



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
DOMESTIC EXPORTS UP BY 13 PER CENT LAST MONTH	1
CLARIFICATION SOUGHT ON FRENCH TEXTILES RESTRICTIONS	3
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS GIVEN BETTER WAGE PROTECTION	4
SEVEN DAYS ANNUAL LEAVE BILL PASSED	5
SQUATTER AREAS KEPT CLEAN BY USD	6
24-HOUR WATCH ON MAINS WATER LEAKS	7
JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE FACILITIES WITHIN 3 YEARS	8
28 SQUADRON, RAF HONOURED WITH NEW STANDARD	9
SHORTER WAITING TIME AT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS	11
POSSIBLE CONTROL OVER MOTORCYCLE HIRING	12
GOVERNMENT SEEKING ADVICE ON PROTECTING COMPUTER INFORMATION	12
LOCAL MAGISTRATES NOT EASY TO RECRUIT	13
HAWKERS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR NEW NT MARKET STALLS	13
CONTROL ADEQUATE OVER UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ...	14
FULL REPORT MADE OF FISHING BOAT SHOOTING INCIDENT	14
REGULAR UNDERGROUND INSPECTIONS AT MTR SITES	15
TRANSFER OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES CORPS DUTIES	15
GOVERNOR TO OPEN LAI CHI WO TELEPHONE EXCHANGE	16
TEN BILLS PASSED THIRD READING	16
SECTION OF FAT HING STREET CLOSED TO TRAFFIC	17

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 1 -

DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR MAY UP 13 PER CENT OVER APRIL
* * * * *

THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR MAY WAS \$2,958 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$4,177 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$822 MILLION.

ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS WENT UP BY \$340 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT, IMPORTS BY \$47 MILLION OR 1.1 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$103 MILLION OR 14.4 PER CENT COMPARED WITH APRIL.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 9.9 PER CENT, IMPORTS BY 10.8 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS BY 9.4 PER CENT.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH TO MAY ALSO SHOWED INCREASES BY VALUE OF 3.5 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 14 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 6.9 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM JUNE 1976 TO MAY 1977 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES BY VALUE OF 24.5 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 19.7 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 17.6 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING TRADE TABLE GIVES THE COMPARATIVE FIGURES : -

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>MARCH - MAY 1977</u>	<u>MARCH - MAY 1976</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	7,902	7,638	+ 264	+ 3.5
IMPORTS	12,238	10,735	+ 1,504	+14.0
RE-EXPORTS	2,304	2,156	+ 148	+ 6.9
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	<u>MAY 1977</u>	<u>MAY 1976</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,958 (78.2%)	2,692 (78.2%)	+ 266	+ 9.9
IMPORTS	4,177	3,768	+ 409	+10.8
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	822 (21.8%)	751 (21.8%)	+ 71	+ 9.4

/LAST MONTH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 2 -

<u>LAST MONTH</u>	MAY 1977	APRIL 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN. 2,958 (78.2%)	\$ MN. 2,618 (78.5%)	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)			+ 340	+13.0
IMPORTS	4,177	4,129	+ 47	+ 1.1
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	822 (21.8%)	719 (21.5%)	+ 103	+14.4
<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JAN. - MAY 1977	JAN. - MAY 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	12,846 (77.2%)	11,970 (77.3%)	+ 876	+ 7.3
IMPORTS	19,448	16,954	+ 2,494	+14.7
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,804 (22.8%)	3,522 (22.7%)	+ 282	+ 8.0
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	JUNE 1976 TO MAY 1977	JUNE 1975 TO MAY 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	33,505	26,901	+ 6,604	+24.5
IMPORTS	45,787	38,241	+ 7,545	+19.7
RE-EXPORTS	9,210	7,829	+ 1,381	+17.6

----- 0 -----

/3

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 3 -

CLARIFICATION SOUGHT ON ADDITIONAL FRENCH TEXTILES RESTRICTIONS
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE FORMAL AND INFORMAL CONTACTS IN BOTH PARIS AND BRUSSELS OVER THE LAST TEN DAYS TO CLARIFY A STATEMENT MADE BY THE FRENCH MINISTER OF TRADE THAT ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS WERE BEING IMPOSED ON IMPORTS OF TEXTILES UP TO THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. BILL DORWARD SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO A REQUEST BY DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG, IN AN UNSCHEDULED QUESTION, FOR AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE REPORTED RESTRICTIONS BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

MR. DORWARD TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT DESPITE THE CONTACTS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD STILL BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE INFORMATION ON THE FRENCH ACTION WHICH WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

+IT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED NEARLY TWO WEEKS AGO, AND IMPLEMENTED ONE WEEK AGO. I HAVE BEEN LED TO EXPECT AN EARLY FORMAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THIS SOON,+ THE DIRECTOR SAID.

HE SAID IT APPEARED THAT THE RESTRICTIONS WERE NON-DISCRIMINATORY, BUT NONETHELESS AFFECTED THE TRADE IN WHICH HONG KONG WAS ALREADY EXERCISING EXPORT RESTRAINT UNDER A BILATERAL AGREEMENT CONCLUDED THREE YEARS AGO WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

+I SHOULD NOTE THAT THE RESTRICTIONS APPEAR TO AFFECT ONLY THREE CATEGORIES OF TEXTILES OF INTEREST TO HONG KONG. TRADE SOURCES, HOWEVER, INDICATED SOME DISLOCATION OF TRADE IS ALREADY TAKING PLACE, IN THAT HONG KONG EXPORT LICENCES WHICH WERE ISSUED IN GOOD FAITH AND TRADE CONDUCTED IN GOOD FAITH ARE NOT BEING HONOURED IN FRANCE AT THIS MOMENT,+ MR. DORWARD SAID.

HE ASSURED DR. CHUNG THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXERT GREATER PRESSURE ON THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND ON THE E.E.C. TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM SATISFACTORILY AND AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

LEGCO SUPPORTS BETTER WAGE PROTECTION FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
* * * * *

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL, WHICH SEEKS TO MAKE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS VICARIOUSLY LIABLE FOR THE UNPAID WAGES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THEIR SUB-CONTRACTORS, WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH THE SUPPORT OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

THE HON. PETER C. WONG, SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE, SAID THE BILL WOULD HELP DISCOURAGE INDISCRIMINATE SUB-CONTRACTING AND MINIMIZE EXPLOITATION BY IRRESPONSIBLE SUB-CONTRACTORS.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT IT WOULD GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE EXISTING PRACTICE OF GOOD CONTRACTORS.

MR. WONG SAID AN AD HOC GROUP OF EIGHT UNOFFICIALS FORMED TO STUDY THE BILL HAD CAREFULLY CONSIDERED ITS PROVISIONS AND HAD HAD USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR. WITH CERTAIN MINOR RESERVATIONS, THE GROUP WAS HAPPY WITH THE LEGISLATION, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE GROUP HAD TWO SUGGESTIONS, FIRSTLY TO AMEND THE WORDS 'PRINCIPAL SUB-CONTRACTOR' IN SECTION 43F (3) (A) TO 'PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR', AND SECONDLY TO REQUIRE ALL SUB-CONTRACTORS IN THE CHAIN OF SUB-CONTRACTING TO PROVIDE THE CONTRACTOR, WHO IS VICARIOUSLY LIABLE, WITH INFORMATION RELATING TO EMPLOYEES CLAIMING UNPAID WAGES.

MR. WONG NOTED THAT UNDER THE BILL, A SUB-CONTRACTOR OR A NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTOR WAS RESPECTIVELY REQUIRED TO PROVIDE HIS EMPLOYEES, IN THE EVENT OF HIS FAILURE TO PAY WAGES, WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR AND EVERY SUPERIOR SUB-CONTRACTOR, OR MAIN NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTOR AND EVERY SUPERIOR NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTOR.

+OBVIOUSLY, THIS INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE EMPLOYEES WHOSE WAGES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID.

+IT IS FELT THAT AS A MATTER OF JUSTICE, A CONTRACTOR, WHO IS VICARIOUSLY LIABLE TO PAY THE WAGES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL, SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE IS IN FACT PAYING WAGES TO THE RIGHT PARTIES,+ MR. WONG SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS, ACCEPTED THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND HAD THEM MADE IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE. HE THANKED THE AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE BILL.

HE SAID ITS PREPARATION HAD NOT BEEN WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES BUT MANY PROBLEMS WERE IRONED OUT WITH THE HELP OF MEMBERS OF THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION, MANY OF WHOSE VIEWS WERE ACCEPTED OR TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

+THE ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL WILL REPRESENT ONE MORE STEP FORWARD IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF WORKERS,+ THE COMMISSIONER SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 5 -

ANNUAL LEAVE BILL PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS
* * * * *

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1977 WHICH AIMS TO GIVE WORKERS SEVEN DAYS PAID ANNUAL LEAVE PASSED ITS COMMITTEE STAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH TWO AMENDMENTS.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT PROVIDED FOR THE REDUCTION FROM ONE MONTH TO 14 DAYS THE PERIOD OF NOTICE REQUIRED TO BE GIVEN TO EMPLOYEES OF THE TIME APPOINTED FOR THEIR LEAVE.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT PROVIDED EMPLOYEES WITH THE OPTION TO TAKE EITHER ALL SEVEN DAYS LEAVE CONSECUTIVELY OR SEPARATELY. IN THE LATTER CASE AT LEAST FOUR OF THE HOLIDAYS, EXCLUDING STATUTORY HOLIDAYS, MUST BE TAKEN CONSECUTIVELY.

THESE AMENDMENTS WERE DESIGNED TO GIVE GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO FACTORY OWNERS WHO MAY RECEIVE OVERSEAS ORDERS AT SHORT NOTICE AND ALSO TO WORKERS.

UNDER THE NEW LAW, WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR, ALL MANUAL WORKERS, AND NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$2,000 A MONTH WILL BE ENTITLED TO SEVEN DAYS PAID ANNUAL LEAVE AFTER SERVING 12 MONTHS WITH THE SAME EMPLOYER.

THE SEVEN DAYS ANNUAL LEAVE WILL BE IN ADDITION TO THE 10 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS TO WHICH WORKERS ARE ALREADY ENTITLED TO BY LAW.

ON TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT, AN EMPLOYEE MUST BE GIVEN PRO-RATA ANNUAL LEAVE PAY EXCEPT WHERE HIS RELEVANT PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT IS LESS THAN THREE MONTHS, OR HE IS DISMISSED FOR MISCONDUCT AND HIS RELEVANT PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT IS LESS THAN 12 MONTHS.

APART FROM THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PAYMENT IN LIEU OF LEAVE IS PROHIBITED.

THE NEW LAW ALSO REQUIRES AN EMPLOYER TO KEEP RECORDS OF ANNUAL LEAVE TAKEN BY HIS STAFF AND TO POST NOTICE OF ANY INTENTION TO CLOSE DOWN HIS BUSINESS TEMPORARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING ANNUAL LEAVE TO HIS EMPLOYEES.

IN SUCH AN EVENT, ANY EMPLOYEE WHO HAS NOT COMPLETED ONE YEAR'S SERVICE WOULD BE ENTITLED TO ANNUAL LEAVE WITH PAY FOR THE PERIOD OF THE SHUT DOWN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 6 -

SQUATTER AREAS KEPT CLEAN BY URBAN SERVICES

* * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. ALAN SCOTT, POINTED OUT IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT ALL SQUATTER AREAS ARE PROVIDED WITH STANDARD LITTER DRUMS WHICH ARE EMPTIED AT LEAST ONCE DAILY BY CLEANSING STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. HENRY HU WHO HAD ASKED WHAT MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE HYGIENIC CONDITIONS OF KWAI SHING WAI AND OTHER SIMILAR AREAS.

MR. SCOTT SAID THAT IN THESE AREAS, DRAINS AND GUTTERS RUNNING ALONG PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES ARE ALSO CLEARED OF RUBBISH AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AND DRY PAIL LAVATORIES ARE PROVIDED EITHER WITHIN OR, IF SPACE IS NOT AVAILABLE, ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE AREAS.

HE ADDED THAT NIGHTSOIL IS COLLECTED BY USD STAFF ON A DAILY BASIS WHILE WATER IS AVAILABLE THROUGH PUBLIC STANDPIPES, AND PLANS ARE IN HAND TO INTRODUCE PROPER ELECTRICITY TO ALL THESE AREAS.

THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT KWAI SHING WAI WAS A RESITE AREA CLEARED IN 1972 NOW WHOLLY OCCUPIED ILLEGALLY BY SQUATTERS.

+THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF CLEARING DEBRIS FOLLOWING RECENT CLEARANCE OF PART OF THIS SQUATTER AREA HAS BEEN DEALT WITH, BUT CLEARANCE OF THE REMAINING PART IS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE POOR CONDITIONS IN THE AREA,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS PLANNED THAT ABOUT HALF OF THE REMAINING RESIDENTS WOULD BE MOVED IN JULY AND THE REST LATER THIS YEAR, INTO TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS.

MEANWHILE, HE NOTED, ANY FAMILY WISHING TO LEAVE HAD BEEN OFFERED ACCOMMODATION IN SHAM SHUI PO TRANSIT CENTRE WHICH HAS VERY GOOD FACILITIES, AND ONLY THREE FAMILIES HAVE SO FAR CHOSEN TO MOVE.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY THE HON. ALEX WU, STRESSED THAT IN AREAS WHERE RATS CAN OBTAIN PLENTY OF FOOD AND COMFORTABLE HIDING PLACES, TRAPPING AND POISONING THEM CANNOT GET TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ERADICATE VERMIN ARE ALREADY AS EFFECTIVE AS THEY CAN BE MADE, +BUT NO AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENTAL EFFORT CAN PRODUCE REALLY EFFECTIVE RESULTS WITHOUT THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC IN IMPROVING HYGIENIC CONDITIONS AND THUS DENYING TO VERMIN THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY CAN MULTIPLY AND FLOURISH.+

A CONTINUING BATTLE AGAINST PESTS AND VERMIN IS WAGED BY PEST CONTROL STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WHO ALSO CONDUCT PERIODICAL CAMPAIGNS TO PERSUADE THE PUBLIC TO ADOPT MEASURES THAT WILL REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF VERMIN, MR. JONES SAID.

/+EXAMPLES

+EXAMPLES ARE THE COVERING UP OF FOOD AND WASTE FOOD MATTER, THE ELIMINATION OF HOLLOW SPACES AND PROVIDING GRATINGS OVER DRAINPIPES.

+LATER THIS YEAR A SPECIAL PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED ON THE BEST MEANS OF PREVENTING AND ELIMINATING PESTS IN DOMESTIC PREMISES,+ HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE SITUATION IN KWAI SHING WAI, MR. JONES POINTED OUT THAT RATS, COCKROACHES AND OTHER VERMIN CAN MULTIPLY RAPIDLY WHERE THERE IS FOOD AND HARBOURAGE FOR THEM.

+THIS AREA HAS UNFORTUNATELY PROVIDED VERY FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS TO ENCOURAGE RATS TO BREED AND FLOURISH,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PLUGGING WATER LEAKS * * * * *

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAD TO REPAIR AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 10 BURST WATER MAINS A WEEK, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS MR. DAVID MCDONALD SAID TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+LEAKS AND BURSTS GENERALLY OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF DISTURBANCE BY WORKINGS ON OTHER SERVICES CLOSE TO MAINS, VIBRATION OCCASIONED BY CONSTRUCTION WORKS OR HEAVY MOTOR TRAFFIC, OR GROUND SUBSIDENCE+, MR. MCDONALD ADDED IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION.

+THE TIME WHICH ELAPSES BEFORE THE FLOW FROM A BURST IS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL USUALLY VARIES FROM 30 TO 60 MINUTES DEPENDING ON THE DISTANCE FROM THE DEPOT AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT THE TIME.+

MR. MCDONALD WAS ASKED BY THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING, ABOUT MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT LOSS OF WATER OCCURRING FROM LEAKAGE OR BREAKAGE IN UNDERGROUND WATER MAINS.

+THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID +HAS STAND-BY STAFF ON 24-HOUR DUTY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO DEAL WITH BURST MAINS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES+.

HE ALSO SAID THAT +CONSIDERABLE CARE IS EXERCISED IN LAYING WATER MAINS INCLUDING THE PREPARATION OF PROPER FOUNDATIONS, CAREFUL BACK FILLING AND CONSOLIDATION AND PRESSURE TESTS.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT +THE WATER PIPES THEMSELVES ARE WORKS PRESSURE TESTED TO TWICE THEIR NORMAL WORKING PRESSURE.

+THEY HAVE A SERVICE LIFE OF UP TO 50 YEARS. IT IS THEREFORE RARE THAT A BURST OCCURS DUE TO AGE OR FAULTY MATERIALS,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 8 -

EARLY REALISATION OF JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE PROJECT
* * *

SOME OF THE FACILITIES IN THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE IN SHA TIN ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE WITHIN THREE YEARS WHILE THE CENTRE WILL BE IN FULL OPERATION A YEAR LATER, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE BILL 1977 TODAY.

MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT THE PROJECT EVOLVED WHEN THE STEWARDS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB REALISED THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE AT THE NEW RACECOURSE AN AREA OF OVER 40 ACRES FOR SPORTING PURPOSES.

+THEY SAW IN THIS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH A CENTRE FOR ACTIVE SPORTS ON A SCALE UNPRECEDENTED FOR HONG KONG.

+NOT ONLY WAS THERE A LARGE AREA OF FLAT LAND, BUT THE EXTRA ROAD AND RAIL FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN AND OF THE RACECOURSE WOULD MAKE THE CENTRE EASILY ACCESSIBLE,+ MR. LI SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE CLUB'S INITIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE JOINT UNDERTAKING WOULD BE ITS EXPENDITURE ON THE 41 ACRES OF RECLAIMED LAND, THE GOVERNMENT'S WOULD BE THE PROVISION OF \$25 MILLION TOWARDS THE BUILDING OF THE CENTRE.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE BILL 1977 WAS TO ESTABLISH A JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE BOARD AS A BODY CORPORATE, TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF THE PROJECT, HE EXPLAINED.

THE BILL SETS OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD, EMPHASISING THE PRINCIPAL AIM OF PROVIDING EXPERT COACHING IN SPORTS, AND FACILITIES FOR PRACTICE, TO RAISE STANDARDS AND STIMULATE INCREASED PARTICIPATION, MR. LI SAID.

IT ALSO ENABLES THE BOARD TO FIX FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE USE OF THE FACILITIES AND EMPOWERS IT TO WAIVE THEM, PARTICULARLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER EIGHTEEN, HE ADDED.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD IS ALSO PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE BILL, AND IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL BOARD, CHAIRED BY SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES, TO THE BOARD WHEN IT IS ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROVISIONAL BOARD WAS ESTABLISHED SO THAT PLANNING COULD START BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL.

IT HAD ALREADY INITIATED ACTION TO ADVERTISE FOR A CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WHO WOULD ASSIST IN THE PLANNING OF THE SPORTS CENTRE AND WOULD LATER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT, MR. LI SAID.

THE BOARD WOULD ALSO CONSULT EXPERTS AND ORGANISATIONS WITH EXPERIENCE OF THE PLANNING OF SPORTS CENTRES, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 9 -

GOVERNOR PRESENTS NEW STANDARD TO 28 SQUADRON, RAF
* * * * *

NO. 28 SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE, HAS BEEN A GREATLY VALUED AND RESPECTED PART OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE GARRISON SINCE MAY 1948 WHEN IT WAS STATIONED IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID THIS EVENING WHEN HE PRESENTED A NEW STANDARD TO THE SQUADRON AT RAF KAI TAK.

+IN YOUR WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY THE 615 RESCUE CALLS WHICH YOU HAVE ANSWERED SINCE 1968 SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, AND YOU HAVE HELPED IN MANY OTHER WAYS FROM LIFTING HEAVY CIVIL ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT TO RUNNING PARAPLEGIC SPORTS,+ HE TOLD THE SQUADRON.

SIR MURRAY SAID A GREAT DEAL HAD CHANGED SINCE THE SQUADRON'S ASSOCIATION WITH HONG KONG BEGAN, FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE SQUADRON, AND HONG KONG.

+IT HAS BEEN A PERIOD OF VERY RAPID CHANGE DURING WHICH THE ARMED FORCES HAVE HAD A DIFFICULT ROLE TO PLAY, IN THE FACE OF INCREASING NEED FOR ECONOMIES, WHEREVER THEY HAVE SERVED.

+NEVERTHELESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART WHICH THEY HAVE PLAYED HERE, AND VALUE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY, HAVE NOT DIMINISHED,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT A SQUADRON IS PRESENTED WITH A STANDARD BY HAVING EARNED THE SOVEREIGN'S APPRECIATION FOR ESPECIALLY OUTSTANDING OPERATIONS OR BY HAVING COMPLETED 25 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

+TODAY, 28 SQUADRON HAS THE RARE DISTINCTION OF HAVING EARNED A SECOND STANDARD,+ HE SAID.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+THIS IS A PROUD DAY FOR 28 SQUADRON, FOR A SQUADRON IS PRESENTED WITH A STANDARD BY HAVING EARNED THE SOVEREIGN'S APPRECIATION FOR ESPECIALLY OUTSTANDING OPERATIONS OR BY HAVING COMPLETED 25 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE. TODAY, 28 SQUADRON HAS THE RARE DISTINCTION OF HAVING EARNED A SECOND STANDARD.

+IT IS NEARLY 30 YEARS SINCE 28 SQUADRON'S ASSOCIATION WITH HONG KONG BEGAN AND A GREAT DEAL HAS CHANGED IN THAT TIME FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE SQUADRON, AND HONG KONG.

+IT HAS BEEN A PERIOD OF VERY RAPID CHANGE DURING WHICH THE ARMED FORCES HAVE HAD A DIFFICULT ROLE TO PLAY, IN THE FACE OF INCREASING NEED FOR ECONOMIES, WHEREVER THEY HAVE SERVED. NEVERTHELESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART WHICH THEY HAVE PLAYED HERE, AND VALUE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY, HAVE NOT DIMINISHED.

/+SINCE

+SINCE ITS FORMATION IN 1920 THE SQUADRON HAS SEEN MOST OF ITS SERVICE 'EAST OF SUEZ'. PERHAPS THE MOST TESTING PERIOD WAS BETWEEN 1942 AND 1945 WHEN 28 SQUADRON MADE A NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFEAT OF THE JAPANESE FORCES IN BURMA BY ITS CLOSE TACTICAL SUPPORT OF THE 14TH ARMY.

+THE NEW STANDARD WHICH YOU HAVE JUST RECEIVED BEARS FOUR BATTLE HONOURS FROM THAT CAMPAIGN, TESTIFYING TO THE SACRIFICE, BRAVERY AND SKILL OF THE MEN WHO SERVED IN BURMA.

+SINCE MAY 1948 THE SQUADRON HAS BEEN STATIONED IN HONG KONG WHERE IT HAS BEEN A GREATLY VALUED AND RESPECTED PART OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE GARRISON. IN YOUR WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY THE 615 RESCUE CALLS WHICH YOU HAVE ANSWERED SINCE 1968 SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, AND YOU HAVE HELPED IN MANY OTHER WAYS FROM LIFTING HEAVY CIVIL ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT TO RUNNING PARAPLEGIC SPORTS.

+BUT OF COURSE YOUR MILITARY ROLE COMES FIRST. WITH THE SIZE OF THE GARRISON REDUCED, ITS MOBILITY IS VITAL, AND THIS 28 SQUADRON PROVIDES WITH ITS HELICOPTERS= AND I REALISE THAT TO FLY THEM IN THE CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND CLIMATE OF HONG KONG REQUIRES HIGH LEVELS OF SKILL, TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE, AS WELL AS STRONG NERVES. IN AN OPERATIONAL SQUADRON OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE THE WORK MAY OFTEN BE DIFFICULT AND SOMETIMES DANGEROUS BUT NEVER DULL.

+NEXT YEAR YOU WILL MOVE TO SEK KONG. I HOPE YOU WILL FIND THERE THAT CONDITIONS OF WORK AND LIFE ARE AS GOOD IF NOT BETTER - AND CERTAINLY QUIETER - THAN HERE AT THE EDGE OF A BUSY AIRPORT IN THE CENTRE OF THIS CITY.

+THE STANDARD WITH WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TODAY SERVES AS AN EMBODIMENT OF YOUR SQUADRON'S TRADITIONS. YOUR EQUIPMENT, TECHNIQUES AND SKILLS CHANGE, BUT THE QUALITIES WHICH YOU NEED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES WHICH FACE YOU ARE THE SAME AS THOSE WHICH YOUR PREDECESSORS DEMONSTRATED OVER THE BURMA JUNGLE IN 1942. YOUR STANDARD, JEALOUSLY GUARDED AND RESPECTED, WILL REMIND YOU OF THEM.

+I OFFER MY BEST WISHES TO ALL MEMBERS OF 28 SQUADRON, PAST AND PRESENT, AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND I HOPE THE SQUADRON WILL LONG REMAIN HERE TO SERVE HONG KONG AND ITS GARRISON.+

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 11 -

BETTER FACILITIES AT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS

* * * * *

STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS AN IMMEDIATE MEASURE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SESSIONS IN THE EVENINGS AS WELL AS ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN OUT-PATIENT CLINICS TO REDUCE THE WAITING TIME OF PATIENTS ATTENDING TREATMENT.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG, SPEAKING IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON. JAMES WU, SAID THIS SCHEME OF EXPANDING EVENING CLINIC SESSIONS WOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT WOULD BE MADE.

ON A LONG-TERM BASIS, DR. THONG SAID, SEVEN NEW GENERAL CLINICS WERE SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THE FIRST OF THESE WOULD BE OPENED BY THE END OF JULY IN THE EAST KOWLOON AREA AND TWO OLD CLINICS WOULD ALSO BE REPROVISIONED TO PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES DURING THIS PERIOD, HE SAID.

+WITH THESE MEASURES, THE DEMAND FOR OUT-PATIENT SERVICES SHOULD BE ALLEVIATED TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT AND HENCE REDUCE WAITING TIME AT THE CLINICS,+ HE ADDED.

DR. THONG SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO LOOKING INTO THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING COVERED WAITING AREAS OUTSIDE THE BUILDINGS IN A NUMBER OF OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WHENEVER AND WHEREVER PRACTICABLE.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH, DR. THONG SAID CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN AS WELL TO A PROPOSAL TO OPERATE EVENING SESSIONS IN A CHEST CLINIC FOR PATIENTS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND DAY SESSIONS.

ON THE SUBJECT OF CHOLERA INOCULATION RAISED BY THE HON. PETER C. WONG, THE DIRECTOR SAID INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF INOCULATION AGAINST CHOLERA WERE NO LONGER REQUIRED FROM TRAVELLERS EVEN FROM INFECTED AREAS AMONG WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION MEMBER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HONG KONG.

THIS HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT SINCE 1974 ON THE ADVICE OF THE ORGANISATION, HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE BASIC REASON WAS THAT FROM EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE OVER NEARLY TWO DECADES, IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT THE VACCINE AGAINST CHOLERA, WHILE AFFORDING SOME PERSONAL PROTECTION TO THE INDIVIDUAL, DOES NOT PREVENT THE IMPORTATION OF CHOLERA INTO A COUNTRY FROM AN INFECTED AREA.

+INSTEAD IT IS NOW UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED BY INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES THAT GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE ARE THE TWO ESSENTIAL FACTORS IN THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA WITHIN THE COMMUNITY,+ DR. THONG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

GOVT CONCERN OVER MOTORCYCLE HIRING
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HIRING OUT OF MOTORCYCLES AND INTEND TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE IN DECIDING WHETHER SUITABLE CONTROLS OVER THE TRADE ARE NECESSARY AND COULD BE EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO.

MR. JONES ALSO SAID THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE FEARED THAT SOME OF THE THIRD PARTY INSURANCE POLICIES TAKEN OUT BY ESTABLISHMENTS HIRING OUT MOTORCYCLES MIGHT NOT PROVIDE EFFECTIVE COVER IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENTS, AS REQUIRED UNDER A SECTION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) ORDINANCE.

+HE IS SEEKING LEGAL ADVICE ON THIS QUESTION AND, IF IT TURNS OUT THAT EXISTING LEGISLATION IS NOT ADEQUATE TO MEET THE PROBLEM, SUITABLE AMENDMENTS WILL BE SOUGHT,+ MR. JONES SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE EFFECTIVELY TO ENSURE THAT ALL PERSONS WHO HIRED MOTORCYCLES WERE HOLDERS OF DRIVING LICENCES, BUT ANYONE WHO RODE A MOTORCYCLE ON THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY WITHOUT A FULL OR PROVISIONAL LICENCE WAS COMMITTING AN OFFENCE.

+SUCH OFFENDERS, IF THEY ARE FOUND BY THE POLICE IN RANDOM CHECKS, OR THROUGH COMMITTING SOME OTHER OFFENCE OR BEING INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT, ARE PROSECUTED IN COURT,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT SEEKS ADVICE ON
PROTECTION OF COMPUTER INFORMATION
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY ASKED FOR GUIDANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF PRIVACY OF COMPUTER-STORED INFORMATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHERE WHITE PAPERS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED ON THE SUBJECT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SIR DENYS WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON. S.L. CHEN WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY PLANS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO GOVERN PERSONAL INFORMATION KEPT IN COMPUTER BANKS, BOTH TO FACILITATE ACCESS BY AN INDIVIDUAL TO INFORMATION RELATING TO HIMSELF AND TO RESTRICT ACCESS BY OTHER PERSONS TO SUCH INFORMATION.

SIR DENYS SAID THE HONG KONG COMPUTER SOCIETY HAD RECENTLY APPOINTED A PRIVACY LEGISLATION SUB-COMMITTEE AND HAD UNDERTAKEN TO FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN DUE COURSE.

+WHEN THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER WHETHER LEGISLATION IS DESIRABLE,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 13 -

LOCAL MAGISTRATES DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT
* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT LOCAL LAWYERS AS MAGISTRATES DESPITE FREQUENT ATTEMPTS TO DO SO, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON. T.S. LO, SIR DENYS SAID SINCE JANUARY 1 LAST YEAR VACANCIES FOR MAGISTRATES HAD BEEN ADVERTISED LOCALLY ON SIX OCCASIONS, AS A RESULT OF WHICH TWO NEW LOCAL MAGISTRATES WERE APPOINTED, ON THE ADVICE OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID, AT PRESENT THERE WERE NINE LOCALLY RECRUITED CANTONESE-SPEAKING FULL TIME MAGISTRATES SERVING IN THE JUDICIARY. NO ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN MADE TO RECRUIT PART TIME MAGISTRATES, HE ADDED.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

NT HAWKERS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR NEW STALLS
* * * *

BOTH LICENSED AND UNLICENSED HAWKERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR THE MINI-STALLS WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN EVERY NEW MARKET IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THESE MINI-STALLS ARE INTENDED FOR LEASING TO VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF HAWKERS OCCUPYING SITES IN THE SURROUNDING ROADS, HE EXPLAINED IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, THE NUMBER OF MINI-STALLS WAS PLANNED TO CORRESPOND WITH THE NUMBER OF HAWKERS, BUT WHERE THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH STALLS TO CATER FOR THEM ALL, PRIORITY WAS GIVEN TO LICENSED HAWKERS.

LESSEES OF THESE MINI-STALLS MAY SELL WET OR DRY GOODS ONLY, HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY POINTED THAT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES NO HAWKERS WERE LICENSED TO SELL MEAT, FISH OR POULTRY WHICH MAY BE SOLD ONLY IN PUBLIC MARKETS OR LICENSED FRESH PROVISION SHOPS.

HAWKERS CANNOT THEREFORE BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN THE ALLOCATION OF FULL-SIZE MARKET STALLS, AND IF ONE FALLS VACANT AT ANY TIME IN AN EXISTING OR A NEW MARKET, IT IS PUT UP TO AUCTION WITHOUT RESTRICTION ON WHO BIDS, HE SAID.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/14

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 14 -

CONTROLS AGAINST UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERT ADEQUATE
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED CONTROLS PROVIDED BY THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ORDINANCE WERE ADEQUATE, ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN HIS REPLY TO THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING'S QUESTION ABOUT ADVERTISEMENTS FOR VARIOUS AILMENTS IN THE CHINESE PRESS, MR. HOBLEY ADDED THAT AS TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW WAS CONCERNED, THE POLICE ACT ONLY ON COMPLAINT FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE POLICE DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO EXAMINE ALL NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS ON A REGULAR BASIS, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FISHING BOAT INCIDENT REPORTED TO FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUBMITTED A FULL REPORT ON THE RECENT FISHING BOAT INCIDENT IN THE GULF OF TONKIN TO THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS SAID TODAY IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REPLYING TO DR. THE HON. HENRY HU'S QUESTION, SIR DENYS ADDED: +AS FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH, A DUAL REGISTERED TRAWLER, M66294Y, USUALLY BASED AT ABERDEEN, WAS ON A FISHING EXPEDITION IN THE GULF OF TONKIN AT THE END OF MAY.

+WHILE THE VESSEL WAS AT ANCHOR, PROBABLY WITHIN VIETNAMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS AND IN WHAT THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY CONSIDERED TO BE A CLOSED AREA, IT WAS CHALLENGED BY A VIETNAMESE PATROL BOAT AND ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE, WHEREUPON THE VIETNAMESE BOAT OPENED FIRE,+ SIR DENYS SAID.

UNHAPPILY, HE CONTINUED, CHAN MUI, THE MASTER AND OWNER OF THE TRAWLER, WAS HIT AND SUBSEQUENTLY DIED= NO ONE ELSE ON BOARD WAS INJURED.

+ALTHOUGH THE DEAD MAN HELD A HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD, IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER HE WAS A BRITISH SUBJECT. THE TRAWLER WAS ESCORTED TO A NEARBY ISLAND WHERE IT WAS DETAINED FOR ABOUT 30 HOURS BEFORE BEING RELEASED AND RETURNING TO HONG KONG,+ SIR DENYS ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/15

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 15 -

INSPECTION OF MTR SITES

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE HAVE CARRIED OUT NUMEROUS REGULAR INSPECTIONS UNDERGROUND AT MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SITES, COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SINCE JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR, THERE HAVE BEEN 51 SUCH INSPECTIONS, HE ADDED IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THE M.T.R. AT PRESENT HAD THREE WORK AREAS OPERATING IN COMPRESSED AIR. TWO FACTORY INSPECTORS, TWO INDUSTRIAL HEALTH OFFICERS AND ONE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST HAD BEEN AUTHORISED TO ENTER COMPRESSED AIR WORKINGS AND HE EXPECTED INSPECTIONS OF THESE LIMITED AND SPECIAL AREAS TO START DURING JULY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRANSFER OF DUTIES OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES CORPS

* * * * *

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER THE FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES PREVIOUSLY EXERCISED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES CORPS TO THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY WAS PASSED TODAY AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION UNDER A SECTION OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN REVIEWING AND REVISING SOME OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

+AS A RESULT THE FULL-TIME APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER OF THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES CORPS IS NO LONGER REQUIRED. THE DUTIES OF THIS POST HAVE BEEN ABSORBED INTO THOSE OF THE SECURITY BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT GENERALLY,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/16

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 16 -

GOVERNOR TO OPEN TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT LAI CHI WO
* * * *

NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT LAI CHI WO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON (JUNE 30) ARE AS FOLLOWS.

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY ARE ASKED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE CAR PARK BEHIND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, KOWLOON AT 11.50 A.M. ON THURSDAY MORNING (JUNE 30).

A GOVERNMENT BUS WILL LEAVE THE CAR PARK PUNCTUALLY AT 12 NOON TO TAKE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO TAI PO KAU JETTY FROM WHERE A POLICE LAUNCH WILL LEAVE TO TAKE THE PARTY TO LAI CHI WO.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT ABOUT 2.50 P.M. AND WILL LAST FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR.

THE PARTY IS EXPECTED TO BE BACK AT KOWLOON BETWEEN 6 P.M. AND 6.30 P.M. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESSMEN.

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE TO LAND BY DINGHY AT LAI CHI WO AND SHOULD HAVE FOOTWEAR SUITABLE FOR JUMPING ASHORE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILLS PASSED
* *

TEN BILLS PASSED THEIR SECOND AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON AND BECAME LAW.

THEY ARE THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, ADOPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, STAMP (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1977, ASIATIC EMIGRATION (REPEAL) BILL 1977, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.4) BILL 1977, TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1977 AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL BILL 1977.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1977

- 17 -

SECTION OF FAT HING STREET CLOSED
* * * * *

THE SECTION OF FAT HING STREET BETWEEN POSSESSION STREET AND NO. 14, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST IN SAI YING POON HAS BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE CLOSURE WAS TO FACILITATE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS NEXT TO THE STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS HAVE BEEN PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -