HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1977

CONTENTS — PAGE NO.

NEW BILLS TO TIGHTEN UP LAWS AGAINST SEX OFFENCES PUBLISHED 1

HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION BILL 3

PRISON POPULATION DROPPED BY 400 LAST YEAR 4

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ARRANGING GROUP VISITS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN TO OCEAN PARK AT REDUCED RATE 6

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CHATER ROAD AND JACKSON ROAD JUNCTION 7

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE VISITS THREE VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES IN KOWLOON 8

FAMILY GAMES DAY AND EXHIBITION ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION TO BE HELD AT VICTORIA PARK 9

THREE DAYS LEFT FOR APPLICATION FOR GOLD COINS 9

NEW TYPE OF PARKING METERS FOR KOWLOON 10

COUNTRY PARKS PROGRAMME TO COPE WITH +RECREATIONAL REVOLUTION+ 11

Issued by Government Information Services, Beaconsfield House, Hong Kong. Tel: 5-233191

TOUGHER LAWS FOR SEX OFFENCES PROPOSED

* * * * * *

A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO OVERHAUL THE LAW RELATING TO SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN BY INCLUDING NEW OFFENCES AND RAISING THE PENALTIES IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

KNOWN AS THE CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, IT AIMS TO AMEND THE CRIMES ORDINANCE BY ADDING A NEW PART XII HEADED +SEXUAL OFFENCES AND INDECENCY+.

THE INCLUSION OF THE NEW HEADING IS INTENDED TO REPLACE A TOTAL OF 29 SECTIONS OF THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE, THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON ORDINANCE AND THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY. IF ENACTED, IT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE INCREASE IN PENALTY FOR MOST OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES.

THE OFFENCES WHICH WILL CARRY A MAXIMUM 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT ARE ASSAULT ON WOMAN WITH INTENT TO COMMIT RAPE= PERMITTING DEFECTIVE (PERSON WITH INCOMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF MIND) TO RESORT TO OR BE ON PREMISES OR VESSEL FOR PROSTITUTION OR INTERCOURSE AND CAUSING OR ENCOURAGING PROSTITUTION OF DEFECTIVE.

TENANT PERMITTING PREMISES OR VESSEL TO BE USED FOR PROSTITUTION WILL CARRY A FINE OF $20,000 AND A JAIL SENTENCE OF TWO YEARS.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR JAIL TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH 14 OF THE PRESENT SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 TO BE INCREASED FROM TWO YEARS TO TERMS RANGING FROM FIVE YEARS TO 14 YEARS.

THOSE OFFENCES WHICH CARRY A MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 14 YEARS INCLUDE HARBOURING OR EXERCISING CONTROL, DIRECTION OR INFLUENCE OVER WOMAN FOR SEXUAL INTERCOURSE OR PROSTITUTION, DETENTION OF WOMEN FOR SEXUAL INTERCOURSE OR IN VICE ESTABLISHMENT AND PERMITTING GIRL UNDER 16 YEARS TO RESORT TO OR BE ON PREMISES FOR PROSTITUTION OR INTERCOURSE.

THE JAIL SENTENCE OF TWO YEARS FOR SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH A GIRL UNDER 16 YEARS IS INCREASED TO 10 YEARS.

A MAN LIVING ON EARNINGS OF PROSTITUTION WILL BE LIABLE TO BE JAILED FOR SEVEN YEARS INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT TWO YEARS. FOR WOMAN EXERCISING CONTROL OVER PROSTITUTE AND PERSON KEEPING A VICE ESTABLISHMENT THE MAXIMUM JAIL TERMS ARE TO BE INCREASED TO SEVEN YEARS.

/CONTINUING .....

COMMENTING ON THE BILL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID : +CIRCUMSTANCES IN HONG KONG HAVE CHANGED IN THE LAST 15 YEARS. CRIMINAL OPERATIONS IN PROSTITUTION AND OTHER FORMS OF VICE HAVE GROWN ENORMOUSLY.+

+THE PRESENT PROVISIONS IN THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE, PARTICULARLY THE PENALTY LEVELS, WHICH CAME INTO FORCE IN 1951, ARE INADEQUATE TO MEET THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT PUNISHMENT WHICH COULD BE IMPOSED UPON THE KEEPER OR PERSON IN CONTROL OF A BROTHEL OR LODGING HOUSE FOR PROSTITUTES WAS $1,000 AND THREE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT ON FIRST CONVICTION, $2,000 AND SIX MONTHS ON SECOND CONVICTION AND $5,000 AND ONE YEAR ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRESENT PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY COVER SOME AREAS OF VICE.

AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THERE WERE NOW NUMEROUS ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH DID NOT QUALIFY AS BROTHELS BUT WHICH WERE USED TO CONTACT PROSTITUTES OR WHICH PROVIDED FACILITIES FOR ARRANGING PROSTITUTES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE OR FOR UNLAWFUL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE AND OTHER FORMS OF VICE.

+AT PRESENT THEY CAN OPERATE WITH LITTLE RESTRAINT UPON THEM AND IT IS THOUGHT THAT THEY ARE THE BREEDING AND RECRUITING GROUND FOR PROSTITUTION AND VICE RACKETS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE NEW DEFINITION OF +VICE ESTABLISHMENT+ WILL EMBRACE THESE PLACES AND VARIOUS OFFENCES WILL BE CREATED IN RELATION TO VICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

- - - - o - - - -

/3 .....

H.K. INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION BILL

* * * * * *

THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION BILL 1977, PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY, PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION TO REPLACE THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY. THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY WAS SET UP IN MARCH LAST YEAR TO TAKE OVER FROM THE GOVERNMENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES ARE BEING DEVELOPED IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO BROADEN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE AND IMPROVE THE TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL OF INDUSTRY. THEY WILL MAKE SITES AVAILABLE FOR LAND INTENSIVE INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES WHICH CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN ORDINARY MULTI-STOREY INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AND WHICH BRING A HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY TO HONG KONG.

THESE INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT A HIGHER LEVEL OF SKILL THAN CURRENTLY OBTAINS IN HONG KONG, PRODUCE A PRODUCT NEEDED BY INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG AND PRODUCE FOR SALE PRODUCTS WITH A HIGH ADDED VALUE FROM LOCAL CONTENTS.

THE FIRST ESTATE IS BEING ESTABLISHED ON LAND BEING RECLAIMED FROM THE SEA AT TAI PO. THE FIRST SITES ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS YEAR.

THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION BILL PROVIDES FOR THE CORPORATION TO BE AN AUTONOMOUS BODY UNDER THE CONTROL OF A BOARD TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR COMPRISING UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE CORPORATION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SITES WITHIN THEM.

THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY IS ALREADY RECEIVING APPLICATIONS FOR SITES IN THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AT TAI PO. ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE TO THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY AT SUITE 1206 GUARDIAN HOUSE, OI KWAN ROAD, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

DROP IN PRISON POPULATION

* * * * * *

FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR SEVERAL YEARS, 1976 SAW NO INCREASE IN PRISON POPULATION, BUT RATHER THE TOTAL POPULATION DECREASED FROM 8,500 TO JUST OVER 8,100, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL PARADE OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT IN STANLEY, HE SAID THE NUMBER RECEIVING +AFTER CARE+ HAD ALSO DECREASED FROM 3,400 TO 3,200.

SIR MURRAY CONGRATULATED THE DEPARTMENT ON THE FACT THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME ON RECORD THERE WERE NO ESCAPES FROM ANY PRISON LAST YEAR.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE ESCAPES FROM OTHER MINIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTIONS DURING THE SAME PERIOD WAS THE LOWEST IN 20 YEARS.

+OBVIOUSLY, GREATER VIGILANCE, IMPROVED SECURITY MEASURES AND THE SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND CATEGORISATION OF PRISONERS HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVED RESULTS,+ HE SAID.

ON PARADE WERE EIGHT CONTINGENTS COMPRISING ABOUT 150 PRISONS OFFICERS.

AT A SPECIAL CEREMONY AFTER THE INSPECTION OF THE PARADE, THE GOVERNOR PRESENTED COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDALS TO 32 STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE HAD 18 YEARS EXEMPLARY SERVICE.

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

+AT THE LAST ANNUAL INSPECTION, I SPOKE OF THE NEW BUILDINGS OPENED TO DEAL WITH OVER-CROWDING IN THE PRISONS. WITH THE OPENING LATER THIS YEAR OF LAI CHI KOK RECEPTION CENTRE FOR 960 AND LAI KING TRAINING CENTRE FOR 260, FURTHER PROGRESS WILL HAVE BEEN MADE.

+IT IS ALSO ENCOURAGING THAT IT IS NOW POSSIBLE FOR ALL YOUNG MALE OFFENDERS AGED UNDER 21 TO SERVE THEIR SENTENCES IN INSTITUTIONS SPECIALLY INTENDED FOR THEIR NEEDS.

+AS A RESULT OF SUCCESS IN REDUCING SERIOUS CRIME, 1976 SAW, FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR SEVERAL YEARS, NO INCREASE IN PRISON POPULATION, BUT RATHER THE TOTAL POPULATION DECREASED FROM 8,500 TO JUST OVER 8,100. THE NUMBER RECEIVING +AFTER CARE+ ALSO DECREASED, FROM 3,400 TO 3,200.

+BUT THE .....

+BUT THE EFFECT OF THE LONGER SENTENCES NOW BEING IMPOSED FOR MAJOR CRIME HAS BEEN THAT THE NUMBER OF LONG TERM PRISONERS IN CUSTODY HAS CONTINUED TO RISE AND SO THE DEMANDS ON PRISONS STAFF WILL NOT DIMINISH.

+THERE HAS BEEN AN INTENSIFIED PROGRAMME OF STAFF TRAINING WHICH, TOGETHER WITH STAFF INCREASES HAS PRODUCED A HIGH STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

+I CONGRATULATE THE SERVICE ON THE FACT THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME ON RECORD THERE HAVE BEEN NO ESCAPES FROM ANY PRISON, EITHER CLOSED OR OPEN, AND THE ESCAPES FROM OTHER MINIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTIONS IS THE LOWEST IN 20 YEARS.

+OBVIOUSLY, GREATER VIGILANCE, IMPROVED SECURITY MEASURES AND THE SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND CATEGORISATION OF PRISONERS HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVED RESULTS.

+THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN ENCOURAGING RESULTS FROM YOUR MEASURES TO DEAL WITH ATTEMPTS BY PRISONERS IN INSTITUTIONS TO ENGAGE IN TRIAD ACTIVITY, TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF DRUG USE AMONGST INMATES, AND IN THE TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTION.

+THE EXPANSION OF PRISON INDUSTRIES NOW BEING PLANNED WILL NOT ONLY SAVE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, BUT IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE IN CUSTODY TO ACQUIRE SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT ON THEIR RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY.

+I AM DELIGHTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE SUCH GOOD PROGRESS DURING THIS YEAR AND I AM SURE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH STANDARDS WHICH HAVE BEEN SET AND WHICH YOU SHOULD STRIVE TO IMPROVE.

+I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS DURING THE COMING YEAR.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 ....

GROUP VISITS FOR PUPILS TO OCEAN PARK

* * * * *

AS AN EXTENSION OF CLASSROOM LEARNING WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE APPRECIATION OF THE BEAUTY OF THE LIVING WORLD AND A RESPECT FOR ALL LIVING THINGS, THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN CO-OPERATION WITH OCEAN PARK LIMITED IS ORGANISING HALF-DAY EDUCATIONAL VISITS TO THE PARK.

DURING THE FOUR-HOUR VISIT PUPILS WILL SEE A MARINE MAMMAL SHOW AT 11 A.M. AND FOR THOSE GOING IN THE AFTERNOON THEY WILL SEE THE SHOW AT 4 P.M.

GROUP TICKETS FOR SCHOOLS WILL BE ARRANGED AT A SPECIAL REDUCED RATE OF $3 EACH FOR PRIMARY PUPILS AND $5 EACH FOR SECONDARY PUPILS.

FOR EVERY 20 PRIMARY PUPILS, ONE FREE TICKET WILL BE ISSUED TO THE TEACHER ACCOMPANYING THE GROUP WHILE ONE FREE TEACHER TICKET WILL BE ISSUED FOR EACH GROUP OF 30 SECONDARY PUPILS.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE GROUP VISITS BY SECONDARY PUPILS TO BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND FOR PRIMARY PUPILS TO COMMENCE IN MARCH. DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE CONTAINED IN A SCHOOL CIRCULAR TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THAT PARTICIPATION IN SUCH VISITS WAS VOLUNTARY.

HE STRESSED THAT WRITTEN CONSENT FROM PARENTS OR GUARDIANS WAS REQUIRED SINCE NEITHER THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NOR OCEAN PARK LIMITED COULD ACCEPT ANY LIABILITY FOR INJURY DURING SUCH VISITS.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE ALSO REQUESTED TO INFORM SCHOOLS IN WRITING AT THE SAME TIME WHETHER OR NOT THEY APPROVE RIDES IN CABLE CARS FROM THE LOWLAND TO THE HEADLAND SITE TO SEE THE WAVE TANK, THE REEF TANK AND THE SHOW.

+SINCE SUCH OUTINGS ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, PUPILS WHO ARE NOT PARTICILATING ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL AS USUAL,+ HE SAID.

TO HELP NEEDY PRIMARY PUPILS, MOBIL OIL HONG KONG LIMITED IS DONATING $6,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2,000 $3 TICKETS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS THROUGH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

A CHEQUE FOR THE AMOUNT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY BY THE CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MOBIL OIL HONG KONG LIMITED, MR. JOHN L. SOONG, ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 16) IN THE OCEAN PARK THEATRE.

/THE CHAIRMAN .....

THE CHAIRMAN OF OCEAN PARK LIMITED, SIR KENNETH PING-FAN FUNG WILL SAY A FEW WORDS AT THE CEREMONY.

- - - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY COVERED. PRESS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO COVER THE EVENT ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT MISS HELEN YEUNG, OCEAN PARK MARKETING ASSISTANT, AT THE MAIN GATE NOT LATER THAN 9.30 A.M. THEY ARE ADVISED TO HAVE WITH THEM IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE NEWSPAPERS AND/OR STATIONS. THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE OCEAN PARK THEATRE AT 10.50 A.M.

- - - - o - - - -

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ROAD JUNCTION

* * * * * * * *

THE JUNCTION OF JACKSON ROAD AND CHATER ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FROM MONDAY (JANUARY 17).

THE CLOSURE IS NECESSARY TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CHATER STATION.

DURING THE CLOSURE, JACKSON ROAD WILL REMAIN OPEN AT ITS NORTHERN END TO ALLOW ACCESS TO THE HONG KONG CLUB.

WHILE JACKSON ROAD IS CLOSED CLUB STREET WILL BE RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN A NORTHBOUND DIRECTION ONLY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - o - - - -

/8 .....

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE VISITS VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES

* * * * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON CALLED ON THREE VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES IN KOWLOON TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THESE BODIES AND TO KEEP HIMSELF INFORMED OF THEIR LATEST DEVELOPMENT.

THE THREE AGENCIES WERE THE SAU MAU PING TRAINING CENTRE FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN, THE CARITAS HAPPY CLUB FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AND THE JORDAN VALLEY LUTHERAN DAY NURSERY.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR. T.P. KHOO, HEAD OF THE REHABILITATION DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND MRS. EVELYN DOE, HEAD OF THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION, MR. LEE FIRST VISITED THE SAU MAU PING TRAINING CENTRE FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN.

ON ARRIVAL, HE WAS MET BY REV. KVAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG WHICH RUNS THE CENTRE, AND DR. K.K. WONG, A COMMITTEE MEMBER.

THE CENTRE AT PRESENT PROVIDES DAY CARE FOR 30 MULTIPLE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN OVER FOUR YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE CONSIDERED TRAINABLE. IT IS FINANCED THROUGH SOCIAL WELFARE SUBVENTION.

MR. LEE LATER PROCEEDED TO THE CARITAS HAPPY CLUB IN KWUN TONG WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY FATHER F. LERDA, PRESIDENT OF CARITAS.

THE CARITAS HAPPY CLUB FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN PROVIDES DAY CARE FOR 100 MODERATE MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF FOUR AND 14.

THE OBJECT OF THE CENTRE IS TO TRAIN THE CHILDREN UNDER CARE TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT AND TO HELP THEM DEVELOP INTELLECTUALLY AND SOCIALLY.

WINDING UP THE AFTERNOON'S TOUR, THE DIRECTOR CALLED ON THE JORDAN VALLEY LUTHERAN DAY NURSERY WHERE HE WAS INTRODUCED TO MISS BJORG HANSEN, THE SUPERVISOR.

OPERATED BY THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN MISSION WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION, THE NURSERY CATERS FOR 50 CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWO AND SIX.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

FAMILY GAMES DAY AT VICTORIA PARK

* * * * *

A FAMILY GAMES DAY AND AN EXHIBITION ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WILL BE HELD AT THE WESTERN LAWN AREA OF THE VICTORIA PARK, CAUSEWAY BAY, THIS SUNDAY (JANUARY 16).

THE FAMILY OUTING IS THE SECOND OF A SERIES CO-ORDINATED BY THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER (EASTERN).

THE SIX-HOUR FUNCTION WILL START AT 11 A.M. AND IS AIMED AT PROMOTING TOGETHERNESS AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS.

THE PROGRAMMES FOR THE DAY WILL INCLUDE GAMES ORGANISED BY THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION= A FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION EXHIBITION ARRANGED BY 12 WELFARE AGENCIES AND 10 YOUTH GROUPS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT= A FAMILY QUIZ AND A TREASURE HUNT.

THE FUNCTION IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE SAN MIGUEL BREWERY AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

A SIMILAR FUNCTION WILL BE HELD IN SHAU KEI WAN LATER IN MARCH.

- - - - o - - - -

THREE DAYS LEFT FOR APPLICATION FOR GOLD COINS

* * * * *

PEOPLE WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR GOLD COINS TO BE ISSUED TO MARK THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE ARE REMINDED THAT THERE ARE ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT FOR THEM TO SEND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE COINS WILL CLOSE ON MONDAY (JANUARY 17). THE COINS MAY BE BOUGHT IN BRILLIANT UNCIRCULATED CONDITION AT $1,000 OR IN PROOF QUALITY AT $1,500 EACH.

NOT MORE THAN 30,000, INCLUDING 10,000 PROOFS, WILL BE ISSUED.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE COINS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANY OFFICE OF THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION AND THE MERCANTILE BANK LTD.

EACH APPLICATION IS RESTRICTED ON ONE COIN AND IN CASE THE ISSUE IS OVERSUBSCRIBED, THE COINS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY BALLOT AND SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED INDIVIDUALLY.

- - - - o - - - -

/10 .....

NEW TYPE OF PARKING METERS FOR KOWLOON

* * * * * *

THE NEW MANUALLY-OPERATED PARKING METERS WHICH HAVE BEEN TESTED IN WAN CHAI FOR ABOUT A YEAR WILL NOW BE TESTED IN YAU MA TI, KOWLOON, BEGINNING ON MONDAY (JANUARY 17).

THE NEW METERS ARE THE AMERICAN MANUAL TYPE AND UNLIKE THE PRESENT AUTOMATIC METERS, THEY DO NOT REQUIRE REGULAR WINDING BY MAINTENANCE STAFF.

THESE METERS WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT TWO-HOUR AUTOMATIC METERS IN THE FOLLOWING STREETS:

PARKES STREET BETWEEN BOWRING STREET AND AUSTIN ROAD=

WOOSUNG STREET BETWEEN BOWRING STREET AND AUSTIN ROAD=

TEMPLE STREET BETWEEN BOWRING STREET AND AUSTIN ROAD= AND

SHANGHAI STREET BETWEEN BOWRING STREET AND AUSTIN ROAD.

THE NEW METERS ARE BEING FURTHER TESTED IN KOWLOON TO SEE IF THEY ARE BETTER SUITED TO LOCAL CONDITIONS THAN THE PRESENT AUTOMATIC METERS.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TO OPERATE THE METERS, THE MOTORISTS MUST INSERT A 50-CENT COIN AND THEN TURN THE SMALL METER HANDLE FULLY TO THE RIGHT. +IF THE HANDLE IS NOT TURNED FAR ENOUGH, THE METER WILL DISPLAY A YELLOW FLAG AND NO PARKING TIME WILL BE GIVEN.+

BEFORE USING THE NEW METERS, MOTORISTS SHOULD READ CAREFULLY THE INSTRUCTIONS DISPLAYED IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH ON EACH METER, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE MAXIMUM TIME ON THESE EXPERIMENTAL METERS WAS TWO HOURS. ONLY 50-CENT COINS CAN BE USED, EACH GIVING 30 MINUTES' PARKING TIME.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT IF THEY SHOULD PARK AT A FAULTY METER, WHETHER IT IS AN AUTOMATIC OR MANUAL TYPE, THEY SHOULD TELEPHONE THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S PARKING METER SECTION AT THE NUMBER DISPLAYED ON THE NEARBY PARKING SIGN. THE CALLER SHOULD GIVE HIS NAME, VEHICLE NUMBER AND THE PARKING METER POST NUMBER.

- - - - - - - - -

/11 .....

COUNTRY PARKS PROGRAMME TO COPE WITH
+RECREATIONAL REVOLUTION+
* * * * * *

THE COUNTRY PARKS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO COPE WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CREATED BY A +RECREATIONAL REVOLUTION,+ THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY.

AND THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THE PROGRAMME - WHICH WILL BE IN FULL SWING IN THE COMING YEAR - WOULD HELP TO HALT THE +WEAR AND TEAR+ ON THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES CAUSED BY AN INCREASING NUMBER OF LEISURE-SEEKERS, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF KOWLOON, MR. CHAMBERS POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A REMARKABLE REVOLUTION IN THE LEISURE HABITS OF THE POPULATION, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE YOUNG, OVER THE LAST 10-15 YEARS.

+WHEN I FIRST KNEW THE NEW TERRITORIES, JUST OVER 20 YEARS AGO, IT WAS RARE INDEED TO SEE PARTIES OF HIKERS AND PICNICKERS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE,+ HE SAID.

+BUT THIS HAS NOW COMPLETELY CHANGED, AND EVERY SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY VAST NUMBERS OF PEOPLE GO OUT BY EVERY AVAILABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORT - BUS, TRAIN, CAR, FERRY AND ON FOOT - TO ENJOY THE FRESH AIR AND OPEN SPACE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

THIS WAS A VERY WELCOME DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID, BUT IT INEVITABLY CAUSED PROBLEMS. +QUITE APART FROM THE LITTER PROBLEMS AND THE PRESSURE ON THE VARIOUS MEANS OF TRANSPORT, THE COUNTRYSIDE ITSELF IS BEGINNING TO SHOW SIGNS OF WEAR AND TEAR FROM HEAVY USE BY LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE.

+THIS IS A PROBLEM EVEN IN VAST COUNTRIES LIKE THE UNITED STATES, WHERE POPULAR RECREATIONAL AREAS ARE IN DANGER OF SERIOUS EROSION, QUITE SIMPLY FROM THE NUMBER OF FEET WHICH USE THE PATHS AND TRACKS AND OPEN COUNTRYSIDE.

+IN HONG KONG, WHERE THE AREA IS SO MUCH SMALLER AND THE POPULATION DENSITY SO MUCH HIGHER, THE DANGER IS PROPORTIONATELY VERY MUCH GREATER.+

MR. CHAMBERS SAID THE NEED TO PRESERVE SUCH AREAS WAS THE MAIN REASON FOR THE RECENTLY-ENACTED COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE, UNDER WHICH THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES HAS BEEN EMPOWERED TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH DESIGNATED COUNTRY PARKS.

WITHIN THE COUNTRY PARKS, DEVELOPMENT WHICH WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THEIR USE FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES SUCH A LITTER COLLECTION AND FIRE FIGHTING WOULD BE PROVIDED, HE SAID.

/Mr. Chambers .....

MR. CHAMBERS ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS GIVING PRIORITY TO DEVELOPING THE SAI KUNG PENINSULA AS A COUNTRY PARK. +THE PENINSULA - BY HONG KONG STANDARDS - IS A LARGE AREA WITH VERY LITTLE DEVELOPMENT AND CONTAINS SOME OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE SCENERY IN THE TERRITORY,+ HE SAID.

+SEVERAL NEW ROADS HAVE BEEN BUILT IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME, BUT THEY ARE AT PRESENT CLOSED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS GOING ON IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESERVOIR AND TUNNELS.

+THIS GIVE US A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAN AND DEVELOP THE WHOLE AREA ON A COMPREHENSIVE BASIS AS A COUNTRY PARK AND THIS TASK IS NOW BEING GIVEN PRIORITY.+

- - - - o - - - -