



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1992

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SPEECH BY SEM ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF A SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, WHEN WINDING UP A MOTION DEBATE ON A COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

I SHOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY THANKING ALL THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE SPOKEN IN THIS DEBATE. THEIR COMMENTS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY NOTED AND WILL FORM AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE RESPONSE THAT WE RECEIVE FROM THE COMMUNITY TO OUR CONSULTATION PAPER. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL, NO DOUBT, ALSO FIND THIS DEBATE A USEFUL REFERENCE IN FORMULATING THEIR OWN VIEWS AND RESPONSES.

THE CONSULTATION PAPER ON A COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM WAS PUBLISHED LESS THAN FOUR WEEKS AGO. GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS ARE ALREADY EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN. RETIREMENT PROTECTION IS A SUBJECT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, AND I WOULD URGE EVERYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS OR TO SUGGEST ALTERNATIVES TO DO SO IN THE NEXT TWO AND A HALF MONTHS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I HAVE NOTED THE SUGGESTION FROM SOME MEMBERS FOR GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A MORE PRO-ACTIVE FORM OF CONSULTATION AND TO STEP UP PUBLICITY ON OUR PROPOSALS. MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS SEMINARS AND DISCUSSIONS, I MYSELF TOOK PART IN THE QUESTION AND ANSWER MEETING ORGANISED BY MR TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR PANG CHUN-HOI AND THE SIX LABOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD LAST WEEK. AND WE HAVE ALSO BEEN SPEAKING TO DISTRICT BOARDS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, BANKERS ETC. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO AS OUR RESOURCES ALLOW AND WILL CONSIDER STEPPING UP PUBLICITY OF OUR PROPOSALS.

I DO NOT WISH TO PRE-EMPT THE CONSULTATION PROCESS IN ANY WAY, BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF THIS DEBATE TO SPEAK BRIEFLY ON THREE ASPECTS OF THE CONSULTATION PAPER WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC DEBATE.

THE FIRST OF THESE IS THE QUESTION OF A GUARANTEE OF SOME SORT FOR RETIREMENT BENEFITS. MUCH CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN TODAY'S DEBATE AS WELL AS IN DIFFERENT QUARTERS ABOUT THE PERCEIVED NEED FOR A SCHEME OF GUARANTEE TO PROTECT CONTRIBUTORS AGAINST THE FAILURE OF RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEMES. IT HAS BEEN ARGUED THAT, SINCE THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO COMPEL EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEMES, IT IS ALSO INCUMBENT UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE THE PRESERVATION OF THE ACCRUED RETIREMENT BENEFITS IN THE EVENT OF A SCHEME FAILING THROUGH MALFEASANCE OR MISMANAGEMENT. I AM AFRAID THAT I FIND THIS ARGUMENT LACKING IN LOGIC: IT IS RATHER LIKE SAYING THAT, SINCE THE GOVERNMENT COMPELS CHILDREN UNDER 15 TO GO TO SCHOOL, THE GOVERNMENT MUST GUARANTEE (MIND YOU, NOT JUST DO ITS BEST TO ENSURE, BUT GUARANTEE) THAT NO CHILD WOULD EVER BE INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT IN SCHOOL.

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LET ME ALSO SAY THIS: IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO PROVIDE A GUARANTEE FOR ALL RETIREMENT SCHEMES, THE TAXPAYER WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT AN ENORMOUS CONTINGENT LIABILITY. THE COMMITMENT WOULD BE PERMANENT AND EVER-INCREASING. AND IT COULD WELL BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IF IT WERE TO ENCOURAGE SOME FUND MANAGERS TO TAKE GREATER THAN NORMAL RISKS, IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY WOULD BE BAILED OUT BY THE TAXPAYER IF THEIR JUDGEMENT PROVED TO BE WRONG.

I MUST EMPHASISE THAT THE ABSENCE OF A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE BY NO MEANS INDICATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ABROGATING ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING THE OPERATION OF RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEMES. ON THE CONTRARY, THERE WILL BE A RIGOROUS SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL. UNDER THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES BILL, ALL RETIREMENT SCHEMES WILL HAVE TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND TO SATISFY CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.

- THEY WILL HAVE TO BE PROPERLY FUNDED, MEANING THAT THE ASSETS OF A SCHEME MUST BE ADEQUATE TO MEET ITS LIABILITIES AT ALL TIMES.
- THE ASSETS OF A SCHEME WILL HAVE TO BE MAINTAINED SEPARATELY FROM THOSE OF THE EMPLOYER, AND CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME.
- THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF A SCHEME WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED EACH YEAR BY AN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR. THE AUDITORS' REPORT, TOGETHER WITH THE SCHEME'S ACCOUNTS, WILL HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE REGISTRAR OF OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES, WHO WILL HAVE THE POWER TO INTERVENE IN THOSE SCHEMES WHICH PROVE TO BE FUNDED OR ADMINISTERED IMPROPERLY.

SUCH A SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL WILL INVOLVE REAL AND SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITIES. HAVING SAID THAT, I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I DO NOT WISH TO RULE OUT COMPLETELY OTHER PRACTICABLE WAYS OF ENGENDERING EVEN GREATER CONFIDENCE IN THE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM. WE ARE WILLING TO LOOK AT REALISTIC SUGGESTIONS.

THE SECOND POINT ON WHICH I SHOULD LIKE TO SPEAK CONCERNS THE NEED FOR PROTECTION FOR THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE APPROACHING OR HAVE ALREADY PASSED RETIREMENT. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES, ON THE ONE HAND, AND MAKING FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR OLD AGE THROUGH SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT SCHEMES, ON THE OTHER. WHAT THE WORKING GROUP ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION IS PROPOSING IS AN EMPLOYMENT RELATED RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THOSE IN THE WORKFORCE. IT IS IN THE NATURE OF RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEMES THAT BENEFITS OUR PROPORTIONATE TO THE SIZE AND DURATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT NO CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE WORKING GROUP TO THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO WILL BE APPROACHING RETIREMENT OR WHO WILL HAVE RETIRED BY THE TIME THE PROPOSED SYSTEM IS IMPLEMENTED. HONG KONG ALREADY HAS A SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES A SAFETY NET FOR THE ELDERLY, THE NEEDY, THE DISABLED AND THE DISADVANTAGED. THE GOVERNOR HAS ANNOUNCED SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VARIOUS BENEFITS AND SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THAT SYSTEM. THESE ARE ADDITIONAL TO WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND ARE DOING IN PROVIDING INCREASINGLY BETTER HOUSING AND MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY. THESE BENEFITS AND SERVICES WILL REMAIN IN PLACE AFTER THE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM HAS BEEN INTRODUCED. THIS WILL MEAN THAT HONG KONG WILL HAVE TWO SYSTEMS RUNNING IN PARALLEL: ONE OF THE NATURE OF NON-CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL SECURITY, THE OTHER EMPLOYMENT RELATED. THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD HAVE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. IN THIS WAY, I BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDS OF OUR ELDERLY PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN IN EMPLOYMENT OR NOT.

SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE PROPOSED AGE OF RETIREMENT. A RETIREMENT AGE OF 65 IS PROPOSED SO THAT UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE DESIRED LEVEL OF BENEFITS WOULD BE ACHIEVED AT THE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION RATE. AN EARLY RETIREMENT AGE WOULD NECESSITATE EITHER A LOWER RETIREMENT PROTECTION OR A HIGH RATE OF CONTRIBUTION. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL OF BENEFITS, THE WORKING GROUP ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION IS RECOMMENDING THAT BENEFITS ARISING FROM THE STATUTORY MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION SHOULD NORMALLY NOT BE PAID OUT BEFORE THE AGE OF 65. HOWEVER, AN EMPLOYEE WHO PARTICIPATES IN AN EXISTING OR FUTURE APPROVED SCHEME WHICH PROVIDES FOR RETIREMENT AT AN AGE LOWER THAN 65 WOULD BE PERMITTED TO WITHDRAW HIS ACCRUED BENEFITS AT THAT AGE, EXCEPT FOR THAT PORTION OF THE BENEFITS WHICH DERIVES FROM THE MANDATORY MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION IN RESPECT OF SERVICE AFTER THE SYSTEM IS IMPLEMENTED. THIS PORTION OF THE BENEFITS WOULD REMAIN LOCKED IN UNTIL THE EMPLOYEE REACHES THE AGE OF 65. HOWEVER, ANY BENEFITS DERIVING FROM CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE NEW SYSTEM, OR FROM POST-COMMENCEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF THE MANDATORY MINIMUM, WILL NOT NEED TO BE LOCKED IN AND MAY BE WITHDRAWN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING SCHEME.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, EVEN THOUGH OBVIOUSLY WE COULD NOT HAVE INVOLVED EVERYONE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE CONSULTATION PAPER. SOMEBODY HAS TO DRAW UP PROPOSALS TO START WITH. THE WORKING GROUP HAS DONE THAT AND WE ARE NOW CONSULTING EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY. THE WORKING GROUP LOOKS FORWARD TO RECEIVING PUBLIC VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT. THEY WILL BE MOST CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. THANK YOU MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

SPEECH BY S FOR S ON NATIONALITY OF ETHNIC MINORITIES

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF A SPEECH BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, WHEN WINDING UP THE MOTION DEBATE ON ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY):

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

I WELCOME THIS DEBATE FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, IT HAS BEEN A WELL-INFORMED DEBATE. SECONDLY, IT ALLOWS ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE ETHNIC MINORITIES HAVE MADE TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. I AM THINKING PARTICULARLY OF ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE INDIAN RESOURCES GROUP. THAT CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN AND REMAINS OUT OF PROPORTION TO THEIR NUMBERS THAT MR MCGREGOR HAS SAID. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THEM AND HAVE LONG BEEN CONCERNED THAT THEIR FUTURE SECURITY AND PLACE IN HONG KONG IS ASSURED.

WE NEED TO REMIND OURSELVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE ETHNIC MINORITIES LIKE MANY OTHER NON-CHINESE CITIZENS HAVE CHOSEN TO MAKE HONG KONG AND NOT THE UK THEIR HOME. LET ME NOW GIVE SOME FACTS. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, SOME 20,000 LONG-TERM HONG KONG RESIDENTS BELONG TO THE ETHNIC MINORITIES. MOST ARE NATIONALS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN AND HOLD PASSPORTS FROM THOSE COUNTRIES. AT A ROUGH ESTIMATE AND HERE MY FIGURE IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TO MR HOWARD YOUNG'S, ABOUT 7,000 ARE EITHER HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS OR BRITISH OVERSEAS CITIZENS. BOTH GROUPS HOLD PASSPORTS WHICH ASSURE THEM OF BRITISH CONSULAR PROTECTION WORLDWIDE. ADDITIONALLY, A VERY SMALL NUMBER AND WE BELIEVED THIS NUMBER TO BE ONLY ABOUT 100 ARE TECHNICALLY STATELESS. UNDER THE BASIC LAW, ARTICLE 24 (4), THEY ARE GUARANTEED THE RIGHT OF ABODE - THAT IS, THE RIGHT TO ENTER AND NOT TO BE DEPORTED FROM HONG KONG - AFTER 1997. THOSE WHO WISH TO SECURE THAT RIGHT BEFORE 1997 MAY DO SO BY BECOMING BDTCS. THUS, THIS DEBATE CONCERNS PERHAPS 7,000 TO 8,000 PEOPLE.

SOME MEMBERS HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE POSITION OF THE ETHNIC MINORITIES. WE HAVE DONE SO. WE DID SO DURING THE DRAFTING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW. AND, IN 1990, UK MINISTERS RECONSIDERED THE QUESTION DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SCHEME (BNS). THEY CONCLUDED - AND IN PREPARING FOR TODAY'S DEBATE WE HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED THAT THIS REMAINS THEIR VIEW - THAT THE NON-CHINESE ETHNIC MINORITIES' POSITION AFTER 1997 IS ADEQUATELY PROTECTED BOTH IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND IN THE BASIC LAW WHICH GUARANTEE THEM RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE HONG KONG SAR. IN ADDITION, THE HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER 1986 ENSHRINES THE CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE THAT THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE ETHNIC MINORITIES WHO ARE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY CITIZENS PRIOR TO 1 JULY 1997 WILL HAVE BRITISH OVERSEAS CITIZENSHIP IF THEY WOULD OTHERWISE BE STATELESS. CLEARLY, THEREFORE - AND I CANNOT STRESS THIS TOO STRONGLY - NO MEMBER OF ANY OF THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES NEED FEAR THAT THEY, THEIR CHILDREN, OR GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE STATELESS.

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NOW, I KNOW THAT SOME MEMBERS FEEL THAT THESE ASSURANCES ARE NOT ENOUGH. THEY WANT FURTHER GUARANTEES OF THEIR SECURITY SHOULD EVENTS MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG. MAY I REMIND MEMBERS, AS MR ARCULLI ALREADY HAS, THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY GIVEN THE ASSURANCE THAT, IF ANY SOLELY BRITISH NATIONAL WITH NO CLAIM TO CHINESE NATIONALITY CAME UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE TO LEAVE HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY WOULD CONSIDER WITH - AND I QUOTE - "CONSIDERABLE AND PARTICULAR SYMPATHY THEIR CASE FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM". THAT ASSURANCE WAS REPEATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING PARLIAMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF THE NATIONALITY SCHEME.

I KNOW THAT SOME MEMBERS THOUGH ACCEPT THESE ASSURANCES BUT I BELIEVE THEM AND I BELIEVE THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO REITERATE THEM NOW. MANY MEMBERS HAVE MOSTLY FOCUSED ON DEMANDING FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FULL BRITISH NATIONALITY FOR THE ETHNIC MINORITIES. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A QUESTION FOR HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY OTHER SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO WILL HAVE BEEN GIVEN THIS ARE THOSE UNDER THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SCHEME. IT IS INDEED CLEAR FOR MANY COMMENTS THIS EVENING THAT SOME SORT OF PROVISION IS, OR SIMILAR TO, THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SCHEME IS WHAT THE ETHNIC MINORITIES ARE REALLY AFTER HERE. HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT, WITH THE AGREEMENT ON RIGHT OF ABODE CONTAINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE ASSURANCES COVERING STATELESSNESS AND THE POSITION OF SOLELY BRITISH NATIONALS FACED WITH PRESSURE TO LEAVE HONG KONG, IT HAS MADE FAIR PROVISION FOR THIS GROUP. MEMBERS OF THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES WHO MEET THE CRITERIA SET OUT IN THE SELECTION SCHEME ORDER 1990* ARE OF COURSE, ABLE TO APPLY FOR BRITISH CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE SCHEME IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHER HONG KONG RESIDENTS. INDEED, I AM SURE THAT MANY HAVE.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, DOES BOTH WE IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE FULLY AND ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED THE POSITION OF THE ETHNIC MINORITIES? I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION REMAINS THE SUREST BASE FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND I AM SATISFIED THAT WE HAVE TAKEN ADEQUATE MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY. THE QUESTION OF BRITISH NATIONALITY IS, AS I HAVE SAID EARLIER, A MATTER FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS MADE ITS POSITION CLEAR. I MUST ADVISE THAT I CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT FURTHER CONCESSIONS WILL BE FORTHCOMING. NEVERTHELESS, I RECOGNISE THE DEPTH OF CONCERN THAT UNDERLIES THE DESIRE TO KEEP TRYING.

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NOTE *: THE ORDER MAKES PROVISION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO APPLY FOR BRITISH CITIZENSHIP UNDER A COMPETITIVE POINTS SYSTEM BASED ON THE APPLICANT'S AGE, EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND OTHER FACTORS.

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BILL SEEKS TO SET UP TRADING FUNDS IN DEPARTMENTS

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THE TRADING FUNDS BILL WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT SETTING UP OF TRADING FUNDS IN CERTAIN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR KWONG KI-CHI, EXPLAINED THAT A TRADING FUND WAS A FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD ENABLE A DEPARTMENT TO OPERATE MORE LIKE BUSINESSES, WHERE THIS WAS APPROPRIATE, WHILE REMAINING AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE OBJECTIVE IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS, MR KWONG SAID.

A DEPARTMENT OPERATING UNDER A TRADING FUND WOULD RECEIVE PAYMENTS FROM ITS CUSTOMERS, IN THE PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SECTOR, FOR SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER A FUND.

SUCH PAYMENTS WOULD BE CREDITED TO THE FUND RATHER THAN TO GENERAL REVENUE.

MR KWONG EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD MEET ITS EXPENDITURE FROM THE FUND, AND IT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BALANCE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, TAKING ONE YEAR WITH ANOTHER.

"THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD ENABLE A DEPARTMENT WHICH PROVIDES SERVICES ON A COST-RECOVERY BASIS TO RESPOND TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF ITS FEE-PAYING CLIENTS MORE PROMPTLY," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A PROMPT REACTION TO CHANGES IN DEMAND WAS INHIBITED BY THE EXISTING SYSTEMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER WHICH FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH FINANCIAL YEAR.

MR KWONG EMPHASISED THAT THE SETTING UP OF TRADING FUNDS WOULD NOT CHANGE THE STATUS OF DEPARTMENTS IN ANY WAY.

"DEPARTMENTS OPERATING UNDER TRADING FUNDS WOULD REMAIN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS; THEIR ASSETS WOULD REMAIN GOVERNMENT ASSETS; THEIR STAFF WOULD REMAIN CIVIL SERVANTS," MR KWONG SAID.

A TRADING FUND WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY A RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE RESOLUTION WOULD APPROPRIATE TO THE FUND THE ASSETS EMPLOYED IN THE DESIGNATED OPERATIONS AND MAY PROVIDE CASH INJECTIONS BOTH FROM THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND AND FROM THE LOAN FUND.

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND, MR KWONG SAID A CHIEF EXECUTIVE WOULD BE APPOINTED TO CONTROL AND MANAGE EACH TRADING FUND.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WOULD ALSO NEED TO DEVISE PROCUREMENT AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS APPROPRIATE TO THE TRADING FUND'S OPERATION, SUBJECT TO ANY DIRECTION THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAY ISSUE.

AS THE MAJORITY OF GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES ARE PRESCRIBED BY LAW, ADJUSTMENT TO SUCH FEES AND CHARGES CAN ONLY BE MADE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL OR BY RESOLUTION OF THIS COUNCIL, MR KWONG SAID.

AND SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY TO A TRADING FUND, HE ADDED.

IF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IS SATISFIED THAT THERE ARE SURPLUS MONEYS IN EXCESS OF REASONABLE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FUND, THE BILL PROVIDES THAT HE MAY DIRECT THAT SUCH MONEYS BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE GENERAL REVENUE.

FURTHER, IF FEES AUTHORISED BY AN ORDINANCE ARE STRUCTURED SO AS TO RECOVER MORE THAN THE COST OF A SERVICE PROVIDED, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAY DIRECT THAT A PROPORTION OF THE FEES COLLECTED BE PAID FROM THE FUND INTO GENERAL REVENUE, MR KWONG SAID.

MR KWONG SAID THE COMPANIES AND LAND REGISTRIES IN THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT WERE THE FIRST CANDIDATES FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF TRADING FUNDS.

A PROGRAMME FOR IDENTIFYING OTHER DEPARTMENTS SUITABLE FOR TRADING FUND STATUS WOULD BE DEVELOPED SEPARATELY, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT TO REDISTRIBUTE WORK

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A BILL THAT SEEKS TO GIVE LEGAL EFFECT TO THE RE-DISTRIBUTION OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL (ESTABLISHMENT) (TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS AND REPEAL) BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

MR EASON NOTED THAT STATUTORY FUNCTIONS WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SEPARATE NEW DEPARTMENTS WERE THOSE AT PRESENT PERFORMED BY THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT AND THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE.

THE OFFICES OF THE OFFICIAL TRUSTEE, JUDICIAL TRUSTEE AND OFFICIAL SOLICITOR HAD ALSO BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT.

"THE REMAINDER OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO NEW STAND-ALONE ENTITIES, THE LAND REGISTRY AND THE COMPANIES REGISTRY.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE LEGAL ADVISORY AND CONVEYANCING SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT," MR EASON SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TRAFFIC BILL WITH GOAL TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE
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A BILL PROPOSING TO EXEMPT DISABLED DRIVERS FROM PAYING METERED PARKING FEES AND TO REGULATE TRAFFIC FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PURPOSE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID ALTHOUGH THE TWO PROPOSALS OF THE BILL PROMOTE TWO VASTLY DIFFERENT POLICY OBJECTIVES, THEY DO SHARE A COMMON GOAL: TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF FELLOW CITIZENS.

MRS WONG SAID IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE DISABLED PERSONS WITH WALKING DIFFICULTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROVIDE THEM WITH SPECIAL TRANSPORT SERVICES, AND EXEMPTIONS FROM PAYMENT OF CERTAIN FEES AND DUTIES ON SELF-DRIVEN PRIVATE CARS.

THE FIRST PART OF THE BILL THUS SEEKS TO PROVIDE A PROPER LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE EXEMPTION OF DISABLED DRIVERS FROM THE PAYMENT OF PARKING FEES AT METERED PARKING SPACES, SHE SAID.

"THE EXEMPTION WILL RELIEVE DISABLED DRIVERS FROM THE BURDEN OF HAVING TO RETURN TO THEIR CARS AT REGULAR INTERVALS TO PAY PARKING FEES.

"WE HOPE THAT THIS, AND OTHER CONCESSIONS BEING OFFERED TO DISABLED DRIVERS, WOULD PROVIDE A FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THEM TO FULLY INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY," SAID MRS WONG.

THE SECOND PART OF THE BILL EMPOWERS THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS TO REGULATE TRAFFIC FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

THIS WILL ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME TO MINIMISE THE IMPACT OF TRAFFIC NOISE ON SENSITIVE RECEIVERS.

ONE OF THESE SCHEMES IS THE TSING YI TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TRIAL SCHEME WHICH AIMS TO DIVERT THE FLOW OF HEAVY VEHICLES ON TSING YI ISLAND.

/"THIS SCHEME

"THIS SCHEME WILL RELIEVE THE MAJORITY OF TSING YI RESIDENTS FROM NIGHT-TIME TRAFFIC NOISE AND HAD THE SUPPORT OF KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD," MRS WONG SAID.

"TO ENSURE THAT LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE FULLY APPRISED, RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL CONSULT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD AGAIN BEFORE THEY FORMALLY LAUNCH THE TRIAL SCHEME."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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GOVT ALERT TO SALE OF OVERSEAS PROPERTIES IN HK
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO HELP THE CONSUMER COUNCIL BROADEN CONTACTS WITH MORE OVERSEAS AUTHORITIES ON THE SALE OF OVERSEAS PROPERTIES IN HONG KONG, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MS DENISE YUE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA, SHE SAID THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD SET UP USEFUL CONTACTS WITH THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES IN THE GUANGDONG PROVINCE AND THE SHENZHEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE.

"BASED ON THE INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THESE AUTHORITIES, THE COUNCIL HAS ISSUED SOME VERY USEFUL GUIDELINES FOR REFERENCE BY PROSPECTIVE BUYERS OF PROPERTIES IN CHINA," MS YUE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT IS ALERT TO THE NEED TO INCREASE INVESTORS' AWARENESS IN THE PURCHASE OF OVERSEAS PROPERTIES PUT ON SALE IN HONG KONG.

THEREFORE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS RECENTLY, HAD URGED THE PUBLIC TO EXERCISE PRUDENCE.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD INVITED THE CONSUMER COUNCIL TO STEP UP ITS CONSUMER EDUCATION EFFORTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO ADDRESS THE OFFER FOR SALE IN HONG KONG OF PROPERTIES IN SOUTHERN CHINA GIVEN THE INCREASING NUMBER OF SUCH OFFERS.

THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD REPEATEDLY URGED CONSUMERS TO BE AWARE AND, BEFORE PUTTING DOWN THEIR MONEY, TO CHECK THAT THE OVERSEAS PROPERTIES THEY INTEND TO BUY COMPLY WITH THE LOCAL REGULATORY AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

"A BUYER MUST FIND OUT CLEARLY WHAT IT IS THAT HE IS BUYING BEFORE HE ENTERS INTO A COMMITMENT.

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"THE COUNCIL PLANS TO OFFER FURTHER GUIDELINES IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF 'CHOICE'. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND PROSPECTIVE BUYERS TO READ THESE CAREFULLY BEFORE ACTING," MS YUE SAID.

AS THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD DEVELOPED GOOD CONTACTS WITH MANY CONSUMER PROTECTION BUREAUS OVERSEAS AND AS IT WAS DOING A VERY EFFECTIVE JOB TO ENHANCE CONSUMER AWARENESS, THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY AT THIS STAGE TO DISCUSS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, SHE SAID.

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TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS TO TACKLE POTENTIAL STUDENT SUICIDES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY PROVIDED SPECIAL TRAINING FOR HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS IN CHARGE OF DISCIPLINE FOLLOWING THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF STUDENT SUICIDES, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID.

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC TRAINING IN CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND STUDENT COUNSELLING PROVIDED TO TEACHERS BY THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ELSIE TU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR CHAN SAID THE SPECIAL TRAINING TOOK THE FORM OF A SERIES OF SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS HELD BETWEEN JUNE THIS YEAR AND FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

THESE INCLUDE FIVE SEMINARS FOR TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS; A WORKSHOP ON ADOLESCENT SUICIDE FOR PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS OF SCHOOLS THAT HAD EXPERIENCED FATAL SUICIDE CASES AND 12 REGIONAL TEACHER DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS FOR BOTH GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE TEACHERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

ALSO INCLUDED ARE A CONFERENCE AND TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE ADOLESCENT SUICIDE AWARENESS PROGRAMME (ASAP) FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN TEACHER TRAINING; AND 10 TRAINING SESSIONS AND FOUR TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON ASAP FOR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

"THE AIM OF THE VARIOUS COURSES IS TO ENABLE EACH PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOL IN HONG KONG TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO TEACHERS, OR ONE PRINCIPAL AND ONE TEACHER, TRAINED SPECIFICALLY IN IDENTIFYING AND HANDLING POTENTIAL STUDENT SUICIDE CASES AND PREVENTING SUICIDES FROM HAPPENING," MR CHAN SAID.

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NO DECISION ON RAIL LINK TO TSEUNG KWAN O

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NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO LINK THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (MTR) TO TSEUNG KWAN O AND THE QUESTION OF DELAY IN COMPLETION DOES NOT ARISE.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THIS IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID WHETHER AND WHEN THE MTR COULD BE EXTENDED TO TSEUNG KWAN O WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY ALONG WITH OTHER POSSIBLE RAILWAY PROJECTS.

HE SAID THE STUDY WOULD INCLUDE A PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O PROJECT'S FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND ITS RESULTS SHOULD BE READY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"IT IS PREMATURE AT THIS STAGE TO CONSIDER ANY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS UNLESS AND UNTIL A DECISION IS TAKEN TO PROCEED," HE ADDED.

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GENERAL APPROACH OF ECR5 WARMLY SUPPORTED

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THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAD AT PRESENT COMPLETED ITS ASSESSMENT OF ALL THE WRITTEN COMMENTS ON ITS FIFTH REPORT (ECR5) FROM 103 EDUCATIONAL GROUPS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW, MR CHAN SAID THE SUBMISSIONS COVERED MORE THAN 520 PAGES OF TEXT.

"VIRTUALLY ALL SUBMISSIONS SUPPORTED THE GENERAL APPROACH OF ECR5," HE SAID. "INDEED, MANY EXPRESSED VERY WARM SUPPORT."

AN ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT SOME WANT FASTER PROGRESS AND SOME EVEN WANTED MORE IMPROVEMENTS.

MANY EXPRESSED VIEWS ON DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION, WHICH WILL PROVIDE HELPFUL REFERENCES FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS, ONCE THEY BECOME APPROVED POLICY.

THERE WERE ALSO SOME WHO WONDERED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT IS ABLE AND WILLING TO PROVIDE THE RESOURCES TO FUND THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS.

MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MAKING A START NEXT YEAR ON A NUMBER OF MEASURES ARISING FROM ECR5.

/"THIS DEMONSTRATES

"THIS DEMONSTRATES THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING HONG KONG WITH THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION WE NEED TO SUSTAIN OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," HE SAID.

"THE REMAINING ECR5 PROPOSALS, TOGETHER WITH ONE FURTHER RECOMMENDATION ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION, WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

"I HOPE THAT DECISIONS WILL BE REACHED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR," MR CHAN SAID.

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BUILDINGS SUBJECT TO DETAILED INSPECTION

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID ABOUT 5,000 PRIVATE BUILDINGS HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO FULL AND DETAILED INSPECTION BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON YEUNG-SUM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), HE SAID REPAIRS WERE UNDERTAKEN WHERE NECESSARY.

MR EASON SAID THESE BUILDINGS WERE AMONG THE 16,700 CLASSIFIED AS CATEGORY II BUILDINGS IN A BOO SURVEY IN 1989 AND 1990 WHICH COVERED 55,000 PRIVATE BUILDINGS SURVEYED EXTERNALLY FOR CLASSIFICATION INTO THREE CATEGORIES.

CATEGORY I BUILDINGS WERE THOSE FOUND TO BE IN A CONDITION REQUIRING EARLY ACTION. THERE WERE 210 OF THEM AND ALL HAVE EITHER BEEN DEMOLISHED OR REPAIRED.

CATEGORY II WERE THOSE REQUIRING DETAILED INSPECTION.

THE REMAINING 38,590 BUILDINGS WERE PUT IN CATEGORY III.

"THIS MEANT THEY WERE UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE MAJOR REPAIR WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS," HE SAID.

MR EASON STRESSED THAT THE CATEGORISATION WAS INTENDED PURELY TO INDICATE PRIORITIES FOR FURTHER WORK BY THE BOO.

HE SAID: "INCLUSION OF A BUILDING IN CATEGORY II DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT.

"INCLUSION IN CATEGORY III DOES NOT MEAN A BUILDING DOES NOT REQUIRE REGULAR INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.

"WHEN THE TURN OF A CATEGORY II BUILDING COMES FOR INSPECTION, EITHER BY BOO STAFF OR AN AUTHORISED PERSON, THE OWNERS WILL OF COURSE BE NOTIFIED."

/MR EASON

MR EASON SAID INSPECTION OF THE REMAINING BUILDINGS IN CATEGORY II WAS CONTINUING.

THE RECENT ENACTMENT OF BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1992, WHICH EMPOWERED THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE OWNERS OF BUILDINGS IN SUSPECT CONDITION TO HAVE THEIR BUILDINGS INVESTIGATED BY AN AUTHORISED PERSON, WOULD HELP SPEED THIS PROCESS UP BY REDUCING RELIANCE ON THE BOO TO COMPLETE IT, HE ADDED.

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INFORMATION ON POLICE VEHICLE ACCIDENTS RELEASED

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THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING POLICE VEHICLES WAS 887 IN 1990, 858 IN 1991 AND 689 IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN 1990, 11 PERSONS WERE INJURED IN 10 INCIDENTS INVOLVING INJURIES TO PEDESTRIANS.

THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1991 AND THE FIRST 10 MONTHS THIS YEAR WERE 16 PERSONS IN 15 INCIDENTS AND 17 PERSONS IN 17 INCIDENTS RESPECTIVELY, MR STRACHAN, SAID.

DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS ONE PEDESTRIAN DIED AS A RESULT OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVOLVING A POLICE VEHICLE.

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CHANNELS FOR COMPLAINTS ON OVERSEAS PROPERTIES ADVERTISEMENTS

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CONSUMERS MAY REFER COMPLAINTS AGAINST ALLEGEDLY FALSE ADVERTISEMENTS ON OVERSEAS PROPERTIES TO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL TO SEE WHETHER IT CAN VERIFY THE CONTENTS.

THE ADVICE WAS GIVEN BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MS DENISE YUE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG KIN KEE, MISS YUE SAID THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD GOOD CONTACTS WITH ITS OVERSEAS COUNTERPARTS.

IT IS DEVELOPING NEW CONTACTS WITH RELEVANT AUTHORITIES IN GUANGDONG AND NEIGHBOURING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES, SHE ADDED.

HAVING COLLECTED THE NECESSARY EVIDENCE, THE COUNCIL MAY EXPOSE THE CASE TO ENHANCE CONSUMER AWARENESS AND REFER IT TO RELEVANT PARTIES FOR ACTION.

WHERE THE TRANSACTION OF OVERSEAS PROPERTIES TAKES PLACE IN HONG KONG AND MONEY IS OBTAINED FROM THE PURCHASER BY DECEPTION AND IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISHONESTY, THERE IS A POSSIBLE CRIMINAL SANCTION UNDER THE THEFT ORDINANCE.

MS YUE SAID CONSUMERS MIGHT REFER RELEVANT CASES TO THE POLICE FOR ACTION.

IF THE ADVERTISEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH OVERSEAS PROPERTIES SUGGEST THAT THE PURCHASE IS FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES, THEY WILL FALL WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS ORDINANCE.

"CONSUMERS MAY REFER THESE ALLEGEDLY FALSE ADVERTISEMENTS TO THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION FOR ACTION," SHE SAID.

"THERE MAY BE A CIVIL CLAIM IN A MISREPRESENTATION OR DECEIT RELATING TO PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS UNDER COMMON LAW AND THE MISREPRESENTATION ORDINANCE," SHE ADDED.

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EXPANSION PLANS FOR HUNG HOM STATION

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THERE ARE PLANS TO EXPAND THE IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FACILITIES AT HUNG HOM RAILWAY STATION, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEVEN POON IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), HE SAID A CONTRACT FOR THE AIR-CONDITIONING OF THE CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION HALL AT THE STATION HAD BEEN LET.

HE ADDED THAT WORK WOULD BE COMPLETED IN JUNE NEXT YEAR.

THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION WILL CONSIDER RELEASING PART OF THE RAILWAY PODIUM CONCOURSE TO PROVIDE ROOM FOR FOUR MORE IMMIGRATION COUNTERS ON COMPLETION OF THE NEW SOUTH EXIT IN LATE 1994.

APART FROM THESE SHORT-TERM MEASURES, MR STRACHAN SAID THE CORPORATION WAS REVIEWING ALL ITS THROUGH TRAIN FACILITIES, INCLUDING QUEUING AREAS, WAITING AREAS, AND IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FACILITIES.

"THIS REVIEW SHOULD BE COMPLETED AROUND THE BEGINNING OF 1994," HE ADDED.

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GOVT COMMITS TO PROMOTING USE OF ELECTRONIC DATA TRANSFER

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THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO PURSUE THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DELIVERING INFORMATION STORED IN, AND OUTPUT FROM, COMPUTERS TO ITS USERS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR KWONG KI-CHI, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ROGER LUK KOON-HOO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DATA TRANSFER IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE TRADING COMMUNITY," MR KWONG SAID.

HE SAID ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE FACILITIES WERE BEING DEVELOPED TO ENABLE THE PROCESSING OF TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE DECLARATIONS ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH DIRECT COMPUTER LINKS WITH TRADERS.

"THE USE OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY AS AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF ELECTRONIC OUTPUT/STORAGE IS ALSO BEING PURSUED BY GOVERNMENT," MR KWONG SAID.

SUCH SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

HE ADDED THAT PROJECTS WERE ALSO IN THE PIPELINE FOR THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT, THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

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NO PLANS TO SUBSIDISE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' PAY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO SUBSIDISE DIRECTLY A PORTION OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' REMUNERATION NOR WILL IT BRING KINDERGARTENS INTO THE AMBIT OF SUBSIDISED EDUCATION AT THE PRESENT TIME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS TO ENABLE ALL TO HAVE ACCESS TO KINDERGARTENS BY PROVIDING FEE REMISSION TO THOSE WHO NEED IT AND BY SUBSIDISING THE RENT AND RATES OF NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS.

"THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME IS BEING IMPROVED TO ALLOW MORE PARENTS TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, THEREBY MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THE OPERATORS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR TEACHERS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION TO ACHIEVE A MINIMUM PROPORTION OF TRAINED TEACHERS.

AT PRESENT, THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE REQUIRES THE PRINCIPAL OF A KINDERGARTEN TO BE A QUALIFIED KINDERGARTEN TEACHER OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS HAVE TO BE REGISTERED TEACHERS OR PERMITTED TEACHERS AS STIPULATED IN THE EDUCATION REGULATIONS.

THEY ARE REQUIRED TO POSSESS EITHER A TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE; A CERTIFICATE OF STATUS AS "QUALIFIED TEACHER", "QUALIFIED KINDERGARTEN TEACHER" (QKT) OR "QUALIFIED ASSISTANT KINDERGARTEN TEACHER" (QAKT); OR A FULL-TIME SECONDARY EDUCATION OF APPROVED DURATION, WHICH IS THREE YEARS AT PRESENT.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT 1,255 QKTS SERVED IN KINDERGARTENS IN 1990/91 AND 1,105 IN 1989/90. THE NUMBER OF QAKTS WAS 1,779 IN 1990/91 AND 1,826 IN 1989/90.

THE WASTAGE RATES FOR QKTS WERE 119 IN 1990/91 AND 122 IN 1989/90, WHILE THAT FOR QAKTS WERE 243 IN 1990/91 AND 246 IN 1989/90.

THE EXISTING SALARY SCALE FOR A QKT IS FROM \$9,305 TO \$14,220; AND THAT FOR QAKT IS FROM \$5,995 TO \$9,875.

AS REGARDS TRAINING, MR CHAN SAID 196 TEACHERS ENROLLED IN TWO-YEAR PART-TIME COURSES FOR QKT IN 1991/92, AS COMPARED WITH 281 IN 1990/91 AND 237 IN 1989/90.

IN ADDITION, 483 TEACHERS ENROLLED IN THE 12 TO 16-WEEK PART-TIME COURSES FOR QAKT IN 1991/92, WHILE 378 ENROLLED IN 1990/91 AND 289 IN 1989/90.

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MEASURES TO TACKLE ILLEGAL PARKING
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MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO REDUCE ILLEGAL PARKING AND TO ALLEVIATE ANY OBSTRUCTION OR ROAD SAFETY RISKS IT MAY CAUSE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MEASURES INCLUDE:

- * USING VACANT GOVERNMENT LAND FOR PARKING, UNDER SHORT-TERM TENANCIES;
- * DESIGNATING NIGHT-ONLY ON-STREET GOODS VEHICLE PARKING SPACES AT SUITABLE LOCATIONS IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS WHERE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS PERMIT;
- * INCLUDING APPROPRIATE PARKING STANDARDS IN THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PRIVATE LOTS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF PARKING SPACES;

- * ERECTING RAILINGS AND BARRIERS TO DETER PARKING ON FOOTPATHS IN AREAS WHERE THIS IS A PARTICULAR PROBLEM, AND ON STEEP ROADS WHERE ILLEGAL PARKING MAY BE A SAFETY HAZARD; AND
- * CONSIDERING AN INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF FIXED PENALTY FINES FOR ILLEGAL PARKING SO AS TO MAINTAIN THEIR DETERRENT EFFECT.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE POLICE WOULD ALWAYS TAKE ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL PARKING IN SITUATIONS WHERE EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS MIGHT BE AFFECTED, OR WHERE ILLEGAL PARKING POSED A DANGER TO LIFE OR PROPERTY.

IN OTHER CASES, HE SAID, THE GENERAL ENFORCEMENT POLICY MUST BE A MATTER OF POLICE PRIORITIES.

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EFFORTS TO ENHANCE POLITICAL AWARENESS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR SUEN SAID LAST YEAR THE GOVERNMENT SPENT \$15.91 MILLION IN PROMOTING VOTER REGISTRATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS.

PROMOTION ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A WIDE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK FOR VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS, AND EXTENSIVE HOME, OFFICE AND FACTORY VISITS.

THERE WERE ALSO LARGE-SCALE PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS AT BOTH CENTRAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS, SUCH AS BROADCASTING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, SCREENING OF SLIDES AT CINEMAS, DISTRIBUTION OF POSTERS, PUBLICATION OF PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS, ORGANISATION OF CANDIDATE FORUMS FOR EVERY CONSTITUENCY AND THEIR BROADCAST ON TELEVISION AND RADIO.

IN ADDITION, MR SUEN SAID SPECIAL EFFORTS WAS TARGETED AT CULTIVATING PROPER UNDERSTANDING AND INTEREST IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

ELEMENTS OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT ARE INCORPORATED IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULA FOR SUBJECTS LIKE SOCIAL STUDIES, ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS.

STUDENTS ARE ALSO EDUCATED ON THIS THROUGH SCHOOL CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

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TO HELP SCHOOLS ARRANGE THE PROGRAMMES, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED A SET OF GUIDELINES ON CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.

MR SUEN POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ORGANISED IN-SERVICE COURSES AND SEMINARS FOR TEACHERS AND PROVIDED SCHOOLS WITH TEACHING KIT AND PAMPHLETS ON TOPICS LIKE ELECTIONS, THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW.

CIVIC EDUCATION BODIES ESTABLISHED UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN SUPPLEMENTING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, MR SUEN ADDED.

HE CITED EXAMPLES OF A SERIES OF PROMOTION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING EXHIBITIONS, STALL GAMES, STUDENT WORKSHOPS AND CARNIVALS, ORGANISED BY THESE ORGANISATIONS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERRITORY'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

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REVIEW OF DRUG ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES COMPLETED

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THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY COMPLETED A REVIEW OF THE DRUG ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN JUNE THIS YEAR FOLLOWING AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT IN THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

AS A RESULT, A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SYSTEM WAS ANNOUNCED.

THESE INCLUDED REQUIRING PUBLIC HOSPITALS TO REVIEW AND DRAW UP GUIDELINES ON DRUG PRESCRIPTION SUPPLY, STORAGE AND ADMINISTRATION; TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD REPORTING MECHANISM/FORMAT TO COLLECT STATISTICS OF MEDICATION ERROR AND TO SET UP HOSPITAL DRUG COMMITTEES IN ALL HOSPITALS TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT DRUG ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES AND TO MONITOR THE INCIDENCE OF MEDICATION ERROR.

THESE ALSO INCLUDED REQUIRING PUBLIC HOSPITAL TO REPLACE DRUG TROLLEYS WITH SEPARATE RECEPTACLES FOR INDIVIDUAL PATIENTS; AND TO SET UP A CENTRAL PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE REVIEW.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID A BOARD OF INQUIRY HAD ALSO CONDUCTED A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE CASE AND CONCLUDED THAT MEDICATION HAD BEEN WRONGLY BUT UNINTENTIONALLY ADMINISTERED TO TWO BABIES BY A NURSE.

/SHE SAID

SHE SAID THE NURSE CONCERNED HAD RESIGNED FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE AND THE NURSING BOARD IS EXAMINING THE CASE UNDER THE NURSE (REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS TO SEE WHETHER IT SHOULD GO FOR A DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY.

"IN THIS LIGHT, I AM ADVISED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS THAT IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO MAKE PUBLIC AT THIS STAGE DETAILS OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD REPORT CONCERNING THE ACTIONS OF THE NURSE," MRS WONG SAID.

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HIKING ROUTES CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO IMPROVE SAFETY

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DURING THE DESIGN OF HIKING TRAILS, LOCATIONS THAT MAY BE HAZARDOUS ARE IDENTIFIED AND MEASURES ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE DESIGN TO IMPROVE SAFETY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG, MR EASON SAID AS A PART OF THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PARKS, IF POTENTIAL HAZARDS WERE IDENTIFIED BY THE PARK STAFF, ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO REMOVE THE HAZARD OR PROVIDE WARNINGS.

EIGHT FATAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING COUNTRYSIDE VISITORS HAD OCCURRED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. OF THEM, FIVE WERE DROWNING, TWO FALLING AND ONE SUNSTROKE.

THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY HAS INVESTIGATED THE CAUSE OF EACH ACCIDENT OCCURRING IN THE COUNTRY PARKS, MR EASON SAID.

"NORMALLY, WHERE A HAZARD IS IDENTIFIED WHICH CANNOT BE REMOVED OR FENCED OFF, SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO WARN VISITORS," HE ADDED.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THIS WAS DONE AFTER A FATAL ACCIDENT ON FEI NGOR SHAN IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE MESSAGE OF COUNTRYSIDE SAFETY HAD ALREADY BEEN WIDELY PUBLICISED.

A BILINGUAL BOOKLET ENTITLED 'STEPPING OUT - A GUIDE TO OUTDOOR RECREATION IN HONG KONG', WHICH PROVIDES SAFETY ADVICE TO VISITORS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FREE.

MR EASON SAID SAFETY MESSAGES WERE ALSO INCLUDED IN LEAFLETS SHOWING HIKING ROUTES AND IN ADVERTISEMENTS SHOWN REGULARLY ON TELEVISION.

"TO STEP UP PUBLICITY, THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY HAS RECENTLY ASKED HIKING GROUPS TO HELP PROMOTE THE SAFETY MESSAGE.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF COUNTRYSIDE ACTIVITIES HAS SET UP A MOBILE DISPLAY ON COUNTRYSIDE SAFETY AND DISTRIBUTES LEAFLETS TO THE PUBLIC AT THE COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRES," HE ADDED.

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DATA PROTECTION PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED SOON

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AN INTERIM REPORT ON DATA PROTECTION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND THE RELATED LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN EARLY 1994.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ROGER LUK IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR SUEN SAID THE WORKING GROUP ON DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION UNDER HIS CHAIRMANSHIP HAD EXAMINED THE DATA PROTECTION LAWS IN FORCE IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

THESE COUNTRIES INCLUDED CANADA, FINLAND, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ASSESS THEIR APPLICABILITY TO HONG KONG.

"WE HAVE FURTHER DELIBERATED ON THE FEATURES TO BE EMBODIED IN A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK APPROPRIATE FOR HONG KONG, AS WELL AS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROTECTION SCHEME, SUCH AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITY," HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID OTHER ASPECTS CURRENTLY UNDER EXAMINATION INCLUDED LEGAL SANCTIONS AGAINST BREACHES OF DATA PROTECTION PROVISIONS; POSSIBLE EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES.

ON THE WORK PROGRESS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S PRIVACY SUB-COMMITTEE, MR SUEN SAID IT HAD BEEN EXAMINING THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION IN RECORDED FORM.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE BROADER THAN THOSE OF THE WORKING GROUP, NOT BEING RESTRICTED TO AUTOMATED DATA, HE SAID.

MR SUEN POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD SO FAR HELD 46 MEETINGS AND INTENDED TO PUBLISH ITS INTERIM REPORT ON DATA PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

TO ENSURE THAT THE WORK OF THE DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION WORKING GROUP AND THE PRIVACY SUB-COMMITTEE IS CO-ORDINATED, HE SAID TWO MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN APPOINTED AS MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FROM THE OUTSET, AND THAT THE SECRETARIES OF THE TWO GROUPS MAINTAINED REGULAR LIAISON.

THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE PRIVACY SUB-COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE WILL SERVE AS A USEFUL FRAMEWORK ON WHICH THE WORKING GROUP WILL FINALISE ITS DELIBERATIONS AND DEVISE AN APPROPRIATE SYSTEM OF DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION FOR HONG KONG, AFTER HAVING DUE REGARD TO TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS, HE SAID.

"THE WORKING GROUP HOPES TO PRESENT DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO THIS COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION IN EARLY 1994," HE SAID

WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY EVIDENCE THAT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL REFUSE TO EXCHANGE DATA WITH HONG KONG IF IT DID NOT HAVE ITS OWN DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION, MR SUEN SAID THE WORKING GROUP WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH INSTANCES.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION'S REVISED DRAFT DIRECTIVE ON DATA PROTECTION OF OCTOBER 15, THIS YEAR ENVISAGED RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRANSFER OF PERSONAL DATA TO THIRD COUNTRIES WHICH 'LACK AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF PROTECTION'.

ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT DEADLINE FOR ADOPTION OF THE DIRECTIVE WAS JULY 1, 1994, MR SUEN SAID THE COMMISSION HAD FURTHER PROPOSED TO GIVE AN ADDITIONAL TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF NO LONGER THAN TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS FOR PROCESSING OPERATIONS WHICH BEGAN BEFORE THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DIRECTIVE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE STRESSED THAT THE TIMING OF HONG KONG'S PLANNED INTRODUCTION OF DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION WAS IN ALIGNMENT WITH THAT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DIRECTIVE.

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BOUNDARIES BETWEEN HK AND GUANGDONG BEING NEGOTIATED
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREED BOUNDARY OF ADMINISTRATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG WHICH WILL BE RECOGNISED BY BOTH SIDES AND OPERATED BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TO KUN-SUN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SECRETARY SAID THE BOUNDARIES OF HONG KONG AS DEFINED IN CHAPTER 1, INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE, HAD NOT BEEN ALTERED OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS.

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PROMPT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL REPOSSESSION OF BUILDINGS

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THE POLICE HAVE TAKEN PROMPT ACTION TO HELP RESIDENTS WHEN CASES OF TRIAD SYNDICATES ATTEMPTING TO RECOVER POSSESSION OF BUILDINGS THROUGH INTIMIDATION TACTICS ARE REPORTED, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE MEASURES HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN CURBING THE OCCURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG, MR STRACHAN SAID ON RECEIVING SUCH TYPE OF COMPLAINTS OR REPORTS, THE POLICE WOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER ANY OFFENCE HAD BEEN COMMITTED.

OFFENCES MAY INCLUDE CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION, BLACKMAIL, CRIMINAL DAMAGE OR ASSAULT.

CASE ENQUIRIES INCLUDED A BACKGROUND EXAMINATION OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED AND CHECKS ON WHETHER SIMILAR INCIDENTS, IN WHICH THE LANDLORD HAD ATTEMPTED TO REPOSSESS THE PREMISES, HAD BEEN REPORTED BEFORE.

"CONSIDERATION IS ALSO GIVEN TO POSSIBLE OFFENCES UNDER THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WHICH PROVIDES FOR OFFENCES INVOLVING HARASSMENT AND UNLAWFUL EVICTION OF TENANTS," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN SAID IN APPROPRIATE CASES, CHARGES WOULD BE BROUGHT AGAINST THOSE SUSPECTED BY THE POLICE TO HAVE COMMITTED OFFENCES.

IF THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY OFFENCE, THE POLICE WOULD REFER THE CASE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION WITH A VIEW TO SETTLING THE DISPUTE BY MEDIATION, HE SAID.

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ARRANGEMENTS TO DEAL WITH
AIR-CONDITIONING NUISANCES SATISFACTORY

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THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS TO DEAL WITH NUISANCES IN COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS CAUSED BY AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEMS ARE CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR REVIEW AT PRESENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE EMPOWERED THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (USD) AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (RSD) TO DEAL WITH NUISANCES ARISING FROM THE IMPROPER FUNCTIONING OF AIR-CONDITIONERS WHILE NOISE NUISANCES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT UNDER THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE.

A TOTAL OF 4,678 COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED BY USD AND RSD LAST YEAR.

THE MAJORITY OF THESE COMPLAINTS WERE ABOUT WATER DRIPPING FROM AIR-CONDITIONERS WITH ONLY ONE REGARDING INSULATION, MR EASON SAID.

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MORE MEASURES TO AVERT DEBRIS FALLING FROM EXPRESSWAYS

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ADDITIONAL MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO PREVENT DEBRIS FALLING FROM THE VIADUCTS OF EXPRESSWAYS IN TSUEN WAN AND SHAM TSENG.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THIS IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MEASURES INCLUDED INSTALLING ONE-METRE-HIGH METAL PANELS ON TOP OF THE EXISTING 0.8-METRE-HIGH CONCRETE PARAPETS ON THE VIADUCT ABOVE HING SHING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IN TSUEN WAN AND 1.8-METRE-HIGH ALUMINIUM BOARDS AT THE EDGES OF THE VIADUCT ABOVE SHAM TSENG.

THE FREQUENCY OF ROAD SWEEPING ABOVE THE TWO LOCATIONS WOULD ALSO BE INCREASED, HE ADDED.

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO EXISTING MEASURES BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TO VACUUM SWEEP ALL EXPRESSWAYS THREE TIMES A WEEK TO REMOVE ANY DEBRIS.

MR LEUNG ALSO NOTED THAT THE POLICE REGULARLY PATROLLED ALL MAJOR ROADS AND EXPRESSWAYS AND TOOK ACTION AGAINST VEHICLES CARRYING INSECURE LOADS.

"DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 3,908 DRIVERS WERE PROSECUTED FOR THIS OFFENCE," HE SAID.

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MOST LOCAL MAIL DELIVERED WITHIN TARGET TIME

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NINETY-SEVEN PER CENT OF LOCAL MAIL ITEMS MEET THE TARGET DELIVERY TIME WHICH IS DELIVERY BY THE NEXT WORKING DAY AFTER POSTING, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN 1989, 96 PER CENT OF LOCAL MAIL MET THE STANDARD.

HOWEVER, THE TARGET DOES NOT APPLY TO POSTINGS MADE IN BULK WHICH MAY TAKE LONGER TO PROCESS AND DELIVER.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG, MRS CHAN SAID ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS STANDARD WAS MEASURED BY A DEDICATED TEAM WITHIN THE POST OFFICE, SELECTING SAMPLE MAIL BAGS FOR INSPECTION.

"TO IMPROVE FURTHER ON DELIVERY TIMES, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBLE PROCUREMENT OF PACKET SORTING MACHINES," MRS CHAN SAID.

AS AT THE END OF OCTOBER, 1,684 DELIVERY POSTMEN WERE DEPLOYED.

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MOTION ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION ON A COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM AFTER A TWO-AND-A-HALF HOUR DEBATE.

TWENTY-THREE MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION PROPOSED BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG. THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MOTION READ: "THIS COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS IN THE CONSULTATION PAPER "A COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEME" AND URGES MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS OR TO SUGGEST ALTERNATIVES BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD ON 31ST JANUARY 1993."

ANOTHER MOTION ON NATIONALITY OF ETHNIC MINORITIES MOVED BY THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR WAS ALSO PASSED. AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION MOVED BY THE HON RONALD ARCULLI WAS DEFEATED.

TEN MEMBERS DEBATED THE MOTION. THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

THREE BILLS - TRADING FUNDS BILL, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1992 AND REGISTRAR GENERAL (ESTABLISHMENT) (TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS AND REPEAL) BILL - WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

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APPLICATIONS TO IMPORT SKILLED WORKERS INVITED

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PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS WILL BE INVITED FROM EMPLOYERS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ABOUT 13,000 WORKERS UNDER THE GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME FROM FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 20).

THEY ARE TO REPLACE THE FOREIGN WORKERS WHO WERE IMPORTED IN 1990 AND ARE DUE TO LEAVE HONG KONG IN BATCHES UPON THE EXPIRY OF THEIR CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT NEXT YEAR.

THE DECISION TO RECYCLE THE RELEVANT QUOTAS FOLLOWS A GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF THE LABOUR MARKET SITUATION WHICH HAS TIGHTENED UP AGAIN IN RECENT MONTHS.

"HOWEVER, IT MUST BE STRESSED THAT THE CEILING OF 25,000 WORKERS THAT CAN BE IMPORTED AT ANY ONE TIME WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THE SCHEME, EMPLOYERS MAY APPLY TO BRING IN TECHNICIANS, CRAFTSMEN, SUPERVISORS AND EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES.

ANY EMPLOYERS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH QUOTAS EXPIRING IN 1993, MAY APPROACH THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, LABOUR DEPARTMENT OR DISTRICT OFFICES ON FRIDAY WHEN APPLICATION FORMS, INFORMATION PAMPHLETS, EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND A LIST OF PRINCIPAL JOB TITLES IN EACH INDUSTRY (WITH ALLOWABLE MONTHLY WAGE LEVELS) ARE AVAILABLE.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS IS DECEMBER 11, 1992.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

"INTERESTED EMPLOYERS MUST REGISTER THEIR VACANCIES WITH THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BY COMPLETING A FORM LD295 IN DUPLICATE," HE SAID.

"THIS FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER WITH THE PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL IN TURN FORWARD A COPY TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VACANCIES."

JOB SEEKERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT ARE ALSO ADVISED TO APPROACH THE LES OFFICE FOR HELP.

THE LES WILL ATTEMPT TO ASSIST THEM AND REFER THEM TO THE RELEVANT EMPLOYERS FOR INTERVIEW FOR SUITABLE JOBS.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION.

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"THERE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTION OF AN AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS," HE ADDED.

ENQUIRIES ON IMMIGRATION-RELATED MATTERS MAY BE MADE TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ON TEL 829 3220 AND 829 3225.

ENQUIRIES ON EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT MAY BE MADE ON 852 4158.

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BILL AIMS TO SET UP INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
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A BILL SEEKS TO SET UP THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AS A STATUTORY CORPORATION WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE OBJECT OF THE CORPORATION WOULD BE TO HELP PROMOTE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

"THE SETTING UP OF THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE DEMONSTRATES THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO, AND SUPPORT FOR, INDUSTRIAL UPGRADING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE PURPOSE OF SETTING UP A STATUTORY CORPORATION WAS TO GIVE THE CENTRE AN APPROPRIATE STATUS, IN LINE WITH THAT OF OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRY SUPPORT AGENICES.

"THE BILL GIVES THE CORPORATION FLEXIBILITY IN ITS OPERATIONS WHILE PROVIDING ADEQUATE FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS."

THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WILL PROVIDE AN "INCUBATION" SERVICE FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY-BASED FIRMS, ACCOMMODATION FOR TECHNOLOGY-BASED BUSINESSES AND OTHER SERVICES TO HELP TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT.

WORK ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRE HAS ALREADY BEGUN AT A SITE IN KOWLOON TONG AND IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED IN MID-1994.

THE FUNDING OF THE CENTRE IS MET BY A \$250 MILLION GRANT AND A \$188 MILLION LOAN FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATUTORY CORPORATION, THE PREPARATORY WORK IS TAKEN BY THE PROVISIONAL HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE COMPANY.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE COMPANY TO BE DISSOLVED WHEN THE CORPORATION IS SET UP.

THE BILL WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 20) AND WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 2.

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PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO REGULATION OF TRUST COMPANIES
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO MAKE PROVISIONS IN THE TRUSTEE ORDINANCE ON THE REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF TRUST COMPANIES MORE UP-TO-DATE AND EFFECTIVE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TRUSTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 20).

EXPLAINING THE AMENDMENTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "HAVING RECENTLY REVIEWED PART VIII OF THE ORDINANCE, WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT SOME PROVISIONS HAVE BECOME OUTDATED OVER THE YEARS AND AMENDMENTS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO CERTAIN OTHER PROVISIONS TO ENHANCE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS.

"A COMPANY IS ELIGIBLE TO BE REGISTERED AS A TRUST COMPANY IF IT MEETS THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS UNDER SECTION 77(2) OF THE ORDINANCE.

"AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES HAS THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION IF, ONCE IT IS REGISTERED, A TRUST COMPANY CEASES TO COMPLY WITH THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS. THIS IS UNDESIRABLE.

"WE PROPOSE TO AMEND SECTION 77 TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE CONTINUING REQUIREMENTS AND PROVIDE FOR DEFAULT FINES," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT A REGISTERED TRUST COMPANY IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A MINIMUM ISSUED AND FULLY PAID-UP SHARE CAPITAL OF \$1 MILLION AND ADDITIONALLY, TO MAKE CERTAIN DEPOSITS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES UP TO \$500,000.

THESE FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE 1975.

"WE PROPOSE TO ADJUST THE FIGURES TO \$3 MILLION AND \$1.5 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

"IN KEEPING WITH SOUND COMMERCIAL PRACTICE, A TRUST COMPANY SHOULD ALSO BE ALLOWED TO PROVIDE THE DEPOSIT BY WAY OF A BANK GUARANTEE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL ALSO TRANSFERS TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FROM THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL CERTAIN POWERS RELATING TO INVESTMENTS BY TRUST COMPANIES.

"IN EXERCISING THESE POWERS, RELATING TO SECTIONS 4(3), 91(1)(B) AND 91(3) OF THE ORDINANCE, TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE PARAMOUNT.

"IT IS THEREFORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO BE THE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SECTION 95 CURRENTLY PROVIDES AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL MAY APPOINT AN INSPECTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF A TRUST COMPANY. THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT IS MADE TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

"AS THESE ARE USUALLY FINANCIAL MATTERS OF A TECHNICAL NATURE, WE PROPOSE THAT THESE POWERS SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

"THIS WILL ALSO BRING THE PROVISIONS INTO LINE WITH SIMILAR POWERS TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF A COMPANY CONFERRED ON THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER SECTION 142 AND 143 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME THE BILL SPECIFIES CLEARLY THE GROUNDS ON WHICH AN INSPECTOR MAY BE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF A TRUST COMPANY, SUCH AS IF THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A TRUST COMPANY HAS COMMITTED A BREACH OF TRUST, IS INSOLVENT OR IS IN BREACH OF ANY OF THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY PART VIII OF THE ORDINANCE.

"IN ADDITION, WE PROPOSE TO INCLUDE GROUNDS SIMILAR TO THOSE SPECIFIED UNDER SECTION 143 (1) (C) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, FOR EXAMPLE, SUSPECTED FRAUD, OR FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY TO ITS MEMBERS," HE ADDED.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ALSO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF THE LACK OF EFFECTIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST BREACHES OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN PART VIII OF THE ORDINANCE.

THESE PROVISIONS INCLUDE SECTION 81 WHICH RESTRICTS THE OBJECTS OF A TRUST COMPANY, SECTION 92 WHICH PROHIBITS LOANS TO A DIRECTOR OR OFFICERS OF A TRUST COMPANY, AND SECTION 93 WHICH RESTRICTS THE BORROWING OF MONEY BY A TRUST COMPANY.

"THE ONLY SANCTIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ARE INVESTIGATION UNDER SECTION 95 AND WINDING-UP UNDER SECTION 96, WHICH ARE OFTEN TOO DRACONIAN.

"WE PROPOSE TO PROVIDE FOR DEFAULT FINES COMPARABLE TO THOSE IN THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE TRUSTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 2.

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BILL TO REMOVE ANOMALY IN APPEAL PROCEDURE

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AN ANOMALY IN THE RIGHT TO APPEAL TO THE COURT OF APPEAL FROM A LOWER COURT'S DECISION ON JUDICIAL REVIEWS WILL BE REMOVED BY THE PROPOSED SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

UNDER THE LAW, A PARTY MAY APPLY TO THE HIGH COURT FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF A LOWER COURT'S DECISION IN A CIVIL OR CRIMINAL CAUSE OR MATTER.

IN CIVIL CASES, A PARTY HAS THE RIGHT OF APPEAL TO THE COURT OF APPEAL TO CHALLENGE THE LOWER COURT'S DECISION.

IN CRIMINAL CASES, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO APPEAL FROM DECISIONS OF THE HIGH COURT ON JUDICIAL REVIEWS TO THE COURT OF APPEAL. SUCH APPEALS WILL HAVE TO GO TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPEAL IS ARTIFICIAL AND SERVES NO USEFUL PURPOSE.

THE BILL WILL EXTEND THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT OF APPEAL TO PROVIDE THAT A PARTY MAY APPEAL AS OF RIGHT FROM A DECISION UPON JUDICIAL REVIEW IN A CRIMINAL CAUSE OR MATTER.

THE BILL WILL BE GAZETTED THIS FRIDAY AND WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 2.

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LICENCE FEES FOR EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES REVISED

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THE FEE FOR THE ISSUE OR RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATION WILL BE ADJUSTED WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 27.

THE ADJUSTMENT WAS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

"THE LICENCE FEE FOR AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY AND THE FEE FOR THE DUPLICATE LICENCE FOR EACH OF THE BRANCH OFFICE OF THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WILL BE REVISED FROM \$500 AND \$110 TO \$800 AND \$160 RESPECTIVELY," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ANY PERSON WISHING TO OPERATE AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY MUST APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR FOR A LICENCE AND THAT AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY THAT OPERATES AT MORE THAN ONE LOCATION IS REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR A DUPLICATE LICENCE FOR EACH BRANCH LOCATION.

THE FEE WAS LAST REVISED IN MARCH 1988 AND THE PRESENT REVISION TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND CURRENT INFLATION.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE LICENCE FEE MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON TEL 852 3511.

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COURT OF INT'L TRADE'S REMAND ORDER ON INJURY FINDINGS

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COMMENTING ON THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (ITC) DETERMINATION THAT IMPORTS OF MAN-MADE FIBRE SWEATERS FROM HONG KONG, SOUTH KOREA AND TAIWAN DID NOT INJURE THE U.S. SWEATERS INDUSTRY, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY): "THIS IS EXCELLENT NEWS FOR HONG KONG."

"IT IS THE RESULT OF THE DETERMINED FIGHT PUT UP BY THE HONG KONG SWEATER TRADE, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. OUR RESOLVE IN DEFENDING HONG KONG'S TRADE INTERESTS IS VINDICATED."

HONG KONG IS A MOST UNLIKELY SOURCE OF DUMPING GIVEN ITS OPEN MARKET, THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY AND THE LARGE NUMBER OF RELATIVELY SMALL FIRMS OPERATING IN A COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT, MR TSANG SAID.

"THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE CASE YET. IT MIGHT HAVE TO GO BEFORE THE U.S. COURT OF APPEAL FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT (CAFC).

"WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE ITC'S DECISION WILL BE UPHELD. BOTH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE SWEATER INDUSTRY WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO DEFEND OUR TRADING INTERESTS VIGOROUSLY," HE SAID.

ON JULY 28 THIS YEAR, THE U.S. COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (CIT) HANDED DOWN A RULING ON THE CONSOLIDATED APPEALS BROUGHT BY HONG KONG, TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREAN COMPANIES AGAINST ITC'S INJURY DETERMINATION.

THE CIT'S DECISION WAS THAT THE ITC'S INJURY DETERMINATION WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OR OTHERWISE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.

THE ITC WAS DIRECTED TO REPORT ITS NEW DETERMINATION TO CIT BY NOVEMBER 23, 1992.

THEREAFTER, PARTIES TO THE CASE HAVE 10 DAYS TO COMMENT ON THE ITC'S NEW DETERMINATION.

IF THE CIT ACCEPTS ITC'S NEW DETERMINATION, THE PETITIONER (THE U.S. NATIONAL KNITWEAR AND SPORTWEAR ASSOCIATION) MAY TAKE THE CASE TO THE CAFC.

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IMPROVED QUALITY VITAL TO BUSINESS SUCCESS

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THE GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE QUEST FOR IMPROVED QUALITY WILL PROVE TO BE A DECISIVE FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG'S BUSINESSES, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T H BARMA, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT THE ISO 9001 CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF S MEGGA TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD, MR BARMA SAID IN THE BUSINESS WORLD OF THE 1990S, QUALITY WAS A COMPETITIVE WEAPON, RATHAN THAN A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED.

HE SAID THE INTRODUCTION OF A WELL-STRUCTURED QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A COMPANY'S BUSINESS PLAN COULD HELP REDUCE COSTS, IMPROVE OUTPUT AND SECURE MARKETS.

AS ONE IN A SERIES OF PRO-ACTIVE STEPS IN PROMOTING QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT SET UP THE HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY IN 1989, MR BARMA SAID.

"SINCE THEN, OVER 700 COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS HAVE MADE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE ISO 9000 CERTIFICATION SCHEME.

"THE AGENCY HAS ALREADY ISSUED 35 CERTIFICATES AND IS CURRENTLY PROCESSING 169 APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID CERTIFICATION WAS NOT EASY TO ACHIEVE, ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE ATTAINABLE PROVIDED THE COMPANY WAS COMMITTED TO QUALITY MANAGEMENT.

"TOP MANAGEMENT HAS A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS PROCESS, AND IT MUST BE BACKED BY THE COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE STAFF," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE S MEGGA TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD HAD ALWAYS BEEN FORWARD-LOOKING IN THIS RESPECT.

HE SAID THE COMPANY WAS ONE OF THE FIRST USERS OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY, AT A TIME WHEN THE TERM "CALIBRATION" WAS STILL A NEW WORD FOR MANY COMPANIES IN HONG KONG.

HAVING CONTINUED TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE QUALITY SERVICES AVAILABLE, THE COMPANY HAD AT PRESENT MOVED FORWARD AGAIN TO BECOME A COMMITTED CLIENT OF THE HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY, HE ADDED.

MR BARMA SAID ALTHOUGH THE COMPANY HAD ALWAYS HAD A HIGH REPUTATION FOR THE QUALITY OF ITS PRODUCTS, IT CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BE FORMALLY RECOGNISED AS A QUALITY COMPANY BY SEEKING ISO 9000 CERTIFICATION.

"THIS DEDICATION TO QUALITY IS INDEED COMMENDABLE," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1992

- 32 -

BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS DECLARED THE BUILDINGS AT 27 WING ON STREET AND 18 AND 34 TUNG MAN STREET IN CENTRAL TO BE DANGEROUS.

ALSO, THOSE AT 19-25 AND 29-37 WING ON STREET AND 28 AND 32 TUNG MAN STREET HAVE BEEN DECLARED TO BE LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR (PGBS) SAID ALL OF THESE BUILDINGS WERE PRE-WAR ONES WITH LOAD-BEARING WALLS AND NEARLY ALL HAD TIMBER FLOOR AND ROOF JOISTS.

THE LOAD-BEARING PARTY WALLS IN THESE STRUCTURES WERE CONSIDERED TO BE DEFECTIVE AS EVIDENCED BY MANY FRACTURES AND IN SOME BUILDINGS THERE WERE BULGING OF THE WALLS.

THE OVERALL CONDITIONS OF THE STRUCTURAL TIMBER MEMBERS OF THE BUILDINGS WAS ASSESSED AS BEING POOR. IN SOME BUILDINGS, ALL TIMBER MEMBERS WAS FOUND TO BE DEFECTIVE.

THE PGBS SAID THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDINGS GAVE RISE TO CONCERN FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN THESE NARROW AND WELL-USED PUBLIC STREETS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BUILDINGS AT 20-26 AND 30 TUNG MAN STREET WERE CLOSED UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS ON NOVEMBER 3 THIS YEAR AS BEING IMMINENTLY DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF SEVERE DEFECTS IN THE STRUCTURAL WALLS AND TIMBER STRUCTURAL MEMBERS.

BUILDINGS AT 19-37 WING ON STREET AND 18-34 TUNG MAN STREET ARE STRUCTURALLY DEPENDENT ON EACH OTHER FOR SUPPORT AND COULD NOT WITHSTAND DEMOLITION OF ADJOINING BUILDINGS AND SHOULD ALL BE DEMOLISHED IN ONE OPERATION IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

BUILDINGS AT 19, 23, 25 AND 33 WING ON STREET AND 18, 28, 32 AND 34 TUNG MAN STREET HAVE BEEN RESUMED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES WILL BE REQUIRED IN SOME OF THE ADJOINING BUILDINGS THAT WILL REMAIN.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FOR 21, 27-31, 35 AND 37 WING ON STREET ON DECEMBER 29 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

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FAILURE TO REMOVE UNAUTHORISED WORKS LIABLE TO \$50,000 FINE

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BUILDING OWNERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH ORDERS REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORISED WORKS ON THEIR PREMISES, AND A DAILY FINE OF \$5,000 FOR CONTINUING NON-COMPLIANCE.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT (BLD), MR ANTHONY SAMSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SINCE APRIL 1, LAST YEAR, 86 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST PERSONS WHO FAILED TO COMPLY WITH REMOVAL ORDERS HAD BEEN INITIATED AND 53 CONVICTIONS HAD BEEN SECURED.

THE TOTAL PENALTIES IMPOSED BY THE COURTS AMOUNTED TO \$794,000 AND FOR CONTINUING TO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH REMOVAL ORDERS \$164,030.

MR SAMSON SAID THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) OF THE BLD HAD LAUNCHED TWO LARGE-SCALE CLEARANCE EXERCISES SINCE FEBRUARY 1991 TO REMOVE THE DANGER OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS PROJECTING FROM THE EXTERNAL WALLS OF BUILDINGS, SUCH AS CANOPIES, METAL CAGES AND FLOWER RACKS.

A TOTAL OF 3,815 STATUTORY ORDERS WERE SERVED ON THE OWNERS OF 30 BUILDINGS IN THE FIRST EXERCISE CODE-NAMED "OPERATION APPENDAGES". SOME 5,825 UNAUTHORISED APPENDAGES WERE REMOVED FROM THESE BUILDINGS.

IN THE ONGOING EXERCISE CODED-NAMED "OPERATION CATHERINE WHEEL", ADVISORY LETTERS WERE BEING ISSUED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

THE LETTERS REQUESTED THE OWNERS TO REMOVE THE PROJECTING UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS THEMSELVES. IF IGNORED, STATUARY REMOVAL ORDERS WOULD BE SERVED ON THE OWNERS.

INITIALLY, MR SAMSON SAID 52 BUILDINGS WERE TARGETTED AND A TOTAL OF 6,800 ADVISORY LETTERS WERE DELIVERED TO OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS.

THE ADVISORY LETTERS HAD ACHIEVED A 55 PER CENT SUCCESS RATE SO FAR, AND ONLY 3,011 STATUTORY REMOVAL ORDERS HAD TO BE SERVED, MR SAMSON NOTED.

AT THE END OF OCTOBER, 20 ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS WERE ADDED TO THE OPERATION. ADVISORY LETTERS TO 15 OF THESE BUILDINGS HAD ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED WITH THE REMAINING FIVE BEING SURVEYED.

MR SAMSON SAID APART FROM UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS, THE BOO WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT BUILDINGS WHICH HAD BECOME DILAPIDATED THROUGH LACK OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.

IF A BUILDING WAS FOUND TO BE IN SUCH A DANGEROUS CONDITION AS POSING A THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF OCCUPANTS, THE NEIGHBOURS OR THE PUBLIC, THE BOO MIGHT SEEK FROM THE COURTS A CLOSURE ORDER TO CLOSE IT FROM FURTHER OCCUPATION.

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IF A DEFECTIVE BUILDING COULD REASONABLY BE REPAIRED, AN ORDER WOULD BE SERVED UPON THE OWNER REQUIRING NECESSARY WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT TO MAKE THE BUILDING SAFE.

WHERE A BUILDING WAS CONSIDERED TO BE BEYOND REPAIR, TOTAL DEMOLITION WOULD BE ENFORCED BY THE ISSUE OF A DEMOLITION ORDER.

FLAT OWNERS MIGHT BE FINED UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$50,000 OR BE IMPRISONED FOR UP TO ONE YEAR FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH A DEMOLITION ORDER, MR SAMSON SAID.

IN 1990, THE BOO CONDUCTED A SURVEY WHICH INVOLVED THE EXTERNAL INSPECTION OF SOME 55,500 PRIVATE SECTOR BUILDINGS IN THE URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON INCLUDING THE BUILT UP AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE EXERCISE REVEALED THAT SOME 17,000 BUILDINGS, OR 30 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL SEEN, WERE FOUND TO BE IN A SUSPECT CONDITION REQUIRING A DETAILED INTERNAL INSPECTION.

OF THESE, IT WAS FOUND THAT 210 BUILDINGS NEEDED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. THIS HAD RESULTED IN THE SERVING OF APPROPRIATE REPAIR ORDERS UPON THE OWNERS OF 193 BUILDINGS AND THE REMAINING 17 BUILDINGS WERE DEALT WITH BY CLOSURE AND DEMOLITION ORDERS.

OF THE REMAINING 16,700 BUILDINGS, ABOUT 5,000 INSPECTIONS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED, RESULTING IN THE SERVING OF 2,348 REPAIRS ORDER AND 97 CLOSURE AND DEMOLITION ORDERS AS AT THE END OF OCTOBER.

MR SAMSON EXPLAINED THAT THE CATEGORISATION SYSTEM OF BUILDINGS AS A RESULT OF THE SURVEY WAS INTENDED MERELY TO INDICATE THE PRIORITY OF BOO'S WORK AND NOT THE SAFETY STANDARD OF THE BUILDINGS.

THE CATEGORISATION DID NOT MEAN THAT A DANGER HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED. IT ONLY REFERRED TO BUILDINGS WHICH APPEARED FROM THE OUTSIDE TO BE IN A SUSPECT CONDITION AND THEREFORE REQUIRED FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

MR SAMSON STRESSED THAT IT WAS THE BUILDING OWNERS' INTEREST TO ENSURE THAT ANY DILAPIDATION OF THEIR BUILDINGS WAS ATTENDED TO PROMPTLY, LEST IT DETERIORATED TO STRUCTURAL DANGER.

HE NOTED THAT THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992, PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST MONTH, ENABLED THE BOO TO REQUIRE BUILDING OWNERS TO INVESTIGATE THEIR OWN BUILDINGS AND CARRY OUT REQUIRED MAINTENANCE THROUGH AUTHORISED PERSONS.

TWO SITES TO LET

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES ON TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT CHUN WAH ROAD, NGAU TAU KOK AND COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,650 SQUARE METRES.

THE SITE IS DESIGNATED FOR PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR TRAILERS/CHASSIS ATTACHED). THE PREMISES MAY BE USED AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC PARKING AREA.

THE TENANCY IS FOR NINE MONTHS AND MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 27.

THE SECOND SITE, NEAR SHING TAI ROAD ON THE CHAI WAN RECLAMATION, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,050 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS INTENDED FOR STORAGE OF TENANT'S GOODS (EXCLUDING CONTAINERS, CONTAINER VEHICLES AND TRAILERS) AND/OR PUBLIC FEE-PAYING VEHICLE PARK (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES AND TRAILERS) AND/OR COMMERCIAL GARDEN.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON DECEMBER 4.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG EAST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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ARCHITECT'S EFFORTS REWARDED

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FOUR PROJECTS OF ARCHITECTURAL MERIT WERE RECENTLY SELECTED AS WINNERS IN THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL AWARDS.

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 16 ENTRIES.

THIS YEAR'S AWARD WENT TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BUILDING IN SHA TIN.

THREE PROJECTS RECEIVED CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

THESE WERE THE RESTORATION OF THE OLD KOWLOON BRITISH SCHOOL, TIN SHUI WAI SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TRAINING SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY AT LAI CHI KOK.

THE PANEL OF JUDGES CHAIRED BY DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAUL CORSER, COMPRISED SENIOR LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, MR DAVID LUNG; CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WITH THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, MR S M PANG AND MR STEPHEN POON, PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

MR CORSER SAID: "IT WAS A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TASK TO CHOOSE A WINNER THIS YEAR, THERE WAS A RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES AND THE CHOICE OF THE WINNERS WAS NOT EASY."

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WORKFORCE TRAINING STRESSED

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CONTINUED GOODWILL AND SUPPORT FROM COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WILL ENABLE THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE TO ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MANPOWER TRAINING AND CONTRIBUTE MORE TO SATISFYING THE TRAINING NEEDS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

THE PRINCIPAL OF THE COLLEGE, MR CHAN LOK-KIN, SAID THIS AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY IN WHICH 490 TRAINERS FROM THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS RECEIVED THEIR CERTIFICATES.

ABOUT 38 PER CENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, 16 PER CENT FROM VOCATION TRAINING CENTRES, 12 PER CENT FROM BOTH SERVICE INDUSTRIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND FOUR PER CENT FROM THE PUBLIC UTILITIES.

COURSES ATTENDED COMPRISED BASIC AND ADVANCED INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES, CERTIFICATE COURSE IN TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, FURTHER AND ADULT EDUCATION TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE COURSE AND IN-SERVICE COURSE FOR TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF WORKING WITH THE HANDICAPPED.

IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, SAID AN EDUCATED AND WELL-TRAINED WORKFORCE WAS A MOST VALUABLE ASSET IN VIEW OF THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AS AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

"I CAN FORESEE THE RISING NEED FOR TRAINING AND THE DEMAND FOR TRAINERS. SO TO TRAINERS, I WOULD SAY THAT YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN FUTURE AND THAT YOU ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG," MR WONG SAID.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WAS THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, MR WILLIAM CHAN.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON FRIDAY

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 20) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE CHAMBER'S PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.9 *-0.2* 18.11.92	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.85 PCT	15 MONTHS	2402	6.25	101.38	4.39
1 MONTH	3.18 PCT	18 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.38	4.59
3 MONTHS	3.60 PCT	21 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.42	4.78
6 MONTHS	3.73 PCT	24 MONTHS	2411	4.625	99.48	4.96
12 MONTHS	4.02 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,945MN

CLOSED 18 NOVEMBER 1992

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