



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EDUCATION AND PREVENTION FOCUS OF AIDS CAMPAIGN
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THE GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR THE CONTROL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) WAS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH EDUCATION AND PREVENTION AS IT HAD NO EFFECTIVE CURE YET, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR CHAMBERS LISTED THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY:

- * AN EXPERT COMMITTEE ON AIDS WAS SET UP TO MONITOR LOCAL SITUATION AND LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND KNOWLEDGE ON AIDS;
- * A MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE NETWORK WAS INTRODUCED TO DETECT, REPORT AND INVESTIGATE AIDS CASES. A SPECIAL SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR HIGH RISK GROUPS WAS SET UP IN 1985;
- * MASS SCREENING OF ALL DONATED BLOOD AND THE USE OF A MUCH SAFER BLOOD PRODUCT FOR THE TREATMENT OF HEAMOPHILIACS;
- * A SPECIAL CLINIC WAS SET UP TO PROVIDE COUNSELLING TO THE PUBLIC; AND
- * PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REGARDING AIDS AND ITS PREVENTION AND CONTROL.

IN VIEW OF THE INCREASED THREAT POSED BY THE DISEASE BOTH IN HONG KONG AND WORLDWIDE, MR CHAMBERS SAID AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS WAS ESTABLISHED IN JANUARY TO FORMULATE AND EXECUTE PLANS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY.

+THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT STARTED TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON AIDS AS EARLY AS 1983.+ HE SAID.

+THESE EFFORTS WERE INTENSIFIED IN 1985,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHAMBERS ALSO SAID EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED AT THREE TARGETS, THE HIGH RISK GROUPS, HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

APART FROM THE MEDIA PUBLICITY WHICH INCLUDED ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST ON TELEVISION AND RADIO, ADVERTISING IN NEWSPAPERS AND ON THE MTR, PRESS INTERVIEWS, THE DISTRIBUTION OF PAMPHLETS AND POSTERS, AND FEATURE ARTICLES IN MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS, A 24-HOUR TELEPHONE INFORMATION SERVICE WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED IN MARCH 1985.

OTHER MEASURES TAKEN INCLUDED EDUCATION THROUGH GROUPS SUCH AS DOCTORS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND TEACHERS, WHOSE SERVICES WERE ENLISTED TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE TO THEIR PATIENTS, CLIENTS AND PUPILS, HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS ALSO SAID EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY HAD SPECIFICALLY BEEN DIRECTED AT CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH WERE BELIEVED TO BE PARTICULARLY AT RISKS SUCH AS BAR GIRLS, CLIENTS ATTENDING SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINICS, PRISONERS AND INMATES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S CORRECTIONAL HOMES.

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BILL ALLAYS WORRIES OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS, CLIENTS
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THE PURPOSE OF THE POWERS OF ATTORNEY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 IS TO RESOLVE ONCE AND FOR ALL A PROBLEM THAT HAS FROM TIME TO TIME WORRIED HONG KONG'S CONVEYANCERS OF REAL ESTATE AND THEIR CLIENTS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE POWERS OF ATTORNEY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987, MR THOMAS SAID IN THE FUTURE ALL STATUTORY DECLARATIONS MADE FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 5 OF THE POWERS OF ATTORNEY ORDINANCE SHOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT IF TAKEN BEFORE A SOLICITOR WHO HAD ACTED OR WAS ACTING FOR A PERSON AFFECTED BY THE TRANSACTION OR THE PARTNER, CLERK OR PERSON IN THE EMPLOY OF SUCH SOLICITOR OR HIS PARTNER.

+THE STATUTORY DECLARATION THAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE THE SAFEGUARD MAY ITSELF BE REQUIRED TO PROVE TITLE IN A COURT PROCEEDING,+ HE SAID.

OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS FOR COURT PROCEEDINGS WERE REQUIRED BY HONG KONG LAW TO BE MADE BEFORE A SOLICITOR NOT ACTING FOR ANY OF THE PARTIES TO THOSE PROCEEDINGS.

+UNFORTUNATELY, A PRACTICE HAS GROWN UP IN HONG KONG FOR THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS TO BE SWORN BEFORE THE VERY SOLICITOR ACTING IN THE SALE WHERE THE POWER OF ATTORNEY HAS BEEN RELIED ON.

+THE LAW SOCIETY, HAVING CONSULTED EMINENT COUNSEL IN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, CONSIDERS THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE IS DOUBT ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THIS WIDESPREAD PRACTICE IN HONG KONG,+ MR THOMAS EXPLAINED.

THE LAW SOCIETY HAD THEREFORE PROPOSED, AND THE ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTED, THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF DISTURBING THE VALIDITY OF PAST SALES WHERE THE PRACTICE HAD BEEN FOLLOWED, MR THOMAS SAID IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED IN THE BILL THAT ALL DOUBT OVER PAST TRANSACTIONS SHOULD BE LAID TO REST AND THIS VALIDITY CONFIRMED RETROSPECTIVELY.

+THIS IS THE SECOND OBJECT OF THE BILL,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE LAW SOCIETY, AND MIGHT INDEED BE GRATEFULLY WELCOMED BY ALL THOSE CONVEYANCERS WHO BY SOME RARE OVERSIGHT HAD UNWITTINGLY ADOPTED THIS QUESTIONABLE PRACTICE, MR THOMAS ADDED.

IN HONG KONG, OWNERS OF PROPERTY FOUND IT CONVENIENT TO SELL THEIR PROPERTY THROUGH AN AGENT WHOM THEY APPOINTED UNDER A POWER OF ATTORNEY. THIS PERSON, WHO COULD BE CALLED THE DONEE, ACTED IN ALL RESPECTS AS IF HE WERE THE VENDOR OF THE PROPERTY INCLUDING PUTTING HIS SIGNATURE TO THE DOCUMENTS THAT CONVEYED TITLE TO THE PROPERTY.

/IN TIME

IN TIME THIS PROPERTY MIGHT AGAIN BE SOLD AND RESOLD IN RELIANCE UPON THE VALIDITY OF THAT SALE, MR THOMAS SAID, +IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTION CONCERNING THE POWER OF THE DONEE TO ACT ON THE VENDOR'S BEHALF, THIS COULD AFFECT THE TITLE OF THE IMMEDIATE PURCHASER AND ALL SUBSEQUENT PURCHASERS DOWN THE LINE.+

THE PROBLEM AROSE BECAUSE UNKNOWN TO THE DONEE AND THE FIRST PURCHASER, THE POWER OF ATTORNEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN REVOKED OR TERMINATED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY THE DEATH OF THE OWNER.

SECTION 5 OF THE POWERS OF ATTORNEY ORDINANCE ALREADY PROVIDED THAT THE INTEREST OF THESE PURCHASERS WOULD BE PROTECTED NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE POWER OF ATTORNEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN REVOKED IF EITHER THE DONEE OR THE FIRST PURCHASER HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT REVOCATION.

THE SECTION WENT FURTHER AND PROVIDED THAT IF THE FIRST PURCHASER HAD MADE A STATUTORY DECLARATION TO THE EFFECT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THAT THE POWER OF ATTORNEY HAD BEEN REVOKED IT SHOULD BE CONCLUSIVELY PRESUMED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW.

THE SECTION ALSO ENABLED THIS STATUTORY DECLARATION TO BE MADE WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE SALE FROM THE DONEE TO THE FIRST PURCHASER OR WITHIN A LIKE TIME OF ANY OTHER SUBSEQUENT SALE.

+THUS THE TITLE OF THE FIRST PURCHASER AND THE CHAIN OF TITLES OF SUBSEQUENT PURCHASERS ARE PROTECTED,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

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WAGE CEILING FOR EMPLOYEE PROTECTION RAISED
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THE WAGE CEILING OF THE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES TO WHOM THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE APPLIED SHOULD BE RAISED TO \$11 500 PER MONTH, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON MICHELANGELO PAGLIARI, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE MOTION ON THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, MR PAGLIARI SAID WHEN THIS ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN SEPTEMBER 1968, ITS PROVISIONS WERE ALSO APPLIED TO NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WHO WAGES DID NOT EXCEED \$1 500 PER MONTH.

+SINCE THEN, THIS WAGE CEILING HAS BEEN REVISED PERIODICALLY TO MAINTAIN ITS ORIGINAL VALUE. THE MOST RECENT REVISION WAS IN MAY 1986, WHEN THE CEILING WAS RAISED TO \$10 500,+ HE SAID.

/MR PAGLIARI

MR PAGLIARI ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A RECENT REVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT INDICATED THAT THE ORIGINAL MONTHLY WAGE OF \$1 500 WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN ESTIMATED MONTHLY WAGE OF \$11 098 IN MARCH 1987.

*AS IN PREVIOUS REVIEWS, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THIS FIGURE SHOULD BE ROUNDED UP TO TAKE SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LIKELY RISE IN THE OVERALL WAGE LEVEL BEFORE THE CEILING IS NEXT REVISED,+ HE SAID.

+THIS PROPOSAL HAS RECEIVED THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD,+ HE ADDED.

THE MOTION WAS PASSED.

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MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE PUTONGHUA TEACHING OUTLINED
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THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE MORE SCHOOLS TO TEACH PUTONGHUA EITHER DURING SCHOOL HOURS OR AS AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON MICHELANGELO PAGLIARI, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY), REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM PROF THE HON C.K. POON, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR PAGLIARI SAID THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, FOLLOWING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORT NO. 1, CONTINUED TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT AREA.

HE SAID APPROXIMATELY 50 PER CENT OF ALL SCHOOLS - PRIMARY AND SECONDARY - WERE PROMOTING THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

HE OUTLINED THAT AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL, PUTONGHUA WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM AS AN OPTIONAL SUBJECT IN SEPTEMBER 1986, FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A PILOT SCHEME IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

OF THE 874 PUBLIC-SECTOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS, 310 WERE NOW OFFERING PUTONGHUA AS AN INDEPENDENT SUBJECT AND A FURTHER 181 WERE PROMOTING LEARNING OF THE LANGUAGE THROUGH EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. +THESE NUMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE OVER TIME,+ HE ADDED.

AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL, MR PAGLIARI SAID, A PILOT SCHEME COVERING FORMS 1-3 IN 51 SCHOOLS WAS LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER 1984 AND WOULD BE COMPLETED IN JULY THIS YEAR. THE SCHEME WAS BEING MONITORED AND EVALUATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE 51 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT SCHEME, 62 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WERE ALREADY OFFERING PUTONGHUA WITHIN THE FORMAL CURRICULUM AND ANOTHER 46 WERE PROMOTING IT ON AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR BASIS.

MR PAGLIARI POINTED OUT THAT COURSES HAD ALSO BEEN ORGANISED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TEACHERS OF PUTONGHUA. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS RUNNING EVENING COURSES WHILE THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION WAS OFFERING COURSES IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS RETRAINING PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS OF CHINESE.

+SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 843 SERVING TEACHERS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA AND PLANS ARE IN HAND TO PROVIDE REFRESHER COURSES TO ENSURE THAT STANDARDS ARE MAINTAINED,+ HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION BEGAN OFFERING PRE-SERVICE TRAINING IN PUTONGHUA TEACHING AS AN ELECTIVE SUBJECT IN SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR AND 144 STUDENTS WERE CURRENTLY ENROLLED.

+A TOTAL OF AROUND 2 600 TEACHERS WILL HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING BY 1992, WHICH SHOULD ENABLE ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO INTRODUCE THIS SUBJECT IF THEY WISH,+ MR PAGLIARI FURTHER ADDED.

NEED TO EMPLOY DISABLED PERSONS STRESSED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR FORD SAID THAT IN 1984, THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYED 1 762 DISABLED PERSONS; IN 1985 THE TOTAL STOOD AT 1 960 AND THE CORRESPONDING FIGURE FOR 1986 WAS 2 357. THESE FIGURES REPRESENTED RESPECTIVELY, 1.03 PER CENT, 1.13 PER CENT AND 1.34 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL CIVIL SERVICE, HE ADDED.

+THIS YEAR'S FIGURES SHOW AN ENCOURAGING INCREASE IN THAT THERE ARE NOW 2 832 DISABLED PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, OR 1.58 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL STRENGTH.

/+OF THESE,

+OF THESE, ABOUT 44 PER CENT ARE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, 42 PER CENT ARE BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED, NINE PER CENT ARE DEAF OR PARTIALLY DEAF AND THE REMAINING FIVE PER CENT ARE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED OR ARE EX-MENTAL PATIENTS,+ HE SAID.

MR FORD ALSO SAID THAT PROMOTIONAL VISITS WERE CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY STAFF OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO DEPARTMENTS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO REMIND DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS; TO PUBLICISE THE WORKING ABILITY OF THE DISABLED; AND TO UNDERSTAND AND TO IRON OUT, IF POSSIBLE, PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY DEPARTMENTS IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS.

FUNDS WERE ALSO PROVIDED, HE SAID, TO DEPARTMENTS WHICH REQUIRED ALTERATIONS TO OFFICE PREMISES OR THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST DISABLED EMPLOYEES IN THEIR PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.

HE FURTHER ADDED THAT SOME DEPARTMENTS WERE MAKING SPECIAL EFFORTS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO THE HANDICAPPED. THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION, FOR EXAMPLE, INITIATED A 10-MONTH TRAINING PROGRAMME IN 1985 FOR VISUALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS WITH A VIEW TO RECRUITING FROM AMONG THEM SUITABLY QUALIFIED TRAINEES AS CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICER, COURT INTERPRETER AND POLICE INTERPRETER, HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT PLACEMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY BUT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS RESPECT BY EMPLOYING DISABLED PERSONS WHENEVER SUITABLE VACANCIES AROSE.

AIR QUALITY IN TUNNELS UNDER CONSTANT CONTROL *****

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE THREE TOLL TUNNELS HAVE WELL ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR CONTROLLING THE AIR QUALITY INSIDE THEM, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT AIR QUALITY IN THE TOLL TUNNELS WAS MAINTAINED WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LEVELS BOTH DURING PEAK AND NORMAL TRAFFIC CONDITION.

+ALL OF THEM HAVE INSTALLED CONTINUOUS MONITORING AND ALARM SYSTEMS,+ HE SAID.

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MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT THE PRIME CONCERN WAS CARBON MONOXIDE, WHICH WAS AN IMPORTANT AIR POLLUTANT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS. STANDARDS WERE LAID DOWN IN THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL REGULATIONS TO CONTINUOUSLY MONITORING THE GAS.

IN ADDITION, AIR TURBIDITY WAS MEASURED IN THE LION ROCK TUNNEL AND ABERDEEN TUNNEL AND PETROLEUM VAPOUR WAS MEASURED IN THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

HE ALSO SAID THAT WHEN THE MONITORING RESULTS REACHED PREDETERMINED LEVELS, AN ALARM SYSTEM WAS TRIGGERED.

AT THE FIRST STAGE OF ALARM, THE TUNNEL CONTROLLER WAS ALERTED TO SWITCH ON ADDITIONAL EXHAUST AND AIR SUPPLY FANS TO IMPROVE TUNNEL VENTILATION .

AT THE SECOND STAGE OF ALARM, THE FAN CAPACITY FOR VENTILATION WAS FURTHER INCREASED.

WHEN THE FINAL STAGE OF ALARM WAS REACHED, MEASURES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO CONTROL THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES ENTERING THE TUNNEL AND IF NECESSARY TO CLOSE THE TUNNEL.

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MECHANISM OF CALCULATING NT LAND RESUMPTION COMPENSATION EXPLAINED * * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE COULD CONFIRM THAT THE PRESENT AVERAGE MARKET VALUE OF NEW TERRITORIES AGRICULTURAL LAND HAD REACHED THE LEVEL PREVAILING IN 1981.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR BARNES SAID, HOWEVER, THE MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND HAD LITTLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CALCULATION OF THE BASIC EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION RATE FOR RESUMPTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IT WAS RELATED, AS THE SIR Y.K. KAN WORKING GROUP REPORT ON 1978 PUT IT, TO +EXPECTATIONS UNDER THE LETTER B LAND EXCHANGE SYSTEM+. MR BARNES SAID THESE +EXPECTATIONS+ WERE QUANTIFIED BY REFERENCE TO THE VALUE OF THREE MAIN CATEGORIES OF LAND, NAMELY COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL AND RESIDENTIAL ZONE 1, RESIDENTIAL ZONES 2, 3 AND 4, AND INDUSTRIAL, IN THE NEW TOWNS OF SHA TIN, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN.

MOVEMENTS IN

MOVEMENTS IN THE VALUE OF SUCH LAND WERE MEASURED EVERY SIX MONTHS, AND CONVERTED INTO THE BASIC EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION RATE PAYABLE UPON RESUMPTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FORMULA PROPOSED IN SIR Y.K. KAN'S REPORT, MR BARNES ADDED.

+ALTHOUGH THE MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND HAS NOW REACHED ONCE AGAIN ITS 1981 LEVEL, VALUES OF DEVELOPABLE LAND IN THE THREE NEW TOWNS HAVE NOT IN GENERAL TERMS REACHED THE LEVEL PREVAILING IN 1981- HENCE THE EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION RATES PAYABLE NOW ARE LOWER THAN THOSE PAYABLE IN 1981,+ HE SAID.

PROPORTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF HANDICAPPED CASES SMALL
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SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST MENTALLY HANDICAPPED FEMALES ONLY CONSTITUTE A SMALL PROPORTION OF REPORTED SEXUAL ABUSE CASES FOR THE WHOLE POPULATION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MR THOMAS SAID THE POLICE HAD KEPT SEPARATE STATISTICS ON SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST MENTALLY HANDICAPPED FEMALES ONLY SINCE JANUARY 1983.

+TWELVE CASES WERE REPORTED IN 1983, SIX IN 1984, 22 IN 1985 AND 20 IN 1986,+ HE SAID. FOR THE WHOLE POPULATION, MR THOMAS SAID 1 179 CASES OF SEXUAL OFFENCES WERE REPORTED IN 1983, 1 218 IN 1984, 1 356 IN 1985 AND 1 330 IN 1986.

+IN VIEW OF THE RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD DURING WHICH STATISTICS HAVE BEEN KEPT, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DRAW ANY MEANINGFUL CONCLUSION AS TO TRENDS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR THOMAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE ALWAYS DIFFICULTIES OF A LEGAL NATURE IN PROSECUTING CASES OF SEXUAL ABUSE, +THERE IS RARELY AN EYE WITNESS PRESENT, SOME OFFENCES SPECIFICALLY REQUIRE CORROBORATION.

+AND IN OTHERS, THE LAW RECOGNISES THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO CONVICT ON THE EVIDENCE OF THE VICTIM ALONE AND LOOKS FOR CORROBORATING EVIDENCE, THAT IS TO SAY, INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE WHICH SUPPORTS THE TESTIMONY OF THE VICTIM IN RELATION TO THE ELEMENTS OF THE CHARGE.

+SUCH EVIDENCE IS OFTEN NOT AVAILABLE,+ HE SAID.

IN THE CASE OF VICTIMS WHO ARE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE, THERE WAS THE ADDED DIFFICULTY OF DECIDING WHETHER THEY WERE CAPABLE OF GIVING EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CHARGE AND HOW MUCH WEIGHT A COURT WAS LIKELY TO GIVE TO THEIR EVIDENCE.

+THIS IS ONE OF THE FACTORS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY MEMBERS OF MY CHAMBERS WITH THE HELP OF THE POLICE WHEN CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO PROSECUTE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

DESPITE THESE DIFFICULTIES, MR THOMAS SAID 13 PROSECUTIONS FOR SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST MENTALLY HANDICAPPED FEMALES WERE INSTITUTED IN 1983, FIVE IN 1984, 15 IN 1985 AND 11 IN 1986.

+I REGRET THAT NO STATISTICS ARE KEPT TO SHOW THE RESULT OF THESE PROSECUTIONS.+

FINALLY, MR THOMAS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS NOW CONSIDERING THE USE OF VIDEO EQUIPMENT TO RECORD EVIDENCE TAKEN FROM THOSE SUCH AS YOUNG CHILDREN, WHO MIGHT BE INTIMIDATED BY THE ATMOSPHERE OF A COURTROOM AND FOUND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO GIVE EVIDENCE WITH CONFIDENCE.

+SUCH METHODS, IF THEY EVENTUALLY PROVE ACCEPTABLE, COULD ALSO BE APPLIED TO PERSONS WHO, BECAUSE OF A MENTAL HANDICAP, MAY BE SIMILARLY INHIBITED,+ HE SAID.

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POLICY TO LEVY TRUST FUNDS SUPERVISION FEES EXPLAINED *****

AN ANNUAL SUPERVISION FEE MIGHT BE CHARGED BY THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE INCOME OF A STATUTORY FUND WHEN THE RELEVANT ORDINANCE SETTING UP THE TRUST FUND EMPOWERED IT SO TO DO, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN YAXLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO RECOVER THE FULL COSTS IT INCURS IN SUPERVISING THESE FUNDS AND A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY IS IN FACT EXERCISED,+ MR YAXLEY SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN.

+THE POLICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST AND THE POLICE EDUCATION AND WELFARE TRUST ARE THE TWO FUNDS GRANTED A PARTIAL EXEMPTION.+

+THE ORDINANCES CONCERNING THE TWO FUNDS PERMIT THE RECOVERY OF COSTS UP TO A SUM EQUIVALENT TO 2.5 PER CENT OF TOTAL INCOME, THAT IS ABOUT \$82 000 PER ANNUM AGAINST ACTUAL ADMINISTRATION COSTS OF \$161 000,+ HE SAID.

+IN PRACTICE, THE GOVERNMENT COLLECTS ONLY \$30 000. THE SHORTFALL BEING MET THROUGH A SUBSIDY BY THE TAXPAYER,+ HE ADDED.

**GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS CLOSE LIAISON WITH HOUSING SOCIETY

THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY ON DAILY MATTERS AND HAS A NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICERS SITTING ON THE SOCIETY'S COMMITTEES, INCLUDING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RICHARD LAI ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT EXERCISE SUPERVISION OVER THE SETTING OF RENTS AND HOUSE PRICES BY THE SOCIETY, MR LIAO SAID: +THE SOCIETY IS A STATUTORY ORGANISATION WHICH MANAGES ITS OWN AFFAIRS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.+

+IT IS NOT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF SUCH INDEPENDENT BODIES AND GOVERNMENT THEREFORE DOES NOT DIRECTLY EXERCISE SUPERVISION OVER THE RENTS AND HOUSE PRICES CHARGED BY THE SOCIETY,+ HE SAID.

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**TWO BILLS AND ONE MOTION PASSED

THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AND THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AFTER THEIR SECOND AND THIRD READINGS TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE POWERS OF ATTORNEY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WAS READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON IT WAS ADJOURNED.

A MOTION TO RAISE THE WAGE CEILING OF NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES TO WHOM THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WAS ALSO PASSED.

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**NEW LANTAO BUS COMPANY FARE INCREASE APPROVED
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A FARE INCREASE FOR THE NEW LANTAO BUS COMPANY (NLB) WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT ON JUNE 1, 1987.

THE INCREASE, AVERAGING 10.5 PER CENT, WILL RANGE BETWEEN 10 CENTS AND 60 CENTS FOR JOURNEYS ON MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS, AND BETWEEN 20 CENTS AND \$1 ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID A FARE INCREASE FOR THIS YEAR WAS PREDICTED TO BE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE COMPANY'S OVERALL VIABILITY IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THE COMPANY'S LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WAS CONSIDERED TO BE RATIONAL.

+THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, THE TRANSPORT BRANCH, THE FINANCIAL MONITORING UNIT OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH AND THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAVE EXAMINED DETAILS OF THE COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR A FARE INCREASE AND HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE REASONABLE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE COMPANY'S PERFORMANCE WAS REVIEWED IN 1986 IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS APPLICATION OF AN EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE. THE REVIEW FOUND THAT THE COMPANY HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT SERVICE AND THAT IT WAS ALSO PLANNING TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS BUS MAINTENANCE FACILITIES.

THE EXISTING AND REVISED FARE SCALE OF NLB ARE:

ADULT SINGLE FARE

GROUP OF ROUTES	JOURNEY DISTANCE NOT EXCEEDING	MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS		SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	
		EXISTING	REVISED	EXISTING	REVISED
	(KM)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
I ORDINARY ROUTES	4	0.80	0.90	1.60	1.80
	8	1.70	1.90	2.20	2.50
	13	2.20	2.50	4.00	4.50
	17	3.30	3.60	5.00	5.50
	20	4.00	4.50	6.00	6.60

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	24	4.50	5.00	7.00	7.50
	27	5.50	6.00	8.50	9.00
	31	6.00	6.60	9.00	10.00
II NGONG PING	4	2.00	2.20	3.00	3.40
ROUTES	24	6.00	6.60	9.00	10.00

IN CERTAIN INSTANCES, HOWEVER, NLB WILL CHARGE FARES BELOW THE MAXIMUM SPECIFIED IN THE REVISED SCALE.

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FILIPINO-MAID CASES TO BE CONSIDERED

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THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION CONFIRMED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE HAS AGREED TO CONSIDER ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPERS CAUGHT BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON REVISED CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TO CHANGE EMPLOYERS AND TO ATTEST NEW CONTRACTS BEFORE THEIR RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECURITY BRANCH POINTED OUT THAT THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION WOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING THOSE HELPERS WHOSE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED IN WRITING EITHER BY THEMSELVES OR BY THEIR EMPLOYERS WITHIN TWO-MONTHS BEFORE APRIL 17 TO CHANGE EMPLOYERS AND TO HAVE NEW CONTRACTS ATTESTED.

HE STRESSED THAT THE CASES WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL MERITS AND THE DIRECTOR WOULD ALSO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN SERIOUS DISPUTES WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED DOMESTIC HELPERS WHO HAD THEIR CONTRACTS TERMINATED IN WRITING EITHER BY THEMSELVES OR THEIR EMPLOYERS WITHIN TWO-MONTHS BEFORE APRIL 17 TO APPLY TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FOR APPROVAL TO CHANGE EMPLOYMENT ON THE BASIS OF THEIR 'EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES' BEFORE THEY SUBMIT THEIR CONTRACTS TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ATTESTATION.

+CLAIMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN ANY CASE NOT LATER THAN JUNE 17, 1987,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT CLAIMS UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY CLEAR EVIDENCE, SUCH AS WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF TERMINATION RECEIVED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT OR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BEFORE APRIL 17, 1987 OR THAT A COMPLAINT HAS BEEN LODGED WITH EITHER THE IMMIGRATION OR LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN RESPECT OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONTRACT CONDITIONS BEFORE THAT DATE.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1987

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MARCH ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL FIGURES RELEASED

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) AS REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED IN MARCH 1987, COMPARED WITH BOTH FEBRUARY 1987 AND MARCH 1986, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARING MARCH 1987 WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1986, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND WERE RECORDED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, WHILE THE ORDERS POSITION IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES DROPPED SLIGHTLY.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987, INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND WERE RECORDED FOR THE WEARING APPAREL, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES. ONLY THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED A DECLINE IN THE ORDERS POSITION, WHILE THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN MARCH 1987 REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN FEBRUARY 1987, BUT DROPPED SLIGHTLY COMPARED WITH THE LEVEL IN MARCH 1986.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987, THE TEXTILES, PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES RECORDED SOME INCREASES IN EMPLOYMENT, WHILE THE WEARING APPAREL AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES SHOWED SOME DECREASES.

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1986, EMPLOYMENT IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES DROPPED, BUT IT ROSE IN ALL THE OTHER INDUSTRIES SURVEYED.

BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN MARCH 1987 COMPARED WITH BOTH FEBRUARY 1987 AND MARCH 1986.

AMONG ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, THERE WERE INCREASES IN PAYROLL AND IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987. THE INCREASES WERE PARTICULARLY RAPID FOR THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN PAYROLL AND IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE ALSO REPORTED BETWEEN MARCH 1986 AND MARCH 1987 AMONG MOST INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH PARTICULARLY RAPID INCREASES REPORTED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

/NOTWITHSTANDING AN

NOTWITHSTANDING AN INCREASE IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS, THERE WAS A MODEST DROP IN PAYROLL IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY BETWEEN MARCH 1986 AND MARCH 1987 DUE TO DECREASED EMPLOYMENT.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1987 REMAINED UNCHANGED COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987 AND INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1986. ON THE OTHER HAND, PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY COMPARED WITH BOTH FEBRUARY 1987 AND MARCH 1986.

IN THE SERVICES SECTORS, OVERALL EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1987 WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS IN FEBRUARY 1987, WHILE PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED MODERATELY. AMONG THE VARIOUS SERVICES SECTORS, ONLY BANKS RECORDED A SLIGHT DECREASE IN PAYROLL AND IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH.

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1986, OVERALL EMPLOYMENT IN THE SERVICES SECTORS INCREASED SLIGHTLY DESPITE THE DECREASE RECORDED IN HOTELS. AS FOR PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS, ALL THE SERVICES SECTORS RECORDED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES OVER MARCH 1986.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN THE TABLES BELOW.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1983.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE INDICATED BY THE SURVEY MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. NEVERTHELESS, THESE RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR MARCH 1987 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234820.

A. ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>IN TERMS OF MONTHS FOR MARCH 1987</u>	<u>ORDERS-ON-HAND</u>	
		<u>% INCREASE/ DECREASE OVER FEB.87</u>	<u>DECREASE OVER MAR.86</u>
WEARING APPAREL	4.94	3	7
TEXTILES	2.68	-4	9
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	3.90	*	-3
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.59	6	32
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.16	1	-1
OTHERS	4.49	1	2
<u>ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES</u>	<u>4.54</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

B. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

<u>INDUSTRY/ SERVICES</u>	<u>PERSONS ENGAGED AT THE END OF MARCH 1987</u>		<u>AS IN MARCH 1987 (HK\$)</u>	<u>PER CAPITA EARNINGS</u>	
	<u>% INCREASE/ DECREASE OVER FEB.87</u>	<u>DECREASE OVER MAR.86</u>		<u>% INCREASE/ DECREASE OVER FEB.87</u>	<u>DECREASE OVER MAR.86</u>
<u>MANUFACTURING</u>	*	-1	3 559	5	13
FOOD AND DRINKS	*	3	3 880	2	6
WEARING APPAREL	-1	-6	2 976	3	12

/TEXTILES 1

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TEXTILES	1	5	3 741	11	11
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	4	-10	3 239	5	4
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	1	2	3 495	3	26
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-1	1	3 323	4	14
OTHERS	-1	3	4 795	4	12
** CONSTRUCTION	*	7	5 286	15	18
-----	-	-	-----	---	---
SERVICES	*	2	6 230	2	10
-----	-	-	-----	-	---
BANKS	*	4	5 642	-1	10
HOTELS	*	-3	4 263	*	9
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*	6 016	1	9
OTHERS	1	5	8 124	5	9

* CHANGES WITHIN + 0.5 PER CENT

** PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS NOT INCLUDED.

NOTE: UNLIKE +ORDERS-ON-HAND+ AND +PER CAPITA EARNINGS+ WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE FIRMS SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1987

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CHANGES TO QUOTA GROUPING ANNOUNCED

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ON THE ADVICE OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO KEEP SUITS, WOOL COATS AND WOOL TROUSERS UNDER THE SAME GROUPING, THAT IS, GROUP K FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING THE TRANSFER-OUT PERCENTAGE FOR THE U.S. MARKET.

UNDER THE TEXTILE QUOTA TRANSFER RULES, A QUOTA-HOLDER WHO TEMPORARILY TRANSFERS 50 PER CENT OR MORE OF THE QUOTA-HOLDING WITHIN A PARTICULAR GROUP OF CATEGORIES FOREGOES A PROPORTION OF THE QUOTA OTHERWISE DUE FOR ALLOCATION TO HIM IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF GROUP K WHICH IS A HIGHLY UTILISED CATEGORY WITH A LOW RATE OF TEMPORARY TRANSFER-OUT.

IT WAS AGREED AT THE LAST REVIEW OF THE TEXTILES QUOTA TRANSFER RULES IN DECEMBER 1986 THAT THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THREE PARTICULAR GROUPS FOR THE U.S. MARKET SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS' TIME.

THE THREE GROUPS ARE GROUPS D (COTTON, WOOL AND MAN-MADE FIBRES SWEATERS), E (SILK BLEND AND OTHER VEGETABLE FIBRES SWEATERS) AND K (SUITS, WOOL COATS AND WOOL TROUSERS). AS FAR AS GROUP K WAS CONCERNED, ONE OPTION WAS TO PUT THE WOOL COATS AND TROUSERS UNDER GROUP J (COATS) AND GROUP F (TROUSERS) RESPECTIVELY.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW ON GROUPS D AND E WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME.

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THREE NT SITES FOR RENT

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THREE NEW TERRITORIES LOTS ARE TO BE LET ON SHORT TERM TENANCIES BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

ONE, AT THE JUNCTION OF CONTAINER PORT AND TSUEN WAN ROADS, KWAI CHUNG, MEASURES 5 000 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR CAR PARKING.

THE TENANCY IS SIX MONTHS, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

/THE NEXT

THE NEXT SITE OF 6 930 SQUARE METRES IS SITUATED NEAR SHA TIN WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND IS FOR STORING GOODS.

HOWEVER, STORAGE OF CONTAINERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

THE LAST SITE, MEASURING 1 612 SQUARE METRES, IS AT FUNG KONG TSUEN, YUEN LONG, AND IS FOR USE AS A PRIVATE OR COMMERCIAL GARDEN AND NURSERY.

THE TENANCIES FOR THESE TWO SITES ARE ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 5.

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DONATION TO SIR EDWARD YOUDE FUND

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND, MR LEE QUO-WEI, WILL RECEIVE A DONATION OF \$19 350 FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR RALPH SPENCER, AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PRESENTATION WILL BE HELD AT 10 AM AT THE ANTE CHAMBER ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING IN CENTRAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

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COURTESY CALL ON DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

MEMBERS OF THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YAN CHAI HOSPITAL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, TO DISCUSS EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS PLANNED BY HOSPITAL IN THE COMING YEAR.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOSPITAL, MRS ALICE CHIU, SAID CONSTRUCTION OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL NO. 2 SECONDARY SCHOOL WAS NOW IN FULL SWING AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE SCHOOL WOULD BE OPERATIONAL IN THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IN SEPTEMBER.

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THE SECOND NEW PROJECT UNDER PLANNING WAS A NEW PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN, MRS CHIU SAID.

MR LI PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HOSPITAL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN RUNNING ONE SECONDARY SCHOOL AND TWO PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN.

HE ASSURED THE BOARD OF THE HOSPITAL THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD GIVE EVERY ASSISTANCE TO THEM TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

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SHA TIN NEW ENQUIRY COUNTER OPENS
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THE SHA TIN PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES COUNTER PROVIDES A VALUABLE SERVICE TO RESIDENTS BY HANDLING A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 4 800 PUBLIC ENQUIRIES AND 1 420 STATUTORY DECLARATIONS, THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LEO KWAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW ENQUIRY COUNTER, HE SAID THE COUNTER ALSO ANSWERED PUBLIC ENQUIRIES, PROVIDED FREE LEGAL ADVICE AND DISTRIBUTED VARIOUS GOVERNMENT FORMS AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS.

+THE ENQUIRY COUNTER PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CHANNELLING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND HELPS STRENGTHEN RESIDENTS' TIES AND SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

THE ENQUIRY COUNTER, PREVIOUSLY LOCATED ON THE 6TH FLOOR OF KCR HOUSE, HAS MOVED TO THE 1ST FLOOR OF THE SAME BUILDING FROM TODAY.

MEANWHILE, THE HANG ON ESTATE SUB-OFFICE ENQUIRY COUNTER WILL COMMENCE IN LATE JUNE PROVIDE FURTHER SERVICES TO THE NEW TOWN RESIDENTS, MR KWAN SAID.

THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WILL ALSO START SERVICING SHA TIN RESIDENTS IN THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE FROM TODAY.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1987

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT UP TO 1988.

THEY WILL COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT MEASURES AT THE WESTERN EXIT OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR AND VICTORIA PARK ROAD WHICH AIM AT EASING THE GROWING CONGESTION IN THE APPROACH ROADS OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

THE MEASURES WOULD PROHIBIT VEHICLES FROM USING THE CENTRAL DISTRICT-BOUND OUTER LANE TO JUMP THE QUEUE OF TUNNEL-BOUND VEHICLES IN THE MIDDLE LANE.

MOREOVER, THE LAST TWO GANTRY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS ON THE CORRIDOR WESTBOUND WOULD ALSO BE MODIFIED TO ELIMINATE CONFUSION TO DRIVERS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT MEASURE ON SHAUKIWAN ROAD AT ITS JUNCTIONS WITH TAI HONG STREET AND TAI NING STREET AND THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING FROM GREIG ROAD TO TAIKOO RESERVOIR.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, 880-886, KING'S ROAD.

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GOVERNOR VISITS KOWLOON CITY ON FRIDAY

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON WILL VISIT KOWLOON CITY ON FRIDAY (MAY 22) AFTERNOON TO LEARN ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON WILL TAKE A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE DISTRICT AT A ROOFTOP ADJACENT TO THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY.

/THEY WILL

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THEY WILL ALSO TOUR PRIVATE STREETS IN TO KWA WAN, KA WAI CHUEN IN HUNG HOM, BEFORE ATTENDING A RECEPTION WITH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THE MARTHA BOSS COMMUNITY CENTRE IN HO MAN TIN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO KOWLOON CITY ON FRIDAY. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI BEFORE 1.30 PM WHERE TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED.

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COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ON LOK TSUEN PLAN
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MEMBERS OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON FRIDAY (MAY 22) TO CONSIDER THE LAYOUT PLAN FOR THE ON LOK TSUEN INDUSTRIAL AREA.

THE PLAN COVERS AN AREA OF 46.81 HECTARES AND WILL BE ZONED FOR INDUSTRIAL/WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENT WITH SITES RESERVED FOR OPEN SPACES, A WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET, COOKED FOOD STALLS AND PARKING FACILITIES.

DURING THE MEETING, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, MR PATRICK CHUNG, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE ORGANISATION AND WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

A PAPER ON THE DISTRICT'S LAND SALES PROGRAMME FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMITTEE MEETING ON FRIDAY (MAY 22) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN ABERDEEN
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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN ABERDEEN FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 22) FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

VEHICLES OVER THREE TONNES WILL BE BANNED FROM ENTERING TUNG SING ROAD BETWEEN WU PAK STREET AND WU NAM STREET.

AFFECTED VEHICLES SHOULD PROCEED VIA WU NAM STREET AND ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD.

IN ADDITION, TWO ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE DESIGNATED 24-HOUR DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES.

THEY ARE CHENGTU ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES NORTH OF WU NAM STREET TO ITS JUNCTION WITH WU PAK STREET- AND TUNG SING ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES NORTH OF WU NAM STREET TO ITS JUNCTION WITH WU PAK STREET.

NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

MEANWHILE, THE EXISTING 24-HOUR DAILY PROHIBITED ZONE ON WU NAM STREET EAST OF TUNG SING ROAD WILL BE LIFTED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE TERMINUS FOR CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTE 107 ON TUNG SING ROAD WILL BE RELOCATED TO CHENGTU ROAD BETWEEN WU PAK STREET AND WU NAM STREET.

CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTE 107 AND CMB ROUTE 98 ON THEIR JOURNEYS TO KAI YIP AND LEI TUNG ESTATES RESPECTIVELY WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WU NAM STREET, ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD, LOK YEUNG STREET AND TUNG SING ROAD.

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TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME ON TSING YI
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON TSING YI TO EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE FROM SATURDAY (MAY 23).

THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS.

/ALL VEHICLES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1987

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ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND GREEN MINIBUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM MAKING RIGHT TURNS FROM TSING YI ROAD NORTHBOUND ON TO THE BRIDGE; FROM THE BRIDGE ON TO TSING YI HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD NORTHBOUND; AND FROM CHUNG MEI ROAD ON TO TSING YI HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD SOUTHBOUND.

MOTORISTS ON TSING YI ROAD NORTHBOUND WISHING TO GO TO KWAI CHUNG WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE TSING YI HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD.

MOTORISTS ON TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE WHO WISH TO GO TO NORTH TSING YI WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE TSING YI ROAD; WHILE THOSE ON CHUNG MEI ROAD WHO WISH TO GO TO KWAI CHUNG WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE TSING YI HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD NORTHBOUND AND THE ROUNDABOUT AT FUNG SHUE WO ROAD.

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POSTAL SERVICE TO LEBANON RESUMED
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FOLLOWING THE RE-OPENING OF THE BEIRUT AIRPORT, AIRMAIL AND AIR PARCEL SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND LEBANON HAVE RESUMED, A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THESE SERVICES INCLUDE FIRST AND SECOND CLASS AIRMAIL AND AIR PARCELS UP TO 5 KG.

HOWEVER, SURFACE MAIL AND SURFACE PARCEL SERVICES TO LEBANON REMAIN SUSPENDED.

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