



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
<u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:</u>	
AG EXPLAINS OBJECT OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES BILL .....	1
FURTHER EXEMPTIONS FROM JURY SERVICE PROPOSED .....	3
LAND LAW BEING TIGHTENED .....	5
CONVEYANCING LAW FURTHER IMPROVED .....	6
AMENDMENT OFFERS ADDED PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES .....	7
SPECIFIC AUTHORITY TO CONFER HONORARY DEGREES PROPOSED .....	8
PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ASSOCIATION'S SERVICES .....	8
PRIVATE BILL ON BAHAI FAITH INTRODUCED .....	9
CHANGE OF DATE FOR TABLING ACCOUNTS PROPOSED .....	10
TWO BILLS PASSED .....	10
MEASURES TO CURB LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE ACCIDENTS .....	11
NEW BORDER CROSSING WILL SOLVE CONGESTION PROBLEMS .....	12
SOCIAL WORKER SHORTAGE UNDER STUDY .....	13
RISK OF CONTAMINATED SEAFOOD REACHING MARKET SMALL .....	14
CONTROLS ON IMPORTED MEATS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE .....	15
CODES ENSURE SCHOOL GRANTS ARE SPENT AS INTENDED .....	16
IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES RECOGNISED .....	16
REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS NEARING COMPLETION .....	17
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING ALLOWS BETTER USE OF RESOURCES .....	18
MEASURES TO MINIMISE LANDFILL IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT .....	20
TRANSPORT STUDY TO DECIDE VIABILITY OF RAIL LINKS .....	21
MAINLAND OFFICIAL GIVES ASSURANCE ON POLICE JOBS .....	23
MAINLAND DRAFTERS INVITED FOR VISITS .....	25
SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT OUT TOMORROW .....	25
NEW ISLANDS DB COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS .....	26
TWENTY-TWO PASSED MEDICAL EXAMINATION .....	26
COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS COMPETITION PRIZE-GIVING .....	27
'NO ENTRY' FOR PLB'S IN SHEUNG SHUI .....	28
TRAFFIC LANES ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD TO BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY .....	28

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 1 -

AG EXPLAINS OBJECT OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES BILL

\* \* \* \* \*

THE COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES BILL 1988 WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS ENSURING A MORE LOGICAL MANNER OF TRIAL FOR SUCH CASES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THIS BILL IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE HONG KONG CONSULTATIVE PROCESS," HE SAID WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

"IT IS A BILL SEEKING TO REFORM AN AREA OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE BY MAKING SURE THAT NOT ONLY THE DESIRED END IS ACHIEVED BUT THAT IT ACCORDS WITH THE INTERESTS AND WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY."

MR MATHEWS SAID THE OBJECT OF THE BILL WAS TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE WHEREBY THE REAL MATTERS AT ISSUE IN A COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME TRIAL WERE IDENTIFIED AT AN EARLY STAGE.

THEREAFTER, THE JURY WOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE DISPUTED QUESTIONS OF FACT AND PERFORM THEIR TASK OF ESTABLISHING GUILT OR INNOCENCE MORE EFFECTIVELY.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE LENGTH AND COMPLEXITY OF SOME MODERN COMMERCIAL CRIME CASES AND THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THEIR TRIAL WERE A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

THIS WAS RECOGNISED AS LONG AGO AS 1984 WHEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS ISSUED A PROPOSAL FOR REFORM OF THE METHOD OF TRIAL OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME.

HE SAID MUCH HAD BEEN LEARNT SINCE THEN THROUGH THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE AND AD HOC GROUP, THE ROSKILL COMMITTEE AND THE LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

"THE INITIATIVES IN THIS BILL WILL NOT SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS BUT THEY DO GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS ENSURING A MORE LOGICAL MANNER OF TRIAL," HE SAID.

"THE BILL REFLECTS THE WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY.

"IN ANY CRIMINAL TRIAL IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE COMMUNITY TOO ARE A PARTY.

"THE ACCUSED AND THE COMMUNITY BOTH HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT FAIR, IMPARTIAL AND EFFICIENT JUSTICE.

"ALL OF US INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF CRIMINAL TRIAL MUST CONTINUE TO KEEP IN MIND THAT THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES ARE IMPORTANT.

/"IF THAT .....

"IF THAT ATTITUDE IS MAINTAINED THEN THIS BILL WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING THE LENGTH AND COST OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME TRIALS WITHOUT ANY ENCROACHMENT ON THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED AND THE COLLECTIVE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL THEREBY BE PROTECTED."

ON DECEMBER 11, 1987, THE COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES BILL WAS PUBLISHED AS A WHITE BILL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. THE BILL HAD BEEN BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY A LEGCO SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE HON PETER C. WONG.

THE MAJOR AREAS OF REFORM RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE WERE THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY PREPARATORY HEARINGS AND THE ABOLITION OF COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS IN THESE CASES.

IT WAS PROPOSED THAT DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS OF VARYING DEGREE BE PLACED ON THE PROSECUTOR AND THE ACCUSED.

THE PREPARATORY HEARING, WHILE PART OF THE TRIAL, WAS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE JURY WAS EMPANELLED.

UNDER THE SCHEME PROPOSED THE PURPOSES OF THE PREPARATORY HEARING INCLUDED THE IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES LIKELY TO BE MATERIAL TO THE VERDICT OF THE JURY; AID TO THE JURY'S UNDERSTANDING OF SUCH ISSUES; EXPEDITION OF THE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE JURY AND ASSISTANCE TO THE JUDGE'S MANAGEMENT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

THE JUDGE WAS TO BE ABLE TO DETERMINE QUESTIONS OF LAW DURING THE PREPARATORY HEARING, INCLUDING QUESTIONS ON THE ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE.

MR MATHEWS SAID THAT WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION WAS FIRMLY BEHIND THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROPOSALS, IT WAS FELT TO BE APPROPRIATE TO ALLOW A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THIS IMPORTANT MEASURE.

"AS THE WHITE BILL SOUGHT TO IMPLEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED BY OMELCO RATHER THAN THE ADMINISTRATION," HE SAID.

THE COMMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS ON THE WHITE BILL SHOWED BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE ABOLITION OF COMMITTALS AND THE NEED FOR SOME SORT OF PREPARATORY HEARING PROCEDURE.

HE SAID COMPARISONS WERE MADE WITH THE UK CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 1987 WHICH GAVE A GREATER ELEMENT OF JUDICIAL DISCRETION IN THE APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES THAN DID THE HONG KONG WHITE BILL.

IT WAS FELT THAT IN HONG KONG TOO, A JUDGE, RATHER THAN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO DECIDE WHEN A PREPARATORY HEARING SHOULD TAKE PLACE.

/MR MATHEWS .....

MR MATHEWS SAID CONCERN WAS ALSO EXPRESSED ABOUT THE DEFINITION OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME AND THE EXTENT OF THE OBLIGATIONS ON THE DEFENCE TO DISCLOSE ITS CASE.

"CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WERE DISCUSSED," HE SAID.

"AS A RESULT OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS AMENDMENTS TO CATER FOR THE AREAS OF CONCERN WERE MADE TO THE WHITE BILL."

THE BILL BEFORE THE COUNCIL INTRODUCED A NEW FORM OF COURT PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME.

TURNING TO ANOTHER OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, MR MATHEWS SAID IT ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN ON THE TRIAL OF COMMERCIAL CRIMES BILL 1985 IN THE LIGHT OF THE COMMITTEE'S CONCLUSION THAT THE MODE OF TRIAL FOR COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

(THE 1985 BILL HAD SUGGESTED THAT A JUDGE ASSISTED BY TWO COMMERCIAL ADJUDICATORS, RATHER THAN A JUDGE AND JURY, TRY SUCH CASES).

"THE ADMINISTRATION AGREES THAT TRIAL BY JURY SHOULD REMAIN," MR MATHEWS SAID.

ACCORDINGLY, HE LATER DURING THE SESSION FORMALLY WITHDREW THE 1985 BILL UNDER STANDING ORDER 52.

DEBATE ON THE NEW BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FURTHER EXEMPTIONS FROM JURY SERVICE PROPOSED

\* \* \* \* \*

FOUR MAIN PROBLEMS ARE ADDRESSED BY THE JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR DAVID SAID THE FIRST PROBLEM CONCERNED EXEMPTIONS FROM JURY SERVICE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT SECTION 5 OF THE ORDINANCE EXEMPTED CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PERSONS FROM JURY SERVICE.

"THE PROVISION TO EXEMPT URBAN COUNCILLORS FROM JURY SERVICE WAS MADE IN 1971 WHEN IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THE COUNCILLORS' DUTIES SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THEIR DUTY TO RENDER JURY SERVICE," HE SAID.

/"FURTHERMORE, AS .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988.

- 4 -

"FURTHERMORE, AS CERTAIN DUTIES OF THE URBAN COUNCILLORS ARE OF A JUDICIAL NATURE, SUCH AS THE GRANTING OR REFUSAL OF HAWKER LICENCES, THERE COULD BE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IF THEY WERE NOT EXEMPTED FROM JURY SERVICE.

"MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, HAVING SIMILAR DUTIES, SHOULD BE AFFORDED THE SAME TREATMENT AND BE EXEMPTED.

"THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO TAKEN TO DELETE THE WORD 'ORDINARY' FROM THE TERM 'ORDINARY MEMBER', WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY USED TO DESCRIBE MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AS THERE ARE NO LONGER 'OFFICIAL' MEMBERS ON THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS."

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS ALSO DESIRABLE TO EXEMPT FROM JURY SERVICE PROBATION OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS WORKING IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, AS THE DUTIES OF THESE OFFICERS WERE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

THIS WAS ALSO IN LINE WITH THE CURRENT EXEMPTIONS FOR OFFICERS WORKING IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES FIELD.

THE SECOND PROBLEM AROSE FROM THE FACT THAT LISTS OF JURORS WERE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY THE PUBLIC.

"COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT COMMERCIAL FIRMS ARE USING THESE LISTS AS MAILING LISTS FOR POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS," HE SAID.

"IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO DISCONTINUE PUBLICATION.

"BY VIRTUE OF THIS BILL, THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE JUROR LISTS IS REMOVED BUT THE LISTS MAY BE INSPECTED BY THE PUBLIC AT THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT."

SIR DAVID SAID THE THIRD PROBLEM RELATED TO THE NEED TO UPDATE THE ORDINANCE IN LINE WITH THE RECENT COMPUTERISATION OF JUROR LISTING.

FOR EXAMPLE, WITH THE COMPUTERISATION OF JURY LISTS, IN THE SELECTION OF JURORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORMING A PANEL, POTENTIAL JURORS WERE NO LONGER REFERRED TO BY NAMES BUT BY NUMBERS CORRESPONDING TO THEIR NAMES, AND BALLOT CARDS WOULD NO LONGER BE WRITTEN BUT PRINTED WITH NUMBERS CORRESPONDING TO THE NAMES OF THE JURORS SUMMONED TO FORM A PANEL.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENT AS A RESULT, HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID .....

- 5 -

SIR DAVID SAID THAT, FINALLY, THE EXISTING PROVISION FOR THE PROCEDURE WHEREBY APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM JURY SERVICE WAS MADE TO THE COURT WAS NOT SATISFACTORY AS IT DID NOT PRESCRIBE THE MEANS OF DOING SO.

THE BILL CREATED A NEW SUB-SECTION THAT SET OUT THE PROCEDURE TO BE ADOPTED ON APPLICATION TO THE COURT FOR EXEMPTION FROM JURY SERVICE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LAND LAW BEING TIGHTENED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE CONVEYANCING AND PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WILL CURE SEVERAL MINOR DEFECTS IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR MATHEWS SAID THE SUBJECT WAS EXTREMELY TECHNICAL.

"THE BILL WILL CURE SEVERAL MINOR DEFECTS IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE BUT OTHER CHANGES TO OUR LAND LAW MAY STILL BE NEEDED."

HE NOTED THAT THE HON PETER C. WONG HAD PROPOSED TWO SUCH CHANGES, NAMELY TO THE STATUTORY LIMITATION PERIOD FOR ACTIONS TO RECOVER LAND AND TO THE PROVISION IN THE LAND REGISTRATION ORDINANCE DEALING WITH FLOATING CHANGES.

HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THESE PROPOSALS WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CONVEYANCING LAW FURTHER IMPROVED

\* \* \* \*

THE CONVEYANCING AND PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 HAS INCORPORATED A NUMBER OF USEFUL PROPOSALS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE LAW RELATING TO CONVEYANCING AND PROPERTY IN HONG KONG.

THE HON PETER C. WONG, THE CONVENER OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP FORMED TO STUDY THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, MR WONG SAID THE AD HOC GROUP HAD MET SEVEN TIMES AND HAD HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

AS A RESULT, A NUMBER OF USEFUL AND PRACTICAL AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN AGREED ON.

ONE SUCH AMENDMENT DEALT WITH THE REQUIREMENT FOR A VENDOR TO PRODUCE, IN ORDER TO PROVE HIS TITLE TO THE LAND BEING SOLD, THE CROWN LEASE AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST 25 YEARS BEFORE THE CONTRACT FOR SALE.

MR WONG SAID THAT UNDER CLAUSE 5(A) OF THE BILL, THE PERIOD OF 25 YEARS WOULD BE REDUCED TO 15 YEARS, AND THE REDUCTION WAS WELCOMED BY MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP AS WELL AS BY PRACTISING CONVEYANCERS.

HOWEVER, THE AD HOC GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THE STATUTORY LIMITATION PERIOD FOR ACTION TO RECOVER LAND, WHICH REMAINED AT 20 YEARS, SHOULD BE REDUCED TO 12 YEARS.

HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS RECEPTIVE TO THIS SUGGESTION AND WAS CONSIDERING AMENDING THE LIMITATION ORDINANCE AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY.

MR WONG SAID THAT VENDORS HAD AT TIMES FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO PRODUCE AN ORIGINAL POWER OF ATTORNEY WHERE THE POWER WAS GIVEN SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME BEFORE THE CONVEYANCING TRANSACTION.

HE SAID THAT CLAUSE 5(C) AMENDED THE LAW SO THAT, UNLESS THE CONTRARY INTENTION WAS EXPRESSED, THE VENDOR WAS ONLY OBLIGED TO PRODUCE THE ORIGINAL POWER OF ATTORNEY WHERE IT WAS EXECUTED LESS THAN 15 YEARS BEFORE THE CONTRACT FOR SALE.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT, AS CLAUSE 5(C) MIGHT NOT ACHIEVE THE DESIRED EFFECT, IT WOULD THEREFORE BE AMENDED FURTHER SO THAT THE PRESUMPTION THAT A POWER OF ATTORNEY WAS VALIDLY EXECUTED WAS CONCLUSIVE.

WITH REGARD TO THE EXECUTION OF DEEDS, MR WONG SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BY THE GROUP THAT WITNESSING THE SIGNING OF A DOCUMENT SHOULD NOT BE A LEGAL REQUIREMENT AND THAT A DEED MIGHT BE SIGNED EITHER IN THE NAME OF A CORPORATION OR ITS AUTHORISED AGENT.

/FINALLY, HE .....

FINALLY, HE SAID THAT AS THE DEFINITION OF FLOATING CHARGES IN CLAUSE 18 WAS NOT EXHAUSTIVE AND MIGHT EVEN CREATE CONFUSION, IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT THE PROPOSED DEFINITION BE DELETED AND SIMILAR AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO SECTION 2A(1) OF THE LAND REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

MR WONG THANKED THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN AND THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND VALUABLE COMMENTS, AND HE ALSO THANKED THE LAW SOCIETY FOR ITS UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AMENDMENT OFFERS ADDED PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES  
\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL ENABLING EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO BE MADE FROM THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND IN CASES WHERE TOTAL CLAIMS AGAINST THE EMPLOYER ARE \$5,000 OR LESS WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PURPOSE OF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WAS EXPLAINED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE.

HE SAID THAT THE PRESENT ORDINANCE PROVIDED THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MIGHT MAKE EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND TO AN APPLICANT WHOSE WAGES OR WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE, OR BOTH, WERE DUE AND UNPAID, PROVIDED THAT EITHER A BANKRUPTCY OR WINDING UP PETITION HAD BEEN PRESENTED AGAINST THE EMPLOYER.

HOWEVER, A SECTION IN THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE DID NOT ALLOW THE PRESENTATION OF A BANKRUPTCY PETITION IF A DEBT OR THE TOTAL SUM OF DEBTS WAS \$5,000 OR LESS.

"SINCE APRIL 1985, WHEN THE FUND CAME INTO OPERATION, EIGHT APPLICATIONS INVOLVING 16 EMPLOYEES HAVE HAD TO BE REFUSED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR BECAUSE OF THIS RESTRICTION," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"IF CLAIMS OF \$5,000 OR LESS ARE ACCEPTED, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WILL BE ABOUT 30 SUCH CLAIMS A YEAR, INVOLVING PAYMENT OF ABOUT \$150,000 FROM THE FUND. THIS REPRESENTS LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF ANNUAL PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND.

"CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL SEEKS TO AMEND SECTION 16 OF THE ORDINANCE TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO MAKE EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE PREVENTED FROM PRESENTING A BANKRUPTCY PETITION BECAUSE OF THE RESTRICTION IN SECTION 6(1)(A) OF THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE."

MR BRIDGE SAID THE AMENDMENT HAD THE SUPPORT OF BOTH THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND THE FUND BOARD.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

- 8 -

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY TO CONFER HONORARY DEGREES PROPOSED

\* \* \* \*

THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WERE GIVEN SECOND READINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READINGS OF THE BILLS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, EXPLAINED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WERE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORISED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ORDINANCES TO CONFER HONORARY DEGREES.

THE CITY POLYTECHNIC ALSO HAD THIS AUTHORITY IN ITS ORDINANCE ALTHOUGH IT HAD NOT YET MADE USE OF IT.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOT YET ANY SUCH PROVISION IN THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC ORDINANCE OR THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE ORDINANCE.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE TWO BILLS WAS TO PUT RIGHT THIS OMISSION BY GIVING THESE TWO COLLEGES SPECIFIC AUTHORITY TO CONFER HONORARY DEGREES.

ALTHOUGH THE ORDINANCES ALREADY AUTHORISED THE COLLEGES TO CONFER "ACADEMIC AWARDS" AND "HONORARY AWARDS", IT WAS SUGGESTED WHETHER THE TERM "AWARDS" INCLUDED "DEGREES" WAS NOT CLEAR, HE NOTED.

THE BILLS WERE INTENDED TO CLEAR UP ANY UNCERTAINTY ON THIS POINT.

DEBATE ON THE BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ASSOCIATION'S SERVICES

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION IS PROPOSING TO EXPAND ITS SERVICES TO A WIDER SPECTRUM, DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 -- A PRIVATE BILL -- DR CHIU SAID THE EXPANSION WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF A CHANGING SOCIETY AND TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY BETTER.

"THE SERVICES IT PLANS TO EMBRACE INCLUDE REHABILITATION AND CONVALESCENT SERVICES AS WELL AS MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS IN GENERAL, SURGICAL AND GERIATRICAL INSTITUTIONS," HE SAID.

/IN KEEPING .....

IN KEEPING WITH ITS LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THE ASSOCIATION WAS ALSO PREPARED TO BUILD UP AND MAINTAIN ITS INTERNATIONAL LINKAGE AND TO EXTEND ITS ACTIVITIES TO OVERSEAS COUNTRIES, HE ADDED.

DR CHIU EXPLAINED THAT THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION WAS INCORPORATED BY ORDINANCE IN 1948 WITH ITS MAIN PURPOSE TO COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS IN HONG KONG.

IN 1980, WHEN TUBERCULOSIS WAS UNDER CONTROL, THE ASSOCIATION EXTENDED ITS ACTIVITIES TO COVER ALL DISEASES OF THE CHEST AND HEART.

THE BILL WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE SERVICES THAT THE ASSOCIATION NOW PROPOSED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PRIVATE BILL ON BAHA'I FAITH INTRODUCED

\* \* \* \* \*

A PRIVATE BILL WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHA'IS OF HONG KONG, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHA'IS OF HONG KONG INCORPORATION BILL 1988, THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE ASSEMBLY WAS A BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS BODY OF HONG KONG AND WAS RECOGNISED BY THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT AS A CHARITABLE BODY.

HE SAID THE BAHA'I FAITH HAD EXISTED IN HONG KONG FOR ABOUT 40 YEARS WITH THE FIRST LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY FORMED IN 1952 AND REGISTERED UNDER THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE.

THE LOCAL BAHA'I COMMUNITY WAS CURRENTLY ADMINISTERED BY THE "NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY" WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF ABOUT 800, ALL BUT A SMALL HANDFUL BEING LOCAL PEOPLE.

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AND ASSETS VESTED IN THE EXISTING NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF BAHA'IS OF HONG KONG TO THE NEWLY INCORPORATED ASSEMBLY.

HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE ASSEMBLY, THE BAHA'I FAITH BEGAN IN PERSIA IN 1863 AND WAS NOW AN INDEPENDENT RELIGION WITH APPROXIMATELY 4.5 MILLION MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

HE SAID THIS BILL FOLLOWED THE STANDARD PATTERN OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE INCORPORATION OF A CHARITY, CLUB OR PRIVATE INSTITUTION.

IT PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND INCORPORATION OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY INCLUDING ITS OBJECTS AND POWERS, AND TRANSFERS OF THE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE EXISTING ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING THE EMPLOYMENT OF ITS STAFF, TO THE NEW ASSEMBLY.

IT ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE EXISTING ASSEMBLY ON THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BILL.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHANGE OF DATE FOR TABLING ACCOUNTS PROPOSED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 IS TO CHANGE THE DATE BY WHICH THE AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND SHOULD BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT THE ORDINANCE REQUIRED THIS TO BE DONE BY SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR.

"THIS HAS PROVED TO BE IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE THIS DATE ALWAYS FALLS WITHIN THE ANNUAL RECESS," HE EXPLAINED.

"TO AVOID SPECIFIC APPROVAL HAVING TO BE SOUGHT EACH YEAR FOR LATE TABLING, THE BILL PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE DATE TO DECEMBER 31."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWO BILLS PASSED

\* \* \*

TWO BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE CONVEYANCING AND PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AND THE GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

SIX OTHER BILLS WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

/THESE BILLS .....

THESE BILLS WERE THE JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES BILL 1988, THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

IN ADDITION, TWO PRIVATE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED AFTER THEY WERE BOTH READ A SECOND TIME.

THE SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHAI'S OF HONG KONG INCORPORATION BILL 1988 WAS INTRODUCED BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WAS INTRODUCED BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG.

THE COUNCIL ALSO PASSED TWO BUDGET-RELATED MOTIONS, MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX ORDINANCE AND THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### MEASURES TO CURB LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASING TREND OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES AND HAS DRAWN UP MEASURES TO TACKLE IT, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN, MR LEUNG SAID DRIVERS OF LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES WITH LESS THAN THREE YEARS EXPERIENCE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE TARGET GROUP.

"TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS SHOW THAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT RATE IS THREE TIMES HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE MORE EXPERIENCED DRIVERS," HE SAID.

"IN VIEW OF THIS, IT IS INTENDED TO STOP GIVING NEW PRIVATE CAR DRIVING LICENCE HOLDERS AUTOMATIC APPROVAL TO DRIVE A LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE.

"INSTEAD, SUCH APPROVAL WILL NOT BE GIVEN UNTIL THE DRIVER HAS OBTAINED A LICENCE FOR THREE YEARS."

MR LEUNG ALSO STATED THAT THE INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES WOULD BE TIGHTENED UP.

/"AS A .....

"AS A FIRST STEP, ALL SIX-YEAR-OLD LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES BELOW 1.9 TONNES, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR OVER 80 PER CENT OF THE LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE FLEET, WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PRIVATE CAR INSPECTION SCHEME FOR ANNUAL INSPECTION," HE SAID.

"THE SECOND STEP WILL BE TO INSPECT ALL GOODS VEHICLES ANNUALLY WHEN THE NEW KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRE IS FULLY OPERATIONAL IN 1991."

BUT THERE WAS NO INTENTION AT PRESENT TO CHANGE THE LAW TO INCREASE PENALTIES AS EXISTING PENALTIES FOR RECKLESS DRIVING WERE ALREADY QUITE SEVERE.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT UNDER THE EXISTING ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, A PERSON WHO HAD COMMITTED THE OFFENCE WAS LIABLE ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT TO A FINE OF \$20,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE YEARS, AND ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$10,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS.

WHERE RECKLESS DRIVING CAUSED THE DEATH OF ANOTHER PERSON, THE PENALTIES WOULD INCREASE TO A FINE OF \$25,000 AND FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT, AND ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$12,500 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

IN ADDITION TO THESE PENALTIES, THE OFFENDER SHOULD BE DISQUALIFIED IN A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION, AND MIGHT BE DISQUALIFIED IN A FIRST OFFENCE IN SERIOUS CASES.

ALSO, UNDER THE DRIVING OFFENCE POINTS SCHEME, A PERSON FOUND GUILTY OF RECKLESS DRIVING WOULD ATTRACT THE MAXIMUM 10 POINTS.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THESE MEASURES WERE DISCUSSED LAST MONTH WITH THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND WERE SUPPORTED FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### NEW BORDER CROSSING WILL SOLVE CONGESTION PROBLEMS

\* \* \* \* \*

A NEW BORDER CROSSING POINT AT LOK MA CHAU, WHICH WILL OPEN EARLY NEXT YEAR, WILL SOLVE CONGESTION PROBLEMS AT VEHICULAR BORDER CROSSING POINTS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON RICHARD LAI, MR BARNES SAID THE CROSSING POINT WAS BEING BUILT JOINTLY WITH THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES AND WOULD HAVE A CAPACITY OF 40,000 VEHICLES A DAY.

/"BORDER OPENING .....

"BORDER OPENING HOURS AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ARE REVIEWED REGULARLY BY A JOINT WORKING GROUP CONSISTING OF HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN OFFICIALS.

"ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE A 24-HOUR SERVICE AT THE MAN KAM TO BORDER CROSSING POINT, ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE AS NECESSARY, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH SIDES," HE SAID.

"THE MAN KAM TO TERMINAL WAS FIRST SET UP IN JULY 1980 WHEN THE OPENING HOURS WERE FROM 7.30 AM TO 6 PM.

"THE CLOSING TIME WAS EXTENDED TO 8 PM ON OCTOBER 1, 1984 BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY TRAFFIC THROUGH THE CROSSING POINT.

"CURRENTLY AN AVERAGE OF 8,940 VEHICLES AND 2,481 PASSENGERS USE THE CROSSING POINT EVERY DAY ALTHOUGH BOTH FIGURES ARE GREATER ON PEAK DAYS."

MR BARNES NOTED THAT THE TRAFFIC WAS NOT CONSTANT THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND THERE WERE IDENTIFIABLE PEAKS IN THE MORNINGS AND IN THE AFTERNOONS, ADDING THAT TRAFFIC WAS USUALLY LIGHT AFTER 7 PM.

"INEVITABLY THERE ARE SOME DELAYS AT THE CROSSING POINT AT PEAK HOURS, BUT CONGESTION IS NOT NOW AS SERIOUS AS IT WAS IN THE AUTUMN OF LAST YEAR.

"THE SITUATION AT MAN KAM TO WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### SOCIAL WORKER SHORTAGE UNDER STUDY

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WORK TRAINING IS CONSULTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE ON ALL ASPECTS OF SOCIAL WORK TRAINING, BUT IS NOT ITSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR MANPOWER POLICY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR CHAMBERS SAID: "THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMULATING MANPOWER POLICIES AND PLANS RESTS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND MYSELF."

AS TO THE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS, HE SAID THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE HAD RECENTLY ASSESSED THE EXTENT OF THE SHORTAGE AND WAS CONSIDERING THE INTRODUCTION OF A NUMBER OF LONG AND SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM.

/"THE ADVISORY .....

"THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS MEASURES PROPOSED AT A MEETING YESTERDAY," HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS EXPLAINED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE ADVICE OF BOTH BODIES AFTER THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RISK OF CONTAMINATED SEAFOOD REACHING MARKET SMALL

\* \* \* \* \*

THE RISK OF CONTAMINATED SEAFOOD REACHING THE MARKET IS SMALL AND THE PUBLIC WOULD BE WARNED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CASES THAT ARE DETECTED, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE GREATEST POTENTIAL HEALTH RISK TO THE PUBLIC WAS THE CONSUMPTION OF POLLUTED SHELLFISH SUCH AS OYSTERS, MUSSELS AND CLAMS, WHICH COULD ACCUMULATE HARMFUL SUBSTANCES DUE TO THEIR FILTER FEEDING HABITS.

"THE COLLECTION OF SHELLFISH FROM POLLUTED WATERS SUCH AS VICTORIA HARBOUR, ABERDEEN, KWAI CHUNG AND TSUEN WAN IS THEREFORE PROHIBITED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT MONITORS THE CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF FISH AND SHELLFISH AND SAMPLES ARE REGULARLY TAKEN FROM RETAIL OUTLETS FOR ANALYSIS.

"IF ANY SEAFOOD IS FOUND TO BE UNSAFE FOR CONSUMPTION, ACTION IS TAKEN UNDER THIS ORDINANCE TO PREVENT ITS SALE AND, IF NECESSARY, TO PROSECUTE THE VENDOR.

"AS REGARDS THE MONITORING OF SEAFOOD CONTAMINATED BY RED TIDES, A SPECIAL PROCEDURE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY WHICH SAMPLES OF SEAFOOD AND SEAWATER ARE TAKEN FOR TESTING FOR TOXICITY," HE CONTINUED.

"FISH KILLED BY TOXIC RED TIDES ARE SEIZED AND DESTROYED.

"SPECIAL INSPECTIONS OF RETAIL OUTLETS ARE ALSO CONDUCTED TO DETECT ANY SUSPECTED FOOD ITEMS."

MR CHAMBERS NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN EMPHASISED IN PAST MEDIA CAMPAIGNS THAT SHELLFISH SHOULD ALWAYS BE PROPERLY COOKED.

/"AS A .....

"AS A SHORT-TERM MEASURE, CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE COMPULSORY ARTIFICIAL PURIFICATION OF LOCAL SHELLFISH.

"LONGER TERM ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF FURTHER SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES AND CONTROLS ON THE DISPOSAL OF LIVESTOCK WASTE AND INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENT SHOULD ALSO REDUCE THE RISK."

MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF POLLUTION OF HONG KONG'S COASTAL WATERS, SEAFOOD MIGHT BE CONTAMINATED BY THREE TYPES OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCE.

THEY ARE PATHOGENIC BACTERIA AND VIRUSES WHICH ARE PRESENT IN HUMAN SEWAGE AND LIVESTOCK WASTE; ALGAL TOXINS PRODUCED BY CERTAIN TYPES OF PHYTOPLANKTON WHICH MAY BLOOM AND FORM RED TIDES BECAUSE OF NUTRIENT POLLUTION; AND HEAVY METALS SUCH AS ORGANOCHLORINES AND OTHER CHEMICALS ORIGINATING FROM INDUSTRIAL WASTE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### CONTROLS ON IMPORTED MEATS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PRESENT CONTROLS ON THE SALE OF IMPORTED COOKED MEATS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ADEQUATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PURPOSES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE SALE OF IMPORTED COOKED MEATS WAS GOVERNED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

"THERE ARE NO STATUTORY CONTROLS, HOWEVER, ON COOKED FOOD ITEMS BROUGHT INTO HONG KONG BY TRAVELLERS FROM CHINA OR ELSEWHERE FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL CONSUMPTION," HE SAID.

"THE QUANTITY OF COOKED FOOD ITEMS CARRIED IN BY INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLERS IS USUALLY SMALL AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE ITEMS ARE BEING RE-SOLD AFTER ENTRY.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT ARE KEEPING THE SITUATION UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND, IN CASES OF DOUBT, FOOD ITEMS CAN BE REFERRED TO FOOD INSPECTORS FOR EXAMINATION."

MR CHAMBERS ALSO SAID THAT SHOULD THERE BE ANY EVIDENCE, IN FUTURE, THAT ATTEMPTS WERE BEING MADE TO CIRCUMVENT PROPER PROCEDURES FOR THE SALE OF IMPORTED COOKED MEATS, THE NEED FOR TIGHTER CONTROLS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE WOULD OF COURSE BE CONSIDERED.

"THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH ACTION IS WARRANTED AT THE PRESENT TIME," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CODES ENSURE SCHOOL GRANTS ARE SPENT AS INTENDED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PURPOSE OF THE CODES OF AID, WHICH SET OUT THE CONDITIONS ON WHICH SCHOOLS MAY RECEIVE GOVERNMENT GRANTS, IS TO ENSURE THAT GRANTS ARE SPENT AS INTENDED, THAT IS, TO MAINTAIN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THIS WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SZETO WAH, WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER AIDED SCHOOLS HAD TO OBSERVE THE CODE OF AID AND, IN CASES OF CONTRAVENTION BY AIDED SCHOOLS, WHAT ACTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

"IF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A SCHOOL IS NOT COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF A CODE OF AID IT INVESTIGATES THE MATTER AND DISCUSSES IT WITH THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES.

"IF A SCHOOL PERSISTED IN DISREGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT COULD REDUCE OR WITHDRAW ANY GRANT MADE TO THAT SCHOOL, BUT IN PRACTICE THIS HAS NEVER PROVED NECESSARY," MR BRIDGE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES RECOGNISED

\* \* \* \* \*

IN REVISING THE STUDENT TRAVEL SUBSIDY SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ROSANNA TAM, MR BRIDGE SAID A PROVISION FOR FOUR ADDITIONAL TRIPS EACH WEEK WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW SCHEME TO ASSIST STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN SUCH ACTIVITIES.

"THIS LEVEL OF PROVISION FOR ADDITIONAL TRIPS WAS CONSIDERED REASONABLE BY THE SIX SECONDARY SCHOOLS COUNCILS THAT WE CONSULTED," HE SAID.

"MANY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DO OF COURSE TAKE PLACE AFTER SCHOOL HOURS ON SCHOOL PREMISES, AND IN SUCH CASES NO ADDITIONAL TRAVEL IS INVOLVED."

RECOUNTING THE PROCESS OF REVISING THE SCHEME, MR BRIDGE SAID A MAJOR REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED IN 1985 AND 1986, FOLLOWING CRITICISMS OF THE SCHEME BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT.

THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE SCHEME SHOULD INCLUDE RECREATIONAL TRIPS WAS FULLY CONSIDERED IN THAT REVIEW.

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WERE ALSO CONSULTED, HE SAID.

FOLLOWING THIS CONSULTATION, THE OMELCO EDUCATION PANEL CONSIDERED THE ISSUE ON DECEMBER 20, 1985, AND AGREED THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EXCLUDING RECREATIONAL TRIPS FROM THE SUBSIDY.

"HAVING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE ADVICE OF THE EDUCATION PANEL, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT, WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1, 1986, RECREATIONAL TRIPS SHOULD CEASE TO BE SUBSIDISED," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"THE SUBSIDY WAS ACCORDINGLY WITHDRAWN FROM JOURNEYS MADE ON SUNDAYS AND IN THE MAJOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS."

DURING THE MOST RECENT REVIEW OF THE SCHEME, THE OMELCO EDUCATION PANEL, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, SIX SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCILS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF STUDENTS WERE CONSULTED, MR BRIDGE SAID.

THESE BODIES WERE FELT TO BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE BODIES TO CONSULT SINCE THE PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW WAS TO RELATE THE SCHEME MORE CLOSELY TO STRICTLY EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

MR BRIDGE STRESSED THE DECISION NOT TO SUBSIDISE RECREATIONAL TRAVEL HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN IN 1986.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS NEARING COMPLETION

\* \* \* \* \*

THE REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS, A TASK OF SOME MAGNITUDE, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HELMUT SOHMEN, SIR DAVID SAID IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO EXAMINE OVER 200 APPEAL PROVISIONS IN MORE THAN 90 SEPARATE ORDINANCES.

"WE HAVE ALSO HAD TO ANALYSE, IN CONSULTATION WITH MANY DIFFERENT BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS, THE DIVERSE EXPERIENCE OF APPEALS MADE UNDER THESE PROVISIONS," HE SAID.

"IN EACH CASE, THE REVIEW HAS SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THE PROCEDURES ARE ADEQUATE AND, IF NOT, WHETHER THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR CHANGE.

/"IT HAS .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 18 -

"IT HAS LOOKED NOT JUST AT APPEALS TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BUT ALSO AT APPEALS TO THE GOVERNOR, TO SPECIALIST TRIBUNALS AND TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS."

SIR DAVID SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GENERAL CONCLUSIONS HAD YET TO BE DRAWN, IT WAS CLEAR THAT, IN MOST CASES, THE EXISTING APPEALS PROCEDURES WERE WORKING WELL.

"I THINK IT UNLIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT ANY ROOT AND BRANCH CHANGE IS IMMEDIATELY NECESSARY.

"HOWEVER, SOME AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WHERE, SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, NEW APPEALS PROCEDURES MAY BE WARRANTED," HE SAID.

DR SOHMEN HAD ASKED WHAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS WHICH HE SAID THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD PROMISED WOULD RECEIVE EARLY ATTENTION WHEN HE LAST COMMENTED ON THE ISSUE IN THE DEBATE ON THE BANKING BILL 1986 IN MAY OF THAT YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING ALLOWS BETTER USE OF RESOURCES

\* \* \* \* \*

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICES (NPO) SCHEME ALLOWS BETTER USE OF POLICE RESOURCES AND MORE POLICE COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR BARNES SAID THE NPO SCHEME ALLOWED POLICE RESOURCES TO BE DEPLOYED EFFECTIVELY.

HE SAID THE NUMBER OF CRIMES REPORTED HAD LEVELLED AND THERE HAD BEEN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THOSE DETECTED SINCE THE SCHEME WAS REVISED.

"FEWER REPORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO NPO BUT MORE HAVE BEEN MADE TO PATROLLING OFFICERS," HE SAID.

THERE WERE 144 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICES: 57 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, 41 IN KOWLOON, 36 ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND 10 IN THE OUTLYING ISLANDS. A FURTHER 19 WERE EITHER PLANNED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

MR BARNES SAID THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1974 WITH THE AIM OF FOSTERING CLOSER TIES BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY IN FIGHTING CRIME.

/IT WAS .....

IT WAS STRENGTHENED IN 1984 WHEN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CO-ORDINATORS, POLICE SERGEANTS TRAINED IN PUBLIC RELATIONS, WERE INTRODUCED.

THE NPO SCHEME WORKED THROUGH THE POLICE CO-ORDINATORS, WHO WERE NORMALLY BASED AT NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICES AND WERE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS AT SET TIMES.

ALL NPO WERE INCLUDED IN THE BEATS OF THEIR PARTICULAR POLICE DIVISION AND WERE MANNED REGULARLY BY A PATROLLING CONSTABLE, USUALLY FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES IN EVERY HOUR.

THE NPO WOULD BE CLOSED WHEN THE CONSTABLE WAS AWAY ON PATROL BUT MOST HAD A PUBLIC TELEPHONE FOR 999 CALLS.

HOWEVER, MANNING OF NPO MIGHT VARY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE NPO AT THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE ON HONG KONG ISLAND WAS OPEN AS LONG AS THE STAR FERRY WAS OPERATING.

MR BARNES SAID THAT THE OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNITS WERE POPULAR WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS AND MANY HAD MISGIVINGS WHEN THE NEW SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED.

"BUT THERE ARE NOW MORE NPO THAN IN 1984 AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CO-ORDINATORS HAVE ESTABLISHED VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITIES WHICH THEY SERVE," HE SAID.

"THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE CONSIDERS THAT THE PUBLIC HAVE ACCEPTED THE CHANGES THE APPRECIATE THAT THE NEW SCHEME ALLOWS POLICE RESOURCES TO BE DEPLOYED MORE EQUITABLY AND EFFECTIVELY."

MR BARNES SAID THE NPO SCHEME WAS REVIEWED AT THE END OF 1984 AND AGAIN IN LATE 1987.

IN 1984, THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT THE REORGANISATION HAD ALLOWED BETTER USE OF POLICE RESOURCES; GENERAL CRITICISM BY THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN MINOR; AND THAT EXTERNAL TELEPHONES SHOULD BE FITTED FOR THE PUBLIC TO CALL 999 WHEN THE NPO WAS CLOSED.

"THE 1987 REVIEW CONFIRMED THAT THE NPO SCHEME IS A MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF POLICE MANPOWER, PUTTING MORE OFFICERS ON THE STREETS AND GIVING MORE EVEN POLICE COVERAGE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"SINCE 1984 SLIGHTLY MORE ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC."

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS TO REVISE THE NPO SCHEME ALTHOUGH IT WAS INTENDED THAT IT SHOULD EXPAND TO KEEP PACE WITH THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 20 -

MEASURES TO MINIMISE LANDFILL IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT

\* \* \* \* \*

MEASURES ARE AT HAND TO MINIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CAUSED BY THE REGIONAL LANDFILL TO BE SET UP IN THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU WONG-FAT, MR CHAMBERS EXPLAINED THAT HONG KONG'S LONG TERM STRATEGY FOR WASTE DISPOSAL INCLUDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE REGIONAL LANDFILLS IN THE WEST (WENT), NORTHEAST (NENT) AND SOUTHEAST (SENT) NEW TERRITORIES.

THE THREE LANDFILLS WOULD BE AMONG THE LARGEST AND MOST TECHNICALLY ADVANCED OF THEIR KIND IN THE WORLD.

"IN COMMON WITH ALL MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS WERE CARRIED OUT ON BOTH WENT AND NENT BEFORE ANY COMMITMENT WAS MADE TO DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDIES," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"SUBSEQUENTLY, RIGOROUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS WERE UNDERTAKEN TO DEFINE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION STRATEGIES WHICH MEET ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA."

THE MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS OF LANDFILL PROJECTS WERE THE CONTAINMENT, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF LEACHATES, THE CONTROL OF GAS EMISSIONS AND NOISE NUISANCE.

"A WELL ENGINEERED LEACHATE CONTAINMENT SYSTEM WILL BE PROVIDED AT WENT, COMPRISING AN IMPERMEABLE LINER AND DRAINAGE LAYERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINER," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"THIS SYSTEM WILL PREVENT LEACHATE FROM SEEPING THROUGH TO THE GROUNDWATER AND INTO DEEP BAY.

"THE LEACHATE THUS COLLECTED WILL EVENTUALLY BE PUMPED TO THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES SUBMARINE OUTFALL FOR DISPOSAL INTO THE URMSTON ROAD."

BEFORE THIS PROJECT WAS COMMISSIONED, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE LEACHATE WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PILLAR POINT SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS FOR DISPOSAL.

TURNING TO ODOUR PROBLEMS AND HAZARD OF GAS MIGRATION, MR CHAMBERS SAID A SERIES OF LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION WELLS WOULD BE PROVIDED TO PUMP GAS, INITIALLY FOR FLARING AND LATER FOR UTILISATION.

"IN ADDITION, THE DAILY COVERING OF REFUSE AND THE FILLING-IN OF CONTAINED CELLS WILL MINIMISE POTENTIAL NUISANCE FROM DUST AND VERMIN," HE SAID.

/"WHEEL WASHING .....

"WHEEL WASHING AND VEHICLE CLEANSING FACILITIES WILL HELP TO KEEP ROADS CLEAN AND REDUCE ODOUR FROM DELIVERY VEHICLES."

MR CHAMBERS ALSO ASSURED MEMBERS THAT ALL PRACTICABLE STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO CONTROL NOISE CAUSED BY VEHICLES TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE FACILITIES.

"NEW ACCESS ROADS WITH NOISE BARRIERS WILL BE BUILT TO SERVICE THE LANDFILLS AND RESTRICTIONS WILL BE PLACED ON HOURS OF OPERATION," HE SAID.

"WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME LOCAL WASTE COMING DIRECT IN REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES, ALL WASTE WILL BE CONTAINERISED.

"MOREOVER, HALF OF THE DAILY INTAKE OF WENT WILL BE BARGED IN BY SEA, THUS REDUCING OVERALL VEHICLE MOVEMENTS."

MR CHAMBERS SAID IT WAS NOT PROPOSED AT THIS STAGE TO INTRODUCE A SPECIAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR LANDFILL SITES, ALTHOUGH PROVISION EXISTED UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE TO PUBLISH CODES OF PRACTICE ON ALL ASPECTS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT.

"ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS WILL, OF COURSE, BE ENFORCED THROUGH CONTRACT CONDITIONS," HE SAID.

"ALSO, CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE FUTURE CARRYING OUT OF LANDFILL OPERATIONS BY SPECIALISED CONTRACTORS, WHICH WOULD ALLOW EVEN GREATER CONTROL TO BE EXERCISED THROUGH PERFORMANCE CONTRACT."

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRANSPORT STUDY TO DECIDE VIABILITY OF RAIL LINKS

\* \* \* \* \*

FINDINGS OF THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY WILL HELP DECIDE THE RAIL LINKS BETWEEN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES AND THE URBAN AREA, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR LEUNG SAID UNTIL THE FINDINGS OF THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY WERE KNOWN, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE A FIRM VIEW AS TO WHETHER ANY EXTENSION OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT TO THE URBAN AREA WOULD BE VIABLE OR WHICH WOULD BE THE PREFERRED ALIGNMENT.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 22 -

THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION CARRIED OUT A CONSULTANT STUDY ON THE POSSIBLE RAIL LINKS BETWEEN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES AND THE URBAN AREA AND SUBMITTED THE REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

IN ITS SUBMISSION, THE CORPORATION HAD INDICATED THAT NONE OF THE THREE LINKS EXAMINED, NAMELY TUEN MUN TO TSUEN WAN, YUEN LONG TO TSUEN WAN, AND YUEN LONG TO TAI WO (IN TAI PO), WAS VIABLE ON A STAND-ALONE BASIS.

HE SAID IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE LIKELY ENHANCEMENT TO THE HEAVY AND LIGHT RAIL SYSTEMS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE YUEN LONG TO TAI WO LINK WOULD BE A VIABLE OPTION, ADDING AS IT MIGHT MORE THAN 50,000 PASSENGERS TO THE SYSTEM PER DAY IN THE MID-1990'S.

THE CORPORATION HAD ALSO RECOGNISED THAT THERE WERE MANY FACTORS WHICH COULD AFFECT THE FINAL CHOICE OF A RAIL LINK AND HAD STRESSED THAT IT HAD NOT ELIMINATED FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTES.

MR LEUNG SAID: "GIVEN THAT THE CORPORATION'S STUDY CONCLUSIONS ARE BASED MAINLY ON THE ENGINEERING AND FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE VARIOUS LINKS, GOVERNMENT HAS TO CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED IN THE LIGHT OF OVERALL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, AS EXPLAINED IN APRIL 1987 TO THE CORPORATION.

"EVALUATION IS NOW BEING DONE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY WHICH EXAMINES ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING THE PRESENT AND FUTURE TRAVEL PATTERNS, BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY, DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING DEVELOPMENT, THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT ALONG VARIOUS ALIGNMENTS, THE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT NETWORK AND RELATED SOCIAL ASPECTS.

"PROGRESS HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY SO FAR AND WE HOPE TO RECEIVE PRELIMINARY RESULTS IN AUGUST THIS YEAR."

- - - - 0 - - - -

/23 .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 23 -

MAINLAND OFFICIAL GIVES ASSURANCE ON POLICE JOBS

\* \* \* \* \*

A HIGH-RANKING CHINESE OFFICIAL HAS ASSURED THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR RAYMON ANNING, THAT JOBS OF POLICE OFFICERS, INCLUDING EXPATRIATES, ARE SECURE AFTER 1997.

THE REASSURANCE WAS GIVEN BY MR LU PING, VICE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE COUNCIL'S HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE, DURING MR ANNING'S RECENT 10-DAY VISIT TO CHINA.

"THE MEETING WITH MR LU LASTED OVER AN HOUR AND WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND VERY REASSURING," MR ANNING TOLD THE POLICE NEWSPAPER, OFFBEAT, IN AN INTERVIEW.

"HE WENT TO GREAT PAINS TO ASSURE ME OF HIS GREAT REGARD FOR THE FORCE, OF ITS REPUTATION FOR EFFICIENCY AND THE HIGH STANDARD OF SECURITY IN HONG KONG."

IT WAS WHILE DISCUSSING THE POSITION OF THE FORCE RELATIVE TO THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD UP TO 1997 AND THEREAFTER DURING THE TERM OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT THAT MR LU DREW ATTENTION TO THE JOINT AGREEMENT AND ITS SPECIAL REFERENCES TO THE GUARANTEE OF JOBS AND PENSIONS OF POLICE OFFICERS FOR AT LEAST HALF A CENTURY BEYOND THE HAND-OVER DATE.

"HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD HOW IMPORTANT THE FORCE WAS IN MAINTAINING STABILITY DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AS MANY OFFICERS AS POSSIBLE WOULD STAY ON AFTER 1997 TO SERVE THE SAR GOVERNMENT," MR ANNING WENT ON.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE FUTURE OF EXPATRIATE OFFICERS, MR ANNING SAID BOTH HAD AGREED THAT THE "MIX" HAD SERVED THE COMMUNITY WELL IN THE PAST AND MR LU PING FORESAW A ROLE FOR EXPATRIATE OFFICERS IN A SIMILAR FASHION AFTER 1997.

"MR LU ALSO TOUCHED ON THE STATIONING OF ELEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY IN HONG KONG FOR PURPOSES OF NATIONAL DEFENCE AND REASSURED ME THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INTERFERENCE BY THEM IN INTERNAL SECURITY OF THE WORKINGS OF THE POLICE FORCE WHICH WOULD BE A MATTER FOR THE SAR GOVERNMENT ALONE," MR ANNING POINTED OUT.

OPERATIONALLY, ONE OF THE MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WAS THE CURRENT HIGH RATE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. STATISTICS AND TRENDS WERE PASSED ON AND THE CO-OPERATION OF THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES WAS SOUGHT IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM.

"INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, AS AT THE TIME OF THIS INTERVIEW THE NUMBERS HAVE DROPPED, BUT IT'S FAR TOO SOON TO CONFIRM THIS TREND," MR ANNING SAID.

CONVERTED BUTTERFLY PISTOLS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED - A PROBLEM EQUALLY EXPERIENCED ACROSS THE BORDER - TOGETHER WITH THE PROBLEM OF EXPLOSIVES EMANATING FROM CHINA AND DISCOVERED IN CONNECTION WITH FISH BOMB CASES IN HONG KONG WATERS.

/MR ANNING.....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 24 -

MR ANNING SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE REGARDING THESE ISSUES AND THAT DETAILS HAD EMERGED THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS OF CORRESPONDENCE.

SO FAR AS NARCOTICS WERE CONCERNED, MR ANNING SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT SINCE CHINA HAD COMMENCED ITS OPEN DOOR POLICY IT WAS BEGINNING TO FIND A TRAFFICKING PROBLEM INVOLVING OVERSEAS VISITORS, INCLUDING SOME HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT DRUGS ARE TRANSITTING CHINA AND THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THEY ARE DESTINED FOR, OR ARE COMING FROM HONG KONG. THUS WE HAVE A JOINT INTEREST IN OBTAINING AS MUCH INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY AS POSSIBLE. AFTER ALL IT COULD LEAD TO US UNCOVERING TRAFFICKING RINGS OR MANUFACTURERS HERE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY HAD BEEN ON HIS AGENDA, MR ANNING SAID THE SUBJECT WAS ALWAYS RAISED AS HONG KONG BANKNOTES COUNTERFEITED HERE COULD FIND A MARKET INSIDE THE PRC WHERE, PERHAPS, THEY WERE LESS EASILY RECOGNISED AS FORGERIES DUE TO UNFAMILIARITY.

"IN FACT ON THE MORNING OF OUR VISIT TO HANGZHOU THE HEAD OF CID TOLD US THAT JUST THE PREVIOUS EVENING THEY HAD ARRESTED A SYNDICATE IN POSSESSION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF FORGED HONG KONG \$1,000 BANKNOTES AND MY OFFICERS HAVE TAKEN DETAILS FOR FOLLOW UP ACTION," HE ADDED.

HANGZHOU AND QUILIN WERE NEW PORTS OF CALL FOR THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS PARTY. "THIS IS BECAUSE BOTH CITIES NOW HAVE DIRECT AIR LINKS WITH HONG KONG AND WE FELT IT IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND OPEN UP AVENUES FOR FURTHER CO-OPERATION SHOULD IT BE NEEDED," MR. ANNING EXPLAINED.

ANOTHER FIRST OCCURRED IN PEKING WHERE THE VICE MAYOR, MR SU ZHONGXIANG, ARRANGED FOR A VISIT TO A POLICE STATION. "THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME WE HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT A WORKING POLICE STATION AND IT WAS INTERESTING TO SEE THE DIFFERENCES IN PROCEDURE.

"FOR EXAMPLE WE WERE SHOWN THE HOUSEHOLD REGISTRATION SYSTEM WHEREBY EVERYBODY WHO LIVES IN THE DISTRICT IS REGISTERED, WHICH OBVIOUSLY HELPS IS CRIME PREVENTION."

HOWEVER, MR ANNING HASTENED TO ADD THAT HE DID NOT SEE SUCH A SYSTEM BEING APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG.

"THEIR WHOLE SYSTEM OF LAW AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE IS QUITE DIFFERENT TO OURS AND WHEREAS IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE OTHER WORKS, AND PERHAPS OCCASIONALLY PICK UP A POINT OR TWO, THERE ARE MANY FACETS WHICH WOULD NOT BE PRACTICABLE UNDER OUR JURISDICTION." HE ADDED.

"IN THE PAST WE HAVE BROUGHT BACK ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WE FELT WERE WORTHWHILE EVALUATING AND, OF COURSE, THE REVERSE HAS APPLIED. IT IS ALWAYS USEFUL TO SWAP EXPERIENCE BETWEEN FORCES DESPITE DIFFERENCES IN JURISDICTION."

/MR ANNING .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 25 -

MR ANNING CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS BETWEEN THE FORCE AND PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU AUTHORITIES IN CHINA AND HONG KONG HAD STRUCK JUST THE RIGHT BALANCE.

"SIX MONTHLY INTERVALS ALLOWS TIME TO ACCUMULATE SUFFICIENT DETAILS TO WARRANT THE NEXT VISIT. ANY MORE, AT THIS LEVEL, WOULD BE HARD TO SUSTAIN," HE SAID.

ACCOMPANYING MR ANNING ON THE CHINA VISIT - THE SEVENTH IN THE SERIES SINCE CHINA JOINED THE INTERPOL ORGANISATION - WERE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR CRIME, MR PETER LEE; THE STAFF OFFICER INTERPOL, MR JOHN CHUNG; AND MR ANNING'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT, MR RYAN LAI.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### MAINLAND DRAFTERS INVITED FOR VISITS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS INVITED THE MAINLAND DRAFTERS OF THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE TO MAKE A NUMBER OF FAMILIARISATION VISITS BETWEEN JUNE 20 AND 23 TO BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS WHILE THEY ARE IN HONG KONG, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THESE VISITS IS TO BRIEF THE MAINLAND DRAFTERS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT OUT TOMORROW

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE WILL RELEASE ITS REPORT ON "THE OPERATION AND REGULATION OF THE HONG KONG SECURITIES INDUSTRY" AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR IAN HAY DAVISON, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, AND ITS MEMBERS MR S.L. CHEN, MR LAU WAH-SUM, MR PETER POON, MR CHARLES SOO AND MR PHILIP TOSE.

- - - - -

#### NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL START AT 3 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

COPIES OF THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM FOR ADVANCE READING FROM 1 PM. PLEASE NOTE THAT CONTENTS OF THE REPORT ARE EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL AFTER 3 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 26 -

NEW ISLANDS DB COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SET UP THIS YEAR TO REPLACE THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIC EDUCATION, WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS CONCERNING EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE AND ORGANISE CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

APART FROM DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WILL ALSO ATTEND THE COMMITTEE'S MEETINGS.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT TOMORROW'S MEETING INCLUDE THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 1988 AND THE 1988-89 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS OF ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SOUTH LANTAU AND AN INDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE IN NORTH LAMMA, THE FUNDING FOR FIRE WATCH TEAMS IN THE DISTRICT AND THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR ORGANISING COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWENTY-TWO PASSED MEDICAL EXAMINATION

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT A TOTAL OF 22 CANDIDATES HAVE PASSED PART II (ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONAL USE PAPER) OF THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATION FOR UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS THIS YEAR.

THE PART II EXAMINATION HAS BEEN HELD TWICE THIS YEAR, IN MARCH AND MAY, GIVING CANDIDATES A CHOICE OF EXAMINATION DATES AND ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WHO FAILED IN THE FIRST EXAMINATION TO TAKE THIS PART OF THE EXAMINATION AGAIN IN THE SAME YEAR.

/OF THE .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 27 -

OF THE 25 CANDIDATES WHO TOOK THE PART II LICENTIATE EXAMINATION IN MARCH, 14 HAD PASSED. ANOTHER 12 CANDIDATES, INCLUDING EIGHT WHO FAILED IN MARCH TOOK THE MAY EXAMINATION, AND EIGHT WERE SUCCESSFUL.

ALL THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED THE PART II EXAMINATION THIS YEAR ARE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE PART III EXAMINATION SCHEDULED FOR JULY THIS YEAR.

THE PART III LICENTIATE EXAMINATION IS AN ORAL EXAMINATION ON CANDIDATES' ABILITY TO APPLY PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO CLINICAL PROBLEMS.

EACH CANDIDATE WILL BE EXAMINED IN EACH OF THE THREE DISCIPLINES OF MEDICINE, SURGERY AND OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC LANES ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD TO BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY

COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS COMPETITION PRIZE-GIVING

\* \* \* \* \*

A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THIS YEAR'S COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS PROJECT COMPETITION, ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE SOCIETY, WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE ROYAL GARDEN, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

THE COMPETITION, AIMED AT STIMULATING INTEREST AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS IN VARIOUS COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, HAD ATTRACTED 215 ENTRIES FROM 1,076 STUDENTS OF 35 SCHOOLS.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR SO FAI-CHO, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE SOCIETY, MR YIP SHIU-MING, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY TO BEGIN AT 3.30 PM.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BEGIN AT 3.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE GARDEN ROOMS, THE ROYAL GARDEN, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, KOWLOON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1988

- 28 -

'NO ENTRY' FOR PLB'S IN SHEUNG SHUI  
\* \* \* \* \*

FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 3), NO PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER HANG TAU ROAD IN SHEUNG SHUI AT ITS JUNCTION WITH THE ACCESS ROAD TO KAM TSIN.

THE RESTRICTION WILL BE IN FORCE ROUND THE CLOCK DAILY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING NO-ENTRY BAN ON PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IMPLEMENTED ON THE SECTION OF HANG TAU ROAD NEAR CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE LIFTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC LANES ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD TO BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY  
\* \* \* \* \*

MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED THAT BETWEEN 10 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND 6 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 3) AND BETWEEN 11 PM ON FRIDAY AND 6 AM THE NEXT DAY, A 100-METRE STRETCH OF THE NORTHBOUND SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NEAR KAK TIN WILL BE CLOSED.

MEANWHILE, THE NORTHBOUND SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTH OF HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE, WITH A LENGTH OF ABOUT 120 METRES, WILL ALSO BE CLOSED FROM 10 PM ON JUNE 6 TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY AND FROM 11 PM ON JUNE 7 TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE MEASURES ARE TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK.

- - - - 0 - - - -