED FOR DETAILED STUDY -- THE TUEN MUN-TSUEN WAN LINK, AND THE YUEN LONG-TSUEN WAN LINK.

SINCE THE COMPLETION OF CTS-2, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, TOGETHER WITH RELATED RAIL AND ROAD LINKS.

AS THESE PROJECTS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF ROUTE 3 TO TIE IN WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW AIRPORT HAD MAJOR IMPLICATIONS ON THE TIMING AND ALIGNMENT OF THESE RAILWAYS RECOMMENDED BY CTS-2, A FURTHER REVIEW OF THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES RAIL LINK AND OTHER RAIL PROJECTS WAS REQUIRED.

AS PRIORITY HAD TO BE GIVEN TO THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT, FINANCIAL AND ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAD BEEN COMMISSIONED ON THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. THIS WOULD THEN BE FOLLOWED BY A RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY, MR LEUNG SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990

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TUEN MUN HOSPITAL IN FULL OPERATION BY LATE 1992
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TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WILL BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION IN FIVE PHASES, AND BECOME FULLY OPERATIONAL IN LATE 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHI-WAH, MRS WONG SAID THE FIRST PHASE WAS OPENED BETWEEN MARCH 8 AND APRIL 2 THIS YEAR.

"IT IS PLANNED TO OPEN PHASE TWO IN LATE 1990/EARLY 1991 AND TO PROCEED WITH SUCCESSIVE PHASES UNTIL THE HOSPITAL IS IN FULL OPERATION IN LATE 1992.

"ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL ALSO BE PHASED-IN TO MATCH THE BUILD-UP OF SPECIALTY BEDS TO ACCOMMODATE ADMISSION CASES AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT ANCILLIARY FACILITIES."

SHE SAID THESE SERVICES WOULD START ON A 9 AM TO 5 PM BASIS FROM JULY 30 AND WOULD BE EXTENDED TO 12-HOUR SERVICE IN JANUARY 1991 AND 24-HOUR SERVICE IN JULY 1991.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE NORMAL PRACTICE FOR ANY NEW MAJOR HOSPITAL TO BE CONSTRUCTED AND COMMISSIONED IN PHASES.

THE OPENING DATE FOR PARTICULAR PHASES WAS DETERMINED ONCE THE COMPLETION DATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONING WORK WAS KNOWN.

FOR TUEN MUN HOSPITAL, MRS WONG SAID CONSTRUCTION WORK COMMENCED ON AUGUST 30, 1984, WITH A 36-MONTH WORK PERIOD FOR PHASE ONE AND A 42-MONTH PERIOD FOR PHASE TWO.

"DURING THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION, 506 DAYS' EXTENSION OF TIME WAS GIVEN FOR PHASE ONE AND 463 DAYS' EXTENSION TO PHASE TWO, MAINLY DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER, THE OUTBREAK OF A FIRE IN THE RADIOTHERAPY BLOCK AND A REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTALLATIONS.

"THESE EXTENDED THE CONTRACTUAL COMPLETION DATES TO JANUARY 16, 1989 AND JUNE 6, 1989 RESPECTIVELY," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG SAID CONSTRUCTION WORK WAS CONTRACTUALLY CONSIDERED TO BE "SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE" ON JANUARY 16, 1989 FOR PHASE ONE, WHICH WAS ON TIME, AND ON AUGUST 9, 1989 FOR PHASE TWO, WHICH WAS TWO MONTHS LATE.

SHE SAID A CONTRACTUAL SIX-MONTH PERIOD OF DEFECTS RECTIFICATION AND COMPLETION OF ANY OUTSTANDING WORKS COMMENCED ON AUGUST 9, 1989, IN PARALLEL WITH TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES.

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"IN TAKING OVER EACH AREA, END-USERS HAVE IDENTIFIED ADDITIONAL WORKS, DESIGN CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS.

"THESE ARE NOW BEING CARRIED OUT AS POST-CONTRACT VARIATION," MRS WONG SAID.

"THE AIM OF THESE MEASURES IS TO ENSURE EQUIPMENT RELIABILITY AND PATIENTS' WELL-BEING BEFORE HOSPITAL SERVICES ARE INTRODUCED," SHE ADDED.

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AMOUNT OF HK CURRENCY EXTRACTED UNDER DURESS UNKNOWN
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IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW MUCH HONG KONG CURRENCY WAS EXTRACTED UNDER DURESS FROM HONG KONG RESIDENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR MILITARY CURRENCY DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU.

AS TO THE QUESTION OF REDEMPTION, SIR PIERS SAID AS HONG KONG WAS A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR HONG KONG TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN.

"QUESTIONS OF THIS KIND CONCERNING THE ALLEGED RESPONSIBILITY OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO CITIZENS OF HONG KONG ARE MATTERS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"WE ARE CURRENTLY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM REGARDING A POSSIBLE WAY FORWARD," HE ADDED.

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NO PLANS FOR TRAVEL AGENTS TO HAVE SEGREGATED BANK ACCOUNTS
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THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO REQUIRE TRAVEL AGENTS TO HAVE SEGREGATED BANK ACCOUNTS FOR CLIENTS' MONEY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER WONG, SIR PIERS SAID THE CONCEPT OF SUCH ACCOUNTS WAS CONSIDERED IN DETAIL IN 1987, WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION WAS SEARCHING FOR REMEDIES TO PLUG THE LOOPHOLE EXPOSED BY THE AUSTRAVEL CASE.

/FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE

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FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAVEL AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS, MAJOR OPERATIONAL AND PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES WERE IDENTIFIED.

"THESE INCLUDED THE NEED TO DETERMINE AND PRESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TRAVEL AGENTS, THEIR CLIENTS, THE 'CUSTODIANS' OF THE MONEY AND THE BANKS WITH WHICH THE ACCOUNTS ARE OPENED," SIR PIERS SAID.

"ALTHOUGH THESE PROBLEMS WERE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE, THEY WERE NEVERTHELESS COMPLEX IN NATURE AND WOULD HAVE REQUIRED MUCH TIME TO RESOLVE," HE ADDED.

"IN THE END, THE ADMINISTRATION DECIDED IN FAVOUR OF THE PRESENT SCHEME OF SELF-REGULATION WHICH INCLUDES, INTER ALIA, THE PROVISION OF SOME ASSURANCE FOR OUTBOUND TRAVELLERS THROUGH THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND," SIR PIERS SAID.

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SELF-REGULATION FOR TRAVEL INDUSTRY TO BE REVIEWED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING A REVIEW TO EXAMINE THE ENTIRE PACKAGE OF SELF-REGULATION FOR THE OUTBOUND TRAVEL INDUSTRY, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TABLING THE REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRAVEL AGENTS' RESERVE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR STARTING APRIL 1, 1988, DR IP SAID IN TERMS OF COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY, THERE WERE AREAS IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM THAT COULD BE REFINED.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAVEL AGENTS AND THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND, DR IP POINTED OUT THAT THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF SELF-REGULATION FOR THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY WAS TO CREATE A SOUND FRAMEWORK OF OPERATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF TRAVELLERS AND OPERATORS ALIKE.

"ALTHOUGH BOTH THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL AND THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND HAVE GAINED EXPERIENCE AND CONFIDENCE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES AND RESERVES ARE BEING BUILT UP AT A HEALTHY RATE, THERE IS NOT YET ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY.

"FOR INSTANCE, COULD THE EXISTING RATE OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENT PEGGED AT 70 PER CENT BE IMPROVED? COULD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE RESERVE FUND BE FURTHER STREAMLINED? SHOULD THE ONE PER CENT LEVY ON PACKAGE TOURS BE LOWERED?

/"ALL THESE

"ALL THESE, I AM CONFIDENT, WILL BE CRITICALLY EXAMINED IN THE REVIEW," SHE SAID.

FOR THE TRAVEL AGENTS' RESERVE FUND, DR IP SAID VIRTUALLY ALL THE 2,300 FORMER CLIENTS OF THE DEFUNCT AUSTRAVEL COMPANY LIMITED AND P.C. TRAVEL SERVICE LTD, WHO HAD OPTED FOR A ONE-OFF 70 PER CENT PAYMENT OF AMOUNT CLAIMED HAD BEEN PAID.

FOR THOSE 800-ODD FORMER CLIENTS WHO OPTED FOR 100 PER CENT PAYMENT, DR IP SAID THE THIRD AND FINAL INSTALMENT WAS EXPECTED TO BE PAID BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

IN ALL, \$10 MILLION HAD BEEN PAID TO FORMER CLIENTS AND IT WAS HOPED THAT OUTSTANDING CLAIMS ON THE TWO DEFUNCT AGENCIES COULD BE SETTLED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, SHE SAID.

THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND, A BODY CORPORATE FORMED WITH A VIEW TO REPLACING THE TRAVEL AGENTS' RESERVE FUND, HAD CONTINUED TO PROVIDE A SAFETY NET FOR OUTBOUND TRAVELLERS, DR IP SAID.

BY CHARGING A ONE PER CENT LEVY ON TOUR PACKAGES, A HEALTHY RESERVE WAS GRADUALLY BEING BUILT UP, STANDING AT \$33 MILLION AT PRESENT, SHE SAID.

DR IP NOTED THAT ONLY A FEW TRAVEL AGENTS HAD FAILED SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF SELF-REGULATION INCURRING LIMITED LIABILITY ON THE FUND.

SHE SAID BY NOW TRAVELLERS WERE AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECEIVING RECEIPTS FOR THEIR TOURS BEARING THE ONE PER CENT FRANKING MACHINE MARK.

WITH SUCH RECEIPTS, THEY WERE ABLE TO CLAIM UP TO 70 PER CENT OF THEIR LOSS SHOULD THE TRAVEL AGENT FAIL, DR IP ADDED.

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COST-EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC FUNDS MANAGEMENT STRESSED
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THE NEED FOR COST-EFFICIENCY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER, GIVEN THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES OF INFRASTRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENT OUTLINED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE MAJOR EXPANSION PLANNED FOR THE TERTIARY EDUCATION.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC), THE HON PETER POON, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN TABLING PAC REPORT NO. 15 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR POON SAID IT WAS NOW WIDELY UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED BY ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR PROFLIGACY WITH THE PUBLIC PURSE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS WAS WELL ILLUSTRATED AT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE COMMITTEE HELD IN MAY THIS YEAR.

"THE DEFENSIVE ATTITUDES ADOPTED BY SOME WITNESSES IN THE PAST HAD BEEN REPLACED BY A REFRESHING WILLINGNESS TO ADMIT PAST MISTAKES AND ACCEPT THAT IMPROVEMENTS COULD, AND SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE ECONOMY AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS IN THE FUTURE."

MR POON SAID GIVEN THIS HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF, AND ATTENTION TO, THE NEED FOR COST-EFFICIENCY, HE TRUSTED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORT NO. 15 WOULD BE ACCEPTED IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH THEY WERE OFFERED; THAT IS, NOT TO PUNISH OR RAKE OVER PAST FAULTS, BUT TO LOOK FORWARD, AND TO IDENTIFY THE SCOPE FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS.

HE ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE ENCOURAGING TRENDS PAC MEMBERS CHARTED THROUGH THEIR REPORTS IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE 1980'S COULD BE MAINTAINED THROUGH THE 1990'S.

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MOTION UNDER LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE PASSED
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A MOTION MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS UNDER THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOUR BILLS WERE ALSO PASSED. THEY WERE THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1989-90) BILL 1990, THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

IN ADDITION, FOUR BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1990.

DEBATES ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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HONG KONG BILL OF RIGHTS BILL 1990

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HONG KONG BILL OF RIGHTS BILL 1990 INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 25, 1990.

"THE BILL HAS BEEN PREPARED IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC VIEWS ON AN EARLIER WHITE BILL WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN MARCH THIS YEAR," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

EXPLAINING THE BILL, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HIGHLIGHTED THE MAJOR CHANGES WHICH HAD BEEN INTRODUCED.

CLAUSE 1(2) OF THE BILL SEEKS TO PROVIDE A FREEZE OF THE EFFECT OF THE BOR IN RESPECT OF EXISTING LEGISLATION FOR THE FIRST YEAR AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A SELECTIVE FREEZE IN RESPECT OF LEGISLATION LISTED IN A SCHEDULE FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR TO BE DECIDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THE SCHEDULE SHOULD BE APPROVED BY A RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THE FREEZE WILL ALSO COVER ACTS DONE UNDER STATUTORY POWERS, INCLUDING THE EXERCISE OF DISCRETIONARY POWERS.

"THIS FREEZE DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY DECIDED THAT ANY OF OUR LEGISLATION IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (ICCPR) AS APPLIED TO HONG KONG, BUT WILL PROVIDE TIME FOR A FULL REVIEW TO BE UNDERTAKEN," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED IN THE WHITE BILL ON "NATIONAL SECURITY" AND "LIFE OF THE NATION" BY INCLUDING HONG KONG SPECIFICALLY HAVE NOW BEEN DELETED.

"UNDER THE ICCPR, RESTRICTIONS AND DEROGATIONS IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE GROUNDS OF 'NATIONAL SECURITY', OR IN TIMES OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY WHICH 'THREATEN THE LIFE OF THE NATION'. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN POINTED OUT THAT THE DEFINITIONS IN THE WHITE BILL WOULD PERMIT RIGHTS TO BE RESTRICTED OR TAKEN AWAY IN CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ALLOWED BY THE ICCPR AND COULD THEREFORE BE REGARDED AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE ICCPR. HENCE THEIR DELETION," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

CLAUSE 2(3) OF THE WHITE BILL HAS BEEN AMENDED BY MAKING REFERENCE ONLY TO THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WHICH IS TO IMPLEMENT FURTHER THE ICCPR AS APPLIED TO HONG KONG.

"THE AMENDMENT WILL AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE BILL ADVOCATES A DEPARTURE FROM ESTABLISHED LEGAL PRACTICE, WHICH COULD BE REGARDED AS CONTRARY TO THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

CLAUSE 6(1) OF THE WHITE BILL WHICH PROVIDES THAT A VIOLATION IN RELATION TO A PERSON IS ACTIONABLE AS A TORT IS DELETED, WITH CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSE 6(2).

/"THE DELETION

"THE DELETION IS MADE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS SOME FORCE IN THE ARGUMENT THAT A TORT ACTION, WHICH IF SUCCESSFUL NORMALLY LEADS TO A REMEDY IN DAMAGES, WOULD NOT ALWAYS BE APPROPRIATE FOR A BREACH OF BOR," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"THE NEW CLAUSE WILL ENABLE COURTS AND TRIBUNALS TO GRANT AN EFFECTIVE REMEDY IN RESPECT OF BREACHES OF THE BOR, AND DAMAGES ARE TO BE AWARDED ONLY WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE AND JUST TO DO SO," HE SAID.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 14 (THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY) TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD ENTER INTO FORCE AT A LATER DATE WHEN SPECIFIC LEGISLATION ON PROTECTION OF PRIVACY IS ENACTED. AT PRESENT THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION IS ALREADY WORKING ON PRIVACY LEGISLATION WHICH ALSO COVERS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTORS FEEL THAT SOME OF THE ARTICLES IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS AS REGARDS OBLIGATIONS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS ARE TOO BROAD AND THEIR EFFECTS UNCERTAIN. THEY FEAR THAT SUCH RIGHTS AS COUCHED IN THE GENERAL TERMS OF THE ICCPR PROVISIONS, COULD LEAD TO CONFUSION WITHIN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WITH REGARD TO THE LEGALITY OF CERTAIN EXISTING OBLIGATIONS AND CURRENT PRACTICES.

"WE ACCEPT THAT SOME OF THESE CONCERNS ARE VALID. OUR VIEW IS THAT THE MAJOR PROBLEMATIC AREA LIES IN ARTICLE 14 RELATING TO PRIVACY, SINCE THERE IS AT PRESENT NO SPECIFIC LEGISLATION GOVERNING THIS AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO DEFER THE APPLICATION OF THIS ARTICLE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"THE OTHER TWO ARTICLES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTORS AS PROBLEMATIC, I.E. ARTICLE 16 RELATING TO RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND ARTICLE 23 OF THE WHITE BILL RELATING TO NON-DISCRIMINATION, SHOULD NOT LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL CLAIMS AGAINST THE PRIVATE SECTOR," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

ARTICLE 17 AND CLAUSE 13 OF THE WHITE BILL HAVE BEEN DELETED.

ARTICLE 17 STATES THAT PROPAGANDA FOR WAR OR ADVOCACY OF NATIONAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS HATRED "SHALL BE PROHIBITED BY LAW". THIS ARTICLE CORRESPONDS TO ARTICLE 20 OF THE ICCPR, BUT UNDER A RESERVATION ENTERED BY THE UK, THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO INTRODUCE "FURTHER LEGISLATION". THE WHITE BILL ATTEMPTED TO REFLECT THIS RESERVATION BY INCORPORATING CLAUSE 13 TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO LEGISLATE FURTHER IN RESPECT OF ARTICLE 17. HOWEVER, ARTICLE 17 MAY BE CONSTRUED AS CREATING AN OBLIGATION TO LEGISLATE IN RESPECT OF PROPAGANDA FOR WAR ETC. SINCE SUCH AN OBLIGATION CONTRADICTS CLAUSE 13 WHICH SAYS THERE IS NO SUCH OBLIGATION, IT COULD LEAD TO CONFUSION.

"DELETION OF BOTH ARTICLE 17 AND CLAUSE 13 WILL AVOID SUCH CONFUSION. THE MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ARTICLE WILL CONTINUE TO BE COVERED BY EXISTING LAWS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THERE ARE ALSO OTHER MINOR AND TEXTUAL CHANGES INTRODUCED TO THE WHITE BILL. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ONE INVOLVES CHANGING THE CHINESE TITLE OF THE BILL FROM "RENQUAN XUANYAN" TO "RENQUAN FA'AN" IN ORDER TO CONFORM WITH THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED CHINESE TRANSLATION FOR THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

BILL TO CLARIFY TAXATION OF FRINGE BENEFITS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO AMEND THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE TO REFLECT THE GOVERNMENT'S PRACTICE IN RESPECT OF THE TAXATION OF FRINGE BENEFITS.

THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS YEAR, WILL BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY (JULY 20).

EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IT AIMED TO CLARIFY THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT POSITION ON TAXATION OF FRINGE BENEFITS FOLLOWING THE DECISION ON THE DAVID HARDY GLYNN V. THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE CASE, BY THE COURT OF APPEAL IN DECEMBER 1988.

"THE BILL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS POINT IN TIME TO BROADEN THE EXTENT TO WHICH FRINGE BENEFITS ARE TAXED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN BROAD TERMS, THE GLYNN CASE WAS CONCERNED WITH THE QUESTION OF WHETHER SCHOOL FEES PAID BY MR GLYNN'S EMPLOYER IN RESPECT OF HIS DAUGHTER'S EDUCATION, ESCAPED CHARGEABILITY TO SALARIES TAX BY VIRTUE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS USED TO MAKE THE PAYMENTS.

A DECISION HANDED DOWN BY THE COURT OF APPEAL IN THAT CASE RULED THAT THE WORD "PERQUISITE" IN THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE SHOULD BE GIVEN ITS ORDINARY MEANING AND HENCE ALL BENEFITS DERIVED BY AN EMPLOYEE FROM HIS EMPLOYMENT WERE CHARGEABLE TO SALARIES TAX.

"THIS CREATED SOME UNCERTAINTY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ADDING THAT PRIOR TO THE DECISION, THE DEPARTMENT'S PRACTICE WAS THAT BENEFITS RECEIVED IN A FORM OTHER THAN MONEY, UNLESS COVERED BY SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, WERE NOT TAXED IF THEY DID NOT TAKE THE FORM OF "MONEY'S WORTH".

A BENEFIT IS REGARDED AS CONSTITUTING "MONEY'S WORTH" IF IT IS CAPABLE OF BEING CONVERTED INTO MONEY BY THE RECIPIENT OR IT IS THE DISCHARGE BY THE EMPLOYER OF A LIABILITY OF THE EMPLOYEE.

IN A STATEMENT MADE IN MARCH 1989, THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE ANNOUNCED THAT LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO ACCORD WITH THE PRE-GLYNN PRACTICE CONCERNING THE TAXATION OF FRINGE BENEFITS.

AT THAT TIME HE HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PRACTICE WOULD BE FOLLOWED FOR 1988-89 AND 1989-90 ASSESSMENTS RAISED PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE CASE PROCEEDED TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL. THE PRIVY COUNCIL'S RULING, LIKE THAT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL, ALTHOUGH NOT TO THE SAME EXTENT, ALLOWS THE TAXATION OF FRINGE BENEFITS ON A WIDER SCALE THAN THE DEPARTMENT'S PRACTICE.

IMMIGRATION FACILITIES FOR URGENT TRAVEL TO THE PHILIPPINES
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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN STRANDED IN THE PHILIPPINES BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE THAT OCCURRED ON JULY 16.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD LIAISED WITH THE TWO LOCAL TRAVEL AGENCIES WHICH HAD ORGANISED TOURS TO THE PHILIPPINES TO IDENTIFY HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO WERE VISITING THE COUNTRY.

FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WISH TO TRAVEL TO THE PHILIPPINES AND NEED ASSISTANCE FOR URGENT ARRANGEMENT OF TRAVEL DOCUMENT AND VISA MAY CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 829 3075 OR 829 3076.

THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN MANILA HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED TO INFORM THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ONCE THE EMBASSY RECEIVED ANY NEWS ON CASES INVOLVING HONG KONG RESIDENTS. FAMILY MEMBERS MAY ALSO CALL THE ABOVE TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CHECK THE LATEST SITUATION.

RESIDENT FILIPINE NATIONALS WHO WISH TO TRAVEL TO THE PHILIPPINES URGENTLY MAY APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT'S EXTENSION SECTION ON FIFTH FLOOR, TOWER II, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI FOR IMMIGRATION FACILITIES SUCH AS RE-ENTRY VISAS.

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GOVERNOR VISITS SHAM SHUI PO TOMORROW
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL VISIT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO HAVE A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT THERE.

HE WILL TOUR MEI FOO SUN CHUEN, THE NAM CHEONG STREET SITTING-OUT AREA AND NAM CHEONG ESTATE.

SIR DAVID WILL ALSO INSPECT WORKS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE TO RENOVATE 38 BUILDINGS AT THE BERWICK STREET AREA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

/THOSE WISHING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990

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THOSE WISHING TO MAKE USE OF GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE ENTRANCE OF SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI. PRESS VANS WILL DEPART PUNCTUALLY AT 1.30 PM FOR MEI FOO SUN CHUEN, WHICH IS THE FIRST STOP OF THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT.

THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE THEIR OWN WAY TO MEI FOO SUN CHUEN SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE 16 NASSAU STREET (JUNCTION OF NASSAU STREET AND HUMBERT STREET) AT 2.35 PM.

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INVESTIGATION INTO AFFAIRS OF PALADIN LIMITED CONCLUDED
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED ON HIM BY SECTION 143(1)(C) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, APPOINTED MR MARVIN K.T. CHEUNG ON MARCH 1 THIS YEAR AS INSPECTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF PALADIN LIMITED.

A LIMITED INVESTIGATION HAS NOW BEEN CONCLUDED AND THE INSPECTOR HAS SUBMITTED A REPORT TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EARLIER THIS MONTH.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 146(3)(A) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, SIR PIERS HAS SENT A COPY OF THE REPORT TO THE COMPANY INVESTIGATED.

AS THE REPORT CONTAINS MATERIAL WHICH MAY HAVE A BEARING ON POSSIBLE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, IT IS NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO PUBLISH THE REPORT.

HOWEVER, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAY SEND COPIES OF THE REPORT TO REGULATORY BODIES CONCERNED.

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HK TO CLOSELY MONITOR US TRADE BILL
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THE TEXTILE, APPAREL AND TRADE BILL OF 1990 SEEKING TO FURTHER LIMIT THE GROWTH OF TEXTILE, APPAREL AND FOOTWEAR IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES WAS PASSED BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

"BUT THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT IT WILL BECOME LAW. THE BILL HAS YET TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES," THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/MR CHAU

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MR CHAU SAID THE PRESENT BILL WAS SIMILAR TO THE JENKINS BILL (1985) AND THE TEXTILES BILL (1987), BOTH VETOED BY MR REAGAN.

"PRESIDENT BUSH OPPOSED THE 1987 BILL DURING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO VETO THIS ONE IF IT REACHES HIS DESK," HE SAID.

INDEED, HE ADDED, THE US ADMINISTRATION HAD INDICATED IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS ITS STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE BILL.

"AMBASSADOR RON SORINI, THE UNITED STATES CHIEF TEXTILE NEGOTIATOR, HAD STRESSED IN THE SENATE HEARING EARLIER THAT THE BILL WAS UNNECESSARY, UNJUSTIFIED ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS, WOULD VIOLATE US' BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL OBLIGATIONS AND UNDERMINE THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING NEGOTIATIONS IN THE URUGUAY ROUND.

"THE BILL HAS APPARENTLY BEEN INTRODUCED TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE US NEGOTIATORS IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT TALKS AGAINST MAKING CONCESSIONS ON TEXTILES AND APPAREL.

"DESPITE THE VOTE IN THE SENATE, 68 TO 32, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST THAT INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR THE BILL IS WANING. RECENTLY, LEADING US APPAREL MANUFACTURERS HAVE JOINED FORCES WITH THE APPAREL RETAILERS TO VOICE THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE BILL," MR CHAU SAID.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT IS CLOSELY MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH ITS WASHINGTON OFFICE.

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DIRECT MAILING OF VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

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HALF OF THE ABOUT TWO MILLION HOUSEHOLDS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG WILL BE RECEIVING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS ALONG WITH THEIR WATER BILLS BETWEEN JULY AND SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THIS DIRECT MAILING OF VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS IS PART OF THIS YEAR'S SPECIAL EFFORTS TO MAKE SUCH FORMS AS READILY AVAILABLE AS POSSIBLE TO PROSPECTIVE ELECTORS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REMAINING ONE MILLION HOUSEHOLDS WOULD RECEIVE THE VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS ALONG WITH THEIR WATER BILLS AFTER SEPTEMBER.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FORM SERVED A DUAL PURPOSE: FOR MAKING AN INITIAL APPLICATION BY A PROSPECTIVE ELECTOR WHO HAD NOT YET REGISTERED, OR FOR REPORTING A CHANGE OF RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY A REGISTERED VOTER.

"A REGISTERED ELECTOR IS NOT REQUIRED TO FILL IN A FRESH REGISTRATION FORM UNLESS HE HAS CHANGED HIS RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS. AND IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATED AS TO HAVE MORE NAMES ADDED TO IT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, POST OFFICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES, HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990

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NEWSPAPER REPORT ON VBP REFUTED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REFUTED A NEWSPAPER REPORT WHICH CLAIMED THAT VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WERE REMOVED TO CHI MA WAN (UPPER) DETENTION CENTRE BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL OPINIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

HE ALSO DENIED THAT THEY WERE BEING PERSECUTED.

"AS STATED BEFORE, CHI MA WAN IS A DETENTION CENTRE AND NOT A PRISON, AND THE BOAT PEOPLE THERE ARE NOT TREATED AS PRISONERS.

"THE STATUTORY RULES APPLIED THERE ARE THE SAME AS IN OTHER CENTRES, ALTHOUGH THERE IS STRICTER SECURITY IN KEEPING WITH THE REASONS WHY THE BOAT PEOPLE ARE SENT IN THE FIRST PLACE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE BOAT PEOPLE WHO WERE TRANSFERRED TO CHI MA WAN INCLUDED THOSE WHO WERE BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE POLICE FOR ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, AND THOSE WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN OR HAD ATTEMPTED TO CAUSE DISTURBANCES AT VBP DETENTION CENTRES.

PEOPLE MIGHT ALSO BE TAKEN THERE FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION IF THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION AGAINST THEM IN THEIR OWN CENTRES, HE SAID.

"CHI MA WAN WAS BROUGHT INTO USE TO ASSIST US TO PRESERVE PEACE AND ORDER AT DETENTION CENTRES GENERALLY, AND THIS IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE BOAT PEOPLE THEMSELVES AS WELL AS MANAGEMENT," THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED.

"IT IS NOT USED AS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE TAKEN BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS."

FOUR MAJOR DISTURBANCES BROKE OUT AT WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE IN APRIL AND MAY, AND A NUMBER OF BOAT PEOPLE WERE TRANSFERRED FOLLOWING A SEARCH FOR WEAPONS.

"THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN DISRUPTIVE AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS TO CHI MA WAN IS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT NO MAJOR DISTURBANCE HAS OCCURRED AT WHITEHEAD SINCE THAT TIME AND IT HAS BECOME A MORE PEACEFUL PLACE," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

HE ADDED THAT THOSE WHO WERE TRANSFERRED WERE INFORMED OF THE REASONS PRIOR TO BEING MOVED AND WERE TOLD FOR HOW LONG THEY MIGHT HAVE TO REMAIN IN CHI MA WAN. A BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS EVERY WEEK TO DECIDE ON THE TIMING OF THEIR RETURN.

COMMENTING ON THE TREATMENT OF BOAT PEOPLE AT CHI MA WAN, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THEY WERE NOT SEGREGATED AS THEY COULD ASSOCIATE WITH OTHER BOAT PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE DURING THE DAY AND WITH THEIR ROOMMATES AT NIGHT.

/"DORMITORY FACILITIES

"DORMITORY FACILITIES ARE NOT A REWARD FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR," HE SAID. "AS A MATTER OF RULE, ALL NEW ARRIVALS AT CHI MA WAN ARE FIRST PUT UP IN CELL TYPE ACCOMMODATION AND THEN GRADUALLY MOVED TO DORMITORIES AS THEIR RETURN NEARS AND WHEN SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ALL THE BOAT PEOPLE AT CHI MA WAN WERE ALLOWED VISITS ONCE A MONTH AND TO SEND AND RECEIVE LETTERS.

"VOLUNTARY AGENCY AND UNHCR STAFF HAVE ACCESS TO THE CENTRE AND ANY COMPLAINANTS CAN CONVEY THEIR GRIEVANCES TO THE UNHCR OR TO VISITING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

"A MEDICAL OFFICER IS AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES AT THE CENTRE," HE ADDED.

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CSD TAKES PART IN INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OLYMPICS

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A 25-MEMBER DELEGATION OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) WILL TAKE PART IN THE 1990 INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OLYMPICS (ILEO) TO BE HELD IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA, BETWEEN JULY 29 AND AUGUST 4.

THE ILEO IS A TWO-YEARLY EVENT IN WHICH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS SUCH AS CORRECTIONS OFFICERS, POLICE OFFICERS, IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND JUSTICE PERSONNEL FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD MEET AND COMPETE IN VARIOUS SPORTS.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON PRESENTED THE DEPARTMENTAL FLAG TO THE TEAM MANAGER OF THE DELEGATION, MR LEE GA-SAN, TO MARK THE START OF THE JOURNEY.

ADDRESSING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD AT THE CSD'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, THE COMMISSIONER SAID AT A TIME WHEN CSD'S STAFFING SITUATION WAS STRINGENT, THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO TAKE PART IN THE ILEO IN A SUBSTANTIAL WAY WAS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT.

"IT REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE THE DEPARTMENT ATTACHES TO PROMOTING SPORTS AND PHYSICAL FITNESS AMONG ITS MEMBERS AND TO THE KIND OF INTERACTION AND EXPERIENCE THAT WILL BE GAINED FROM TAKING PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL EVENT," MR CHAN SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID HE BELIEVED ALL THE DELEGATES WOULD TAKE PART IN THE GAMES WITH THE GREATEST ENTHUSIASM AND TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITIES, NOT ONLY IN THE COMPETITIONS BUT ALSO IN PROMOTING THE GOOD NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT.

CSD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ILEO IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS DONATIONS OF \$100,000 AND \$50,000 RESPECTIVELY FROM THE DUTY FREE SHOPPERS CHARITABLE TRUST AND THE HONGKONG BANK FOUNDATION.

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ANNUAL SEMINAR FOR CAREERS TEACHERS

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MORE THAN 80 SECONDARY SCHOOL CAREERS TEACHERS WILL ATTEND A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG ON FRIDAY (JULY 20).

ENTITLED "PREPARING SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR THE CHANGING WORLD OF THE 90'S", THE SEMINAR IS ORGANISED FOR THE 12TH YEAR BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS.

"IT WILL EXAMINE WAYS TO HELP STUDENTS COPE WITH THE CHALLENGES IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF THE 90'S IN THEIR SEARCH FOR A SUITABLE CAREER," THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE), MR LEUNG LIT-CHEONG, SAID.

"IN ADDITION, THE SEMINAR ALSO PROVIDES A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR TEACHERS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND SHARE EXPERIENCE IN CAREERS GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING," HE SAID.

THERE WILL BE TALKS BY EXPERTS ON MOTIVATIONS FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS, AND CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES AND ASPIRATIONS OF YOUTH IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997, FOLLOWED BY GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE OPENED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR JOHN WINFIELD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION AT 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 20) AT THE INSTITUTE OF CHINESE STUDIES, CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, SHA TIN.

TRANSPORT HAS BEEN ARRANGED TO PICK UP MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE EVENT AT THE KCR UNIVERSITY STATION, SHA TIN, AT 9.30 AM SHARP.

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EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

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HONG KONG HAS EXPERIENCED RAPID POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS, THE SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR ROBERT LO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN OPENING AN EXHIBITION ON MORAL EDUCATION AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE.

IN VIEW OF THE RAPID CHANGES, THOSE IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION SHOULD HELP STUDENTS EQUIP THEMSELVES AND DEVELOP A STRONG PERSONALITY IN PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE, HE SAID.

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"BEING AND BECOMING, THE THEME OF THE EXHIBITION, POINTED AT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE," MR LO SAID.

"TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP CORRECT VALUES, A NEW TEACHING KIT - IN SEARCH OF VALUE - WILL BE SENT TO SCHOOLS," HE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION, OPEN UNTIL JULY 20 AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE, WAS ORGANISED BY THE RELIGIOUS/ETHICAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ACQUAINT TEACHERS WITH APPROACHES AND TEACHING MATERIALS TO PROMOTE MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.

A TOTAL OF 15 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITION.

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SAI KUNG DB TO STUDY PHA REPORT

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD WILL STUDY THE REPORT OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AT ITS MEETING ON FRIDAY (JULY 20).

A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR TSANG HING-KAY, WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

A TOWN PLANNER OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, MISS PAULA HUNG, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN HANG HAU, TSEUNG KWAN O.

THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR \$48,650 IN DB FUNDS FOR HOLDING A FOOD CARNIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT.

A NUMBER OF PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMITTEES WILL BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (JULY 20) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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PERSONS TAKING UNAPPROVED EMPLOYMENT ARRESTED

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IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS ARRESTED SIX FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPERS AND A FEMALE TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDER AT A FOOD PROCESSING FACTORY IN YUEN LONG AREA TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SIX FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPERS, FIVE WOMEN AND A MAN, AGED BETWEEN 30 AND 38, AND THE FEMALE TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDER, AGED 32, WERE FOUND TO HAVE TAKEN UNAPPROVED EMPLOYMENT AT THE FACTORY.

THE PERSON-IN-CHARGE OF THE FACTORY IS NOW ASSISTING WITH INVESTIGATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID THAT UNDER THE LAWS OF HONG KONG, A FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER IS ONLY ALLOWED TO WORK FOR A SPECIFIC EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT ATTESTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

"THE EMPLOYER SHOULD NOT ASK THE HELPER TO WORK IN ANOTHER HOUSEHOLD OR CARRY OUT NON-HOUSEHOLD CHORES," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THOSE WHO HAVE BREACHED THEIR CONDITION OF STAY HERE ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

THOSE WHO AID AND ABET OTHER PEOPLE TO COMMIT THE OFFENCE ARE ALSO LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND PENALTY.

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BEACH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPGRADED

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THE IMPROVEMENTS TO CLEAR WATER BAY SECOND BEACH FACILITIES PROJECT WAS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) UPGRADED TO CATEGORY I UNDER THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME.

THE APPROVAL TO UPGRADE THE PROJECT FOLLOWED DISCUSSION BY MEMBERS AT A MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS SELECT COMMITTEE THIS MORNING.

A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL WOULD ENABLE THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS UNDERTAKING THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING SITE SUPERVISION, TO LET OUT TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT.

THE COMPLETION OF WORKING DRAWINGS, CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND PROJECT COSTING HAD ALSO PREPARED THE IMPROVEMENTS TO CLEAR WATER BAY SECOND BEACH FACILITIES PROJECT TO BE UPGRADED, HE SAID.

UNDER THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, EXISTING BEACH FACILITIES IN CLEAR WATER BAY SECOND BEACH IN SAI KUNG WHICH WERE BUILT IN 1968 AND ARE NOW DILAPIDATED, WOULD HAVE TO BE DEMOLISHED AND REPLACED.

NEW FACILITIES WILL COMPRISE A BUILDING ACCOMMODATING CHANGING ROOMS, OPEN SHOWER BOOTH, TOILETS, FIRST-AID ROOM AND MANAGEMENT FACILITIES.

TO ENSURE THAT WATER QUALITY OF CLEAR WATER BAY SECOND BEACH NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED, A PUMPING AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM WILL BE BUILT TO CONVEY SEWAGE AND WASTE SHOWER WATER FROM THE BEACH FACILITIES TO A NEARBY SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.

OTHER NEW FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A SITTING OUT/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE EXISTING REFRESHMENT KIOSK.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE \$9.86 MILLION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WOULD START IN OCTOBER 1990 AND BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1991.

DURING THE SAME MEETING, THE IMPROVEMENTS TO YUEN LONG STADIUM PROJECT WAS ALSO UPGRADED FROM CATEGORY III TO CATEGORY II TO ENABLE THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH DETAILED WORKING DRAWINGS, CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND PROJECT COSTING.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STADIUM, WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1968, WILL INCLUDE RELAYING OF THE RUNNING TRACK WITH ALL-WEATHER SYNETHETIC MATERIALS AND ADJUSTING THE DIMENSIONS OF THE LONG JUMP AND TRIPLE JUMP RUNWAYS AND SAND PITS TO FOLLOW INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR ATHELETIC FEDERATION STANDARDS.

THE JAVELIN-THROW RUNWAY AND CIRCLE WILL BE RELOCATED TO A POSITION KEEPING CLEAR OF GOAL POSTS ON THE SOCCER PITCH AND RELAYING THE RUNWAY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SAFETY CAGE FOR DISCUS AND HAMMER CIRCLE WILL BE REPLACED AND THE SHOT PUT CIRCLE WILL BE RELOCATED AND TURFED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 20), THE BEACH ROAD CARPARK OFF HOUSE NO. 33 IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE TO ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT PRIVATE CARS AND MOTOR CYCLES.

ALL VEHICLES, EXCEPT PRIVATE CARS AND MOTOR CYCLES AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE BAN ZONE 24 HOURS DAILY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECTION OF HENNESSY ROAD IN WAN CHAI FROM LUARD ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 70 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH FLEMING ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY FOR ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO FACILITATE SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION WORKS ACROSS HENNESSY ROAD BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

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ALSO, THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY ON THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF THE ABOVE SECTION OF HENNESSY ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CANCELLED.

IN ADDITION, THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WING LOK STREET IN SHEUNG WAN BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 11 AND 43 WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD DRAINAGE WORKS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY ON THIS SECTION OF ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CANCELLED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN EASTERN DISTRICT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 20), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO FACILITATE WATERMAIN LAYING WORKS:

- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF ELECTRIC ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WING HING STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * WING HING STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH ELECTRIC ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

ALSO, THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY ON THE SAME SECTIONS OF ELECTRIC ROAD AND WING HING STREET WILL BE TEMPORARILY CANCELLED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR ABOUT FIVE MONTHS TO FACILITATE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF KING'S ROAD.

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY:

- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF FORTRESS HILL ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH FORTRESS HILL ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND

/* KING'S ROAD

* KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND FROM A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH FORTRESS HILL ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

ALSO, THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAYS FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY ON THE SAME SECTIONS OF FORTRESS HILL ROAD AND KING'S ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CANCELLED.

KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND, FROM A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH FORTRESS HILL ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 120 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FOR GOODS VEHICLES FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, ALL GOODS VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING 24-HOUR RESTRICTED AREA FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES ON THE SAME SECTION OF KING'S ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CANCELLED.

IN ADDITION, QUARRY BAY STREET, AND THE SECTION OF MOUNT PARKER ROAD SOUTH OF QUARRY BAY STREET WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1 AM FOR ABOUT FOUR HOURS ON FRIDAY TO FACILITATE FOOTBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WAN CHAI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 20), TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON HENNESSY ROAD, IN WAN CHAI, FOR ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO FACILITATE SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION WORKS ACROSS HENNESSY ROAD BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

THE SECTION OF HENNESSY ROAD FROM LUARD ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 70 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH FLEMING ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

THE THREE BUS STOPS OUTSIDE HOUSE NOS. 125 - 147 HENNESSY ROAD EASTBOUND FOR BUS ROUTES 1, 75, 90, 97, AND CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL BUS ROUTES 101, 103, 111, 119, 182 AND A3 WILL BE RELOCATED TO OUTSIDE HOUSE NOS. 153 - 173 HENNESSY ROAD.

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PUBLIC LIGHT BUS BAN ZONE IN YAU TONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 20), THE SECTION OF BIK WAN ROAD NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH KO CHIU ROAD IN YAU TONG WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS BAN ZONE.

ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE BAN ZONE 24 HOURS DAILY.

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