



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FS'S MOTIONS UNDER DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED TWO RESOLUTIONS MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS UNDER THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE.

THE FIRST RESOLUTION SOUGHT TO IMPLEMENT THE VARIOUS BUDGET PROPOSALS IN RELATION TO THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE INCLUDING THE INCREASE IN THE RATES OF DUTY ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OF 200 PER CENT.

THE SECOND RESOLUTION SOUGHT TO REDUCE THE DUTY RATES FROM MAY 18 SO THAT THEY WOULD BE JUST 100 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE RATES THAT WERE IN FORCE BEFORE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DELIVERED HIS BUDGET SPEECH ON MARCH 6.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE EFFECT OF THE TWO RESOLUTIONS TAKEN TOGETHER WAS THAT THE DUTY RATES ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS BETWEEN MARCH 6 AND MAY 18 WOULD BE 200 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE RATES THAT WERE IN FORCE BEFORE MARCH 6. THEREAFTER, THE INCREASE IN DUTY RATES WOULD BE REDUCED TO 100 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE RATES THAT WERE IN FORCE BEFORE MARCH 6.

"THE REASON FOR DEALING WITH THE MATTER IN THIS WAY AND FOR MY NOT WITHDRAWING THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION ALTOGETHER IS SIMPLY BECAUSE TO WITHDRAW THAT RESOLUTION WOULD RESULT IN HAVING TO REFUND DUTY PAID BY TOBACCO WHOLESALERS WHO PASSED ON THE INCREASE TO THE CONSUMERS, BUT THE REFUND WOULD NOT REACH THE CONSUMERS.

"CLEARLY THAT WOULD BE UNFAIR AND IT WOULD NOT ADDRESS THE CONCERN OF MEMBERS REGARDING THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX," SAID THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ADDING THAT THAT CONCERN WAS ADDRESSED BY HIS REDUCING THE DUTY RATES FOR THE FUTURE.

SPEAKING AT THE MOTION TO REDUCE THE TOBACCO DUTY RATE SO THAT THEY WOULD STAND AT 100 PER CENT MORE THAN THE OLD DUTY RATE IN FORCE BEFORE THE BUDGET, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID: "WE ARE FACED WITH A CONSIDERABLE DILEMMA."

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT THE ORIGINAL INCREASED IN DUTY ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OF 200 PER CENT INTRODUCED ON HEALTH GROUNDS WAS DESIGNED TO HAVE AN IMMEDIATE AND DRAMATIC IMPACT ON SMOKING AND THE CLEARLY STATED INTENTION WAS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF SMOKING, PARTICULARLY AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE.

"THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE STRATEGY IS STARTING TO SHOW RESULTS, WITH MUCH ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE OF SMOKERS HAVING CUT DOWN ON TOBACCO CONSUMPTION," HE SAID.

HE REMINDED MEMBERS THAT WHEN A 300 PER CENT INCREASED IN DUTY WAS INTRODUCED IN 1983, DEMAND FOR TOBACCO FELL BY 33 PER CENT, AND 40 PER CENT FOR PEOPLE IN THE 15-19 YEAR AGE GROUP.

/"THUS, WE .....

"THUS, WE KNOW THAT A SHARP INCREASE IN DUTY CAN WORK IN HONG KONG, GIVEN THE CHANCE," HE SAID.

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID HE REMAINED OF THE VIEW THAT THE ORIGINAL MEASURE CONCEIVED ON HEALTH GROUNDS WAS CORRECT.

"INDEED, THE POLICIES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, AND OUR OWN EXPERIENCE IN 1983, HAVE ADDED WEIGHT TO THIS VIEW. I MIGHT ADD THAT NO OTHER MEASURES THAT I HAVE INTRODUCED IN ANY OF MY PREVIOUS BUDGETS HAVE RECEIVED AS MUCH WORLDWIDE SUPPORT AS THE 200 PER CENT INCREASE IN DUTY ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

"HONG KONG HAS BEEN CONGRATULATED FOR ITS COURAGE AND RESOLVE IN TAKING THIS MEASURE BY NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANISATIONS," HE SAID.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS THE OTHER PART OF THE DILEMMA, HARDLY SURPRISINGLY, THE MEASURE HAS PROVOKED CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION FROM CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND THIS REACTION, HAS CAUSED MANY MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, AND INDEED THE PUBLIC GENERALLY, DEEP CONCERN. THE THRUST OF THIS CONCERN CENTRES AROUND THE EFFECT THE MEASURE IS PREDICTED TO HAVE ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT AN IMMEDIATE DECREASE IN THE DUTY RATES ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS WOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON THE CPI(A) IN THE SHORT TERM, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE OTHER FACTORS THAT COULD DISGUISE THIS EFFECT.

"IN THE LONGER TERM, THE IMPACT ON INFLATION IS NOT AS STRAIGHTFORWARD.

"THE BASKET OF ITEMS MAKING UP THE CPI(A) AND THEIR RELATIVE WEIGHTINGS ARE FIXED. THE INDEX, THEREFORE, NOT ONLY FAILS TO REFLECT THE PREDICTED REDUCTION IN DEMAND FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS, BUT ALSO OVERSTATES THE INFLATIONARY IMPACT OF THE DUTY INCREASE," HE EXPLAINED.

MOREOVER, SIR PIERS SAID THE WHOLE POINT OF THE ORIGINAL INCREASE HAD BEEN OVERLOOKED; IT SOUGHT TO MAKE TOBACCO MORE EXPENSIVE, SO THAT PEOPLE - YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR - WOULD GIVE UP SMOKING.

"THE RESULT IS THAT, AS TOBACCO BECOMES A LESS AND LESS SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN THE CPI SHOPPING BASKET, THE WEIGHTING IN THE INDEX WILL NATURALLY FALL, AND THE TRANSITORY INFLATIONARY EFFECT FOR THE SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE SMOKING POPULATION WILL DISAPPEAR," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS OF THE VIEW WHAT MIGHT WELL HAPPEN WHEN THE INCREASE WAS HALVED TO 100 PER CENT WAS THAT THE EFFECT ON THE CPI, ALTHOUGH SMALLER IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, WOULD BE MORE ENTRENCHED BECAUSE A SMALLER NUMBER OF PEOPLE WOULD GIVE UP SMOKING.

"IN THE LONGER TERM, IF THE INCREASE IN DUTY IS HALVED TO 100 PER CENT, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LESS PEOPLE WILL GIVE UP SMOKING THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN THE CASE, AND THE WEIGHTINGS IN THE CPI(A) MAY, THEREFORE, NOT BE REVISED AS SWIFTLY," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT MEMBERS HAD INDICATED THE WHOLE SUBJECT ON INFLATION WAS TO BE DEBATED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 29, SIR PIERS SAID THAT OCCASION WOULD GIVE MEMBERS AND THE ADMINISTRATION A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER WHAT REMEDIES EXISTED.

"CLEARLY, THE PROBLEM IS SERIOUS. I DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE IT IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER. IT IS NECESSARY TO SIGNAL NOW THAT WE INTEND TO TACKLE INFLATION.

"MEMBERS HAVE SINGLED OUT THIS ONE MEASURE AS A SUITABLE STARTING POINT. AS TO THE HEALTH ASPECTS, A 100 PER CENT INCREASE IN DUTY IS STILL SUBSTANTIAL, AND THIS MEASURE, AND WHAT MEMBERS HAVE SAID IN THIS AFTERNOON, WILL DO MUCH TO FOCUS MINDS ON THE NEED TO PURSUE NEW ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS FIRST MOTION ALSO SOUGHT TO INCREASE THE DUTY RATES UNDER THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE ON HYDROCARBON OILS BY FIVE PER CENT; THE SPECIFIC DUTY RATES ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND ALCOHOL BY 15 PER CENT; AND THE AD VALOREM RATE ON COSMETICS BY FIVE PERCENTAGE POINTS.

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OFFICIAL MEMBERS ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON COMPELLABILITY BILL  
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OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ABSTAINED FROM VOTING ON THE SECOND READING OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

AFTER HEARING AN INDICATION FROM THE HON NELLIE FONG THAT A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL DID NOT SUPPORT THE BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IT WAS A BILL THAT WOULD AFFECT, AS MRS FONG HAD ACCURATELY SAID, FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS.

"ON A SOCIAL ISSUE SUCH AS THIS IT IS RIGHT THAT MY SUBMISSION THAT OFFICIAL MEMBERS SHOULD ABSTAIN," MR MATHEWS SAID.

THE MOTION FOR THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL WAS NOT CARRIED, WITH 17 MEMBERS AGAINST, 14 MEMBERS FOR AND NINE MEMBERS ABSTAINED.

BEFORE THE VOTE MR MATHEWS EXPLAINED THAT THE BILL SOUGHT TO IMPROVE AND MODERNISE THE LAW GOVERNING THE COMPETENCE AND COMPELLABILITY OF SPOUSES, WHILE ACHIEVING A BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE, AND THE AIM OF INTERFERING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE WITH RELATIONS BETWEEN MARRIED COUPLES AND THE FAMILY.

HE SAID THE BILL WOULD ENHANCE THE AVAILABILITY OF TESTIMONY IN CASES OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE WITHIN THE FAMILY, AND IN SO DOING FOLLOW OTHER JURISDICTIONS IN ADDRESSING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP'S STUDY HAD RESULTED IN PROPOSING AN IMPORTANT AMENDMENT TO ALLOW SPOUSES AND COHABITEES TO BE GRANTED, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AN EXEMPTION BY THE COURT FROM TESTIFYING.

EXPLAINING THE LEGAL EFFECT OF THE INCLUSION OF THE PROPOSED EXEMPTION FOR COHABITEES, HE SAID THE AMENDMENT WOULD NOT GIVE COHABITEES AN AUTOMATIC RIGHT TO EXEMPTION FROM TESTIFYING IN RESPECT OF ALL OFFENCES.

THEY, UNLIKE SPOUSES, WOULD STILL BE COMPETENT AND COMPELLABLE TO TESTIFY FOR THE PROSECUTION IN RESPECT OF ALL OFFENCES. ONLY FOR THOSE OFFENCES WHICH INVOLVED SERIOUS VIOLENCE WITHIN THE FAMILY OR RELATIONSHIP, WOULD THEY BE AFFORDED THE SAME RIGHT AS SPOUSES TO SEEK AN EXEMPTION.

BEFORE GRANTING A COHABITEE AN EXEMPTION, THE COURT WOULD HAVE TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COHABITEE AND THE DEFENDANT WAS AKIN TO HUSBAND AND WIFE.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT DID NOT DETRACT FROM THE ORIGINAL AIMS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION AND INTENTIONS OF THE BILL. IT SET OUT CLEARLY THE CRITERIA THAT MUST BE APPLIED BY THE COURT WHEN DECIDING TO GIVE AN EXEMPTION TO A SPOUSE OR COHABITEE.

HE SAID THE BILL RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE SOCIETY PLACED UPON THE FAMILY, WHILE SEEKING TO ASSIST IN DETERRING AND PUNISHING THOSE WHO ARE DESTRUCTIVE OF THE FAMILY.

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#### AIRPORT EXPENDITURE RELEASES

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THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND ITS RELATED KEY PROJECTS UP TO MARCH 31 THIS YEAR SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION TO BUILD THE AIRPORT IN OCTOBER 1989 IS \$619.6 MILLION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON KINGSLEY SIT, SIR PIERS ALSO TABLED A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF THE EXPENDITURE AS AT MARCH 31 AS FOLLOWS:

	CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURE (\$ MILLION) -----
* CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT	108.0 (1)
* TUNG CHUNG DEVELOPMENT (PHASE 1)	15.4
* NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY	26.3
* LANTAU FIXED CROSSING	102.1

/\* ROUTE 3 .....

* ROUTE 3 (TSING YI AND KWAI CHUNG SECTORS)	107.2
* WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION	60.2
* WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY	9.0
* WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING	16.8
* AIRPORT RAILWAY	20.0
* CENTRAL AND WANCHAI RECLAMATION	7.5
* OTHERS NEW AIRPORT WORKS PROJECT MANAGEMENT PHASE 1	48.0
LAND ACQUISITION	99.1
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TOTAL	619.6
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NOTE (1) THIS FIGURE INCLUDES EXPENDITURE BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY ON THE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN AND ADVANCE WORKS CONTRACT.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT THE SHORT PAPER TABLED IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 24 WAS PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI.

"IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE A MORE DETAILED PROGRESS REPORT WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION PROMISED TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THIS COUNCIL AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR.

"THAT REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO MEMBERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

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#### MOTION TO CUT RATES CHARGES

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO REDUCE THE OVERALL RATES CHARGE FROM 7.5 PER CENT TO 5.5 PER CENT.

MOVING THE MOTION UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THIS FOLLOWED THE GENERAL REVALUATION EXERCISE.

"AS A RESULT, THE GENERAL RATES CHARGE IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA WILL BE 2.5 PER CENT AND 1.75 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL RATES PERCENTAGE CHARGES WILL BE THREE PER CENT AND 3.75 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE MOTION ALSO SOUGHT TO SET THE RATE RELIEF PERCENTAGE POINT TO 25 SO THAT THE ANNUAL RATES PAYABLE BY AN INDIVIDUAL RATEPAYER IN 1991-92 WOULD NOT EXCEED THOSE PAYABLE IN 1990-91 BY MORE THAN 25 PER CENT.

IN ADDITION, SIR PIERS SAID THE MOTION SOUGHT TO SET THE MINIMUM RATEABLE VALUE BELOW WHICH TENEMENTS WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM ASSESSMENT OF RATES AT \$2,000.

"THE ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL YIELD TO GENERAL REVENUE IN 1991-92 RESULTING FROM THESE PROPOSALS IS APPROXIMATELY \$435 MILLION.

"THERE ARE NO STAFFING IMPLICATIONS," HE ADDED.

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BILL SEEKS TO TIGHTEN UP CHEMICAL WASTE CONTROL

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO INTRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME OF CONTROL ON CHEMICAL WASTE UNDER THE AMBIT OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE WAS PROPOSED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON MARTIN LEWIS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, MR LEWIS SAID THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE WAS THE PRINCIPAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION CONCERNED WITH THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE AND PROVIDED A BASIC STATUTORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTROL OF VARIOUS TYPES OF WASTE.

HOWEVER, THE CONTROL OF CHEMICAL WASTE HAD NOT BEEN BROUGHT INTO OPERATION BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN A LACK OF SUITABLE FACILITIES FOR THEIR TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL.

MR LEWIS NOTED THAT UP UNTIL NOW THE MAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES AVAILABLE HAD BEEN THE CO-DISPOSAL FACILITIES AT THE TSEUNG KWAN O LANDFILL AND SOME SMALL-SCALE COMMERCIAL RECYCLING AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW IN A POSITION TO PROCEED WITH THE REGULATORY CONTROLS ON CHEMICAL WASTE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADEQUATE, SUITABLE DISPOSAL FACILITIES UNDERWAY.

HE DISCLOSED THAT IN DECEMBER 1990, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH A PRIVATE SECTOR CONSORTIUM FOR THE PROVISION OF CENTRALISED CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES ON TSING YI.

"THE FACILITIES WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN STAGES WITH THE FIRST STAGE, THE COLLECTION AND STORAGE SERVICE DUE TO COMMENCE IN AUTUMN 1992.

/"ONCE THEY .....

"ONCE THEY ARE FULLY COMMISSIONED AT THE END OF 1992, THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE VIRTUALLY ALL OF HONG KONG'S CHEMICAL WASTE," HE SAID.

MR LEWIS SAID THE EXISTING ORDINANCE, WHICH PROVIDED THE BASIC FRAMEWORK OF CONTROL, WOULD NEED TO BE REFINED AND EXTENDED IN ORDER THAT THERE WOULD BE PROVISIONS TO ENSURE THE PROPER HANDLING OF SUCH WASTE FROM ITS POINT OF PRODUCTION OR IMPORTATION TO ITS POINT OF FINAL DISPOSAL.

"THIS APPROACH WILL REQUIRE CHEMICAL WASTE PRODUCERS TO BE REGISTERED, AND FOR WASTE COLLECTORS AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES TO BE LICENSED.

"IT WILL INCLUDE A 'TRIP-TICKET' SYSTEM TO MONITOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIGNMENTS OF CHEMICAL WASTE AND REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE STORAGE, PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF WASTE," HE SAID.

MR LEWIS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION WAS TO IMPLEMENT THESE CONTROLS CHIEFLY THROUGH CHEMICAL WASTE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

TURNING TO THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE BILL, MR LEWIS SAID CURRENTLY THE APPLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE TO CHEMICAL WASTE WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR.

"THIS IS ADDRESSED IN CLAUSES 4, 5 AND 6 OF THE BILL WHICH CONFIRM THE APPLICATION TO CHEMICAL WASTE OF THE SECTIONS RELATING TO THE LICENSING OF WASTE COLLECTORS, THE PROHIBITION ON UNLICENSED COLLECTORS AND THE PROHIBITION ON THE UNAUTHORISED DISPOSAL OF WASTES (SECTIONS 10, 11 AND 16 OF THE ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY)," HE NOTED.

HE SAID THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, WHO IS ALREADY THE WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY FOR ALL TYPES OF WASTES, TO BE THE SOLE COLLECTION AUTHORITY FOR CHEMICAL WASTE UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

THERE WAS ALSO A CLAUSE PROVIDING FOR A DEFINITION OF "CHEMICAL WASTE" TO BE PRESCRIBED BY REGULATIONS.

MR LEWIS NOTED THAT THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING A SIMPLE DEFINITION FOR "CHEMICAL WASTE" HAD BEEN RECOGNISED WIDELY BY LEGISLATORS WHO HAD SOUGHT TO REGULATE CHEMICAL WASTE. WHETHER OR NOT A PARTICULAR WASTE SHOULD BE REGARDED AS CHEMICAL WASTE MIGHT DEPEND UPON THE FORM AND CONCENTRATION OF THAT WASTE.

"BY PROVIDING THE DETAILED DEFINITION IN THE REGULATIONS WE WILL HAVE A DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY TO ENABLE US TO REFINE AND DEVELOP THAT DEFINITION IN THE LIGHT OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND CHANGES IN KNOWLEDGE, EXPECTATIONS AND STANDARDS," HE ADDED.

THE BILL ALSO ENABLED CERTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDS TO BE SPECIFIED IN REGULATIONS WITH REGARD TO IN-HOUSE TREATMENT FACILITIES ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PROHIBIT THEM.

MR LEWIS EXPLAINED THAT THE MAJOR AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE BILL WAS THE EXTENSION OF THE REGULATION-MAKING POWERS TO PROVIDE FOR THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS IN THE SCHEME OF CONTROL.

THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WOULD ALSO BE EMPOWERED THROUGH REGULATIONS TO EXCLUDE WASTE WHICH DID NOT CONSTITUTE A DANGER TO HEALTH OR AN ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FROM THE DEFINITION OF CHEMICAL WASTE; TO ISSUE DOCUMENTS AND REQUIRE INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE PRODUCTION, MOVEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE, TO APPROVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPOSAL, AND REQUIRE THE REMOVAL OF WASTE WHICH CONSTITUTED A DANGER TO HEALTH OR RISK OF POLLUTION.

ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE BILL, MR LEWIS SAID THE EXISTING PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THE REGULATIONS AND FOR CERTAIN OF THE OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE WOULD NEED TO BE UPDATED AND TO REFLECT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THOSE OFFENCES. PROPOSALS FOR INCREASES IN THE CEILING FOR FINES WERE REQUIRED AS APPROPRIATE.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED AN EXTENSION OF THE LIABILITY FOR PROSECUTION TO INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS OF A COMPANY WHERE OFFENCES COMMITTED BY THAT COMPANY WERE COMMITTED WITH THEIR CONSENT OR CONNIVANCE OR THROUGH THEIR NEGLIGENCE.

MR LEWIS SAID THIS WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED.

WITH REGARD TO TIMING, MR LEWIS ENVISAGED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A NEED TO BRING THE CONTROLS INTO EFFECT IN STAGES - AT DIFFERENT TIMES FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF WASTE.

WHERE FACILITIES FOR DISPOSAL ALREADY EXIST, IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE THAT THE CONTROLS SHOULD APPLY EARLIER THAN FOR OTHER TYPES OF WASTE.

HE SAID CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRY ON THE SCOPE AND DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN.

"ONCE THIS HAS BEEN COMPLETED, WE WILL MAKE ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS BEFORE SUBMITTING THE REGULATIONS TO THIS COUNCIL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION, WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENTING THE FIRST STAGE OF THE CONTROLS AROUND THE END OF THE YEAR."

HE SAID THE REGISTRATION OF CHEMICAL WASTE PRODUCERS, ESTIMATED TO BE OVER 10,000 PRODUCERS IN HONG KONG, WAS LIKELY TO TAKE A FEW MONTHS.

THE PROCESS OF REGISTRATION WOULD NEED TO BEGIN EARLY NEXT YEAR TO ENABLE THE SCHEME OF CONTROL TO BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED BY THE TIME THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES WAS READY TO COMMENCE HIS COLLECTION SERVICE - AND IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS WERE IN OPERATION BY THAT TIME, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1991

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UK BACKS GOVT'S EFFORTS ON VM'S  
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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS PROBLEM THROUGH THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN, MR ASPREY SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO CONSULT URGENTLY WITH THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES CONCERNED ON ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO ACCELERATE THE RETURN OF NON-REFUGEES TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION REMAINS THE RIGHT APPROACH TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID IT WAS THE FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE CPA IN ITS ENTIRETY WHICH HAD SO FAR PREVENTED A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

"WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PURSUE URGENTLY A DURABLE SOLUTION IN THE FORM OF AGREEMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPATRIATION OF THE SCREENED-OUT," THE SECRETARY ADDED.

MR ASPREY NOTED THAT THE EXISTING DETENTION CENTRES SHOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH A VIETNAMESE POPULATION OF ABOUT 54,000.

THE PRESENT POPULATION IN THE DETENTION CENTRES WAS ABOUT 48,000.

"THE EXTENT TO WHICH OUR DETENTION CENTRE ACCOMMODATION CAN COPE WITH NEW ARRIVALS DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON THE NUMBER OF ARRIVALS BUT ALSO ON THE NUMBERS OF BIRTHS, OF THOSE SCREENED-IN AND THOSE LEAVING ON REPATRIATION," THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED.

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DRAFT BILL TO IMPOSE GUIDELINES ON EXISTING DMC  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING A DRAFT BILL WHICH SEEKS TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS ON THE CONDUCT OF PROPERTY MANAGERS IN EXISTING DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANTS (DMC) WHICH DO NOT SPECIFICALLY CONTAIN THE PROVISIONS OF THE CURRENT GUIDELINES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON MARTIN LEWIS, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/MR POON .....

MR POON WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HE CONSIDERED THE HIGH PRICING POLICY IN THE SALE AND LETTING OF CAR PARKING SPACES IN BEACON HEIGHTS, AND THAT SIMILAR INCIDENTS MIGHT OCCUR IN OTHER PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

MR LEWIS SAID SINCE OCTOBER 1987 THE GOVERNMENT HAD IMPOSED GUIDELINES ON NEW DMC LIMITING THE INITIAL PERIOD OF MANAGEMENT BY THE FIRST MANAGER TO NOT EXCEEDING TWO YEARS.

HE NOTED THAT NO PROVISION IN THE DMC WAS NOW PERMITTED WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE THE OPERATION OF MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE TO PREVENT OWNERS FORMING AN OWNERS CORPORATION, AS WAS CURRENTLY THE CASE WITH THE DMC OF BEACON HEIGHTS.

HE SAID THE SELLING AND LETTING OF CARPARKING SPACES IN PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS WAS A MATTER FOR THE DEVELOPER.

"AS LONG AS THE DEVELOPER DOES NOT DO ANYTHING WHICH IS UNLAWFUL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS LITTLE CAUSE TO INTERVENE," MR LEWIS SAID.

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#### GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO RELIEVE MTR CONGESTION

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ADDITIONAL MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THE PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE AND CHEAPER MODES OF TRANSPORT TO RELIEVE THE CONGESTION ALONG THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR DURING PEAK HOURS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW, MR LEUNG SAID TWO NEW AIR-CONDITIONED, EXPRESS BUS ROUTES BETWEEN KOWLOON AND CENTRAL WERE PLANNED.

THE FIRST ROUTE, TARGETTED AT COMMUTERS USING THE MTR AT PRINCE EDWARD AND MONG KOK STATIONS, WAS INTRODUCED ON MAY 13.

SOUTH-BOUND PASSENGERS USING THIS SERVICE ENJOYED A DISCOUNT DURING THE MORNING PEAK.

A SIMILAR DISCOUNT WAS ALSO OFFERED TO BUS PASSENGERS WHO USED TWO EXISTING CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES OPERATING ALONG THE NATHAN ROAD, MR LEUNG SAID.

THE SECOND ROUTE, TO BE INTRODUCED IN MID JUNE, WOULD PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK FROM THE PODIUM LEVEL OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY (KCR) HUNG HOM STATION TO CENTRAL.

THIS WAS INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE CENTRAL-BOUND KCR PASSENGERS TO BY-PASS THE MTR INTERCHANGE AT KOWLOON TONG.

MR LEUNG SAID CONCURRENTLY, TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO SPEED UP THE MOVEMENT OF BUSES HEADING TOWARDS THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL ALONG NATHAN ROAD OR CHATHAM ROAD WERE IN HAND.

/THESE INCLUDED .....

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THESE INCLUDED AN EXTRA BUS LANE ON CHATHAM ROAD NORTH AND ADJUSTMENTS TO TRAFFIC SIGNALS IN FAVOUR OF TRAFFIC APPROACHING THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL FROM NATHAN ROAD.

HE SAID THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALL THESE MEASURES WOULD BE MONITORED CLOSELY AND FURTHER MEASURES INTRODUCED AS NECESSARY.

ON THE ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES ALREADY AVAILABLE ALONG THE MTR KOWLOON ROUTE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT SAID THEY INCLUDED SOME 90 BUS, GREEN MINIBUS AND RESIDENTIAL COACH ROUTES SERVING THE MONG KOK AND YAU-TSIM DISTRICTS.

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE KCR SERVICES TO HUNG HOM, NINE FERRY LINKS TO CENTRAL AND 18 CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTES OPERATING THROUGH THE KOWLOON PENINSULA.

SPARE CAPACITY EXISTED ON MOST OF THOSE SERVICES DURING THE RUSH HOURS, MR LEUNG SAID.

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GOVT APPLIES SAME RATING RULES TO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC TENEMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT APPLIES THE SAME PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS OF CALCULATING THE RATEABLE VALUE OF BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOUSING PREMISES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SZETO WAH, SIR PIERS SAID UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION WAS REQUIRED TO ASCERTAIN THE RATEABLE VALUE OF A TENEMENT.

"IN DISCHARGING THIS RESPONSIBILITY, THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF APPLY THE SAME PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS TO ALL RESIDENTIAL PREMISES THAT ARE TO BE ASSESSED TO RATES, INCLUDING PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS, HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS AND PRIVATE PREMISES," HE STRESSED.

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4,000 SQUATTERS TO BE CLEARED BY YEAR'S END

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THE GOVERNMENT AIMS TO CLEAR AND REHOUSE, BY AROUND THE END OF THIS YEAR, ABOUT 4,000 SQUATTERS IN EAST AND WEST KOWLOON AND NORTH AND SOUTH OF HONG KONG ISLAND WHO LIVE ON STEEP SLOPES THAT ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO LANDSLIPS IN HEAVY RAINSTORMS.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON MARTIN LEWIS, SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/IN ADDITION .....

IN ADDITION THERE WERE ABOUT 1,100 SQUATTERS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES LIVING ON STEEP AND VULNERABLE SLOPES. MOST LIVED ON PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND, WHICH WAS ONLY CLEARED WHEN THE LAND IS NEEDED.

"THESE STEEP SLOPES THAT HOUSE SQUATTERS ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE IN HEAVY RAIN, BECAUSE INSTABILITY (AND THEREFORE THE RISK) IS OFTEN AGGRAVATED BY INDISCRIMINATE SLOPE-CUTTING AND BY THE LACK OF ADEQUATE DRAINAGE.

"IN ADDITION, THE FLIMSINESS OF THE DWELLINGS AND THEIR POOR FOUNDATION WORKS DO NOT AFFORD GOOD PROTECTION."

HE SAID A LANDSLIP WARNING SYSTEM PROVIDED SQUATTERS WITH ADEQUATE WARNING OF THE PROBABLE OCCURRENCE OF LANDSLIPS ON STEEP HILLSIDES.

"WHERE NECESSARY, PEOPLE ARE URGED THROUGH RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS TO TAKE REFUGE IN TEMPORARY SHELTERS PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICES.

"SQUATTERS ARE IMMEDIATELY EVACUATED WHEN THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THEY FACE IMMINENT DANGER," HE ADDED.

WITH REGARD TO THE FOUR SQUATTER AREAS IN LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING, SHUN LEE AND YAU TONG, MR LEWIS SAID NEARLY ALL SQUATTERS HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE WORST SLOPES.

"HARDLY ANY REMAIN IN LAM TIN AND YAU TONG, AND THE REMAINDER WILL BE CLEARED THIS SUMMER.

"THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN PARTIAL CLEARANCES IN THE SHUN LEE AND SAU MAU PING AREAS, AND MORE ARE EXPECTED NEXT YEAR.

"AS LONG AS THEY LIVE ON THESE SLOPES, ALL SQUATTERS SHOULD FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE NOTES PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICES ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES THEY SHOULD TAKE BEFORE AND DURING RAINSTORM, SUCH AS MAINTENANCE OF SLOPES; DIVERSION OF WATER; AND ACTION TO BE TAKEN DURING RAINSTORMS AND WHEN THE LANDSLIP WARNING IS ISSUED," HE SAID.

REGARDING BUILDINGS CLASSIFIED AS CATEGORIES I, II AND III BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, MR LEWIS SAID: "THERE ARE 210 IN CATEGORY I - THOSE BUILDINGS SEEN EXTERNALLY TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION, REQUIRING EARLY ACTION.

"ALL HAVE BEEN INSPECTED, AND REPAIR ORDERS HAVE BEEN SERVED ON THE OWNERS OF 193 BUILDINGS. THE REMAINING 17 BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN SERVED WITH ORDERS FOR DEMOLITION.

"THERE ARE SOME 16,700 BUILDINGS IN CATEGORY II - THOSE BUILDINGS ADJUDGED TO BE IN A SUSPECT CONDITION, REQUIRING A DETAILED SURVEY.

"SOME 2,590 HAVE BEEN INSPECTED, AND REPAIR ORDERS SERVED ON THE OWNERS OF 1,381 BUILDINGS, A FURTHER 46 BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN SERVED CLOSURE ORDERS FOR DEMOLITION.

"CATEGORY III BUILDINGS DO NOT POSE A PROBLEM AT PRESENT. THEY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE IN A REASONABLE CONDITION AND UNLIKELY TO REQUIRE ANY MAJOR ACTION WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

"ALMOST ALL THESE BUILDINGS ARE GENERALLY LOCATED IN THE OLDER PARTS OF THE URBAN AREA, SUCH AS TO KWA WAN, MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON CITY, SHEUNG WAN, SAI YUNG PUN AND WAN CHAI."

MR LEWIS SAID THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE HAD A 24 HOUR STAND-BY SYSTEM TO DEAL WITH EMERGENCIES IN PRIVATE BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"THE SYSTEM IS AIMED AT REMOVING DANGER TO RESIDENTS OR THE GENERAL PUBLIC EITHER BY URGENT ON-SITE CORRECTIVE TREATMENT OR BY EVACUATING THE RESIDENTS OF THE BUILDINGS ON A TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT BASIS," HE ADDED.

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VM'S NOT AFFECTING PUBLIC IN HOSPITAL USES

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THE PROVISION OF HOSPITAL SERVICES IN GENERAL TO THE LOCAL PUBLIC HAS NOT BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED NOTWITHSTANDING THE USE OF SOME OF THE FACILITIES BY VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES HAD BEEN MET BY FLEXIBLE RE-DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES AND RE-DISTRIBUTION OF CASELOADS WITHIN THE TERRITORY'S HOSPITAL SYSTEM.

THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS OCCUPIED 30,925 BED-DAYS, OR 5.8 PER CENT OF THE AVAILABLE BED-DAYS IN THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL AND FANLING HOSPITAL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES EAST REGION LAST YEAR.

THEY ALSO ACCOUNTED FOR 3.8 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS IN THESE HOSPITALS.

"PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WAS THE ONLY HOSPITAL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES EAST REGION WHICH PROVIDED AN OBSTETRIC SERVICE.

"IN 1990, 1,720 VBP (VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE) BABIES WERE BORN THERE.

"THIS REPRESENTS SOME 20.8 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DELIVERIES IN THE HOSPITAL, OR 14 PER CENT OF THE AVAILABLE BED-DAYS IN ITS OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY DEPARTMENT," MRS WONG SAID.

HOWEVER, MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES TO VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS HAD UNQUESTIONABLY GENERATED ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON THE AVAILABLE MEDICAL AND NURSING MANPOWER.

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SHE COMMENDED HER COLLEAGUES IN THE HOSPITALS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND PERSEVERANCE IN MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS.

"WHERE PRACTICABLE, ADDITIONAL MANPOWER HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO ALLEVIATE THEIR WORKLOAD AND WE ARE EXPLORING FURTHER MEASURES FOR RELIEF," SHE ADDED.

AS REGARDS THE COST OF PROVIDING MEDICAL SERVICES TO VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT SPENT ABOUT \$123 MILLION IN 1990/91.

"THIS INCLUDES THE OPERATING COSTS OF HOSPITAL BEDS OCCUPIED BY THEM, THE TREATMENT OFFERED AND THE VARIOUS IMMUNISATION AND CLINIC SERVICES PROVIDED.

"\$5 MILLION OF SUCH COSTS IS RECOVERABLE FROM UNHCR," SHE ADDED.

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RELIEF OF CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL CONGESTION  
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXAMINING A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE PASSAGE TAX IN ORDER TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TIEN, MR LEUNG SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS ONE OF THE MEASURES DISCUSSED AND ENDORSED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC).

THE LEVEL OF TAX PROPOSED MORE THAN EXCEEDED THE PRESENT DAY VALUE OF THE PASSAGE TAX INTRODUCED IN 1984.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS EXAMINING THE TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THIS RECOMMENDATION BEFORE A DECISION COULD BE TAKEN ON WHETHER AND WHEN IT SHOULD BE TAKEN FORWARD.

"AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL BE MONITORING CLOSELY THE EFFECTS OF THE OPENING OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL ON JULY 1, WHICH SHOULD ENCOURAGE GREATER USE OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, THUS REDUCING CONGESTION AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL," MR LEUNG ADDED.

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DRAFT REHABILITATION LAW IN THE PIPELINE

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DRAFT LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (FCC) ON THE REHABILITATION SCHEME UNDER THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS ORDINANCE IS NOW BEING PREPARED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR ASPREY SAID THE LEGISLATION WAS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

HE SAID SINCE THE OMELCO STANDING PANEL ON SECURITY WAS CONSULTED IN NOVEMBER 1989, THE FCC HAD MET A NUMBER OF TIMES TO REVIEW THE REHABILITATION SCHEME.

IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THE FCC COMPLETED THE REVIEW AND AGREED ON A PACKAGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS, MR ASPREY NOTED.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED EXTENDING THE SCHEME TO COVER PERSONS WHO ON FIRST CONVICTION WERE SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN THREE MONTHS, OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000.

IT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS CONVICTED OF TRIAD-RELATED OFFENCES, BUT WHO HAD RENOUNCED THEIR MEMBERSHIP UNDER THE TRIAD RENUNCIATION SCHEME, SHOULD QUALIFY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE REHABILITATION SCHEME PROVIDED THEY MET THE OTHER CRITERIA FOR THE SCHEME, HE ADDED.

THE FCC ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT PAYMENTS UNDER THE FIXED PENALTY SCHEME, OTHER MINOR ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES, AND NON-RECORDABLE OFFENCES SHOULD NOT BE CLASSIFIED AS CONVICTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME.

FURTHER, EXCLUSION FROM THE SCHEME SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO APPLICATIONS TO BECOME SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS OR CONTROLLERS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND TO STAFF OF THE ICAC AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE STAFF OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION, MR ASPREY SAID.

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HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OFFERS DIFFERENT RENUMERATION PACKAGE

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CIVIL SERVANTS WHO OPT TO JOIN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL NOT BE GIVEN A SIMILAR TREATMENT AS THOSE TO THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL -- A SIGN-UP BONUS EQUIVALENT TO THREE MONTHS' SUBSTANTIVE SALARY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RONALD CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO COMPARE THE TWO PACKAGES BECAUSE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TWO EXERCISES WERE DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT.

THESE DIFFERENCES WERE IN THE BACKGROUNDS, THE POLICY OBJECTIVES, THE TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS, AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS WHICH THE TWO ORGANISATIONS OFFERED TO STAFF, SHE ADDED.

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BILL TO ABOLISH DISTINCTION BETWEEN FELONIES AND MISDEMEANOURS

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (FELONIES AND MISDEMEANOURS) BILL 1991 IS DESIGNED TO ABOLISH A PURELY FORMAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN TWO CLASSES OF OFFENCES, FELONIES AND MISDEMEANOURS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE VERY EARLY DAYS OF ENGLISH LEGAL HISTORY, CERTAIN SERIOUS OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON AND PROPERTY WERE CONSIDERED TO BE SO HEINOUS AS TO WARRANT PROSECUTION BY THE SOVEREIGN WITH SPECIAL FORMS OF PROCEDURE.

THESE OFFENCES WERE CALLED FELONIES AND INCLUDED MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER, HOUSEBREAKING, RAPE AND LARCENY. THEY WERE ALL PUNISHABLE WITH DEATH AND CONFISCATION OF ALL PROPERTY.

OTHER LESSER CRIMES NOT CARRYING THE DEATH PENALTY WERE PROSECUTED UNDER LESS RIGOROUS PROCEDURES AND WERE KNOWN AS MISDEMEANOURS.

LAW REFORMS IN THE 19TH CENTURY IN ENGLAND REMOVED THE DEATH PENALTY FOR ALL FELONIES EXCEPT MURDER, AND MOST OF THE FORFEITURE PROVISIONS ATTACHING TO CONVICTION OF FELONY WERE ALSO REMOVED.

AT THE SAME TIME, SOME OF THE PROCEDURAL FEATURES OF TRIALS OF FELONIES WERE AMELIORATED SO THAT TRIAL OF FELONIES BEGAN TO RESEMBLE TRIAL OF MISDEMEANOURS.

/THE DISTINCTION .....

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE TWO CLASSES OF OFFENCES WAS ABOLISHED IN ENGLAND AND WALES BY THE ENACTMENT OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ACT 1967 WHICH IMPLEMENTED THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE CRIMINAL LAW REVISION COMMITTEE.

AS THE COMMITTEE REMARKED, MR MATHEWS SAID, THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN FELONIES AND MISDEMEANOURS HAD BECOME "ARCHAIC" AND "COMPLICATED THE LAW UNNECESSARILY" BECAUSE MANY SERIOUS OFFENCES WERE MISDEMEANOURS BUT THERE WERE SOME FELONIES WHICH WERE RELATIVELY MINOR OFFENCES.

MR MATHEWS SAID IN 1986, A WORKING PARTY WAS APPOINTED BY HIS PREDECESSOR TO REVIEW THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE GENERALLY.

THE WORKING PARTY OBSERVED THAT THE CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENCES AS BEING EITHER FELONIES OR MISDEMEANOURS IN HONG KONG APPEARED TO BE DEFUNCT AND SERVED NO USEFUL PURPOSE.

IN MAY 1987, THE WORKING PARTY PRODUCED A REPORT RECOMMENDING THAT THE DISTINCTION BE ABOLISHED.

A THOROUGH SEARCH THROUGH THE WHOLE OF THE LAWS OF HONG KONG WAS THEN INSTITUTED IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY PROVISIONS WHICH EITHER SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO FELONIES AND MISDEMEANOURS OR DEPENDED UPON A DISTINCTION BEING MADE BETWEEN THEM.

THE SEARCH WAS COMPLETED LAST YEAR WHEN THE BILINGUAL LAWS INFORMATION SYSTEM ON THE ORDINANCES OF HONG KONG WAS SET UP, THUS ENABLING THE BILL TO BE DRAFTED.

MR MATHEWS SAID ABOLITION OF THE DISTINCTION WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIMPLIFY AND MODERNISE THE CRIMINAL LAW WHILE ELIMINATING A DISTINCTION WHICH NO LONGER SERVED ANY USEFUL PURPOSE.

CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL WOULD EFFECT THE ABOLITION OF THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN FELONY AND MISDEMEANOUR AND PROVIDE THAT THE LAW AND PRACTICE APPLICABLE TO OFFENCES HITHERTO DESCRIBED AS MISDEMEANOURS SHOULD IN FUTURE APPLY IN THE CASE OF EVERY OFFENCE.

CLAUSE 3 WAS A GENERAL ADAPTATION PROVISION WHICH REPLACED THE CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENCES AS FELONY OR MISDEMEANOUR IN LEGISLATION WITH THE SINGLE TERM "OFFENCES".

THERE WERE THREE SCHEDULES TO THE BILL WHICH PROVIDED FOR AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ORDINANCES AS A RESULT OF THE ABOLITION OF THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN FELONY AND MISDEMEANOUR.

FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE PROVISIONS IN THE SCHEDULES, WHICH WERE TECHNICAL IN NATURE, WOULD BE INTRODUCED AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 INTRODUCED  
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A BILL TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE BONDS, PROMISSORY NOTES OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS IN A PAPERLESS FORM WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, POINTED OUT THAT IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH EARLIER THIS YEAR, HE HAD SAID A WELL STRUCTURED AND MANAGED BORROWING PROGRAMME THROUGH THE ISSUE OF SHORT-TERM GOVERNMENT BONDS WOULD NOW BE APPROPRIATE FOR HONG KONG.

HE HAD ALSO ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO START THE PROGRAMME OF GOVERNMENT BONDS WITH ISSUES OF TWO OR THREE YEAR MATURITIES.

"THE SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS MARKET POINTS CLEARLY TO THE ADVANTAGE OF A PAPERLESS MARKET," SIR PIERS SAID.

HE SAID THE COMPUTERISED REGISTER OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS MADE TRANSFER OF BILLS BETWEEN ACCOUNTS QUICKER.

AS A RESULT, AN ACTIVE AND HENCE LIQUID MARKET WAS CREATED. THAT, IN TURN, LOWERED BORROWING COSTS, HE CONTINUED.

"IT IS BOTH COST-EFFECTIVE AND LOGICAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT BONDS TO BE ISSUED IN PAPERLESS FORM," SIR PIERS SAID.

"MARKETS FOR GOVERNMENT DEBT IN LEADING FINANCIAL CENTRES ARE GRADUALLY MOVING TO PAPERLESS SYSTEMS."

HOWEVER, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE PROCEEDS OF THE BORROWING PROGRAMME WOULD BE USED ONLY FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, BE BORROWING TO FUND RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

SIR PIERS SAID THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO EMPOWER HIM TO EXCLUDE AGREEMENTS RELATED TO THE BONDS, PROMISSORY NOTES OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS FROM THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT THAT A COPY OF A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND A LENDER BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"WITHOUT THIS AMENDMENT, A DOCUMENT SETTING OUT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH THE BONDS ARE ISSUED AND THE NAMES OF THE SUBSCRIBERS AND DETAILS OF THEIR BIDS WOULD HAVE TO BE LAID BEFORE THIS COUNCIL," HE SAID.

"FOR COMMERCIAL REASONS, POTENTIAL SUBSCRIBERS WILL NOT WISH TO MAKE SUCH INFORMATION PUBLIC, AND THIS WOULD INHIBIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BONDS PROGRAMME," SIR PIERS ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MOTIONS PASSED TO UPKEEP CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS' PURCHASING POWER  
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TWO MOTIONS WERE PASSED UNDER THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) ORDINANCE AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (INCREASE) ORDINANCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO MAINTAIN THE ORIGINAL PURCHASING POWER OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS.

MOVING THE MOTION UNDER THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID A PENSION INCREASE OF 10.43 PER CENT WAS TO BE AWARDED WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

THE TOTAL COST OF INCREASING ALL PENSIONS BY THIS PERCENTAGE IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$135.3 MILLION FOR A FULL YEAR.

SIR PIERS SAID THIS WAS A STATUTORY CHARGE WHICH MIGHT BE AUTHORISED BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE APPROPRIATE ORDINANCES.

SIR PIERS SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED POLICY TO MAINTAIN THE ORIGINAL PURCHASING POWER OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS, INCLUDING PENSIONS PAYABLE UNDER THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION SCHEME AND UNDER THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME.

"THIS IS ACHIEVED BY PERIODIC PENSION ADJUSTMENTS IN LINE WITH MOVEMENTS IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)," HE SAID.

DURING THE LATEST REVIEW PERIOD FROM APRIL 1 LAST YEAR TO MARCH 31 THIS YEAR, THE MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 13.8 POINTS WHICH WAS EQUIVALENT TO 10.43 PER CENT, SIR PIERS EXPLAINED.

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MOTION TO RAISE AIRPORT TAX FOR ADULT PASSED  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX FOR AN ADULT AND EXEMPT CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE FROM PAYING THE TAX.

MOVING THE MOTION UNDER THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS SAID THE TAX INCREASE FOR AN ADULT WAS FROM \$100 TO \$150.

"THE ADDITIONAL REVENUE IS ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY \$390 MILLION PER ANNUM," SIR PIERS SAID, ADDING THAT THERE WERE NO STAFFING IMPLICATIONS.

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BILL TO EXEMPT BONDS FROM STAMP DUTY INTRODUCED  
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THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991 SEEKS TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "STOCK" IN THE STAMP DUTY ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO EXEMPT BONDS ISSUED UNDER THE LOANS ORDINANCE FROM STAMP DUTY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS SAID THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PREVIOUS PRACTICE THAT SUCH EXEMPTION WAS ALLOWED FOR GOVERNMENT BONDS AND THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS.

POTENTIAL LOSS TO REVENUE RESULTING FROM THE EXEMPTION COULD NOT BE ESTIMATED AT THIS STAGE, BUT IT WAS NOT EXPECTED TO BE SIGNIFICANT, SIR PIERS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE BILL HAD NO STAFFING IMPLICATIONS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL INTRODUCED  
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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1991 SEEKS TO EXEMPT FROM TAX ANY INTEREST OR PROFITS ARISING FROM BONDS ISSUED UNDER THE LOANS ORDINANCE.

MOVING THE BILL FOR SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE PREVIOUS PRACTICE THAT SUCH EXEMPTIONS WERE ALLOWED FOR GOVERNMENT BONDS AND THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS.

"POTENTIAL LOSS TO REVENUE RESULTING FROM PROFITS TAX EXEMPTIONS CANNOT BE ESTIMATED AT THIS STAGE, BUT IT IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE SIGNIFICANT.

"THE BILL HAS NO STAFFING IMPLICATIONS," SIR PIERS ADDED.

DEBATE ON THIS BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1991

- 21 -

EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 INTRODUCED

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THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 INTRODUCES A PROVISION WHICH ENABLES A PERSON TO TEACH WHILE HIS APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION IS BEING PROCESSED, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON CHRISTINE CHOW, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

UNDER SECTION 87 OF THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE, IT IS AN OFFENCE FOR ANY PERSON WHO IS NOT A REGISTERED OR PERMITTED TEACHER TO TEACH IN A SCHOOL.

"THE PERSON WHO EMPLOYS OR PERMITS HIM TO TEACH ALSO COMMITS AN OFFENCE," MISS CHOW SAID.

MISS CHOW POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD BEEN THE ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW A PROSPECTIVE TEACHER TO TEACH WHILE HIS APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION WAS BEING PROCESSED.

"THIS IS BECAUSE TEACHING VACANCIES OFTEN OCCUR AT SHORT NOTICE AND IT IS DESIRABLE ON EDUCATIONAL GROUNDS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF REPLACEMENT TEACHERS TO COMMENCE WITHOUT DELAY.

"HOWEVER, THE CURRENT PRACTICE IS TECHNICALLY IN BREACH OF THE PROVISION UNDER THE ORDINANCE," SHE SAID.

MISS CHOW SAID THE BILL REMOVED THE ANOMALY BY INTRODUCING A DEEMING PROVISION WHICH ENABLED A PERSON TO TEACH WHILE HIS APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION WAS BEING PROCESSED.

"IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT THE PROPOSED NEW ARRANGEMENT, THE PERIOD OF EXEMPTION WILL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AND WILL APPLY ONLY TO FIRST APPLICATIONS," SHE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO TACKLE VTC'S MIXED STAFF PROBLEM INTRODUCED

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY STATUTORY BASIS FOR AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD ENABLE CIVIL SERVANTS WORKING IN THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) ON SECONDMENT TO PRESERVE THEIR PENSION RIGHTS AFTER THE TRANSFER WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL) BILL 1991, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON CHRISTINE CHOW, SAID UNDER THIS "MIXED SERVICE PENSION" ARRANGEMENT, A CIVIL SERVANT'S TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSES OF PENSION ACCRUAL WOULD BE THE SUM OF HIS SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VTC.

/EXPLAINING THE .....

EXPLAINING THE ARRANGEMENT, MISS CHOW SAID WHEN THE VTC WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1982, IT WAS INITIALLY STAFFED BY CIVIL SERVANTS ON SECONDMENT AND, LATER ON, ALSO BY STAFF DIRECTLY RECRUITED BY THE VTC.

"THIS MIXED STAFF SITUATION HAS GIVEN RISE TO DIFFICULT MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS.

"FOLLOWING A REVIEW, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO OFFER A NUMBER OF OPTIONS TO THE CIVIL SERVANTS INVOLVED WITH A VIEW TO ENCOURAGING THEM TO TRANSFER TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE VTC," SHE SAID.

THE "MIXED SERVICE PENSION" ARRANGEMENT WAS ONE OF THE OPTIONS DECIDED, MISS CHOW SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SEVEN MOTIONS, FIVE BILLS PASSED

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TWO MOTIONS MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOUR OTHER MOTIONS MOVED UNDER THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) ORDINANCE, WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (INCREASE) ORDINANCE, AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX ORDINANCE AND RATING ORDINANCE WERE ALSO PASSED.

MEANWHILE, FIVE BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE COUNCIL.

THEY WERE THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, FEES INCREASE (1991 BUDGET) BILL 1991, BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1991, AND STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

THE MOTION FOR THE SECOND READING OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WAS NOT CARRIED, WITH 17 MEMBERS AGAINST, 14 MEMBERS FOR AND NINE MEMBERS ABSTAINED.

IN ADDITION, SEVEN BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.4) BILL 1991, STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1991, ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (FELONIES AND MISDEMEANOURS) BILL 1991, WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, AND PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL) BILL 1991.

DEBATES ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

THE MOTION MOVED BY THE HON NELLIE FONG UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE WAS ALSO PASSED.

THE MOTION READ: "THAT IN RELATION TO THE BUILDINGS (ADMINISTRATION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1991, PUBLISHED AS LEGAL NOTICE NO. 120 OF 1991 AND LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 17 APRIL 1991, THE PERIOD REFERRED TO IN SECTION 34(2) OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE FOR AMENDING SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION BE EXTENDED UNDER SECTION 34(4) OF THAT ORDINANCE UNTIL 5 JUNE 1991".

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## RIGHT TIME TO TRY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS ON AIRPORT PROJECT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME TO TRY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS AND TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN FROM A FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, SIR DAVID SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT HE SHOULD BE BACK IN HONG KONG WHEN THE TALKS ON THE AIRPORT RESUMES ON SATURDAY.

"IT'S THE RIGHT TIME TO BE TRYING TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS ON BOTH SIDES AND TRYING TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WHICH COVERS CHINESE CONCERNS WHEN WE CAN, AND MAKE SURE THAT OUR CONCERNS ARE ALSO DEALT WITH ADEQUATELY, AND THAT WE CAN DO THINGS IN A PRACTICAL, SENSIBLE MANNER AND THE RIGHT OF AUTHORITY TO DO IT," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"ON OUR SIDE WE WANT TO MEET CHINESE CONCERNS WHERE WE CAN BUT WE ALSO NEED TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE PRACTICAL, WHICH ENABLE US TO CARRY OUT A PROJECT, AND ENABLE US TO RETAIN OUR ABILITY AND OUR AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT PROJECTS OF THIS SORT AND THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS TRYING TO IDENTIFY WHERE THE PROBLEM AREAS ARE AND WHERE WE CAN MEET THOSE CONCERNS. THE EXACT DETAILS OF HOW THAT CAN BE DONE MUST, I BELIEVE, BE LEFT TO THE NEGOTIATING TEAM RATHER THAN PLAYED OUT IN THE PUBLIC BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN SIT DOWN ROUND THE TABLE AND DISCUSS IT," HE SAID.

"WE WOULD LIKE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT AS SOON AS WE POSSIBLY CAN. THE PENALTY OF NOT DOING SO IS QUITE SIMPLY THAT THE WHOLE PROJECT GETS DELAYED," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION AT THE MOMENT IS THAT HAVING HAD A PERIOD WHERE WE'VE HAD A LOT OF CRITICAL COMMENT ON THE PROJECT, IF WE WANT THE SORT OF PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT WHICH WE NEED FOR THIS TO BE AN ECONOMIC, SENSIBLE PROJECT FOR HONG KONG, THEN WE WANT TO GET A BENEVOLENT ATTITUDE, SUPPORT FROM CHINA, WHATEVER WORDS YOU WANT TO USE, IN ORDER TO ENABLE THAT TO GO AHEAD," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID HE BELIEVED THAT HIS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA WAS SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING ACROSS THE MESSAGE ABOUT HONG KONG AS A PLACE WHICH STILL HAD A VIBRANT ECONOMY, IN WHICH AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT COULD PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE.

"I WAS VERY STRUCK BY THE AMOUNT OF INTEREST THAT THEY TAKE IN HONG KONG IN AUSTRALIA, THAT COVERS BOTH THE POLITICAL LEVEL, THE BUSINESS LEVEL AND THE MEDIA LEVEL.

"THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN HONG KONG AS A CENTRE FOR TRADE IN ITS OWN RIGHT, BUT INCREASINGLY AS A BASE FOR TRADING INTO CHINA FOR ENTREPOT TRADE. AND INTERESTINGLY A LOT OF BUSINESSMEN SEE THIS AS A LONG-TERM PROSPECT WHICH OF COURSE WAS THE SORT OF THING WHICH I WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS SORRY THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO CONTINUE HIS VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND AND THAT HE WOULD TRY TO RE-INSTATE IT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

PLANS FOR PORT DEVELOPMENT OUTLINED

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HONG KONG'S LONGER TERM PORT DEVELOPMENT PLAN ENVISAGES INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CONTAINER TERMINALS ALONG A MAN-MADE PENINSULA TO BE BUILT AT NORTH EAST LANTAU, EXTENDING SOUTHEAST INTO THE WESTERN HARBOUR, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE FRENCH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, MRS CHAN SAID LATER THIS YEAR THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE APPOINTING CONSULTANTS TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY TO PRODUCE A RECOMMENDED OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE PORT PENINSULA.

"THE POTENTIAL OF THIS AREA COULD WELL TREBLE EXISTING PORT CAPACITY, SO WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT WE RESERVE ENOUGH LAND FOR THERE TO BE A FREIGHT RAIL ACCESS," SHE SAID.

"IN PARALLEL, WE PLAN TO COMMISSION FURTHER STUDIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR, TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR ANCHORAGES, A BREAKWATER BETWEEN LAMMA AND CHEUNG CHAU AND NAVIGATION CHANNELS FROM THE SOUTHERN APPROACHES.

"THESE STUDIES ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF NEXT YEAR, PROVIDING US WITH THE DETAILED PLANS TO TAKE OUR PORT WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY."

REGARDING RECENT PORT DEVELOPMENTS, MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN PROVIDED THE DEVELOPMENT OF TWO NEW FOUR-BERTH CONTAINER TERMINALS -- CONTAINER TERMINAL 8 AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND TERMINAL 9 AT TSING YI.

"THE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR TERMINAL 8 HAVE JUST BEEN GRANTED TO A CONSORTIUM OF EXISTING PORT OPERATORS.

"THESE OPERATORS WILL INCLUDE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPATION FROM CHINESE INTERESTS. THIS REFLECTS THE INCREASING VOLUME OF CHINESE CARGOES USING OUR PORT AND THE GREAT EXPANSION OF THE CHINESE MERCHANT FLEET OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

"WE EXPECT THE FIRST BERTH OF TERMINAL 8 TO BE IN OPERATION BY THE END OF 1993," SHE SAID.

"BY THE END OF 1995, SHOULD CARGO CONTINUE TO GROW AT ITS FORECAST RATE, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE THE FIRST BERTH OF TERMINAL 9 READY FOR USE," SHE ADDED.

SHE SAID TOGETHER WITH TERMINAL 8, THESE NEW FACILITIES WHEN COMPLETED WOULD ALMOST DOUBLE HONG KONG'S EXISTING CONTAINER TERMINAL CAPACITY.

TURNING TO THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD, MRS CHAN SAID IT HAD ALREADY CONDUCTED REVIEWS OF THE PORT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SHIP REPAIR INDUSTRY AND THE FACILITIES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT RIVER TRADE CARGO ACTIVITIES.

/"IT WILL .....

"IT WILL SHORTLY BE REPORTING ON THE FUTURE NEEDS OF MID-STREAM HANDLING, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO CONTAINER TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT," SHE SAID.

TOUCHING ON A PORT-RELATED ISSUE -- THE NEW HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER, MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO EXEMPT OWNERS OF SHIPS REGISTERED IN HONG KONG FROM PROFITS TAX ON INCOME FROM CARGOES UPLIFTED IN HONG KONG.

SHE SAID THIS LIABILITY TO TAX WOULD BE REMOVED JUST AS SOON AS HONG KONG COULD ENACT THE NECESSARY AMENDING LEGISLATION AND THAT THE CHANGE WOULD BE RETROSPECTIVE TO DECEMBER 3, 1990, THE DATE OF INAUGURATION OF THE NEW HONG KONG REGISTER.

"THE LEGISLATION HAS PROVED COMPLEX TO DRAFT BUT WE ARE NEARLY THERE.

"WE INTEND THAT A 'WHITE BILL', WHICH WILL BE A FURTHER FIRM STATEMENT OF OUR INTENT, WOULD BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE THE BILL IS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"I EXPECT THE BILL TO BE PUBLISHED IN MID-JULY 1991," SHE SAID.

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LATEST FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE REPORT RELEASED

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THE BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR A REGULATORY SYSTEM FOR THE LICENSING OF SECURITY COMPANIES AS WELL AS PERSONNEL EMPLOYED IN THE SECURITY INDUSTRY HAS BEEN WORKED OUT, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST REPORT OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (FCC) RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PART ON PERSONNEL COVERED SECURITY OFFICERS (INCLUDING WATCHMEN) AND PERSONS INVOLVED IN DESIGNING, INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING SECURITY DEVICES.

THE REPORT ADDED THAT THE SECURITY AND GUARDING SERVICES BILL WAS NOW AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DRAFTING AND WAS BEING STUDIED IN DETAIL BY THE FCC'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE REGULATION OF THE SECURITY INDUSTRY.

THE FCC REPORT NO. 10 GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF THE WORK OF THE FCC, ITS SUB-COMMITTEES AND THE 19 DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES IN 1990.

IN THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW, THE FCC HAD RECOMMENDED THE EXPANSION OF THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS SCHEME, WITH PROPOSALS TO EXTEND IT TO PERSONS WITH SHORT TERM PRISON SENTENCES AND TO INCREASE THE PRESENT QUALIFYING FINE LEVEL.

WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE FCC, JUDICIAL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN HONG KONG WAS ALSO ABOLISHED FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE OF THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (REPEAL) BILL AND PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER 1990.

DURING THE YEAR, THE FCC CONTINUED TO WORK THROUGH ITS FIVE SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS, NAMELY, THE WORKING GROUP ON GANGS, THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON YOUNG OFFENDERS, RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE, PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE REGULATION OF THE SECURITY INDUSTRY.

ON THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GANGS, THE REPORT SAID IT CONTINUED TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD IN THE DISCUSSION DOCUMENT "OPTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE LAW AND IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW TO COUNTER THE TRIAD PROBLEM".

AMONGST THEM WERE THE ENACTMENT OF THE GAMBLING (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1990 WHICH INTRODUCED HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL GAMBLING, AND THE CRIMES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1990 WHICH WAS AIMED AT MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF NUISANCES ASSOCIATED WITH VICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

ANOTHER ISSUE BEING STUDIED BY THE WORKING GROUP WAS AN AFTERCARE AND SUPERVISION SCHEME FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF OFFENDERS FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ORGANISED CRIME LEGISLATION, THE REPORT SAID A WHITE BILL WAS BEING DRAFTED AND A PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE WOULD BE CONDUCTED.

AS FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON YOUNG OFFENDERS, IT WAS REPORTED THAT A STUDY ON THE SOCIAL CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY WAS BEING PLANNED.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ALSO MONITORED THE WORK OF THE YOUNG OFFENDER ASSESSMENT PANEL AND A REVIEW ON ITS WORK WAS CARRIED OUT AT THE END OF 1990.

IN 1990, THE RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE CONTINUED TO OVERSEE THE DEVELOPMENT AND SETTING UP OF THE INTEGRATED LAW AND ORDER STATISTICAL SYSTEM.

THE REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT A LONG TERM STUDY OF RECIDIVISM AMONG YOUNG OFFENDERS WAS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS. THE SURVEY RESULTS WERE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE TOWARDS THE END OF 1991.

THE ROLE OF THE PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE WAS TO ASSIST THE FCC IN PUBLICISING ITS POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND EFFORTS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MAXIMUM PUBLIC SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME.

IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN, THE FCC DECIDED TO LAUNCH A SPECIAL PUBLICITY DRIVE WITH THEMES ON PREVENTING, REPORTING AND PROVING CRIME IN OCTOBER 1990.

FREE COPIES OF THE FCC REPORT NO. 10 ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR 1990 STARTED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR 1990 HAS JUST COMMENCED.

THE SURVEY IS CONDUCTED ANNUALLY AND REPRESENTS PART OF A CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME IN THE DEPARTMENT TO COMPILE STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

THE AIMS OF THE SURVEY ARE TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE DATA FOR EVALUATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND FOR ASCERTAINING THEIR COST STRUCTURE, OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS AND OUTPUT LEVELS.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ARE USEFUL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FORMULATING POLICIES AND MAKING DECISIONS.

ABOUT 8,100 ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE ENUMERATED IN THE PRESENT ROUND OF THE SURVEY, COVERING THE FOLLOWING ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES : MANUFACTURING; MINING AND QUARRYING; AND ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER.

INFORMATION SOUGHT IN THE SURVEY INCLUDES : TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, ORIGIN OF INVESTMENT, FLOOR AREA, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES (THAT IS, WAGES, SALARIES AND OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS), PAYMENTS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORK AND INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, VALUE OF PURCHASES AND OTHER EXPENSES, SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, AS WELL AS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND STOCKS.

THE SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION) ORDER 1984, WHICH WAS MADE UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 316) AND ISSUED AS LEGAL NOTICE NO. 15 IN THE GAZETTE ON JANUARY 13, 1984.

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN MAILED TO THE ESTABLISHMENTS SAMPLED FOR THE SURVEY. THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT BY JULY 31, 1991.

IF REQUIRED, OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES. THESE OFFICERS WILL CARRY A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD AND A CERTIFICATE FOR CONDUCTING THE SURVEY WHILST ON DUTY, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS APPEALED TO THE MANAGERMENTS OF ALL SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS TO RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES PROMPTLY AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE COURSE OF THE SURVEY, SO AS TO FULFIL THEIR LEGAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

HE STRESSED THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE. ONLY AGGREGATE INFORMATION, WHICH DOES NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS, WILL BE RELEASED.

THE COMMISSIONER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AUDITED ACCOUNTS ARE NOT ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUPPLY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DATA REQUIRED IN THE SURVEY.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS FIGURES BASED ON PRELIMINARY ACCOUNTS OR ESTIMATES WHICH ARE CORRECT TO THE BEST OF THE RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THE RETURNS, IF AUDITED ACCOUNTS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 839 3230 OR 805 6441.

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#### CIGARETTE TAR LEVEL UP

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THE LATEST GOVERNMENT TEST ON CIGARETTES HAS FOUND THAT THE AVERAGE TAR YIELDS AND NICOTINE YIELDS OF 107 BRANDS OF BEST-SELLING CIGARETTES IN HONG KONG HAVE BOTH GONE UP.

THE HALF-YEARLY TEST ALSO IDENTIFIED ONE HIGH-TAR BRAND OF CIGARETTE.

"THIS TREND IS WORRYING AS THE INCREASE IN TAR AND NICOTINE LEVELS MAKES CIGARETTE SMOKING EVEN MORE HAZARDOUS," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW OF TAR AND NICOTINE YIELDS OF CIGARETTES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE AVERAGE TAR YIELDS AMONG THE 107 BRANDS OF BEST SELLING CIGARETTES HAS INCREASED BY 0.4 MG PER CIGARETTE WHILE THE AVERAGE NICOTINE LEVEL HAS GONE UP BY 0.01 MG PER CIGARETTE WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS TEST.

IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE, STARTING FROM THIS REVIEW, TESTS ARE ALSO CONDUCTED ON THE LESS POPULAR BRANDS OF CIGARETTES.

"IF LESS POPULAR BRANDS ARE INCLUDED, THE NUMBER OF BRANDS IN THE HIGH TAR CATEGORY WOULD BE SIX," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF BRANDS OF VARIOUS TAR GROUPS BETWEEN THE CURRENT AND PREVIOUS SURVEY HAS REMAINED BASICALLY THE SAME.

A FULL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FINDINGS ON TAR AND NICOTINE YIELDS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST EDITION OF THE "CHOICE" MAGAZINE.

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## NO PROPOSALS YET FOR CIVIL SERVICE PAY

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COMMENTING ON PRESS REPORTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ABOUT A PROPOSED PAY RISE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE ON THE LEVEL OF ADJUSTMENT.

HE SAID THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE HAD COMPLETED A PAY TREND SURVEY ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR BUT THIS WAS JUST THE BEGINNING OF A SERIES OF STEPS THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN BEFORE A DECISION WAS REACHED.

"THE FIGURES QUOTED ARE ONLY THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF PAY TRENDS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THEY HAVE YET TO BE FORMALLY ACCEPTED BY THE PAY TREND SURVEY COMMITTEE WHICH COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STANDING COMMISSION, THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES, STAFF COUNCILS AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

"THE RELEVANT STAFF COUNCILS WILL THEN BE INVITED TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS ON THE PAY ADJUSTMENT. THEIR VIEWS WILL BE CONSIDERED BEFORE A SUBMISSION IS FINALLY PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL."

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE PAY TREND INDICATORS WERE ONLY ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN REACHING A DECISION ON THE LEVEL OF PAY ADJUSTMENT.

"OTHER FACTORS ALSO TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ARE THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY, BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS AND THE COST OF LIVING," HE ADDED.

"THE DECISION ON PAY ADJUSTMENT WILL NEED TO BALANCE THE INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND CIVIL SERVANTS, HAVING REGARD TO PREVAILING ECONOMIC AND BUDGETARY CONDITIONS," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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HKEF

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	14.5.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	15.5.91	+40
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-40
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.1 \*-0.3\* 15.5.91

/HONG KONG .....

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
91-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEI

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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Q115	10.7.91	350	+130
Q116	17.7.91	350	+130
Q117	24.7.91	338.5	+141.5
Q118	31.7.91	450	+30
Q119	7.8.91	415	+65
Q120	14.8.91	380	+100
Q108	22.5.91	540	-60
Q109	29.5.91	610	-130
Q110	5.6.91	310	+170
Q111	12.6.91	404	+76
Q112	19.6.91	620	-140
Q113	26.6.91	460	+20
Q114	3.7.91	500	-20

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
182-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEJ

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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H164	13.11.91	140	+120
H003	29.5.91	200	+60
H004	12.6.91	250	+10
H005	26.6.91	230	+30
H101	10.7.91	143	+117
H156	24.7.91	150	+110
H157	7.8.91	189.5	+70.5
H158	21.8.91	140	+120
H159	4.9.91	150	+110
H160	18.9.91	130	+130
H161	2.10.91	90	+170
H162	17.10.91	54	+206
H163	30.10.91	217.5	+42.5

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
364-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEK

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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Y187	26.2.92	230	+30
Y188	25.3.92	180	+80
Y189	22.4.92	190	+70

AVERAGE DAILY TRANSFER FOR WEEK ENDING 10.5.91 WAS 3,882 MN

REGIMENTAL BAND ENTHRALS STUDENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

A CONCERT BY THE BAND OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF WALES AT ST PAUL'S CONVENT SCHOOL (PRIMARY SECTION) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WAS WELL RECEIVED BY AN AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 500 STUDENTS.

UNDER ITS CONDUCTOR, WARRANT OFFICER PHILIP SHANNON, THE BAND PERFORMED A SERIES OF UNIQUE AND POPULAR PIECES INCLUDING "RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK", "THE HAPPY ELEPHANT", "ONE FINGER POLKA" AND "THE HUNTSMAN".

TO ADD COLOUR TO THE CONCERT, THE REGIMENTAL MASCOT TAFFY III STOOD GUARD AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CONCERT VENUE TO GREET THE CHILDREN.

THE MASCOT IS A BEAUTIFUL KASHMIR GOAT GRANTED TO THE REGIMENT BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

THE CONCERT WAS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE UNDER THE "MUSIC FOR THE MILLIONS" (MFM) PROGRAMME TO INTRODUCE MUSIC TO NEW AUDIENCES.

THE MUSIC OFFICE HAS SO FAR ORGANISED MORE THAN 4,900 CONCERTS FOR OVER THREE MILLION LISTENERS OF DIFFERENT AGES AND BACKGROUNDS.

A MUSIC OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE OFFICE HAD INVITED THE REGIMENTAL BAND TO JOIN THE MFM PROGRAMME.

"THE BAND WILL GIVE A SERIES OF SCHOOL CONCERTS IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE VIVID PERFORMANCE OF THE INSTRUMENTALISTS IN THEIR SPLENDID UNIFORMS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE WELCOMED BY THE CHILDREN," HE ADDED.

THE BAND, CURRENTLY STATIONED AT STANLEY FORT, WILL BE IN HONG KONG UNTIL 1993. IT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR MANY YEARS.

IN RECENT YEARS THE BAND HAS TOURED EXTENSIVELY IN EUROPE, AND HAS GIVEN CONCERTS IN GERMANY, LUXEMBOURG, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE AND BELGIUM.