DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1985

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS -- GOVERNOR 1

TWELVE QUESTIONS AT LEGCO 3

LEGCO MEETING TIME-TABLE REVISED 4

EDUCATION ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY STRESSED 6

LADY YOUDE OPENS SYCAMORE ARTS GALLERY 7

REFUSE DISPOSAL FOR ISLANDS SATISFACTORY 8

U.K. MINISTER LOOKS AT FISHING COMMUNITY 9

FORM 7 ENROLMENT AFFECTED BY CU SCHEME 10

HKDIC HOLDS FIRST BOARD MEETING 10

SCHEME FOR ELDERLY TO ENJOY DISCOUNTS 11

BEAUTY QUEEN HELPS CHOOSE CLEANEST BUILDING 12

CHILDREN'S MUSIC GALA ON AGAIN 13

FIRST MEETING FOR SAI KUNG COMMITTEE 14

IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY STRESSED 14

TAI PO ROAD CLOSURE 15

UC COMMITTED TO PROMOTE ARTS AND CULTURE - CHEONG-LEEN 15

NEW ENTRY FEES FOR SWIMMING POOLS +NOT UNREASONABLE+ 17

+SPEAKERS' CORNERS+ NOT FAVOURED FOR PARKS 18

UC ACTS IN LINE WITH GOVT'S POLICY ON CIGARETTE SMOKING 19

RAT PROBLEM NOT DETERIORATING 19

NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS -- GOVERNOR

* * * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO RETURN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OVER THE BORDER AND THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO AMNESTY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, STRESSED TODAY (TUESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM A REPORTER AFTER VISITING THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, SIR EDWARD SAID THE INCREASE IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WAS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE TO, AND THAT HE WAS SURE IT WOULD COME UP IN THE BORDER TALKS WHICH WERE DUE TO COMMENCE.

+WE WANT TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY WE CAN TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM BECOMING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS,+ HE SAID. +OBVIOUSLY THERE IS A FEELING SOMEHWERE THAT IT IS EASIER NOWADAYS THAN IT WAS BEFORE.+

+I WOULD LIKE TO DISPEL THAT FEELING ABSOLUTELY AND MAKE CLEAR THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY, AND THAT WE SHALL BE TAKING THE SAME MEASURES AS WE HAVE BEEN ALWAYS TAKING TO RETURN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OVER THE BORDER.+

ASKED WHETHER THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUEST HARSHER PENALTIES ON THE CHINESE SIDE TO DISCOURAGE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS NECESSARILY A QUESTION OF HARSHER PENALTIES.

+I THINK IT IS RATHER A QUESTION OF BETTER CONTROL,+ HE ADDED

ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, SIR EDWARD SAID: +WE, OF COURSE, ARE PERFECTLY HAPPY WITH VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION BUT THERE ARE NOT VERY MANY OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, AND IT DOES TAKE SOME TIME TO ARRANGE FOR THAT REPATRIATION EVEN WHEN THEY ASKED FOR IT.+

+SO CERTAINLY AT THE PRESENT TIME OUR MAIN INTEREST IS IN THE INITIATIVE WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN TO TRY TO GET MORE RESETTLEMENT PLACES BECAUSE WE THINK THAT WILL MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

ON WHETHER VIETNAM WAS WILLING TO TAKE BACK SOME REFUGEES, SIR EDWARD SAID SOME OF THEM, A SMALL NUMBER OF THEM, HAD GONE BACK.

ASKED WHETHER THE RECENT DELEGATION TO PEKING TO DISCUSS THE BN(O) PASSPORTS HAD ARRIVED AT A PACKAGE TO BE ENDORSED BY THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, THE GOVERNOR SAID THEY DIDN'T EXPECT TO AGREE ON A PACKAGE.

/+AS THE .....

+AS THE POLITICAL ADVISER SAID WHEN HE CAME BACK, WHAT THEY WERE DOING WAS HAVING A DISCUSSION ON ALL THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IN THE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE POSITIVE RESULTS FROM THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP,+ HE SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE SINO-BRITISH AIR TALKS IN LONDON, SIR EDWARD SAID THE TALKS WERE NOW IN PROGRESS, AND THAT +IT WOULD BE A LITTLE RISKY OF ME TO TRY TO PREDICT EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

+BUT WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE SERVICES PARTICULARLY BETWEEN HERE AND THE MAINLAND, BECAUSE WE THINK THE TRAFFIC IS THERE TO SUSTAIN IT. SO I'M HOPING FOR SOME POSITIVE RESULTS OUT OF THESE TALKS.+

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE THIRD UNIVERSITY WOULD BE LIKE THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WHICH COMPRISED SEVERAL COLLEGES, SIR EDWARD SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD JUST STARTED PLANNING IT, +SO I DON'T THINK WE WANT TO COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS YET AS TO EXACTLY WHAT FORM IT WOULD TAKE.

+BUT YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT WE'LL GET ON WITH IT AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN. YOU'VE PROBABLY GATHERED BY MY PRESENCE HERE THIS AFTERNOON THAT EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH I PAY MOST ATTENTION TO,+ HE NOTED.

ASKED HOW ACTIVELY THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING FOR THE THIRD UNIVERSITY AS IT HAD BEEN TALKED ABOUT FOR MANY YEARS, SIR EDWARD SAID: +I'VE JUST ANNOUNCED IT ABOUT A MONTH AGO THAT THE PLANNING IS BEGINNING, AND I DON'T THINK THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE IT THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN DOING SOME THINKING ABOUT IT.

+THE FIRST PART OF THE PLAN OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION WAS EXPANDING EXISTING UNIVERSITIES, WAS MAKING FULL USE OF THE FACILITIES WHICH EXIST ALREADY. AND THEN, NOW THAT WE HAVE UNFORESEEN RESOURCES, IT IS MOVING ON TO THE THIRD UNIVERSITY.+

SIR EDWARD ADDED THAT HONG KONG HAD MADE VERY CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IF ONE PUT TOGETHER THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS JOINING THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS.

ASKED WHETHER THE PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE SCHEME OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WAS A WASTE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT WAS WHAT HE CALLED A +LOADED QUESTION+.

HE ADDED THAT SIXTH FORM EDUCATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT FROM SIXTH FORM EDUCATION WAS UNDER STUDY BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

+WE SHOULD BE WAITING CAREFULLY AND WE SHOULD BE STUDYING CAREFULLY WHAT THEY PRODUCE,+ HE SAID.

ASKED TO OUTLINE SOME OF THE OPTIONS OF THE REDRESS SYSTEM WHICH HE MENTIONED WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR EDWARD SAID: +YOU WILL FIND THAT THE OPTIONS WILL BE DESCRIBED WHEN WE PRODUCE THE DISCUSSION DOCUMENT.

/+AND IF .....

+AND IF I WAS TO OUTLINE ANY PARTICULAR OPTION TODAY, I'M SURE YOU WOULD ALL WRITE TOMORROW THAT THAT IS THE ONE I FAVOUR. SO I THINK WE WILL APPROACH IT WITH AN OPEN MIND.

+AGAIN, THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHERE WE HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF CHANNELS OF REDRESS ALREADY. AND AS I SAID IN MY SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHAT WE WILL PRODUCE WILL BE A SUPPLEMENT TO WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE RATHER THAN A REPLACEMENT AS I SEE IT,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS A NEED FOR MORE OFFICIALS TO SIT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS SOME OF THE QUESTIONS WERE NOT ANSWERED DURING THE LAST MEETING, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS ONLY THE FIRST MEETING AND THAT COUNCILLORS WERE HAVING TO GET USED TO THE NEW SYSTEM.

+I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT THE SYSTEM AS IT IS NOW WILL WORK MUCH BETTER IN THE FUTURE AS THEY GET USED TO THE SYSTEM, AND LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS ON WEDNESDAY. I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT THINGS WILL BE BETTER ON WEDNESDAY AS PEOPLE SETTLE DOWN TO THE NEW SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

+WE'VE ONLY HAD ONE GO,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWELVE QUESTIONS AT LEGCO

* * * * *

TWELVE QUESTIONS AND A STATEMENT WILL BE AMONG MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE 12 QUESTIONS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS COVER A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARDS PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THE DRAWING UP OF A STANDARD DEED OF MUTUAL CONVENANT FOR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BUILDINGS AND THE PLAN TO CURB TRIAD ACTIVITIES.

A STATEMENT WILL BE MADE BY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON ERIC HO, ON THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION'S 1984-85 ANNUAL REPORT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

LEGCO MEETING TIME-TABLE REVISED

* * * * * *

THE SCHEDULE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER HAS BEEN REVISED. UNOFFICIALS WILL NOW SPEAK ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS ON NOVEMBER 27 AND 28, INSTEAD OF ON NOVEMBER 20 AND 21.

NOVEMBER 20 HAS NOW BEEN SET ASIDE FOR A REGULAR MEETING AND THE COUNCIL WILL NOT MEET ON NOVEMBER 21. OFFICIALS WILL NOW REPLY TO THE MOTION OF THANKS ON DECEMBER 11.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE REVISED SCHEDULE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTINGS FOR THE 1985-86 SESSION:

WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 1985	OPENING OF THE 1985/86 SESSION (GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS)
WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 1985	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 1985	,,
WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 1985	,,
WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 1985 THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 1985	DEBATE ON MOTION OF THANKS (UNOFFICIALS SPEAK)
WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 1985	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 1985	DEBATE ON MOTION OF THANKS (OFFICIALS SPEAK)
WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 1985	REGULAR MEETING

(3 WEEKS' GAP TO CLEAR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS)

WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 1986	,,

(3 WEEKS' GAP TO CLEAR LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS)

WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 1986	1ST BUDGET SITTING (FINANCIAL SECRETARY PRESENTS BUDGET)

/WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH .....

WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 1986 THURSDAY 27TH MARCH 1986	2ND BUDGET SITTING (UNOFFICIALS SPEAK)

(2 WEEKS' GAP TO CLEAR EASTER HOLIDAYS)

WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL 1986 THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 1986 (IF NECESSARY)	3RD BUDGET SITTING (OFFICIALS SPEAK)
WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 1986	4TH BUDGET SITTING (COMMITTEE STAGE AND 3RD READING OF APPROPRIATION BILL)
WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE 1986	,,

(3 WEEKS' GAP TO CLEAR DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL AND QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY)

WEDNESDAY 25TH JUNE 1986	REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 2ND JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY 1986	,,
WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST 1986 (IF NECESSARY)	,,

- - - - o - - - -

EDUCATION ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY STRESSED

* * * *

EDUCATION ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY REDUCE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, THE DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER OF THE RYODEN ELECTRIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED, MR THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE AUDIO-VISUAL CORNER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE AT HARBOUR BUILDING, MR LEE SAID INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS COULD NOT BE REDUCED EFFECTIVELY BY LEGISLATION ALONE.

HE SAID EMPLOYERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SEND THEIR WORKERS TO ATTEND SHORT COURSES ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE TO IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND PROPER WORKING PROCEDURES.

MR LEE SAID SKILLED WORKERS WERE MOST ESSENTIAL TO OUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY AND IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT, TO MAINTAIN THIS PROSPERITY, WE MUST TREASURE AND PROTECT OUR HUMAN RESOURCES.

TO THIS END, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT HAD DEVOTED MUCH ATTENTION TO IMPROVING WORKERS' WELFARE AND TO PROTECTING THEIR HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK.

+APART FROM CONSTANT LEGISLATIVE REVIEW, FREQUENT INSPECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT TO FACTORIES AND SITES BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORS TO ENSURE THAT SAFETY REGULATIONS ARE OBSERVED,+ MR LEE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR RON BRIDGE, SAID THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE HAD A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROMOTING SAFETY AT WORK.

+IT PROVIDES OUR FACTORY INSPECTORS AND THOSE IN INDUSTRY WITH TRAINING ON SAFETY ON ONE HAND, AND PROMOTES THE MESSAGE THROUGH THE MEDIA, SUCH AS RADIO AND TELEVISION, ON THE OTHER,+ HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE ALSO THANKED THE RYODEN ELECTRIC ENGINEERING COMPANY FOR DONATING AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT TO THE CENTRE.

LAST YEAR, THE CENTRE OFFERED, FREE OF CHARGE, 386 TRAINING COURSES TO MORE THAN 10 000 PEOPLE AND CONDUCTED 137 TALKS ON SAFETY TO ABOUT 13 000 PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOLS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LADY YOUDE OPENS SYCAMORE ARTS GALLERY

* * * * * *

LADY YOUDE OPENED THE SYCAMORE ARTS GALLERY IN MONG KOK TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE OPEN AIR ARTS GALLERY IS CONVERTED FROM AN ACCESS LANE BETWEEN BOUNDARY STREET AND SYCAMORE STREET.

AFTER UNVEILING A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE, LADY YOUDE WAS TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE GALLERY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SYCAMORE ARTS GALLERY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP, MR WONG YUEN-WEI. SHE NOTED THE SPECIAL DESIGN OF THE GALLERY WITH EXHIBITION BOARDS MOUNTED ON ROWS OF BENCHES, PLANTS AND PERGOLAS.

+THE GALLERY IS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL FACILITY TO PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS IN THE DISTRICT. IT ALSO PROVIDES A DELIGHTFUL SITTING-OUT AREA FOR RESIDENTS,+ MR WONG SAID.

THE PROJECT, INITIATED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, COSTS MORE THAN $200 000. THE BOARD CONTRIBUTED $150 000 AND THE BALANCE WAS MET BY THE SHUI ON SEAGULL CLUB, WHICH IS A STAFF CLUB OF THE SHUI ON GROUP.

BEFORE THE OPENING, LADY YOUDE TOURED THE DISTRICT TO SEE VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

ACCOMPANIED BY MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS BRENDA FUNG, AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI, LADY YOUDE FIRST VISITED KAM LAM STREET, WHICH IS WELL-KNOWN FOR WHOLESALE OF EGGS.

SHE ALSO VISITED A GOLD ORNAMENTS SHOP AT SHANGHAI STREET.

AFTER CALLING ON A FAMILY IN TAI KOK TSUI, LADY YOUDE PROCEEDED TO LIM POR YEN CENTRE AND CHAN HING SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE WHERE SHE WAS BRIEFED ON THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

BEFORE LEAVING MONG KOK, LADY YOUDE ALSO VISITED THE SYCAMORE AREA CARNIVAL IN WILLOW STREET PLAYGROUND TO SEE YOUNG CHILDREN PAINTING AND PLAYING AT THE GAMES STALLS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8 .....

REFUSE DISPOSAL FOR ISLANDS SATISFACTORY

* * * *

THE DISPOSAL OF REFUSE IN THE ISLANDS, BY TRANSPORTING IT BY BARGES TO THE KWAI CHUNG INCINERATION PLANT OR THE MA YAU TONG CONTROLLED TIP, HAS PROVED A MORE HYGIENIC METHOD OF REFUSE DISPOSAL THAN THE USE OF SMALL LOCAL INCINERATORS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE) OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR LI TIN-MING, AT THE MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY) OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

MR LI SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF CONVENIENT DISPOSAL SITES AND TRANSPORTATION CONSTRAINTS, IT HAD BEEN THE PRACTICE FOR DECADES TO DISPOSE OF REFUSE ON THE OUTLYING ISLANDS BY USING SMALL INCINERATORS.

THIS METHOD OF DISPOSAL WAS CONSIDERED HYGIENICALLY ACCEPTABLE AND ECONOMICAL AT A TIME WHEN THE POPULATION ON THESE ISLANDS WAS SMALL AND THE REFUSE YIELD WAS LOW.

+HOWEVER, WITH THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS ON SOME OF THE ISLANDS AND THE RESULTANT STEEP RISE IN POPULATION, THE SOARING REFUSE YIELD EXCEEDED THE BURNING CAPACITY OF THE INCINERATORS EVEN IF THEY ARE OPERATED ROUND THE CLOCK. THE SMOKE AND SMELL NUISANCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NON-STOP OPERATION OF THESE INCINERATORS SOON LED TO SERIOUS COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

+AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF DISPOSAL WAS THEN INTRODUCED ON A TRIAL BASIS AS PART OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN IN 1982 BY USING THE BARGING METHOD,+ HE ADDED.

THIS BROUGHT ABOUT A MARKED IMPROVEMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AS THE QUANTITY OF REFUSE DISPOSED OF BY LOCAL BURNING WAS REDUCED. THE BARGING SYSTEM WAS CONSEQUENTLY EXTENDED TO OTHER ISLANDS.

AS A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT, REFUSE COLLECTED DAILY WAS PUT IN POLYTHENE BAGS BEFORE TRANSFER TO BARGES, REDUCING SMELL AND FLY NUISANCES AT THE TRANSFER STATIONS, MR LI SAID.

+AS A RESULT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT, REFUSE DISPOSAL BY SMALL INCINERATORS AT CHEUNG CHAU, AND MOST PARTS OF PENG CHAU, LAMMA AND SOUTH LANTAU HAS VIRTUALLY STOPPED. NOW, ABOUT 35 TONNES OF SOLID WASTE ARE BARGED OUT DAILY,+ MR LI SAID.

ONE DRAWBACK HOWEVER, IN REFUSE BARGING WAS THAT IT COULD BE DISRUPTED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER. ONE ALTERNATIVE UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MODERN INCINERATOR THAT MET ALL THE STRINGENT SMOKE EMISSION STANDARDS AT MUI WO ON LANTAU.

/+WORK ON .....

+WORK ON THIS INCINERATOR IS EXPECTED TO START IN EARLY 1986 FOR COMPLETION IN 1987. IT WILL BE USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF REFUSE IN SOUTH LANTAU,+ HE ADDED.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO DECIDED AT TODAY'S MEETING TO INCLUDE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF $86.7 MILLION IN REVENUE AND $445.8 MILLION IN EXPENDITURE RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE ACTIVITIES FOR 1986-87 IN THE OVERALL ESTIMATES FOR THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION.

EXPLAINING ONE OF THE ITEMS WHERE EXPENDITURE WOULD BE INCREASED, THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR TREASURY ACCOUNTANT, MRS MARIA YIP, SAID THAT TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMANDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SERVICES IN NON-URBAN AREAS, THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DIVISION WOULD HAVE TO BE STRENGTHENED BY THE ADDITION OF 177 POSTS, BRINGING ITS TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT POSTS TO 6 038 BY MARCH 31, 1987. THE NEW POSTS WOULD COST AN ADDITIONAL $3.5 MILLION.

ON REVENUE WHICH WOULD BE DERIVED FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE ACTIVITIES, MRS YIP SAID ONE OF THE SOURCES WOULD BE IN THE RENTING OUT OF MARKET STALLS.

+TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ESTIMATED RENTAL REVISION CONSEQUENT UPON RENEWAL OF MARKET TENANCIES, PHASED INCREASES FOR EXISTING TENANCIES AND ADDITIONAL REVENUE DERIVED FROM THE NEW HUNG SHUI KIU TEMPORARY MARKET AND TSING YI COOKED FOOD CENTRE TO BE OPENED IN 1986-87, THE ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR 1986-87 IS $53.3 MILLION,+ SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

U.K. MINISTER LOOKS AT FISHING COMMUNITY

* * * * * *

BRITISH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD, MR MICHAEL JOPLING, TODAY (TUESDAY) VISITED ABERDEEN TO LOOK AT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LOCAL FISHING COMMUNITY.

MR JOPLING, ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), MR MAYER NG, AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN, HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER FROM THE ROOF OF A BUILDING ON AP LEI CHAU.

HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE AP LEI CHAU NORTH RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ABOUT SEVEN HECTARES OF LAND FOR VARIOUS USES AND GREATLY IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA.

/DURING A .....

DURING A BOAT TOUR OF THE TYPHOON SHELTER, THE PARTY VISITED A FAMILY ON BOARD A FISHING VESSEL TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF THE FISHING COMMUNITY IN THE BUSY WATERWAY.

MR JOPLING ALSO VISITED THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET TO LEARN ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FORM 7 ENROLMENT AFFECTED BY CU SCHEME

* * * *

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) CONFIRMED THAT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY'S PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE SCHEME HAD THE EFFECT OF REDUCING ENROLMENT IN FORM 7 CLASSES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS OFFERING MATRICULATION COURSES.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN A RECENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE EFFECT OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY'S PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE SCHEME ON FORM 7 STUDENTS IN AIDED SCHOOLS, IT WAS FOUND THAT 112 OUT OF 189 SCHOOLS OPERATING FORM 6 CLASSES HAD STUDENTS JOINING THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AFTER FINISHING LOWER FORM 6.

+ONE HUNDRED AND THREE SCHOOLS HAD FIVE TO 20 PER CENT OF THEIR FORM 6 STUDENTS JOINING THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND NINE REPORTED OVER 20 PER CENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE SITUATION IS SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO WARRANT OUR CONCERN AS THIS AMOUNTS TO WASTAGE OF PUBLIC FUNDS,+ HE SAID.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED, HOPED THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF SIXTH FORM EXAMINATIONS COULD BE RESOLVED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS NEXT REPORT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HKDIC HOLDS FIRST BOARD MEETING

* * * * *

A LEADING INDUSTRIALIST, MR CHRISTOPHER CHENG, WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HONG KONG DESIGN INNOVATION COMPANY LIMITED (HKDIC) AT ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR CHENG IS A MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF WING TAI EXPORTERS LIMITED.

/THE HEAD .....

THE HEAD OF SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, MR MICHAEL FARR, WAS ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF HKDIC, A GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED COMPANY TO PROVIDE HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WITH A PRODUCT INNOVATION, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD COMPRISE THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY; THE CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL DESIGN COUNCIL AND ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF HAKING W. INDUSTRIES LTD., MR HERBERT WONG; THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, MR S.K. CHAN; THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS LIMITED, MR CHEN YEE MAU; THE ENGINEERING DIRECTOR OF BONDWELL HOLDING LIMITED, MR ANTHONY KWOK; AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (DESIGNATE) OF THE COMPANY, MR DOUGLAS TOMKIN.

THE EIGHT-MEMBER BOARD REPRESENTS A MIX OF EXPERTISE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL, INSTITUTIONAL, TECHNICAL AND GOVERNMENT SECTOR.

THE COMPANY, INCORPORATED ON OCTOBER 7 THIS YEAR, IS INTENDED TO ACT AS A SPUR FOR HONG KONG IN THE MOVE TOWARDS THE MANUFACTURE OF HIGH-QUALITY GOODS BY PROVIDING RESEARCH AND DESIGN AT MARKET RATES. IT IS EXPECTED TO COME INTO OPERATION EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE IDEA OF ASSISTING LOCAL MANUFACTURERS WITH A DESIGN AND INNOVATION SERVICE STEMMED FROM A PROPOSAL MADE BY MR FARR OF THE SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO HKDIC AMOUNTS TO $9.2 MILLION, MADE UP OF A SUBVENTION OF $8 MILLION TO COVER THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATION AND AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN OF $1.2 MILLION TO BE TAKEN OUT IN THE FOURTH YEAR. THE COMPANY IS EXPECTED TO BE FINANCIALLY SELF-SUPPORTING IN ITS FIFTH YEAR OF OPERATION.

----0----

SCHEME FOR ELDERLY TO ENJOY DISCOUNTS

****

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BENEFIT FROM A DISCOUNT FACILITIES SCHEME DURING THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS.

STARTING FROM SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 16), PEOPLE AGED 60 OR OVER CAN OBTAIN DISCOUNTS WHEN SHOPPING OR EATING OUT IN THE DISTRICT.

DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WERE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHEME'S WORKING GROUP, MR LEE SHUN-WAI.

MR LEE SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME WAS TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT.

/FIFTEEN ESTABLISHMENTS .....

+FIFTEEN ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE PART IN THE SCHEME AND WILL OFFER DISCOUNTS RANGING FROM FIVE TO 25 PER CENT TO ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO PURCHASE GOODS FROM THEM OR EAT AT THEIR RESTAURANTS.

+THESE INCLUDE SIX HERBALIST SHOPS, FIVE RESTAURANTS, TWO DEPARTMENT STORES, A SUPERMARKET AND A COOKED FOOD STALL,+ HE SAID.

+ALL THE ELDERLY HAVE TO DO IS TO PRODUCE THEIR IDENTITY CARD CERTIFYING THEIR AGE WHEN BUYING ITMES OR EATING AT THE LISTED ESTABLISHMENTS BEFORE THEY PAY THE BILLS, AND THEY WILL BE GIVEN DISCOUNTS AUTOMATICALLY,+ HE ADDED.

A LEAFLET LISTING OUT THE 15 SHOPS PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHEME IS AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES, AS WELL AS THE SEVEN CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8523480.

THE SCHEME IS ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WITH THE ASSISTANCE FROM SEVEN ELDERLY CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT.

ALSO ATTENDING TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, MR LEE SHUN-TAK, AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR LAI KWOK-HUNG.

ACCORDING TO STATISTIC IN 1983, THERE ARE MORE THAN 40 000 ELDERLY RESIDENTS AGED 60 OR OVER IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN, WHICH IS ABOUT 12.7 PER CENT OF THE DISTRICT'S POPULATION.

----0----

BEAUTY QUEEN HELPS CHOOSE CLEANEST BUILDING

* * *

A PANEL OF JUDGES INCLUDING MISS HONG KONG RUNNER-UP ELLEN WONG TODAY (TUESDAY) CHOSE SUN SING CENTRE IN SHAU KEI WAN AS THE CLEANEST BUILDING IN EASTERN DISTRICT.

SECOND AND THIRD IN THE DISTRICT-WIDE COMPETITION TO FIND THE CLEANEST BUILDING WERE MAYSON GARDEN MANSION AND DRAGON PEAK BOTH IN CAUSEWAY BAY.

AMONG THE ADJUDICATORS WERE THE CHAIRMAN, MADAM CHRISTINA TING, AND MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT CLEAN HONG KONG COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT CLEANEST BUILDING COMPETITION, MADAM SHING PUN-KOK.

/ALSO TAKING .....

ALSO TAKING PART WERE THE DISTRICT OFFICER MR BOWEN LEUNG AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT MULTI-STOREY BUILDING ORGANISATION, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE GROUP SPENT THE MORNING VISITING EACH OF THE NINE FINALISTS WHICH WERE SCATTERED FROM ONE END OF THE DISTRICT TO THE OTHER.

IN EACH BUILDING THEY CONSIDERED THE CLEANLINESS OF ALL PUBLIC AREAS REGARDLESS OF THE BUILDING'S AGE.

THE OTHER SIX FINALISTS WERE KAR MAN COURT, BRAEMAR TERRACE AND WESTLAND GARDENS IN NORTH POINT, AND HEUNG YUEN GARDEN, FU MING COURT AND MOON WAH BUILDING IN CHAI WAN.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WINNING BUILDINGS DURING THE EASTERN DISTRICT CLEAN HONG KONG FUN DAY ON DECEMBER 8.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHILDREN'S MUSIC GALA ON AGAIN

* * * * *

THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL BE JOINTLY PRESENTING THE SECOND MUSIC GALA WITH THE KWUN TONG CHILDREN CHORUS AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST DISTRICT CHILDREN'S MUSIC GALA HELD EARLY THIS YEAR.

THE GALA, TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 23, 30 AND DECEMBER 7 IN SAU MAU PING, LAM TIN, SHUN LEE ESTATE AND KOWLOON BAY, WILL FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY THE KWUN TONG CHILDREN CHORUS AND VARIOUS BANDS PLAYING MELODIAN AND RECORDER.

ADMISSION TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE KWUN TONG MUSIC CENTRE, AT YAN HAU MANSION, 100 TIN FU STREET, THIRD FLOOR, NGAU TAU KOK.

FOR ENQUIRIES, CALL 3-7561328.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14 .....

FIRST MEETING FOR SAI KUNG COMMITTEE

* * *

THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

IT WILL DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES AS WELL AS CULTURAL, RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

THE MEETING, IN CANTONESE, WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL START AT 2.30 PM IN THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBER, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

\- - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY STRESSED

* * * * *

TAI PO'S +FIGHT CRIME AMBASSADOR+, MISS CHEUNG TAK-LAN, WILL PUBLICISE THE CRIME PREVENTION MESSAGE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON WITH VISITS TO SHOPS IN THE DISTRICT.

ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND THE CRIME PREVENTION WORKING GROUP, MISS CHEUNG WILL VISIT GOLDSMITH AND WATCH SHOPS.

POLICE CRIME PREVENTION OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT TO ADVISE OPERATORS ON THE INSTALLATION OF SECURITY MEASURES.

\---

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE CARPARK OF TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO, AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

- - - - 0 - - - -

/15 .....

TAI PO ROAD CLOSURE
* * *

TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK, THE SLOW AND THE CENTRE LANES OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI PO ROAD NEAR SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FROM 8 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 15) FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS.

- - - - O - - - -

UC COMMITTED TO PROMOTE ARTS AND CULTURE - CHEONG-LEEN
* * * * *

THE URBAN COUNCIL IS FIRMLY AND DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE LONG-TERM AND CHALLENGING TASK OF PROMOTING THE ARTS AND CULTURE, AND THEREBY ENRICHING THE CULTURAL LIFE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, SAID TODAY.

ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY OPEN MEETING, MR CHEONG-LEEN EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS ALWAYS THE COUNCIL'S POLICY TO ENCOURAGE, SUPPORT AND GROOM LOCAL TALENTED ARTISTS.

THUS, HE SAID, THE COUNCIL WILL AS FAR AS POSSIBLE PROVIDE LOCAL GROUPS WITH PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO FURTHER DEVELOP THEMSELVES INTO MATURE AND PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS.

+NOT ONLY DOES THE COUNCIL RUN ITS OWN FOUR PERFORMING COMPANIES, IT ALSO PROMOTES SUCH LOCAL GROUPS AS THE HONG KONG BALLET, THE HONG KONG BALLET GROUP, THE CITY CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY, THE PAN ASIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND THE LIM KEK HAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA.

+IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT OVER THE YEARS ALL THE FOUR PERFORMING COMPANIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TREMENDOUSLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPRECIATION OF CHINESE MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA AND CHORAL MUSIC IN HONG KONG.

+FURTHERMORE, THEIR PERFORMANCE CONTINUE TO REACH OUT TO AN EVER EXPANDING CIRCLE OF AUDIENCE,+ HE SAID.

TO ENABLE LOCAL YOUNG ARTISTS TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE COUNCIL WAS PRESENTLY ARRANGING A SERIES OF CONCERTS, ENTITLED +PLATFORM FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS SERIES+.

/+THE PLATFORM .....

+THE PLATFORM WAS INTRODUCED ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO AND IT IS HOPED THAT IT WILL BECOME A VALUABLE SETTING FOR OUR ASPIRING YOUNG PERFORMERS TO IMPROVE THEIR TALENT BY PERFORMING OFTENER BEFORE AN AUDIENCE.+

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID ONE OF THE BEST METHODS TO PROMOTE THE ARTS AND CULTURE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE WAS THROUGH FESTIVALS. THUS, THE COUNCIL ORGANISED NUMEROUS FESTIVALS, INCLUDING AN ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL IN SUMMER AND THE FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS.

+THE COUNCIL INTRODUCED IN MAY THIS YEAR A PILOT SCHEME OF OFFERING HALF-PRICE TICKETS FOR SELECTED URBAN COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS ON THE DAY OF PERFORMANCES WITH A VIEW OF MAKING THE COUNCIL'S CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.+

TURNING TO THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID: +WITH THE OPENING OF ACADEMY, THE FIRST TERTIARY EDUCATION CENTRE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA BUILT ESPECIALLY FOR TEACHING DANCE, DRAMA, MUSIC AND TECHNICAL ARTS, HONG KONG'S CULTURAL LIFE WILL BE FURTHER ENRICHED.+

+WHILE THE ACADEMY'S ROLE IS TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN THE PERFORMING ARTS, THE COUNCIL'S POLICY IS TO MAKE THE PERFORMING ARTS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC BY ORGANISING PERSENTATIONS OF WESTERN AND EASTERN MUSIC, OPERA, DRAMA, DANCE, FILMS AND OTHER PERFORMING ARTS BY LOCAL AND OVERSEAS ARTISTS AT COUNCIL VENUES.

+THE ACADEMY AND THE COUNCIL WILL BE PLAYING COMPLEMENTARY ROLES IN DEVELOPING LOCAL ARTS AND CULTURE.+

IN CONCLUSION, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID: +IT CAN THUS BE SEEN THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL IS PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MAKING HONG KONG INTO A CITY OF FESTIVALS, WHICH NOT ONLY GIVES SUPPORT TO OUR TOURIST INDUSTRY, BUT ALSO PROVIDES MORE FUN, ENTERTAINMENT AND A BETTER LIFE-STYLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

----0----

/17 .....

NEW ENTRY FEES FOR SWIMMING POOLS +NOT UNREASONABLE+

* * *

THE NEW ENTRY FEES FOR SWIMMING POOLS INTRODUCED FROM LAST JUNE WERE CONSIDERED AS BEING +NOT UNREASONABLE,+ MR HOWARD YOUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY MR WALTER SULKE, HE TOLD THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY MEETING THAT THE TOTAL COST OF OPERATING 10 POOLS WAS $51.93 MILLION IN 1983-84.

THE ESTIMATED COST IN 1985-86 WAS $76.39 MILLION, THE BIG INCREASE BEING DUE TO THE OPENING OF THREE NEW POOLS AT LAI CHI KOK, WAN CHAI AND SHAM SHUI PO, HE ADDED.

+ASSUMING NO INCREASE IN ADMISSION CHARGES, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE OPERATING DEFICIT IN RELATION TO TOTAL COST, I.E. STEADILY INCREASING COSTS TO BE BORNE BY THE RATEPAYER, WOULD RISE FROM $43.2 MILLION IN 1983-84 TO $58.9 MILLION IN 1985-86,+ HE SAID.

+AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, IT WAS CONSIDERED NOT UNREASONABLE TO INTRODUCE INCREASED CHARGES. SO ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AT THAT TIME, I WOULD NOT AGREE THAT THE COUNCIL'S DECISION WAS A MISTAKE.+

MR YOUNG SAID THAT AT THE SAME TIME, HAVING REGARD TO ACTUAL DEMAND REFLECTED BY ATTENDANCES, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS REQUESTED TO REVIEW OPERATING COSTS AND OPENING HOURS TO DETERMINE WHERE ECONOMIES MIGHT BE MADE.

+THIS EXERCISE IS IN PROGRESS AND I UNDERSTAND THAT SEPARATE PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION BEFORE THE NEXT SWIMMING SEASON.+

AS REGARDS A POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF CHARGES, MR YOUNG NOTED THAT THE PEAK SWIMMING SEASON WAS NOW OVER, AND SAID THIS ASPECT MUST THEREFORE NOW AWAIT CONSIDERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF NEXT YEAR'S REVIEW OF SWIMMING POOL ADMISSION FEES.

+THIS IS AN ANNUAL EXERCISE (WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY RESULT IN INCREASED CHARGES), AND DUE ACCOUNT WILL BE TAKEN OF THIS SUMMER'S ATTENDANCE LEVELS AND OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS.+

MR YOUNG SAID HE AGREED THAT IT WAS NOT THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO DISCOURAGE ATTENDANCE AT SWIMMING POOLS, PARTICULARLY BY CHILDREN.

HE SAID: +THE COUNCIL'S AIM IN PROVIDING SWIMMING FACILITIES IS TO MEET PUBLIC DEMAND AND ENCOURAGE USAGE BY FIXING CHARGES AT MODEST LEVELS.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

+SPEAKERS' CORNERS+ NOT FAVOURED FOR PARKS

* * *

THERE IS A CONSENSUS VIEW AMONG THE AUTHORITIES THAT AMPLE PROVISIONS ALREADY EXIST FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING AND MEETINGS AND THAT THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP +SPEAKERS' CORNERS+ IN PARKS WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO FIND FAVOUR WITH THE HONG KONG PUBLIC.

MR HOWARD YOUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE, SAID THIS TODAY AT THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY MEETING IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY MR WALTER SULKE.

HE SAID MR SULKE'S PROPOSAL FOR +SPEAKERS' CORNERS+ HAD BEEN REFERRED FOR COMMENT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, WHO HAD IN TURN SOUGHT THE VIEWS OF THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY.

+THE LATTER CONSULTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, AND THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR CONSENSUS VIEW, MR YOUNG SAID, AND GIVEN THAT ANY CHANGES TO CURRENT PRACTICE WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION BY GOVERNMENT, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE TO THE RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE WAS NOT TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH THE ISSUE.

+FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION, THE SELECT COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THIS ADVICE,+ HE SAID.

+IN DOING SO, MEMBERS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD CERTAINLY NOT OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL IF IT SHOULD BE RAISED AGAIN AND IF IT COULD BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE WAS A DEMAND TO PROVIDE 'SPEAKERS' CORNERS' AND FOR CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE.+

HE ADDED THAT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WOULD BE NECESSARY SINCE AT PRESENT SECTION 8 OF THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE REQUIRED 7 DAYS' NOTICE TO THE POLICE, AND SUCH NOTICE WAS NOT CONSIDERED COMPATIBLE WITH THE SPONTANEOUS EXPRESSION OF VIEWS INHERENT IN A +SPEAKERS' CORNER+.

- - - - 0 - - - -

UC ACTS IN LINE WITH GOVT'S POLICY ON CIGARETTE SMOKING

* * * *

THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS ACTED IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON CIGARETTE SMOKING SINCE ITS PROMULGATION, SAID MR LAWRENCE FUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL'S CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE, TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY MR WALTER SULKE CONCERNING THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF SPONSORSHIP OR ADVERTISING FROM TOBACCO COMPANIES FOR CULTURAL OR SPORTING FUNCTIONS SOLELY OR JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE COUNCIL.

MR FUNG SAID: +AT PRESENT, NOT ONLY IS SMOKING BANNED FROM THE COUNCIL'S CULTURAL VENUES, MUSEUMS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES, THE COUNCIL HAS ALSO DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT SPONSORSHIP OR ADVERTISING FROM TOBACCO COMPANIES FOR CULTURAL OR SPORTING FUNCTIONS SOLELY OR JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE COUNCIL.

+THIS CONTINUES TO BE THE COUNCIL'S POLICY.+

- - - - o - - - -

RAT PROBLEM NOT DETERIORATING

* * *

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS, THE RAT PROBLEM IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND YAU MA TEI IS NOT DETERIORATING, MR WALTER SULKE, CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY MR L.H. KWAN, HE TOLD THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY MEETING THAT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT CONSIDERED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECT ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE IN THE TWO DISTRICTS.

HE SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS NEVER EASY TO QUANTIFY THE DEGREE OF INFESTATION IN ANY AREA, A ROUGH INDICATOR WOULD BE THE NUMBER OF RODENT COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND THE NUMBER OF DEAD RATS COLLECTED.

+DURING THE PERIOD 1.1.85 TO 31.10.85, 355 RAT COMPLAINTS (ONLY ONE OF WHICH WAS DIRECTLY IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD PREMISES) WERE RECEIVED AND 3 870 DEAD RATS COLLECTED IN THESE TWO DISTRICTS AS COMPARED WITH 384 RAT COMPLAINTS AND 3 784 DEAD RATS COLLECTED DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1984,+ HE SAID.

/IN REGARD .....

IN REGARD TO THE EXTERMINATION OF RATS IN THE AREAS, MR SULKE SAID MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT STAFF INCLUDED PROMPT RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS AND SYSTEMATIC BLOCK-TO-BLOCK ANTI-RODENT CONTROL PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUT ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

WEEKLY VISITS ARE ALSO PAID BY PEST CONTROL STAFF TO RODENT BLACK SPOTS, BI-WEEKLY VISITS TO REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, AND MONTHLY VISITS TO GODOWNS AND CARGO HANDLING AREAS.

IN ADDITION, HE ADDED, PERIODIC ANTI-RODENT CAMPAIGNS WERE CARRIED OUT AT SELECTED AREAS, AIMED AT REDUCING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE RAT POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 AN EXTENSIVE ANTI-RODENT CAMPAIGN WAS CARRIED OUT IN TSIM SHA TSUI, AS A RESULT OF WHICH 99 DEAD RATS WERE COLLECTED AND 151 RAT HOLES AS WELL AS 40 TREE PITS WERE FILLED. THE RAT POPULATION IN THE AREA WAS THUS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL.

AS TO WASTE FOOD OR LEFT-OVERS FROM FOOD PREMISES IN THE TWO DISTRICTS, MR SULKE SAID THAT ON THE WHOLE THEY WERE CONSIDERED PROPERLY DISPOSED OF.

+NO WARNING LETTERS HAVE HAD TO BE ISSUED OR PROSECUTION TAKEN OUT AGAINST IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF FOOD WASTE IN THESE DISTRICTS DURING THE PAST 10 MONTHS.+

MR SULKE APPEALED TO ALL RESTAURANT OWNERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH SUPPLYING FOOD TO THE PUBLIC TO COOPERATE, TO KEEP THEIR PREMISES CLEAN, AND TO MAKE A REPORT IMMEDIATELY THEY NOTICED ANY SIGNS OF RATS SO THAT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT COULD TAKE NECESSARY ACTION.

- - - - 0 - - - -