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CONTENTS PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

SIR PHILIP PRAISED FOR +UNFAILING DEVOTION+ TO HK 1

UNOFFICIALS PAY TRIBUTE TO SIR PHILIP 2

SECOND CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL DECISION BY YEAR END 3

SUB-COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON CORONERS' FUNCTIONS 4

'CRIME IN COUNTRY PARKS LOW' 5

MEASURES TAKEN TO CURB ILLEGAL FLATS 6

DEATH CERTIFICATE PROCEDURES EXPLAINED 7

MARINE WATER QUALITY +SATISFACTORY IN GENERAL+ 8

GRADUATE TEACHERS TURNOVER RATE REVEALED 9

BEST USE MADE OF LIMITED HOUSING RESOURCES 10

CONSUMER PROTECTION SAME FOR RESIDENTS, TOURISTS 11

POSTAL DELIVERY SERVICE 11

PUBLIC HOUSING INHERITANCE POLICY EXPLAINED 12

LITTLE DEMAND SEEN FOR HELICOPTER SERVICE 14

PUBLIC FUNDS FOR BAPTIST COLLEGE WELL SPENT 15

WINES, SPIRITS DUTY RISES APPROVED 16

SOFT DRINK, COSMETIC DUTIES APPROVED 16

/ACCORD SEEN .....

ACCORD SEEN ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION PLAN 17

CONSISTENCY SOUGHT ON FEE CHARGES 18

STANDARDS, AVAILABILITY OF QUALIFIED PILOTS MOST IMPORTANT. 19

SIX BILLS PASSED 21

JOINT LIAISON GROUP TO HOLD FIRST MEETING 22

SCHOOLS TO GET MORE TEACHERS EARLIER 22

NEW RATES FOR AUXILIARY POLICE APPROVED 23

MEMBERS CONSIDER REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 24

GOVT AWARE OF NEWSVENDORS' DIFFICULTY 26

POLICE BUILDING PROJECTS TOTAL $1 BILLION 28

NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT 29

COUNCIL APPROVES $1 MILLION FOR MINOR PROJECTS 30

HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMITTED TO IMPROVING STANDARDS 30

FAREWELL TREE PLANTING AT PHOENIX HOUSE 32

ROAD CLOSED FOR RESURFACING 32

ROAD CLOSED FOR DRAINAGE WORK 33

NEW MINIBUS SERVICE 33

SIR PHILIP PRAISED FOR +UNFAILING DEVOTION+ TO HK

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HONG KONG OWED THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR HIS UNFAILING DEVOTION TO ITS INTERESTS, AND HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CIVIL SERVICE THROUGHOUT THIS OFTEN TESTING PERIOD, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE SAID TODAY.

IN HIS VALEDICTORY TO SIR PHILIP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR SAID SIR PHILIP WOULD SHORTLY LEAVE HONG KONG ON RETIREMENT, AND THIS WAS THE LAST SITTING OF THE COUNCIL AT WHICH HE WOULD BE WITH MEMBERS.

+I SHOULD LIKE TO PAY A WARM TRIBUTE TO HIM FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT SIR PHILIP JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE IN 1962 AND BECAME AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL IN 1971, WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE GOVERNOR SAID:

+FOR A DECADE HONG KONG HAD THE BENEFIT OF HIS SHREWD AND IMAGINATIVE GUIDANCE OF OUR ECONOMY. DURING THOSE TEN YEARS HONG KONG ENJOYED AN ERA OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.+

THE PAST FOUR YEARS THAT SIR PHILIP HAD BEEN CHIEF SECRETARY HAD BEEN HISTORIC AND EVENTFUL YEARS, HE SAID.

+THE AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE HAS BEEN REACHED= PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT= AND THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTED WITH EFFICIENCY AND DESPATCH,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR PHILIP HAD LONG BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL AND ON MANY OCCASIONS HAD PRESIDED OVER IT, SIR EDWARD SAID.

+MEMBERS NEED NO REMINDER OF HIS TACT AND ROBUST GOOD HUMOUR IN CONDUCTING ITS BUSINESS.

+MANY OF HIS SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS WILL BE THE SOURCES TO WHICH FUTURE HISTORIANS WILL TURN IN SEEKING AN AUTHORITATIVE EXPOSITION OF THE ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES WHICH HAVE BEEN AT THE HEART OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS.

+WE SHALL MISS HIM, HIS WISE COUNSEL, AND HIS INCISIVE MIND. DEBATES - AND QUESTION TIME - IN THIS COUNCIL WILL NEVER BE THE SAME WITHOUT HIM,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

HE HAD NO DOUBT, THE GOVERNOR SAID, THAT HONOURABLE MEMBERS WOULD WISH TO JOIN HIM IN WISHING SIR PHILIP AND LADY HADDON-CAVE +A LONG, HAPPY AND WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT+.

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UNOFFICIALS PAY TRIBUTE TO SIR PHILIP

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SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE HAS MADE AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE FORMULATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND THE PROVISION OF A FAVOURABLE FRAMEWORK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRESS DURING HIS 22 YEARS' SERVICE IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE HON SIR ROGER LOBO, SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IN A VALEDICTORY TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIALS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR ROGER DESCRIBED THE +SCRUPULOUSLY DETAILED EXPLANATORY FOOTNOTES AND MARATHON BUDGET ADDRESSES+ AS +FURTHER MEMORABLE EVENTS FROM SIR PHILIP'S DISTINGUISHED DECADE IN THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY+.

HE SAID SIR PHILIP WAS ALSO KNOWN AS THE ARCHITECT OF HONG KONG'S ESTABLISHMENT AS A LEADING FINANCIAL CENTRE AND THE INVENTOR-AUTHOR OF +POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTIONISM+.

+AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER SINCE 1971, HE IS ONE OF THE MOST FORMIDABLE AND TRENCHANT DEBATERS IN THIS COUNCIL AND HIS INTELLECTUAL POWERS HAVE WON HIM THE HIGHEST RESPECT BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THIS CHAMBER.

+HIS LONG-ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNOFFICIALS AND HIS COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG WAS PARTICULARLY VALUED BY US IN THE MANY USEFUL MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HELD OVER THE PAST YEARS AND, INDEED, DURING THE MOST TRYING PERIOD IN OUR HISTORY WHEN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WAS UNDER NEGOTIATION AND IN THE BALANCE,+ SIR ROGER SAID.

SIR PHILIP'S TERM OF OFFICE HAD ALSO SEEN FIRM PLANS LAID FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, AND IT WAS A PITY THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THE NEW-STYLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TAKE OFFICE IN THE NEXT SESSION, SIR ROGER ADDED.

+WE ARE GREATLY HONOURED TO HAVE WITNESSED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE SIR PHILIP HAS GIVEN TO HONG KONG.

+HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY US ALL, AND MY UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES AND I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE ON RECORD OUR HIGH REGARD AND AFFECTION FOR HIM AND TO WISH HIM AND LADY HADDON-CAVE A VERY HAPPY RETIREMENT,+ HE SAID.

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SECOND CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL DECISION BY YEAR END
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INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SECOND CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL WOULD SHORTLY BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND A FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE BY THE END OF THE YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HARRY FANG REGARDING GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON THE SECOND CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL, MR MACPHERSON SAID THAT LAST OCTOBER, FOLLOWING A STUDY OF THREE POSSIBLE ALIGNMENTS, GOVERNMENT CALLED FOR PROPOSALS TO FINANCE, CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A SECOND CROSS-HARBOUR ROAD TUNNEL FROM QUARRY BAY TO CHA KWO LING.

+THE REQUIREMENT WAS FOR A MINIMUM OF TWO TRAFFIC LANES IN EACH DIRECTION, BUT IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THIS WAS NOT TO BE RESTRICTIVE AND THAT PROPOSALS FOR JOINT ROAD AND RAIL TUNNELS WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, BE CONSIDERED,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

THERE WAS +A TRULY INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE+ FROM NINE CONSORTIUMS REPRESENTING AUSTRALIAN, BRITISH, CHINESE, DUTCH, FRENCH, HONG KONG AND JAPANESE INTERESTS WHICH SUBMITTED PROPOSALS ON APRIL 1.

THIS RESPONSE, HE SAID SHOWED +A VERY ENCOURAGING CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG+.

MANY OF THE CONSORTIUMS HAD SHOWN INTEREST IN PROVIDING AN MTR AS WELL AS A ROAD TUNNEL, HE SAID.

THESE PROPOSALS WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY A STEERING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+CONSULTANTS HAVE ALSO BEEN RETAINED TO ADVISE ON SOME OF THE COMPLEX FINANCIAL ISSUES,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

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SUB-COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON CORONERS' FUNCTIONS
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A LAW REFORM COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, IS EXPECTED TO REPORT TO THE COMMISSION THIS AUTUMN ON THE MATTER OF DEATH CERTIFICATION AND CORONERS' FUNCTIONS AND PROCEDURES.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HARRY FANG ON THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONS REPORT ON CORONERS' POWERS AND PROCEDURES.

GIVING THE BACKGROUND TO THE CONS REPORT, MR THOMAS SAID A WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY MR JUSTICE CONS, HAD BEEN APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE IN 1979 TO REVIEW THE WORKING OF THE CORONERS' ORDINANCE AND TO MAKE SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE OR TO PRACTICE AS IT DEEMED DESIRABLE.

HE SAID THE WORKING GROUP HAD MADE EIGHT RECOMMENDATIONS IN JANUARY 1980. THE FIVE WHICH REQUIRED LEGISLATION HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE CORONERS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE ASSENTED TO BY THE GOVERNOR ON JULY 24, 1980.

TWO OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS, MR THOMAS POINTED OUT, HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THESE RESULTED IN THE APPOINTMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME OF TWO FULL-TIME CORONERS IN NOVEMBER 1980 AND THE TURNING OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF THE CORONERS' OFFICE BY CROWN COUNSEL INTO A REGULAR FEATURE OF INQUESTS IN THE SAME YEAR.

MR THOMAS SAID THE LAST RECOMMENDATION HAD PROPOSED NO CHANGE TO THE LAW AND PRACTICE RELATING TO THE ISSUE OF DEATH CERTIFICATES OR THE NOTIFICATION OF DEATH TO THE CORONER.

+NONETHELESS A NUMBER OF CRITICISMS OF THE LAW, PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF DEATH AND THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH WERE MADE SUBSEQUENTLY BY LAWYERS APPEARING FOR INTERESTED PARTIES AT DEATH INQUIRIES AND SEPARATELY BY A FORMER HONG KONG CORONER (MR JOHN HANSEN).

+THOSE CRITICISMS WERE BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION. AS A RESULT, AND IN THE LIGHT OF MY OWN THOUGHTS UPON EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS, A BACKGROUND AND ISSUES PAPER WAS PREPARED IN MY CHAMBERS,+ HE SAID.

IN APRIL 1984, THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND HE HAD DECIDED TO REFER THE MATTER OF DEATH CERTIFICATION AND CORONERS' FUNCTIONS AND PROCEDURES TO THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION UNDER WIDE TERMS OF REFERENCE, MR THOMAS SAID.

THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, HAD BEEN HARD AT WORK SINCE JUNE LAST YEAR, AND WAS EXPECTED TO REPORT TO THE COMMISSION THIS AUTUMN, MR THOMAS SAID.

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'CRIME IN COUNTRY PARKS LOW'

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THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME IN COUNTRY PARKS WAS VERY LOW, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR JEAFFRESON SAID A SPECIAL STUDY BY THE POLICE HAD SHOWN THAT FROM APRIL 1982 TO MARCH 1983, THERE WERE 101 CASES OF REPORTED CRIME IN HONG KONG'S 21 COUNTRY PARKS.

THIS COMPARED WITH A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 80 000 REPORTED CRIMES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY DURING THE SAME 12 MONTHS.

HE SAID THE POLICE HAD CONTINUED TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH FOR ANY SIGNS OF AN INCREASE IN CRIME IN THESE AREAS, AND THAT THE LEVEL OF CRIME HAD REMAINED LOW SO FAR.

+POLICE PATROLS ARE DEPLOYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEEDS ON THE GROUND AND MAY TAKE THE FORM OF MOTORCYCLE AND MOBILE PATROLS, OR PATROLS BY DOG-HANDLERS AND OTHER POLICEMEN ON FOOT,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE POLICE PRESENCE, MR JEAFFRESON SAID, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT MAINTAINED 28 MANAGEMENT CENTRES AND 19 PARK WARDEN POSTS WHICH WERE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTRY PARKS.

+FROM THESE CENTRES AND POSTS, 117 UNIFORMED PARK RANGERS REGULARLY PATROL DIFFERENT PARKS OF THE COUNTRY PARKS ON MOTOR CYCLES AND ON FOOT,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY POLICE UNIT TO COVER THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY ONLY IF AND WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES SO JUSTIFIED.

+REPORTED CRIME ON THE KCR DROPPED FROM 472 IN 1983 TO 332 IN 1984 -- AND THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT MIGHT BE EVEN LOWER IN 1985,+ HE SAID.

THIS COMPARED WITH 249 REPORTED CRIMES FOR THE MTR IN 1984.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID POLICE COVERAGE OF KCR TRAINS AND STATIONS WAS CO-ORDINATED BY THE REGIONAL POLICE COMMANDER OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

/+THE DAY-TO-DAY .....

+THE DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING UNIFORMED AND PLAINCLOTHES POLICE COVERAGE IN KCR STATIONS AND ON THE TRAINS REMAINS WITH THE DISTRICT COMMANDERS OF MONG KOK, KOWLOON CITY, SHA TIN AND FRONTIER DISTRICTS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE POLICE IN 1984 SHOWED THAT THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE WORKING WELL AND THAT A CHANGE IN THE COMMAND STRUCTURE WAS NOT JUSTIFIED.

+THESE FINDINGS WERE CONFIRMED IN A SECOND REVIEW COMPLETED EARLIER THIS YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

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MEASURES TAKEN TO CURB ILLEGAL FLATS

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SEVERAL MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CURB AND PREVENT PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE SALE OF FLATS WHICH HAD BEEN ILLEGALLY SUB-DIVIDED OR MODIFIED, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN ON MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT INNOCENT PURCHASERS FROM BEING VICTIMISED, MR CHAN SAID: +FIRST, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ON DISCOVERING SUCH UNAUTHORISED ALTERATIONS WOULD ISSUE A NOTICE UNDER SECTION 24(1) OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, REQUIRING THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE TO BE DEMOLISHED AND THE PROPERTY TO BE RESTORED TO ITS FORMER CONDITION.

+A NOTICE OF THIS KIND IS REGISTERED IN THE LAND OFFICE AND THUS ANY INTENDING PURCHASER WOULD BE PUT ON NOTICE OF THE MATTER IF HE MAKES A SEARCH OF THE PROPERTY IN THE LAND OFFICE.+

MODERN LEASE CONDITIONS INVARIABLY INCLUDED A PROVISION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND AN UNAUTHORISED SUB-DIVISION AMOUNTED TO A BREACH OF THE LEASE CONDITIONS AND SUBJECT TO RE-ENTRY ENFORCEMENT ACTION, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD ALSO STEPPED UP PUBLICITY TO WARN THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE RISKS OF BUYING FLATS WHICH HAD BEEN ALTERED OR ERECTED IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

+IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF EVERY CONSUMER TO MAKE ALL APPROPRIATE ENQUIRIES BEFORE PURCHASING A FLAT, TO CONSULT A SOLICITOR OR AN AUTHORISED PERSON, AND IN CASE OF DOUBT TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY WITH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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DEATH CERTIFICATE PROCEDURES EXPLAINED
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PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR VICTIMS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WERE THE SAME AS THOSE FOR OTHER PERSONS WHO DIED UNNATURAL DEATHS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON K.C. CHAN ON SUCH PROCEDURES, MR JEAFFRESON GAVE A RUNDOWN OF THE STEPS REQUIRED.

+UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CORONERS' ORDINANCE, WHEN A PERSON DIES SUDDENLY, BY ACCIDENT (INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS) OR AS A RESULT OF VIOLENCE, OR UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, A CORONER MAY ENQUIRE INTO THE CAUSE OF THE DEATH AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED WITH IT.

+THE OBJECT OF THE ENQUIRY IS GENERALLY SPEAKING TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE AND WHETHER ANY PERSON SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH A CRIMINAL OFFENCE AS A RESULT,+ HE SAID.

WHEN SATISFIED AS TO THE CAUSE, THE CORONER WOULD NOTIFY THE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF THE PARTICULARS OF THE DECEASED TO ENABLE AN ENTRY TO BE MADE IN THE DEATH REGISTER.

+ONCE THE PARTICULARS OF THE DEAD PERSON ARE RECORDED IN THE DEATH REGISTER, THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES ARE CONSIDERED COMPLETE,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

THE REGISTRAR MAY THEN ISSUE A DEATH CERTIFICATE FOR THE PERSON CONCERNED ON APPLICATION BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

THE REGISTRAR WOULD ALSO INFORM THE NEXT OF KIN THAT A DEATH CERTIFICATE COULD NOW BE COLLECTED FROM THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, HE ADDED.

AS TO THE QUESTION ABOUT THE NORMAL TIME TAKEN TO ISSUE SUCH CERTIFICATES, MR JEAFFRESON SAID: +WHAT TAKES THE TIME IS THE CORONER'S ENQUIRY -- AND THE LENGTH OF THAT DEPENDS ON HOW COMPLICATED THE ISSUES ARE.+

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MARINE WATER QUALITY +SATISFACTORY IN GENERAL+

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THE QUALITY OF HONG KONG'S MARINE WATERS WAS, IN GENERAL, SATISFACTORY, AND THERE WAS NO SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT RISK OF DISEASE IN THE WATERS OF THE BATHING BEACHES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

BUT THERE WERE PROBLEM AREAS, HE ADDED, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN ON WATER QUALITY IN HONG KONG PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO BATHING AREAS.

+RATHER SURPRISINGLY,+ HE SAID, THE WATER QUALITY OF MOST OF VICTORIA HARBOUR WAS STILL CONSIDERED BY AND LARGE TO BE IN A SATISFACTORY CONDITION DESPITE THE HEAVY LOAD IT HAD TO BEAR.

OF THE PROBLEM AREAS, DEEP BAY WAS MODERATELY POLLUTED, HE SAID.

THE LIMITED TIDAL FLUSHING IN THE BAY COULD NOT COPE FULLY WITH THE HEAVY POLLUTANT LOADS FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES AND FROM SHENZHEN.

ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, TOLO HARBOUR, PORT SHELTER, HEBE HAVEN AND JUNK BAY - ESPECIALLY TOLO HARBOUR - WERE POLLUTED INSHORE AND HAD DETERIORATED SERIOUSLY FROM THEIR NATURAL CONDITION.

ENCLOSED AREAS SUCH AS TYPHOON SHELTERS REQUIRED SPECIAL REMEDIAL MEASURES AND FLOATING REFUSE PRESENTED A SEPARATE PROBLEM, HE SAID.

CONCERNING THE 40 GAZETTED BEACHES, AND THE 11 NON-GAZETTED BEACHES POPULAR WITH BATHERS, MR CHAMBERS SAID, THE WATER IN THESE BEACHES WAS JUDGED AGAINST A STANDARD AGREED BY EPCOM IN APRIL 1981, AND BASED ON A WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION RECOMMENDATION.

THERE WERE, HE SAID, THREE BEACHES WHICH CONSISTENTLY FAILED TO MEET THE REQUIRED STANDARD - CASTLE PEAK, ANGLERS', BOTH GAZETTED, AND BUTTERFLY BEACH, AND THERE WERE NOTICES WARNING PEOPLE NOT TO SWIM THERE.

THE REMAINING BEACHES WERE CLASSIFIED AS +SATISFACTORY+ OR +GOOD+.

THERE WERE STILL SOME POLLUTING AND POTENTIALLY POLLUTING DRAINS WHICH DISCHARGED ACROSS OR CLOSE TO BATHING BEACHES.

THE BEACH POLLUTION ACTION COMMITTEE WHICH HE CHAIRED, HAD IDENTIFIED AND INVESTIGATED THESE DRAINS, AND ACTION WAS IN HAND TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

/MR CHAMBERS .....

MR CHAMBERS ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT PROMPT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN IF ANY THREAT TO THE HEALTH OF SEA BATHERS MATERIALISED.

HE SAID ALSO THAT ONE MAJOR SOURCE OF UNAVOIDABLE POLLUTION WAS THE SWIMMERS THEMSELVES.

SWIMMERS MIGHT DEPOSIT SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF BACTERIA INTO THE WATER, EVEN IF THEIR PERSONAL HYGIENE WAS GOOD.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN ON SUMMER SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS SHOWED THAT THE LEVEL OF BACTERIA WAS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER AT THESE TIMES, MR CHAMBERS SAID.

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GRADUATE TEACHERS TURNOVER RATE REVEALED

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THE TURNOVER RATE OF GRADUATE TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHO TAUGHT FOR THREE YEARS OR LESS AND THEN RESIGNED OR TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT WAS SIX OUT OF 94 (OR 6.4 PER CENT) IN 1982-83 AND THREE OUT OF 90 (OR 3.3 PER CENT) IN 1983-84, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW ON THE TURNOVER RATE OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, MR LEUNG SAID HE COULD ONLY PROVIDE EXACT INFORMATION ON GRADUATE TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FOR THE TWO PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEARS.

+AS FOR GRADUATE TEACHERS IN AIDED AND PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WE ONLY HAVE INFORMATION ON THE PERCENTAGES OF THOSE TEACHERS, BY AGE BRACKET AND NOT BY LENGTH OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE, WHO LEFT THE TEACHING PROFESSION OR TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL IN THE 1981-82 AND 1982-83 SCHOOL YEARS,+ HE SAID.

INFORMATION FOR THE 1983-84 SCHOOL YEAR WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE, HE ADDED.

+THE AGE BRACKET CLOSEST TO THE GROUP REFERRED TO BY MRS CHOW IS 24 OR BELOW. IN 1981-82, 9.9 PER CENT OF THE AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATE TEACHERS IN THIS AGE BRACKET LEFT THE TEACHING PROFESSION WHILE ANOTHER 5.9 PER CENT TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.

+IN 1982-83 THE CORRESPONDING PERCENTAGES WERE 7.3 PER CENT AND 5.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

+AS FOR PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATE TEACHERS IN THE SAME AGE BRACKET, IN 1981-82, 15.3 PER CENT LEFT THE TEACHING PROFESSION WHILE ANOTHER 17.1 PER CENT TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL. THE CORRESPONDING PERCENTAGES FOR 1982-83 WERE 21.6 PER CENT AND 6.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY,+ HE SAID.

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BEST USE MADE OF LIMITED HOUSING RESOURCES

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THE MAIN REASON FOR IMPOSING A SPACE ELIGIBLITY OF 2.23 SQUARE METRES PER PERSON WAS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF LIMITED HOUSING RESOURCES FOR THE MOST DESERVING CASES RATHER THAN A TIGHTENING OF THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY.

HE CITED THESE MOST DESERVING CASES AS FAMILIES WHO WERE MORE OVERCROWDED AND WHO WERE UNABLE TO BUY HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS.

MR FORD POINTED OUT THAT THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY SITUATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING HAD NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE REVISED SPACE ELIGIBILITY CRITERION.

+THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES TRANSFERRED FOR OVERCROWDING RELIEF PURPOSES IN THE SIX YEARS UP TO 1984-85 WERE, 4 100, 3 600, 4 500, 6 200, 4 800 AND 5 000 RESPECTIVELY.

+THESE FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE TRANSFER PATTERN HAS NOT CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THIS PERIOD AND NOR DO I EXPECT IT TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE.+

AS FOR THOSE OVERCROWDED FAMILIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF, MR FORD SAID THEY COULD IMPROVE THEIR SPACE SITUATION IN VARIOUS WAYS.

HE SAID IT COULD BE ACHIEVED BY BUYING HOS FLATS MAKING USE OF THE GREEN FORM, OR APPLYING FOR LARGER FLATS THROUGH THE WAITING LIST IN WHICH CASE THE WAITING LIST ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WOULD APPLY.

+IN THE CASE OF LARGE EXTENDED FAMILIES, ONE OR MORE OF THE NUCLEAR FAMILY UNITS MAY APPLY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING THROUGH THE WAITING LIST OR BUY HOS FLATS.

+OVERCROWDED FAMILIES MAY BE PROVIDED WITH LARGER FLATS ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS.+

UNDER THE PRESENT POLICY ON OVERCROWDING RELIEF, MR FORD SAID SUCH RELIEF WOULD BE PROVIDED TO FAMILIES CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE MORE OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS SUCH AS THOSE PEOPLE OCCUPYING LESS THAN 2.23 SQUARE METRES PER PERSON.

IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR OVERCROWDING RELIEF, HOUSEHOLD INCOME MUST BE BELOW $7 500 PER MONTH AND TENANTS SHOULD NOT POSSESS DOMESTIC PROPERTY.

OVERCROWDING RELIEF MAY ALSO BE PROVIDED WHEN TENANTS ARE REHOUSED FOR MANAGEMENT REASONS INCLUDING REDEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENT OR CONVERSION, OR WHEN THERE IS A NEED TO CREATE SMALL FLATS FOR SINGLE PERSONS AND TWO-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS.

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CONSUMER PROTECTION SAME FOR RESIDENTS, TOURISTS

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TOURISTS WERE ENTITLED TO THE SAME CONSUMER PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW AS CITIZENS OF HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR HIGGINSON SAID, HOWEVER, THAT CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR TOURISTS THROUGH LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS NOT ALWAYS PRACTICAL, AS TOURISTS SPENT LITTLE TIME HERE, WHILE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TOOK TIME.

HE BELIEVED THAT IN CONSUMER DISPUTES INVOLVING TOURISTS, PERSUASION AND ACTIVE MEDIATION BY INDEPENDENT BODIES WERE MORE EFFECTIVE.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION HAD BOTH DONE MUCH GOOD WORK, HE SAID.

THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ALWAYS PREPARED TO CONSIDER NEW PROPOSALS TO GIVE FURTHER PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS - BOTH CITIZENS AND TOURISTS - IF SUCH COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT UNNECESSARILY INTERFERING WITH NORMAL BUSINESS PRACTICES.

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POSTAL DELIVERY SERVICE

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IT WAS THE POLICY OF THE POST OFFICE TO DELIVER LETTER MAIL TO THE DOOR AT ALL IDENTIFIABLE ADDRESSES AND REGISTERED ITEMS AND CERTAIN PARCELS TO THE ADDRESSEE IN PERSON, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON GERRY HIGGINSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, HE SAID WHERE THERE WAS NO IDENTIFIABLE ADDRESS A DELIVERY SERVICE WAS PROVIDED TO A COMMUNAL LETTER BOX OR NEST OF LETTER BOXES INSTALLED AT A LOCATION AGREED BY ALL RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

AS REGARDS REGISTERED ITEMS, MR HIGGINSON SAID, +IF THE ADDRESSEE IS OUT WHEN HIS REGISTERED LETTER ARRIVES, A SECOND ATTEMPT IS MADE ON THE NEXT DELIVERY BY THE POSTMAN.

+ONLY IF THIS ATTEMPT IS ALSO UNSUCCESSFUL IS THE ITEM RETURNED TO THE LOCAL POST OFFICE, WHERE IT MAY STILL BE PICKED UP BY THE ADDRESSEE WITHIN 14 DAYS.+

/MR HIGGINSON .....

MR HIGGINSON SAID THAT IN AREAS WHICH DID NOT ENJOY A DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICE, A CARD WAS LEFT IN THE COMMUNAL LETTER BOX OR NEST OF LETTER BOXES, INFORMING THE ADDRESSEE THAT A REGISTERED ITEM WAS AWAITING COLLECTION.

IN THE CASE OF PARCELS, HE SAID, THOSE TO BE DELIVERED IN THE URBAN AREA, APART FROM THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, WERE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS REGISTERED ITEMS, WITH THE DIFFERENCE THAT ONLY ONE ATTEMPT AT DELIVERY WAS MADE, AFTER WHICH THE PARCEL MIGHT BE PICKED UP WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.

+IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHERE POST OFFICE MANPOWER IS LIMITED, ADDRESSEES ARE ADVISED BY CARD THAT A PARCEL IS AWAITING COLLECTION,+ HE SAID.

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PUBLIC HOUSING INHERITANCE POLICY EXPLAINED

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THE POLICY ON INHERITANCE OF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANCIES WAS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BELIEVED THAT RENTAL HOUSING SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THOSE MOST IN NEED, AND THAT IT WAS INEQUITABLE FOR TENANCIES TO PASS FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER IN PERPETUITY WITHOUT REGARD TO THE INCOME OF THE TENANTS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DAVID FORD, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG.

+IT SEEMS TO US REASONABLE, THEREFORE, THAT BEFORE A TENANCY IS INHERITED, SOME FORM OF INCOME TEST SHOULD BE APPLIED,+ MR FORD SAID.

HE SAID THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING SUBSIDY MIGHT HAVE SOME BEARING ON THE INHERITANCE ISSUE.

+BUT JUDGING FROM THE VERY SMALL NUMBER OF UNSUCCESSFUL CASES, WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THERE IS A NEED AT THE MOMENT TO REVIEW THE INHERITANCE POLICY.

+HOWEVER, THE ISSUE WILL BE FURTHER CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING SUBSIDY AND THE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THEM.+

MR FORD SAID THAT SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW POLICY ON INHERITANCE IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, 251 APPLICATIONS FOR THE INHERITANCE OF TENANCIES HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

/+OF THESE, ...

+OF THESE, 247 SECOND GENERATION FAMILIES HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO INHERIT THE TENANCIES= TWO HAVE BEEN FOUND TO EXCEED THE INCOME LIMIT= AND THE REMAINING TWO OWN OTHER DOMESTIC PROPERTIES.+

HE POINTED OUT THE PRESENT INCOME LIMIT OF $7 500 PER MONTH WAS HIGHER THAN THE WAITING LIST LIMIT AND WAS CONSIDERED TO BE QUITE GENEROUS.

+WHILE FAMILIES IN PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ARE BARRED FROM APPLYING FOR HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS WHEN THEIR INCOME EXCEEDS $7 500, SECOND GENERATION FAMILIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ARE NOT RESTRICTED BY THIS LIMIT.

+FURTHERMORE THEY ARE GIVEN GREEN FORM STATUS WHICH ALLOWS THEM A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING THE HOME OWNERSHIP FLAT OF THEIR CHOICE.+

UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, WHEN A TENANT DIED, THE TENANCY COULD AUTOMATICALLY BE INHERITED BY THE SURVIVING SPOUSE.

IF BOTH PARENTS DIED, THE SECOND GENERATION COULD INHERIT THE TENANCY IF THE TOTAL FAMILY INCOME WAS LESS THAN $7 500 PER MONTH, WHICH WAS THE MAXIMUM HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMIT FOR THE PURCHASE OF HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS FOR APPLICANTS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HE SAID.

+IF THE FAMILY'S INCOME EXCEEDS THIS LIMIT, THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO RELINQUISH THE TENANCY WITHIN ONE YEAR AND TO FIND ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION EITHER BY BUYING A HOME OWNERSHIP FLAT OR MOVING INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IF THEY OPT TO BUY A HOME OWNERSHIP FLAT, THEY ARE GIVEN PRIORITY UNDER THE GREEN FORM SYSTEM.

+IN THE CASE OF LARGE EXTENDED FAMILIES WHO OCCUPY MORE THAN ONE FLAT UNDER THE SAME TENANCY, EACH NUCLEAR FAMILY WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE INCOME LIMIT OF $7 500 AND TREATED ACCORDINGLY.+

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LITTLE DEMAND SEEN FOR HELICOPTER SERVICE

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GOVERNMENT'S LONG STANDING POLICY WAS TO FACILITATE, RATHER THAN POSITIVELY TO ENCOURAGE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER SERVICES BASED IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, PROVIDED SOME ENCOURAGEMENT BY OFFERING PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO PROSPECTIVE OPERATORS.

HOWEVER, DURING RECENT YEARS, THERE HAD BEEN ONLY A HANDFUL OF ENQUIRIES.

THIS, HE THOUGHT, WAS BECAUSE IN COMMERCIAL TERMS HELICOPTER OPERATIONS WERE +FINELY BALANCED VENTURES+.

AND, THE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL HELICOPTER SERVICES FOR PASSENGER SERVICES APPEARED TO BE SMALL, BECAUSE SUCH OPERATIONS HAD TO COMPETE WITH ESTABLISHED EFFICIENT, CONVENIENT AND MUCH CHEAPER METHODS OF TRANSPORT.

AS A RESULT OF THE HIGH COSTS INVOLVED IN THE PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO FACILITATE COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER SERVICES, AND IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED DEMAND DEMONSTRATED THUS FAR, NO DIRECT INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER SERVICES WAS JUSTIFIED AT PRESENT, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, DURING THE PAST YEAR, FOUR SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BEING SUITABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT BY COMMERCIAL OPERATORS AS BASES FOR DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL SERVICES SHOULD THERE BE A DEMAND FOR SUCH SERVICES.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER POON ON GOVERNMENT POLICY REGARDING COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER SERVICES.

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PUBLIC FUNDS FOR BAPTIST COLLEGE WELL SPENT

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THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE WAS +MOST SATISFIED+ THAT THE COLLEGE HAD ESTABLISHED AN EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE COLLEGE WERE SPENT IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAYS, THE HON WONG PO-YAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COLLEGE FOR 1983-84 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR WONG SAID THIS HAD BROUGHT ABOUT OPTIMUM IMPROVEMENTS TO THE QUALITY OF THE COLLEGE'S ACADEMIC WORK, DIRECTLY BENEFITTING DESERVING STUDENTS WHO ASPIRE TO BETTER HIGHER EDUCATION.

+ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT UNTIL NOVEMBER, 1983, THAT THE COLLEGE CAME UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, GOVERNMENT FUNDING RECEIVED SINCE THEN HAS ALREADY MADE A VERY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE STAFF AND SUPPORT FACILITIES FOR THE COLLEGE'S ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES.+

MR WONG SAID WHILE THE COLLEGE TRULY APPRECIATED THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT IT WAS EQUALLY GRATIFYING THAT SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY WAS STILL CONTINUING.

HE NOTED THAT PRIVATE DONATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR A VARIETY OF PURPOSES, INCLUDING THE SETTING UP OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBRARY AND THE CAMPUS AND ALSO FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.

+THE COLLEGE IS NOW MOVING FULL STEAM AHEAD IN PLANNING NEW COURSES AT DEGREE LEVEL AND IS SPARING NO EFFORT IN INTRODUCING THE FIRST TWO DEGREE COURSES IN OCTOBER, 1986,+ HE SAID.

IT HAD ALSO LAUNCHED A CAPITAL PROJECT TO ADD FIVE NEW BUILDINGS.

+BASED ON MY OWN EXPERIENCE WITH THE COLLEGE, I CAN PROJECT WITH CONFIDENCE THAT IT WILL HAVE MANY MORE ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS TO REPORT BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, WHEN THE COLLEGE WILL BE CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDATION,+ MR WONG SAID.

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WINES, SPIRITS DUTY RISES APPROVED

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A MOTION INCREASING THE DUTIES ON BEER, NON-EUROPEAN TYPE WINES AND SPIRITS, ETHYL ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, HYDROCARBON OILS AND METHYL ALCOHOL WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MOTION ALSO REMOVED THE DIFFERENTIAL RATE ON COMMODITIES OF HONG KONG AND NON-HONG KONG ORIGIN, NAMELY, BEER, NON-EUROPEAN TYPE WINES AND SPIRITS, AND ETHYL AND METHYL ALCOHOL.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID THE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN UNMANUFACTURED RAW TOBACCO AND IMPORTED MANUFACTURED CIGARETTES HAD ALSO BEEN REDUCED TO ITS LOWEST LEVEL SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION IN 1949.

SIR JOHN POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASED DUTIES HAD COME INTO EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 27 THIS YEAR, WHEN THE GOVERNOR SIGNED THE PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION ORDER.

THE PROPOSALS WERE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF $360 MILLION IN 1985-86.

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SOFT DRINK, COSMETIC DUTIES APPROVED

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A MOTION PROVIDING FOR DUTIES TO BE PAID ON NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND COSMETICS WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, POINTED OUT THAT THE DUTIES HAD COME INTO EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 27 THIS YEAR, WHEN THE GOVERNOR SIGNED THE PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION ORDER.

THE RESOLUTION PROVIDED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF DUTIES PAYABLE ON NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT THE RATE OF $60 PER HECTOLITRE AND ON COSMETICS AT THE RATE OF 25 PER CENT ON THE CIF PRICE FOR IMPORTED, OR WHOLESALE PRICE FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED COSMETICS, SIR JOHN SAID.

THE PROPOSALS SHOULD PRODUCE REVENUE OF $100 MILLION FOR COSMETICS AND $200 MILLION FOR NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN 1985-86, HE SAID.

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ACCORD SEEN ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION PLAN

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID TODAY HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE WOULD BE WELCOMED BY BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BRIDGE SAID THE AMENDMENTS HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE HAD BEEN AMENDED IN 1982 TO PROVIDE FOR A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COMPENSATION SYSTEM.

THESE INCLUDED PROVISION FOR MINOR CLAIMS TO BE SETTLED QUICKLY AND CONVENIENTLY BY A CERTIFICATE OF ASSESSMENT ISSUED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, INSTEAD OF THE PREVIOUS TIME-CONSUMING REQUIREMENT FOR THE EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT IN EVERY CASE.

THE PRESENT BILL, HE SAID, PROPOSED TO APPLY THIS SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM TO A WIDER RANGE OF CLAIMS.

+TILL NOW THE SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM HAS APPLIED ONLY TO CLAIMS FOR INJURIES RESULTING IN TEMPORARY INCAPACITY FOR NOT MORE THAN 14 DAYS,+ MR BRIDGE SAID.

+THE PRESENT BILL PROPOSED TO EXTEND IT TO COVER ANY CASE IN WHICH NO PERMANENT INCAPACITY IS INVOLVED,+ HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE SAID THE SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM NOW COVERED ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF ALL EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION CASES AND THE EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENT WOULD BE TO EXTEND IT TO ABOUT 87 PER CENT OF ALL CASES.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT INJURIES CAUSING PERMANENT INCAPACITY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE TWO-TIER COMPENSATION BOARD SYSTEM INTRODUCED IN DECEMBER 1982.

+THE OTHER AMENDMENTS PROPOSED IN THE BILL WERE INTENDED TO MAKE THE WORKING OF THE COMPENSATION BOARD SYSTEM MORE FLEXIBLE AND EFFICIENT,+ MR BRIDGE SAID.

+AT PRESENT, EMPLOYEES' CLAIMS ARE SOMETIMES PREJUDICED BY BREAKS IN SICK LEAVE ARISING FROM PURELY TECHNICAL REASONS, SUCH AS A GAP OF A FEW DAYS BETWEEN THE EXPIRY OF SICK LEAVE AND THE NEXT APPOINTMENT WITH THE DOCTOR,+ HE SAID.

/+THE BILL .....

+THE BILL PROPOSES TO GIVE ASSESSMENT BOARDS THE DISCRETION TO CERTIFY SUCH PERIODS AS PERIODS OF TEMPORARY INCAPACITY FOR COMPENSATION PURPOSES.+

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR A BOARD TO REVIEW ITS ASSESSMENT ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE OR ON THE APPLICATION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

AT PRESENT, MR BRIDGE SAID, BOARD DECISIONS COULD ONLY BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL BY EMPLOYER OR EMPLOYEE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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CONSISTENCY SOUGHT ON FEE CHARGES

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THE BILLS OF SALE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 PROVIDES FOR FEES CHARGED FOR SEARCHING THE REGISTER OF BILLS OF SALE AND FOR INSPECTING A BILL OF SALE TO BE PRESCRIBED BY REGULATIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, SO AS TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENCY, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR TSAO EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT THE FEE FOR SEARCHING THE REGISTER OF BILLS OF SALE AND FOR INSPECTING BILLS OF SALE WAS CONTAINED IN SECTION 22 (3) OF THE ORDINANCE, WHEREAS ALL OTHER FEES APPEARED IN THE BILLS OF SALE (FEES) REGULATIONS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT FEES CHARGED UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS HAD NOT BEEN UPDATED SINCE 1976.

+THE JUDICIARY HAVE RECENTLY COMPLETED A REVIEW OF ALL FEES AND CHARGES. THIS IS THE LAST ORDINANCE AFFECTED BY THIS REVIEW,+ MR TSAO SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TAKEN AT THE SAME TIME TO AMEND SECTIONS 3 AND 7 OF THE ORDINANCE WHICH CONTAINED REFERENCE TO +THE COLONY+.

+SECTIONS 2 AND 3 OF THE BILLS OF SALE (AMENDMENT) BILL SUBSTITUTE THE WORDS 'HONG KONG' FOR 'THE COLONY',+ MR TSAO SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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STANDARDS, AVAILABILITY OF QUALIFIED PILOTS MOST IMPORTANT

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THE SUCCESS OF COMPULSORY PILOTAGE HINGED ON TWO IMPORTANT FACTORS -- THE STANDARDS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT QUALIFIED PILOTS TO CARRY OUT THE JOB, THE HON S.L. CHEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE PILOTAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE COMPULSORY PILOTAGE TO THE PORT OF HONG KONG, MR CHEN SAID WHILE HE WOULD READILY JOIN THE MARITIME COMMUNITY IN RENDERING HIS SUPPORT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND SPIRIT OF THE BILL HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION.

+THE SAFETY OF OUR PORT TRAFFIC IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

+THEREFORE, THE PRESENT HIGH STANDARDS OF THE PILOTS WORKING WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS MUST BE MAINTAINED AND SHOULD NOT BE IMPAIRED AS A RESULT OF DEMANDS GENERATED FROM COMPULSORY PILOTAGE,+ HE SAID.

+TO ACHIEVE THESE AIMS, THE TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS OF PILOTS SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE COMPROMISED,+ MR CHEN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ON AVERAGE, SHIPS WORKING CARGO AT HARBOUR MOORINGS WERE IN PORT FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF TO THREE DAYS AND CONTAINER SHIPS AT THE KWAI CHUNG TERMINALS REMAINED FOR ABOUT 13 HOURS AND THESE WERE PROBABLY THE FASTEST TURN-ROUND TIMES FOR SHIPS AT ANY PORT IN THE FAR EAST.

+I AM SURE MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WOULD BE AS ANXIOUS AS I AM TO SEE THAT THE TURN-ROUND TIMES OF VESSELS COVERED BY COMPULSORY PILOTAGE WILL NOT BE UNDULY DELAYED BECAUSE OF AN INSUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED PILOTS.

+THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE THAT AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED PILOTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE COURSE OF PHASING IN THIS COMPULSORY REQUIREMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEN ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH AT THE MOMENT SOME 95 PER CENT OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS OVER 10 000 GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE (GRT) ENTERING OR LEAVING HONG KONG HARBOUR USED THE SERVICES OF PILOTS, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPULSORY PILOTAGE WOULD EXTEND THE COVERAGE TO A MUCH WIDER SCOPE AND INCLUDE, EVENTUALLY, SHIPS OF MUCH SMALLER SIZE.

/HE SUGGESTED .....

HE SUGGESTED THE PILOTAGE DUES, WHICH WOULD FORM PART OF THE REGULAR EXPENDITURE OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY, MUST BE SET AT A LEVEL THAT WOULD NOT HAMPER THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE INDUSTRY.

+SINCE THE PILOTAGE DUES WOULD HAVE MUCH WIDER IMPLICATIONS THAN BEFORE, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXAMINE THE SITUATION CAREFULLY WITH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATION IN THE NEXT REVIEW OF THE PILOTAGE (DUES) ORDER,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEN NOTED THAT, AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR AND BUSIEST PORTS, HONG KONG HAD EARNED A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR EFFICIENCY IN MEETING THE INCREASING DEMANDS OF MODERN SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS.

SUMMING UP HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO BE FLEXIBLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSAL AND TO AVOID GETTING INTO A SITUATION WHERE, FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF THE BILL, THE VOLUME OF PILOTAGE MOVEMENT WAS EXPANDING AT SUCH A RATE THAT THE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED PILOTS COULD NOT MATCH IT.

+IN THIS REGARD I WOULD LIKE TO SEEK THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCE THAT TRAINING FACILITIES WILL BE ADEQUATE TO ENSURE A SUPPLY OF PROPERLY TRAINED PILOTS TO MEET THE DEMANDS GENERATED BY IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPULSORY PILOTAGE,+ HE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, THE HON MARIA TAM RECALLED AN ACCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED TO AN OCEAN-GOING VESSEL, THE +SUNSHINE ISLAND+, ON DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG IN 1981. THERE WAS NO PILOT ON BOARD.

MISS TAM SAID SHE WELCOMED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL WHICH, AS THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES HAD PROMISED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 25, 1981, WOULD PHASE IN COMPULSORY PILOTAGE IN HONG KONG WATERS.

+THE GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE SPECIFIED UNDER THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE BILL COVERS ONLY THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS EXERCISE.

+HOW SOON WE CAN MOVE TO PHASES TWO AND THREE MUST DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF LICENSED PILOTS; BUT I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE NEXT PHASE WILL NOT TAKE ANOTHER FOUR YEARS,+ SHE SAID

/ON THE .....

ON THE BILL ITSELF, MISS TAM MENTIONED THE APPLICATION OF CLAUSE 10F(C) WHICH GIVES THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE THE POWER TO +WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT OF COMPULSORY PILOTAGE IN RESPECT OF A SHIP NAVIGATING IN THE PILOTAGE AREA IF THERE EXISTS ANY CONDITION WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE AUTHORITY MAY CAUSE DANGER TO A LICENSED PILOT ...+

SHE SAID SHE HAD BEEN REASSURED BY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE WORDS +ANY CONDITION+ HERE MEANT CONDITIONS ON BOARD THE VESSEL, SUCH AS A FIRE, WHICH WOULD CAUSE DANGER TO THE LIFE AND LIMB OF THE PILOT AND IT WAS NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT HE WOULD OTHERWISE LEAVE HIS SHIP IN DISTRESS.

THANKING MISS TAM AND MR CHEN FOR THEIR SUPPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON GERRY HIGGINSON, SAID HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE PILOTAGE AUTHORITY AND THE HONG KONG PILOTS ASSOCIATION THAT NEITHER STANDARDS NOR AN ADEQUACY OF NUMBERS WOULD BE A PROBLEM.

+THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY PILOTAGE WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE,+ HE SAID.

MR HIGGINSON SAID THAT ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT, +WE ARE DETERMINED THAT NEITHER TRAINING NOR QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE COMPROMISED AND THAT ADEQUATE NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE.+

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SIX BILLS PASSED

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

THEY WERE: THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE TRUSTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE CONSUMER COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 AND THE PILOTAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985.

TWO BILLS, THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 AND THE BILLS OF SALE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 WERE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME. DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO JUNE 12.

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JOINT LIAISON GROUP TO HOLD FIRST MEETING

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THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE IN LONDON AND PEKING AT 5 PM, HONG KONG TIME, TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

+IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG, THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED ON 27 MAY 1985 WHEN THE JOINT DECLARATION CAME INTO FORCE. THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE IN LONDON BETWEEN 22 AND 25 JULY.+

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SCHOOLS TO GET MORE TEACHERS EARLIER

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ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED STANDARD-SIZED SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH AN ADDITIONAL NON-GRADUATE TEACHER IN SEPTEMBER 1985 AND A SECOND ONE IN SEPTEMBER 1986, ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING APPROVED THE COST OF THIS PROPOSAL OF MORE THAN $41 MILLION TO BE SPREAD OVER THE NEXT THREE SCHOOL YEARS FROM 1985/86 TO 1987/88.

ORIGINALLY THE PROVISION OF THE TWO NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS WAS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1986 AND SEPTEMBER 1987 AND WAS PART OF AN OVERALL PACKAGE TO IMPROVE THE STAFFING IN SECONDARY SCHOOL ACCEPTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN 1981.

IN SEPTEMBER 1982, ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS WERE PROVIDED WITH TWO ADDITIONAL GRADUATE TEACHERS FOR REMEDIAL TEACHING IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH IN FORMS 1 TO 3.

A THIRD GRADUATE TEACHER WAS PROVIDED IN SEPTEMBER 1983. THIS TEACHER, TOGETHER WITH THE TWO NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS TO BE PROVIDED, WILL BE FOR REMEDIAL TEACHING IN SUBJECTS OTHER THAN CHINESE AND ENGLISH, PUPIL COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE, INCLUDING CAREER ADVICE, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WHICH COMPLEMENT AND REINFORCE THE FORMAL CURRICULUM.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE EARLIER PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE, BASED ON THE LATEST POPULATION PROJECTIONS, THERE WOULD BE A LOWER THAN EXPECTED PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT IN AND AFTER 1985 AND FEWER NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS WOULD THEREFORE BE REQUIRED IN THE PRIMARY SECTOR.

/A SECOND .....

A SECOND FACTOR, HE ADDED, WAS THE RESULT OF A RECENT VALUE-FOR-MONEY STUDY CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A MORE EXTENSIVE AMALGAMATION OF UNDER-UTILISED CLASSES AND THE OPTIMUM USE OF RESOURCES.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT AS A RESULT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION THIS SUMMER ARE LIKELY TO BE MAINLY EMPLOYED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE ISSUING A CIRCULAR TOMORROW ADVISING SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS OF DETAILS OF THE PROVISION OF THE TWO ADDITIONAL NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS.

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NEW RATES FOR AUXILIARY POLICE APPROVED

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED ADDITIONAL FUNDS, TOTALLING $5.7 MILLION, TO MEET THE COST OF A PAY RISE AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE EARLIER THIS YEAR.

SINCE MAY 1980, PAY SCALES FOR THE AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE HAVE BEEN BASED ON THE SALARY SCALES FOR RANKS IN THE REGULAR FORCE. PROVISIONS ALSO EXIST FOR THESE SCALES TO BE AUTOMATICALLY REVISED IN THE EVENT OF ANY NEW PAY AWARDS TO THE REGULAR FORCE.

THE EXTRA FUNDS ALLOCATED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL NOW BRING THE AUXILIARIES INTO LINE WITH THE NEW PAY RATES SET DOWN IN THE PAY TREND ADJUSTMENT TO CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON MAY 1 THIS YEAR, AND WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1.

A SUM OF $63,591,000 IS INCLUDED IN THE 1985-86 GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES FOR PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR THE AUXILIARY POLICE, BASED ON AN ESTIMATED DAILY TURNOUT OF 700 AUXILIARIES. IT IS ESTIMATED, HOWEVER, THAT ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE OF $5,700,000 WILL ARISE IN 1985-86, BASED ON THE NEW RATES OF PAY AND THE SAME MANNING CRITERIA.

UNDER THE NEW RATES, THE STARTING SALARY FOR AN AUXILIARY POLICE CONSTABLE HAS GONE UP FROM $108 PER DAY TO $120 PER DAY, WHILE INCREASES FOR SERGEANTS HAVE RISEN FROM $156 TO $172 PER DAY, AND THOSE FOR INSPECTORS ARE UP FROM $240 TO $264 PER DAY.

THE TOP RATE FOR AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS IS NOW $408 PER DAY -- UP FROM $376 -- AND IS THE SAME FOR ALL SENIOR RANKS RANGING FROM SUPERINTENDENT TO SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER.

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MEMBERS CONSIDER REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL
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THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DEBATED A BILL THAT PROVIDES FOR ITS CONSTITUTION, FUNCTIONS AND POWER WHEN IT BECOMES A FULLY FLEDGED COUNCIL WITH FINANCIAL AUTONOMY NEXT APRIL.

THE COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED ITS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1985-86 FOR ITSELF AND ITS EXECUTIVE ARM, THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1985 WAS PRESENTED TO THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMENT BEFORE IT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AND ENACTMENT ABOUT A MONTH LATER.

SENIOR ASSISTANT LAW DRAFTSMAN, MR ERIC MARTIN, WAS PRESENT TO EXPLAIN NUMEROUS LEGAL POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BILL.

THE BILL SETS THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AT 36, WHO WILL ELECT A CHAIRMAN AND A VICE CHAIRMAN FROM AMONG THEMSELVES.

TWELVE OF THE MEMBERS WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR ÁND ANOTHER 12 WILL BE DIRECTLY ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL IN MARCH 1986 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE.

THE REMAINING 12 WILL CONSIST OF NINE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS AND THE CHAIRMAN AND FIRST AND SECOND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK WHO WILL BE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES PROTECTION TO MEMBERS FROM ANY LIABILITY WHILE CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE BILL.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR ABSOLUTE PRIVILEGE WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THEIR WISH WOULD BE REFLECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THE BILL OUTLINES THE SCOPE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S FUNCTIONS, WHICH WILL COVER ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION, HYGIENE, RECREATION AND CULTURE IN NON-URBAN AREAS.

/IT PROVIDES .....

IT PROVIDES THE COUNCIL WITH THE NECESSARY POWERS TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

IT ALSO ENABLES THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO APPOINT COMMITTEES FOR CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTIONS, AND WILL ALLOW FOR PERSONS NOT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO BE APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THEM.

ALTHOUGH THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL IS NOT VESTED WITH ANY STATUTORY EXECUTIVE POWERS, AS WILL BE THE CASE IN RESPECT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AFTER APRIL 1, 1986, MEMBERS CONSIDERED THE ADOPTION OF A COMMITTEE STRUCTURE TO GIVE THEM THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE BEFORE THEY ARE CALLED UPON TO RECOMMEND THE MOST APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

TO CATER TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE GEOGRAPHICALLY DISPERSED POPULATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, DIVIDED AS IT IS INTO DISTINCTLY SEPARATE DISTRICTS EACH WITH THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS, MEMBERS DECIDED THAT A LESS CENTRALISED AND MORE DISTRICT-BASED SYSTEM WOULD BE BETTER SUITED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NON-URBAN AREAS.

THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE CENTRALISED AND FUNCTIONALLY BASED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WHICH SERVES THE MORE-OR-LESS HOMOGENEOUS NATURE OF THE URBAN AREAS.

THIS WAS REFLECTED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, WHO CALLED ON MEMBERS TO +TAKE SPECIAL NOTICE OF THE LOCAL FEATURES IN THE REGION.+

MR CHEUNG ALSO NOTED THAT SERVICES IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS OFTEN DIFFER FROM THOSE IN THE URBAN AREAS.

THE COUNCIL THEN EXAMINED THE FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

A TOTAL OF $5.39 MILLION HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL SECRETARIAT FOR DISCHARGING ITS FUNCTIONS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1985/86. OF THIS AMOUNT, $3.5 MILLION WILL BE FOR PAYMENT OF HONORARIA AND RENTAL ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD AMOUNTS TO $456 MILLION, WHICH WILL BE PAID FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT. THIS INCLUDES $412 MILLION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES AT 1984/85 LEVELS AND $13 MILLION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF NEW FACILITIES COMPLETED OR NEW SERVICES INTRODUCED IN 1985/86.

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DURING THE TERM OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES.

COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS AND SUPPLIES SYSTEM AS WELL AS THE BUDGETARY SYSTEM, BOTH OF WHICH ARE STILL APPLICABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT UNTIL THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BECOMES FINANCIALLY AUTONOMOUS ON APRIL 1, 1986.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ALSO STUDIED THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNCIL, WHICH ARE TO PROMOTE A GENUINE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE PEOPLE, GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AND PROJECT AN ACCURATE IMAGE OF THE COUNCIL.

IN THIS RESPECT, MR CHEUNG SAID THAT +IN THE MAKING OF A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT IN OUR REGION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS VERY IMPORTANT.+

+OPEN DIALOGUE WILL ENCOURAGE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND SOLICIT SUPPORT OR COMMENTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, OUR FRIENDS IN THE MASS MEDIA HAVE RENDERED US A BIG HAND. THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS, WE HAVE STARTED A GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC,+ MR CHEUNG ADDED.

THE MEETING ALSO DECIDED TO APPOINT THE VICE CHAIRMAN, MR NATHAN MA, AS THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS. MEMBERS ALSO RESOLVED TO VISIT ALL THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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GOVT AWARE OF NEWSVENDORS' DIFFICULTY

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THE GOVERNMENT KNEW VERY WELL THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE NEWSVENDOR BY THE STREET CORNER WHO DID NOT OR PROBABLY COULD NOT READ THE THINGS HE SOLD TO DECIDE WHICH PUBLICATIONS WERE OBJECTIONABLE AND MIGHT NOT BE SOLD.

THE FACT THAT UNTIL RECENTLY, ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ONLY AGAINST THOSE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLISHING THE ARTICLES SHOWED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN REASONABLE TO THE 'SMALL FRY' WHO MIGHT NOT EVEN BE AWARE OF THEIR LIABILITY UNDER THE LAW, THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR LEE KAI-FAT SAID AT A PANEL DISCUSSION ORGANISED BY THE HK COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE TODAY.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE, A PUBLISHER INCLUDED ANY PERSON WHO PRINTED, DISTRIBUTED, CIRCULATED OR SOLD THE ARTICLE TO THE PUBLIC.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE A DEFINITIVE OPINION ON WHETHER SOMETHING WAS OBJECTIONABLE BECAUSE THIS WAS FOR THE COURT TO DECIDE.

MR LEE QUOTED AN APPEAL COURT JUDGEMENT WHICH SET OUT THE TEST OF 'OBJECTIONABLENESS' - +THE MAGISTRATE MUST EXERCISE THE COMMUNITY'S CONSCIENCE AND TREAT HIMSELF AS REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITY'S FEELINGS IN THE MATTER. IF, WITH THESE FEELINGS IN MIND, THE PUBLICATION APPEARS TO HIM TO BE OFFENSIVE, THEN HE SHOULD TREAT IT AS SUCH+.

HE POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE LAST YEAR OR SO, THE SPATE OF CHEAP, LOCALLY PRODUCED PORNOGRAPHIC MAGAZINES AND COMICS HAD BECOME A MATTER OF INCREASING CONCERN FOR THOSE WHO HAD DIRECT CONTACTS WITH JUVENILES AND SCHOOL CHILDREN.

+THE CLAMOUR IS A CLEAR INDICATION TO GOVERNMENT THAT THE CONTENTS OF THESE MAGAZINES, DEPICTING, AS THEY DO, OBSCENITY IN BAD TASTE, PERVERTED BEHAVIOUR AND MATTERS OF A REVOLTING NATURE, HAVE OFFENDED THE RECOGNISED STANDARDS OF PROPRIETY,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S SURVEILLANCE HAD INCREASED AND THE POLICE HAD BEEN BUSY WITH INVESTIGATIONS. +INVESTIGATIONS ARE, INEVITABLY, INVOLVED AND TIME-CONSUMING, AND GOVERNMENT IS NOT PERSUADED THAT WARNINGS AND REQUESTS FOR SELF-DISCIPLINE FROM AMONG THE VENDORS WILL PRODUCE RESULTS.

+HENCE, THE RECENT SEIZURE ACTION AT NEWSPAPER STANDS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE RECENT DECISION TO STEP UP ACTION WAS NOT TAKEN LIGHTLY, AND WE STRESS THAT THESE MEASURES, EFFECTIVE AND PERHAPS UNFAIR AS SOME MAY SAY, WILL CONTINUE UNTIL A MORE PERMANENT AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION IS FOUND,+ MR LEE SAID.

ON MATTERS OF INTERPRETING WHAT THE COMMUNITY FOUND 'OBJECTIONABLE', MR LEE SAID IT WAS BEST FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BE RESPONDING TO A SITUATION PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

+COMMUNITY STANDARDS WILL CHANGE, AS REFLECTED IN PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY RESULTS, AND AS LONG AS GOVERNMENT REMAINS RESPONSIVE AND RECEPTIVE, THE PUBLIC CAN REST ASSURED THAT THERE IS NO LACK OF DETERMINATION TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM AND TO ACCORD IT WITH THE PRIORITY IT DESERVES,+ HE SAID.

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POLICE BUILDING PROJECTS TOTAL $1 BILLION

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BUILDING PROJECTS TOTALLING AROUND $1.1 BILLION ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR BEING PLANNED, TO PROVIDE THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF ACCOMMODATION HONG KONG WILL NEED FOR ITS POLICE FORCE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

''WE HAVE MORE PROJECTS GOING ON, WHETHER UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR PREPARATION FOR FUNDING, THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST,'' THE ACTING SENIOR STAFF OFFICER FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, MR PAUL DEAL, SAID TODAY, IN REVIEWING THE CURRENT STATE OF THE FORCE BUILDING PROGRAMME.

''THIS SITUATION HAS RESULTED FROM THE EXPANDING POPULATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE INCREASED REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCOMMODATION BY MARINE POLICE UNITS AND THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE FORCE, IN GENERAL,'' HE EXPLAINED.

AT PRESENT, THE FORCE HAS 12 PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF AROUND $330 MILLION. THESE RANGE FROM THE SOUTH DIVISION MARINE POLICE BASE AT ABERDEEN, TO INTERIM ACCOMMODATION FOR THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT, A DISTRICT POLICE STATION IN TAI PO, AND QUARTERS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND BOUNDARY STREET.

''IN ADDITION, WE HAVE A FURTHER NINE PROJECTS WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR,'' SAID MR DEAL.

THE DECISION ON WHETHER THESE PROJECTS GET THE GO-AHEAD WILL BE MADE BY THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE ANNUAL REVIEW IN NOVEMBER.

THEY ARE :

+ A NEW POLICE TACTICAL UNIT DEPOT AT FANLING
+ A NEW DETECTIVE TRAINING SCHOOL
+ A DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION AT HUNG HOM
+ NEW DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND DIVISIONAL STATION AT TSUEN WAN
+ PROVISION OF 396 JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS' MARRIED QUARTERS AT FANLING
+ A NEW WATERFRONT DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION
+ A VEHICLE POUND AT SHA TIN
+ MA ON SHAN DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND DIVISIONAL STATION AT SHA TIN
+ PROVISION OF 288 JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS' MARRIED QUARTERS ON TSING YI ISLAND.

FUNDS BEING SOUGHT FOR THIS PACKAGE AMOUNT TO $406.5 MILLION.

''IN ADDITION, WE HAVE A PROGRAMME TO RENOVATE 31 EXISTING POLICE STATIONS -- MAINLY THE OLDER STATIONS -- AND 104 JPO CANTEENS,'' SAID MR DEAL.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT
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FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF MTR WORK, ROADS WILL BE REOPENED AND CLEARWAY HOURS SHORTENED IN NORTH POINT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 31).

DETAILS ARE:

ROAD REOPENING

* TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD BETWEEN KAM HONG STREET AND SHU KUK STREET WILL BE REOPENED TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TRAFFIC.

* SHU KUK STREET BETWEEN TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD AND KING'S ROAD WILL BE REOPENED TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC.

CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS

* CLEARWAY HOURS WILL BE SHORTENED AT THE SECTION OF SHU KUK STREET BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND MARBLE ROAD, AND THE SECTION OF MARBLE ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 19 AND SHU KUK STREET. THE NEW RESTRICTION HOURS WILL BE 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM FOR OTHER VEHICLES.

DURING THE RESTRICTION PERIODS, THE SPECIFIED VEHICLES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE ROAD SECTIONS.

* THE CLEARWAY HOURS AT KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN SHU KUK STREET AND KAM HONG STREET WILL ALSO BE SHORTENED. ALL VEHICLES WILL NOW BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING THERE FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

* THE EXISTING CLEARWAYS RESTRICTIONS AT THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE LIFTED : TIN CHIU STREET BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD ; TIN CHIU STREET NORTHBOUND BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND JAVA ROAD ; TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 100 AND 112.

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COUNCIL APPROVES $1 MILLION FOR MINOR PROJECTS

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THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS GIVEN APPROVAL TO SPEND SOME $1 MILLION UNDER THE MINOR PROJECTS BLOCK VOTE TO MEET ADDITIONAL COSTS OF FIVE PROJECTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR.

THREE OF THE PROJECTS ARE IN KOWLOON. THEY INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT FUNG TAK ROAD WHICH WILL BE REPLACED BY AN OFF-STREET RCP IN THE SHEUNG FUNG STREET JOINT-USER BUILDING AT THE END OF 1987 THE RENOVATION OF A BLOCK AT KOWLOON PARK FOR USE BY THE HONG KONG REPERTORY THEATRE AND THE HONG KONG DANCE COMPANY AND THE RE-INSTATEMENT OF THE TSUEN YIP STREET PLAYGROUND WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY USED TO ACCOMMODATE SOME COOKED FOOD STALLS PENDING THE COMPLETION OF THE TSUN YIP STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, A 75-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT UPPER STATION STREET WILL BE TURNED INTO A SITTING-OUT AREA AND A NEW AIR COMPRESSOR HOUSE WILL BE BUILT AT THE KENNEDY TOWN ABATTOIR TO FACILITATE ITS NORMAL SLAUGHTERING PROCESS.

A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID THE MINOR PROJECTS BLOCK VOTE IS INTENDED TO COVER EXPENDITURE FOR SOME MINOR WORKS PROJECTS AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE EXISTING FACILITIES.

A PROVISION OF $35 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE VOTE FOR 1985/86 BY THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMITTED TO IMPROVING STANDARDS

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POLICIES ARE CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED WHICH WOULD HELP ENSURE THAT HEAVILY SUBSIDISED PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING IS PROVIDED ONLY TO THOSE MOST IN NEED OF IT.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS TODAY WHILE ADDRESSING AN OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXHIBITION 1985 AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL.

HE ALSO TOLD THE GATHERING THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO IMPROVING BUILDING STANDARDS AND METHODS.

/MR FORD .....

MR FORD SAID THE AUTHORITY WAS CONSCIOUS THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF THE TENANTS COULD AFFORD TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO THE COST OF THEIR HOUSING.

+THE AUTHORITY'S HOUSING STOCK IS NOW WELL OVER HALF A MILLION UNITS PLUS A LARGE PORTFOLIO OF COMMERCIAL AND NON-DOMESTIC BUILDINGS.

+OF PRIME IMPORTANCE, AS WE MOVE INTO THE 1990'S, WILL BE TO ESTABLISH POLICIES WHICH ENSURE THAT THIS MASSIVE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG IS PROPERLY MANAGED AND MAINTAINED, AND THAT THE ACCOMMODATION IT PROVIDES IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THOSE MOST IN NEED.+

MR FORD SAID THE AUTHORITY ALSO BELIEVED THAT IT WAS A FAR WISER INVESTMENT TO BUILD TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD, AND WHERE NECESSARY SUBSIDISE THE OCCUPANT, RATHER THAN TO SAVE MONEY ON BUILDING IN THE SHORT TERM AND PAY DEARLY ON MAINTENANCE COSTS EVER AFTER.

+THE AUTHORITY HAS JUST MET ITS PRODUCTION TARGET FOR THE FIFTH YEAR RUNNING, AND IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE TO BUILD AT A RATE OF A MINIMUM OF 40 000 UNITS A YEAR. INCREASINGLY, HOWEVER THE EMPHASIS IS TURNING AWAY FROM JUST QUANTITY.

+THE AUTHORITY IS PAYING MORE AND MORE ATTENTION TO THE QUALITY OF ITS NEW BUILDINGS TO REDUCE MAINTENANCE COSTS, WHILST AT THE SAME TIME EMBARKING ON A VERY AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF RENOVATION AND REDEVELOPMENT OF ITS OLDER STOCK.+

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING NOTED THAT HONG KONG WAS AN INTERNATIONAL BUILDING MARKET OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, AND ONE THAT WAS INCREASINGLY BEING SEEN AS A VITAL GATEWAY TO CHINA.

+I AM SURE, THROUGH MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, THAT HARDLY A DAY NOW GOES BY WITHOUT A TRADE OR GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATION ARRIVING, EITHER HAVING BEEN TO, OR GOING TO CHINA.

+THERE IS CURRENTLY TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE BUILDING INDUSTRY TO PROMOTE AND DO BUSINESS. THIS BUSINESS WILL BE SECURED BY THOSE COMPANIES PREPARED TO OFFER A FIRST-CLASS PRODUCT AND SERVICE, AND TO BE INNOVATIVE AND FLEXIBLE IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS AND MEETING CHALLENGES.+

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FAREWELL TREE PLANTING AT PHOENIX HOUSE

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A TREE WAS PLANTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, AT THE PHOENIX HOUSE TODAY (WEDNESDAY), TO MARK HIS COMING RETIREMENT, AFTER HIS 38 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

MR GARNER HAD BEEN INVITED TO PLANT THE TREE BY THE STAFF OF PHOENIX HOUSE, WHICH HE WAS VISITING TO SAY FAREWELL TO STAFF THERE.

PHOENIX HOUSE IS A HALF-WAY HOUSE FOR THE YOUNG MEN DISCHARGED FROM TRAINING AND DETENTION CENTRES.

MR GARNER LATER ALSO CALLED AT PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AND PIK UK PRISON.

MR GARNER IS MAKING A FINAL ROUND OF VISITS TO THE VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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ROAD CLOSED FOR RESURFACING

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QUEEN STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD WEST AND CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON MAY 31 UNTIL 10 AM ON JUNE 13 TO FACILITATE ROAD RESURFACING WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE VEHICLES ON EASTBOUND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST HEADING FOR CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST WILL HAVE TO PROCEED VIA WILMER STREET.

MEANWHILE, CHIU KWONG STREET BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST IN WESTERN WILL BE CLOSED FROM 2 PM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 1) UNTIL MIDNIGHT THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT.

TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WESTERN STREET DURING THE CLOSURE.

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ROAD CLOSED FOR DRAINAGE WORK

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THE SECTION OF BULKELEY STREET BETWEEN MING ON STREET AND MARSH STREET IN HUNG HOM WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 1) FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH TO VEHICLES EXCEEDING SEVEN METRES IN LENGTH TO FACILITATE DRAINAGE WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, LONG VEHICLES ON BULKELEY STREET HEADING FOR WUHU STREET WILL BE DIVERTED TO MING ON STREET, BAKER STREET AND GILLIES AVENUE.

ON THE SAME DAY, GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 65R, PLYING BETWEEN SHA TIN KCR STATION AND SHATIN MEISHA FERRY TERMINAL, WILL RESUME OPERATION.

THIS ROUTE WILL OPERATE FROM 8.15 AM TO 7 PM DAILY, IN LINE WITH THE SAILING SCHEDULE OF THE FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN SHA TIN AND DA XIAO MEI SHA.

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NEW MINIBUS SERVICE

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NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 67K, FROM AH KUNG KOK TO SHA TIN KCR STATION, WILL BE INTRODUCED ON SATURDAY (JUNE 1) TO MEET THE DEMAND OF AH KUNG KOK RESIDENTS.

THE ROUTE WILL OPERATE VIA ROAD T5, TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, SAND MARTIN BRIDGE, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD AND SHATIN KCR STATION FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM.

THE FARE WILL BE $2.

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