



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1981

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PANEL OF VISITORS TO REVIEW HK EDUCATION SYSTEM
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AN INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF VISITORS HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN OVERALL REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S EDUCATION SYSTEM.

ANNOUNCING THE DETAILS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY WERE THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION (DESIGNATE), MR KENNETH TOPLEY, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, MR Q.W. LEE.

MR TOPLEY SAID THE REVIEW WOULD EXAMINE BOTH CURRENT AND PROPOSED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

+DESPITE THE BENEFITS THAT HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN SCHOOL PLACES, THERE REMAINS CONCERN AMONG EDUCATORS AND PARENTS ABOUT WHETHER THE EDUCATION THAT CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING IS THAT BEST SUITED TO DEVELOPING THEIR TALENTS AND ENABLING THEM TO CONTRIBUTE FULLY TO THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY,+ MR TOPLEY EXPLAINED.

MR LEE STATED THAT FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS REVIEWS OF DIFFERENT AREAS OF EDUCATION THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAD PROPOSED THAT A BROAD LOOK SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THE WHOLE OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, FROM AN INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE.

MR HAYE SAID THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WELCOMED THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE BOARD SINCE THE REVIEW WOULD PRESENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE STOCK OF CURRENT TARGETS AND FACILITATE DECISIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF EDUCATION AND THE PACE AT WHICH IT SHOULD DEVELOP.

THE GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT TO HAVE SUCH A REVIEW WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER 1978.

MR TOPLEY SAID THE REVIEW HAD BEEN SET IN TRAIN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH OFFICERS OF THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

+MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE OECD HAVE PROVIDED VALUABLE GUIDANCE AND ADVICE ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE REVIEW, ON THE DETAILED PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED AND ON THE SELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT VISITORS WHO WILL CONDUCT THE REVIEW,+ MR TOPLEY SAID.

THE PANEL OF VISITORS CONSISTS OF:

SIR JOHN LLEWELLYN (CHAIRMAN), FORMER VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF EXETER UNIVERSITY AND DIRECTOR-
GENERAL OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL-

DR GREG HANCOCK, FULL-TIME MEMBER OF THE
SCHOOLS COMMISSION, AUSTRALIA AND CHIEF
EDUCATION OFFICER, AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY
SCHOOLS AUTHORITY-

/DR KARL

DR KARL ROELOFFS, FORMER HEAD OF THE PLANNING DIVISION OF THE FEDERAL GERMAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE OECD EDUCATION COMMITTEE, NOW SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE-

PROFESSOR MICHAEL W. KIRST, PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

MR TOPLEY SAID THE VISITORS, ALTHOUGH INDEPENDENT OF THE OECD, WILL FOLLOW THE WELL-ESTABLISHED PRACTICES OF THE ORGANISATION IN EXAMINING THE EDUCATION SYSTEMS OF ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES.

SUCH REVIEWS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN MANY ADVANCED COUNTRIES, WHICH HAVE WELCOMED INDEPENDENT VIEWS ON THEIR EDUCATION SYSTEMS.

THE VISITORS TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE:

+HAVING REGARD TO APPROVED AND PROPOSED POLICIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG AT ALL LEVELS, TO IDENTIFY THE FUTURE AIMS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, TO CONSIDER THE COHERENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SERVICE, TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHICH MAY REQUIRE STRENGTHENING AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRIORITIES IN ITS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. IN PARTICULAR, ADVICE IS SOUGHT ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE VARIOUS SECTORS AND LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND THE PLACE OF TEACHERS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.+

THE REVIEW WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. THE TIME-TABLE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT THE WHITE PAPER ON PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED THIS SUMMER WHILE THE CURRENT REVIEW OF POST-SECONDARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WILL BE COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR, THEREBY ALLOWING FOR BOTH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE VISITORS' CONSIDERATIONS.

AN INVITATION WILL SHORTLY BE EXTENDED TO INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON ANY ASPECT OF HONG KONG EDUCATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE VISITORS.

AS PART OF THE REVIEW, THE PANEL WILL SPEND ABOUT 14 DAYS IN HONG KONG IN LATE OCTOBER AND EARLY NOVEMBER, IN ORDER TO MEET AND SEEK THE VIEWS OF STUDENT GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS, PARENTS, ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS, TEACHERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON ALL ASPECTS OF EDUCATION.

THE PANEL WILL BE ASSISTED BY SPECIAL ADVISERS REPRESENTING THE TWO MAIN ADVISORY BODIES IN EDUCATION. MR Q.W. LEE HAS HIMSELF BEEN APPOINTED AS THE ADVISER REPRESENTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ONE OF ITS OVERSEAS MEMBERS, MR JAMES MCHUGH. MR TOPLEY EXPLAINED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE PANEL HAD READY ACCESS TO INFORMED VIEWS ON HONG KONG EDUCATION FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN OFFICIAL ONES. THIS WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF AN OPEN FORUM, WHICH THE REVIEW WAS DESIGNED TO BE.

THE VISITORS WILL PROVIDE A LIST OF QUESTIONS EARLY NEXT YEAR TO BE DISCUSSED WITH HONG KONG OFFICIALS AT A SERIES OF FINAL REVIEW MEETINGS IN HONG KONG WHICH WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE NEXT APRIL.

/THE FINAL

THE FINAL REVIEW MEETINGS WILL PROVIDE FOR A LIVELY FORUM OF QUESTIONING AND DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE VISITORS AND HONG KONG PARTICIPANTS IN A CONCLUDING EXAMINATION OF EDUCATION POLICIES. TO ADD FURTHER OBJECTIVITY AND BREADTH TO THIS FINAL ASSESSMENT, OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES SPECIALISING IN DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF EDUCATION WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSION. THESE REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE DRAWN FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE VISITORS IS EXPECTED TO BE SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT IN MID-1982.

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DELEGATES COMING TO DISCUSS TEXTILE MATTERS

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DELEGATES FROM 19 DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES WILL ARRIVE THIS WEEKEND TO ATTEND A ONE-WEEK MEETING, WHICH BEGINS ON MONDAY (JUNE 22), TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA).

HOSTED BY HONG KONG AND ORGANISED BY THE INFORMAL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT), THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR FELIPE JARAMILLO OF COLOMBIA.

THE OPENING ADDRESS TO THE 70 DELEGATES AT THE HARBOUR VIEW HOLIDAY INN HOTEL WILL BE GIVEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR BILL DORWARD.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, MR PETER TSAO, MR T.H. CHAU, COUNSELLOR (HK AFFAIRS) IN GENEVA WILL ALSO ATTEND THE MEETING.

THIS IS THE THIRD OF A SERIES OF MEETINGS BEING HELD BY THE DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO CO-ORDINATE THEIR APPROACH TO THE RENEWAL OF THE MFA, DUE TO EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. THE PREVIOUS ONES WERE HELD IN BOGOTA LAST NOVEMBER AND DJAKARTA IN APRIL.

DELEGATES FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETING ARE COMING FROM ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHINA, COLOMBIA, EGYPT, INDIA, INDONESIA, KOREA, MACAO, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, PERU, PHILIPPINES, ROMANIA, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, THAILAND AND URUGUAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE MEETING AT ACADEMY ROOMS, FIRST FLOOR, HARBOUR VIEW HOLIDAY INN HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON, WILL BE OPEN TO THE PRESS ON MONDAY, JUNE 22 FOR THE OPENING ADDRESS AT 10.00 AM BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR BILL DORWARD.

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YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT. TO ASSIST THE PRESS, A BRIEFING WILL BE GIVEN AT 9.30 AM. TV AND RADIO STATIONS SHOULD SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT BEFORE 9.30 AM.

NO STATEMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED DURING THE WEEK-LONG MEETING. THE COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, MR PETER TSAO, WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS ON HONG KONG'S VIEWS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THE GIS THEATRE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE (5/FL) ON FRIDAY JUNE 26 AT 6.00 PM. HE WILL NOT MAKE A FORMAL STATEMENT.

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HONG KONG TV 'AMONG BEST IN WORLD'
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HONG KONG HAS ONE OF THE BEST TELEVISION SERVICES IN THE WORLD, BROUGHT ABOUT BY HEALTHY COMPETITION, THE GOODWILL AND EXPERTISE OF THE TELEVISION STATIONS, AND THE PERSISTENT APPLICATION OF THE TELEVISION STANDARDS CONTROL LAWS, SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING, MR N. J. V. WATT, AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON LUNCHEON MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT WAS HIS JOB TO SEE THAT THESE CONTROLS CONTINUE TO BE VIGOROUSLY MAINTAINED IN THE FUTURE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC, HE SAID.

FOR CONTROL, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HIM AND HIS STAFF TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARDS STANDARDS GENERALLY AND TO ATTEMPT TO MEASURE CHANGES IN PUBLIC TASTE.

IN LINE WITH THIS, TWO IMPORTANT PROFESSIONALLY CONDUCTED PUBLIC SURVEYS DEALING WITH PUBLIC ATTITUDES TO FILM STANDARDS AND TELEVISION STANDARDS WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT NINE MONTHS, HE SAID.

HE WAS ALSO PLANNING TO SET UP HOME TELEVISION VIEWING PANELS DESIGNED TO REPORT REGULARLY ON NEW PROGRAMMES AND ADVERTISING TRENDS.

THE WORK OF THESE PANELS WILL BE CO-ORDINATED THROUGH SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH IS THE PRINCIPAL ADVISORY BODY.

IN HIS TALK ON 'TELEVISION AND THE CONSUMER', MR WATT ALSO SAID THAT GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN FOR THE TV CONSUMER PROMPTED THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW RULES DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FURTHER PROTECTION FOR VIEWERS. A FAMILY VIEWING PERIOD WAS INTRODUCED, AND THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES WERE STRENGTHENED.

/AT PRESENT

AT PRESENT, THE CONTROL OF VIOLENCE IN TELEVISION ENTERTAINMENT WAS HIS FIRST PRIORITY, ALTHOUGH GENERALLY, THE CONTEXT OF VIOLENCE WITHIN INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMMES OR EPISODES IS WELL-CONTROLLED.

HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT HIS JOB TO CENSOR IDEAS OR NEWS OR TO SUPPRESS ORIGINALITY OR CREATIVITY- IT WAS HIS JOB TO ENSURE THAT IDEAS, STORIES AND DRAMAS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, ARE PRESENTED AT APPROPRIATE TIMES WITH GOOD TASTE AND AN ACUTE AWARENESS ON THE PART OF THE PRODUCERS OF THE SENSITIVITIES WITHIN THE FAMILY VIEWING CIRCLE, MR WATT SAID.

DEALING WITH ADVERTISING, HE SAID IT WAS HIS JOB TO PROTECT THE VIEWER BY ENSURING THAT COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IS LEGAL, CLEAN, HONEST AND ABOVE ALL, TRUTHFUL.

BECAUSE OF THE REPETITIVE NATURE OF ADVERTISING ON THE SCREEN, IT WAS NECESSARY TO APPLY PARTICULARLY STRICT CONTROLS TO ADVERTISEMENTS WHICH WANT TO EMPLOY VIOLENCE OR EROTICISM AS A MEANS OF SELLING A PRODUCT.

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COMMUNITY POP CONCERT SET FOR SATURDAY

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THE MUSIC OFFICE, CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (KOWLOON CITY) AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE (KOWLOON CITY) WILL JOINTLY PRESENT A COMMUNITY POP CONCERT ON SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1981 AT 4.30 PM AT THE MA TAU WEI ROAD PLAYGROUND.

THE MUSIC OFFICE SYMPHONIC BAND, FORMED IN 1980 AND RUN BY THE MUSIC OFFICE, WILL BE PERFORMING IN THIS CONCERT. ITS MEMBERS ARE TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS WHO HAVE BEEN REGULARLY INVITED TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC.

THE CONCERT IS FREE AND IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

SATURDAY'S PERFORMANCE WILL BE THE BAND'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT.

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LICENSING OF PLEASURE CRAFT

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE NEW LEGISLATION TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE SAFETY GENERALLY WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF PLEASURE CRAFT.

A BILL TO AMEND THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW, WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 24. IT IS HOPED THAT THE BILL WILL BE PASSED INTO LAW DURING THE CURRENT SESSION.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS BILL IS TO PROVIDE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF VESSELS WHICH ARE REQUIRED UNDER THE ORDINANCE TO BE LICENSED AND IN PARTICULAR, TO ENABLE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO RESTRICT THE USE OF UNLICENSED MOTORISED PLEASURE CRAFT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID LARGE NUMBERS OF PLEASURE CRAFT WERE CURRENTLY UNLICENSED, DUE LARGELY TO THE INADEQUACY OF THE EXISTING SANCTIONS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LICENSING REGULATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS AN UNSATISFACTORY AND UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SOME PLEASURE VESSELS WERE KNOWN TO BE USED TO BRING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA AND MACAU.

+ALTHOUGH THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE HAD SOME NOTABLE SUCCESSES IN INTERCEPTING AND ARRESTING SUCH VESSELS, OTHER VESSELS HAVE ON OCCASIONS EVADED ARREST OR HAVE BEEN ABANDONED AFTER DETECTION.

+IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT IN SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATIONS TO IDENTIFY THE OWNERS, WHEN, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, THE CRAFT HAVE NOT BEEN LICENSED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+AS PART OF ITS CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO PUT AN END TO THIS TRAFFIC,+ HE ADDED.

SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS APART, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT ALL PLEASURE CRAFT SHOULD BE LICENSED, SINCE A PRE-CONDITION FOR THE ISSUE OF LICENCES IS THAT ALL VESSEL OWNERS SHOULD HOLD THIRD PARTY INSURANCE. AT PRESENT, A VICTIM INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING AN UNLICENSED PLEASURE CRAFT MAY NOT RECEIVE ANY COMPENSATION BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF INSURANCE COVERAGE.

THE LEGISLATION IS ALSO DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SPEED LIMITS RECENTLY INTRODUCED IN CERTAIN WATERS OF HONG KONG IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY AFLOAT.

IN SOME FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF THESE LIMITS, THE OFFENDING PLEASURE BOATS COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT LICENSED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A FURTHER PROVISION IN THE BILL WOULD ENABLE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE FOR THE SEIZURE AND IMPOUNDING OF ANY UNLICENSED VESSEL, WHETHER IT IS IN OR OUT OF THE WATER FROM THE TIME THAT IT IS FIRST LAUNCHED.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED UPON THE MASTER AND OWNER OF AN UNLICENSED VESSEL FROM \$5 000 TO \$20 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, IT WAS THE INTENTION THAT THESE ADDITIONAL POWERS WOULD BE USED ONLY IN RESPECT OF PLEASURE VESSELS.

/PROVIDED THAT

PROVIDED THAT THE BILL IS PASSED INTO LAW, THESE POWERS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD COME INTO EFFECT LATER THIS YEAR. THESE AMENDMENTS WOULD PRESCRIBE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN PENALTIES FOR OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS OF THE REGULATIONS AND MAKE A NUMBER OF OTHER CHANGES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE WORKING OF THE LICENSING SYSTEM.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE AMENDED REGULATIONS WERE EXPECTED TO REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE LICENCE NUMBERS OF ALL PLEASURE VESSELS TO 300MM IN HEIGHT, TWICE THE SIZE REQUIRED UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION, AND FOR THESE TO BE PAINTED AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE AMIDSHIPS.

THIS MEASURE, WHICH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ENFORCED BEFORE OCTOBER THIS YEAR, IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE SECURITY FORCES TO IDENTIFY PLEASURE CRAFT AT A DISTANCE, PARTICULARLY AT NIGHT. THOSE OWNERS WHO CANNOT COMPLY BY VIRTUE OF THE DESIGN OR SIZE OF THEIR CRAFT WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY TO THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE FOR PERMISSION TO DISPLAY AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF IDENTIFICATION.

THE SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED BY URGING ALL PLEASURE BOAT OWNERS TO ENSURE AT ONCE THAT THEY HAD A VALID LICENCE FOR THEIR CRAFT AND TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW MARKING REQUIREMENTS ONCE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION FOR THIS WAS PUBLISHED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT LICENSING FEES, WHICH RANGE FROM \$15 TO \$400 DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF CRAFT, WERE VERY MODEST AND THE PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING A LICENCE WERE STRAIGHTFORWARD. ANY QUERIES ON LICENSING SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE SMALL CRAFT LICENSING SECTION AT MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS (TELEPHONE NO. 5-450181).

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SPECIAL BLOCK FOR POLICE BAND

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A \$14 MILLION CONTRACT WAS AWARDED TODAY BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO HUNG WAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPECIAL BLOCK FOR THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE BAND AT THE TRAINING SCHOOL AT WONG CHUK HANG.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED THIS MORNING BY MR K.M. TSENG, CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY.

THE BLOCK WILL PROVIDE BARRACKS ACCOMMODATION FOR THE FORCE'S 116 BAND MEMBERS, PLUS MESS AND CANTEEN.

IN ADDITION, A TENNIS COURT WILL BE BUILT TO MEET NEEDS ARISING FROM THE FORCE'S RAPID EXPANSION.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT WILL BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

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ENVIRONMENTAL BODY GROWING IN IMPORTANCE
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THE ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) WILL BECOME EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR DEREK JONES SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF EPCOM, HE SAID IT WAS CLEARLY SPECIFIED IN EACH NEW ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ORDINANCE THAT EPCOM MUST BE CONSULTED AT EACH STAGE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.

A NETWORK OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES WITHIN EPCOM FRAMEWORK HAD BEEN GRADUALLY ESTABLISHED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND IT BROUGHT TO BEAR ON ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM A WIDE RANGE OF ADVICE, EXPERTISE AND DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW REPRESENTED BY THE MEMBERS OF EACH COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

+AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT ENSURES THAT NO PIECE OF LEGISLATION AND NO REGULATION CAN GO FORWARD WITHOUT BEING PROPERLY DISCUSSED IN BOTH THE RELEVANT SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND IN THE MAIN EPCOM.+ SAID MR JONES.

+IN MY OPINION, THIS IS A FIRST CLASS WAY TO EXPOSE THE COSTS AND THE BENEFITS OF ANY NEW PROPOSAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE HONG KONG METHOD OF CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSION BETWEEN ALL THE INTERESTS INVOLVED,+ HE ADDED.

MR JONES POINTED OUT THAT A THREE STRANDED SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WAS BEING BUILT UP, EACH INTERTWINED WITH THE OTHER TWO AND THE WHOLE OF WHICH OPERATED AS A SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES.

+THE FIRST STRAND IS LEGISLATION,+ HE EXPLAINED, +AND THERE WILL EVENTUALLY BE FIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORDINANCES.+

+TOGETHER THEY WILL ENCOMPASS VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN A COMPREHENSIVE AND YET FLEXIBLE WAY.+

THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE AND THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE HAVE PASSED INTO LAW. AND WORK IS NOW PROCEEDING TO PUT SOME OF THE PROVISIONS OF THESE TWO ORDINANCES INTO FORCE.

THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BILL IS NOW IN ITS FINAL DRAFT STAGE, AND THE NOISE CONTROL BILL IS BEING DRAFTED. THE PREPARATION OF THE LATTER IS EXPECTED TO ACCELERATE IN THE COMING MONTHS.

+THE FIFTH, DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS, WILL BE COMING FORWARD IN DUE COURSE,+ MR JONES SAID.

HE SAID THE SECOND STRAND WAS THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS LEGISLATION, AND FORMULATING POLICY PROPOSALS, NAMELY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AND THE CONTROL AUTHORITIES IN DEPARTMENTS.

THE AGENCY'S CURRENT ESTABLISHMENT INCLUDES ABOUT 30 PROFESSIONAL POSTS AND THIS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO SOME 60 OR 70 OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

/+RECRUITMENT OF

+RECRUITMENT OF THE RIGHT TYPE OF SPECIALISTS IN SOME AREAS HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY TASK,+ HE SAID,+HOWEVER, WE ARE STEADILY OVERCOMING THESE PROBLEMS AND HOPEFULLY WE SHALL SEE A MORE CONSOLIDATED STAFFING SITUATION AT ALL LEVELS IN THE AGENCY BY THIS AUTUMN.+

MR JONES NOTED THAT IT WAS PERHAPS THE THIRD STRAND - EPCOM AND ITS NETWORK OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES - WHICH WAS MOST SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT INVOLVED THE VITAL PROCESS OF CONSULTATION.

THE MAIN EPCOM CONSISTS OF FOUR OFFICIAL AND 12 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

HE SAID : +THIS BALANCE IN EPCOM'S MEMBERSHIP, THAT IS, WHERE THE UNOFFICIALS OUTWEIGH THE OFFICIALS, REFLECTS THE COMMITTEE'S PRIMARY ROLE AS AN ADVISORY BODY TO THE GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES AND POLICIES OF CONCERN,+

AT THE BEGINNING OF 1980, THE CENTRAL EPCOM WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY FOUR SPECIAL COMMITTEES ON +AIR POLLUTION+, +LAND AND WATER POLLUTION+, +NOISE+ AND +LEGISLATION+.

+THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES PROVIDE A BROAD CONSULTATIVE BASE AND INCLUDE IN THEIR MEMBERSHIPS, LAYMEN, EXPERTS, SCIENTISTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS,+ HE SAID.

+THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES PROVIDE A FORUM TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO GO INTO MATTERS IN GREATER DEPTH AND, WHERE NECESSARY, TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EPCOM OR THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.+

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THREE LOTS CROWN LAND SOLD

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THREE LOTS OF CROWN LAND WERE SOLD AT AN AUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE IN THE CITY HALL TODAY.

TWO OF THE SITES ARE ON THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION AND ARE FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE FIRST LOT, MEASURING 1 695 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO UNLIMITED GAIN LTD. FOR \$31 MILLION OR \$18 289.08 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE SECOND LOT, WITH AN AREA OF 4 600 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO SUPER HOMES LTD. FOR \$64 MILLION OR \$13 913.04 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE REMAINING LOT, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 691 SQUARE METRES, IS SITUATED AT SMITHFIELD ROAD, HONG KONG. IT WAS SOLD TO BRAIDWOOD LIMITED FOR \$39 MILLION OR \$56 439.94 PER SQUARE METRE. IT IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

ANOTHER LOT AT KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION WAS WITHDRAWN FROM AUCTION BECAUSE THERE WERE NO BIDDERS.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1981

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24-HOUR CLOSURE OF KWUN TONG ROAD UNDERPASS

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THE LEI YUE MUN-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWUN TONG ROAD, BENEATH THE KWUN TONG MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR 24 HOURS FROM 9 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 20) TO 9 AM ON SUNDAY (JUNE 21).

THE CLOSURE WILL FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORK ON THE UNDERPASS, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING TOWARDS LEI YUE MUN DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD SHOULD AVOID USING THE TWO LANES LEADING TO THE UNDERPASS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS TO AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE.

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TEMPORARY TRAIN SCHEDULE CHANGES

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TRAINS WILL RUN ON A REVISED TIME-TABLE FOR THE WEEKEND, SATURDAY, JUNE 20, AND SUNDAY, JUNE 21, AS WELL AS ON A REVISED TIME-TABLE FOR MONDAY (JUNE 22), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SAID TODAY.

THE CHANGES ARE TO ALLOW ENGINEERING WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY BETWEEN SHA TIN AND RACE COURSE STATION AND AT TAI PO KAU STATION.

HOWEVER, EXPRESS THROUGH TRAINS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE NEW SCHEDULES. THE REVISED TIME-TABLES WILL BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED AT ALL STATIONS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC.

+IT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE RAILWAY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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FIVE NT SITES FOR AUCTION

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THREE RESIDENTIAL AND TWO INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION NEXT MONTH.

DETAILS OF THE SITES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE RESIDENTIAL SITES ARE IN SHA TIN AND PENG CHAU AND ARE FOR TWO-STORY DEVELOPMENT.

/BOTH *****

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1981

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BOTH SHA TIN SITES OVERLOOK THE RACE COURSE AND CARRY BUILDING COVENANTS OF \$4.49 MILLION AND \$2.42 MILLION TO BE COMPLETED IN THREE YEARS. ONE MEASURES 8 310 SQUARE METRES, THE OTHER 2 880 SQUARE METRES.

THE PENG CHAU SITE IS ON WAI TSAI PEAK AND MEASURES 1 000 SQUARE METRES. THE BUILDING COVENANT IS \$810 000, ALSO TO BE COMPLETED IN THREE YEARS.

BOTH INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN SITES ARE AT FO TAN, SHA TIN, MEASURING 7 286 SQUARE METRES AND 1 416 SQUARE METRES.

THE LARGER SITE, WITH A FOUR-YEAR BUILDING COVENANT OF \$66.45 MILLION, INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT OF A VEHICLE SHOWROOM AND SERVICE CENTRE.

THE BUILDING COVENANT ON THE SMALLER SITE IS \$12.9 MILLION TO BE COMPLETED IN FOUR YEARS.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN THE SHOUSON THEATRE OF THE ARTS CENTRE ON JULY 10, STARTING AT 2.30 PM.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS AND THE EIGHT DISTRICT OFFICES.

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