



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

PURPOSES OF TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BILL OUTLINED	1
BILL AIMED AT MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE	3
SECURITIES DISCLOSURE BILL HAS FIVE MAIN FEATURES	6
PROVISION FOR ELECTORAL FUNDING	9
AMENDMENTS SUPPORTED	10
BILLS TO IMPROVE HK'S PRUDENTIAL CONTROL SUPPORTED	11
PURPOSE OF AUDIT AMENDMENT BILL EXPLAINED	13
MOVE TO FACILITATE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION	14
FOUR BILLS PASSED	14
MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PROTECT WILDLIFE RESERVE	15
POLICE AWARE OF HOLIDAY HOUSE PROBLEMS	16
BACKGROUND RADIATION LEVELS: NO OBSERVABLE IMPACT ON HEALTH	17
16 ACCIDENTS ON CYCLE TRACK	18
UNPAID WAGES: MEETING HELD ON LEGAL REMEDIES	19
1991 LIKELY DATE FOR FORM 6 COMPUTER STUDIES	21
WIDER USE OF FLEXTIME ENCOURAGED	22
COST OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL GRADUATE TEACHER	23
HOSTELS FOR STREET SLEEPERS UNDER STUDY	23
STEPS TO COMBAT NULLAH POLLUTION OUTLINED	25
LORD GLENARTHUR TO VISIT HK	27
STRIVING FOR BETTER PLANNING IN CULTURE AND RECREATION	27
FOOD SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS, FOOD TRADERS TOLD	29
CARE IN COMMUNITY FOR THE ELDERLY	30
SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT ON SALE	31
TENDER FOR GOVERNMENT LAND AND FORESHORE	32
NORTH DISTRICT HAS VAST DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL: DO	33
BOARD TO DISCUSS YOUTH POLICY AND UC WORK PROGRAMME	35
TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD	35
URBAN CLEARWAY ON KENNEDY ROAD, WAN CHAI	36
TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE ON TUEN MUN ROAD FOR ROAD WORKS	36
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SEYMOUR ROAD	36

PURPOSES OF TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BILL OUTLINED

* * * * *

THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BILL 1988, WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE STATUTORY EFFECT TO THE TUNNEL FRANCHISE AND TO DETERMINE THE OBLIGATIONS THAT THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL COMPANY MUST PERFORM, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR LEUNG SAID THE TUNNEL WOULD BE FINANCED AND CONSTRUCTED BY THE COMPANY FORMED BY A CONSORTIUM OF BRITISH, CHINESE, JAPANESE AND LOCAL BUSINESS INTERESTS.

IN RETURN, THE COMPANY WOULD BE GIVEN A FRANCHISE TO OPERATE THE TUNNEL FOR 30 YEARS FROM THE START OF CONSTRUCTION.

THE BILL ALSO STIPULATED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD OF THE TUNNEL WOULD BE 37 MONTHS.

MR LEUNG SAID THE BILL HAD 11 PARTS AND WAS MODELLED ON THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING ORDINANCE.

PARTS I TO V DEALT WITH THE LENGTH OF THE FRANCHISE, THE COMPANY STRUCTURE AND THE METHOD BY WHICH THE COMPANY SHOULD PAY ROYALTIES TO GOVERNMENT, MR LEUNG SAID.

THE RATE OF ROYALTY WAS 2.5 PER CENT OF OPERATING RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS AND FIVE PER CENT THEREAFTER. IN ADDITION, THE COMPANY SHOULD PAY A FURTHER ROYALTY IF THE NET OPERATING RECEIPT EXCEEDED THE AMOUNT PROJECTED.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPOINT TWO DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD OF THE COMPANY.

PARTS VI AND VII PROVIDED FOR THE REMEDY OF DEFECTS BY THE COMPANY AND ITS OBLIGATION TO KEEP THE TUNNEL IN A STATE OF REPAIR TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS.

THEY ALSO EMPOWERED THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SAFE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE TUNNEL, AND TO TAKE OVER THE TUNNEL IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SECURITY.

THEY ALSO PROVIDED THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT POWER TO INSPECT THE TUNNEL AND FOR BY-LAWS TO BE DRAWN UP AND APPLIED IN THE TUNNEL AREA, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PART VIII DEALT WITH TOLLS, AND MR LEUNG SAID, THE BILL SPECIFIED A TOLL REVIEW MECHANISM.

"ANY TOLL INCREASE WILL NEED THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND WILL NOT BE GRANTED AS LONG AS THE TUNNEL COMPANY REMAINS REASONABLY REMUNERATIVE," HE SAID.

/"THE INITIAL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 2 -

"THE INITIAL TOLLS, RANGING FROM \$4 FOR PRIVATE CARS TO \$8 FOR HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, ARE SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULE.

"THIS CAN ONLY BE VARIED WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, FAILING WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANY MAY SEEK ARBITRATION."

PART X CONTAINED AN IMPORTANT PROVISION FOR THE REVOCATION OF THE FRANCHISE IF THE COMPANY WAS IN DEFAULT.

HE SAID IT PUT DOWN, IN DETAIL, THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE COMPANY WOULD BE REGARDED AS BEING IN DEFAULT AS WELL AS THE PROCEDURES WHICH HAVE TO BE GONE THROUGH BEFORE THE COMPANY'S FRANCHISE COULD BE REVOKED.

REVOCATION WOULD BE THE ULTIMATE SANCTION AGAINST THE COMPANY IF IT FAILED TO FULFILL ITS PRIMARY OBLIGATIONS.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WOULD FORM A VITAL NEW LINK BETWEEN THE FAST DEVELOPING NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES AND URBAN KOWLOON AND WOULD BRING LONG-TERM RELIEF TO TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

"IT WILL STRETCH FROM SIU LIK YUEN IN SHA TIN TO DIAMOND HILL IN KOWLOON. ITS LENGTH IS 3.9 KM, THE LONGEST IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"IT WILL ALSO FORM PART OF A GREATER NETWORK LINKING THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, ALL THE WAY TO TOLO HIGHWAY.

"WHILE THIS \$2 BILLION PROJECT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, GOVERNMENT WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY CONSTRUCT THE OTHER PARTS OF THIS GREATER NETWORK.

"THESE INCLUDE, ON THE KOWLOON SIDE, THE KWUN TONG BYPASS AND THE PRINCE EDWARD ROAD INTERCHANGE AND, ON THE SHA TIN SIDE, A NEW BRIDGE ACROSS SHING MUN RIVER, THE T5 HIGHWAY AND THE APPROACH ROADS TO THE NORTHERN PORTAL OF THE TUNNEL."

MR LEUNG SAID THAT BY PRIVATISING THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT, FUNDS COULD BE RELEASED FOR OTHER IMPORTANT CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE CARRIED OUT AT A LATER DATE.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO RECEIVE ROYALTY PAYMENTS FROM THE COMPANY WHEN IT BEGAN OPERATION.

REFERRING TO THE KEEN RESPONSE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHEN THE GOVERNMENT INVITED PROPOSALS FOR THE PROJECT IN MAY LAST YEAR, MR LEUNG SAID ALL THE SIX PROPOSALS RECEIVED WERE OF HIGH QUALITY, OFFERING ATTRACTIVE TERMS.

/THE GOVERNMENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 3 -

THE GOVERNMENT SET OUT TO EVALUATE THESE PROPOSALS AND TO NEGOTIATE A DEAL WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF MAXIMISING THE BENEFIT TO TUNNEL USERS IN THE FORM OF A LOW INITIAL TOLL AND A STABLE TOLL STRUCTURE.

OTHER MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDED A SHORT CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, SOUND ENGINEERING DESIGN, PROVEN CONSTRUCTION METHOD AND RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR WORKS.

MR LEUNG BELIEVED THAT THE PACKAGE FINALLY ARRIVED AT WAS ONE WHICH CONFORMED THE MOST TO THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SET OUT TO ACHIEVE.

HE SAID THAT ONE PARTICULAR POINT WHICH MERITED SPECIAL MENTION WAS THE SHORT CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

"THE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN 37 MONTHS, ALMOST ONE YEAR EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED. ON THE BASIS THAT THE COMPANY CAN START WORK IN JULY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, THE TUNNEL WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC USE IN AUGUST 1991," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL AIMED AT MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE

* * * * *

THE NOISE CONTROL BILL 1988 WILL BRING ABOUT MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE BILL WAS A CONSOLIDATION OF PIECEMEAL CONTROLS AT PRESENT CONTAINED IN DIFFERENT ORDINANCES, WHILE THE CURRENT SCOPE OF NOISE CONTROL HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED.

THE BILL DEALT WITH FOUR MAIN TYPES OF NOISE:

- * NOISE FROM DOMESTIC PREMISES AND PUBLIC PLACES (GENERAL NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE);
- * CONSTRUCTION NOISE AND PILING;
- * NOISE FROM INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL PREMISES; AND
- * NOISE FROM INDIVIDUAL ITEMS OF PLANT OR EQUIPMENT.

"AT PRESENT, PROVISIONS TO CONTROL GENERAL NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE ARE CONTAINED IN THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

/"THESE PROVISIONS

[Typographical error in the original document]

UNCHANGED AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENFORCED BY THE POLICE."

ON CONSTRUCTION NOISE, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE PRESENT PERMIT SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING WORK AT NIGHT, BETWEEN 7 PM AND 7 AM, AND ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS WOULD BE RETAINED.

THE CONTROLS WOULD, HOWEVER, BE EXTENDED TO COVER PRESCRIBED TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION WORK WHICH MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY REQUIRE THE USE OF POWERED MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT.

THE REGULATIONS PRESCRIBING SUCH WORK WOULD BE MADE AFTER ENACTMENT OF THE BILL, HE SAID.

"IN RESPECT OF NOISE FROM PILING, THE BILL MAKES A NEW AND IMPORTANT DISTINCTION BETWEEN PERCUSSIVE AND NON-PERCUSSIVE PILING," MR CHAMBERS CONTINUED.

"IT IS PROPOSED THAT RESTRICTIONS ON NON-PERCUSSIVE PILING, WHICH IS RELATIVELY QUIET, SHOULD BE RELAXED WHILE CONTROL OF NOISY PERCUSSIVE PILING SHOULD BE TIGHTENED."

THE CURRENT PROHIBITION ON SUCH WORK DURING THE RESTRICTED HOURS WOULD BE RETAINED, AND PERCUSSIVE PILING WOULD IN FUTURE ALSO REQUIRE A PERMIT DURING DAYTIME HOURS, HE SAID.

THIS WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO LIMIT NOISY PERCUSSIVE PILING TO CERTAIN HOURS OF THE DAY IN LOCATIONS CLOSE TO NOISE SENSITIVE BUILDINGS, SUCH AS SCHOOLS OR RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS.

MR CHAMBERS SAID HE HOPED THAT THIS DISTINCTION WOULD ENCOURAGE THE USE OF QUIETER PILING METHODS.

"IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERMIT SYSTEM, THE BILL INTRODUCES THE CONCEPT OF TECHNICAL MEMORANDA WHICH WILL BE ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE ON THE ADVICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WHICH WILL CONTAIN DETAILED TECHNICAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE PREDICTION, ASSESSMENT AND MEASUREMENT OF NOISE," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"THESE PRINCIPLES WILL BE APPLIED IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT SHOULD BE ISSUED IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE AND WHAT CONDITIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED."

MR CHAMBERS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL INTRODUCED CONTROLS ON NOISE FROM COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PREMISES.

"CLAUSE 11 PROVIDES THAT NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICES MAY BE SERVED IF THE NOISE EMITTED IS CAUSING ANNOYANCE TO ANY PERSON, OR IF IT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE TECHNICAL CRITERIA SET OUT IN THE RELEVANT TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM," HE SAID.

/"THESE NOTICES

"THESE NOTICES WILL REQUIRE OWNERS OR OCCUPIERS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR NOISE EMISSIONS COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NOTICE BY A SPECIFIED DATE; NON-COMPLIANCE WILL BE AN OFFENCE."

NEW POWERS WERE INCLUDED IN PART III OF THE BILL TO ENABLE THE CONTROL OF NOISE FROM INDIVIDUAL ITEMS OF PLANT OR MACHINERY, SUCH AS GENERATORS AND COMPRESSORS, WHICH WOULD BE PRESCRIBED IN REGULATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL, MR CHAMBERS NOTED.

"IT IS INTENDED THAT THESE PROVISIONS WILL ONLY BE USED WHEN TECHNICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES MAKE OTHER FORMS OF CONTROL INAPPROPRIATE."

TURNING TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE BILL, MR CHAMBERS SAID ITS PROVISIONS, EXCEPT THOSE DEALING WITH GENERAL NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE, WOULD BE ENFORCED BY A NOISE CONTROL AUTHORITY TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER CLAUSE 3.

THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WOULD BE THE AUTHORITY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

"TO ENSURE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WILL BE ENFORCED IN A FAIR AND REASONABLE MANNER, PART IV OF THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN APPEAL BOARD BY THE GOVERNOR," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"APPEALS CAN BE MADE AGAINST THE SERVICE OF NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICES, REFUSAL TO ISSUE PILING PERMITS OR AGAINST THE CONDITIONS OF SUCH A PERMIT."

COMMENTING ON THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE LEGISLATION, MR CHAMBERS SAID AN ASSESSMENT OF THE COST IMPACT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL ON THE POTENTIALLY MOST AFFECTED CATEGORIES OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL.

THE STUDY SHOWED THAT THE COST IMPACT ON MANUFACTURERS SHOULD NOT IN GENERAL BE SIGNIFICANT WHEN COMPARED WITH OVERALL OPERATING COSTS.

WITH REGARD TO THE CONTROL OF PILING NOISE, THE EFFECT OF TIGHTENING THE CONTROLS ON PERCUSSIVE PILING DURING THE DAYTIME WOULD AT LEAST PARTIALLY BE OFFSET BY THE RELAXATION OF CONTROLS ON NON-PERCUSSIVE PILING DURING THE NIGHT.

"WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THIS LEGISLATION WILL BE SERIOUS," MR CHAMBERS REMARKED.

"I COMMEND THIS BILL TO MEMBERS AS AN IMPORTANT AND EFFECTIVE ADDITION TO THE BODY OF LEGISLATION AIMED AT REDUCING VARIOUS FORMS OF POLLUTION."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

SECURITIES DISCLOSURE BILL HAS FIVE MAIN FEATURES

* * * * *

THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) BILL 1988 FOLLOWS CLOSELY THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM COMPANIES ACT, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BILL HAD FIVE MAIN FEATURES, MR NENDICK SAID IN MOVING ITS SECOND READING.

"FIRST, IT FORCES DISCLOSURE OF SHAREHOLDINGS OF 10 PER CENT OR MORE WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF THE DUTY ARISING," HE SAID.

"ONCE A SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDING HAS BEEN NOTIFIED, ANY CHANGE OF ONE PER CENT OR MORE MUST ALSO BE NOTIFIED."

HE EXPLAINED THE AIM WAS TO LOOK THROUGH CORPORATE INTERESTS TO GET AT THE REALITY OF CONTROLLING SHAREHOLDERS.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS WOULD ATTRACT HEAVY PENALTIES UPON CONVICTION.

ON THE SECOND FEATURE OF THE BILL, MR NENDICK SAID IT GAVE LISTED COMPANIES THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE A SHAREHOLDER TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS HOLDING.

"IF A PERSON FAILS WITHOUT GOOD REASON TO GIVE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION, THE COMPANY MAY APPLY TO THE HIGH COURT FOR RESTRICTIONS TO BE PLACED UPON THE SHARES IN QUESTION," HE SAID.

"SIMILARLY, A LISTED COMPANY MAY BE REQUIRED BY 10 PER CENT OF ITS SHAREHOLDERS, UPON DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD CAUSE, TO INVESTIGATE INTO THE OWNERSHIP OF ITS SHARES."

THIRDLY, MR NENDICK SAID THE BILL FORCED THE DIRECTORS AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A LISTED COMPANY TO DISCLOSE THEIR SHAREHOLDINGS IN THE COMPANY AND IN ANY ASSOCIATED COMPANY AND ANY DEALINGS THEY MIGHT HAVE IN THE RELEVANT SHARES.

"FOURTH, IT ENABLES THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO APPOINT INSPECTORS TO INVESTIGATE THE OWNERSHIP OF A LISTED COMPANY OR ANY BREACH OF THE DUTY OF DISCLOSURE BY DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES," HE CONTINUED.

"THE COST OF ANY SUCH INVESTIGATION WILL BE RECOVERABLE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES FROM THE PARTIES INVOLVED."

WHERE AN INVESTIGATION ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING OUT RELEVANT FACTS, MR NENDICK SAID THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MIGHT IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON THE SHARES CONCERNED.

FINALLY, HE SAID THE BILL ALSO ENABLED THE COURTS OR, IN CERTAIN CASES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRANSFER OR DISPOSAL OF SHARES.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 7 -

"WHERE A FREEZING ORDER IS MADE, ANY TRANSFER OF THE SHARES CONCERNED IS VOID," MR NENDICK SAID.

"IN ADDITION, NO VOTING RIGHTS ARE EXERCISABLE IN RESPECT OF THE SHARES AND NO DIVIDENDS ARE PAYABLE."

AN ORDER MIGHT ONLY BE LIFTED BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY WHEN CERTAIN CONDITIONS WERE MET, HE ADDED.

TALKING ON THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE BILL IN JUNE LAST YEAR, MR NENDICK SAID WHILE MOST OF THE COMMENTS CENTRED ON TECHNICAL PROVISIONS, A FEW POINTS WERE OF WIDER IMPORTANCE.

THE FIRST CONCERNED THE APPLICATION OF THE BILL.

"WE PREFER TO FOLLOW THE UK PRACTICE, WHICH IS TO LIMIT THE APPLICATION OF THE LEGISLATION TO LOCAL COMPANIES BUT TO REQUIRE ALL LISTED COMPANIES, BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS, TO COMPLY WITH ITS PROVISIONS AS A LISTING REQUIREMENT," MR NENDICK SAID.

"WHILE WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE BILL SHOULD APPLY TO ALL HONG KONG LISTED COMPANIES, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS INCORPORATED, THERE ARE PRACTICAL AND EXTRA-TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS IN APPLYING THE LEGISLATION TO OVERSEAS COMPANIES."

THE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITIES (STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING) RULES WERE IN HAND, HE SAID.

THE SECOND POINT CONCERNED THE NOTIFIABLE PERCENTAGE FOR SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS.

"IN THE BILL, SHAREHOLDINGS OF 10 PER CENT OR MORE MUST BE NOTIFIED," MR NENDICK SAID.

"THE VIEW THAT THIS FIGURE IS TOO HIGH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY SOME, MOST RECENTLY BY THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE, AND THAT A FIGURE OF FIVE PER CENT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE."

WHILE A FIGURE OF FIVE PER CENT WOULD BE MORE IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, MR NENDICK SAID HE WAS NOT IN FAVOUR OF ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT PROPOSAL AT THIS STAGE.

"ANY CHANGE TO THIS KEY PROVISION WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION AND WOULD UNAVOIDABLY DELAY THE PASSAGE OF THIS IMPORTANT PIECE OF LEGISLATION WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION SINCE THE EARLY 1970'S," MR NENDICK EXPLAINED.

"I BELIEVE THAT 10 PER CENT IS A SUITABLE INITIAL TRIGGER POINT FOR DISCLOSURE FOR HONG KONG, BEARING IN MIND THAT A COMPANY MAY ITSELF REQUIRE INFORMATION TO BE DISCLOSED IN RELATION TO ANY LEVEL OF SHAREHOLDING."

/THIS PROVISION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 8 -

THIS PROVISION WOULD BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE OF THE OPERATION OF THE BILL AND IN THE COURSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

THE THIRD POINT RECEIVED DURING THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE CONCERNED NOMINEE COMPANIES AND IN PARTICULAR WHETHER OR NOT A BANK'S NOMINEE COMPANY WOULD QUALIFY AS A BARE TRUSTEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXEMPTION.

"IT IS COMMON PRACTICE IN HONG KONG FOR A NOMINEE COMPANY, IN THE ABSENCE OF WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS FROM ITS CUSTOMER, TO HAVE NO DUTY OTHER THAN TO HOLD THE PROPERTY TO THE BENEFICIARY'S ORDER BUT TO RESERVE POWER TO VOTE IN WHICHEVER WAY IT CONSIDERS TO BE IN ITS BENEFICIARY'S OR ITS CUSTOMER'S BEST INTERESTS," MR NENDICK SAID.

"OUR LEGAL ADVICE IS THAT SUCH A DISCRETIONARY VOTING POWER DOES NOT PREVENT A COMPANY WHICH IS OTHERWISE A BARE TRUSTEE OR NOMINEE FROM BEING A BARE TRUSTEE OR NOMINEE.

"IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION THAT NOMINEE COMPANIES, WHETHER OF A BANK OR OTHERWISE, SHOULD BE CAUGHT BY THE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS."

IT WOULD PLACE AN UNREASONABLE BURDEN UPON SUCH COMPANIES AND THERE WERE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSE, HE NOTED.

"THE BENEFICIAL OWNER REMAINS UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO DISCLOSE A NOTIFIABLE INTEREST AND ALSO REMAINS UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS DESIGNED TO EXPOSE CONCERT PARTIES," MR NENDICK SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, WHERE A LISTED COMPANY WISHES TO ENQUIRE INTO THE OWNERSHIP OF ITS SHARES, IT MAY REQUIRE THE NOMINEE TO DISCLOSE THE BENEFICIARIES INVOLVED."

THE LAST POINT CONCERNED WARRANTS AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE COVERED BY THE BILL.

"THE SHORT ANSWER IS THAT THEY ARE NOT," MR NENDICK SAID.

"WARRANTS ARE MOST COMMONLY RIGHTS OR OPTIONS TO SUBSCRIBE FOR FUTURE SHARES AT A PARTICULAR PRICE WITHIN A FIXED PERIOD.

"AS SUCH, THEY DO NOT CONFER VOTING RIGHTS ON THE WARRANT HOLDER UNTIL THAT RIGHT OR OPTION IS EXERCISED."

HOWEVER, ONCE THE RIGHT OR OPTION WAS EXERCISED, MR NENDICK SAID THE DISCLOSURE OBLIGATION THEN AROSE.

"THE POSITION REGARDING DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES IS, GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE SAME," HE SAID.

"THEY MUST, HOWEVER, NOTIFY CERTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT WARRANTS GRANTED TO THEM BY THE LISTED COMPANY OR BY ITS ASSOCIATED COMPANIES."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

PROVISION FOR ELECTORAL FUNDING

* * * *

THE TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, WHICH DEALS WITH THE QUESTION OF FUNDING FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID SECTION 34 OF THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE PROHIBITED THE USE OF TRADE UNION FUNDS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

IN 1985, WHEN EMPLOYEE TRADE UNIONS WERE INCLUDED AS "ELECTORS" IN THE LABOUR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS, MANY UNION LEADERS HAD ASKED FOR THIS PROHIBITION TO BE RELAXED.

"FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THEN UMELCO, WE GAVE A COMMITMENT TO EXCLUDE FROM THE PROHIBITION DONATIONS TO CANDIDATES STANDING IN ANY CONSTITUENCY ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETURNING A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"SUBSEQUENTLY, A GROUP OF UNION LEADERS SUGGESTED THAT THE RELAXATION SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALLOW THE USE OF UNION FUNDS FOR DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS.

"WE NOW THEREFORE PROPOSE TO AMEND THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE TO ALLOW UNIONS TO USE THEIR FUNDS FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES IN DISTRICT BOARD, URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

"ELECTORAL PURPOSES INCLUDE THE USE OF UNION FUNDS TO PAY ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY A CANDIDATE IN CONNECTION WITH HIS CANDIDATURE OR ELECTION; TO HOLD ANY MEETING; TO PREPARE AND DISTRIBUTE ANY LITERATURE OR DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF A CANDIDATE; AND TO REGISTER ELECTORS OR TO SELECT THE CANDIDATE.

"HOWEVER, SUCH EXPENDITURE WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE LIMITS ON ELECTION EXPENSES UNDER THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE."

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL UNION MEMBERS, THE BILL STIPULATED THAT A UNION MUST SEEK THE APPROVAL OF ITS MEMBERS BY SECRET BALLOT BEFORE MONEY COULD BE SPENT FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES.

THIS WAS PROVIDED FOR BY THE NEW SECTION 33A, WHICH REQUIRED A UNION TO OBTAIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE MAJORITY OF ITS VOTING MEMBERS BY SECRET BALLOT BEFORE IT SET UP AN ELECTORAL FUND FROM WHICH ELECTORAL EXPENSES MIGHT BE PAID.

"CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND ARE TO BE VOLUNTARY AND NO ONE IS TO BE PREJUDICED IN HIS RIGHT TO JOIN, OR CONTINUE TO BE, A MEMBER OF A UNION BECAUSE OF HIS REFUSAL TO CONTRIBUTE," HE SAID.

/"ALTERNATIVELY, IF

"ALTERNATIVELY, IF A UNION PREFERS NOT TO ESTABLISH AN ELECTORAL FUND, THE NEW SECTION 33B WILL ALLOW IT TO OBTAIN AUTHORISATION FOR ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE FOR A PARTICULAR ELECTION BY A SECRET BALLOT OF MEMBERS PRESENT AT A GENERAL MEETING.

"THE AUTHORISATION WILL HAVE TO SPECIFY THE MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE TO BE INCURRED."

SINCE THE EXISTING RULES OF ALL UNIONS PROHIBITED THE USE OF FUNDS FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES, UNIONS WOULD HAVE TO PRESENT SUITABLE AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

THE REGISTRY OF TRADE UNIONS WOULD BE HAPPY TO ADVISE ANY UNION ON THE PROPER PROCEDURES, AND A SET OF MODEL RULES WAS AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE.

MR BRIDGE SAID THE OPPORTUNITY HAD ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO REPLACE THE TERM "THE COLONY" BY "HONG KONG" WHEREVER IT OCCURED IN THE ORDINANCE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AMENDMENTS SUPPORTED

* * *

COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND TO THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WERE SUPPORTED BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP DEBATES ON THE TWO BILLS, MR NENDICK PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO BOTH MEASURES BY THE HON MARIA TAM AND THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP OF WHICH SHE WAS CONVENER.

ON THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, MR NENDICK SAID THAT AS HAD BEEN POINTED OUT BY MISS TAM, CONSISTENCY SHOULD BE SOUGHT BETWEEN THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS ON SECRECY IN THE BANKING, SECURITIES, AND INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCES.

THERE WAS OBVIOUS MERIT IN MAKING SURE THAT, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE REGULATORY AUTHORITIES HAD THE SAME FREEDOMS AND SAFEGUARDS IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR DUTIES UNDER THE ORDINANCES.

"I ACCEPT, THEREFORE, THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO SATISFY HIMSELF AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF SECRECY PROVISIONS IN THE OVERSEAS JURISDICTION BEFORE RELEASING ANY INFORMATION TO THE RESPECTIVE OVERSEAS REGULATORY AUTHORITY," HE SAID.

/"IN PRACTICE,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 11 -

"IN PRACTICE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES WILL PERFORM THIS DUTY BY SEEKING AND OBTAINING AN ASSURANCE FROM THE OVERSEAS REGULATORY AUTHORITY THAT IT WILL PROTECT THE INFORMATION TO BE DISCLOSED TO IT.

"IN THE EVENT OF A BREACH OF THIS UNDERTAKING, THE COMMISSIONER WILL WITHHOLD THEIR CO-OPERATION IN FUTURE."

ON THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, MR NENDICK SAID THAT AS IN THE CASE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY WOULD BE UNDER A STATUTORY DUTY TO SATISFY HIMSELF AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF SECRECY PROVISIONS IN THE OVERSEAS JURISDICTION BEFORE HE MIGHT RELEASE INFORMATION TO THE OVERSEAS REGULATORY AUTHORITY IN QUESTION.

IN PRACTICE, THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY WOULD PERFORM THIS DUTY IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES.

MR NENDICK SAID THAT HE COULD CONFIRM THAT IN ADDITION TO ENSURING THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED TO OVERSEAS SUPERVISORS WAS ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDED, THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY WOULD HAVE CAREFUL REGARD TO THE INTERESTS OF THE LOCAL INSURANCE INDUSTRY IN DETERMINING HOW HE EXERCISED HIS POWERS TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILLS TO IMPROVE HK'S PRUDENTIAL CONTROL SUPPORTED

* * * * *

THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH SEEK TO INTRODUCE CHANGES TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCES MAINLY IN THE PROVISIONS REGARDING OFFICIAL SECRECY AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO OVERSEAS REGULATORY AUTHORITIES, WOULD IMPROVE HONG KONG'S PRUDENTIAL CONTROL, THE HON MARIA TAM SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MISS TAM WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE TWO BILLS.

SHE NOTED THAT IT WAS AN INCREASING TREND FOR REGULATORY AUTHORITIES OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES TO CO-OPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND SHARE OUT INFORMATION TO THEIR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT 1986 PROVIDED FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG REGULATORY AUTHORITIES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. SIMILAR LEGISLATION ALSO EXISTED IN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA.

/"AT PRESENT,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 12 -

"AT PRESENT, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION HAVE TO BE TURNED DOWN BY AUTHORITIES IN HONG KONG BECAUSE OF THE RESTRICTIVE NATURE OF THE CURRENT LEGISLATION.

"BY INTRODUCING THE NEW PROPOSALS IT WILL THEN BECOME POSSIBLE TO ENTERTAIN SUCH REQUESTS UNDER PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS AND ALSO TO ENCOURAGE OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITIES TO RECIPROCATE IN A MORE FAVOURABLE MANNER, THUS TO SECURE FURTHER HONG KONG'S STATUS AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE," MISS TAM SAID.

SHE REFERRED TO A MAIN CONCERN OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP SET UP TO STUDY THE TWO BILLS.

THIS WAS TO ENSURE THAT INSURERS WOULD NOT SUFFER UNNECESSARILY FROM ANY INDISCRIMINATE DISCLOSURE OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES OR THEIR DIRECTORS AND/OR CONTROLLERS IN THE EXERCISE OF THE DISCRETION BY THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY.

IT WOULD ALSO APPLY TO THE HANDLING OF INFORMATION BY THE THIRD PARTY, LOCAL OR OVERSEAS.

THE AD HOC GROUP, OF WHICH MISS TAM WAS CONVENER, HAD FOUND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TWO BILLS WORTH SUPPORTING.

REGARDING THE DETAILS, THE GROUP HAD REACHED AGREEMENTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON SOME COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENTS, SHE SAID.

FOR THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, ONE COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENT WAS THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE SATISFIED THAT THERE WERE ADEQUATE SECRECY PROVISIONS IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE OVERSEAS SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES BEFORE INFORMATION WAS DISCLOSED TO SUCH AUTHORITIES.

ANOTHER COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENT WAS TO BRING THE PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF SECRECY PROVISIONS IN LINE WITH THOSE PROVIDED FOR BY THE BANKING AND INSURANCE LEGISLATION.

MISS TAM ALSO SAID THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE STUDY OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP HAD CONSIDERED THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE WAS A NEED TO PROVIDE INSURERS WITH A CHANCE TO BE HEARD BEFORE INFORMATION AFFECTING THEM WAS DISCLOSED BY THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY.

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW WAS THAT IF A HEARING WAS PROVIDED THIS WOULD LIKELY CAUSE DELAY IN ACTIONS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE TO BE TAKEN BY SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES CONCERNED.

MOREOVER, THERE WAS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT INSURERS UNDER INVESTIGATION MIGHT EXPLOIT SUCH DELAY TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF POLICY HOLDERS.

/BESIDES, ABUSES

BESIDES, ABUSES BY OVERSEAS AUTHORITIES OF INFORMATION GIVEN TO THEM COULD BE PREVENTED AS THE DISCRETION TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION STILL LAY WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT BILL, WOULD HAVE TO BE SATISFIED THAT THERE WERE ADEQUATE SECRECY PROVISIONS IN THE JURISDICTION OF THESE OVERSEAS AUTHORITIES BEFORE RELEASING THE INFORMATION IN QUESTION.

MISS TAM ADDED THAT THE TWO BILLS WERE BUT TWO OUT OF A SERIES OF ITEMS OF LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S PRUDENTIAL CONTROL.

THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT, AND THE GROUP FULLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO EXAMINE THE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE OPERATION OF THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY SO AS TO BRING IN THE NECESSARY REFORMS, SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PURPOSE OF AUDIT AMENDMENT BILL EXPLAINED
* * * * *

THE AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WAS GIVEN A SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES TO TRANSMIT ACCOUNT STATEMENTS TO THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT FOR FUNDS - OTHER THAN THE LOTTERIES FUND - ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 29 OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE.

THE BILL ALSO REQUIRED THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO CERTIFY THE ACCOUNTS OF THESE FUNDS.

"THIS WILL IMPROVE THE PROCEDURE AND BRING THE HANDLING OF THESE ACCOUNTS INTO LINE WITH THE NORMAL PRACTICE," MR NENDICK EXPLAINED.

THE FUNDS ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 29 OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE ARE THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND, THE LOTTERIES FUND, THE HOME OWNERSHIP FUND, THE STUDENT LOAN FUND, THE MASS TRANSIT FUND AND THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MOVE TO FACILITATE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION

* * *

THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 SEEKS TO PERMIT A CHANGE IN THE FORMAT OF ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS BY ELIMINATING NOTES FROM THE MARGIN AND REPOSITIONING MARGINAL NOTES AS SECTION HEADINGS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR DAVID SAID THE PURPOSE WAS TO AMEND THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

"THE CHANGE WILL FACILITATE FASTER AND MORE ECONOMICAL PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION BY THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION AND THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT RECENT AMENDMENTS WERE MADE TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THIS CHANGE AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS TO BE MOVED LATER IN THE SESSION, WOULD COMPLETE THE AMENDMENTS NECESSARY TO PUT IT INTO OPERATION.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

----- 0 -----

FOUR BILLS PASSED

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

THESE WERE THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

SIX OTHER BILLS WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THESE WERE THE NOISE CONTROL BILL 1988, THE TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) BILL 1988, THE AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BILL 1988 AND THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

----- 0 -----

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 15 -

MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PROTECT WILDLIFE RESERVE

* * * * *

DESPITE THE GENERAL DETERIORATION OF WATER QUALITY IN DEEP BAY, A MAJOR STUDY COMMISSIONED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR DOES NOT INDICATE THAT THE MAI PO WILDLIFE RESERVE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY POLLUTION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE MANGROVES, WHICH FORMED THE PRINCIPAL PLANT COMMUNITY, APPEARED TO BE UNAFFECTED AND THERE HAD BEEN NO REDUCTION IN THE SPECIES AND NUMBER OF BIRDS REPORTED IN THE AREA.

MR CHAMBERS SAID DEEP BAY WAS AN ENCLOSED BODY OF WATER WITH LIMITED CIRCULATION AND WAS, LIKE TOLO HARBOUR, AFFECTED BY SIMILAR POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

THE STUDY, AIMED AT REVIEWING THE ENVIRONMENT IN DEEP BAY AND ASSESSING THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE AREA, HAD SHOWN THAT POLLUTION LEVELS IN THE INNER PART OF DEEP BAY WERE VERY HIGH AND THAT THE MAJOR SOURCE OF THIS POLLUTION WAS ORGANIC WASTE FROM LIVESTOCK FARMING.

"TO PROTECT THE WILDLIFE RESERVE, THE MARSHES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS A RESTRICTED AREA AND PUBLIC ACCESS IS LIMITED," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"IT IS PATROLLED BY NATURE WARDENS AND AN EDUCATION CENTRE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION."

IN ADDITION, TWO MAJOR INITIATIVES WERE BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN DEEP BAY, HE SAID.

THESE WERE THE EXTENSION OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME TO THE YUEN LONG AREA IN 1991 AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRUNK SEWER TO CARRY SEWAGE FROM TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN TO DISCHARGE INTO THE URMSTON ROAD, WHICH WAS PLANNED FOR COMPLETION IN 1992.

"THE FINAL STAGE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF DEEP BAY WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN JULY THIS YEAR, WILL RECOMMEND MEASURES TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE VARIOUS FLOOD CONTROL, DRAINAGE AND OTHER PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE AREA," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"IT IS INTENDED THAT THESE MEASURES SHOULD PROVIDE FURTHER PROTECTION TO THE MAI PO MARSHES AND OTHER IMPORTANT CONSERVATION AREAS IN DEEP BAY," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POLICE AWARE OF HOLIDAY HOUSE PROBLEMS

* * * * *

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME OF PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE RENTING OUT OF PRIVATE HOUSES TO HOLIDAY MAKERS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ROSANNA TAM, MR BARNES SAID SO FAR REPORTS HAD MAINLY INVOLVED OFFENCES IN THE OUTLYING ISLANDS, ESPECIALLY CHEUNG CHAU, LAMMA AND PARTS OF LANTAU.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE ACCURATE DATA FOR THE WHOLE TERRITORY OF THE TYPES OF CRIMES INVOLVED BECAUSE SEPARATE STATISTICS HAD NOT BEEN KEPT OF THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE RESORT HOUSES OR THE OFFENCES COMMITTED IN THEM.

"THE POLICE HAVE SO FAR ONLY KEPT RECORDS OF REPORTS INVOLVING HOLIDAY MAKERS IN GENERAL IN THE CHEUNG CHAU DIVISION, WHICH INCLUDES LAMMA ISLAND, WHERE THE PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE MORE PREVALENT," HE SAID.

IN CHEUNG CHAU AND LAMMA COMBINED, 18 PER CENT OF CRIME REPORTS AND 10 PER CENT OF NUISANCE COMPLAINTS CONCERNED HOLIDAY MAKERS, BUT NOT ALL OF THESE INVOLVED RESORT HOUSES, HE SAID.

"THE PROBLEM OF OFFENCES ASSOCIATED WITH RESORT HOUSES HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD AND BY THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE."

MR BARNES NOTED THAT LEGALLY ANY PERSON COULD RENT OUT PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION AND NO LICENCE WAS REQUIRED, ADDING THAT A BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WOULD BE NECESSARY IF THE RENTING CONSTITUTED A BUSINESS UNDER THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

"THE POLICE HAVE NO SPECIAL POWERS TO ENTER THESE HOUSES, WHICH COUNT AS PRIVATE PREMISES," HE SAID.

"ACCESS CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED BY INVITATION, BY SEARCH WARRANT OR BY EXECUTING POWERS UNDER AN APPROPRIATE ORDINANCE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE OR THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE."

MR BARNES NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO LEGISLATION SPECIFICALLY GOVERNING THE RENTING OF PRIVATE RESORT HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

"I ACCEPT THAT THERE ARE COMPLAINTS AND OFFENCES ARISING FROM GROUPS OF, MOSTLY YOUNG, PEOPLE RENTING THESE HOUSES," HE SAID.

"PROBLEMS ARISE WHEN LARGE GROUPS, USUALLY OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE URBAN AREA, RENT THESE PREMISES AND HOLD NOISY PARTIES.

/"ALCOHOL IS

"ALCOHOL IS CONSUMED AND THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF DISPUTES BREAKING OUT RESULTING IN FIGHTS, SOMETIMES SERIOUS ASSAULTS.

"THE POLICE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED COMPLAINTS OF NUISANCE, MOST COMMONLY ABOUT NOISE."

MR BARNES SAID THE MATTER WAS BEING REFERRED TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE FOR DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM AND WHAT COULD BE DONE TO PREVENT IT BECOMING MORE SERIOUS AND OCCURRING IN OTHER AREAS.

"I AM SATISFIED THAT THE POLICE HAVE ADEQUATE POWERS TO DEAL WITH SERIOUS CRIME IN THESE PLACES, BUT WE MAY NEED TO CONSIDER WAYS TO IMPROVE THE GENERAL CONTROL OF THESE PREMISES," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BACKGROUND RADIATION LEVELS: NO OBSERVABLE IMPACT ON HEALTH
* * * * *

ACCORDING TO DATA COLLECTED UNDER A PROGRAMME TO STUDY IN DETAIL THE BACKGROUND RADIATION IN HONG KONG, THE EXISTING LEVELS HAVE NO OBSERVABLE IMPACT ON THE HEALTH OF THE POPULATION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY PROF THE HON POON CHUNG-KWONG, MR NENDICK SAID THAT THE PROGRAMME, FORMULATED IN 1984, AIMED AT COLLECTING DATA OVER A SUFFICIENTLY LONG PERIOD, BEFORE THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT DAYA BAY, SO THAT EXISTING LEVELS OF RADIATION THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY COULD BE ESTABLISHED.

"THIS BASELINE INFORMATION WILL PERMIT SUBSEQUENT CHANGES IN RADIATION LEVELS TO BE DETECTED," HE SAID.

"THE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IN CO-OPERATION WITH SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND MONITORING STATIONS HAVE BEEN SET UP WITHIN THE TERRITORY. MEASUREMENTS BEGAN IN 1987.

"RESULTS TO DATE INDICATE THAT IN GENERAL THE BACKGROUND RADIATION LEVELS IN HONG KONG ARE COMPARABLE WITH THOSE IN MANY PLACES IN THE WORLD."

IN 1987, THE TOTAL ANNUAL DOSE FROM EXTERNAL RADIATION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE TERRITORY RANGED FROM 0.5 TO 1.5 MILLISIEVERTS.

/THE ANNUAL

THE ANNUAL AVERAGE IN THE UNITED STATES RANGED FROM 0.4 TO 1.2 MILLISIEVERTS.

MR NENDICK NOTED THAT RADIOACTIVITY IN AIR AND RAINWATER HAD BEEN MEASURED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY SINCE 1961.

"THE MEASUREMENTS HAVE BEEN USED BY THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION, TOGETHER WITH MEASUREMENTS SUPPLIED BY OTHER METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, IN ORDER TO STUDY THE GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION OF RADIO-NUCLIDES RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE FROM NUCLEAR TESTS.

"THE DATA HAVE GIVEN AN INDICATION OF HOW ATMOSPHERIC RADIOACTIVITY IN HONG KONG HAS VARIED OVER THE YEARS," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

16 ACCIDENTS ON CYCLE TRACK

* * * *

POLICE STATISTICS SHOW THAT THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 16 ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CYCLISTS ALONG THE CYCLE TRACK BETWEEN SHA TIN AND TAI PO FROM SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR TO MARCH, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN, MR CHAMBERS SAID OF THESE ACCIDENTS, SEVEN WERE CLASSIFIED AS SERIOUS AND NINE SLIGHT.

"IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBERS OF CYCLISTS WHO USE THE CYCLE TRACK A NUMBER OF SPECIAL MEASURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED DURING WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, TO ENSURE THAT INJURED CYCLISTS RECEIVE PROMPT ASSISTANCE," HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES OPERATED A FIRST AID POST AT THE SHA TIN AMBULANCE DEPOT NEAR THE TRACK AND ANOTHER POST WOULD BE OPENED LATER THIS YEAR.

"IN ADDITION, THE POLICE MAINTAIN REGULAR PATROLS ALONG THE CYCLE TRACK.

"THESE PATROLS ARE EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE ON-THE-SPOT FIRST AID TREATMENT AND CAN SUMMON FURTHER ASSISTANCE BY RADIO IF NECESSARY.

"FIXED POLICE POSTS ARE MANNED AT SEVERAL POINTS ALONG THE TRACK TO OFFER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO CYCLISTS," HE SAID.

AS FOR MEDICAL CARE, MR CHAMBERS SAID THERE WERE FOUR GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS NEAR THE CYCLE TRACK TWO OF WHICH PROVIDED A 24-HOUR ACCIDENT EMERGENCY SERVICE. MORE SERIOUS CASES WERE DEALT WITH AT THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

/HE SAID

HE SAID IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE SHA TIN AND TAI PO DISTRICT BOARDS EFFORTS WERE ALSO BEING MADE TO ENCOURAGE BETTER CYCLING STANDARDS IN ORDER TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

"THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE IS ACTIVELY PROMOTING GREATER SAFETY IN CYCLING THROUGH PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS IN SCHOOLS," HE SAID.

AN INTER-DISTRICT, INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO EXPLORE THE NEED FOR FURTHER FACILITIES ALONG THE CYCLE TRACK SUCH AS EMERGENCY PHONES AND MORE FIRST AID POSTS, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

UNPAID WAGES: MEETING HELD ON LEGAL REMEDIES
* * * * *

A MEETING HAS RECENTLY BEEN HELD WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, INVOLVING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE AND THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, TO REVIEW WHAT LEGAL REMEDIES ARE AVAILABLE IF A FACTORY OWNER MOVES HIS OPERATIONS OUT OF HONG KONG WITHOUT PAYING WAGES DUE TO WORKERS.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

OUTLINING THE VARIOUS LEGAL REMEDIES, MR BRIDGE SAID IF THE EMPLOYER WAS STILL SOLVENT BUT DID NOT PAY THE WAGES, HE COULD BE PROSECUTED UNDER SECTION 63A(1) OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

"SECONDLY, ANY EMPLOYEE WHO IS OWED MONEY BY HIS EMPLOYER AND WHO HAS GOOD GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT HIS EMPLOYER IS ABOUT TO ABSCOND OR TRANSFER HIS ASSETS ELSEWHERE, CAN APPLY TO THE COURT FOR A WARRANT OF ARREST UNDER SECTION 67 OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

"THIRDLY, IF THE EMPLOYER IS AN INSOLVENT LIMITED COMPANY SUBJECT TO WINDING UP, HE IS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 271 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO DELIVER UP ALL THE PROPERTIES OF THE COMPANY IN HIS CUSTODY OR UNDER HIS CONTROL FOR DISPOSAL BY THE COURT.

"FOURTHLY, IF, WHEN A COMPANY IS BEING WOUND UP, THE LIQUIDATOR OBTAINS FROM THE COURT A DECLARATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY BREACH OF TRUST OR MISFEASANCE INVOLVING ANY ASSETS OF THE COMPANY, THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE IS LIABLE TO REPAY OR RESTORE THE VALUE OF THE ASSETS OR PROPERTY UNDER SECTION 276 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE."

/THESE ASSETS

THESE ASSETS COULD BE SOLD BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING PREFERENTIAL AND ORDINARY CLAIMS TO EMPLOYEES, MR BRIDGE SAID.

"FIFTHLY, SECTION 224 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE COURT TO ORDER THE ARREST OF ANY RESPONSIBLE PERSON OF A COMPANY WHO HAS ABSCONDED OR IS ABOUT TO LEAVE HONG KONG TO EVADE PAYMENT OF PERSONAL DEBTS DUE TO THE COMPANY, OR OF AVOIDING EXAMINATION RESPECTING THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY."

MR BRIDGE SAID THESE PROVISIONS APPEARED TO BE REASONABLY ADEQUATE, BUT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WOULD BE CONTINUED ON WHETHER THERE WERE ANY OTHER WAYS IN WHICH THE SITUATION COULD BE IMPROVED.

"MEANWHILE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CONCILIATION OFFICERS WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO HELP ANY WORKERS FACING PROBLEMS OF THIS SORT," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO A RECENT CASE IN WHICH THE OWNERS OF A PLASTICS FACTORY WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE MOVED THEIR FACTORY OUT OF HONG KONG LEAVING A LIABILITY OF ABOUT \$660,000 IN UNPAID WAGES AND SEVERANCE PAY DUE TO THEIR 56 WORKERS, MR BRIDGE SAID THE CASE WAS NOW BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE.

"MEANWHILE THE WORKERS HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED PAYMENTS TOTALLING SOME \$255,000 FROM THE INSOLVENCY FUND," HE SAID.

"FORTUNATELY THIS CASE IS NOT TYPICAL AND WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OTHER COMPLAINTS INVOLVING COMPARABLE ALLEGATIONS.

"IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CONCILIATION OFFICERS HELPED IN 49 CASES ARISING FROM FACTORIES MOVING THEIR OPERATIONS OUT OF HONG KONG."

MR BRIDGE NOTED THAT IN 46 OF THESE CASES THERE WERE QUERIES OR DISPUTES OVER THE AMOUNT OF WAGES OR SEVERANCE PAY DUE, BUT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE EMPLOYER WAS UNABLE TO PAY OR TRYING TO EVADE PAYMENT.

"THESE 46 CASES INVOLVED A TOTAL OF 519 WORKERS AND \$5.4 MILLION," HE SAID.

"FOLLOWING CONCILIATION BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, 28 OF THESE CASES WERE AMICABLY SETTLED AND 443 WORKERS OR 85 PER CENT OF THE CLAIMANTS RECEIVED PAYMENTS TOTALLING \$4.6 MILLION.

"IN TWO CASES CONCILIATION WORK IS CONTINUING.

"TEN CASES HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL FOR ADJUDICATION. SIX CASES WERE ENQUIRIES ONLY AND HAVE NOT YET LED TO ANY CLAIMS BEING FORMALLY LODGED."

IN THE REMAINING THREE CASES THE EMPLOYERS WERE APPARENTLY UNABLE TO PAY, MR BRIDGE SAID, NOTING THAT TWO OF THE CASES INVOLVED A TOTAL OF THREE GARMENT WORKERS.

"SUBJECT TO THEIR CLAIMS BEING VERIFIED THEY WILL RECEIVE PAYMENTS FROM THE INSOLVENCY FUND," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

1991 LIKELY DATE FOR FORM 6 COMPUTER STUDIES

* * * * *

THE EARLIEST THAT COMPUTER STUDIES CAN BE AVAILABLE AS A NEW SIXTH FORM SUBJECT IS LIKELY TO BE IN 1991, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SZETO WAH, MR BRIDGE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS LIAISING WITH THE EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY ON THE FORMATION OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES FOR NEW SIXTH FORM COURSES, INCLUDING COMPUTER STUDIES.

"IN 1986 THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ASKED THE EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER INTRODUCING COMPUTER STUDIES AS AN EXAMINATION SUBJECT FOR THE SIXTH FORM," MR BRIDGE SAID.

"THE AUTHORITY STUDIED THE PROPOSAL CAREFULLY, BUT CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS NOT PRACTICABLE TO GO AHEAD WITH DEVELOPING SYLLABUSES UNTIL WE HAD TAKEN DECISIONS ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SIXTH FORM."

MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT THE AUTHORITY NEEDED TO KNOW IN PARTICULAR HOW THE NEW I LEVELS WOULD RELATE TO A LEVELS AND WHETHER THEY WOULD REPLACE H LEVELS.

THESE DECISIONS HAD NOW BEEN TAKEN AND WERE ANNOUNCED ON MAY 30.

ALLOWING FOR THE NORMAL LEAD TIME REQUIRED FOR THE PLANNING AND INTRODUCTION OF A NEW SUBJECT, COMPUTER STUDIES COULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE FORM 6 CURRICULUM IN 1991, WITH THE FIRST EXAMINATIONS TO BE HELD IN 1993, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WIDER USE OF FLEXITIME ENCOURAGED

* * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONSIDER WAYS OF BRINGING THE ADVANTAGES OF FLEXITIME TO THE ATTENTION OF EMPLOYERS SO AS TO ENCOURAGE THE WIDER USE OF THE SYSTEM, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARIA TAM, SIR DAVID SAID IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS WOULD NO DOUBT HEAVILY INFLUENCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ON WHETHER TO ALLOW EMPLOYEES TO WORK FLEXITIME.

"BUT I HOPE THE ADVANTAGES OF IT ARE OBVIOUS," HE SAID.

"IN PARTICULAR, IT SPREADS DEMAND ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND HELPS RELIEVE CONGESTION ON MAJOR ROADS AND TUNNELS DURING BOTH THE MORNING AND EVENING PEAK HOURS.

"MANY FACTORIES ARE OF COURSE ALREADY OPERATED ON A SHIFT BASIS WHICH IN ITSELF IS A FORM OF STAGGERED WORKING HOURS," HE ADDED.

IN DEFINING FLEXITIME WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY CIVIL SERVANTS MIGHT SELECT THE STARTING AND FINISHING TIME FOR THEMSELVES WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS.

AS FOR STAGGERED WORKING HOURS, IT WAS A SYSTEM WHEREBY CIVIL SERVANTS MIGHT OPT FOR ONE OF A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE STARTING-TIMES PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENTS OR SECTIONS.

AT PRESENT, 31 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OPERATED SOME FORM OF FLEXITIME OR STAGGERED WORKING HOURS FOR ALL OR PART OF THEIR STAFF, HE SAID.

"THE 'CORE' TIMES AROUND WHICH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS PRESCRIBE THEIR STAGGERED WORKING HOURS ARE BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 12.30 PM AND BETWEEN 2.30 PM AND 4.30 PM ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY," SIR DAVID SAID.

"I SHOULD STRESS THAT THESE ARE NOT THE WORKING HOURS FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE BUT ARE THE CORE HOURS AROUND WHICH CIVIL SERVANTS ENGAGED IN OFFICE WORK ARE REQUIRED TO WORK A TOTAL OF 44 HOURS PER WEEK.

"TO GIVE THE SCHEME GREATER IMPETUS AND TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE, I HAVE ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE TO ENCOURAGE DEPARTMENTS TO ADOPT GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN DECIDING ON THEIR 'CORE' OPERATION HOURS.

"IN SO DOING, DEPARTMENTS WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO HAVE REGARD TO THE CONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO WORK EFFICIENCY," HE ADDED.

COST OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL GRADUATE TEACHER
* * * * *

THE TOTAL COST OF PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL GRADUATE TEACHER OF CHINESE IN EVERY PUBLIC SECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOL WITH 18 CLASSES OR MORE FOR THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR - THAT IS FOR THE SEVEN MONTHS FROM SEPTEMBER 1988 TO MARCH 1989 - IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$35.8 MILLION INCLUDING ON-COSTS.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN.

MR BRIDGE SAID THE COST FOR THE FULL YEAR 1989-90 AND THEREAFTER WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$61.4 MILLION PER ANNUM (EXCLUDING INFLATION AND CHANGES IN DEMAND).

- - - - 0 - - - -

HOSTELS FOR STREET SLEEPERS UNDER STUDY
* * * * *

THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON STREET SLEEPERS, WHICH WAS FORMED LAST YEAR, HAS RECOMMENDED THAT CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF STREET SLEEPERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH SOME FORM OF PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION ON HONG KONG ISLAND OR IN KOWLOON.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THESE CATEGORIES WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE THOSE STREET SLEEPERS WHO WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY OLD OR INFIRM TO BE REHOUSED INTO PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS, BUT WHO HAD AN OBVIOUS HOUSING NEED.

THEY WOULD PROBABLY ALSO INCLUDE THOSE ABLE-BODIED STREET SLEEPERS WHO COULD DEMONSTRATE A VALID REASON FOR NEEDING TO LIVE IN HONG KONG OR KOWLOON.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION HAS MERIT AND WE ARE NOW EXAMINING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING URBAN AREA HOSTELS," HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS POINTED OUT THAT THESE HOSTELS WOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM EXISTING HOSTELS IN THE RESPECT THAT THEY COULD PROVIDE LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION AND WOULD BE OPEN ON A 24-HOUR BASIS.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 24 -

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONDUCT A PILOT SCHEME INVOLVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE OR TWO HOSTELS, SO AS TO TEST THE FEASIBILITY OF THIS APPROACH.

"IF THE PILOT SCHEME PROVES TO BE A SUCCESS, WE WILL CONSIDER INITIATING A FULL HOSTEL PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE COMMITTEE, IN COMPLYING WITH ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE -- TO REVIEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN ORDER TO CO-ORDINATE ACTION RELATING TO STREET SLEEPERS --- HAD CONDUCTED A REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO STREET SLEEPERS.

HE SAID THAT THIS REVIEW, WHICH WAS COMPLETED TOWARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR, CONCLUDED THAT THE PERSONALISED APPROACH WHICH WAS USED IN HELPING STREET SLEEPERS REMAINED APPROPRIATE, AND THAT THE NECESSARY SERVICES WERE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE STREET SLEEPERS WHO WISHED TO MAKE USE OF THEM.

NOTING THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE REVIEW, THE COMMITTEE HAD PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCEDURES WHEREBY STREET SLEEPERS COULD OBTAIN REPLACEMENT IDENTITY CARDS AND MEDICAL TREATMENT MR CHAMBERS SAID THESE IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

"I DO NOT SEE ANY NEED TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON STREET SLEEPERS AS THE COMMITTEE CAN CONDUCT FURTHER REVIEWS ON ANY ASPECT OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES OR PROGRAMMES IN RELATION TO STREET SLEEPERS," HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE EXPANDING THE SIZE OF THE COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO BRING IN MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WHO WERE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS FACED BY STREET SLEEPERS.

"I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL PUT FORWARD SOME INTERESTING SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW INITIATIVES WHICH THE COMMITTEE CAN EXAMINE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/25

STEPS TO COMBAT NULLAH POLLUTION OUTLINED

* * * * *

PROJECTS ARE AT HAND TO REDUCE THE POLLUTION OF THE YUEN LONG NULLAH, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE YUEN LONG NULLAH IS A HEAVILY POLLUTED WATERCOURSE, WHICH CAUSES A CONSIDERABLE SMELL NUISANCE," MR CHAMBERS SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH.

"THE POLLUTION ORIGINATES FROM LIVESTOCK WASTE, UNSEWERED VILLAGES AND ISOLATED HOUSES, INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES, AND DISCHARGES IN SEWERED AREAS THAT ARE WRONGLY CONNECTED TO THE SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM."

ONE OF THE PROJECTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM WAS THE YUEN LONG NULLAH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, HE SAID.

"THIS PROJECT IS AIMED AT REDUCING THE SMELL AND VISUAL NUISANCE OF THE YUEN LONG NULLAH IN THE INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROLS COME INTO EFFECT IN THIS AREA IN 1991, AND THE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES ARE COMPLETED," MR CHAMBERS EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THE SCHEME COMPRISED:

- (A) ERECTION OF AN INFLATABLE DAM DOWNSTREAM OF YUEN LONG TO EXCLUDE POLLUTED TIDAL WATERS;
- (B) CONSTRUCTION OF LOW FLOW CHANNELS TO CONFINE THE FLOWS TO THE CENTRE OF THE NULLAHS, MAXIMISE VELOCITIES AND MINIMISE DEPOSITION OF SEDIMENT;
- (C) CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMPING STATION TO CONVEY LOW FLOWS AROUND OR OVER THE INFLATABLE DAM; AND
- (D) CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONCRETE LINING OF THE NULLAH NORTHWARDS TO THE LOCATION OF THE INFLATABLE DAM.

THE \$48 MILLION PROJECT WAS IN THE DESIGN STAGE AND IT WAS EXPECTED CONSTRUCTION WOULD BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER 1989 AND BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 1991.

AS REGARDS IMPROVEMENT TO THE YUEN LONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, MR CHAMBERS SAID A \$125 MILLION PROJECT WAS PROPOSED TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF TREATMENT FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY AND ENSURE THAT A HIGH STANDARD OF EFFLUENT WAS DISCHARGED INTO THE NULLAH.

WORK WAS ALREADY IN PROGRESS AND WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1989.

TWO OTHER PROJECTS, COSTING \$180 MILLION AND \$98 MILLION RESPECTIVELY, WERE ALSO PROPOSED TO PROVIDE A SEWERAGE SYSTEM, PUMPING STATIONS, RISING MAINS AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES TO SERVE THE AREAS AROUND TIN SHUI WAI AND KAM TIN.

"THE COMBINED SEWAGE LOAD FROM THESE AREAS WILL BE PUMPED INTO AN EFFLUENT TUNNEL WHICH WILL DISCHARGE INTO A LONG SEA OUTFALL CONSTRUCTED OUT INTO URMSTON ROAD," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

"PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE IN THE SCHEME FOR A SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS SHOULD THAT PROVE NECESSARY IN FUTURE."

AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO INSTALL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS TO SERVE THOSE AREAS TO BE COVERED BY MAINS SEWERAGE, MR CHAMBERS SAID.

HOWEVER, THIS WOULD INCREASE THE LOAD ON DEEP BAY AND THE LOWER REACHES OF THE YUEN LONG NULLAH.

BESIDES THESE PROJECTS, MR CHAMBERS SAID FURTHER SCHEMES WERE BEING PLANNED TO REDUCE THE NUTRIENT LOAD ON THE NULLAH FROM THE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AND TO PROVIDE SEWERAGE SYSTEMS FOR THE VILLAGES IN THE FLOOD PLAIN OF THE NULLAH SOUTH OF YUEN LONG TOWN.

WHILE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS WOULD TAKE A NUMBER OF YEARS, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME WOULD ALLEVIATE THE EFFECTS OF THE POLLUTED NULLAH IN THE MEANTIME.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 27 -

LORD GLENARTHUR TO VISIT HK

* * *

LORD GLENARTHUR, MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, WILL PAY A VISIT TO THE TERRITORY FROM JUNE 29 TO JULY 1, AS PART OF A TOUR OF ASIA.

IT WILL BE HIS THIRD VISIT TO HONG KONG, INCLUDING ONE BRIEF TRANSIT VISIT IN FEBRUARY, SINCE HE ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS LAST YEAR. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY LADY GLENARTHUR.

DURING HIS TWO AND A HALF DAY VISIT, LORD GLENARTHUR WILL HAVE TALKS WITH THE GOVERNOR, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

HE WILL MEET A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, INCLUDING BUSINESSMEN AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.

THE MINISTER WILL VISIT TWO REFUGEE CAMPS.

HE WILL ALSO CALL ON THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND WILL TRAVEL ON THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STRIVING FOR BETTER PLANNING IN CULTURE AND RECREATION

* * * * *

HONG KONG'S PROGRESSION IN CULTURE, PERFORMING ARTS, RECREATION AND SPORTS HAVE ACHIEVED IMPORTANT MILESTONES OVER THE YEARS, AND A MORE SOLID SYSTEM IN LONG-TERM PLANNING SHOULD BE FORMULATED TO FURTHER DEVELOP AND PROMOTE THIS ASPECT OF HONG KONG LIFE IN THE NEXT 10 TO 20 YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS SYSTEM, HE SAID, SHOULD BE DEVELOPED WITH FORESIGHT AND SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY SO THAT THE NEXT GENERATION WOULD BENEFIT IN CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL PURSUITS.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST, MR CHUI POINTED OUT THAT THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE AND RECREATION IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN GREATLY ENHANCED OVER THE PAST DECADE.

"WITH THE DRAMATIC GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY, ITS PROSPERITY HAD ALSO BROUGHT ABOUT UNAVOIDABLE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION," HE SAID.

/"THE RISE

"THE RISE IN LIVING STANDARDS HAS GIVEN THE GENERAL PUBLIC MORE RESOURCES, TIME AND INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES," HE ADDED.

MR CHUI SAID BOTH THE URBAN AND THE REGIONAL COUNCILS HAD CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO BEAUTIFYING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND TO DEVELOP RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES.

"THEY HAVE ALSO BUILT NUMEROUS PARKS, SPORTS FACILITIES, LEISURE PLACES, LIBRARIES, IN-DOOR AND OUT-DOOR PLAYGROUNDS AND GROUNDS THAT CATER TO VARIOUS TYPES OF SPORTS," HE SAID.

MR CHUI CITED EXAMPLES OF LARGE-SCALE FACILITIES SUCH AS HONG KONG COLISEUM, THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL, TUEN MUN TOWN HALL, TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, SPACE MUSEUM, KOWLOON CENTRAL LIBRARY, SHA TIN CENTRAL LIBRARY, AND THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

"FACILITIES DUE TO OPEN SOON ARE THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, THE NEW HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART AND THE NEW KOWLOON PARK. OTHER FACILITIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION INCLUDE THE HONG KONG PARK, THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, VARIOUS COMPLEXES AND LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY," HE CONTINUED.

"THE URBAN AND THE REGIONAL COUNCILS ALSO MANAGE AND MAINTAIN OPEN SPACES OF OVER 500 AND 300 HECTARES RESPECTIVELY," HE SAID.

MR CHUI POINTED OUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH FACILITIES INVOLVED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

"WHEN COMPARED WITH THE LAST DECADE, THE EXPENDITURE ALLOCATED IN THESE AREAS FOR THE FUTURE HAD INCREASED DRASTICALLY," HE SAID.

"APART FROM THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES, THE MOST IMPORTANT AND DEMANDING TASK IS THE TRAINING OF MANAGEMENT STAFF," HE SAID.

MR CHUI EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS BASED ON A PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION AND WAS AIMED TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ORGANISATIONS BY MEANS OF CAPITAL RESOURCES.

HE SAID THE RECENTLY RELEASED SPORT CONSULTANCY REPORT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONSULT PUBLIC VIEWS ON THE FUTURE SPORTS POLICY FOR HONG KONG.

MR CHUI SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON CULTURE AND RECREATION WAS CONSTANTLY REVIEWED, AND ONE OF ITS MOST NOTABLE EFFORTS HAD BEEN THE ACCREDITATION OF HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VISUAL ARTS.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 29 -

FOOD SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS, FOOD TRADERS TOLD

* * * * *

AN URBAN COUNCILLOR TODAY UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF EVERYBODY DOING THEIR SHARE IN MAINTAINING FOOD HYGIENE AS THE GENERAL PROCESS OF FOOD PRODUCTION MIGHT BE DIVIDED INTO MANY AREAS.

"IF THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG IN ANY SINGLE AREA SUCH AS PURCHASING, INITIAL PREPARATION, STORING, COOKING OR SERVING FOOD, SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES MAY RESULT WITH THE MOST COMMON ONE BEING FOOD POISONING," SAID MR KWAN LIM-HO, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL'S FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A THREE-MONTH FOOD HYGIENE CAMPAIGN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS AND THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH.

"WHETHER FOOD IS SAFE AND HYGIENIC DEPENDS ON WHETHER INDIVIDUAL FOOD WORKERS CAN FULFIL THEIR DUTIES TO PAY ATTENTION TO FOOD HYGIENE," HE SAID.

"THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN, 'FOOD SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS', IS TO POINT OUT JUST THAT.

"I MUST STRESS THAT THE FOOD HYGIENE CAMPAIGN IS MERELY AN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY OF A THREE-MONTH DURATION, BUT MAINTAINING FOOD HYGIENE IS ESSENTIALLY A LONG-TERM JOB.

"IN SUMMER WHEN THE CAMPAIGN IS LAUNCHED, PARTICULAR ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO FOOD HYGIENE, BUT IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE CAN BE SLACK IN OTHER PERIODS, OTHERWISE THE DRASTIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VIRAL HEPATITIS A CASES EARLY THIS YEAR CAN EASILY HAPPEN AGAIN."

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE, DR PANG HOK-TUEN, SAID NEW PROBLEMS OF FOOD SAFETY WERE MORE COMPLICATED AND HARDER TO HANDLE THAN TRADITIONAL HYGIENE PROBLEMS.

"WE HAVE TO COMBAT PROBLEMS SUCH AS AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION, TOXIC SEAFOOD, HORMONE ABUSE, ANTIBIOTIC ABUSE, FOOD ADDITIVE ABUSE, CARCINOGENIC SUBSTANCE AS WELL AS UNSAFE FOOD PACKAGING," SAID DR PANG.

"IN ORDER TO TACKLE THESE PROBLEMS EFFECTIVELY, INFORMATION GATHERING IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

"THE FOOD HYGIENE SEMINAR HELD TODAY PROVIDES YOU WITH A PROPER CHANNEL TO GATHER SUCH INFORMATION."

/TO SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 30 -

TO SUPPLEMENT THE SEMINAR, A SLIDE SHOW AND A FILM ON FOOD HYGIENE PRINCIPLES WERE PRESENTED. AN OPEN DISCUSSION WAS ALSO HELD TO ENABLE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND PRINTED PUBLICITY MATERIALS INCLUDING POSTERS, LEAFLETS AND STICKERS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO PARTICIPANTS.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD FROM JUNE TO THE END OF AUGUST, A 24-HOUR HEALTH EDUCATION HOTLINE (5-8916443) SET UP BY THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH PROVIDES A TAPED CHINESE MESSAGE ON PRINCIPLES OF FOOD HYGIENE. SPECIFIC ENQUIRIES RAISED BY INDIVIDUAL CALLERS WILL BE RECORDED AND ANSWERED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CARE IN COMMUNITY FOR THE ELDERLY

* * * * *

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY IS THE MAJOR PREMISE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY FOR THE ELDERLY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THIS, A SERIES OF SERVICES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ARE PROVIDED FOR PEOPLE AGED OVER 60 TO ENABLE THEM TO CONTINUE LIVING WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING AT A 'PARTY FOR A THOUSAND AGED' ORGANISED BY THE SHUN TAK FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION AT CITY HALL, MRS WONG SAID THAT THESE COMMUNITY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES INCLUDED CASH ASSISTANCE, HEALTH CARE, ASSISTANCE IN DAILY LIVING AND SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT.

FINANCIALLY, SHE NOTED THAT APART FROM PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, ELDERLY PEOPLE AGED OVER 60 WHO HAD BEEN CERTIFIED BY DOCTORS TO BE SEVERELY DISABLED AND IN NEED OF CONSTANT ATTENDANCE COULD RECEIVE A HIGHER DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, WHICH WAS TWICE THE AMOUNT OF THE NORMAL DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, SINCE APRIL.

IN DAILY LIVING, SHE SAID THAT BOTH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, IN PROMOTING FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, ENCOURAGED FAMILIES TO MAINTAIN HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR ELDERLY MEMBERS.

AS MORE CONTACTS AMONG PEERS AND THE CULTIVATION OF HOBBIES WOULD ENRICH THE ELDERLY PEOPLE'S LIVES, MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT SOCIAL CENTRES WERE PROVIDED FOR THESE PURPOSES.

"EIGHT SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY WERE SET UP LAST YEAR AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT ANOTHER 14 NEW CENTRES WILL COME INTO SERVICE THIS YEAR, MAKING A TOTAL OF 100 CENTRES BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR," SHE SAID.

/"IN ADDITION,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 31 -

"IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SET UP ONE MULTI-SERVICES CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IN EVERY ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT AND TWO SUCH CENTRES WERE ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR, WITH TWO MORE TO START OPERATION THIS YEAR.

"APART FROM PROVIDING COUNSELLING, HOME HELP AND LAUNDRY SERVICES, THERE ARE ALSO DAY CARE FACILITIES IN THESE CENTRES TO HELP THE SENIOR CITIZENS SOLVE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY OLD AGE," SHE ADDED.

CONCEDING THAT SOME OLD PEOPLE NEEDED INSTITUTIONAL CARE DESPITE ALL THESE SUPPORT SERVICES, MRS WONG SAID THE SERVICES OF PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE AGED HAD ATTRACTED ATTENTION, AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD DRAWN UP A CODE OF PRACTICE TO SERVE AS A REFERENCE FOR THE OPERATORS OF THESE HOMES.

"WE WILL ENCOURAGE THESE HOMES TO REGISTER WITH OUR DEPARTMENT VOLUNTARILY AND HOPE THAT A FURTHER STEP OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATIVE CONTROL WILL BE ACHIEVED IN 1990 SO AS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THIS SERVICE," SHE SAID.

"NEVERTHELESS, GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ALONE, WITHOUT INPUT OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT, ARE INADEQUATE IN THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICE," SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG PRAISED THE SHUN TAK FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS IN PROMOTING RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY, BESIDES THE PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT ON SALE

* * * * *

COPIES OF THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE REPORT OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO COMMENT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT TO WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS AT ROOM 1804, ADMIRALTY CENTRE, TOWER 1, HONG KONG BY JULY 4, 1988.

/ALSO PRICED

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 32 -

ALSO PRICED AT \$55 PER COPY, THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE REPORT WILL BE READY FOR SALE FROM 10 AM TOMORROW AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COMPLIMENTARY MEDIA COPIES OF THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT WILL BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TENDER FOR GOVERNMENT LAND AND FORESHORE

* * * * *

TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND AND FORESHORE ARE BEING LET BY TENDER ON SHORT TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

ONE PIECE OF LAND AT AREA 47, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES, MEASURING ABOUT 6,817 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSES (INCLUDING STORAGE OF CONTAINERS).

THE INITIAL TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER. THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 24.

THE OTHER PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND AND FORESHORE AT THE SOUTH WESTERN COAST OF AP LEI CHAU, HONG KONG, MEASURING ABOUT 1.216 HECTARES, IS FOR THE HANDLING OF AGGREGATE AND CEMENT INCLUDING THE BATCHING OF READY-MIXED CONCRETE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR FIVE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JULY 1.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/33

- 33 -

NORTH DISTRICT HAS VAST DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL: DO

* * * * *

NORTH DISTRICT IS A FAST DEVELOPING DISTRICT WHICH HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED FROM A SLEEPY RURAL AREA INTO A MODERN NEW TOWN, SAID THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR MATTHEW CHEUNG, THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

ADDRESSING A MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF TOLO HARBOUR, MR CHEUNG SAID NORTH DISTRICT OFFERS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT.

"ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION, COUPLED WITH A GOOD TRANSPORT NETWORK WITH THE REST OF THE TERRITORY AND THE SHENZHEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, ITS ON-GOING INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS, PLUS AN ABUNDANT LABOUR SUPPLY AND AVAILABILITY OF LAND, OFFER TREMENDOUS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO ENTREPRENEURS AND DEVELOPERS ALIKE," HE STRESSED.

MR CHEUNG NOTED THAT 1979 WAS AN IMPORTANT YEAR FOR NORTH DISTRICT, WHEN THE FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI AREA WAS DESIGNATED AS A NEW TOWN.

OUTLINING THE PROMINENT FEATURES OF THIS NEW TOWN, HE SAID, "WHEREAS MOST NEW TOWNS IN HONG KONG INCORPORATE SUBSTANTIAL AREAS RECLAIMED FROM THE SEA, FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI OCCUPIES AN ENTIRELY INLAND SITE OBTAINED BY LAND RESUMPTION AND CLEARANCE.

"ACCORDINGLY, UNLIKE OTHER NEW TOWNS WHOSE LINEAR URBAN STRUCTURES USUALLY FOLLOW SOME WELL-TRAINED RIVER COURSES, THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OF FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI HAS TO TAKE AN ESSENTIAL LINEAR SHAPE WITH SOME IMPORTANT TERRITORIAL TRANSPORT LINKS SUCH AS THE RAILWAY AND THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AS THE AXIS.

"AS A RESULT, MOST PARTS OF THE NEW TOWN ARE WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE TO THE MAIN TRANSPORT EXCHANGES WHICH MAKE READY CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE TERRITORY," HE ADDED.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT FEATURE WAS THE EASY ACCESSIBILITY AND PROXIMITY TO BORDER CROSSING POINTS, MR CHEUNG SAID.

"THE MAN KAM TO CONTROL POINT - THE MAIN VEHICULAR ARTERY BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN - IS ONLY FOUR KILOMETRES AWAY FROM THE HUB OF THE NEW TOWN. THE SHA TAU KOK CONTROL POINT IS 10 KILOMETRES AWAY AND THE FUTURE LOK MA CHAU CROSSING, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, IS SEVEN KILOMETRES AWAY," HE ADDED.

HE SAID OVER THE PAST YEAR, CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC THROUGH MAN KAM TO HAD GROWN BY AN AVERAGE OF 30 PER CENT.

"THIS IS INDICATIVE OF THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE GUANGDONG PROVINCE.

/"NORTH DISTRICT

"NORTH DISTRICT IS THUS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PLACED TO SERVE AS THE SPRINGBOARD TO THE SHENZHEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE ON LOK TSUEN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN FANLING, MR CHEUNG SAID IT OCCUPIED AN AREA OF 16 HECTARES OF SOLID LAND WHICH, UNLIKE RECLAIMED LAND, POSED NO PROBLEM TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF PLANTS.

HE ADDED THAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE ESTATE HAD TAKEN PLACE MAINLY BY WAY OF PRIVATE LAND EXCHANGES AND LEASE MODIFICATIONS AS MOST OF THE LAND WAS PRIVATELY OWNED.

AS AN ENCOURAGING MEASURE, MR CHEUNG EXPLAINED, THE GOVERNMENT HAD INTRODUCED ATTRACTIVE BASIC TERMS FOR IN-SITU LAND EXCHANGES.

TO ENHANCE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THIS INDUSTRIAL AREA, AN EXTENSIVE RIVER TRAINING SCHEME IN THE NEARBY MA WAT RIVER AND A SUBSTANTIAL ROADS AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COSTING OVER \$100 MILLION HAD RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN, MR CHEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY SPENT WELL OVER \$2.7 BILLION AND ANOTHER \$5 BILLION WOULD BE INVESTED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

ON THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES NECESSITATED BY A STEADY BUILD-UP IN DISTRICT POPULATION, HE SAID A TOTAL OF 23 PROJECTS, COSTING SOME \$1.7 BILLION, WERE CURRENTLY UNDER PLANNING OR IMPLEMENTATION.

AMONG THESE FACILITIES ARE FIVE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, A SECONDARY SCHOOL, A SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION IN SHEK WU HUI, A SEVEN-STOREY DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING IN FANLING, AND A 1200-BED NORTH DISTRICT HOSPITAL ADJACENT TO THE FANLING GOLF COURSE.

AS REGARDS RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, MR CHEUNG SAID 29 PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL COST OF \$255 MILLION, WERE BEING PLANNED OR IMPLEMENTED.

THESE INCLUDE TWO INDOOR RECREATION CENTRES IN SHEK WU HUI, TWO RECREATION GROUNDS, A SPORTS COMPLEX, A SWIMMING POOL AND A CENTRAL PARK WHICH WOULD HAVE AN OPEN PLAZA, A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE AREA, A CENTRAL LAKE AND GARDENS.

MR CHEUNG ADDED THAT WHILE THE SKYLINE OF FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI WAS CHANGING RAPIDLY, THE BORDER TOWN OF SHA TAU KOK WAS UNDERGOING A \$300 MILLION FACELIFT.

"A LOW-DENSITY RURAL TOWNSHIP COMPLETE WITH MODERN AMENITIES AND FACILITIES IS TAKING SHAPE. ITS REDEVELOPMENT WILL UPGARDE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE 3,900 PEOPLE NOW LIVING IN TWO SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS IN SHA TAU KOK," HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 35 -

BOARD TO DISCUSS YOUTH POLICY AND UC WORK PROGRAMME

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH'S REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY AND THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME.

THEY WILL ALSO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE INTRODUCTION OF SUMMER TIME AND ON A REPORT ON A LION ROCK TUNNEL TRAFFIC STUDY SUBMITTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP ON A "PREFERENTIAL SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY", THE BOARD'S STUDY TOUR TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, AND THE REVISED DISTRICT BOARD STANDING ORDERS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 37-39, TONKIN STREET, KOWLOON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD

* * * * *

MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED THAT A 220-METRE SECTION OF THE NORTHBOUND SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NEAR HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 10 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, AND BETWEEN 11 PM ON JUNE 10 (FRIDAY) AND 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 PM ON JUNE 14 TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY AND FROM 11 PM ON JUNE 15 TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE NORTHBOUND SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTH OF HUNG MUI KUK ROAD, MEASURING ABOUT 90 METRES, WILL ALSO BE CLOSED.

THE MEASURES ARE TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1988

- 36 -

URBAN CLEARWAY ON KENNEDY ROAD, WAN CHAI

* * * * *

KENNEDY ROAD EASTBOUND IN WAN CHAI FROM A POINT ABOUT 55 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SPRING GARDEN LANE TO A POINT ABOUT 70 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WAN CHAI GAP ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 10).

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE ON TUEN MUN ROAD FOR ROAD WORKS

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDS MOTORISTS THAT TRAFFIC LANES ON TUEN MUN ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE CLOSURE WILL LAST FOR EIGHT DAYS UNTIL JUNE 16. DURING THE PERIOD, THE THREE TRAFFIC LANES ON TUEN MUN ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN SO KWUN TAN BRIDGE AND SIU LAM BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED ALTERNATIVELY TO FACILITATE ROAD SURFACING WORK FOR IMPROVING THE ROAD'S FRICTION.

UNDER THE WORK SCHEDULE, ONLY ONE OF THE THREE TRAFFIC LANES WILL BE CLOSED FOR WORK ON NORMAL WEEKDAYS. HOWEVER, ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, OWING TO COMPARATIVELY LOW TRAFFIC FLOW, TWO TRAFFIC LANES WILL BE CLOSED, LEAVING ONE LANE FOR SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC.

AS CONGESTION IS EXPECTED DURING THE AFFECTED PERIOD, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THEY CAN USE CASTLE PEAK ROAD AS AN ALTERNATIVE. THEY SHOULD ALSO WATCH OUT FOR THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND PATIENCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SEYMOUR ROAD

* * * * *

TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS, SEYMOUR ROAD BETWEEN CASTLE ROAD AND ROBINSON ROAD IN THE MID-LEVELS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM DAILY FROM SATURDAY (JUNE 11) FOR THREE DAYS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, CMB BUS ROUTES 12, 23A AND 45 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA BONHAM ROAD AND PARK ROAD TO JOIN ROBINSON ROAD WHILE VEHICLES HEADING FOR ROBINSON ROAD SHOULD USE BREEZY PATH OR PARK ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -