



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LEGCO TO HAVE 56 MEMBERS BY 1985

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WITH THE CHANGES MADE TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER FOR THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ITS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE EXPANDED TO 56 BY 1985, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING ON THE JUST PUBLISHED WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT OF THE 56 MEMBERS, 24 WOULD BE ELECTED UNOFFICIALS, 22 WOULD BE APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS AND 10 WOULD BE OFFICIALS.

THE CHANGES LEADING TO THIS NEW LEGCO COMPOSITION ARE:

- * FIRST, THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO WILL BE ELECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES IN 1985 WILL BE INCREASED, IN BOTH CASES FROM SIX TO 12.
- * SECOND, IT IS INTENDED TO DIVIDE THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE INTO 10 GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES, BASED ON GROUPS OF DISTRICTS, EACH OF WHICH WILL REPRESENT ROUGHLY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE. IN ADDITION, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE WILL EACH FORM A SEPARATE CONSTITUENCY. THESE 12 CONSTITUENCIES WITHIN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WILL EACH ELECT ONE MEMBER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1985.
- * THIRD, THE 12 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FROM THE NINE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO BE ELECTED IN 1985 WILL REPRESENT THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL, LABOUR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND THE LEGAL, MEDICAL AND ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS. THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED BECAUSE EACH REPRESENTS A MAJOR SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY, IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS; AND BECAUSE THERE ARE WELL ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY-WIDE INSTITUTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS, OR PROFESSIONAL REGISTERS, TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR THEIR ELECTORAL ROLLS. THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND LABOUR CONSTITUENCIES WILL ELECT TWO MEMBERS EACH; THE OTHER SIX WILL ELECT ONE MEMBER EACH.
- * FOURTH, THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE REDUCED TO 22 IN 1985, INSTEAD OF 23 AS WAS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER.
- * FIFTH, IT IS INTENDED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL MEMBERS TO 10, INCLUDING THE THREE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS, IN 1985.

/SIR EDWARD

SIR EDWARD SAID IN MAKING THE CHANGES THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE PROPOSALS SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER.

IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS HAD BROUGHT FORWARD TO 1985 SOME OF THE ARRANGEMENTS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED FOR 1988; AND THAT THERE REMAINED A CASE FOR ALLOWING THESE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE TESTED OVER AT LEAST TWO ELECTIONS BEFORE THEY WERE REVIEWED, SIR EDWARD SAID.

+CERTAINLY WE DO NOT WISH TO RISK THE INSTABILITY WHICH COULD BE CAUSED BY DISRUPTIVE CHANGE.

+BUT THERE WAS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF A REVIEW, AND ALSO A WIDELY EXPRESSED FEELING THAT IT SHOULD BE HELD BEFORE THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 1988,+ SIR EDWARD ADDED.

HE SAID IT WAS ALSO EVIDENT THAT HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM MUST BE DEVELOPED PROGRESSIVELY OVER THE YEARS TO COME.

THERE WOULD BE A NEED BEFORE THE 1988 ELECTIONS TO CONSIDER FURTHER NOT ONLY THE QUESTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS BUT OTHER ISSUES RAISED IN THE GREEN PAPER IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE SINO-BRITISH DRAFT AGREEMENT.

+GIVEN THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND THE STRONG PUBLIC FEELING ON THE ISSUE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO HOLD A GENERAL REVIEW IN 1987. THIS WILL ASSESS PROGRESS, AND RECOMMEND WHAT FURTHER MEASURES SHOULD BE PURSUED IN THE FUTURE,+ SIR EDWARD TOLD THE COUNCIL.

HE SAID IN PREPARING THE WHITE PAPER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD KEPT FIRMLY IN VIEW THE AIMS SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER.

THESE WERE:

- * TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY; ON WHICH THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE FULLY REPRESENTED; AND WHICH IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG
- * TO DEVELOP THIS SYSTEM PROGRESSIVELY, BUILDING ON THE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS, AND THE WELL-ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF GOVERNMENT BY CONSENSUS; AND
- * TO GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PROPOSALS TO BE TESTED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE, AND TO HOLD A REVIEW OF THE POSITION BEFORE DECIDING THE DIRECTION AND TIMING OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF THE SYSTEM.

/+THOSE AIMS

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+THOSE AIMS WERE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO COMMENTED ON THE GREEN PAPER. THEY HAVE BEEN RETAINED AS THE AIMS OF THE WHITE PAPER,+ SIR EDWARD STATED.

AS REGARDS THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT, IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER THAT THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF LEGCO SHOULD, IN DUE COURSE, ELECT THE MAJORITY OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FROM AMONG THEIR OWN NUMBER. THERE HAD BEEN SOME SUPPORT FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED; OTHERS, HOWEVER, HAD CONSIDERED THAT A FUTURE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE FREE TO SELECT HIS OWN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

MANY PEOPLE HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF SOME FORM OF MINISTERIAL SYSTEM IN FUTURE TO GIVE THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MORE AUTHORITY TO MONITOR AND CONTROL THE POLICIES AND OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

+BUT THIS IS NOT THE ONLY WAY OF PROCEEDING. NOR CAN THE PROPOSAL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY FROM THE WIDER ISSUES OF THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND THE FUTURE POSITION OF OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF BOTH COUNCILS.

+IT IS NOT INTENDED TO MAKE ANY CHANGES AFFECTING THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 1985. THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE EXECUTIVE AND ITS COMPOSITION AND ROLE WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION AT A LATER STAGE,+ HE SAID.

THE PROPOSAL IN THE GREEN PAPER THAT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD BE REPLACED IN DUE COURSE AS PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY A PRESIDING OFFICER ELECTED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL FROM AMONG THEIR OWN NUMBER HAD GENERALLY BEEN WELL RECEIVED, HE POINTED OUT.

BUT IT WAS APPARENT THAT PUBLIC OPINION FAVOURED CAUTION, WITH THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR TO BE RETAINED UNCHANGED FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS AT LEAST.

+IT IS THEREFORE INTENDED TO RECONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL IN THE 1987 REVIEW,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

ON CIVIC EDUCATION, THE WHITE PAPER RECORDS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE IT.

THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS THAT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF LEGCO SHOULD BE GIVEN ADEQUATE REMUNERATION TO ENSURE THAT PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES WERE NOT PREVENTED FOR FINANCIAL REASONS FROM STANDING FOR ELECTION, AND TO ENABLE THEM TO DEVOTE THE PROPER AMOUNT OF TIME AND ATTENTION TO THEIR DUTIES AS COUNCILLORS.

/+THE WHITE

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+THE WHITE PAPER RECORDS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO MEET THIS NEED BY PROVIDING A STANDARD RATE ON REMUNERATION, AS WELL AS PAYMENT OF EXPENSES, FOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THE LEVEL OF REMUNERATION IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING THE SCHEME WHEN THE FIRST ELECTED MEMBERS JOIN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE PLANS SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER REPRESENTED WHAT SIR EDWARD CONSIDERED AS +AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD+ IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SOME WILL SAY THAT WE ARE BEING TOO CAUTIOUS ; OTHERS THAT WE ARE MOVING TOO FAST.

+BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ACCEPT THAT CHANGE MUST BE GRADUAL ; THAT WE MUST ALLOW OUR OWN SYSTEM TO EVOLVE NATURALLY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PRESENT-DAY HONG KONG ; AND THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE ARE SO IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE MISTAKES,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE WHITE PAPER CONTINUES TO ADOPT THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WITH THE NEXT REVIEW PLANNED FOR 1987.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS APPROACH WILL BEST ENSURE THAT WE ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE OF DEVELOPING A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT ON WHICH THE VIEWS OF ALL SECTORS OF OUR SOCIETY ARE REPRESENTED ; WHICH IS RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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NEARLY 7 000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT IN SIX MONTHS
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A TOTAL OF 6 884 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE TOTAL COMPRISED 989 FOR MAY, 971 FOR JUNE, 816 FOR JULY, 1 091 FOR AUGUST, 1 617 FOR SEPTEMBER AND 1 400 FOR OCTOBER.

TO COUNTER RUMOURS BEING SPREAD BY PEOPLE ORGANISING ILLEGAL MIGRATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD REPEATEDLY SAID THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN HONG KONG FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT.

/+WE WILL

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+WE WILL CONTINUE TO RETURN ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO CHINA,+
MR JEAFFRESON STRESSED.

THE NEW IDENTITY CARD, WHICH WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO FORGE,
WOULD MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO GET
AWAY WITH ILLEGAL DOCUMENTATION FOR LIVING IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THIRDLY, THE POLICE HAD STREAMLINED
THEIR PROCEDURES FOR CHECKING I.D. CARDS AND, WITH THE HELP OF
THEIR COMPUTER SYSTEM, THEY COULD CHECK SUBSTANTIALLY MORE EACH
DAY.

FOURTH, TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO GET WORK,
THE POLICE, IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR DEPARTMENTS WERE MAINTAINING
A HIGH LEVEL OF OPERATIONS AGAINST THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITHOUT
VALID I.D. CARDS, PARTICULARLY IN FACTORIES, RESTAURANTS AND ON
CONSTRUCTION SITES.

FIFTH, THE POLICE, ARMY, NAVY AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES WERE
CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN THEIR VIGILANCE ON THE BORDERS.

FOR THE SEA BORDERS, THE POLICE AND THE NAVY WERE TO BE
REINFORCED WITH NEW VESSELS.

ON THE LAND BORDER, THE FENCE WITH ITS LIGHTS AND ALARM
SYSTEM CONTINUED TO PROVE EFFECTIVE.

THE ARMY HAD RECENTLY DEPLOYED THERMAL-IMAGERY EQUIPMENT
TO IMPROVE THEIR NIGHT VIEWING CAPABILITY.

THE POLICE HAD ALSO RECENTLY IMPROVED THEIR CAPABILITY ON
THE LAND BORDER BY DEPLOYING ADDITIONAL MANPOWER AND BY REORGANISING
THEIR COMMAND STRUCTURE THERE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT OF THE TOTAL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT
OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES HAD BEEN IN ILLEGAL
IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED ON ENTRY, NOT IN EVADERS WHO SURFACED IN HONG
KONG.

+IT MAY BE STILL A BIT TOO EARLY TO DRAW FIRM CONCLUSIONS
FROM THESE STATISTICS, BUT GIVEN THE IMPROVED METHODS WE HAVE
FOR DETECTING EVADERS, IT LOOKS AS IF OUR FORCES ON OUR BORDERS
ARE BECOMING EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE IN INTERCEPTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
AS THEY TRY TO CROSS INTO HONG KONG,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

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LEGAL PROVISIONS ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS EXTENDED
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VARIOUS LEGAL PROVISIONS DEALING WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WERE EXTENDED TODAY BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR ANOTHER YEAR FROM THE END OF 1984.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA HAVE DIMINISHED DRAMATICALLY.

+BUT THE HARD FACT REMAINS THAT THE PROBLEMS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE STILL WITH US,+ THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE COUNCIL.

IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 2 019 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES REACHED HERE, COMPARED WITH 3 573 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR.

MR JEAFFRESON REPORTED THERE HAD BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA THIS YEAR, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF RUMOURS THAT AN AMNESTY WOULD BE GRANTED ON THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT. HE STRESSED THERE WAS +NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER+ IN THESE RUMOURS.

IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS, 7 550 CHINESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE ARRESTED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER HONG KONG AND 2 404 EVADERS WERE CAUGHT WITHIN HONG KONG, COMPARED WITH 4 046 BORDER ARRESTS AND 2 514 EVADERS DURING LAST YEAR'S CORRESPONDING PERIOD.

PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE WERE ENACTED IN AUGUST 1979 TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

UNDER THESE PROVISIONS, ANY PERSON WHO AIDS SUCH IMMIGRANTS TO GET INTO HONG KONG COMMITS AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF UP TO \$5 MILLION AND BY LIFE IMPRISONMENT WHILE THE SHIP AND OTHER PROPERTY INVOLVED ARE LIABLE TO FORFEITURE.

BUT BY VIRTUE OF SECTIONS 37M AND 37T OF THE ORDINANCE, THESE TWO PROVISIONS WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1984.

SECTION 18 (3) OF THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN JANUARY 1979 TO PROVIDE THAT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, HAVING REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND HERE, ARE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL FROM HONG KONG AT ANY TIME. THIS SECTION, TOO, WILL EXPIRE BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

+BECAUSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARE STILL COMING HERE, WE NEED TO RETAIN THE LEGISLATIVE POWERS NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS EFFECTIVELY.

+BUT IT REMAINS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT THESE PROBLEMS WILL NOT STAY WITH US PERMANENTLY,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

/HE EXPLAINED

HE EXPLAINED THIS WAS THE REASON FOR THE ONE-YEAR EXTENSION TILL THE END OF NEXT YEAR WHEN THE POSITION WOULD BE FURTHER REVIEWED.

FOR THE SAME REASON, PROVISIONS TO COUNTER LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRIVING IN HONG KONG WERE EXTENDED TODAY FOR ANOTHER YEAR TO THE END OF 1985.

THESE PROVISIONS -- SECTIONS 34A, 34B AND 34C OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE -- WERE ENACTED IN JANUARY 1979 TO PROVIDE FOR THE FORFEITURE OF A VESSEL IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVING THE CARRIAGE OF EXCESS PASSENGERS.

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27 000 PERSONS RECORDED MISSING IN FIVE YEARS
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THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 27 081 RECORDED MISSING PERSONS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, FROM JANUARY 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1984, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

OF THIS NUMBER, 5 662 OR 21 PER CENT WERE MALE TEENAGERS, AGED BETWEEN 11 AND 20, AND 10 459 OR 39 PER CENT WERE FEMALE TEENAGERS, MR JEAFFRESON SAID, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON CARL TONG.

OVER THIS PERIOD, 94.4 PER CENT OF ALL MISSING TEENAGERS AND 94.3 PER CENT OF MISSING TEENAGE GIRLS HAD BEEN RECOVERED.

+THESE OVERALL FIGURES HIDE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT FROM 81.7 PER CENT FOR ALL TEENAGERS IN 1979 TO 98.6 PER CENT IN 1984 SO FAR,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, MORE MALE TEENAGERS HAD BEEN FOUND THAN REPORTED MISSING.

ACCORDING TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE CAUSES STEMMED FROM A MIXTURE OF FACTORS, OF WHICH THE MOST COMMON WERE FAILURE AT SCHOOL AND AN UNSTABLE OR UNCARING FAMILY BACKGROUND.

THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THOSE MISSING HAD BEEN FOUND STAYING WITH FRIENDS OR HAD RETURNED HOME OF THEIR OWN ACCORD.

+FEW CASES INVOLVE ANYTHING MORE SINISTER OR CRIMINAL. TEENAGERS ARE VULNERABLE TO BEING LURED INTO CRIME IF THEY HAVE PROBLEMS.

+BUT ALTHOUGH GETTING INVOLVED IN CRIME MIGHT BE A RESULT OF RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME, IT SEEMS TO BE RARELY A CAUSE,+ HE SAID.

FEMALE TEENAGERS WERE VULNERABLE TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION THOUGH ONLY 3.6 PER CENT OF FEMALES REPORTED MISSING IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR HAD BEEN FOUND IN POLICE RAIDS ON VICE ESTABLISHMENTS, MR JEAFFRESON REPORTED.

+HAVING IDENTIFIED FAILURE AT SCHOOL AND FAMILY PROBLEMS AS THE MAIN BASIC CAUSES, THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THESE AREAS WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOING MISSING,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE PREVENTIVE SIDE, THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED A WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES AIMED AT SUPPORTING FAMILY LIFE AND AT COUNSELLING THOSE WITH PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL.

THE NEED TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN FAMILY TIES WAS RECOGNISED IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM BY THE INCLUSION OF +FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION+, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

THE DANGERS OF DRIFTING INTO CRIME WERE ALSO BROUGHT HOME TO SCHOOLS THROUGH VISITS AND LECTURES ORGANISED BY LOCAL POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS.

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WATCH KEPT OVER BDTC PASSPORTS

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY ESTABLISHED DISCRIMINATION BY UNITED KINGDOM IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AGAINST HONG KONG BDTC PASSPORT HOLDERS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT A PERSON HAD WRITTEN TO A NEWSPAPER RECENTLY OVER A PEN-NAME COMPLAINING ABOUT DISCRIMINATION.

THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION HAD WRITTEN TO THE SAME NEWSPAPER APPEALING TO THE WRITER TO GIVE HIM DETAILS. THE WRITER HAD ANSWERED, STILL OVER HIS PEN-NAME, REFUSING TO DO SO, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL TRAVELLERS WITH BDTC PASSPORTS ISSUED IN HONG KONG WERE TREATED PROPERLY BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ELSEWHERE.

THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION FROM TIME TO TIME ENCOURAGED PEOPLE WHO FELT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST TO TELL HIM, HE SAID.

HE ASSURED MR SO THAT IF THERE WERE ANY GENUINE COMPLAINTS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE VIGOROUS REPRESENTATIONS TO THE UK GOVERNMENT.

/RELEVANT IS

+RELEVANT IS THAT WE HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE UK GOVERNMENT WHEREBY THE HOME OFFICE SENDS THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION DETAILS OF ALL CASES IN WHICH HOLDERS OF HONG KONG TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ARE REFUSED ENTRY INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+IF FROM THESE RETURNS THE DIRECTOR THINKS THAT A HONG KONG TRAVELLER HAS BEEN TREATED UNFAIRLY, HE TAKES THE CASE UP WITH THE HOME OFFICE,+ HE SAID.

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NO ROOM FOR EXPANSION OF FACILITIES
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THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OF CUSTOMS AND PASSENGER SERVICE FACILITIES AT TAI KOK TSUI FERRY TERMINAL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING IT, FROM 50 000 IN 1981 TO 1 320 000 SO FAR THIS YEAR, HAD INEVITABLY IMPOSED A GREAT STRAIN ON A TERMINAL WHICH HAD NOT BEEN DESIGNATED FOR INTERNATIONAL FERRIES, MERELY FOR LOCAL SERVICES, HE SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM.

LAST YEAR THE UPPER DECK OF THE TERMINAL HAD BEEN CONVERTED INTO A HALL FOR CLEARANCE OF DEPARTING PASSENGERS WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD TO SHARE THE LOWER DECK WITH THOSE ARRIVING.

THE IMPROVEMENT BROUGHT ABOUT BY THIS MEASURE HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN SINCE NULLIFIED BY THE CONTINUING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS, HE SAID.

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STEPS TAKEN TO CUT MAN KAM TO CONGESTION
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES WERE WORKING IN CLOSE COOPERATION TO OVERCOME CONGESTION AT THE MAN KAM TO CHECKPOINT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR JEAFFRESON SAID A SECOND BRIDGE HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED AT MAN KAM TO AND WOULD OPEN SHORTLY.

+IT WILL ENABLE THE SHENZHEN SIDE TO USE ITS NEW CONTROL FACILITIES TO BETTER EFFECT,+ HE ADDED.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT ADDITIONAL IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS VEHICLE EXAMINATION KIOSKS, TO BE COMPLETED IN MARCH NEXT YEAR, WOULD TRIPLE HONG KONG'S OWN CAPACITY TO CLEAR VEHICLES.

BESIDES, A NEW BUILDING TO PROVIDE IMPROVED CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION FACILITIES FOR COACH PASSENGERS WOULD BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF 1985, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

+THE OPENING OF THE NEW CROSSING POINT AT SHA TAU KOK IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR SHOULD ALSO HELP TO RELIEVE CONGESTION AT MAN KAM TO BY OFFERING AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE ACROSS THE BORDER BETWEEN THE EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES AND EASTERN SHENZHEN,+ HE SAID.

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NEW LO WU STATION TO SPEED CLEARANCE

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COMPLETION OF THE PERMANENT TERMINAL IN LO WU EARLY IN 1987 WOULD CONSIDERABLY IMPROVE THE TRAIN PASSENGER PROCESSING SYSTEM THERE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE NEW TERMINAL WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE 5 000 PERSONS AN HOUR IN EACH DIRECTION, AS AGAINST THE PRESENT LIMIT OF 4 000 PERSONS, MR SCOTT SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM.

MR SCOTT SAID THAT THE KCRC HAD A CARRYING CAPACITY WELL ABOVE 4 000 PER HOUR, BUT THROUGHOUT AT LO WU WAS GOVERNED BY THE SPEED BY WHICH PASSENGERS COULD BE PASSED THROUGH POLICE AND IMMIGRATION PROCESSES.

HE SAID THAT COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE AWARE THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMMIGRATION FACILITIES WERE TEMPORARY, AND NO ONE WOULD DISPUTE THAT THEY WERE INADEQUATE.

THE TOTAL WAITING AREAS FOR IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE IN THE NEW TERMINAL WOULD BE FIVE TIMES LARGER THAN AVAILABLE AT PRESENT, HE SAID.

WITH REGARD TO KCR SERVICES BETWEEN LO WU AND KOWLOON, FOUR TRAINS RAN PER HOUR DURING PEAK PERIODS, AND THREE TRAINS PER HOUR OFF-PEAK.

THE CONGESTION AT LO WU WAS DUE TO THE TIME NECESSARILY TAKEN FOR PROCESSING PASSENGERS, NOT TO PASSENGERS WAITING FOR TRAIN SERVICES TO KOWLOON, HE SAID.

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TRAFFIC AT CROSS-HARBOUR ENTRIES GETS BETTER
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CONGESTION AROUND THE ENTRIES TO THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL HAD DISTINCTLY IMPROVED, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE CONCEDED THAT IN CASE OF BREAKDOWNS, RAIN AND RECREATION-RELATED TRAFFIC, CONGESTION THERE WAS STILL SEVERE.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN, MR SCOTT SAID THE PASSAGE TAX HAD BEEN INTRODUCED ON JUNE 1 AND THE INITIAL IMPACT HAD BEEN TO REDUCE OVERALL TRAFFIC BY 15 PER CENT AT THE END OF JUNE.

VEHICLES USING THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1983 AND MAY 1984 AVERAGED 110 729 PER DAY.

+AT THE END OF OCTOBER, THE OVERALL REDUCTION OF TRAFFIC HAD SETTLED TO 8.5 PER CENT,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

+WITHIN THIS OVERALL REDUCTION, THE FIGURE FOR PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS IS 10.9 PER CENT.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE FIGURES, WITH ALLOWANCE FOR INFLATION, WERE +REASONABLY CLOSE+ TO THE PREDICTIONS MADE BY A 1980 STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL EFFECT OF A \$10 TOTAL PASSAGE CHARGE FOR PRIVATE VEHICLES AND TAXIS.

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RULES FOR CAR TESTS DRAFTED
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DRAFT LEGISLATION ON THE CONTRACTING OUT OF THE ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS OF PRIVATE CARS OVER SIX YEARS WAS EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

WORK HAD PROCEEDED TO PRODUCE A SPECIMEN CONTRACT BETWEEN APPROVED GARAGES AND THE GOVERNMENT, MR SCOTT REPORTED.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEN SHOU-LUM ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CONTRACTING-OUT SCHEME PROPOSED BY A WORKING GROUP REPRESENTING THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, ICAC AND THE MOTOR TRADERS ASSOCIATION.

HE SAID THE GROUP'S DETAILED SCHEME WAS ENDORSED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MARCH 12.

+THE SCHEME WILL BE A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY. IT OFFERS MOTORISTS FAIR VEHICLE EXAMINATIONS AT A REASONABLE CHOICE OF GARAGES AND AT A REASONABLE COST,+ HE SAID.

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST POSSIBLE CORRUPTION WOULD BE PROVIDED, HE ADDED.

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EFFORT MADE TO REDUCE RAILWAY NOISE

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BOTH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION WERE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM OF NOISE AT STATIONS AND DEPOTS AND WERE TAKING OR WOULD BE TAKING MEASURES TO MINIMISE THE NUISANCE CAUSED, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO ON WHETHER THERE WERE ANY GUIDELINES OR CODE OF PRACTICE WITH REGARD TO NOISE REDUCTION MEASURES THAT THE DEVELOPER OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ABOVE MTR/KCR STATIONS AND THE CORPORATIONS HAD TO ABIDE BY.

MR CHAN SAID THERE WERE NO GUIDELINES OR CODE OF PRACTICE WITH WHICH THEY MUST COMPLY.

+IT IS, I AM AFRAID, INEVITABLE THAT A RAILWAY DEPOT GENERATES NOISE AND THAT SUCH NOISE IS PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE AT NIGHT WHEN TRAINS WHICH HAVE COMPLETED THEIR DAY'S WORK HAVE TO BE STABLED,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE NEED FOR SAFE RAILWAY WORKING, MEASURES TO MINIMISE THE NUISANCE CAUSED WOULD BE TAKEN, HE ADDED.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS SCHEME BACKED

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THERE WERE TWO KEY ELEMENTS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS SCHEME, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS BILL 1984, DR HO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATURE OF THE WORK TO BE DONE AND THE NEED FOR PROPER COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE IN MAKING THE SCHEME A SUCCESS.

TWO OTHER MEMBERS, HON F.K. HU AND HON MISS MARIA TAM, ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.

ELABORATING ON THE ELEMENTS FOR SUCCESS OF THE SCHEME, DR HO SAID: +FIRSTLY, AS THE OFFENDER IS SENTENCED TO PERFORM CERTAIN TASKS IN PLACE OF IMPRISONMENT, IT IS HOPED THAT IN CARRYING OUT THE ASSIGNED TASK, THE OFFENDER WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THAT HE HAS RESTORED SOMETHING TO THE COMMUNITY WHICH HE HAS DAMAGED, OR THAT HE CAN CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE HAPPINESS OR WELL-BEING OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS, AND HENCE DEVELOP A NEW SENSE OF PURPOSE OF LIFE.+

/+IT IS

+IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT THE WORK TO BE DONE UNDER A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER SHOULD BE DIGNIFIED AND EDUCATIONAL, AND NOT USELESS OR MENIAL,+ HE ADDED.

DR HO STRESSED THAT UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION OF THE SERVICE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WERE ESSENTIAL TO CREATE A WIDE VARIETY OF MEANINGFUL, REFORM-ORIENTED TASKS FOR THE OFFENDERS.

PROPER AND REGULAR COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL, HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, IN CERTAIN SERVICE AGENCIES OR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE SUPERVISING STAFF DO NOT HAVE THE PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND TRAINING TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY COUNSELLING.

+UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PROBATION OFFICER WHO ASSUMES THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OVER A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER SCHEME WILL ALSO BE COUNTED UPON TO UNDERTAKE COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE,+ HE SAID.

HENCE, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES AND MANPOWER TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SO THAT IT WOULD HAVE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS TO ADMINISTER THE SCHEME, DR HO ADDED.

+IN SUMMARY, THE PROBATION OFFICERS ARE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO THE SCHEME BECAUSE THEY ARE INSTRUMENTAL TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF REHABILITATING THE OFFENDERS BY MEANS OF CREATING A VARIED ASSORTMENT OF EDUCATION-ORIENTED TASKS AND PROVIDING SKILLED COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE,+ HE SAID.

THE HON F.K. HU SAID A PILOT SCHEME WAS A LOGICAL SOLUTION.

THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER SCHEME HAD BEEN OPERATING SUCCESSFULLY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WHERE IT HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN SIX AREAS AS AN EXPERIMENT IN 1972 BEFORE BEING EXTENDED TO THE WHOLE TERRITORY IN 1975.

+AS HONG KONG HAS A DIFFERENT SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND, IT IS ADVISABLE FOR US TO LEARN FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCE BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO EXTEND THE SCHEME OR TO BRING THE SCHEME TO AN END,+ MR HU SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS DESIRABLE FOR THE PILOT SCHEME TO HAVE AS WIDE A SPREAD AS POSSIBLE THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED BY ONE MAGISTRACY ON HONG KONG ISLAND, ONE IN KOWLOON AND ONE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ON THE BASIS OF STATISTICS OF TYPES OF OFFENCES DEALT WITH IN DIFFERENT MAGISTRACIES, IT SEEMED THAT THE MAGISTRACIES IN CAUSEWAY BAY FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, SAN PO KONG OR SOUTH KOWLOON FOR KOWLOON PENINSULA AND TSUEN WAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, MR HU SAID.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN HONGKONG HAD BEEN VERY CONCERNED IN RECENT YEARS ABOUT THE LENIENCY IN WHICH THE COURTS DEALT WITH OFFENDERS, HE SAID.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS COULD BE VIEWED AS YET ANOTHER LENIENT WAY OF DEALING WITH OFFENDERS.

THEREFORE, GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER SCHEME, INCLUDING THE OBJECTIVES AND THE DETAILS OF ITS OPERATION THROUGH PUBLICITY AND VARIOUS CHANNELS, MR HU SAID.

THE HON MARIA TAM SAID MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC APPRECIATED AND ACCEPTED THE REHABILITATIVE VALUE AND THE ADVANTAGE OF HAVING A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS SCHEME.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE'S INITIAL CONCERN WAS WHETHER IT WOULD BE SAFE TO RELEASE AN OFFENDER WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN PUNISHED BY IMPRISONMENT TO WORK IN THE COMMUNITY; AND WHETHER WE WERE BEING TOO LENIENT TO SUCH AN OFFENDER.

+HOWEVER, AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF CONSULTATIONS, THROUGH DISTRIBUTING QUESTIONNAIRES TO AND HOLDING SEMINARS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH SUBVENTED SOCIAL AGENCIES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH WERE LIKELY TO BE IN THE POSITION TO OFFER PLACEMENTS FOR AN OFFENDER, AND DISTRICT BOARDS; AND RUNNING PHONE IN PROGRAMMES ON THE RADIO, ETC. THE PUBLIC RESPONSE TO HAVING SUCH A SCHEME IN HONG KONG PROVED GENERALLY FAVOURABLE,+ SHE SAID.

MISS TAM ACCEPTED THAT IN THIS BILL IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO WRITE INTO THE LAW HOW A MAGISTRATE OR JUDGE SHOULD EXERCISE HIS DISCRETION.

+WE RELY ON THE GOOD SENSE OF THE PROBATION OFFICER TO RECOMMEND A SUITABLE PERSON FOR SUCH A SENTENCE AND THE SOUND JUDGMENT OF THE COURT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT SUCH A RECOMMENDATION,+ SHE SAID.

ON THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH A SCHEME, MISS TAM WAS TOTALLY CONVINCED THAT IT WAS A WORTHWHILE PROJECT.

+THE EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND IN THE DIFFERENT STATES OF AUSTRALIA PROVES THAT IT ACTUALLY COSTS MORE TO KEEP AN OFFENDER IN PRISON THAN TO PLACE HIM UNDER A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER,+ SHE SAID.

ALSO THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS WOULD ENABLE AN OFFENDER TO CONTINUE WITH HIS WORK OR STUDY UNINTERRUPTED AND THE ECONOMIC VALUE IN THIS RESPECT MUST BE SIGNIFICANT, SHE SAID.

+I HOPE ALSO THAT THROUGH OUR PILOT SCHEME WE CAN GAIN AN INSIGHT TO THIS PARTICULAR AREA OF ASSESSMENT,+ SHE SAID.

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HELP OFFERED FOREIGN INVESTORS 'WELL PUBLICISED'

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ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSIST POTENTIAL FOREIGN INVESTORS WERE WELL PUBLICISED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT BOTH IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR HO WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW.

THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING THIS SERVICE, THROUGH THE ONE-STOP UNIT BASED IN HONG KONG, AND FOUR OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICES LOCATED IN LONDON, TOKYO, STUTTGART AND SAN FRANCISCO.

THESE UNITS WERE ALL STAFFED BY SPECIALIST OFFICERS WITH INDUSTRIAL BACKGROUNDS.

MR HO SAID: +THE FOUR OVERSEAS OFFICES STIMULATE OVERSEAS INTEREST IN HONG KONG THROUGH CALLS ON TARGETED COMPANIES, AUGMENTED BY INDUSTRIALISTS MISSIONS FROM HONG KONG, ARRANGING AND PARTICIPATING IN SEMINARS, ATTENDANCE AT INDUSTRIAL FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS, AND BY ADVERTISING - MAINLY IN INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE PUBLICATIONS.

+THE ONE-STOP UNIT IN HONG KONG PROVIDES A QUICK AND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE TO FOREIGN, AS WELL AS LOCAL, INVESTORS INTERESTED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL VENTURES.

+THE UNIT SERVICES REFERRALS FROM THE OVERSEAS OFFICES AND PROVIDES, FOR EXAMPLE, INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF PARTICULAR INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL BACK-UP SERVICES IN HONG KONG TO SUSTAIN OR DEVELOP TECHNOLOGIES OR PRODUCTION PROCESSES, ARRANGES PROGRAMMES FOR VISITING FOREIGN INVESTORS - INCLUDING SITE VISITS AND MEETINGS WITH POTENTIAL JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS - AND LIAISON WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS REGARDING THEIR REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.

+THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT CO-ORDINATES ITS ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION ACTIVITIES WITH THE MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG AND INVITES THEIR PARTICIPATION.

+IT MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACT WITH THESE ORGANISATIONS WHICH ASSIST IN PUBLICISING THE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES TO THEIR MEMBERS,+ MR HO SAID.

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NEW LAW REDUCES COURT TIME

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A NEW PROCEDURE WHICH WILL REDUCE THE TIME SPENT ON THE HEARING OF EVIDENCE IN THE MAGISTRATES COURTS IN RESPECT OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

UNDER THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL APPROVED TODAY, EVIDENCE AT A PRELIMINARY HEARING MAY BE REDUCED TO WRITING AND READ OVER BY THE WITNESS AND THE PARTIES WHILE THE HEARING OF OTHER EVIDENCE IS CONTINUING.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JEREMY MATHEWS, HAD SAID THAT THE LAW REQUIRED THAT THE EVIDENCE OF A WITNESS BE READ BACK TO HIM IN COURT AND BE SIGNED BY HIM.

IN AN ENQUIRY AT PRESENT PROCEEDING, IT WAS ESTIMATED BY SOME COUNSEL INVOLVED IN THE CASE, INCLUDING SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL THAT THE HEARING OF EVIDENCE WOULD TAKE 14 WEEKS AND THAT THE RECORD OF THAT EVIDENCE WOULD OCCUPY ABOUT 9 000 PAGES.

IF THE EVIDENCE WERE READ BACK TO WITNESSES, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE PROCEDURE COULD LENGTHEN THE HEARING BY AN ADDITIONAL SIX WEEKS.

+ALL THE COUNSEL REPRESENTING THE PARTIES AND THE PRESIDING MAGISTRATE IN THIS CASE HAVE STATED THAT IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE TO ADOPT A PROCEDURE IN WHICH, AFTER THE EVIDENCE OF A WITNESS HAD BEEN RECORDED IN SHORTHAND AND TRANSCRIBED, THE WITNESS AND COUNSEL WOULD READ THE TRANSCRIPT SEPARATELY FROM THE COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THEN THE WITNESS WOULD, ON OATH, CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE TRANSCRIPT.

+THIS WOULD AVOID THE NEED TO OCCUPY THE TIME OF THE COURT AND COUNSEL BY HAVING THE EVIDENCE READ ALOUD AND WOULD SAVE A GREAT DEAL OF EXPENSE,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, IT WAS LATER FOUND BY SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL, DURING PROCEEDINGS BROUGHT IN THE HIGH COURT FOR A DECLARATION THAT THIS PROCEDURE WAS PERMITTED BY LAW, THAT THIS ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE WAS NOT PERMISSIBLE IN LAW.

THIS ACCORDED WITH THE VIEW OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE OTHER JUDGES HEARING THE CROWN'S APPLICATION, WHO EXPRESSED THEIR REGRET THAT THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REACH A FINDING THAT THE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE MIGHT PROPERLY BE USED, HE SAID.

/THE JUDGES

THE JUDGES HAD THEN SUGGESTED THAT SWIFT ACTION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO AMEND THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE SANCTION TO THE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE.

THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984 THUS SOUGHT TO AMEND THE LAW SO THAT THE COMMON-SENSE APPROACH MIGHT BE ADOPTED, MR MATHEWS SAID.

A CLAUSE 3 OF THE BILL APPLIED THE NEW PROCEDURE TO EXISTING PROCEEDINGS AND THUS HAD AN ELEMENT OF RETROACTIVE EFFECT, HE SAID.

MR MATHEWS SAID THAT RETROACTION IN LEGISLATION SHOULD USUALLY BE AVOIDED TO PRESERVE VESTED RIGHTS, BUT IN THE CASE OF THIS BILL, HOWEVER, THERE WAS ONLY ONE CASE PROCEEDING TO WHICH THE NEW PROCEDURE COULD APPLY.

+AND ALL THE COUNSEL IN THAT CASE HAVE AGREED THAT THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE WOULD NOT GIVE RISE TO ANY PREJUDICE,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST THAT THE LENGTH OF PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES SHOULD BE REDUCED AS MUCH AS WAS CONSISTENT WITH JUSTICE, HE SAID.

SUPPORTING THE BILL, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER THE HON. PETER C. WONG AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO HAVE THE NEW PROCEDURE.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD, HE SAID, MADE OUT A STRONG CASE FOR THE AMENDMENT.

HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE RETROSPECTIVE ELEMENT OF CLAUSE 3 AS WELL AS THE POSITION OF AN UNREPRESENTED ACCUSED WHO MIGHT REQUIRE HELP IN READING THE TRANSCRIPT.

BUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT ALL COUNSEL IN THE PRESENT CASE HAD STATED IN OPEN COURT THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME THE PROCEDURE, AND THAT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE GIVEN TO ACCUSED PERSONS IN READING THE TRANSCRIPTS.

REFERRING TO THE PROCEDURE OF TAKING THE BILL THROUGH ALL THREE STAGES IN ONE SITTING, HE SAID THAT THIS MEASURE SHOULD BE USED +ONLY VERY SPARINGLY+.

BUT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAD BEEN SATISFIED THAT THERE WAS MERIT IN THE PRESENT CASE AND HAD GIVEN IT THEIR SUPPORT, HE SAID.

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MEDICAL CLINICS BILL INTRODUCED
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THE MEDICAL CLINICS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 SEEKS TO REMOVE THE TIME LIMITATION ON THE REGISTRAR OF CLINICS' POWER TO EXEMPT CERTAIN CLINICS FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR MEDICAL MANAGEMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR CHING SAID THE PRESENT POWER OF THE REGISTRAR HAD A TIME LIMITATION WHICH COULD BE EXTENDED ONLY BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

+THIS TIME LIMITATION HAS BEEN SO EXTENDED NO LESS THAN SIX TIMES OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS,+ HE POINTED OUT.

HE SAID THE LIMITED SERVICES PERFORMED BY THESE CLINICS WERE STILL USEFUL AND THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE IN OPERATION FOR AS LONG AS THEY COULD MEET THE REQUIRED STANDARDS.

+IN RECOGNITION OF THE SITUATION, AND SO AS TO DISPENSE WITH THE NEED FOR PERIODICAL RESOLUTIONS TO BE MADE, THE BILL SEEKS TO REMOVE THE TIME LIMITATION ON THE REGISTRAR'S POWER,+ HE EXPLAINED.

SUPERVISION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED OVER THE OPERATION OF THESE CLINICS, AND EXEMPTIONS WOULD ONLY BE RENEWED IF THE CLINICS CONCERNED CONTINUED TO BE RUN SATISFACTORILY, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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NO EVIDENCE OF CHILD ABUSE INCREASE
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THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF AN INCREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF CHILD ABUSE IN RECENT YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, SAID TODAY.

+AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES WOULD BE A MEASURE OF THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW PROCEDURES WHICH I OUTLINED IN THIS COUNCIL IN MAY LAST YEAR. THEIR PURPOSE WAS TO ENSURE THAT, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, ALL CASES ARE BROUGHT TO EARLY OFFICIAL NOTICE SO THAT APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE MAY BE GIVEN,+ MR CHING SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER C. WONG.

MR CHING SAID ALSO THAT TEMPORARY SHELTER WAS AVAILABLE FOR ANY ABUSED CHILD WHO NEEDED TO BE PLACED UNDER PROTECTION.

/+OF COURSE

+OF COURSE THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE, BUT IT IS A MATTER OF PRIORITIES WITHIN LIMITED RESOURCES. I ASSURE MR WONG THAT NO ABUSED CHILD IS RETURNED TO HIS FAMILY, IN DISREGARD OF HIS OWN INTERESTS, SIMPLY BECAUSE NO FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIS TEMPORARY SHELTER,+ HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF A CENTRAL REGISTRY OF CHILD ABUSE CASES, MR CHING RECALLED HE HAD SAID IN THIS COUNCIL IN MAY LAST YEAR THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE NEED FOR A CENTRAL REGISTRY OF CASES REQUIRED EXAMINATION, AND THAT HE HOPED THAT SUCH A REGISTRY WOULD INCLUDE CASES HANDLED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

+NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE IDEA HAS NOT ATTRACTED GENERAL ACCEPTANCE BY ALL CONCERNED, BUT I CAN ASSURE MR WONG THAT ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IS STILL BEING GIVEN TO IT IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT,+ HE SAID.

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+CIVIL LIABILITY RIGHTLY PLACED+
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THE CIVIL LIABILITY (CONTRIBUTION) BILL 1984 PROVIDES A USEFUL MEASURE WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO ARE REALLY THE CAUSE OF DAMAGE END UP PAYING FOR IT.

THIS WAS STATED BY HON PETER C. WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE TWO POINTS WHICH NEEDED REFINEMENT, HE SAID.

+CLAUSE 3(4) STIPULATES THAT A PERSON WHO MAKES A BONA FIDE SETTLEMENT OF ANY CLAIM SHALL BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM CONTRIBUTION FROM ANOTHER PERSON WHO IS ALSO LIABLE FOR THE SAME DAMAGE.

+WHILE APPRECIATING THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE REFORM IS TO ENCOURAGE SETTLEMENT, IT WAS FELT THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE EVENTUAL CONTRIBUTOR SHOULD ALSO BE SAFEGUARDED,+ HE SAID.

IT HAD THEREFORE BEEN AGREED THAT A NEW SUB-CLAUSE STATING THAT +ON ASSESSING ANY CONTRIBUTION UNDER THIS SECTION THE COURT SHALL DISREGARD ANY PART OF THE PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE CONTRIBUTION IS SOUGHT WHICH APPEARS TO THE COURT TO BE EXCESSIVE+ HE ADDED.

+THIS IN FACT FOLLOWS A SIMILAR SECTION IN THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION IN VICTORIA,+ MR WONG SAID.

/ON CLAUSE

ON CLAUSE 5 WHICH READ +JUDGMENT RECOVERED AGAINST ANY PERSON LIABLE IN RESPECT OF ANY DEBT OR DAMAGE SHALL NOT BE A BAR TO AN ACTION ...+, MR WONG SAID IT WAS FELT THAT THE WORD +RECOVERED+ MIGHT GIVE RISE TO SITUATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF ENCOURAGING SETTLEMENT.

+THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOW AGREED TO USE THE WORD 'OBTAINED' INSTEAD, WHICH WOULD BE MORE IN LINE WITH THE OBJECT OF THE PRESENT EXERCISE,+ HE SAID.

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ACTION AGAINST DANGEROUS SIGNBOARDS

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DURING THE LAST FOUR MONTHS, 74 DANGEROUS SIGNBOARDS HAD BEEN FOUND IN MONG KOK AND YAU MA TEI AND 69 OF THEM HAD ALREADY BEEN DEALT WITH, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+ACTION ON THE REMAINING FIVE IS IN HAND,+ MR BRAY SAID.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON PAULINE NG ABOUT THE PROGRESS ON THE CONTROL OF COMMERCIAL SIGNBOARDS.

+THE POSITION WAS EXPLAINED. NO NEW PROPOSALS WERE MADE SO THE POSITION NOW IS MUCH AS IT WAS FOUR MONTHS AGO,+ MR BRAY SAID.

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BILLIARD SALOON SEGREGATED FROM FLATS

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THE LICENSING AUTHORITY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD BEEN SATISFIED THAT THE PROPOSED PREMISES FOR A BILLIARD SALOON AT MAYFAIR GARDENS ON TSING YI WAS SUFFICIENTLY SEGREGATED FROM THE RESIDENTIAL FLATS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AS THERE WAS ALSO A SEPARATE ACCESS TO THE PROPOSED SALOON, THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN ON ACCOUNT OF NOISE, MR BRAY SAID.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON DR HARRY FANG, WHO HAD ASKED ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH PERMISSION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ESTABLISH THE SALOON.

MR BRAY EXPLAINED THAT THE LICENSING AUTHORITY HAD CONSIDERED THE ISSUE AS AN APPLICATION FOR A LAWFUL BUSINESS.

IN THE AUTHORITY'S VIEW, THE LEGISLATURE HAD PROVIDED ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS IN THE PLACES OF AMUSEMENT (NT) REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THAT GOOD ORDER COULD BE MAINTAINED AND THAT THE OBJECTIONS AS CONVEYED TO HIM BY THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER WERE NOT STRONGLY HELD.

+THE LICENSING AUTHORITY ACCORDINGLY APPROVED THE ISSUE OF THE LICENCE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN HEALTH AND FIRE SAFETY CONDITIONS BEING MET= AND THE APPLICANT WAS SO ADVISED,+ MR BRAY SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, THE DISTRICT LAND OFFICER AND THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES HAD OFFERED NO OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED SALOON, PROVIDED, IN THE CASE OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CERTAIN FIRE SAFETY CONDITIONS WERE MET, MR BRAY POINTED OUT.

BUT HE QUOTED THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER AS SAYING, +SOME OF THE RESIDENTS OF MAYFAIR GARDENS HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND THEY DO NOT FAVOUR THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC BILLIARD SALOON AT (THESE) PREMISES.+

THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER WENT ON TO SAY THAT THOSE RESIDENTS WHO HAD BEEN CONSULTED FEARED THE PRESENCE OF A BILLIARD SALOON WOULD POSSIBLY HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT AND THAT UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS GANG FIGHTS AND NOISE MIGHT AFFECT LAW AND ORDER IN THIS RESIDENTIAL AREA.

THE LICENSING AUTHORITY THEN CALLED FOR A FURTHER INSPECTION AND WAS SATISFIED WITH THE +SUFFICIENT DEGREE OF SEGREGATION+ AS WELL AS THE FACT THERE WAS A SEPARATE ACCESS.

MR BRAY EXPLAINED THAT FOR THESE AND OTHER REASONS, THE LICENSING AUTHORITY HAD APPROVED THE ISSUE OF THE LICENCE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN HEALTH AND FIRE SAFETY CONDITIONS BEING MET. THE APPLICANT HAD THUS BEEN ADVISED.

+IT WAS ONLY AFTER THE APPLICANT'S CONTRACTOR STARTED TO MAKE THE PREMISES READY FOR DEVELOPMENT INTO THE BILLIARD SALOON THAT THE 'EXPRESS WISHES OF MANY RESIDENTS', TO QUOTE DR FANG'S WORDS, BECAME MORE PRONOUNCED.

+THE LICENSING AUTHORITY'S LEGAL ADVICE IS THAT ONCE AN ASSURANCE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE APPLICANT THAT A PUBLIC BILLIARD SALOON LICENCE WILL BE ISSUED TO HIM PROVIDED HE MEETS THE HEALTH AND FIRE SAFETY CONDITIONS, THIS CANNOT THEN BE WITHDRAWN, EVEN IF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY WOULD WISH TO RECONSIDER HIS ORIGINAL DECISION,+ MR BRAY SAID.

SHEUNG SHUI BETTER AS QUARANTINE DEPOT
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SHEUNG SHUI WOULD BE MORE SUITABLE THAN TSING YI FOR A PROPOSED CATTLE QUARANTINE DEPOT, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR JACOBS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT CHINA HAD BECOME THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF CATTLE TO HONG KONG, SO THAT OVER 85 PER CENT OF CATTLE NOW CAME BY RAIL OR BY ROAD INSTEAD OF BY SEA.

IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO CONSTRUCT A NEW ABATTOIR NEAR THE RAILWAY LINE IN SHEUNG SHUI, HE SAID, THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP A QUARANTINE DEPOT ON TSING YI HAD BEEN CANCELLED IN MAY THIS YEAR.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY THE EXISTING DEPOTS IN MA TAU KOK AND KENNEDY TOWN AND OF THE NEED FOR EARLY REPROVISIONING.

+A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF MOVING CATTLE TO THE LAIRAGE IN THE KENNEDY TOWN ABATTOIR IS UNDERWAY.

+IF CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT, WE HOPE THEN TO CLOSE THE KENNEDY TOWN CATTLE DEPOT.

+IN ANY EVENT, WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO EXPEDITE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHEUNG SHUI LAIRAGE. IT IS INTENDED, THEREFORE, TO SEEK THE UPGRADING OF THE PROJECT SO THAT IT MAY BE COMPLETED IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1987-88,+ HE SAID.

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INSURANCE QUESTION EXPLAINED
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THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC INSURANCE COVER FOR STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ON TEACHING ATTACHMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN, MR HENDERSON EXPLAINED THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL POLICY OF BEING +SELF-INSURED+.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO INDEMNIFY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN RESPECT OF ANY COMPENSATION FOR WHICH THEY MAY BE HELD LIABLE AS A RESULT OF ANY INJURY TO A COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STUDENT ARISING OUT OF HIS PRESENCE ON THE INSTITUTION'S PREMISES TO UNDERTAKE TRAINING OR EDUCATION RELATED TO HIS COURSE OF STUDY.

+THE UNIVERSITIES, BEING SELF-GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS, DETERMINE THEIR OWN POLICIES ABOUT INSURANCE COVER FOR THEIR STAFF AND STUDENTS,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

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GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO TWO OFFICIAL MEMBERS
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TWO OFFICIAL MEMBERS, THE HON HENRY CHING, SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, AND THE HON COLVYN HAYE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, WHO WILL BE LEAVING HONG KONG SHORTLY, WERE PRAISED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY FOR THEIR SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT.

SPEAKING OF MR CHING, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL SINCE MAY 1983 AS SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN MANY OCCASIONS ON WHICH HE UNDERSTUDIED AS FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS PREVIOUS ROLE AS DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

+WITH HIS GOING, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT LOSES ONE OF ITS MOST LOYAL SERVANTS AND CERTAINLY ONE OF ITS MOST LUCID INTELLECTS, AND A MAN WHOSE LOGICAL MIND AND CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINED CONCENTRATION, BOTH IN HIS PRESENT AND PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS, HAS GUIDED US ALL THROUGH MANY A COMPLICATED ISSUE.

+WE SHALL MISS HIM GREATLY AND WISH HIM ALL THE BEST FOR THE FUTURE,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

SPEAKING OF MR HAYE, THE GOVERNOR SAID, THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POST AS HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON.

IN WISHING HIM EVERY SUCCESS IN THIS NEW POST, SIR EDWARD SAID, HE FELT IT APPROPRIATE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO MR HAYE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

+MR HAYE HAS RENDERED LONG AND VALUABLE SERVICE TO EDUCATION SINCE HE JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1953. HE SERVED ON THIS COUNCIL AS A PROVISIONAL MEMBER ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS BETWEEN 1976 AND 1980, WHEN HE BECAME A FULL MEMBER AS THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

/+HE HAS

+HE HAS BEEN A STALWART MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL TEAM ON THE COUNCIL, NEVER DECLINING A CHALLENGE, ABOVE IT ALL, A COURTEOUS AND CONSIDERATE EXPONENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW.

+HIS LUCIDITY IN DEBATE IN THIS COUNCIL HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON HOW EDUCATION SHOULD DEVELOP IN HONG KONG.

+NOW HE WILL BE CALLED UPON TO APPLY HIS TALENTS IN A WIDER FIELD IN HIS NEW POST IN LONDON.

+WE WISH HIM, TOO, EVERY SUCCESS IN THAT IMPORTANT TASK,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

SPEAKING FOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, THE HON ROGER LOBO SAID HE WISHED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S TRIBUTE TO MR CHING.

+INDEED, MR CHING HAD A CAREER FILLED WITH DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG. TODAY WE WOULD LIKE TO PLACE ON RECORD OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO HIM AND WISH HIM EVERY SUCCESS IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVOUR,+ MR LOBO SAID.

SPEAKING OF MR HAYE, MR LOBO SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO LEFT A MARK OF LOYAL AND DEDICATED SERVICE ON THE DEPARTMENT HE HAS SERVED FOR SOME 30 YEARS, AND AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SINCE 1980.

+HE HAS RESPONDED CONSCIENTIOUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO CHANGE AND CHALLENGE THROUGH A PERIOD OF INTENSE DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS SPENT MANY HOURS IN THIS CHAMBER PATIENTLY AND ELOQUENTLY ANSWERING OUR QUESTIONS AND IN EXAMINING PROBLEMS WITH US,+ MR LOBO SAID.

HE WISHED MR HAYE EVERY SUCCESS IN HIS NEW APPOINTMENT.

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SIX BILLS PASSED

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SIX BILLS, THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, THE CHARTERED BANK (CHANGE OF NAME) BILL 1984, THE CIVIL LIABILITY (CONTRIBUTION) BILL 1984, THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS BILL 1984, THE DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ONE OTHER BILL -- THE MEDICAL CLINICS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 -- WAS INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME, AND DEBATE ON IT WAS ADJOURNED TO DECEMBER 5.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1984

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CRACKDOWN ON FAKE COMPUTER PRODUCTS
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SINCE FEBRUARY LAST YEAR, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAS SEIZED OVER \$600 000 WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT COMPUTER PRODUCTS IN 13 MAJOR OPERATIONS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY MR JOHN HOWARD, PRINCIPAL INDUSTRY OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TRADE CONTROLS AND INVESTIGATION BRANCH.

THE OPERATIONS INVOLVED 94 RAIDS AND GOODS SEIZED INCLUDED COMPUTER SETS, MANUALS AND DISKETTES.

FORTY OFFENDERS HAD BEEN PROSECUTED, WITH FINES TOPPING \$120 000, MR HOWARD SAID.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON +COUNTERFEIT COMPUTERS: PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT BY WAY OF CRIMINAL LAW IN HONG KONG.+

+TOWARDS THE END OF 1982, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY WAS THE SUBJECT OF WIDESPREAD COUNTERFEITING, AND THAT THIS MALPRACTICE WAS BEING PERPETRATED IN SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WITH HONG KONG PLAYING A ROLE AS AN ASSEMBLING, RETAIL AND DISTRIBUTION CENTRE.

+THIS IS PROBABLY BECAUSE OF OUR FREE MARKET CONDITIONS, THE EXPERTISE AND ENTERPRISE OF OUR TRADING COMMUNITY AND THE HUGE PROFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM THE MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS TO ORDERS FROM OVERSEAS BUYERS.

+WE ALSO HAVE HAD OUR PROBLEMS WITH MOST TYPES OF FAKE PRODUCTS BOTH FOR THE LOCAL AND EXPORT MARKETS,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, IN THIS REGARD, WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON HAVING SOME OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT LAWS TO COMBAT THIS ILLICIT TRADE, AND THE RESULTS OF OUR ENFORCEMENT OVER THE LAST SEVEN TO EIGHT YEARS ARE IMPRESSIVE, THOUGH THERE IS CERTAINLY NO NEED FOR COMPLACENCY.+

MR HOWARD POINTED OUT THAT ONLY A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF HONG KONG EXPORTS WERE FALSELY REPRESENTED AND THAT HONG KONG GOODS HAD OVER THE YEARS REACHED A HIGH STANDARD OF QUALITY AND SOPHISTICATION IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1984

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SPECIAL MEETING
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A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO FINALISE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR BUS FARES.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCUSSIONS ON THE ITEM, A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT ABOUT 3 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, 880 TO 886 KING'S ROAD.

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SEMINAR FOR WAN CHAI RESIDENTS
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A BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOR MEMBERS OF WAN CHAI DISTRICT'S MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING.

AIMED ALSO AT STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL RESIDENTS, THE SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

MORE THAN 150 REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR.

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FISHERMEN NOW BETTER EDUCATED
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FISHERMEN IN HONG KONG TODAY WERE BETTER EDUCATED THAN THOSE 40 YEARS AGO, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SAID TODAY, AT THE 15TH JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION'S SCHOOLS AT THE CONCERT HALL OF THE CITY HALL.

MR CHEUNG SAID THAT IN THE PAST, FISHERMEN USED TO LIVE ON BOARD FISHING VESSELS AND HAD LITTLE CHANCE TO RECEIVE FORMAL EDUCATION.

AS A RESULT, MOST OF THE FISHERMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN WERE ILLITERATE.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION BEGAN SETTING UP SCHOOLS FOR FISHERMEN IN THE LATE 1940S.

/TODAY, THERE

TODAY, THERE ARE 13 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND A SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL UNDER FMO WITH A TOTAL OF 3 600 STUDENTS.

EARLIER, IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, PRAISED MR CHEUNG FOR HIS DEVOTION AND EFFORT TO THE LOCAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND FOR HIS DEEP INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AT THE CEREMONY, MRS CHEUNG AND MRS RIDDELL-SWAN PRESENTED CERTIFICATES, PRIZES AND FMO SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AWARDS TO THE STUDENTS.

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BUSY TIME FOR AIR-CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS

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THE AIR-CONDITIONING TENDER FOR THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL EXTENSION, AMOUNTING TO 5 500 TONS OF REFRIGERATION, WILL BE GOING OUT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

AT EASTER NEXT YEAR, TENDERS FOR THE MODIFICATION WORK IN TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL AMOUNTING TO 400 TONS WILL ALSO BE INVITED.

THIS IS EXPECTED TO BE FOLLOWED IN JUNE OR JULY BY THE AIR-CONDITIONING TENDER FOR KAI TAK AIRPORT STAGE V AMOUNTING TO 2 500 TONS.

MAKING THIS KNOWN THIS EVENING AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE AIR-CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION - HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR N.K. CHAN, SAID THAT MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECTS AMOUNTING TO 200 TO 300 TONS IN NEW POLICE STATIONS, CLINICS AND OTHER PLACES WOULD ALSO BE INVITED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

+I CAN SEE THAT THERE WILL BE A STEADY STREAM OF WORK GOING THE AIR-CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' WAY,+ HE SAID.

+LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD THE DESIGN OF THE 1 500-BED HOSPITAL AT SHAU KEI WAN, WHICH WILL BE FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED, IS GOING AHEAD AND CONSULTING ENGINEERS ARE TO BE APPOINTED.+

MR CHAN SAID THAT OVER THE PAST YEAR TENDER PRICES FOR AIR-CONDITIONING INSTALLATIONS HAD BEEN FALLING AND THIS REFLECTED KEENER COMPETITION.

+I HOPE THAT MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL ALSO STRIVE TO MAINTAIN THE GOOD STANDARD OF WORKMANSHIP WHICH HAS BEEN THE HALLMARK OF THE INDUSTRY. AT THE SAME TIME, I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF CO-ORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT AS PROJECTS ARE GROWING RAPIDLY IN COMPLEXITY WHILE TECHNOLOGY AND CLIENT DEMANDS ADVANCE,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1984

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TWO KWUN TONG SITES FOR TENDER
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCIES OF TWO SITES IN KWUN TONG.

THE FIRST SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF HOI BUN ROAD AND SHUN YIP STREET IS FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND/OR OPEN STORAGE. IT HAS AN AREA OF 1 700 SQUARE METRES.

THE OTHER SITE, MEASURING 1 480 SQUARE METRES, FOR OPEN STORAGE EXCLUDING STORING/PARKING OF VEHICLES IS ALSO SITUATED AT HOI BUN ROAD.

THE TENANCY FOR THE TWO SITES IS TWO YEARS AND IS RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT:

- * LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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PASSING OUT PARADE
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A PASSING-OUT PARADE OF 30 ASSISTANT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND 50 IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS WILL BE HELD AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT PARADE GROUND IN SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, AT 9.30 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 23).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1984

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YOUTH TO PARADE
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (DESIGNATE), MR MICHAEL LEUNG, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AT THE 4TH ANNUAL PARADE OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, OI KWAN ROAD, HONG KONG ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 23) AT 2.30 PM.

MORE THAN 4 000 CYC MEMBERS WILL ATTEND THE PARADE, WHICH WILL FEATURE DANCES, LION DANCE, CHILDREN CHOIR, DRAMA, AND TELEMATCHES.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE FOR YOUTH PARADE
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OI KWAN ROAD IN WAN CHAI WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE FROM 12.30 PM TO 4.30 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 23) TO ALLOW FOR THE 4TH COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB ANNUAL PARADE AT QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM.

ALL PARKING SPACES ON OI KWAN ROAD WILL BE SUSPENDED DURING THE PARADE.

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ROAD CLOSURE
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FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 23), PAU CHEUNG SQUARE, THE SECTION OF FOOK TAK STREET BETWEEN FOOK HONG STREET AND PAU CHEUNG SQUARE, AND THE SECTION OF SAU FU STREET BETWEEN FOOK HONG STREET AND PAU CHEUNG SQUARE IN YUEN LONG WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

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