



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1992

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SRC EXPLAINS BROADCASTING POLICY

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THE REVIEW OF THE TELEVISION BROADCASTING POLICY CURRENTLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AND THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO INVITE FORMAL PROPOSALS TO SET UP A SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION SYSTEM IN HONG KONG THIS SUMMER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP A MOTION DEBATE ON BROADCASTING POLICY, MR SO SAID: "THE CORNERSTONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS TO PROVIDE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CHOICE OF QUALITY PROGRAMMES AT REASONABLE AND AFFORDABLE PRICES FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENTERTAINMENT."

"OUR CURRENT REVIEW OF THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY COVERS THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS :

- * THE EXISTING LICENSING FRAMEWORK OF BOTH THE LOCAL FREE-TO-AIR STATIONS, NAMELY TVB AND ATV, TO ENSURE THAT IT IS ADEQUATE TO COPE WITH THE CHANGING BROADCASTING ENVIRONMENT BROUGHT ON BY NEW COMPETITORS AS WELL AS BY NEW TECHNOLOGY;
- * THE LICENSING CONDITIONS GOVERNING SATELLITE TELEVISION, NAMELY STAR TV, TO SEE WHETHER CHANGES ARE NECESSARY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGING BROADCASTING ENVIRONMENT, AND TO ENSURE THAT FAIR AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION EXISTS BETWEEN THIS AND OTHER FORMS OF TELEVISION BROADCASTING;
- * THE INTERFACE BETWEEN THE EXISTING TELEVISION BROADCASTERS, BOTH LOCAL FREE-TO-AIR AND SATELLITE FREE-TO-AIR, AND THE PROPOSED PAY-TV SERVICES TO BE INTRODUCED SHORTLY, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE CHOICE OF QUALITY PROGRAMMES THAT IS PROMISED UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY;
- * A DETAILED BUT SOUND LICENSING FRAMEWORK FOR PAY-TV THAT WILL ATTRACT SERIOUS AND QUALITY BROADCASTERS, BUT WILL NOT IMPOSE SUCH UNFAIR AND CUT-THROAT COMPETITION THAT COULD LEAD TO A DETERIORATION RATHER THAN AN ENHANCEMENT OF BOTH CHOICE AND QUALITY IN THE TV PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE.

"WE HAVE ENGAGED CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST US IN MAKING DETAILED ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF SOME OF THE KEY ASPECTS OF THE REVIEW.

"THESE INCLUDE THE LIKELY IMPACT ON THE LOCAL TELEVISION INDUSTRY OF LIFTING THE RESTRICTIONS ON CANTONESE PROGRAMMES FROM STAR TV, THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY BROUGHT ON BY THE LICENSING OF A PAY-TV SERVICE IN HONG KONG, THE EFFECT OUR EXISTING ROYALTY SYSTEM HAS ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY, AND THE ABILITY FOR HONG KONG TO SUSTAIN MORE THAN ONE PAY-TV OPERATOR," MR SO SAID.

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AT A PRESS BRIEFING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DEBATE, THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES INCLUDING RESTRICTIONS ON CANTONESE PROGRAMMES ON SATELLITE TV, FAIR COMPETITION, TECHNOLOGY, ROYALTY, ADVERTISING, AND OWNERSHIP.

EXPLAINING THE PLACING OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE BROADCASTING OF CANTONESE PROGRAMMES IN THE LICENCE GRANTED TO HUTCHVISION IN DECEMBER 1990, MR SO SAID IT WAS FELT THAT THE UNRESTRICTED BROADCASTING OF CANTONESE ON THE STAR TV SERVICE COULD HAVE AN UNDULY ADVERSE IMPACT UPON THE OPERATIONS OF ATV AND TVB.

IN PARTICULAR, IT WAS FEARED THAT WITH CANTONESE BROADCASTS, STAR TV COULD ATTRACT ADVERTISING AWAY FROM ATV AND TVB, THUS JEOPARDISING THE LATTER'S VIABILITY.

"THE FAILURE OF ONE OR BOTH TV STATIONS COULD RESULT IN THE DETERIORATION IN THE CHOICE AND QUALITY OF FREE-TO-AIR LOCAL CANTONESE LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES AND THIS COULD NOT QUICKLY BE REPLACED BY SATELLITE OR ANY OTHER TELEVISION MEDIUM," HE SAID.

"I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG VIEWERS THAT NEW FORMS OF BROADCASTING SHOULD COMPLEMENT OUR EXISTING BROADCASTERS, NOT COMPETE HEAD-ON WITH THEM.

"WE MUST ALSO BEAR IN MIND THE NEED TO BE FAIR TO TVB AND ATV WHO ACCEPTED LICENCES IN 1988, INCLUDING SOME OBLIGATIONS, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS WOULD PREVAIL THROUGHOUT THE LICENCE PERIOD," HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY SAID, HOWEVER, THE RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE EXAMINED IN THE CURRENT REVIEW, AND THAT A DECISION ON WHETHER, AND IF SO, HOW THE RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE MODIFIED WOULD BE MADE ONCE THE REVIEW WAS COMPLETED.

REFERRING TO CONCERN EXPRESSED BY A FEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS OVER RESTRICTIVE AGREEMENTS IMPOSED BY CERTAIN SATELLITE MASTER ANTENNA TELEVISION (SMATV) OPERATORS ON CONSUMERS, MR SO SAID PART OF THE PROBLEM STEMMED FROM THE PUBLIC NOT BEING SUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE EXISTING SMATV REGULATIONS.

MR SO SAID THE POST OFFICE WOULD SHORTLY BE PUBLISHING A GUIDE TO THE SMATV REGULATIONS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THEIR CONSUMER RIGHTS.

"THERE ARE NEARLY 80 LICENSED SMATV OPERATORS AND IT IS UP TO THE CONSUMER TO SHOP AROUND TO FIND THE ONE THAT BEST SUITS HIS REQUIREMENTS," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE PROBLEM OF "EXCLUSION CLAUSES" RAISED BY SOME MEMBERS, WHICH SOUGHT TO MONOPOLISE ACCESS TO BUILDINGS BY ONE OPERATOR, MR SO SAID: "WE OBVIOUSLY VIEW THESE WITH CONCERN, SINCE THEY COULD FRUSTRATE OUR BROADCASTING POLICY AIM OF PROMOTING COMPETITION AND PROVIDING CHOICE.

"WE ARE EXPLORING WAYS TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM AND I DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM," HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED BY THE FUTURE PAY-TV SYSTEM, THE SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ADOPTING A TECHNOLOGY-NEUTRAL APPROACH.

"WE WILL THEREFORE NOT STIPULATE WHAT TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE USED IN THE DELIVERY OF THE PAY-TV SERVICE.

"HOWEVER, WE DO HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR CABLE, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT CABLE'S CAPACITY TO CARRY LARGE NUMBERS OF TV CHANNELS, TO OFFER INTERACTIVE SERVICES AND TO SAVE ON SPECTRUM UTILISATION HAS DEFINITE ADVANTAGES OVER OTHER DELIVERY MEDIA SUCH AS MULTI-CHANNEL MULTI-POINT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OR SMATV," HE SAID.

ON THE ISSUE OF THE PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AS PART OF THE FUTURE PAY-TV SYSTEM, MR SO STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN IN THIS EXERCISE WAS TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR TELEVISION.

"IF PROVIDERS OF THE PAY-TV SERVICE WISH TO PROVIDE CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN ADDITION, THAT IS A SEPARATE MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS," HE SAID.

"PAY-TV OPERATORS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES. THEIR PROPOSALS WILL BE ASSESSED MAINLY ON BROADCASTING GROUNDS," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE EXISTING ROYALTY SCHEME ON TELEVISION BROADCASTERS, MR SO EXPLAINED THAT THE BROADCASTING REVIEW BOARD (BRB), IN ITS 1985 REPORT, SET OUT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES ON ROYALTIES :

- * ROYALTIES SHOULD BE CHARGED FOR THE GRANT OF A FRANCHISE TO OPERATE A SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC WHERE THE GRANT IS EITHER ON AN EXCLUSIVE BASIS OR WHERE COMPETITION IS RESTRICTED;
- * IN THE CASE OF TELEVISION BROADCASTING, ROYALTIES SHOULD BE CHARGED FOR THE PRIVILEGE AND BENEFITS ENJOYED FROM THE ALLOCATION OF A COMMUNITY RESOURCE (I.E. AIR-WAVES) AND FROM LIMITED COMPETITION, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER PROFITS ARE MADE; AND
- * THE RATE OF THE ROYALTY CHARGED MUST, HOWEVER, NOT BE SO HIGH AS EITHER TO JEOPARDISE THE SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF A LICENSEE.

"HENCE, THE EXISTING ROYALTIES LEVIED ON TVB AND ATV ARE BASED ON REVENUES RATHER THAN ON PROFITS AND HAVE FULL REGARD TO THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT BY THE BRB," HE SAID.

"IN THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT REVIEW WE SHALL BE LOOKING AGAIN AT THESE PRINCIPLES TO SEE WHETHER THE ROYALTY SCHEME IMPOSED ON OUR BROADCASTERS SHOULD BE MODIFIED IN VIEW OF THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING THE ONSET OF SATELLITE TELEVISION," HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE LOOKING AT THE QUESTION OF ADVERTISING IN THE REVIEW.

/"WE ARE

"WE ARE AWARE THAT TELEVISION BROADCASTERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT TELEVISION'S FALLING SHARE OF THE TOTAL ADVERTISING PIE AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY ARE UNABLE TO TAP THE REVENUE FROM TOBACCO ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP SINCE THE PROHIBITION IMPOSED IN 1990," MR SO SAID.

"IN THE CURRENT REVIEW WE ARE LOOKING AT WAYS THAT MAY HELP TV BROADCASTERS TO INCREASE THEIR ADVERTISING REVENUES, INCLUDING RELAXING SOME ASPECTS OF THE TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE ON ADVERTISING STANDARDS TO ALLOW TV STATIONS TO ACCESS A WIDER SOURCE.

"HOWEVER, PROTECTION OF THE CONSUMER WILL REMAIN PARAMOUNT IN ANY CONSIDERATION OF THIS ASPECT," HE SAID.

MR SO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE LOOKING AT THE OWNERSHIP AND CORPORATE RESTRICTIONS ON BROADCASTING LICENSEES IN THE CURRENT REVIEW WITH A VIEW TO ENCOURAGE WIDER INVESTMENT AND FAIR COMPETITION.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT TO ENSURE MEDIA DIVERSIFICATION, THE BASIC PRINCIPLES THAT A BROADCASTER SHOULD, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, BE A FREE-STANDING INDEPENDENT BODY WITH CONTROL RESTING IN LOCAL HANDS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

"AS WITH MANY OVERSEAS GOVERNMENTS, WE SEE A NEED TO GUARD AGAINST DOMINATION IN BROADCASTING BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, THEREBY IMPOSING UNIFORMITY AS WELL AS STEREOTYPE PROGRAMMING. THIS CLEARLY RUNS AGAINST THE INTEREST OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND CONSUMERS' CHOICE," MR SO SAID.

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MORE PROTECTION FOR LOCAL AND IMPORTED WORKERS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS EXAMINING THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES WHO ARE DISMISSED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS FOR GIVING EVIDENCE OR INFORMATION CONCERNING BREACHES OF REGULATIONS ON WORK SAFETY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IN THE RESUMED SECOND-READING DEBATES ON THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1992 AND THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL 1992 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTS THAT THERE IS A CASE FOR CONSIDERING APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION," HE SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IS NOW EXAMINING THE QUESTION IN DETAIL. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND THE OMELCO MANPOWER PANEL WILL BE NEEDED.

MR CHAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD ALSO BE LOOKING AT THE QUESTION OF PROTECTING IMPORTED WORKERS FROM UNFAIR DISMISSAL IN A SEPARATE AND WIDER CONTEXT.

/HE REAFFIRMED

HE REAFFIRMED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD GIVE EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN FINDING ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT TO THOSE IMPORTED WORKERS WHO WERE DISMISSED AS A RESULT OF LAYING LEGITIMATE COMPLAINTS OR GIVING EVIDENCE AGAINST THEIR EMPLOYERS FOR MALPRACTICES.

MR CHAN ALSO SPOKE IN THE RESUMED SECOND-READING DEBATE ON THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1992.

THE BILL SEEKS TO EXTEND SAFETY PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES WORKING AT SMALL CONTAINER STORAGE YARDS OPERATING ON BARREN LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE SAME WAY AS THOSE WORKING IN CONTAINER DEPOTS.

HE SAID PROPRIETORS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT CONTAINERS WERE STACKED ON LEVEL AND FIRM GROUND AND THAT STACKING, UNSTACKING, AND THE HANDLING OF CONTAINERS WERE CARRIED OUT IN A SAFE MANNER AND WITH ADEQUATE SAFETY PRECAUTION.

BUT RECKLESS OPERATION BY ANY EMPLOYEE THAT MAY ENDANGER HIS OWN LIFE OR THOSE OF HIS FELLOW EMPLOYEES MUST ALSO BE DISCOURAGED.

"THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY PREPARING DETAILED OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PROVISIONS AND WILL CONSULT THE INDUSTRY BEFORE FINALISING THEM," MR CHAN SAID.

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SIMPLIFIED OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES BILL INTRODUCED

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A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES BILL WITH TWO NEW PROVISIONS ON THE REGISTRATION OF "POOLED" RETIREMENT SCHEMES AND MORE FLEXIBLE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEMES WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ORIGINAL BILL THAT SOUGHT TO REGULATE PRIVATE RETIREMENT SCHEMES WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL LAST MAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID THE NEW BILL RETAINED ALL THE BASIC PRINCIPLES ENDORSED BY A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP LAST YEAR.

THESE PRINCIPLES ARE:

- * SEPARATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEME ASSETS FROM THE EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS;
- * ADEQUATE FUNDING;
- * RESTRICTIONS ON SELF-INVESTMENT;
- * PROHIBITION AGAINST LOANS TO THE EMPLOYER AND HIS ASSOCIATES;
- * AT LEAST ONE INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE;
- * INDEPENDENT ANNUAL AUDIT;
- * DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO EMPLOYEES AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE;
- * PERIODIC ACTUARIAL REVIEW.

/MR NENDICK

MR NENDICK SAID THE TWO NEW PROVISIONS WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE BILL IN THE LIGHT OF MARKET PRACTICE AND ADVICE FROM PROFESSIONAL BODIES.

ON THE "POOLED" RETIREMENT SCHEMES, HE EXPLAINED THAT THESE WERE COVERED BY A MASTER TRUST DEED OR INSURANCE POLICY, WITH THEIR ASSETS POOLED TOGETHER FOR INVESTMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PURPOSES.

HE SAID THERE WERE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF SMALL ESTABLISHMENTS IN HONG KONG.

WHERE THESE HAVE RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES THEY ARE GENERALLY PROVIDED THROUGH "POOLED" RETIREMENT SCHEMES.

MR NENDICK SAID A SIMPLIFIED REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR SUCH SCHEMES WOULD THEREFORE BE USEFUL.

THE BILL PROVIDES THAT APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT SCHEMES WILL ONLY NEED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MASTER STATEMENT FROM THE SOLICITOR AND A MASTER REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE SCHEME ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE SCHEME IS PART OF THE POOLING AGREEMENT.

ON FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEMES, MR NENDICK SAID ACTUARIAL REVIEWS OF THESE SCHEMES WERE CONDUCTED EVERY THREE YEARS.

"IF UPON REVIEW A SCHEME IS FOUND TO HAVE A SHORTFALL, IT IS A GENERAL RULE THAT THE EMPLOYER MUST TOP UP THE SCHEME SO THAT THE SHORTFALL IS REMOVED WITHIN THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE REVIEW.

"IF IT WERE TO REMAIN INSOLVENT AFTER THE THREE YEARS, IT WOULD BE LIABLE TO DEREGISTRATION," HE SAID.

SINCE THERE MAY BE FACTORS OUTSIDE THE CONTROL OF THE EMPLOYER THAT PREVENT A SCHEME FROM ATTAINING SOLVENCY WITHIN THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD, THE ACTUARIAL ASSOCIATION SUGGESTED THAT SOME FLEXIBILITY SHOULD BE PROVIDED BEFORE THE PROVISIONS FOR DEREGISTRATION ARE TRIGGERED.

"AS A RESULT, THE BILL NOW ALLOWS A FURTHER PERIOD OF THREE YEARS WHERE A CONTINUING SHORTFALL ARISES FROM FACTORS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE EMPLOYER.

"WHERE, HOWEVER, ANY PART OF THIS SHORTFALL ARISES FROM A FAILURE OF THE EMPLOYER TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTUARY'S RECOMMENDATIONS THE GENERAL RULE WILL APPLY," MR NENDICK SAID.

THE BILL ALSO HAS OTHER IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE WINDING UP OF A SCHEME.

THE BILL NOW INCLUDES STATUTORY GUIDELINES FOR THE COURT TO ORDER THE WINDING UP OF A SCHEME DOMICILED IN HONG KONG AND GIVE DIRECTIONS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF ITS ASSETS.

ON PROVISIONS REGARDING PREFERENTIAL CLAIMS STATUS OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS, HE SAID THESE HAD ALSO BEEN MODIFIED TO HOLD THE EMPLOYER RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR ANY UNPAID CONTRIBUTIONS DUE FROM HIM.

ANY SHORTFALL ARISING FROM NEGLIGENCE OF SCHEME MANAGERS OR OTHER FACTORS WOULD ONLY RANK AS GENERAL CLAIMS, HE SAID.

BEFORE THE LEGISLATION IS PUT INTO OPERATION, EXPLANATORY PAMPHLETS WILL BE PUBLISHED TO HELP EMPLOYERS UNDERSTAND THEIR STATUTORY DUTIES.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM UNSAFE TOYS INTRODUCED

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THE TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SAFETY BILL WHICH SOUGHT TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM UNSAFE TOYS OR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID THE BILL MADE IT AN OFFENCE TO MANUFACTURE FOR CONSUMPTION IN HONG KONG, TO IMPORT INTO HONG KONG OR TO SUPPLY IN HONG KONG TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS WHICH DID NOT MEET PRESCRIBED SAFETY STANDARDS OR A GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENT.

THE BILL WOULD BE ENFORCED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE WHO WOULD ACT UPON.

MR CHAU SAID THE BILL WAS BASED LARGELY ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A WORKING GROUP ON TOY SAFETY, WHICH RECOMMENDED THE ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY TOY SAFETY STANDARD ESTABLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF TOY INDUSTRIES.

THE STANDARD IS COMPREHENSIVE, INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED AND SIMILAR TO THE SAFETY STANDARDS ADOPTED IN THE UNITED STATES, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA.

THE BILL PROPOSES THIS STANDARD BE APPLIED TO ALL TOYS SUPPLIED IN HONG KONG.

APART FROM TOYS, MR CHAU SAID THE WORKING GROUP IDENTIFIED CERTAIN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS THAT SHOULD ALSO BE CONTROLLED UNDER THE BILL.

WHILE THERE ARE NO INTERNATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS, THE GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION BE ADOPTED AS THEY ARE WIDELY USED AND HIGHLY REGARDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMMUNITY.

THE BILL HAS A GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENT THAT IMPOSES A DUTY ON SUPPLIERS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR PRODUCTS ARE REASONABLY SAFE.

/"THIS IS

"THIS IS TO CATER FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS WHERE UNSAFE TOYS OR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS ARE FOUND, IN RESPECT OF WHICH THERE ARE NO PRESCRIBED SAFETY STANDARDS, AND NEW SAFETY REGULATIONS CANNOT BE MADE SWIFTLY," MR CHAU SAID.

TO FACILITATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS, SUPPLIERS MAY HAVE THEIR PRODUCTS TESTED BY A LABORATORY APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY.

APPROVED LABORATORIES WILL INCLUDE LABORATORIES ACCREDITED UNDER THE HONG KONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME AND THOSE OVERSEAS LABORATORIES WITH EQUIVALENT STANDING.

TESTING RESULTS SHOWING THAT A PRODUCT COMPLIES WITH THE RELEVANT SAFETY STANDARD WILL CREATE A PRESUMPTION THAT THE PRODUCT IS SAFE AND MAY BE USED BY THE SUPPLIER AS A DEFENCE OF DUE DILIGENCE IN COURT.

AS A TIME GAP MAY EXIST BETWEEN THE DISCOVERY OF UNSAFE TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND ANY SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION IN COURT, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR REMEDIAL MEASURES THROUGH A NOTICE SYSTEM TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SUSPECTED UNSAFE TOYS OR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.

IT ENABLES THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TO ISSUE A 'NOTICE TO WARN', REQUIRING SUPPLIERS TO PUBLISH A WARNING THAT A SPECIFIED TOY OR CHILDREN'S PRODUCT MAY BE UNSAFE UNLESS CERTAIN STEPS ARE TAKEN; A 'PROHIBITION NOTICE' TO STOP THE SALE OF A TOY OR CHILDREN'S PRODUCT; AND, IN EXTREME CASES, A 'RECALL NOTICE' TO RECALL THOSE PRODUCTS ALREADY SOLD WHICH CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT RISK TO CHILDREN.

MR CHAU SAID IT WOULD BE AN OFFENCE IF A PERSON DID NOT COMPLY WITH ANY SUCH NOTICES SERVED ON HIM.

IN APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS MADE OR NOTICES ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, HE SAID THESE MAY BE MADE TO AN APPEAL BOARD CHAIRED BY A LEGAL PRACTITIONER.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD INCLUDE A GENERAL CONSUMER, A SCIENTIST WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND A PERSON FROM THE TOYS OR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES THAT IF THE GOODS SEIZED OR DETAINED BY THE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY ARE SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND TO BE SAFE, THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE LIABLE TO COMPENSATE THE GOODS OWNER FOR ANY LOSS SUFFERED BY HIM AS A RESULT OF THE SEIZURE OR DETENTION.

"TO GIVE THE INDUSTRY AND TRADE TIME TO ADJUST, THERE WILL BE A GRACE PERIOD OF ONE YEAR BEFORE THE BILL COMES INTO OPERATION," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1992

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BILL TO PROHIBIT USE OF ADVERTISING VEHICLES

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A BILL TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF VEHICLES USED PREDOMINANTLY FOR DISPLAYING COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THE 17 ADVERTISING VEHICLES NOW OPERATING WITH PERMITS SERVED NO TRANSPORT PURPOSE AND COULD AGGRAVATE ROAD CONGESTION.

THE ADVERTISING VEHICLES ARE USUALLY ADAPTED FROM FLAT BED TRUCKS AND CARRYING LARGE BILLBOARDS WHICH ARE COLOURFUL AND OFTEN BRIGHTLY ILLUMINATED BY FLOODLIGHTS OR SPOTLIGHTS WHICH MAY DISTRACT THE ATTENTION OF DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS.

TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM ADVERTISING EFFECT, THEY MAY BE PARKED OR DRIVEN SLOWLY IN DENSELY POPULATED URBAN AREAS WHERE TRAFFIC IS ALREADY HEAVY.

"GIVEN THE INCREASING LEVEL OF CONGESTION ON OUR ROAD SPACE, IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF THESE VEHICLES.

"ANY NEED FOR MOBILE COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IS ALREADY MET BY OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT SUCH AS BUSES, TAXIS AND TRAMS," HE SAID.

IT IS PROPOSED HOWEVER THAT PERMISSION MAY BE GIVEN FOR ADVERTISING VEHICLES TO OPERATE IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES WHERE THEY MAY BE NEEDED FOR CERTAIN NON-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, SUCH AS ELECTION CAMPAIGNS OR APPROVED CHARITY PURPOSES.

THE BILL EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO ISSUE A PERMIT ONLY FOR THE DISPLAY OF NON-COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING AND SUBJECT TO SPECIFIED CONDITIONS.

IT ALSO PROVIDES TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONTINUED USE OF PERMITS NOW IN FORCE UNTIL THEY EXPIRE.

MR LEUNG SAID THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD CONSIDERED THE PROPOSAL AND SUPPORTED IT ON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUNDS. THE OMELCO TRANSPORT PANEL HAD ALSO BEEN BRIEFED AND THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE TRADE.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS ARE SATISFIED THAT THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS IN RESPECT OF THESE VEHICLES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MTRC NETS \$67M PROFITS FOR THE FIRST TIME

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THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC) FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST YEAR REGISTERED A NET PROFIT OF \$67 MILLION EVEN WITHOUT ANY CONTRIBUTION FROM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR MACLEOD SAID THIS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED TWO YEARS EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY FORECAST. THE MTRC RECORDED A NET LOSS OF \$108 MILLION IN 1990.

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1991, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT IN 1991, THE MTRC CARRIED ABOUT 726 MILLION PASSENGERS LAST YEAR.

TOTAL REVENUE WAS \$3,553 MILLION, 12 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT IN 1990. TOTAL OPERATING COSTS ALSO INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT, OWING MAINLY TO RISING WAGES AND RAILWAY MAINTENANCE COSTS.

MR MACLEOD POINTED OUT THAT AT THE END OF 1991, THE CORPORATION'S LOANS AND FINANCE LIABILITIES STOOD AT \$18.4 BILLION AND THE YEAR-END DEBT TO EQUITY RATIO WAS 2.7 TO 1.

"DESPITE THE TIGHT FINANCING ENVIRONMENT WORLDWIDE IN 1991, THE MTRC WAS ABLE TO RAISE FUNDS IN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MARKETS SUCCESSFULLY.

"THIS BEARS TESTIMONY TO THE HIGH REPUTATION THE MTRC CONTINUES TO ENJOY IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY," THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

NOTING THAT THE CORPORATION'S RESULTS LAST YEAR WERE CONSISTENT WITH ITS LONG-TERM FINANCIAL TARGETS, MR MACLEOD SAID BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, MTRC EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO RETIRE ALL DEBTS ON EXISTING LOANS.

AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS, THE GOVERNMENT ENTERED INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MTRC ON THE FINANCING, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

APART FROM PROVIDING A FAST, EFFICIENT AND CONVENIENT RAIL LINK WITH THE NEW AIRPORT, THE AIRPORT RAILWAY WILL ALSO RELIEVE THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR WHICH IS ALREADY OPERATING CLOSE TO CAPACITY DURING PEAK HOURS.

MR MACLEOD SAID THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY PROJECT SHOULD ENABLE THE CORPORATION TO BORROW ON ACCEPTABLE TERMS THE SUMS NEEDED TO FINANCE THE PROJECT.

THE PRINCIPAL CREDIT RATING AGENCIES HAD ALREADY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD MAINTAIN THE MTRC'S EXISTING CREDIT RATINGS ON THE BASIS OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROPOSED, MR MACLEOD SAID.

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"OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE MTRC HAS BUDGETED TO SPEND \$5 BILLION ON MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS TO UPGRADE THE EXISTING SYSTEM THROUGH THE PROVISION OF NEW FACILITIES AND APPLICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

"THIS UNDERLINES ITS COMMITMENT TO OPERATING AND MAINTAINING A FIRST-CLASS RAILWAY," THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

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AIRPORT PROJECTS ON SCHEDULE : SES
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THERE IS NO CASE FOR RELAXING THE TIMETABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME IN ECONOMIC TERMS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG, THE SECRETARY SAID IT REMAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT EVEN ONE YEAR OF "SATURATION" AT KAI TAK SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, LET ALONE THE THREE YEARS NOW EXPECTED.

"EVERY EFFORT WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMME OF WORKS IN A WAY THAT EASES ANY INFLATIONARY IMPACT THEY MAY HAVE.

"STRINGENT COST CONTROLS AND THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR ARE IMPORTANT MEASURES WHICH WILL ASSIST IN MEETING THIS OBJECTIVE," SHE SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID EARLIER PREDICTIONS THAT KAI TAK MIGHT BECOME SATURATED AS EARLY AS 1993 WERE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION OF A CONTINUING TREND IN GROWTH IN AIR TRAFFIC OF AROUND 10 PER CENT PER ANNUM.

AS A RESULT OF THE GULF WAR AND A CONTINUING DOWNTURN IN WORLD ECONOMIES LAST YEAR, AIR TRAFFIC VOLUMES WORLDWIDE SLUMPED LAST YEAR AND KAI TAK RECORDED AN INCREASE OF ONLY ABOUT 2.5 PER CENT IN AIR PASSENGERS AND 3.7 PER CENT IN AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS IN THAT YEAR.

AS A RESULT, MRS CHAN SAID IT WAS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THE SITUATION AT KAI TAK WAS LIKELY TO BE LESS CRITICAL NEXT YEAR THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED.

NEVERTHELESS, SHE ADDED THAT IT WAS STILL LIKELY THAT, BY MID-1994, SEVERE PROBLEMS WOULD EMERGE AS AIRLINES BECAME UNABLE TO FIND ACCEPTABLE LANDING SLOTS AT KAI TAK.

"PROBLEMS IN THIS RESPECT ARE ALREADY OCCURRING AT KAI TAK; IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF DEGREE.

"BY MID-1994, THE SITUATION IS LIKELY TO HAVE BECOME SO SERIOUS THAT THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE WILL BEGIN TO SUFFER SIGNIFICANT DISBENEFITS AS IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE AIRPORT CAPACITY TO MEET GROWING AIR TRAFFIC DEMANDS," SHE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1992

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NUCLEAR CONTINGENCY PLAN SOUND

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EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) CONCLUDED THAT HONG KONG'S CONTINGENCY PLAN RELATING TO THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WAS BASICALLY SOUND.

THE DETAILED PLAN WAS PREPARED TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE NECESSARY MACHINERY AND RESOURCES TO COPE WITH ANY ACCIDENT RESULTING IN RADIATION LEAKAGE FROM THE PLANT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHILE REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY REV THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXPERT ADVICE FROM A NUMBER OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN PREPARING THE CONTINGENCY PLAN.

MR ASPREY SAID AN EXERCISE WAS CONDUCTED IN NOVEMBER 1990 TO TEST THE ADEQUACY OF THE PLAN.

EXPERTS FROM IAEA WERE FULLY INVOLVED IN THE EXERCISE AND ITS EVALUATION.

"THEY CONCLUDED THAT THE EXERCISE HAD PROVIDED A COMPREHENSIVE TEST OF ALL THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE PLAN, AND THAT THE PLAN WAS BASICALLY SOUND," HE SAID.

HE SAID SINCE THEN WORK HAD CONTINUED ON REVISING AND IMPROVING THE PLAN IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE EXERCISE AND OF ADVICE FROM THE IAEA.

CLOSE CONTACTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MAINTAINED WITH UK AUTHORITIES, OTHER NUCLEAR REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AND POWER COMPANIES WITH WHICH HAVE PROVIDED INFORMATION, TECHNICAL ADVICE AND TRAINING.

THE GOVERNMENT AIMS TO TEST THE REVISED PLAN IN A FURTHER EXERCISE BEFORE THE COMMISSIONING OF THE DAYA BAY PLANT, NOW SCHEDULED FOR MID TO LATE NEXT YEAR.

THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE PLAN MEETS THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO INVITE EVALUATION FROM THE IAEA.

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COLVIN HOUSE SITE RESERVED FOR BRITISH CONSULATE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO GRANT BY PRIVATE TREATY THE COLVIN HOUSE SITE OF ABOUT 6,500 SQUARE METRES FOR THE POST-1997 BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR A.G. EASON, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON HENRY TANG, MR EASON NOTED THAT THE LEASE WOULD BE FOR A PERIOD UP TO JUNE 30, 2047 AT A PREMIUM OF \$1,000.

LAND RENT UP TO JUNE 30, 1997 WILL BE \$1,000 A YEAR AND THEREAFTER AT 3 PER CENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THE LOT.

THE USER WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL, ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION AND THE BRITISH COUNCIL, MR EASON ADDED.

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GUIDELINES ON REFERRING STUDENTS TO
SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS FORMULATED

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS FORMULATED GUIDELINES ON REFERRING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS WITH RELEVANT CIRCULARS CIRCULATING TO BOTH TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

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

MR CHAN SAID A CIRCULAR ENTITLED "GUIDANCE WORK IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS - A SUGGESTED GUIDE FOR PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS" WAS ISSUED IN 1986, AND ANOTHER ONE ADDRESSING THE UP-TO-DATE SITUATION ENTITLED "HOW TO HELP PUPILS WITH PROBLEMS" WAS ISSUED ON APRIL 1, THIS YEAR.

HE SAID THE FIRST OF THESE CIRCULARS ADVISED SCHOOLS HOW TO DEPLOY NEW GUIDANCE STAFF ALLOCATED TO THEM AND SET UP A MECHANISM TO COPE WITH CRISIS SITUATIONS AMONG STUDENTS.

"THE SECOND CIRCULAR GIVES DETAILED AND PRACTICAL GUIDANCE TO TEACHERS ON HOW TO DEVELOP A MORE POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE APPROACH TO SOLVING STUDENTS PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT MIGHT LEAD TO SUICIDE, BEFORE THEY GET OUT OF HAND.

"IT ALSO INCLUDES SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON WHEN AND HOW TO REFER STUDENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE," HE SAID.

ON THE NUMBER OF ATTEMPTED SUICIDES BY STUDENTS REPORTED BY SCHOOLS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THERE WERE 35 REPORTED CASES OF WHICH EIGHT WERE FATAL IN 1987/88 AND IN 1988/89 THERE WERE 25 CASES OF WHICH TWO WERE FATAL.

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THERE WERE 26 CASES REPORTED OF WHICH ONE WAS FATAL AND 35 CASES OF WHICH THREE WERE FATAL IN 1989/90 AND IN 1990/91 RESPECTIVELY.

SO FAR IN 1991/92, THAT IS, FROM THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR UNTIL MARCH 31, THIS YEAR, THERE HAVE BEEN 35 REPORTED CASES OF WHICH 12 WERE FATAL.

REGARDING THE NUMBER OF CASES WHERE THE STUDENTS WHO ATTEMPTED TO COMMIT SUICIDE HAD ALREADY BEEN REFERRED BY THEIR TEACHERS TO SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS, SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND GUIDANCE TEACHERS OR STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS FOR COUNSELLING, THE RECORD SHOWED THAT THERE WERE 13 SUCH CASES IN THE 1990/91 SCHOOL YEAR, AND 15 SUCH CASES SO FAR IN THE 1991/92 SCHOOL YEAR, MR CHAN SAID.

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MOST OF TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS TO GO BY 1995/96
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A HOUSING AUTHORITY PROGRAMME AIMS TO CLEAR ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THE PRESENT 67,000 RESIDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS (THAS) BY 1995/96, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR A.G. EASON, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE REMAINING FEW THOUSAND WILL BE REHOUSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER," HE SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI, HE SAID THE HOUSING AUTHORITY STARTED THE PROGRAMME IN 1988 WITH A VIEW TO REHOUSING AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 14,000 RESIDENTS IN THAS EACH YEAR.

UNDER THIS PROGRAMME, 39 THAS HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND ABOUT 40,000 RESIDENTS REHOUSED SO FAR.

MR EASON SAID IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO OFFER LOCAL REHOUSING TO ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CLEARANCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE URBAN AREA WHERE THE SUPPLY OF RECEPTION ACCOMMODATION IS LIMITED.

"THE CURRENT POLICY IS TO REHOUSE THOSE AFFECTED BY URBAN CLEARANCES IN THE URBAN OR EXTENDED URBAN AREAS, SUCH AS SHA TIN, TSEUNG KWAN O, TSUEN WAN AND KWAI TSING," MR EASON ADDED.

THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, CLEANSING, SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE OF THAS.

THE MANAGEMENT STAFF REGULARLY INSPECT THE AREAS TO ENSURE THE STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES ARE MAINTAINED TO AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD.

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EMERGENCY CASES HANDLED BY PUBLIC HOSPITALS

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THE NUMBER OF TRAUMATIC ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY (A&E) CASES HANDLED BY PUBLIC HOSPITALS BETWEEN 1989 AND LAST YEAR TOTALLED 723,530, RESULTING IN 97,014 PATIENTS BEING ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OF THE TOTAL A&E FIGURES, 310,823 CASES WERE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, 231,795 WERE DOMESTIC ACCIDENTS, 68,803 WERE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND 112,109 OTHERS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK, MRS WONG SAID THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVED MAINLY HAND, LEG AND FOOT, AND SKULL INJURIES. OTHERS RELATED TO FACE AND NECK, ARM, TRUNK, AND EYE INJURIES.

MRS WONG ALSO NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS REPORTED TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SHOWED A GRADUAL DECREASE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS - FROM 97,450 IN 1989, 94,938 IN 1990 TO 87,827 LAST YEAR.

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DRAINS INSPECTED REGULARLY TO PREVENT FLOODING

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT OPERATES A PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME TO INSPECT MAJOR STORMWATER DRAINS, CULVERTS, NULLAHS AND BLOCKAGE BLACKSPOTS REGULARLY, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR A.G. EASON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON LEE WING-TAT, MR EASON SAID ANY SILTING AND BLOCKAGE INSIDE THE DRAINS WAS CLEARED AND DEFECTS AND DAMAGE WERE REPAIRED BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON TO MINIMISE FLOODING.

LAST YEAR THE DEPARTMENT INSPECTED 300 KILOMETRES OF STORMWATER DRAINS, CULVERTS AND NULLAHS, 90 KILOMETRES OF WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CLEARED WITH 75,000 CUBIC METRES OF SILT BEING REMOVED.

ON CONSTRUCTION SITES THAT INVOLVED SIGNIFICANT EARTHWORKS, HE SAID WHERE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WERE IN CHARGE OF SITES, THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO PREVENT EROSION.

ALSO, THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSTRUCTING TEMPORARY DRAINAGE SYSTEMS TO INTERCEPT SURFACE RUNOFF AND PROVIDING SAND TRAPS AND VEHICLE WASHING FACILITIES TO PREVENT SILT AND DEBRIS FROM FLOWING INTO THE PUBLIC DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

/"SUCH PREVENTIVE

"SUCH PREVENTIVE WORKS ARE NORMALLY CARRIED OUT BY CONTRACTORS AND ARE SUPERVISED AND INSPECTED REGULARLY BY GOVERNMENT STAFF," HE SAID.

MR EASON NOTED THAT A STANDING INSTRUCTION WAS PROMULGATED BEFORE EVERY RAINY SEASON TO REMIND ALL RESIDENT SITE STAFF TO ENSURE THAT CONTRACTORS WORKS WERE DESIGNED AND MAINTAINED TO PREVENT FLOODING.

AS REGARDS PRIVATE-SECTOR SITES, MR EASON SAID AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED CONTRACTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIMILAR PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ALSO SENDS A REMINDER TO ALL AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED CONTRACTORS BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON TO THIS EFFECT.

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GAS SAFETY LAW SAFEGUARDS PUBLIC FROM HAZARDS

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THE INSTALLATIONS OF UNDERGROUND GAS OR LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM PIPING ARE CONTROLLED UNDER THE GAS SAFETY (GAS SUPPLY) REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE GAS SAFETY ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EDWARD HO, MRS CHAN SAID THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY CONSTRUCTED, TESTED AND MAINTAINED ITS UNDERGROUND PIPING IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARDS APPROVED BY THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

SURVEILLANCE OF THE SYSTEM WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE COMPANY USING EXTREMELY SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT FOR DETECTING LEAKAGES, WHILE THE FREQUENCY OF SURVEYS WAS DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA AGREED WITH THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE.

"BUT ALL RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS ARE SURVEYED AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR," MRS CHAN SAID.

ON THE PROVISION OF UNDERGROUND PIPING FOR LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS, MRS CHAN SAID IT WAS GENERALLY RESTRICTED TO PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS THAT COULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY STORAGE SPACE AND SECURITY.

CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR AND OPERATION OF SUCH INSTALLATIONS REQUIRED THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE.

"THE PIPING IS PRESSURE TESTED EVERY THREE YEARS BY THE RELEVANT OIL COMPANY TO ENSURE THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE LEAK FREE," MRS CHAN SAID.

ON THE GAS SUPPLY PIPEWORK INSIDE BUILDINGS INCLUDING METERS, VALVES AND APPLIANCES, MRS CHAN SAID IT WAS CONTROLLED UNDER THE GAS SAFETY (INSTALLATION AND USE) REGULATIONS.

THE GAS SAFETY (REGISTRATION OF GAS INSTALLERS AND CONTRACTORS) REGULATIONS REQUIRED THAT ANY PERSON WHO UNDERTOOK WORK ON ANY GAS FITTING INSIDE A BUILDING MUST BE REGISTERED AS A "GAS INSTALLER" AND BE EMPLOYED BY A REGISTERED GAS CONTRACTOR.

ANY UNSAFE INSTALLATION DETECTED BY A REGISTERED GAS INSTALLER WHOSE TECHNICAL COMPETENCE WAS MONITORED BY THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE, COULD BE MADE SAFE OR SHUT OFF AND LABELLED AGAINST USE.

BESIDES, MRS CHAN SAID THE RUBBER TUBING USED TO CONNECT AN APPLIANCE TO THE GAS SUPPLY HAD TO MEET REQUIREMENTS MORE STRINGENT THAN THE RELEVANT BRITISH STANDARDS BEFORE IT MIGHT BE SOLD IN HONG KONG.

"IT WILL BE APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT, IN SETTING UP THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE, BACKED BY COMPREHENSIVE GAS SAFETY LEGISLATION, AND THE GAS SUPPLY COMPANIES, IN UNDERTAKING REGULAR SURVEYS OF THEIR PIPING, TAKE THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS POSED BY GAS LEAKS VERY SERIOUSLY AND ARE TAKING EVERY PRACTICABLE MEASURE TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC AGAINST SUCH HAZARDS," MRS CHAN ADDED.

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CIVIL SERVANTS UNLIKELY TO GET MORE PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

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IN VIEW OF THE OVERALL SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE MORE PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG, MR WIGGHAM SAID SINCE 1985/86, THE ANNUAL QUOTA OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS HAD REMAINED AT 1,700 UNITS.

OF THIS, 600 UNITS UNDER THE SPECIAL QUOTA ARE EARMARKED FOR THE RANK AND FILE OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES WHO ARE OCCUPYING DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS AND ARE WITHIN 10 YEARS OF RETIREMENT.

THE OTHER 1,100 UNITS UNDER THE GENERAL QUOTA ARE ALLOCATED TO ALL CIVIL SERVANTS WITH AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF SERVICE AND WHOSE INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED \$14,740 PER MONTH (MASTER PAY SCALE POINT 21).

"RANK AND FILE OFFICERS OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES WHO HAVE AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF SERVICE AND ARE NOT OCCUPYING DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS MAY ALSO APPLY UNDER THE GENERAL QUOTA," MR WIGGHAM SAID.

"DEPENDANTS OF OFFICERS WHO DIED IN SERVICE WHILST OCCUPYING DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS ARE GIVEN PRIORITY IN THE ALLOCATION OF FLATS."

ABOUT 7,000 APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED EACH YEAR, AND THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS DEPEND MAINLY ON THE LENGTH OF SERVICE OF THE APPLICANT AND THE CHOICE OF HOUSING ESTATE.

THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS IS NINE YEARS, BUT SOME OFFICERS WITH FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE HAVE ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING UNITS IN LESS POPULAR ESTATES.

IN RESPONSE TO MR LEUNG'S CONCERN ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL SERVANTS, MR WIGGHAM SAID ALL CIVIL SERVANTS WITH AT LEAST 10 YEARS OF PENSIONABLE SERVICE MAY APPLY FOR A HOUSING LOAN EQUIVALENT TO THE MAXIMUM COMMUTED PENSION GRATUITY EARNED AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION.

"THE LOAN IS REPAYABLE OVER A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS WITH INTEREST AT A CONCESSIONARY RATE.

"JUNIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WITH 20 YEARS OF SERVICE MAY ALSO APPLY FOR THE HOME PURCHASE SCHEME WHICH IS SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL QUOTA OF 1,800 PLACES," HE ADDED.

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GOVT REVENUE NOT AFFECTED BY CESSATION OF RATES RELIEF SCHEME

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THE CESSATION OF THE RATES RELIEF SCHEME ON MARCH 31 THIS YEAR HAD NO DIRECT IMPACT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S REVENUE FORECASTS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE EFFECT ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) OF NOT EXTENDING THE RELIEF SCHEME WOULD BE MARGINAL : A 'ONE-OFF' IMPACT OF LESS THAN ONE-TWENTIETH OF ONE PERCENTAGE POINT, MR YEUNG ADDED.

MR YEUNG SAID THE CESSATION OF THE SCHEME WOULD NOT DIRECTLY AFFECT REVENUE FORECASTS BECAUSE THE SCHEME WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST YEAR AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE ONLY, DESIGNED TO CUSHION RATEPAYERS OF CERTAIN PREMISES FROM THE EFFECT OF THE REVALUATION OF THEIR PROPERTIES.

"IT IS, OF COURSE, LIKELY THAT FUTURE REVALUATIONS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SIMILAR SHORT-TERM RELIEF SCHEMES, BUT, IN THE LONG TERM, ALL PREMISES MUST CONTRIBUTE THEIR FAIR SHARE OF THE RATES BURDEN," MR YEUNG SAID, WHEN GIVING A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI WAH-MING.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT WERE THE RATES 'CAP' TO BE EXTENDED FOR ONE MORE YEAR, THE COST TO THE REVENUE WOULD REACH NEARLY \$900 MILLION.

/"THIS WOULD

"THIS WOULD CONSIST PARTLY OF LOWER RATES REVENUE FOR THE GOVERNMENT, AND PARTLY OF PAYMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO OFFSET THE REDUCTION IN THEIR RATES REVENUE. ONLY ABOUT 6 PER CENT OF DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLDS WOULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH AN EXTENSION," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FORECAST THE HYPOTHETICAL EFFECTS ON GENERAL REVENUE OF EXTENDING THE EXISTING RATES RELIEF SCHEME UNTIL 1996-97.

"THE FORECASTS IN THE BUDGET DOCUMENTS ALREADY ASSUME THE CESSATION OF THE RATES RELIEF SCHEME," MR YEUNG SAID.

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GOVT. PLANNING TAKES INTO ACCOUNT NEEDS OF CHINA IMMIGRANTS

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THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS FACED BY NEW IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA INCLUDE LANGUAGE, ADJUSTMENT TO THE LOCAL CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE, SCHOOLING OF CHILDREN, AND EMPLOYMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TO HELP THEM OVERCOME THEIR DIFFICULTIES, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED COUNSELLING SERVICE AND OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES THROUGH THE 53 GOVERNMENT-RUN AND SUBVENTED FAMILIES SERVICES CENTRES IN THE TERRITORY, SIR DAVID SAID IN REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD K.S. LAM.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTED AT NEW CHINESE IMMIGRANTS ARE ALSO PROVIDED THROUGH SUBVENTED AGENCIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SERVICES TO NEW IMMIGRANTS.

THESE INCLUDE MIGRATION COUNSELLING, BRIEFINGS AND FILM SHOWS TO HELP IMMIGRANTS INTEGRATE INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY; CANTONESE AND ENGLISH CLASSES, AND ORIENTATION TUTORIAL GROUPS FOR CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES; AND A TRAVELLERS' AID SERVICE COUNTER AT HUNG HOM RAILWAY STATION TO HELP NEW ARRIVALS TO CONTACT THEIR FAMILIES AND RELATIVES, AS WELL AS GIVING GENERAL ADVICE AND HELP.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT, IN PLANNING FUTURE PROVISION OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND ELDERLY SERVICES, AS WELL AS OTHER SERVICES AND FACILITIES, TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPACT OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS ON LOCAL POPULATION PROJECTION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE TO ENSURE THAT THEIR NEEDS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PROJECTED DEMAND FOR SERVICES.

"THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE IMMIGRANTS, THE TYPES OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE THEY COMMONLY SEEK FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AND STATISTICS COLLECTED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HELP TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE AND NEEDS OF NEW IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA," HE SAID.

THERE ARE 81,953 NEW IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

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/DISTRIBUTION OF

Distribution of Legal Immigrants from China by Age
and by Sex in 1989, 1990 and 1991

Age Group	Sex	1989		1990		1991	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 15	M	4 492	16.48	4 597	16.43	4 143	15.50
	F	3 702	13.58	3 814	13.63	3 442	12.84
15 - 24	M	2 404	8.82	2 439	8.72	2 374	8.88
	F	2 251	8.26	2 106	7.81	2 180	8.20
25 - 34	M	1 603	5.88	1 579	5.64	1 637	6.13
	F	4 598	16.87	4 985	17.83	4 828	18.07
35 - 44	M	1 098	4.03	1 194	4.27	1 099	4.11
	F	3 093	11.35	3 487	12.46	3 369	12.61
45 - 54	M	460	1.69	472	1.69	467	1.75
	F	1 495	5.49	1 404	5.02	1 456	5.45
55+	M	482	1.77	495	1.77	448	1.69
	F	1 562	5.73	1 303	4.66	1 250	4.70
Unknown	M	6	0.02	6	0.02	6	0.02
	F	9	0.03	15	0.05	15	0.05
Total	M	10 545	38.69	10 782	38.54	10 174	38.08
	F	16 710	61.31	17 194	61.46	16 548	61.92
	T	27 255	100.00	27 976	100.00	26 722	100.00

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1992

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LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES TO 208 WELFARE STAFF

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A TOTAL OF 208 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON GATHERED AT THE DEPARTMENT'S LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE TO RECEIVE FROM THEIR DIRECTOR, MR M.D. CARTLAND, LONG AND MERITORIOUS SERVICE CERTIFICATES.

THE RECIPIENTS, INCLUDING 71 SOCIAL WORKERS, WHO HAVE CHALKED UP MORE THAN 4,340 YEARS OF SERVICE, HAVE BEEN IN CIVIL SERVICE FOR MORE THAN 20 OR 30 YEARS.

SPEAKING AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE CERTIFICATES, MR CARTLAND SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD ORGANISED SUCH PRESENTATION SINCE 1989 IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION AND EFFORTS.

"IT IS VALUABLE TO WORK IN A DEPARTMENT OF THIS SIZE, WITH THE DEDICATED STAFF, ESPECIALLY THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND OFFICERS FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD, DOING THEIR JOBS SO EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY," MR CARTLAND SAID.

IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE TO THE CLIENTS AFTER PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990S AND BEYOND WERE IMPLEMENTED, HE ADDED.

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LOCAL DIRECTOR OF AUDIT WILL BE APPOINTED BEFORE 1997

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THE APPOINTMENT NOW OF AN EXPATRIATE AS THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT WILL NOT PREVENT THE APPOINTMENT OF A LOCAL DIRECTOR BEFORE 1997 SO AS TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT IN THE BASIC LAW.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BASIC LAW STIPULATES THAT A FOREIGN NATIONAL MAY NOT FILL THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF AUDIT.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MR WONG HONG-YUEN, THE SECRETARY SAID THE NEW DIRECTOR WAS A CONTRACT OFFICER AND WOULD BE 57 THIS YEAR.

"THERE WILL BE AMPLE TIME FOR A LOCAL OFFICER TO SUCCEED HIM WHEN HE RETIRES IN THE NORMAL COURSE IN 1995," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF AUDIT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT.

"THE APPOINTMENT IS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 3 OF THE AUDIT ORDINANCE, AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

/ "THESE PROCEDURES

"THESE PROCEDURES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WHICH APPLY TO OTHER HEADS OF DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE CRITERIA NORMALLY USED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENT WERE TO SELECT THE BEST PERSON FOR THE JOB IN TERMS OF ABILITY, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

"IN THIS CASE IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO BE A QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT. THE PREVIOUS DIRECTOR WAS NOT SO QUALIFIED," HE ADDED.

UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S LOCALISATION POLICY, HE SAID PREFERENCE WAS GIVEN TO LOCAL CANDIDATES AT THE RECRUITMENT LEVEL, AND IN CONSIDERING WHETHER TO RENEW THE CONTRACT OF AN OVERSEAS OFFICER.

HOWEVER, IN FILLING POSTS AT PROMOTION LEVEL, LOCAL AND OVERSEAS OFFICERS WERE CONSIDERED ON EQUAL TERMS, SINCE THE OVERRIDING AIM WAS TO SELECT THE BEST PERSON AVAILABLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR TERMS OF APPOINTMENT, HE ADDED.

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STEPS TAKEN TO MEET NEEDS OF WATER INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES

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SEVERAL SITES HAD BEEN SOLD TO HEAVY WATER USERS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS BY THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, PARTICULARLY IN ITS SECOND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN YUEN LONG, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT, MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT PROVISION HAD ALSO BEEN MADE FOR THE CORPORATION'S THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN TSEUNG KWAN O TO HAVE AN INCREASED WATER SUPPLY AND ADEQUATE EFFLUENT TREATMENT FACILITIES TO ALLOW ABOUT 10 TO 15 HECTARES OF LAND TO BE USED BY WATER INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES.

"THE FIRST SITES IN THIS NEW ESTATE SHOULD BE READY FOR SALE IN EARLY 1994," HE ADDED.

MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD EARMARKED 12.5 HECTARES OF LAND FOR HEAVY WATER USERS IN THE NEW INDUSTRIAL ZONE TO BE RECLAIMED AT TUEN MUN ADJACENT TO THE TAP SHEK KOK POWER STATION.

"WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING PROVIDING MORE LAND FOR WATER INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES IN OTHER NEW INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

"IN ADDITION, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANCY STUDY TO LOOK AT THE NEED OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT IN THE LIGHT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES IN HONG KONG.

"THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY 1993," MR CHAU SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1992

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FERRY SERVICES TO CONTINUE DURING RECLAMATION

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FERRY SERVICES TO OUTLYING ISLANDS AND FINANCIALLY-VIABLE INNER-HARBOUR SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE WHILE WORKS ON THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION ARE IN PROGRESS.

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

MR LEUNG SAID THE EXISTING PIERS WHICH PROVIDE BERTHING POINTS FOR THESE SERVICES WOULD REMAIN IN USE UNTIL ALL THE AFFECTED FERRY SERVICES HAD BEEN RELOCATED, EITHER TO THE NEW PIERS ON THE FIRST STAGE OF THE RECLAMATION OR TO TEMPORARY BERTHS NEARBY.

THE RECLAMATION WAS PLANNED TO START IN SEPTEMBER.

PIERS AFFECTED INCLUDE THE GOVERNMENT PIER NEAR HARBOUR BUILDING, THE OUTLYING DISTRICT FERRY SERVICES PIER, THE CENTRAL HARBOUR FERRY SERVICES PIER, THE JUBILEE STREET FERRY PIER AND THE BLAKE PIER WHICH TOGETHER PROVIDE BERTHING POINTS FOR 13 FERRY SERVICES.

"DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE WORKING OUT THE DETAILED PHASING OF WORKS AND TRANSITIONAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE SAFETY AND OPERATION OF THE FERRY SERVICES IS MAINTAINED AND ANY INCONVENIENCE TO PASSENGERS MINIMISED," MR LEUNG ADDED.

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RENEWAL OPTIONS FOR DRIVING LICENCES EXPLAINED

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EXTENDING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF DRIVING LICENCES WILL MAKE THE RECORD OF ADDRESSES OF MANY DRIVERS OUT OF DATE, THUS CAUSING DIFFICULTIES IN SERVING SUMMONSES AND LEADING TO A GREATER ACCUMULATION OF FINES DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIMOTHY HA WING-HO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID IN PRACTICE, MOST DRIVERS REPORTED CHANGES IN ADDRESS ONLY WHEN THEY RENEWED THEIR DRIVING LICENCES.

IN ADDITION, UNDER THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) AND FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) ORDINANCES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT MAY REFUSE THE RENEWAL OF A DRIVING LICENCE UNTIL THE HOLDER HAS PAID ALL OUTSTANDING FINES FOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES.

/EXTENSION OF

EXTENSION OF THE DRIVING LICENCE VALIDITY PERIOD MAY THEREFORE RESULT IN MORE UNPAID FINES DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND HENCE HIGHER LOSS OF REVENUE.

AT PRESENT, FULL DRIVING LICENCES CAN BE RENEWED EITHER FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR OR THREE YEARS.

MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACHIEVE A SMALL SAVING ESTIMATED AT \$0.4 MILLION EACH YEAR IF ALL DRIVING LICENCES WERE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF SAY TEN YEARS.

IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THIS WOULD BE MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE LOSS IN UNPAID FINES.

"AS FOR CONVENIENCE TO DRIVERS, IN 1991, 47 PER CENT OF APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF A FULL DRIVING LICENCE WERE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR, WHILE THE REMAINING 53 PER CENT WERE FOR THREE YEARS.

"THIS SHOWS THAT DESPITE THE GREATER CONVENIENCE OF THE THREE YEAR LICENCE, ALMOST HALF OF MOTORISTS WOULD STILL PREFER TO RENEW FOR ONLY ONE YEAR," HE SAID.

IN 1991, A TOTAL OF 9,466 FIXED PENALTY TICKETS AND 562 SUMMONS WERE SERVED TO PEOPLE FOR DRIVING WITH AN EXPIRED LICENCE.

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FOUR CONSULTANCY STUDIES COMMISSIONED IN PAST 5 YEARS

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THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH HAD COMMISSIONED FOUR CONSULTANCY STUDIES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG, MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT TWO OF THE CONSULTANCY STUDIES WERE RELATED TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE OTHER TWO ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.

FOR THE STUDIES ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ARTHUR D. LITTLE ASIA PACIFIC WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1989 TO UNDERTAKE A TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS, RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO A GOVERNMENT INVITATION ISSUED IN 1988, TO PROVIDE A COMBINED CABLE TV AND COMPETING SECOND LOCAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

"THIS EVALUATION WAS REQUIRED TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN SELECTING A FRANCHISEE TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT CONCERNED.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN MID 1989 IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CABLE TV/SECOND TELEVISION NETWORK PROPOSALS WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY LED TO THE SELECTION OF HONG KONG CABLE COMMUNICATIONS LTD TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT," MRS CHAN SAID.

A SECOND STUDY IN THE FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY WAS CONDUCTED LAST YEAR.

/"FURTHER TO

"FURTHER TO THE WORK THEY HAD CARRIED OUT IN 1988 UNDER A STUDY COMMISSIONED BY THE POST OFFICE, BOOZ, ALLEN & HAMILTON INC. WAS COMMISSIONED TO PROVIDE AN ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF THE BROAD OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN HONG KONG," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE STUDY ENCOMPASSED A SURVEY OF REGULATORY TRENDS OVERSEAS AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FURTHER LIBERALISATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKET.

"ITS FINDINGS HAVE MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE REVIEW OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY WHICH IS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH," SHE ADDED.

THE TWO CONSULTANCY STUDIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER STATION WERE CONDUCTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FIRST STUDY, CONDUCTED IN 1987, WAS TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING TO DEAL WITH THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR HONG KONG OF A MAJOR NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENT AT DAYA BAY.

"THE STUDY'S RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE FORMED THE BASIS FOR THE CONTINGENCY PLAN CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY," MRS CHAN NOTED.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SECOND STUDY, CONDUCTED IN 1990, WAS TO ASSESS THE RISKS TO HONG KONG FROM POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS AT THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

"THE STUDY CONCLUDED THAT THE HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ACCIDENTS AT DAYA BAY ARE MUCH LOWER, BY A VERY LARGE MARGIN, THAN OTHERS ENCOUNTERED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

"THE ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN NOTED AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN OUR CONTINGENCY PLANNING," SHE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE CONSULTANCIES, THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH HAS RECENTLY BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR STEERING THE AIRPORT FINANCIAL CONSULTANCY COMMISSIONED BY THE FINANCE BRANCH.

"WARDLEY CAPITAL LTD AND A CANADIAN SUB-CONSULTING TEAM: MARSHALL MACKLIN MONAGHAN WERE APPOINTED TO CONDUCT THIS STUDY WHICH COMMENCED IN AUGUST 1990 AND HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY WERE TO PROVIDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT AND TO RECOMMEND AN APPROPRIATE FINANCING STRATEGY.

"ITS RESULTS, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, HAVE PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR THE FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT ON WHICH MEMBERS OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP TO STUDY THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS WILL BE BRIEFED BY THE ADMINISTRATION SHORTLY," SHE ADDED.

THE TOTAL COST OF THE ABOVE CONSULTANCY STUDIES, INCLUDING THE ONE COMMISSIONED BY THE FINANCE BRANCH, IS OF THE ORDER OF \$18 MILLION.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1992

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LEGCO MEMBERS REGULARLY BRIEFED BY OFFICIALS

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ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY EXISTED FOR BRANCH SECRETARIES AND THEIR SENIOR STAFF TO BRIEF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS REGULARLY ON THEIR RESPECTIVE POLICY AREAS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BRIEFED LEGCO MEMBERS THROUGH MEETINGS OF THE VARIOUS OMELCO PANELS AND AT SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

MOREOVER, POLICY MATTERS COULD BE RAISED AT SITTINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING QUESTION TIME AND AT THE DEBATES ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS AND ON THE BUDGET, SIR DAVID SAID IN REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION BY THE HON J.D. MCGREGOR.

"IF A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS WISHED THESE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED OR REPLACED BY REGULAR MEETINGS WITH BRANCH SECRETARIES, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SUCH A PROPOSAL," SIR DAVID SAID.

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WORK OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES EXPLAINED

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THE MAIN TASK OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IS TO DRAW UP WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE BEGINNING OF EACH LEGISLATIVE SESSION A TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE SESSION, ON THE BASIS OF PROPOSALS FROM BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, IN REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION BY THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG.

"THEREAFTER IT REGULARLY REVIEWS PROGRESS AND MAKES ADJUSTMENTS WHERE APPROPRIATE," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES WAS ESTABLISHED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF CO-ORDINATING AND DETERMINING THE ADMINISTRATION'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES.

THE COMMITTEE IS CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, THE INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR AND THE CLERK OF COUNCILS.

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JOCKEY CLUB TO BEAR FULL REDEVELOPMENT COSTS OF HK STADIUM

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THE COSTS FOR REDEVELOPING THE HONG KONG STADIUM WILL BE BORNE SOLELY BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE ANY CONTRIBUTIONS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG.

MR SO SAID THE NEW STADIUM, WHEN COMPLETED, WOULD BE USED FOR SPORTING AND MASS ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD ATTRACT LARGE CROWDS AND THE AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW STADIUM WOULD HAVE TO BEAR ALL OPERATING COSTS.

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NEW DIRECTIONAL SIGNS FOR CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

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TEN NEW DIRECTIONAL SIGNS WERE INSTALLED RECENTLY TO DIRECT PEDESTRIANS AND VISITORS TO THE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HOWARD YOUNG, MR LEUNG SAID THESE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS EXTENDED FROM THE WANCHAI MTR STATION TO THE CENTRE, AND SHOULD ASSIST OVERSEAS VISITORS IN PARTICULAR.

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MOTIONS ON BROADCASTING POLICY AND HOSPITAL FEES PASSED

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TWO SEPARATE MOTIONS ON BROADCASTING POLICY AND HOSPITAL FEES WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MOTION ON BROADCASTING POLICY, MOVED BY THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG, REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE THE FORMULATION OF AN OVERALL BROADCASTING POLICY SO AS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY WITHIN HONG KONG'S FREE MARKET ECONOMY.

FOURTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE WITH THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

A TOTAL OF 14 MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION MOVED BY THE HON PETER WONG ON FEE CHARGING FOR HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES. THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MOTION URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONSULT THE PUBLIC IN THE FORM OF A GREEN PAPER BEFORE END OF THIS YEAR ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIS OF FUNDING FOR HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND ITS FEE-CHARGING POLICY.

IN ADDITION, TWO OTHER MOTIONS WERE ALSO PASSED. ONE WAS MOVED BY THE HON ELSIE TU ON THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THE OTHER, MOVED BY THE HON RONALD ARCULLI, WAS ON THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

MEANWHILE, 10 BILLS WERE PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

OF THEM, EIGHT WERE PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENTS. THEY WERE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, PEAK TRAMWAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992, FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1992, FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 AND CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991 AND SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1991 WERE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

MEANWHILE, FOUR BILLS - BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES BILL, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992, AND TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SAFETY BILL - WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

IMPORTATION OF LABOUR QUOTA RELEASED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE QUOTAS TO BE ALLOCATED TO INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES UNDER THE 1992 GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME.

ALTOGETHER, 12,000 MORE WORKERS AT THE TECHNICIAN, CRAFTSMAN, SUPERVISOR AND OPERATIVE LEVELS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IMPORTED.

"THIS IS IN ADDITION TO SOME 13,000 IMPORTED WORKERS CURRENTLY WORKING IN HONG KONG AND IS IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY THAT THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED WORKERS IN HONG KONG AT ANY ONE TIME SHOULD NOT EXCEED 25,000," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH SAID.

HE SAID IN WORKING OUT THE DISTRIBUTION OF QUOTA, RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDER-EMPLOYMENT RATES IN INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES AND OTHER ECONOMIC INDICATORS RELATED TO LABOUR SHORTAGE HAD BEEN GIVEN DUE WEIGHT.

FURTHERMORE, APPLICATIONS INVOLVING SOME 50,000 JOBS HAD BEEN WEEDED OUT ON ACCOUNT OF VARIOUS FACTORS.

AMONG THOSE DISQUALIFIED WERE CASES WHICH DID NOT MEET THE STIPULATED ALLOWABLE WAGE RATE OR LEVEL OF SKILL, CASES WHERE THE EMPLOYER HAD NOT REGISTERED VACANCIES WITH THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, AND CASES WHERE THE EMPLOYER HAD ADVERSE RECORD SUCH AS EXPLOITATION OF LABOUR.

ACCORDING TO THE QUOTA DISTRIBUTION, THE SERVICES SECTOR WILL TAKE UP ABOUT HALF OF THE QUOTA WHILE THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ABOUT 25 PER CENT, AND THE REST FOR THE OTHER INDUSTRIES.

OF THE 12,000 IMPORTED WORKERS, THE LARGEST SHARES GO TO THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES (3,721); AND THE CATERING SECTOR (1,628).

"HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED WORKERS ALLOWED FOR EACH INDUSTRY OR SERVICE SECTOR REPRESENTS A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED BY THEM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE CURRENT LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES IN HONG KONG IS ESTIMATED TO BE 354,832 AND IN THE CATERING SECTOR, 172,285.

"THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED WORKERS ALLOCATED TO THESE INDUSTRIES THEREFORE REPRESENTS ONLY 1.05% AND 0.94% RESPECTIVELY.

"THE SPIRIT OF THE SCHEME THEREFORE REMAINS LIMITED AND SELECTIVE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE CLOTHING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES (E.G. FOOD MANUFACTURING, PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING, WELFARE INSTITUTIONS, LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING, AND SO ON) WILL TAKE UP ANOTHER 1,027 AND 2,909 WORKERS RESPECTIVELY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE QUOTA ALLOCATION ANNOUNCED TODAY HAD BEEN FINE-TUNED AFTER HAVING CONSULTED MEMBERS OF THE OMELCO MANPOWER PANEL AND THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD LAST WEEK.

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY ISSUE LETTERS TO SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYERS WHO WILL BE GIVEN SIX MONTHS TO ARRANGE THE IMPORTATION OF WORKERS.

"EMPLOYERS WHO DO NOT WISH TO TAKE UP THE QUOTA SHOULD INFORM THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE QUOTA CAN BE REALLOCATED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THE QUOTA IN THE EVENT OF BREACH OF CONDITIONS BY AN EMPLOYER. FURTHERMORE, EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE BREACHED THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHEME WILL BE DEBARRED FROM TAKING PART IN FUTURE IMPORTATION SCHEMES.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, DEBATE ON THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1992 WOULD BE RESUMED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE BILL SEEKS TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION OF WAGES FROM \$10,000 TO \$100,000 AND UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES FROM \$20,000 TO \$200,000, AND TO INTRODUCE FOR BOTH OFFENCES AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "CASES OF UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION AND UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES BY UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS HAD ARISEN UNDER THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEMES.

"IN ORDER TO DETER SUCH MALPRACTICES, IT IS NECESSARY TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR THESE OFFENCES."

IN ADDITION, FOUR OTHER BILLS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO BE PASSED THIS AFTERNOON WHICH ARE AIMED AT ENHANCING PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES WORKING IN HONG KONG.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND HELP IMPORTED WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT.

FINALLY, THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME WOULD NOT MEAN AN AMNESTY OR JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED AS SOON AS THEY ARE APPREHENDED," HE ADDED.

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/PRELIMINARY QUOTA

Preliminary Quota Allocation by Industries/Services
按工業/服務行業分析的初步配額分配結果

(Position as at 28.4.92)

(一九九二年四月二十八日編訂)

Industries/Services 工業/服務行業	Quota allocated 配額分配	Share of	Quota allocation	Quota allocation	Quota allocation
		industry quota in overall quota 工業配額 佔全部配 額的百分 率	as a percentage of foreign workers applied for 配額分配佔申 請輸入外地勞 工人數的比率	as a percentage of qualified applications 配額分配佔符 合申請資格人 數的比率	as a percentage of estimated no. of persons engaged 配額分配佔僱員 估計人數的比率
(1)	(2)	(3) (%)	(4) (%)	(5) (%)	(6) (%)
1. Automobile repairing * 汽車修理業 *	170	1.42	31.19	100.00	1.59
2. Banking and finance 銀行及財經業	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Catering 飲食業	1628	13.57	8.01	12.90	0.94
4. Clothing 製衣業	1027	8.56	5.75	12.19	0.59
5. Construction work sites 建築地盤業	265	2.21	2.36	6.85	0.61
6. Electrical 電機業	120	1.00	10.17	21.70	0.82
7. Electronics 電子業	266	2.22	13.73	23.75	0.46
8. Footwear 製鞋業	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9. Furniture 傢俬業	74	0.62	7.07	20.50	1.37
10. Handbag 手袋業	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11. Hotel 酒店業	190	1.58	15.31	24.14	0.60
12. Insurance 保險業	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13. Jewellery 珠寶業	67	0.56	10.97	44.97	0.52
14. Machine shop 金屬品製造業	653	5.44	14.55	39.84	0.68
15. Plastics 塑膠業	111	0.93	5.82	12.83	0.36
16. Printing 印刷業	280	2.33	21.67	53.85	0.65
17. Shipbuilding and repairing 船舶建造業	94	0.78	11.46	23.68	1.57
18. Textile 紡織業	226	1.88	7.16	13.53	0.52
19. Tourism 旅遊業	54	0.45	30.00	80.60	0.20
20. Transport (e.g. water transport, air transport, cold storage, godowns) 運輸業 (海運、 空運、冷藏、倉庫)	145	1.21	11.69	39.62	0.37
21. Wholesale, retail and import/export trades 批發零售及進出口貿易	3721	31.01	30.47	97.10	1.05
Sub-total 小計	9091	75.76	11.12	24.19	0.72
22. Industries/services not covered above ** 除上述行業外的其他 工業/服務行業 **	2909	24.24	26.68	100.00	0.73
Total 總計	12000	100.00	12.95	29.63	0.72

/NOTES

Notes : * The automobile repairing industry secures a high allocation rate because, apart from the
 註 . vacancy situation, the labour utilization and the wage increase criteria also support a
 relatively larger allocation to this industry.

* 汽車修理業獲得一個高分配率的原因是除空缺情況外，勞工僱用情況及工資增長
 兩個標準均支持將一個較高分配額撥給這行業的做法。

** This is a residual category to cater for certain industries/services not included in the
 classification above. Applications were received from companies in a variety of
 businesses, including food manufacturing and other miscellaneous manufacturing
 industries, construction (other than at building and construction sites), welfare
 institutions, laundries, and other personal services. Taken as a group, application of
 the prescribed criteria, particularly those of vacancies and labour utilization, again
 supports a larger allocation.

** 這是用以包括除上述行業分類外其他工業/服務行業的剩餘類別，有關方面所接獲
 的申請來自不同業務性質的公司，包括食品製造業及其他各類製造業、建築業（建築地盤除外）、
 福利機構、洗衣業，以及其他個人服務行業。以一個組別計算，在採用所規定的標準，
 尤其是空缺及勞工僱用情況後，結果亦支持一個較高的分配額撥給這類別的做法。

PROTECTION FOR IMPORTED WORKERS STEPPED UP

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO FULLY PROTECT THE STATUTORY AND CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS OF WORKERS BROUGHT IN UNDER THE GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME.

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1992, WHICH SEEKS TO DRASTICALLY INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR EMPLOYERS WHO UNDERPAY WORKERS, WHETHER LOCAL OR IMPORTED, OR WHO ILLEGALLY DEDUCT THEIR WAGES, WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"AN OFFENDING EMPLOYER WILL, FROM NOW ON, FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$100,000 FOR WAGE DEDUCTION, AND \$200,000 FOR UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES, PLUS IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR," AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR MAK SAI-YIU, SAID.

MR MAK STRESSED THAT THE HEAVIER PENALTY SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE DETERRENT EFFECT ON UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS AND WILL HELP THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BETTER PROTECT IMPORTED WORKERS FROM EXPLOITATION.

HE ADDED THAT THE MAXIMUM FINE OF \$100,000 PLUS ONE YEAR'S CUSTODIAL SENTENCE WILL APPLY ALSO TO OFFENCES OF WILFULLY OR RECKLESSLY GIVING FALSE INFORMATION, WITHHOLDING INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE GIVEN UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS.

"THIS WILL FACILITATE OUR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION FOR WHICH THE AVAILABILITY AND ACCURACY OF WAGE RECORDS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS KEPT BY EMPLOYERS ARE ESSENTIAL EVIDENCE," HE NOTED.

"ALSO DIRECTORS, PARTNERS AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSONS OF A COMPANY WILL BE HELD LIABLE UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION FOR SUCH OFFENCES IF COMMITTED BY THE COMPANY WITH THEIR CONSENT, OR DUE TO THEIR NEGLIGENCE," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE GENERAL IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME ALSO PROVIDES FOR ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSES BY EMPLOYERS.

"EMPLOYERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY WAGES THROUGH AUTOPAY TO ENSURE THAT IMPORTED WORKERS RECEIVE THEIR WAGES IN FULL," MR MAK SAID.

"EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE BREACHED THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHEME OR WHO HAVE EXPLOITED THEIR WORKERS WILL HAVE THEIR QUOTAS WITHDRAWN AND WILL BE DEBARRED FROM PARTICIPATING IN FUTURE SCHEMES," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, THE LUMP SUM LEVY OF \$400 PER MONTH PER WORKER, WHICH THEY HAVE PAID TO ENHANCE THE PROVISION OF RETRAINING FOR LOCAL WORKERS, WILL NOT BE REFUNDED," HE SAID.

MR MAK ALSO NOTED THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO CERTIFY THAT THEIR IMPORTED WORKERS HAVE RECEIVED THE CONTRACTUAL WAGES WHEN THE WORKERS APPLY FOR AN EXTENSION OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT VISAS ONE YEAR AFTER THEIR FIRST ARRIVAL.

/"EMPLOYERS WHO

"EMPLOYERS WHO GIVE FALSE STATEMENTS AND MISREPRESENTATION RELATING TO VISA APPLICATION WILL BE SEVERELY DEALT WITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, AND WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS ON SUMMARY CONVICTION," HE SAID.

WHEN AN EMPLOYER IS GIVEN APPROVAL-IN-PRINCIPLE TO IMPORT LABOUR, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL SEND HIM A WRITTEN REMINDER EXPLAINING TO HIM THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE SCHEME AND RELEVANT LABOUR LEGISLATION AS WELL AS THE INCREASED PENALTY FOR BREACHING SUCH REQUIREMENTS.

TO REMIND IMPORTED WORKERS OF THEIR STATUTORY RIGHTS AND CHANNELS TO LODGE COMPLAINTS, MR MAK SAID INFORMATION LEAFLETS PRINTED IN SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO WORKERS AT THEIR POINT OF ENTRY INTO HONG KONG.

"A HANDY INFORMATION CARD CONTAINING THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS' COMPLAINT HOTLINE NUMBERS, AS WELL AS COPIES OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS, WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO IMPORTED WORKERS DURING VISITS TO THEIR WORKPLACES OR DORMITORIES BY LABOUR INSPECTORS," HE SAID.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE WORKERS ARE FULLY INFORMED OF THEIR TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, INCLUDING THE LEVELS OF WAGES," HE EXPLAINED.

"WE WILL ALSO ARRANGE BRIEFING SESSIONS FOR BOTH IMPORTED WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE LABOUR LAWS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SCHEME," HE SAID, NOTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLAINT HOTLINE WILL BE WELL-PUBLICISED THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA.

MR MAK GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE VIGOROUS ACTIONS TO ENFORCE THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE SCHEME.

"A THIRD SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM OF SIX LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL BE SET UP TO STRENGTHEN INSPECTION ON PRACTICALLY ALL PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT AND QUARTERS OF IMPORTED WORKERS," HE SAID.

"SUSPECTED CASES OF IRREGULARITIES AND COMPLAINTS CONCERNING PAYMENT OF WAGES AND OTHER MAJOR CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY OUR LABOUR RELATIONS DIVISION WHICH WILL BE GIVEN ADDITIONAL MANPOWER RESOURCES FOR THE PURPOSE," HE ADDED.

MR MAK STRESSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT TAKES A VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF ABUSES BY EMPLOYERS UNDER THE SCHEME AND WILL TAKE OUT PROSECUTION AGAINST OFFENDERS WHENEVER THERE IS EVIDENCE.

"IF AN IMPORTED WORKER IS DISMISSED MAINLY BECAUSE OF COMPLAINT AGAINST HIS EMPLOYER ABOUT EXPLOITATION, HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO FIND ANOTHER JOB IN THE SAME INDUSTRY BY HIMSELF OR WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

"WE HOPE THIS WILL ENCOURAGE EXPLOITED WORKERS TO COME FORWARD WITH INFORMATION ABOUT BAD EMPLOYERS," MR MAK SAID.

APPLICATIONS FOR FLAG DAYS 1993 INVITED

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ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO HOLD FUND-RAISING FLAG DAYS NEXT YEAR ARE INVITED TO APPLY TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FROM FRIDAY (MAY 1).

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT APPLICANTS MUST BE BONA-FIDE NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 88 OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

ALL APPLICATIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE SUBVENTIONS AND LOTTERIES FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MERITS OF THE SERVICES OR SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUND-RAISING THROUGH A FLAG DAY WAS PROPOSED, THE ORGANISATION'S FINANCIAL NEEDS, AND ITS ABILITY TO EXECUTE SUCH FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ABOUT 40 FLAG DAYS WOULD BE ALLOCATED IN 1993.

"IN THE EVENT THAT APPLICATIONS OUTNUMBER THE FLAG DAYS AVAILABLE, PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE DIRECT WELFARE SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND THAT HAVE GREATER FINANCIAL NEEDS.

"ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED A FLAG DAY IN THE PAST MUST NOT ASSUME THAT A FLAG DAY WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE GRANTED IN 1993," HE ADDED.

EXPLAINING THE ALLOCATION CRITERIA, HE POINTED OUT THAT EACH APPLICATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED BASICALLY IN THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS:

- * AN ASSESSMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY OF THE APPLICANT ORGANISATION. THIS IS IMPORTANT SINCE PUBLIC COLLECTION OF MONEY IS INVOLVED;
- * THE NATURE OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISATION, AND THE DEMAND FOR SUCH FROM THE COMMUNITY;
- * THE FINANCIAL NEED OF THE ORGANISATION BASED ON ITS ANNUAL BUDGET, OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICITS, AVAILABILITY OF OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES, AND PLANNED PROJECTS; AND
- * THE ORGANISATION'S ABILITY TO ORGANISE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES AND TO MAXIMISE THE BENEFITS OF A FLAG DAY.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH A FLAG DAY SHOULD NOT EXCEED 10 PER CENT OF THE GROSS RECEIPTS, AND THAT SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS NEED TO OBSERVE THE CONDITIONS FOR HOLDING FLAG DAYS LAID DOWN BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WORLD TRADE CENTRE, 280 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG FROM FRIDAY (MAY 1), IN PERSON OR BY WRITING.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1992

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THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM, TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF THE ORGANISATION'S LATEST ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS, MUST REACH THE DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE MAY 31 THIS YEAR. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED BY THIS OCTOBER. ENQUIRIES ON APPLICATIONS FOR FLAG DAY ACTIVITIES CAN BE MADE ON 576 5922.

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TEMPORARY POST OFFICE FOR ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEETING

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT A TEMPORARY POST OFFICE WILL BE SET UP DURING THE 25TH ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 4 TO 6 AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE IN WAN CHAI TO SERVE DELEGATES ATTENDING THE MEETING.

STAMP SALE, POSTING, REGISTRATION AND PARCEL ACCEPTANCE SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED.

A SPECIAL DATESTAMP WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED FOR THE OCCASION.

AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE TEMPORARY POST OFFICE, COLLECTORS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE IMPRESSION OF THE SPECIAL POSTMARK MAY MAKE USE OF A HAND-BACK SERVICE PROVIDED AT THE FOLLOWING SEVEN PHILATELIC OFFICES FROM MAY 4 TO 6 FOR PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING INDICATION OF THE MEETING:

GENERAL POST OFFICE
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
PEAK POST OFFICE
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
AIRPORT POST OFFICE
SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE

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TWO PIECES OF GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER
* * * * *

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

LOCATED AT YUE FUNG STREET, TIN WAN, THE FIRST SITE HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 135 SQUARE METRES. IT IS INTENDED FOR OPEN STORAGE AND/OR CAR REPAIRING.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE SECOND SITE IS AT LAI HONG STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN RECLAMATION.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,520 SQUARE METRES AND IS DESIGNATED FOR OPEN STORAGE ONLY.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

SUBMISSION OF TENDERS WILL BE CLOSED AT NOON ON MAY 15.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLANS OF THE TWO SITES INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET.

THOSE FOR THE FIRST SITE ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG SOUTH, 20TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	28.4.92	850
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	29.4.92	+138
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL *

* INJECTION OF 138 MN

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.8 *-0.2* 29.4.92

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.84 PCT	19 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.93	5.00
1 MONTH	3.75 PCT	22 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.22	5.44
3 MONTHS	3.74 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.90 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.37 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 13,890 MN

CLOSED 29 APRIL 1992

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