



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1979

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GOVERNMENT TO START REDEVELOPING AND IMPROVING
TRANSPORT SERVICES
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THE SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. GRAHAM BARNES, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CAN NOW GO FORWARD WITH THE LONG TASK OF REDEVELOPING AND IMPROVING ITS TRANSPORT SERVICES WITH GREATER CONFIDENCE +NOW THAT WE HAVE GOT OUR BASIC IDEAS RIGHT.+

SPEAKING IN REPLY TO VARIOUS CRITICISMS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, MR. BARNES SAID THE FEELING WAS THAT THE CRITICISMS WERE POINTING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

IN HIS REPLY TO THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, MR. BARNES SAID:

BUS SERVICES

EVEN IF CAR OWNERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW AT ITS PRESENT RATE, SO WILL DEMAND FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT GROW -- BY ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT PER ANNUM. SO OUR TASK IS PERPETUALLY TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO MEET GROWING DEMAND AND GROWING EXPECTATIONS OF SERVICE AND COMFORT.

THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE HAD OUR DIFFICULTIES WITH THE BUS COMPANIES WHO HAVE IN RECENT YEARS BEEN INCLINED AS CAUTIOUS BUSINESSMEN TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WILL BE BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO ADDITIONAL BUS CAPACITY.

EACH YEAR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT PREPARES A BUS ROUTE AND BUS FLEET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME PROJECTED TWO YEARS AHEAD. THIS PROGRAMME TAKES INTO ACCOUNT NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING SERVICES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SERVICES.

IT HAS PROVED DIFFICULT FOR THE COMPANIES TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATES OF NEED AND THAT THE EFFECTS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SHOULD NOT INHIBIT THEIR PLACING OF ORDERS FOR NEW VEHICLES.

I BELIEVE THAT IN A RECENT PLANNING EXERCISE JOINTLY CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS, INCLUDING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, MANY OF THE DOUBTS CONCERNING FURTHER TRAFFIC HAVE BEEN RESOLVED AND THAT THE COMPANIES ARE PERSUADED THAT DESPITE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, THE DEMAND FOR BUS SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO GROW STEADILY OVER THE YEARS AHEAD.

BUT VALUABLE TIME HAS BEEN LOST, AND IT IS OPEN TO QUESTION WHETHER THE COMPANIES WILL HAVE, AT A SUFFICIENTLY EARLY DATE, THE RESOURCES TO COPE WITH ALL THE NEW ROUTES WHICH MUST BE STARTED AS WELL AS MAINTAINING AN ADEQUATE RATE OF IMPROVEMENT OF THE EXISTING SERVICES.

/IN THESE

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE HAS NOT BEEN PASSIVE. IT HAS TAKEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS ON THE COMPANIES THE URGENCY OF THE NEED FOR EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT ON THE QUALITY OF SERVICE.

FULL REPORTS ON THEIR PERFORMANCE WERE PREPARED THIS YEAR BY THE COMMISSIONER IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPENDING RENEWAL OF THE FRANCHISES.

THESE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND GOVERNMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THESE REPORTS WILL BE CONSIDERING VERY SHORTLY TO WHAT EXTENT NEW ROUTES SHOULD BE OFFERED TO THE EXISTING COMPANIES OR WHETHER ADDITIONAL CAPACITY SHOULD BE SOUGHT OUTSIDE THE EXISTING FRANCHISES.

ROAD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ROAD SAFETY AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S SUGGESTIONS.

BECAUSE OF THE MILLIONS OF PASSENGER MILES WHICH THEY PERFORM EVERY DAY, THE TWO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES ARE STILL THE SAFEST MEANS OF TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG. THAT IS TO SAY A PASSENGER IS FAR LESS LIKELY TO BE HURT THAN HE IS ON ANY OTHER FORM OF TRANSPORT.

BUT I HAVE ASKED FOR THE FIGURES TO BE BROUGHT UP-TO-DATE AND I PROPOSE TO PUBLISH THEM AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

PARKING POLICY

I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT I CAN GO TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY THE END OF THE YEAR WITH A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION.

THE GOVERNMENT'S EVENTUAL DECISION ON PARKING POLICY WILL PROBABLY BE PUBLISHED SEPARATELY FIRST, AND WOULD BE ESSENTIAL MATERIAL FOR ANY REVISION OF THE WHITE PAPER.

MR. TIEN

I LIKE MR. TIEN'S BASIC THINKING ABOUT MULTI-STOREY LORRY PARKS AND WILL PUT IT TO THE WORKING GROUP ON PARKING TO WHICH I HAVE ALREADY REFERRED.

HOWEVER, PARKING AND GOODS LOADING BOTH IN LORRIES AND CONTAINERS IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURES OF INDUSTRIAL LAYOUTS WHICH ARE ALREADY UNDER SERIOUS AND CRITICAL RE-EXAMINATION BY THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER HAS BEEN DEVELOPING IDEAS, WHICH INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS AND CONTAINER LOADING BAYS, AND HAS DISCUSSED THESE WITH THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

MR. TIEN'S SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BETTER UTILISATION OF THE SITES BY DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITE BUILDINGS, INCLUDING FACILITIES FOR MAINTENANCE AND WORKERS MEALS, WILL BE TAKEN INTO THIS STUDY, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WE HOPE TO DISCUSS WITH INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS.

AS REGARDS TRAFFIC PENALTIES, INCLUDING PARKING FINES, MR. TIEN WILL LIKE TO KNOW THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING AT THE LEVEL OF THESE -- WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING THEM, OF COURSE.

LEARNER DRIVERS

REGARDING INDOOR DRIVING TRAINING CENTRES, I AGREE WITH MR. WONG THAT THESE ARE HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

HE WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT IT IS PROPOSED BY OCTOBER OF NEXT YEAR TO REDEVELOP THE GOVERNMENT-RUN CENTRE IN PUI CHING ROAD, KOWLOON, INTO LARGER ACCOMMODATION IN THE SAME BUILDING.

THIS ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION AND THE PROVISION OF MORE DRIVING SIMULATORS WILL ENABLE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THE CLASS TO BE INCREASED BY ONE-THIRD.

WE SHALL BE RENEWING OUR STOCK OF DRIVING SIMULATORS AT THAT TIME, SO STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF MODERN AND RELIABLE EQUIPMENT.

I AM PLEASED THAT THE HONG KONG AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION IS ALSO EXPANDING ITS FACILITIES FOR INDOOR DRIVING INSTRUCTION AND IS PLANNING TO OPEN A SECOND INDOOR CENTRE NEXT YEAR.

TRANSPORT FOR THE DISABLED

THE GOVERNMENT HAS LONG ARGUED THAT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, PRECISELY BECAUSE IT IS A MASS TRANSIT CONCERNED WITH HUGELY CONCENTRATED CROWDS IS NO PLACE FOR WHEEL CHAIRS.

THIS IS THE THINKING OF MANY TRANSPORT SPECIALISTS OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

AS REGARDS THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM PROPOSED FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY OPENED DISCUSSIONS WITH FATHER COLLINS, CHAIRMAN OF THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE'S +ACCESS AND TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE+ ON WHAT COULD BE DONE FOR THE DISABLED, IF WE WERE TO HAVE SUCH A SYSTEM.

ACCORDINGLY, I LOOK AT THE REHABUS, WHICH IS FLEXIBLE AND TAILORED TO INDIVIDUAL NEEDS FOR EXPANSION TO SERVE MOST OF THE NEEDS OF THE SERIOUSLY HANDICAPPED.

OUR VIEW IS THAT THE REHABUS IS THE MOST USEFUL FIELD FOR GOVERNMENT HELP TO THE HANDICAPPED TRAVELLERS, AND DESERVES GREATER PRIORITY THAN ANY ASSISTANCE IN THE PURCHASE OF PRIVATE CARS.

/HAVING SAID

HAVING SAID THAT, SOME CONCESSIONS ARE ALREADY GIVEN TO THE SEVERELY DISABLED WHO WISH TO DRIVE THEIR OWN CARS AND THE MATTER OF LOAN SCHEMES FOR VEHICLES FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE HANDICAPPED'S TUITION IN DRIVING ARE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED BY FATHER COLLINS' SUB-COMMITTEE ON ACCESS AND TRANSPORT.

EVERY ASSISTANCE IS BEING GIVEN BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WITH REGARD TO PRIORITY IN DRIVING TESTS- IN GIVING ADVICE REGARDING THE ADAPTATION OF DRIVING CONTROLS ON VEHICLES- AND IN ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR DRIVING INSTRUCTION LICENCES FROM APPLICANTS WHO USE VEHICLES ADOPTED FOR THE USE OF DISABLED PERSONS.

UTILISATION OF KERBSIDE SPACE

GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT, GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE FREQUENCY OF STOPS IS ABOUT RIGHT, NOT INVOLVING TOO LONG AN UNLOADING TIME OR TOO LONG A WALK TO EACH PASSENGER'S DESTINATION AND THEREBY FURTHER CROWDING UP OUR ALREADY CONGESTED PAVEMENTS, BUT NOT ON THE OTHER HAND CAUSING MORE THAN NECESSARY DELAY TO TRAFFIC.

THE TRAM DOES NOT AFFECT THE KERBSIDE AS SUCH, AND THIS, OF COURSE, IS ONE OF ITS ATTRACTIONS, BUT I STILL BELIEVE THAT ITS STOPS COULD ONLY BE REDUCED WITH A LOSS OF PASSENGERS.

MINIBUSES STOP EVERYWHERE, EXCEPT IN PROHIBITED AREAS- IT IS ONLY WHEN THEY HANG ABOUT WAITING FOR PASSENGERS THAT THEY WASTE KERBSIDE SPACE.

AS REGARDS COASTAL FERRY SERVICES, THE DIFFICULTY IS THE DETOUR WHICH MOST PASSENGERS HAVE TO MAKE TO CATCH THEM.

BUT WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FERRIES, AND THE INCREASING HOLD-UPS IN NORTH POINT IN PARTICULAR AND THE PROXIMITY OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN QUARRY BAY, SHAUKEIWAN AND CHAI WAN TO THE ACTUAL WATERFRONT, MAY WELL PROVIDE A VIABLE ROUTE, IF NOT IMMEDIATELY AT LEAST IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

REGARDING FERRY PIERS, I AM HAPPY FOR THIS TO HAPPEN PROVIDED THAT THE FERRY COMPANIES, LIKE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PAY FULL MARKET VALUE OF DEVELOPMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH SERVICES TO PASSENGERS AND THAT THE DEVELOPMENT IS APPROPRIATE.

BUS ONLY LANES TEND TO BE APPLAUDED IN PRINCIPLE AND FROWNED UPON IN PRACTICE. WE ARE SO SERIOUSLY RESTRICTED BY ROAD SPACE. WE ARE PRESENTLY LOOKING AT A NEW BATCH OF NEW SUGGESTIONS AND I WILL KEEP MR. WONG POSTED.

AS REGARDS TAXIS WE HAVE TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF TAXI AVAILABILITY TO THOSE WHO MOST NEED THEM - A PROBLEM BEING DEALT WITH BY THE PRICE MECHANISM - AND THE PROBLEM OF HONG KONG'S LONG TERM NEED OF TAXIS AS THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY COMES INTO OPERATION AND THE BUSES ADOPT TO THE NEW SITUATION.

THE WHOLE TAXI POLICY WILL BE REVIEWED LATER THIS YEAR.

AS REGARDS PRIVATE CARS, MR. WONG IS CORRECT THAT THE WHITE PAPER DOES NOT PROPOSE SPECIFIC MEASURES TO CUT DOWN NUMBERS, BUT IT INDICATES (PARAGRAPH 157) THAT TO AVOID CONGESTION WE SHOULD REDUCE THE CAR REGISTRATION GROWTH RATE AS NECESSARY AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF INCREASING REGISTRATIONS ON THE ONE HAND AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ROADS ON THE OTHER.

AS TO THE RATE OF GROWTH IN REGISTRATION, THIS COUNCIL MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT IN JUNE 1979 THERE WERE 16 PER CENT MORE CARS ON OUR ROADS THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

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DEBATE ON WHITE PAPER ON INTERNAL TRANSPORT POLICY
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NO AMOUNT OF NEGATIVE CONSTRAINT ON THE USE OF PRIVATE CARS OR TAXIS TO REDUCE ROAD CONGESTION WILL INDUCE PEOPLE TO SWITCH TO BUSES, UNLESS THESE ARE COMFORTABLE, CLEAN, SAFE, EASILY AVAILABLE, AND LESS OVERCROWDED, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON INTERNAL TRANSPORT POLICY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE MOST GLARING FLAW OF THE WHITE PAPER WAS ITS INABILITY TO APPRECIATE THIS POINT AND THE SAD CONCLUSION WAS THAT THOSE WHO DRAFTED THE PAPER WERE NOT ATTUNED TO +THE NEEDS AND SUFFERINGS OF OUR PATIENT TRAVELLING PUBLIC.+

HE ASKED WHY THERE HAD NOT BEEN A REALISTIC MEDIUM-TERM PROJECTION OF NEW BUS REQUIREMENTS TO MEET EXPANSION AND WONDERED WHETHER THERE WAS A PLAN TO REPLACE THE OLDER BUSES.

ANOTHER CRITICISM BY MR. CHEONG-LEEN WAS THE LACK OF TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED BUS DRIVERS WHO WOULD NEED TO BE ATTRACTED BY BETTER WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

THE SHORTAGE OF DRIVERS PUT 50 KMB BUSES, OR THREE PER CENT OF ITS FLEET OUT OF SERVICE LAST YEAR, HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED A LOOK INTO THE EFFECTIVENESS, IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BUS COMPANIES.

+I THINK THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD WAKE UP TO THE UNPLEASANT FACT THAT ITS POWERS TO SUSPEND THE BUS FRANCHISES IS NO MORE THAN A 'PAPER TIGER' THREAT,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY USE THE POWERS WHEN THE SITUATION BECAME A CRISIS, WHICH WOULD BE TOO LATE FOR THE PUBLIC.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER ACQUIRING AN EQUITY POSITION IN THE COMPANIES SO AS TO HAVE MORE SAY IN THEIR MANAGEMENT AND EXPANSION PLANS.

ROAD SAFETY

ON ROAD SAFETY, MR. CHEONG-LEEN REGRETTED THAT THE \$350,000 ALLOCATED FOR THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH \$1 MILLION FOR THE +KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN+ CAMPAIGN, WOULD POSSIBLY BE CUT BY 10 PER CENT.

HE SAID THE FUNDS OUGHT TO BE INCREASED INSTEAD, IN VIEW OF THE MANY CASUALTIES CAUSED BY ROAD ACCIDENTS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE ROADWORTHINESS OF EACH BUS SHOULD BE CHECKED EVERY THREE WEEKS AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REQUIRE ALL GOODS VEHICLES, PLB'S AND TAXIS TO SUBMIT TO REGULAR CHECKS BY PRIVATE GARAGES, IN ADDITION TO GOVERNMENT SPOT-CHECKS AND ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS.

PARKING POLICY

MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PARKING POLICY THROUGHOUT THE YEARS +HAS BEEN SHORT-SIGHTED, UNCOORDINATED, AND CONFUSING TO THE PUBLIC.+ HE GAVE THE EXAMPLE OF CONGESTION IN KWUN TONG AND TSUEN WAN WHERE THE LACK OF FACILITIES FOR GOODS VEHICLES WAS CAUSED BY THE PLANNERS' LACK OF FORESIGHT.

HE THOUGHT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BUILD MORE OFF-STREET MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS FOR BOTH CARS AND GOODS VEHICLES.

TRANSPORT FOR THE DISABLED

FIVE OTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS GAVE THEIR COMMENTS ON THE WHITE PAPER FOLLOWING MR. CHEONG-LEEN.

DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG FELT THAT THE PROBLEM OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED, WHICH WERE NECESSARY FOR THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY, WAS ONLY DEALT WITH SUPERFICIALLY.

+IN HONG KONG WHERE TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT, EVEN FOR THOSE IN ROBUST HEALTH, IS AN EXHAUSTING AND NERVE-WRECKING EXPERIENCE- DISABLED PERSONS, IN PARTICULAR WHEELCHAIR USERS, ARE BEING GIVEN NO OPTION TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT,+ HE SAID, CITING THE MTR AS AN EXAMPLE.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THE ONLY SERVICE AVAILABLE, TO A SMALL NUMBER OF SEVERELY DISABLED PERSONS, WAS THE REHABUS RUN SUCCESSFULLY BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION AS A PILOT PROJECT.

HE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE IT ON AND EXPAND IT EVENTUALLY.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE COST OF THE SERVICE WAS, HOWEVER, TOO EXPENSIVE TO HAVE IT EXTENDED TO SERVE ALL THE SEVERELY DISABLED, AND TAXIS AND CONTRACT HIRE-CARS WERE MUCH TOO EXPENSIVE TO BE USED REGULARLY.

HE SAID THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE DISABLED WAS THE USE OF PRIVATE CARS.

DR. FANG THEREFORE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER SETTING UP A SPECIAL LOAN FUND TO HELP THOSE WHO COULD DRIVE TO BUY THEIR OWN CARS.

HE SAID THERE WERE SIMILAR SCHEMES IN THE UK AND A NUMBER OF DISABLED PERSONS WERE ALREADY DRIVING THEIR OWN CARS IN HONG KONG.

AS MORE THAN 100 DISABLED PERSONS WERE AT PRESENT ON THE LIST WAITING TO BE INSTRUCTED IN DRIVING, DR. FANG FURTHER ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE AT LEAST TWO MORE INSTRUCTOR LICENCES TO THOSE QUALIFIED IN TEACHING HAND-CONTROLLED VEHICLES, ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE HARBOUR, TO GIVE THE DISABLED SPECIAL TUITION.

CONGESTION BY GOODS VEHICLES

THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN SAID THE SOLUTION OFFERED BY THE WHITE PAPER TO ALLEVIATE ROAD CONGESTION CAUSED BY GOODS VEHICLES WAS +THEORETICAL TREATMENT.+

THE PROPOSED SOLUTION OF MORE USE OF BIGGER AND LARGER VEHICLES WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL BECAUSE LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE NEEDED BY THE MANY FLATTED FACTORIES IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT A MORE POSITIVE SOLUTION WAS THE BUILDING OF OFF-STREET MULTI-STOREY LORRY PARKS, AS OPPOSED TO THE LESS ECONOMICAL OPEN-AIR PARKS.

THESE LORRY PARKS COULD PERHAPS INCORPORATE MAINTENANCE FACILITIES FOR GOODS VEHICLES ON THE GROUND FLOORS AND WORKERS' CANTEENS ON THE TOP FLOORS TO MAXIMISE LAND USE.

HE REMINDED THE GOVERNMENT OF ITS PROMISE TO EXERCISE STRICT LEASE ENFORCEMENT ACTION ON UNLAWFUL CONVERSION OF GROUND FLOOR SPACE IN INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, AND ASKED IT TO DEPLOY INTENSIVE MANPOWER TO MANAGE HABITUALLY CONGESTED AREAS.

HE ALSO CALLED FOR A RE-EXAMINATION OF TRAFFIC PENALTIES, PARTICULARLY FOR OFFENCES LIKE OVERLOADING, ILLEGAL PARKING AND DOUBLE PARKING, IN RESPECT OF GOODS VEHICLES.

/HE THOUGHT

HE THOUGHT THAT IF GOODS VEHICLES WERE REQUIRED TO BE INSPECTED ANNUALLY LIKE BUSES, THE MECHANICALLY UNSOUND ONES WOULD BE WEEDED OUT AND HOPEFULLY REPLACED BY NEW ONES MECHANICALLY GEARED TO SPEED UP LOADING AND UNLOADING AND THUS CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER ROAD USE.

USE OF KERBSIDE SPACE

THE HON. S.L. CHEN, WHO WAS OUT OF HONG KONG AND WHOSE SPEECH WAS DELIVERED BY THE HON. T.S. LO, OBSERVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER TRIED TO USE KERBSIDE SPACE MORE EFFICIENTLY, ALTHOUGH LIMITATION TO HAVING MORE SUCH SPACE WAS ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS WHICH LED IT TO DECIDE ON HAVING THE MTR.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE FAR TOO MANY BUS AND TRAM STOPS AT THE KERBSIDE.

FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE TWO-KILOMETRE JOURNEY BETWEEN YEE WO STREET AND ARSENAL STREET, THERE WERE NINE AND 10 RESPECTIVELY -- THIS LED TO SLOWER TRAVELLING TIME AND IN TURN MORE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND LESS PASSENGER-JOURNEYS.

HE REFERRED TO HIS PREVIOUS SUGGESTION FOR FIXING STOPPING PLACES FOR MINI-BUSES. THIS WAS REJECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE GROUND THAT IT WOULD REMOVE THE ATTRACTION AND REDUCE THE FLEXIBILITY OF PLB SERVICE.

SUCH A VIEW, MR. CHEN SAID, WAS INCONSISTENT WITH EFFICIENT UTILISATION OF OUR LIMITED KERBSIDE SPACE.

ISLAND CORRIDOR

MR. CHEN QUESTIONED THE WHITE PAPER'S VIEWS ON A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) SYSTEM TO REPLACE THE EXISTING TRAMWAY.

SUCH A SYSTEM COULD ONLY BE SUCCESSFUL IF IT HAD A SEGREGATED RIGHT OF WAY, AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER ROAD USERS.

THE WHITE PAPER'S SWEEPING STATEMENT THAT THIS WOULD BE OUTWEIGHED BY THE GAINS TO PASSENGERS AND THAT OVERALL THEY WOULD ENJOY A SUBSTANTIAL NET BENEFIT WAS UNACCEPTABLE WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL JUSTIFICATION IN THE FORM OF FACTS AND FIGURES, HE SAID.

MR. CHEN WAS SURE THAT GIVEN THE SAME FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGE, INCLUDING LESS STOPS, THE EXISTING TRAMWAY SERVICE COULD BE GREATLY IMPROVED, PERHAPS NOT TO THE EXTENT OF AN LRT SYSTEM, BUT CERTAINLY CHEAPER THAN THE ONE BILLION DOLLARS IT WAS REPORTED TO COST.

HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A COMPARISON OF THE TWO SYSTEMS WITH REGARD TO THEIR COST EFFECTIVENESS.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO DISMISS THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF A COASTAL FERRY SERVICE WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS AN UNPOPULAR AND NON-VIABLE PROPOSITION IN THE WHITE PAPER.

HE SAID MOST PEOPLE WOULD PREFER SPENDING 30-40 MINUTES ON A FERRY RATHER THAN QUEUING UP FOR A BUS OR TRAM AND SUFFERING THE FRUSTRATION OF A TRAFFIC JAM AND INHALING EXHAUST FUMES.

FROM THE FERRY OPERATOR'S POINT OF VIEW, FULL OPERATION IN ONE DIRECTION DURING PEAK HOURS MIGHT NOT BE PROFITABLE.

THIS PROBLEM COULD, HOWEVER, BE SOLVED BY A REALISTIC FARE STRUCTURE, OR BY THE GOVERNMENT OFFERING SOME FORM OF INDIRECT FINANCIAL OR OTHER INCENTIVE, SUCH AS ALLOWING THE COMPANIES TO DEVELOP FULL COMMERCIAL INVESTMENTS AT THE PIERS AS WAS ALLOWED THE MTR, MR. CHEN SAID.

LEARNER DRIVERS

THE HON. PETER C. WONG SAID THE TRAINING OF DRIVERS WAS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ANY TRANSPORT POLICY BECAUSE BETTER DRIVERS MEANT BETTER TRAFFIC FLOW AND LESS ACCIDENTS BUT THE WHITE PAPER DID NOT MENTION LEARNER DRIVERS.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO SET UP MORE IN-DOOR DRIVING TRAINING CENTRES, WHICH HAD BEEN SHOWN TO HELP LEARNERS IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE, AND WHICH WOULD HELP REDUCE CONGESTION CAUSED BY OTHERWISE ON-ROAD DRIVING INSTRUCTION.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF OFF-STREET DRIVER TRAINING AREAS.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

THE HON. WONG LAM WANTED THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW ITS PRESENT PRACTICE OF HANDLING TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS SO THAT THESE COULD BE DEALT WITH SPEEDILY TO AVOID CAUSING PROLONGED TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED SETTING UP WARNING BOARDS AT TRAFFIC BLACK SPOTS OR CONSPICUOUS PLACES, SHOWING THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC CASUALTIES, TO ALERT BOTH MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRIANS.

ALTERNATIVES TO MTR

HE THOUGHT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO CHOOSE DIFFERENT MODES OF TRANSPORT AT DIFFERENT PRICES AND THAT EXISTING TRUNK ROUTE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE AFTER THE OPENING OF THE MTR.

TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE MOTORISTS TO USE THE MTR, HE SUGGESTED THAT STATIONS SHOULD HAVE PARKING FACILITIES NEARBY.

BUS ONLY LANES AND LIGHT BUSES

MR. WONG SUPPORTED MORE USE OF BUS ONLY LANES IN THE URBAN AREAS WHICH WOULD ONLY HAVE TO BE OPENED DURING PEAK HOURS.

HE BELIEVED THAT MAXICAB SERVICES WOULD BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IF THE LARGER PLB OPERATORS COULD BE INVITED JOINTLY TO OPERATE A FEW LINES, SO AS TO EVEN OUT PROFITS AND MAKE GOOD LOSSES.

THE SYSTEM OF PLB CONTROL IN CENTRAL DISTRICT, BY WHICH THEY WERE REQUIRED TO OFF-LOAD AND TAKE ON PASSENGERS IN SIDE STREETS, COULD BE PROMOTED.

HE ALSO FELT THAT THE USE OF NON-FRANCHISED BUSES, IN PARTICULAR SCHOOL BUSES, FOR EXAMPLE FOR GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

TAXIS AND PRIVATE CARS

MR. WONG THOUGHT THE EXISTING POLICY WAS CONTRADICTIONARY IN THAT IT REGARDED TAXIS AS THE LEAST EFFICIENT MEANS OF TRANSPORT AND YET LICENCES FOR THEM WERE STILL BEING ISSUED.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ON-STREET PARKING SPACES, ESPECIALLY THOSE NEAR MAIN ROADS, FOR PRIVATE CARS, TO REDUCE CONGESTION CAUSED INDIRECTLY BY THEM.

HE THOUGHT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROMOTE STAGGERED WORKING HOURS, WHICH SHOULD HELP TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.

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20,000 REFUGEES TO LEAVE HK THIS YEAR
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ABOUT 20,000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG WILL BE RESETTLED OVERSEAS THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG, HE ALSO SAID IT WAS HOPED THE RATE OF DEPARTURE WILL INCREASE THEREAFTER.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEMS, THE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT PLACES FOR THE REGION, OFFERED BY 26 COUNTRIES, HAD INCREASED TO UP TO 300,000.

+WE ARE NOW ENGAGED ON A SERIES OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES AND WITH THE UNHCR OVER RESETTLEMENT PLACES,+ HE SAID.

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ON THE QUESTION OF THE OUTFLOW OF THE REFUGEES BEING HALTED PERMANENTLY, MR. DAVIES SAID BOATS WERE STILL ARRIVING AND IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER THE FLOW OF REFUGEES LEAVING VIETNAM HAD ACTUALLY CEASED AND, CERTAINLY TOO SOON TO SAY WHETHER IT (THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM) WOULD DO SO PERMANENTLY.

+THERE IS, HOWEVER, A MARKED REDUCTION IN ARRIVALS,+ HE INDICATED.

+WHAT WE WOULD WISH TO SEE IS THAT CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM SHOULD BE SUCH THAT THERE IS NO PRESSURE ON PEOPLE TO LEAVE, THAT THOSE WHO WISH TO LEAVE SHOULD BE FREE TO DO SO, IN AN ORDERLY FASHION, ON TRANSPORT THAT IS SAFE, AND TO AN ASSURED DESTINATION.+

TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE UNHCR ASSUMING THE FINANCIAL BURDEN CURRENTLY BORNE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, MR. DAVIES SAID PROSPECTS WERE ENCOURAGING.

ASSERTING THAT IT WAS HIS AIM THAT THE UNHCR SHOULD BE PRESSED TO TAKE OVER FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL REFUGEES IN HONG KONG, MR. DAVIES SAID THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH SENIOR UNHCR OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG IN MID-AUGUST.

MEANWHILE, HE CONTINUED, THE KAI TAK NORTH CAMP HAD BEEN HANDED OVER FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL TO UNHCR TODAY.

+THIS INCREASES THE NUMBER UNDER UNHCR DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY TO 32,000 OR ALMOST HALF OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+ALSO, UNHCR CAMPS ARE TO BE EXPANDED AT LEAST TO A CAPACITY OF 44,000,+ HE ADDED.

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REFUGEES PROVIDED WITH GUIDANCE ON LABOUR MATTERS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS BRIEFED MANAGERMENTS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMPS AND PROVIDED THEM WITH COPIES OF PAMPHLETS ON LABOUR LEGISLATION TO HELP REFUGEES SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HO KAM-FAI, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. JOHN CHAMBERS SAID GUIDANCE ON LABOUR MATTERS WAS ALSO BEING PROVIDED BY SEVERAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AS PART OF THEIR FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMPS.

+IN ADDITION, THE CHINESE-SPEAKING VIETNAMESE WORKERS WHO MAKE UP THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO HAVE OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT HAVE ACCESS TO THE REGULAR LABOUR DEPARTMENT PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES THROUGH THE PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION,+ MR. CHAMBERS SAID.

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INVESTIGATIONS INTO COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE
SHOW MARKED IMPROVEMENT

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A +MARKED IMPROVEMENT+ IN THE RATE AT WHICH COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE ARE INVESTIGATED IS NOTED IN THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1978 TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP, WHICH IN 1977 UNDERTOOK THE TASK OF MONITORING HOW THE CAPO (COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE) HANDLES COMPLAINTS BY THE PUBLIC, ALSO SAYS THERE HAS BEEN A +CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN THE THOROUGHNESS AND OBJECTIVITY+ OF CAPO INVESTIGATIONS.

+WE ARE GRATIFIED,+ THE REPORT STATES, +TO LEARN FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE THAT THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE IS SEEN TO AN INCREASING EXTENT BY THE FORCE AS A TRUTH-SEEKING AGENCY, AS MUCH CONCERNED WITH THE EXONERATION OF THE INNOCENT AS WITH THE PUNISHMENT OF THE GUILTY.+

THE REPORT ALSO GIVES AN INDICATION OF THE THOROUGHNESS WITH WHICH THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP CARRIED OUT ITS MONITORING DUTIES.

LAST YEAR THE GROUP HAD SPOT-CHECK EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED INTO 165 COMPLAINTS. IT HELD 25 FORMAL MEETINGS, AT A RATE OF ALMOST ONE MEETING A FORTNIGHT: 19 MEETINGS WITH THE POLICE AND SIX INTERNAL ONES.

THE SIX-MAN GROUP, WHICH IS CHAIRED BY SIR SIDNEY GORDON, CONCLUDED THAT, IN VIEW OF THE +IMMENSELY CHALLENGING TASK+ CONFRONTING THE COMPLAINTS OFFICE, SATISFACTORY PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, AT THE END OF THE YEAR, WERE: MR. T.S. LO= REV. JOYCE M. BENNETT= MR. WONG LAM= MR. LI FOOK-WO (WHO REPLACED MR. T.K. ANN)= AND FATHER PATRICK MCGOVERN (WHO REPLACED MR. OSWALD CHEUNG).

THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE GROUP TOLD THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OF ITS CONCERN ABOUT DELAYS IN BRINGING COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATIONS TO A CONCLUSION.

+STAFF SHORTAGES AND THE TIME TAKEN TO DEVELOP THE CAPO OPERATING PROCEDURES CONTRIBUTED TO EARLY DIFFICULTIES AND, INEVITABLY, SOME COMPLAINTS INVOLVE COMPLEX AND PROTRACTED INVESTIGATIONS. HOWEVER, AS THE CAPO GAINED STRENGTH AND EXPERIENCE, A MARKED IMPROVEMENT WAS EVIDENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR,+ THE REPORT SAYS.

IT ALSO NOTES THE GROUP'S CONCERN ABOUT THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINANTS CHARGED WITH OFFENCES SUCH AS OBSTRUCTING THE POLICE, LOITERING OR RESISTING ARREST, WHEN THEY APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN FIRST SUSPECTED OF DIFFERENT AND OFTEN MORE SERIOUS OFFENCES.

THE GROUP BELIEVES THAT THERE IS GREATER SCOPE FOR APPLYING THE CONCEPT OF +SUPERVISORY ACCOUNTABILITY+ IN THE POLICE'S HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS.

THE REPORT ALSO RECOGNISES THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE POLICEMAN'S ROLE.

+A POLICE OFFICER,+ IT STATES, +IN THE COURSE OF HIS DAILY DUTIES IS MORE DIRECTLY EXPOSED TO PUBLIC CRITICISM THAN ANY OTHER PUBLIC OFFICER. VERY OFTEN CRITICISM OF POLICE CONDUCT IS A LAW-BREAKER'S ONLY LINE OF DEFENCE.+

WITH REGARD TO COMPLAINTS OF NEGLECT OF DUTY OR FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT POLICEMEN OFTEN HAVE TO EXERCISE THEIR JUDGMENT AND DISCRETION — FOR EXAMPLE, IN DECIDING WHETHER TO INTERVENE IN A TRIVIAL, PERSONAL OR DOMESTIC DISPUTE.

ALTHOUGH THE GROUP IS GENERALLY SATISFIED THAT POLICE OFFICERS EXERCISING THEIR DISCRETION IN THESE SITUATIONS USUALLY DO SO RESPONSIBLY, THE REPORT STRESSES THAT CAPO SHOULD ALWAYS BE STAFFED BY OFFICERS OF THE VERY HIGHEST CALIBRE.

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT CONCLUDES, THE SUCCESS OF THE COMPLAINTS OFFICE +MUST DEPEND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC AND POLICE FORCE CONFIDENCE IN THE EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPARTIALITY OF ITS INVESTIGATIONS.+

STATISTICS PROVIDED BY THE REPORT SHOW THAT OF 1,465 CASES INTO WHICH INVESTIGATIONS WERE COMPLETED DURING 1978, 15.7 PER CENT (OR 230 CASES), WERE SUBSTANTIATED OR PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED, 63.89 PER CENT OF ALLEGATIONS WERE NOT SUBSTANTIATED, 15.56 PER CENT WERE NOT PROVED, 0.89 PER CENT WERE MALICIOUS, AND 3.96 PER CENT WERE NOT PURSUABLE.

OF THE 230 COMPLAINTS WHICH WERE FOUND TO BE SUBSTANTIATED OR PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED, TWO RESULTED IN THE DISMISSAL OF POLICE OFFICERS, 16 LED TO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, AND 16 TO THE INSTITUTION OF FORMAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

WARNINGS WERE ISSUED IN 70 CASES, AND INSTRUCTIONS OR ADVICE WAS GIVEN TO THE OFFICER CONCERNED ON THE PROPER HANDLING OF INCIDENTS IN A FURTHER 71 CASES.

FOUR CASES LED TO THE AMENDMENT OF POLICE PROCEDURES, AND INSTRUCTIONS ON PROPER POLICE PROCEDURE WERE ISSUED ON 13 OCCASIONS.

IN 38 CASES, IT WAS DECIDED THAT AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES NO FURTHER ACTION WAS CALLED FOR.

THE REPORT COVERS A TOTAL OF 2,697 COMPLAINTS LODGED WITH CAPO, COMPRISING 2,264 RECEIVED IN 1978 AND 433 OUTSTANDING FROM 1977. IN ADDITION TO THE 1,465 CASES INVESTIGATED AND COMPLETED, 361 CASES WERE WITHDRAWN BY THE COMPLAINANTS, AND 131 COULD NOT BE PURSUED BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION.

ONE CASE ARISING IN 1977 (SINCE COMPLETED) AND 739 CASES ARISING IN 1978 WERE STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION AS AT JANUARY 1.

SINCE THEN, ALL BUT 22 CASES ARISING IN 1978 HAVE BEEN CLEARED.

/THE MAJORITY

THE MAJORITY OF THE 2,264 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN 1978 RELATED TO THE ON-DUTY ATTITUDE OF POLICE OFFICERS TOWARDS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, ALLEGING THE USE OF OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE (SIX PER CENT), OVERBEARING OR IMPOLITE CONDUCT (21 PER CENT) OR ABUSE OF AUTHORITY (14 PER CENT).

ALMOST AN EQUAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ALLEGED ASSAULT (35 PER CENT), IN NEARLY ALL CASES ARISING FROM INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN THE COURSE OF POLICE OPERATIONS.

EVERY COMPLAINT AGAINST THE POLICE LODGED WITH OR REFERRED TO THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE IS INVESTIGATED AND A REPORT ON THE COMPLETED INVESTIGATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE GROUP.

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UMELCO POLICE GROUP PRAISED

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE WORK PERFORMED BY THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP WHEN HE TABLED ITS 1978 REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE GROUP FOUND A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS BY THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE (CAPO) AND THAT THE BACKLOG HAS BEEN REDUCED.

MR. DAVIES RECALLED THAT AT THE OUTSET, THE WORK OF CAPO HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY A BACKLOG OF COMPLAINTS, INSUFFICIENT STAFF AND INADEQUATE ACCOMMODATION.

+SINCE THEN HIGH PRIORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND STAFFING OF THE OFFICE BECAUSE THE CREDIBILITY OF CAPO AND THE THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF COMPLAINTS ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE PUBLIC AND THE POLICE FORCE ALIKE,+ HE SAID.

OF THE 1,465 COMPLAINTS INTO WHICH INVESTIGATIONS WERE COMPLETED, 230 WERE FOUND TO BE SUBSTANTIATED OR PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED.

POSITIVE ACTION, RANGING FROM DISMISSAL TO ADVICE ON THE HANDLING OF INCIDENTS, TO AMENDMENT OF POLICE PROCEDURES, WAS TAKEN IN 192 CASES.

IN THE REMAINING CASES, IT WAS DECIDED AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT NO FURTHER ACTION WAS CALLED FOR.

MR. DAVIES ATTRIBUTED THESE RESULTS TO BE EVIDENCE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP AND CAPO.

+IN ADDITION TO STUDYING THE REPORTS OF COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS, THE GROUP ALSO INTRODUCED IN MARCH 1978 (WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE) A SYSTEM OF SPOT CHECKS,+ HE SAID.

INVESTIGATION FILES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS WERE PASSED TO A UMELCO TEAM FOR EXAMINATION AND, THE GROUP CHECKED 165 CASES LAST YEAR, MR. DAVIES SAID.

WHILE SUPPORTING CAPO'S AIM TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE IN A FAIR AND JUST MANNER, MR. DAVIES AGREES WITH THE UMELCO GROUP'S VIEW THAT A POLICE OFFICER SHOULD NOT BE DETERRED FROM DOING HIS DUTY FOR FEAR THAT AN UNWARRANTED COMPLAINT MAY PLACE HIS JOB OR FUTURE IN JEOPARDY.

+VERY OFTEN CRITICISM OF POLICE CONDUCT IS A LAW-BREAKER'S ONLY LINE OF DEFENCE, AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT POLICE OFFICERS BE FULLY EXONERATED WHEN THE FACTS INDICATE THAT A COMPLAINT IS UNSUBSTANTIATED,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE WHOLE, THE GROUP HELD THAT SATISFACTORY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BY CAPO LAST YEAR.

IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 1977 TO MONITOR AND REVIEW THE WORK OF CAPO.

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LOAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MTR
TSUEN WAN DEPOT APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADOPTED A MOTION SEEKING AUTHORITY FOR A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE FOR EXPORT CREDITS TO FINANCE A CONTRACT FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION'S EXTENSION TO TSUEN WAN.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. HENRY CHING SAID THE LOAN, AMOUNTING TO \$142 MILLION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ALL THE WORKS NECESSARY FOR THE CORPORATION'S RAILWAY DEPOT AT TSUEN WAN, COVERED ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF THE ACTUAL CONTRACT PRICE.

+THE CONTRACT PLACED IN FRANCE HAS BEEN AWARDED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS TO EXCLUDE ANY EXCHANGE RISK TO THE CORPORATION,+ MR. CHING SAID.

THE TERMS OF FINANCE INCLUDE A FIXED INTEREST RATE OF 7.75 PER CENT PER ANNUM AND A GUARANTEE ADDITIONAL COVERS ANY DEFERRED INTEREST PAYMENT UP TO A LIMIT OF \$4.5 MILLION.

MR. CHING SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL GUARANTEE COMMITMENT IN THE CORPORATION WILL BE \$8,903 MILLION.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1979

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MTR BY-LAWS APPROVED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY BY-LAWS 1979 PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE USE OF THE MTR SERVICES.

MOVING THE BY-LAWS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. GRAHAM BARNES SAID THE BY-LAWS ARE ALSO AIMED AT CONTROLLING AND REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON RAILWAY PREMISES, INCLUDING SUCH MATTERS AS FARES AND ADVERTISING, AS WELL AS PROTECTING THE PROPERTY OF THE CORPORATION ON RAILWAY PREMISES.

THE BY-LAWS ALSO:

- * PROHIBIT TRESPASS AND DAMAGE TO RAILWAY PREMISES, PERSONS THROWING OBJECTS ON RAILWAY PREMISES AND THE IMPROPER USE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT-
- * CONCERN SUCH MATTERS AS FARES, TICKETS, EXCESS FARES AND CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL-
- * REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF PASSENGERS WHILE ON RAILWAY PREMISES AND PROHIBIT SMOKING, SPITTING AND THE PLAYING OF RADIOS-
- * PROHIBIT SOLICITING FOR HANDLING LUGGAGE, HAWKING, LOITERING AND ILLEGAL BILL POSTING-
- * CONCERN THE REMOVAL, DETENTION AND SALE OF VEHICLES PARKED ILLEGALLY ON RAILWAY PREMISES AND REGULATE THE DRIVING OF VEHICLES ON THESE PREMISES-
- * PROHIBIT THE CARRIAGE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION BY ANY PERSON, OTHER THAN A MEMBER OF HER MAJESTY'S FORCES OR A POLICE OFFICER ON DUTY, AND THE UNAUTHORISED POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS GOODS-
- * LAY DOWN PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH LOST PROPERTY, AND
- * EMPOWER THE CORPORATION'S OFFICIALS TO REMOVE AND DETAIN OFFENDERS AGAINST THE BY-LAWS BEFORE HANDING THEM OVER TO THE POLICE.

MR. BARNES SAID PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENING THESE BY-LAWS RANGE FROM FINES OF A MINIMUM OF \$100 IN THE CASE OF VEHICLE DRIVERS NOT COMPLYING WITH SIGNS TO A MAXIMUM OF \$5,000 FOR THE UNAUTHORISED POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

FINALLY, MR. BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THESE PROVISIONS ARE STANDARD AND NECESSARY AND DO NOT EXCLUDE PROSECUTION UNDER OTHER LEGISLATION, WHERE APPROPRIATE.

+THEY MUST BE IN FORCE FOR THE OPENING OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM IN OCTOBER,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1979

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IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL
UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED

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THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL, AIMED AT ENABLING MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO PREVENT AND TO PENALISE TRAFFICKING IN UNLAWFUL IMMIGRATION, WAS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS BEFORE THE BILL WAS PASSED, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG SAID THAT, IN GIVING SUPPORT TO THE BILL, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS UNDERScoreD THE NEED FOR HONG KONG ITSELF TO DO ITS UTMOST TO SUPPRESS ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN REFUGEES, AND TO PROVIDE THE COURTS WITH PENAL SANCTIONS THAT COULD BE INFLICTED ON THOSE CONVICTED OF PARTICIPATING IN SUCH TRAFFIC.

+A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5 MILLION AND A POTENTIAL SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT WILL BE RECOGNISED AS A MARK OF THIS COUNCIL'S DETERMINATION TO BE SEVERE,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHEUNG SAID UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WERE SATISFIED THAT THERE WERE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT DESPITE THE HARD LINE TAKEN BY THE BILL.

+MOREOVER, COMPENSATION WILL BE PAYABLE WHERE SHIPS OR OTHER PROPERTY HAVE BEEN WRONGLY SUSPENDED OR SEIZED, EVENTS WHICH CAN HAPPEN WHEN ACTION IS RESOLUTE AND SOMETIMES HAS TO BE TAKEN IN EMERGENCY- IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE BY GOVERNMENT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, MR. CHEUNG SAID, THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE BILL WHICH INHIBITED IN ANY WAY THE RIGHT AND DUTY OF CAPTAINS OF SHIPS TO PLUCK THOSE IN DISTRESS ON THE HIGH SEAS, AND GIVE THEM SUCCOUR.

MR. CHEUNG SAID UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HOPED THESE EMERGENCY MEASURES WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY WHEN THEY EXPIRED IN DECEMBER NEXT YEAR, ADDING THAT IF SUCH PROVISIONS SHOULD STILL BE NEEDED, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WOULD NOT HESITATE TO EXTEND THEM.

MR. CHEUNG ALSO PRAISED THE STRENUOUS EFFORTS MADE BY HM GOVERNMENT IN RECENT MONTHS TO DEFLECT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT FROM ITS POLICIES AND TO GALVANISE THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD INTO ACTION TO GRANT RESETTLEMENT TO REFUGEES, ESPECIALLY THOSE HAVING ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED BY HONG KONG.

+WE WISH ALSO TO PLACE ON RECORD OUR ADMIRATION AND THANKS FOR THE LEADING PART THAT YOU, SIR (THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE), HAVE TAKEN IN ALL THESE EVENTS.

+WE WOULD ALSO WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE THE STEPS THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS IMPLEMENTED, VERY EFFECTIVELY, TO STOP THE FLOW OF UNAUTHORISED PERSONS CROSSING THE BORDER AND ON TO OUR SHORES,+ MR. CHEUNG SAID.

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DEPARTMENT TRYING TO BLOCK HOUSING TO NEW ARRIVALS

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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING WAYS OF PREVENTING LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM BEING ACCOMMODATED IN PUBLIC HOUSING.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. DONALD P.H. LIAO, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN ASKED : +WILL THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER INTRODUCING MEASURES TO PREVENT LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BEING ACCOMMODATED IN PUBLIC HOUSING AT LEAST UNTIL THEY HAVE RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS OR MORE?+

MR. LIAO SAID MOST PEOPLE ENTERING NEW PERMANENT PUBLIC HOUSING HAD AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS' RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

+THERE ARE, HOWEVER, WAYS IN WHICH NEW ARRIVALS MAY GAIN ENTRY TO PUBLIC HOUSING, AND, OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY AWARE THAT THIS IS OCCURRING IN A FEW INSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

+AS A RESULT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY CONSIDERING MEANS BY WHICH THESE 'QUEUE JUMPERS' MAY BE HELD BACK, SO THAT THEY DO NOT SECURE PERMANENT PUBLIC HOUSING IN ADVANCE OF FAMILIES OF LONGER RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG.+

MR. LIAO SAID HE WAS SURE MEMBERS AGREED THIS WAS A MATTER OF GENERAL CONCERN PARTICULARLY TO THOSE +WHOSE PATIENCE IS ALREADY BEING SORELY TESTED BY THE LONG WAIT BETWEEN APPLICATION AND ALLOCATION.+

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NUMBER OF FACTORY INSPECTORS TO BE DOUBLED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF FACTORY INSPECTORS IN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR YEARS TO INCREASE THE FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS OF CONSTRUCTION SITES, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. JOHN CHAMBERS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM, SAID INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT WERE, HOWEVER, NOT THE COMPLETE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT BOTH BUILDING CONTRACTORS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES SHOULD BECOME MORE SAFETY-CONSCIOUS IF THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS WAS TO BE REDUCED.

MR. CHAMBERS SAID AT PRESENT 18 FACTORY INSPECTORS VISIT CONSTRUCTION SITES TO ENSURE THAT BUILDING CONTRACTORS ARE AWARE OF AND CARRY OUT THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

ON AVERAGE THREE OR FOUR VISITS ARE MADE TO EACH SITE EVERY YEAR AND PROSECUTIONS ARE UNDERTAKEN IN APPROPRIATE CASES.

+THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ALSO CONDUCTS FREQUENT SAFETY COURSES FOR PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND SEVERAL ASPECTS OF CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ARE COVERED IN THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH EXHIBITION NOW TAKING PLACE AT THE HUNG HOM STATION,+ HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A SEPARATE QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ON THE PROBLEM OF INDUSTRIAL NOISE, MR. CHAMBERS SAID AN INDUSTRIAL NOISE CONSULTANT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION RECENTLY SPENT THREE MONTHS IN HONG KONG STUDYING THE SITUATION WITH A VIEW TO MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT FURTHER MEASURES NEEDED TO BE TAKEN.

+HIS REPORT IS EXPECTED SHORTLY AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR SHOULD THEN BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONSULTANT'S ADVICE,+ MR. CHAMBERS SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMISSIONER RECENTLY CARRIED OUT A SURVEY OF NOISE IN FACTORIES AND WAS NOW IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAMME OF ADVICE AND EDUCATION.

+FACTORY INSPECTORS DISCUSS NOISE PROBLEMS WITH MANAGERMENTS DURING THEIR INSPECTIONS OF NOISY TRADERS AND GIVE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE WHEREVER POSSIBLE,+ MR. CHAMBERS SAID.

+IT IS, HOWEVER, NOT EASY TO PERSUADE WORKERS TO USE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT,+ HE ADDED.

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ADEQUATE ADVICE FOR STUDENTS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFERS ADVICE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ON HOW TO CHOOSE A CAREER AND ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN SELECTING A SUMMER JOBS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ANDREW SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. CHAMBERS SAID THIS WAS DONE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR BY MEANS OF SCHOOL TALKS, POSTERS, CAREERS NEWSLETTERS AND THE ENQUIRY SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE CAREFULLY MATCHES STUDENTS SEEKING SUMMER JOBS WITH AVAILABLE VACANCIES,+ MR. CHAMBERS SAID.

+BEFORE THEY ARE REFERRED TO EMPLOYERS FOR SELECTION INTERVIEWS, THE STUDENTS ARE BRIEFED ON CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND JOB DETAILS.

+THEY ARE ADVISED NOT TO ACCEPT JOBS THAT REQUIRE MACHINE HANDLING OR TO WORK IN DANGEROUS TRADES.

+ADVICE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION IS ALSO GIVEN BY MEANS OF SPECIAL PRESS RELEASES, POSTERS AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMES AIMED AT STUDENTS TAKING UP VACATION WORK,+ MR. CHAMBERS ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1979

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DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL SUPPORTED
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THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO DELETE FROM ITS POLICE RECORDS ALL RELATED INFORMATION ON MINOR DRUG OFFENDERS, ESPECIALLY FIRST OFFENDERS, WHERE THIS IS CONSIDERED SUITABLE.

HE ALSO HOPED THE COURTS WILL RECORD NO CONVICTION AGAINST THEM IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE BILL REQUIRES THE COURTS TO CONSIDER, PRIOR TO SENDING A MINOR DRUG OFFENDER TO IMPRISONMENT, A REPORT ON HIS SUITABILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE ALTERNATIVE ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN PRAISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR THIS ENLIGHTENED APPROACH. HE FURTHER WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE OFFENDER WILL RECEIVE TREATMENT DURING THE PERIOD HE IS ON REMAND PENDING THE SUITABILITY REPORT.

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID ALL REMANDS REQUIRING MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR WHATEVER SYMPTOMS RECEIVE IT ON ADMISSION.

+THOSE SUFFERING FROM WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS RECEIVE TREATMENT FOR DRUG ADDICTION,+ HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF CONVICTION RECORDS, MR. DAVIES SAID THAT THE DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES ORDINANCE ALREADY PROVIDES, WHEN A COURT MAKES A DETENTION ORDER, NO CONVICTION BEING RECORDED AGAINST THE PERSON IN RESPECT OF WHOM THE ORDER IS MADE UNLESS, IN THE OPINION OF THE COURT, THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE OFFENCE SO WARRANT.

+HOWEVER, WHEN A COURT FINDS A PERSON GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE POLICE TO MAINTAIN A RECORD,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1979

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COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN EIGHT PER CENT INCREASE IN CIVIL SERVICE PENSION AS COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT EFFECTIVE FROM OCTOBER 1.

MOVING THE MOTION IN THE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS, SAID THE COST OF THE INCREASE IS ABOUT \$6.75 MILLION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR AND \$13.5 MILLION IN A FULL YEAR.

THE INCREASE IS APPLICABLE TO ELIGIBLE PENSIONERS FROM JULY 1, 1978 ONWARDS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT DURING THE REVIEW PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 1978, TO JUNE 30, 1979, THE MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 9.7 POINTS, OR 8.04 PER CENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO MAINTAIN THE ORIGINAL PURCHASING POWER OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS, INCLUDING PENSIONS PAYABLE UNDER THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION SCHEME AND THE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME BY MAKING PERIODIC ADJUSTMENTS TO REFLECT COST OF LIVING CHANGES.

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TELEPHONE PAGING SERVICE PLANNED FOR NEXT MONTH

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THE TELEPHONE COMPANY'S PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE ITS NEW PAGING SERVICE NEXT MONTH IS A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF THE USE OF THE PUBLIC TELEPHONE NETWORK AND WILL MARK A FURTHER STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID WONG WHEN MOVING A MOTION WHICH SEEKS TO INCLUDE FIVE NEW ITEMS IN THE SCHEDULE OF THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THE SERVICE WOULD ENABLE A SUBSCRIBER TO BE +PAGED+ BY MEANS OF A CALL PASSED OVER THE NORMAL TELEPHONE NETWORK TO A RADIO TRANSMITTER, WHICH WOULD SEND OUT A SIGNAL TO ACTIVATE THE SUBSCRIBER'S PAGER.

+A GROUP CALLING FACILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE, WHEREBY UP TO 99 PAGERS CAN BE ACTIVATED IN RAPID SEQUENCE UPON DIALLING A SIGNAL PAGING NUMBER,+ HE SAID.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR LEI MUK SHUE COMMUNITY HALL

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A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED ON JUNE 20 THIS YEAR TO RUN THE LEI MUK SHUE COMMUNITY HALL IN KWAI CHUNG, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO FOSTER THE SPIRIT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN NEW TOWNS BY APPOINTING A COMMUNITY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AT LEI MUK SHUE IN KWAI CHUNG.

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SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGE REFORM (AMENDMENT) BILL

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DR. THE HON. HENRY HU WELCOMED THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING LEGISLATION REGULATING MATRIMONIAL AFFAIRS PROPOSED BY THE MARRIAGE REFORM (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THEY COULD BE EVEN BETTER.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), DR. HU SAID THE MARRIAGE REFORM (AMENDMENT) BILL SHOULD HAVE GONE FURTHER BY ALLOWING ONE PARTY TO A CHINESE CUSTOMARY MARRIAGE OR MODERN MARRIAGE TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE COURT IF THE MARRIAGE CAN BE PROVED BEFORE A COMPETENT COURT TO BE VALID AND SUBSISTING, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO THE PARTIES TO MARRIAGES CONTRACTED IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER THOSE MARRIAGES CONTRACTED IN PLACES OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

ON THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, DR. HU THOUGHT THAT THE MATRIMONIAL RELIEFS AS AMENDED SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO CHINESE CUSTOMARY AS WELL AS MODERN MARRIAGES WHETHER THEY WERE CONTRACTED IN OR OUTSIDE HONG KONG, PROVIDED IT CAN BE PROVED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COURT THAT THEY ARE SUBSISTING AND VALID.

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SEVEN BILLS PASSED

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SEVEN BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY ARE THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1979, THE MARRIAGE REFORM (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE MATRIMONIAL PROCEEDINGS AND PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 AND THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1979

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TRIBUTE TO OUTGOING CLERK
TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. OSWALD CHEUNG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. STEPHEN TAM, FOR HIS SERVICE DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS.

IN A SHORT SPEECH ON BEHALF OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS BEFORE THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR THE 1978-79 SESSION, MR. CHEUNG SAID UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAD APPRECIATED THE SERVICE +SO HELPFULLY AND COURTEOUSLY+ GIVEN TO THEM BY MR. TAM DURING HIS TENURE OF OFFICE.

+I UNDERSTAND THAT MR. TAM, WHO NOW SITS IN THE PUBLIC GALLERY, WILL SHORTLY BE PROCEEDING ON VACATION BEFORE TAKING UP A NEW POST, AND WE WISH HIM SUCCESS IN THAT NEW APPOINTMENT,+ MR. CHEUNG SAID.

MR. CHEUNG ALSO WELCOMED MRS. LORNA LEUNG WHO HAS TAKEN UP THE POST FROM MR. TAM.

+I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR TENURE HERE, BUT I WARN YOU THE JOB IS NOT A BED OF ROSES,+ HE SAID JOKINGLY.

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PRISON OFFICERS TO RECEIVE NURSING CERTIFICATES
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TWENTY-ONE PRISON OFFICERS, INCLUDING TWO WOMEN, WHO PASSED THE NURSING BOARD EXAMINATION FOR REGISTERED AND ENROLLED NURSES AFTER TRAINING AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, WILL RECEIVE THEIR NURSING CERTIFICATES DURING A CEREMONY AT THE PRISON OFFICERS' CLUB ON FRIDAY.

THEY WILL RECEIVE THE CERTIFICATES FROM THE PRINCIPAL NURSING OFFICER OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, MISS K.J. VEEVERS. THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR. T.G. GARNER, WILL ALSO DELIVER A SPEECH AT THE CEREMONY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PRESENTATION OF NURSING CERTIFICATES TO 21 PRISON OFFICERS WILL BE HELD AT THE PRISON OFFICERS' CLUB IN STANLEY AT 2.30 P.M. ON FRIDAY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESENTATION. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 01 KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 1.30 P.M

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1979

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HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME WINS ITALIAN AWARD

THE \$1,348 MILLION HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME, THE LARGEST PROJECT OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG, HAS WON THE 1979 INGERSOLL-RAND ITALIA PRIZE.

THE PRIZE IS AWARDED ANNUALLY TO AN IMPORTANT PROJECT WITH SOCIAL, TECHNICAL AND ESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE AND WITH ITALIAN PARTICIPATION.

THE PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE IN MILAN ON OCTOBER 11.

WITH A STORAGE CAPACITY OF 273 MILLION CUBIC METRES, THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME, WHICH IS THE BIGGEST SEABED RESERVOIR IN THE WORLD, WAS OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, ON NOVEMBER 27 LAST YEAR.

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SHA TIN TOWN HOUSE SITE FOR AUCTION TOMORROW

THE AUCTION OF A PRIME SITE ON THE NORTHWESTERN SIDE OF THE SHA TIN VALLEY, WITH SWEEPING VIEWS OF THE RACE COURSE AND TIDE COVE, WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

IT WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11 A.M. AT THE SHA TIN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL AND CONDUCTED BY THE DISTRICT'S SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR, MR. DON SMITH.

THE 724-SQUARE METRE SITE, EARMARKED FOR A TWO-STOREY TOWN HOUSE DEVELOPMENT, IS MIDWAY BETWEEN THE WESTERN END OF THE RACE COURSE AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY IN AN AREA KNOWN AS THE +JARDINE'S LOOKOUT OF SHA TIN.+

THE LOT -- THE FIRST IN THE AREA TO BE PUT ON THE MARKET -- HAS EASY ACCESS TO KOWLOON AND OTHER PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES VIA THE SHA TIN TRUNK ROAD.

ITS SALE CONDITIONS STIPULATE A PLOT RATIO OF 0.4 AND A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$110,000 TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN 36 MONTHS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE AUCTION OF THE SHA TIN TOWN HOUSE SITE TO BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1979

- 25 -

WATER CUT

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN NORTH POINT, WAN CHAI, KWUN TONG AND TUEN MUN WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY TO ENABLE WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

IN NORTH POINT, ALL PREMISES IN CLOUD VIEW ROAD, YEE KING ROAD AND 96-150 TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD WILL HAVE NO WATER FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. ON FRIDAY.

THE AREA AFFECTED IN WAN CHAI, BOUNDED BY HENNESSY ROAD, MARSH ROAD, GLOUCESTER ROAD AND CANAL ROAD WEST INCLUDING JAFFE ROAD AND LOCKHART ROAD, WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON FRIDAY TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY.

INTERRUPTION OF SUPPLY IN KWUN TONG WILL BE FROM MIDNIGHT TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO 6 A.M. ON FRIDAY. THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY HONG NING ROAD, MUT WAH STREET, HIP WO STREET AND WAN HON STREET INCLUDING SHUI NING STREET, SHUNG YAN STREET, FU YAN STREET, SHUI WO STREET AND KA LOK STREET.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES AND VILLAGES ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN TAI LAM CHUNG AND FU TEI SHEUNG TSUEN INCLUDING TUEN MUN SAN HUI AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS 9 AND 12 WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 P.M. ON FRIDAY TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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