



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
<u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:</u>	
BILL PROPOSES HK SOLUTION FOR INVESTOR PROTECTION	1
REVISED FEES FOR REGISTRATION OF PATENTS	4
REVIEWS CONDUCTED ON EQUAL PAY	4
NON-COMMONWEALTH DOCTORS FOR CENTRES UNDER STUDY	5
ORDINANCE AIMS AT STRIKING REASONABLE BALANCE	7
KEY POSITIONS BEING FILLED SATISFACTORILY	8
RAISING OF KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS BEING STUDIED	9
AIMS OF SUBVENTIONS FOR PERFORMING ARTS	10
CODES OF AID FOR SCHOOLS SIMPLIFIED	11
AG: REVIEW OF USE OF NOLLES PROSEQUI	12
EARLIER GATE OPENING AT LO WU TO BE CONSIDERED	14
MORE VEHICLES TO BE TESTED FOR SMOKE EMISSION	15
CURRENT LEGISLATION ADEQUATE TO ENSURE RAILINGS SAFETY	15
STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE BORDER TRAFFIC CONGESTION	16
TESTS CARRIED OUT ON HOSPITAL OXYGEN TANKS	17
REGISTRATION OF PATENTS RULES APPROVED	19
VISIT OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES	20
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT TO BE FORMED	20
APPLICATIONS FOR TRADE MARKS INCREASE IN 1988	21
TUEN MUN DB DELEGATION LEAVES FOR SOUTH KOREA	22
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY	22
SOUTHERN DB TO REPORT ON YEAR'S WORK	23
FREE TICKETS FOR CONCERT IN TAI PO	24
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC CONGESTION NEAR TSING YI BRIDGES	25
SAI KUNG COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS VAN TRACK IMPROVEMENT	25
URBAN CLEARWAYS IN NORTH POINT, MONG KOK	26
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES IN KWUN TONG, HUNG HOM	26
TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD	27
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WONG TAI SIN	27

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

- 1 -

BILL PROPOSES HK SOLUTION FOR INVESTOR PROTECTION

* * * * *

IN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A DURABLE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK CONDUCTIVE TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF STABLE, FAIR AND ORDERLY FINANCIAL MARKETS, THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM HAS BEEN TO PUT FORWARD A SOLUTION WHICH IS RIGHT FOR HONG KONG.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION BILL 1989.

"IN PUTTING TOGETHER THIS BILL, WE HAVE BEEN ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO AVOID OVER-REGULATION, WHICH WOULD STIFLE THE VIGOUR AND INNOVATION OF OUR MARKETS.

"AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST ESTABLISH A REGULATORY BODY WITH SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY AND RESOURCES TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF INVESTOR PROTECTION WHICH IS BROADLY COMPARABLE TO THAT IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRES.

"WHILE LOOKING OVERSEAS FOR USEFUL REFERENCES, AND INDEED FOR INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED REGULATORY STANDARDS, WE MUST NOT OVERLOOK LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES," MR JACOBS EMPHASISED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL DID NOT SEEK TO LAY DOWN ALL THE REGULATIONS AND RULES.

"THESE WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE COMMISSION, AFTER IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, IN CONSULTATION WITH THOSE IN THE MARKET PLACE.

"IT DOES, HOWEVER, SET OUT THE PARAMETERS WITHIN WHICH SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS SHOULD BE FORMULATED," HE ADDED.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT IN PUTTING TOGETHER THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSULTED THOROUGHLY MARKET ORGANISATIONS, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

"AS A RESULT, WE HAVE INTRODUCED SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS INTO THE BILL.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE BILL IN ITS PRESENT FORM STRIKES THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN GIVING THE NEW COMMISSION ADEQUATE POWERS TO CARRY OUT ITS TASKS AND PROVIDING THE MARKETS WITH THE FREEDOM THEY NEED TO THRIVE AND ADAPT TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS THEN TURNED TO SEVERAL AREAS WHICH ATTRACTED PARTICULAR ATTENTION DURING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS.

/REGARDING THE

REGARDING THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NEW SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC) AND THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE ACCOUNTABILITY, HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD STILL BE PART OF THE WIDER GOVERNMENT MACHINERY AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE.

"WHILE THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF AUTONOMY IN ITS DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS, ANY MAJOR CHANGES TO AND DEVELOPMENTS IN POLICY WILL STILL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL," HE STRESSED.

ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NEW COMMISSION AND THE TWO EXCHANGES, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH EXCHANGES ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SFC.

"WE ARE AGREED THAT, WITHIN THE PROPOSED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, FIRST LINE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY, EFFICIENCY AND FAIRNESS OF MARKETS AND FOR ENSURING THE FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS AND CORRECT BUSINESS CONDUCT OF MEMBERS SHOULD REST WITH THE EXCHANGES.

"THE COMMISSION, FOR ITS PART, SHOULD MONITOR CLOSELY PERFORMANCE BY THE EXCHANGES OF THEIR SELF-REGULATORY FUNCTIONS, GIVE GUIDANCE, CO-ORDINATE REGULATION WITHIN HONG KONG AND INTERNATIONALLY, AND ONLY USE ITS POWER TO DIRECT THE EXCHANGES IF IT BELIEVES THAT THEY ARE FAILING TO FULFIL THEIR REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES EFFECTIVELY," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS NOTED THAT FOR THE SYSTEM TO WORK, THERE MUST BE CLOSE, FREQUENT AND REGULAR TWO-WAY CONTACT AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE EXCHANGES.

"WITHOUT SEEKING TO INTERFERE IN THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE EXCHANGES, THE COMMISSION MUST BE ABLE TO KEEP ITSELF INFORMED OF MARKET ACTIVITIES AND THE CONDUCT OF MEMBERS.

"IN EXERCISING THEIR REGULATORY FUNCTIONS, AS WELL AS IN PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS, THE COMMISSION AND THE EXCHANGES HAVE SIMILAR INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES AND WILL NEED TO WORK TOGETHER IN HARMONY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE RESOURCES AND POWERS ARE USED IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANNER," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL REGARDING THE POWERS OF THE SFC OVER THE EXCHANGES AND THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF THE SFC AND THE EXCHANGES FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE, "EXCEPT THAT WE HAVE MADE PROVISION IN THE BILL FOR THE COMMISSION TO BE ABLE TO TRANSFER TO THE EXCHANGES CERTAIN FUNCTIONS ADDITIONAL TO THOSE ENVISAGED IN THAT REPORT."

"IT IS OUR INTENTION THAT, AS AND WHEN THE TWO EXCHANGES DEVELOP THEIR ROLE AS SELF-REGULATORY ORGANISATIONS, AN INCREASED PART OF THE REGULATORY AND SUPERVISORY FUNCTION SHOULD BE DEVOLVED TO THEM.

"I INTEND AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF THIS BILL TO MOVE AN AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 4 TO ADD TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NEW COMMISSION, THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-REGULATION BY MARKET BODIES," HE SAID.

AS FOR THE MATTER OF FUNDING, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP SET UP TO STUDY THE BILL.

"LET ME MERELY SAY AT THIS STAGE THAT OUR OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO DEVISE ARRANGEMENTS IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE LARGELY FUNDED BY THE MARKET BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE A CONTRIBUTION.

"THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE MARKET CONTRIBUTION TO BE IN THE FORM OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR SPECIFIC SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY THE COMMISSION ON A BROAD COST RECOVERY BASIS, AND A STATUTORY LEVY ON TRANSACTIONS RECORDED ON THE EXCHANGES," HE SAID.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF AN INITIAL START-UP GRANT, AN INTEREST-FREE ADVANCE AND AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE COMMISSION'S COSTS, WITH PROVISION FOR THE COMMISSION TO BORROW FROM THE GOVERNMENT, AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE, IF ITS RESERVES FELL BELOW A CERTAIN LEVEL, HE SAID.

MR JACOBS WENT ON TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF THE BILL WHICH SOUGHT TO VEST IN THE SFC THE FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXISTING REGULATORY BODIES - SECURITIES COMMISSION, THE COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION AND THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER.

HE NOTED THAT THE BILL DID NOT IMPLEMENT ALL THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS IN THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT, BUT IT DID GIVE THE NEW COMMISSION THOSE ADDITIONAL POWERS WHICH WERE CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR IT TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY DURING THE INITIAL PHASE OF ITS OPERATION.

THESE INCLUDED PROVISIONS FOR A MORE ROBUST REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR INTERMEDIARIES AND FOR THE BETTER SUPERVISION OF THEIR BUSINESSES IN ORDER TO ENSURE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKETS AND TO PROTECT INVESTORS.

EARLIER, MR JACOBS SAID THE SFC BILL REPRESENTED A FIRST BUT IMPORTANT STEP IN THE OVERHAUL OF SECURITIES LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG.

HE ALSO REFERRED BRIEFLY TO SOME OF THE MAJOR PROPOSALS OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE WHICH BELIEVED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD AIM TO BECOME THE PRE-EMINENT CAPITAL MARKET IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND, TO THAT END, SHOULD PROMOTE THE PROGRESSIVE INTERNATIONALISATION OF ITS SECURITIES MARKETS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

- 4 -

REVISED FEES FOR REGISTRATION OF PATENTS

* * * * *

THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS (FEES) (AMENDMENT) RULES 1989 WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE RULES WERE MADE BY THE REGISTRAR OF PATENTS ON JANUARY 3.

MOVING THE MOTION OF APPROVAL, UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE FEES PAYABLE TO THE REGISTRAR OF PATENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS WERE LAST REVISED IN 1985.

"FOLLOWING A COSTING EXERCISE RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE TREASURY, IT IS PROPOSED THAT CERTAIN FEES BE AMENDED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF INFLATION AND THE COST OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES.

"THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WELL ESTABLISHED POLICY OF USERS PAYING THE FULL COST FOR THE SERVICES RENDERED," MR JACOBS SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REVIEWS CONDUCTED ON EQUAL PAY

* * * * *

REVIEWS CONDUCTED IN 1978 AND 1986 FOUND THAT THERE WAS GENERALLY NO PAY DISCRIMINATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET AGAINST EITHER SEX, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THESE REVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD'S TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS, MR BRIDGE ADDED.

MR BRIDGE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

MR TAM HAD ASKED WHY THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 7(A)(I) OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, WHICH PROVIDED THAT MEN AND WOMEN SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, HAD BEEN POSTPONED IN RELATION TO HONG KONG SINCE 1976.

MR BRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THIS ISSUE IN 1976, IT HAD ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

IT, HOWEVER, FELT THAT TO APPLY ARTICLE 7 OF THE ECONOMIC COVENANT WITHOUT RESERVATION WOULD CAUSE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS, HE ADDED.

"AT THAT TIME THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT ANY DIFFERENCES IN CONDITIONS OF WORK BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN WERE MAINLY DUE TO THE DIFFERENCES IN THE POSITIONS THEY HELD, RATHER THAN TO DISCRIMINATION.

/"IN ORDER

"IN ORDER TO BE SURE OF FULL COMPLIANCE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE HAD TO LEGISLATE," HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY AND HAD THEREFORE ASKED THE UK GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE RESERVATION, IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE COVENANT IN 1976.

SINCE THEN THE QUESTION OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK FOR MEN AND WOMEN HAD BEEN REVIEWED TWICE, IN THE CONTEXT OF REVIEWING INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION CONVENTIONS, IN 1978 AND 1986, HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE ADDED THAT WAGE RATES IN INDUSTRY AND SALARIES IN COMMERCE WERE DETERMINED BY MARKET FORCES WITH REFERENCE TO SUCH FACTORS AS JOB NATURE, LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY, QUALIFICATIONS, ETC.

"IT DID NOT THEREFORE SEEM NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE," HE NOTED.

NEVERTHELESS, HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD BE ASKED TO KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER REGULAR REVIEW.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NON-COMMONWEALTH DOCTORS FOR CENTRES UNDER STUDY

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WILL NEED TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE SPECIAL PROVISION FOR NON-COMMONWEALTH DOCTORS TO PRACTISE STRICTLY WITHIN THE CONFINES OF VIETNAMESE CENTRES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES SAID IT WAS CLEARLY DESIRABLE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) AND THE BELGIAN MEDICAL CHARITY, MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (MSF), SHOULD BE HELPED IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO ASSUME FULL OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL SERVICES IN VIETNAMESE CENTRES.

HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT GOVERNMENT'S MEDICAL RESOURCES SHOULD NOT BE DIVERTED FROM SERVING THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BY THE NEEDS IN THE VIETNAMESE CENTRES.

THE QUESTION OF ALLOWING NON-COMMONWEALTH DOCTORS TO PRACTISE IN THESE CENTRES WOULD BE CONSIDERED FURTHER, AND AS URGENTLY AS POSSIBLE, SINCE THE LIKELY NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MEDICAL SERVICES WAS ALREADY APPARENT, MR BARNES SAID.

/REPLYING TO

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW, MR BARNES SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE MSF HAD ALREADY RECRUITED TWO VOLUNTEER DOCTORS FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES TO SERVE THE REFUGEES AT SHAM SHUI PO AND TUEN MUN (BOWRING).

THEY WERE ALSO RECRUITING A THIRD DOCTOR FOR THE CENTRE AT PILLAR POINT, HE ADDED.

"IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL, THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT OF ONE DOCTOR PER REFUGEE CENTRE WILL HAVE BEEN MET," MR BARNES SAID.

"BUT THE PROBLEM WILL STILL REMAIN OF RECRUITING DOCTORS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS REPLACEMENTS IN FUTURE, OR TO PROVIDE IMPROVED MEDICAL SERVICES."

SPEAKING ON THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, MR BARNES SAID THE MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CLOSED CENTRES, EXCEPT SHAM SHUI PO AND THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DETENTION CENTRES, WERE PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT DOCTORS ASSISTED BY OTHER STAFF FROM THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

"THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT AN IDEAL SITUATION SINCE IT MEANS THAT IT PUTS AN ADDITIONAL STRAIN ON THE GOVERNMENT'S EXISTING MEDICAL SERVICES AND DIVERTS GOVERNMENT DOCTORS FROM SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY," MR BARNES SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED A STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNHCR ON SEPTEMBER 20 LAST YEAR, HE SAID.

UNDER THE STATEMENT, THE UNHCR AGREED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES AT ALL REFUGEE CENTRES, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES AT DETENTION CENTRES.

MR BARNES SAID THE UNHCR HAD SUBSEQUENTLY ARRANGED FOR THE MSF TO TAKE OVER THE MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE EXISTING CLOSED CENTRES FOR REFUGEES.

"HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A POOL OF VOLUNTEER DOCTORS WITH QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED IN BELGIUM, THE UNHCR HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THESE DOCTORS CANNOT AT PRESENT PRACTISE IN HONG KONG SINCE THEY ARE NOT LOCALLY REGISTRABLE UNDER THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE," MR BARNES EXPLAINED.

UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, ONLY PERSONS WHO HELD A HONG KONG, UK, IRISH OR RECOGNISED COMMONWEALTH DIPLOMA WERE ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED AS MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

THE ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR CERTAIN PERSONS TO BE EXEMPTED FROM REGISTRATION: MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS SERVING IN HER MAJESTY'S FORCES, SHIPS SURGEONS, PERSONS IN FULL-TIME SERVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OR THE UNIVERSITIES AND PERSONS IN TEACHING OR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.

/"UNFORTUNATELY, THESE

"UNFORTUNATELY, THESE EXEMPTIONS DO NOT EXTEND TO DOCTORS SERVING IN REFUGEE CENTRES," MR BARNES SAID.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG HAD THE POWER TO GRANT A PERSON A LICENCE TO PRACTISE MEDICINE, HE SAID.

THE CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING SUCH A LICENCE NORMALLY INCLUDED A LICENTIATE EXAMINATION AND A SUBSEQUENT PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT.

HOWEVER, THE ORDINANCE PROVIDED THAT THE MEDICAL COUNCIL MIGHT, SUBJECT TO SUCH CONDITIONS AS IT THOUGHT FIT, EXEMPT ANY PERSON WISHING TO BECOME A LICENTIATE FROM ANY REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED UNDER THE ORDINANCE, MR BARNES SAID.

"WE HAVE THEREFORE APPROACHED THE MEDICAL COUNCIL AND ASKED WHETHER THEY WOULD CONSIDER A LICENCE OR EXEMPTION FOR MSF DOCTORS TO ENABLE THEM TO WORK IN REFUGEE CENTRES.

"THE INITIAL REACTION OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL WAS THAT THEY SAW DIFFICULTY IN THIS, BUT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE COUNCIL WITH A VIEW TO FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEM," MR BARNES SAID.

----- 0 -----

ORDINANCE AIMS AT STRIKING REASONABLE BALANCE
* * * * *

THE INTENTION UNDERLYING THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE IS TO STRIKE A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE AND EXPRESS ITS VIEWS AND THE BROADER INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID LI ON THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE'S POWER TO CONTROL PUBLIC MEETINGS, GATHERINGS AND PROCESSIONS.

MR BARNES SAID THAT WITH ANY SYSTEM WHERE CONDITIONS WERE LAID DOWN, INEVITABLY THERE WOULD BE INSTANCES WHERE APPLICANTS WERE DISSATISFIED, BUT THESE CASES HAD BEEN RARE.

THE GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT HAD NO PLANS TO AMEND PART III OF THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE WHICH CONCERNED MEETINGS, GATHERINGS AND PROCESSIONS, HE SAID.

"I HAVE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE OMELCO OFFICE HAS BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THIS ASPECT OF THE ORDINANCE, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THE OMELCO SECURITY PANEL IS CONSIDERING THE MATTER," HE SAID.

/MR BARNES

MR BARNES SAID THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE DID NOT HAVE UNLIMITED POWERS UNDER THE ORDINANCE, WHICH PLACED CLEAR LIMITS ON HIS POWERS AND PROVIDED A CHANNEL FOR APPEAL TO THE GOVERNOR.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE COMMISSIONER WAS GIVEN WIDE DISCRETION BY THE ORDINANCE AS TO THE CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT BE IMPOSED ON A GATHERING BECAUSE OF THE VERY WIDE RANGE OF GATHERINGS THAT WERE POSSIBLE AND THE WIDE VARIETY OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEY MIGHT BE TAKING PLACE.

"CONDITIONS NEED TO BE OBSERVED NOT SIMPLY IN THE INTERESTS OF PRESERVING PUBLIC ORDER BUT ALSO FOR OTHER PURPOSES, SUCH AS AVOIDING NUISANCE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND PREVENTING OBSTRUCTIONS TO TRAFFIC," HE SAID.

"THE URBAN AREAS, PUBLIC PLACES AND ROADS OF HONG KONG ARE BUSY AND CROWDED, YET THE HOLDING OF GATHERINGS, MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS IS NOT UNDULY RESTRICTED, AND ONLY A TINY PROPORTION ARE DISALLOWED OR REFUSED.

"IF SUCH EVENTS ARE TO TAKE PLACE FREQUENTLY, AS THEY DO, WITHOUT CAUSING DISRUPTION TO THE COMMUNITY, CONTROL IS OBVIOUSLY ESSENTIAL," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THAT RECENT PERFORMANCE SUGGESTED THAT THE LICENSING AUTHORITY EXERCISED ITS DISCRETION AND JUDGEMENT REASONABLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

KEY POSITIONS BEING FILLED SATISFACTORILY

* * * * *

THE CIVIL SERVICE CONTINUES TO BE ABLE TO FILL ITS KEY POSITIONS WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE CALIBRE IT NEEDS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON NELLIE PONG, SIR DAVID SAID THE VACANCY AND TURNOVER SITUATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMPARED VERY FAVOURABLY WITH THE POSITION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"WE ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING AT WAYS OF IMPROVING THE PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY OF INDIVIDUALS AND DEPARTMENTS THROUGH GOOD MANPOWER PLANNING AND TRAINING SCHEMES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND OTHER OFFICE EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE RESOURCES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE MUST BE PUT TO THE BEST POSSIBLE USE TO ENSURE THAT THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY WERE OF HIGH QUALITY.

/SIR DAVID

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

- 9 -

SIR DAVID SAID VACANCIES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AROSE AS A RESULT OF THE CREATION OF NEW POSTS AND WASTAGE.

HE NOTED THAT ON JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR THERE WERE 194,612 CIVIL SERVICE POSTS AND 9,735, OR FIVE PER CENT, VACANCIES.

THIS COMPARED WITH A VACANCY RATE OF BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR PER CENT FOR THE FIVE YEARS FROM 1983 TO 1987 AND BETWEEN 8.5 AND NINE PER CENT FROM 1978 TO 1982, HE SAID.

"THE SLIGHT INCREASE IN VACANCIES REFLECTS THE SMALL AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL GROWTH WHICH HAS FOLLOWED THE RELAXATION OF THE ZERO GROWTH POLICY.

"HIGHER WASTAGE HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE EXISTENCE OF VACANCIES AT THE PRESENT LEVEL WAS NOT AFFECTING THE QUALITY OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC TO ANY SIGNIFICANT EXTENT.

BUT, IN A FEW AREAS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ABLE TO INTRODUCE IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING SERVICES OR NEW SERVICES AS QUICKLY AS WISHED, HE SAID.

THE GRADES WHERE THERE WERE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS INCLUDED ANALYST PROGRAMMERS, WITH A VACANCY RATE OF 16.5 PER CENT; SOCIAL WORKERS, WITH 13 PER CENT; AND CROWN COUNSEL, WITH 13.5 PER CENT.

"STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO DEAL WITH SITUATIONS LIKE THIS, THE RECENTLY INTRODUCED DOUBLE-LADDER PROMOTION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL CROWN COUNSEL BEING ONE EXAMPLE," SIR DAVID SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RAISING OF KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS BEING STUDIED

* * * * *

A WORKING GROUP SET UP IN 1986 HAS BEEN FOCUSSED ON WAYS TO RAISE STANDARDS IN KINDERGARTENS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"I HOPE TO HAVE PROPOSALS READY FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," MR BRIDGE ADDED IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT.

/MR BRIDGE

MR BRIDGE NOTED THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, IN ITS SECOND REPORT, HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE UNIFICATION OF PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES SHOULD BE THE GOAL, BUT THAT THE FIRST TASK IN THE PROCESS OF UNIFICATION WAS TO BRING TOGETHER THE STANDARDS OF KINDERGARTENS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES.

"ONCE A PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS TO KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION HAS COMMENCED, THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE ABLE TO TURN ITS ATTENTION TO THE LONGER TERM QUESTION OF WHETHER ALL PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES SHOULD BE BROUGHT UNDER THE SAME REGULATORY FRAMEWORK," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AIMS OF SUBVENTIONS FOR PERFORMING ARTS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES SUBVENTION FOR PERFORMING ARTS ACTIVITIES, THROUGH THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, TO ENSURE THEIR CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON MICHAEL SUEN, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAUL CHENG.

MR SUEN SAID SUCH FUNDS WERE DISBURSED TO ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS TO ASSIST WITH RUNNING EXPENSES AND PROJECTS.

LAST YEAR, TWO OF THESE ORGANISATIONS HAD ENCOUNTERED FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CPA) UNDERTOOK A FULL EXAMINATION OF THEIR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

"DURING THIS PROCESS, THE COUNCIL CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE NEED TO MONITOR MORE CLOSELY THE WORK OF GRANT RECIPIENTS AND TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE COST-EFFECTIVE.

"THE COUNCIL ALSO CAME TO THE TWIN CONCLUSIONS THAT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS WAS NEEDED AND THAT MORE COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED," MR SUEN SAID.

NOTING THAT THE CPA WAS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING VARIOUS PROPOSALS REGARDING THE FUTURE LEVEL OF SUBVENTION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, HE SAID THESE WOULD BE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL IN THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

HE ADDED THAT THE CPA WAS ALSO LOOKING INTO PROPOSALS TO ENCOURAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO INCREASE ITS SPONSORSHIP OF THE ARTS, DRAWING ON EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD WHERE SUCH ENDEAVOURS HAD PROVED REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL.

/"RESULTS SHOULD

"RESULTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE WITHIN ABOUT NINE MONTHS," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THAT PERFORMING ARTS AND RELATED CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS WERE MANAGED EFFICIENTLY, MR SUEN SAID THE CPA HAD RECENTLY APPROVED A PROPOSAL FOR "ARTS AUDITS".

"THE IDEA IS TO SET UP A TEAM OF EXPERTS, WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ORGANISATION CONCERNED TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THE LATTER'S FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND CONTROL.

"IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SYSTEM WILL EVENTUALLY BE EXTENDED TO COVER ALL HONG KONG'S MAJOR PERFORMING ARTS GROUP," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CODES OF AID FOR SCHOOLS SIMPLIFIED
* * * * *

ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO SIMPLIFY THE CODES OF AID FOR AIDED SCHOOLS IN THREE AREAS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"FIRSTLY, THE AMOUNTS WHICH SCHOOLS MAY SPEND ON MAJOR REPAIRS WITHOUT FIRST GOING THROUGH TENDERING EXERCISES HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED," MR BRIDGE SAID IN REPLYING A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG.

PREVIOUSLY ANY REPAIRS COSTING MORE THAN \$2,000 IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL OR \$8,000 IN A SECONDARY SCHOOL REQUIRED TENDERS.

"WITH EFFECT FROM LAST SEPTEMBER TENDERS MAY BE WAIVED FOR REPAIRS COSTING UP TO \$30,000," MR BRIDGE SAID.

CEILINGS FOR PURCHASES OF FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT WITHOUT NEEDING TO TENDER WOULD ALSO BE RAISED, FROM \$2,000 TO \$5,000 FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND FROM \$8,000 TO \$10,000 FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, STARTING FROM NEXT MONTH, HE ADDED.

"THIS WILL RELIEVE SCHOOLS OF A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PAPERWORK, AND ALSO ENABLE THEM TO CARRY OUT REPAIRS, OR BUY EQUIPMENT, RATHER MORE QUICKLY," MR BRIDGE SAID.

A CIRCULAR ON THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE ISSUED TO ALL AIDED SCHOOLS BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

/"SECONDLY, AGREEMENT

"SECONDLY, AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL, FROM APRIL 1, 1989, TAKE OVER ALL INTERNAL MAINTENANCE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ON ITS ESTATES, IN ADDITION TO ITS EXISTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXTERNAL MAINTENANCE," MR BRIDGE CONTINUED.

"THIS TOO WILL GREATLY REDUCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON SUCH SCHOOLS."

THIRDLY, HE SAID THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WAS CONSIDERING WHAT GRANTS UNDER THE CODES OF AID COULD BE AMALGAMATED TO GIVE AIDED SCHOOLS MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF THEIR SUBSIDY.

THE DIRECTOR HAD TAKEN THESE ACTIONS AFTER THE FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVED IN JULY LAST YEAR SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE PATTERN OF GRANTS PAYABLE TO AIDED SCHOOLS.

THESE CHANGES BOTH SIMPLIFIED THE SYSTEM AND GAVE GREATER RECOGNITION TO THE DIFFERENT REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOOLS OF DIFFERENT SIZES, MR BRIDGE SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE PROGRESS OF PHASING OUT BISESSIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS, MR BRIDGE SAID THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION HAD BEEN CONDUCTING A DETAILED STUDY OF THE NUMBER OF NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH WOULD BE NEEDED TO PHASE OUT HALF-DAY SCHOOLS.

"AS THE STUDY HAS PROGRESSED, WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE NUMBER OF NEW SCHOOLS NEEDED IS NOT AS LARGE AS WE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT.

"HOWEVER, THE STUDY IS NOT YET COMPLETE, AND I AM NOT YET IN A POSITION TO ANNOUNCE A DEFINITE PHASING-OUT PROGRAMME," MR BRIDGE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AG: REVIEW OF USE OF NOLLES PROSEQUI
* * * * *

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE HAS DIRECTED THAT A REVIEW OF THE USE OF NOLLES PROSEQUI BE CARRIED OUT.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE REVIEW, ALREADY BEGUN, WOULD EXAMINE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, THE APPROACH ELSEWHERE, AS WELL AS CONSIDERATIONS PECULIAR TO HONG KONG.

THE REVIEW WOULD ALSO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF WHETHER AND, IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S POWER TO ENTER A NOLIS PROSEQUI SHOULD BE DELEGATED.

/THE POWER

THE POWER TO ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI WAS USED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TERMINATE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, HE SAID.

ITS USE DID NOT OPERATE AS AN ACQUITTAL OF THE ACCUSED AND FRESH PROCEEDINGS MIGHT LATER BE COMMENCED AGAINST THE ACCUSED FOR THE SAME OFFENCE.

MR MATHEWS EXPLAINED THAT IN HONG KONG THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS PERMITTED BY LAW TO DELEGATE MANY OF HIS FUNCTIONS INCLUDING THIS ONE.

THE POWER TO ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI HAD BEEN DELEGATED TO THE CROWN PROSECUTOR AND TO THE THREE DEPUTY CROWN PROSECUTORS.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH AN EXHAUSTIVE CRITERIA ADOPTED WHEN DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI AS THE FACTS OF EACH CASE DIFFERED.

"IN GENERAL THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THOSE SUSPECTED OF CRIMINAL ACTS ARE BROUGHT TO TRIAL MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE INTEREST OF AN ACCUSED TO BE TRIED WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY OR PREJUDICE TO HIS DEFENCE," HE SAID.

HE CITED THREE EXAMPLES OF CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH NOLLES PROSEQUI HAD BEEN ENTERED.

THE FIRST WAS WHERE BECAUSE OF HIS PHYSICAL OR MENTAL INFIRMITY, A TRIAL WOULD BE UNFAIR TO THE ACCUSED BUT AT THE SAME TIME AN ACQUITTAL WAS NOT WARRANTED.

THE SECOND WAS WHERE THERE WAS INFORMATION THAT A KEY WITNESS TO A SERIOUS OFFENCE HAD BEEN BRIBED OR INTIMIDATED NOT TO ATTEND COURT TO GIVE EVIDENCE FOR THE PROSECUTION IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE AN ACQUITTAL AS A RESULT OF SUCH MISCONDUCT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

THE THIRD EXAMPLE WAS WHEN CHARGES HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN THE WRONG COURT AND WHERE THE ENTRY OF A NOLLE PROSEQUI WAS THE ONLY MEANS OF EFFECTING JUSTICE IN THE APPROPRIATE FORUM.

NOLLES PROSEQUI WERE ENTERED 49 TIMES IN 1986, 23 TIMES IN 1987 AND 23 TIMES LAST YEAR, MR MATHEWS SAID.

"I DO NOT CONSIDER IT PROPER TO DISCLOSE REASONS FOR THE ENTRY OF NOLLES PROSEQUI IN INDIVIDUAL CASES, SINCE CASES CAN BE RESURRECTED, AND SUCH DISCLOSURE COULD WELL BE PREJUDICIAL: HOWEVER THE GROUNDS ON THESE OCCASIONS HAVE VARIED AND HAVE INCLUDED CASES OF THE KIND TO WHICH I HAVE ALREADY REFERRED," HE ADDED.

EARLIER GATE OPENING AT LO WU TO BE CONSIDERED

* * * * *

CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO ADVANCING DAILY GATE OPENING TIMES AT THE LO WU KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY TERMINAL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR BARNES SAID CONSIDERATION WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO ARRANGING TRAIN ARRIVAL TIMES MORE CLOSELY WITH GATE OPENING AND OPERATING TIMES.

HE SAID HE APPRECIATED THE CONCERN REGARDING CROWD CONTROL AT LO WU, NOTING THAT IT WAS HONG KONG'S BUSIEST LAND BORDER CROSSING POINT AND 27 MILLION PERSONS TRAVELLED THROUGH IT TO AND FROM CHINA LAST YEAR.

MR BARNES SAID THE FEASIBILITY OF ALLOWING PASSENGERS TO LINE UP IN THE LOBBY OF THE TERMINAL WOULD BE RE-EXAMINED.

"THE REASON FOR NOT FOLLOWING THIS PROCEDURE HITHERTO WAS BECAUSE OF POOR VENTILATION IN THE LOBBY," HE SAID.

THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION WOULD BE ASKED TO CONSIDER WAYS OF SOLVING THIS PROBLEM, HE ADDED.

ON A SUGGESTION THAT A SPECIAL COUNTER BE RESERVED FOR THE ELDERLY AND THOSE PEOPLE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, MR BARNES SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO SO DUE TO THE NEED TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF STAFF AT THE TERMINAL.

"HOWEVER, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT STAFF HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR SUCH PEOPLE AND THE REGULATORS WILL DIRECT THEM TO CHANNELS NORMALLY RESERVED FOR STAFF WHERE THEY WILL RECEIVE HELP-THROUGH FACILITIES," HE SAID.

MR BARNES NOTED THAT BORDER CROSSING TIMES WERE SUBJECT TO REGULAR REVIEW BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

BORDER OPENING HOURS HAD BEEN EXTENDED SEVERAL TIMES AND THE LAST EXTENSION WAS ON JANUARY 16, 1987.

AS TO INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OF TRAINS AND EXTENDING THE BORDER CROSSING TIMES DURING MAJOR FESTIVE PERIODS, MR BARNES SAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE NEEDS OF TRAVELLERS DURING THESE PERIODS.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, BORDER CROSSING TIMES WERE EXTENDED TO COPE WITH THE HEAVY TRAFFIC DEMAND AT CHRISTMAS AND CHINESE NEW YEAR.

"DURING THE COMING CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIOD THE BORDER OPENING HOURS WILL BE ADVANCED FROM 7.30 AM TO 4.30 AM ON FEBRUARY 3, 4, 5, AND 6 THE CLOSING TIME WILL BE EXTENDED BEYOND 11 PM ON FEBRUARY 11, 12 AND 13.

"ADDITIONAL TRAINS WILL BE OPERATED BY THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE GUANGDONG RAILWAY AUTHORITY," HE ADDED.

MORE VEHICLES TO BE TESTED FOR SMOKE EMISSION

* * * * *

OF THE 8,256 SMOKE EMISSION TESTS WHICH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT LAST YEAR ON SMOKY VEHICLES, 646 OF THE VEHICLES REQUIRED A SECOND TEST BEFORE THEY WERE ABLE TO MEET THE EMISSION STANDARD OF 60 HARTRIDGE SMOKE UNITS.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR.

STATING THAT THE NUMBER OF TESTS ON SMOKY VEHICLES WOULD BE DOUBLED THIS YEAR, MR BARNES ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING IMPOSING A FINE AND PENALTY POINTS ON REPEATED OFFENDERS, AND ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING VEHICLES OFF THE ROAD.

HE NOTED THAT 74 OF THE VEHICLES TESTED LAST YEAR REQUIRED A THIRD TEST, SEVEN REQUIRED A FOURTH TEST AND ONE REQUIRED A FIFTH TEST, BEFORE THEY MET THE EMISSION STANDARD.

MR BARNES SAID THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WAS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A REVIEW ON SMOKY VEHICLES.

"WE WILL ALSO, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW, CONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF AN INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME WHICH WILL ENTAIL REGULAR CHECKS OF OTHER AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS," HE ADDED.

THE REVIEW WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN APRIL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CURRENT LEGISLATION ADEQUATE TO ENSURE RAILINGS SAFETY

* * * * *

THE CURRENT PROVISIONS UNDER THE BUILDING (CONSTRUCTION) REGULATIONS AND BUILDING (PLANNING) REGULATIONS ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE, FROM THE DESIGN POINT OF VIEW, IN ENSURING SAFETY RELATING TO BUILDING RAILINGS.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI.

THE QUESTION WAS RELATED TO THE DEATH OF A CHILD IN A FALL FROM A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE.

MR BARNES SAID THAT WITH REGARD TO THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ESTATES, THE RAILINGS AND PARAPETS WERE ALREADY OF A HEIGHT IN EXCESS OF THAT STIPULATED UNDER THE BUILDING REGULATIONS - 1.2 METRES AS AGAINST 1.1 METRES.

/THE HEIGHT

THE HEIGHT AND DESIGN OF THE RAILINGS AND PARAPETS FOR THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY'S ESTATES ALSO COMPLIED WITH EXISTING REGULATIONS, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, PLANTERS ON TOP OF PARAPETS WERE PROVIDED TO PREVENT AGAINST CLIMBING OVER.

"IT SHOULD PERHAPS BE POINTED OUT THAT INCIDENTS SUCH AS REFERRED TO DO NOT NECESSARILY OCCUR AS THE RESULT OF THE HEIGHT OF A PARAPET OR BALCONY," MR BARNES SAID.

"BETTER SUPERVISION OF SMALL CHILDREN, FOR EXAMPLE, IS PROBABLY MORE EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND.

"NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, BOTH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE HOUSING SOCIETY ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO MAKE THEIR PROPERTIES AS SAFE AS REASONABLY POSSIBLE.

"FEEDBACK FROM INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE IS TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IN THE DESIGN OF NEW BLOCKS AND THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING BUILDINGS," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE BORDER TRAFFIC CONGESTION
* * * * *

MUCH HAS BEEN DONE TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE BORDER BY BOTH THE HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS INCLUDED THE PROVISION OF MORE CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION STAFF, OPENING MORE PROCESSING LANES AND THE PROVISION OF AN EXTRA LANE ON THE MAN KAM TO ROAD, MR BARNES SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW.

AFTER CAREFULLY CONSIDERING EXTENDING THE EXISTING HOURS OF 7.30 AM TO 8 PM DURING WHICH THE CROSSING POINT WAS OPEN, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DECIDED NOT TO SEEK ANY EXTENSION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, MR BARNES SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SERIOUS CONGESTION AT THE MAN KAM TO BORDER CROSSING POINT IN THE PAST, PARTICULARLY IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1987, THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN LESS SERIOUS LAST YEAR.

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW LOK MA CHAU BORDER CROSSING POINT WAS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

"WITH A 12-AND-A-HALF HOUR WORKING DAY, THE NEW FACILITY WILL HAVE A DAILY PROCESSING CAPACITY OF 15,750 VEHICLES, BRINGING THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE CROSSING POINTS, LOK MA CHAU, MAN KAM TO AND SHA TAU KOK TO AROUND 28,000 VEHICLES PER DAY," MR BARNES SAID.

"THIS SHOULD PREVENT CONGESTION PROBLEMS UNTIL AT LEAST 1995," HE ADDED.

THEREAFTER, PHASE II OF LOK MA CHAU WOULD PROVIDE CAPACITY FOR A FURTHER 11,250 VEHICLES PER DAY.

MR BARNES SAID THAT AN ANALYSIS OF TRAFFIC AT MAN KAM TO SHOWED THAT THERE WAS A NORTHBOUND PEAK IN THE MORNING, EXTENDING INTO THE EARLY AFTERNOON, AND A SOUTHBOUND PEAK IN THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING.

"WHILE THERE MIGHT BE ADDITIONAL DEMAND FOR CROSSINGS AFTER 8 PM, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT DEMAND DURING THE NIGHT," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THAT EXTENDING THE OPENING HOURS WOULD PRESENT PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES.

AS CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION CURRENTLY WORKED A TWO-SHIFT SYSTEM AT MAN KAM TO AND SHA TAU KOK, IT WOULD MEAN ADDITIONAL STAFF AND SPLIT SHIFTS.

HOWEVER, THE SITUATION AT THE BORDER CROSSING POINTS WOULD BE MONITORED, MR BARNES SAID.

IT MIGHT BE THAT THE OPTION OF EXTENDING OPENING HOURS WOULD NEED TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE PHASE II OF LOK MA CHAU REACHED CAPACITY.

"ON CURRENT PROJECTIONS THIS WILL BE IN THE YEAR 2000, IF NO FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE FACILITIES IS UNDERTAKEN," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TESTS CARRIED OUT ON HOSPITAL OXYGEN TANKS
* * * * *

SINCE LAST SATURDAY, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS CARRIED OUT TESTS ON ALL OXYGEN TANKS AND CYLINDERS IN EVERY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL AND CLINIC, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG, MR CHAU SAID, "AS A RESULT, I CAN CONFIRM THAT ALL THESE TANKS AND CYLINDERS CONTAIN OXYGEN OF THE SPECIFIED QUALITY.

/"I CAN

"I CAN ALSO CONFIRM THAT ALL OPERATING THEATRES ARE DESIGNED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GUARD AGAINST CONNECTIONS TO THE WRONG GAS SOURCE."

MR CHAU SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO ADVISED ALL SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE OXYGEN STORED IN THOSE INSTITUTIONS WAS IN FACT OXYGEN AND THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF THE WRONG GAS BEING ADMINISTERED TO PATIENTS.

CHECKS CARRIED OUT BY THOSE HOSPITALS SINCE SATURDAY CONFIRMED THAT THEIR OXYGEN SUPPLY WAS IN GOOD ORDER, HE SAID.

DR LEONG'S QUESTION WAS: "IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT MISHAP INVOLVING A PATIENT BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED WITH A WRONG GAS DURING AN OPERATION, WILL THE ADMINISTRATION INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS OVER THE SUPPLY OF MEDICINE, GAS AND GASEOUS PRODUCTS FOR USE IN PUBLIC, SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS?"

MR CHAU SAID THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE THE EMERGENCY MEASURES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS UNTIL THE REASON FOR THE MISTAKE IN QUESTION HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AND PERMANENT STEPS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF A SIMILAR INCIDENT IN THE FUTURE.

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED ALL SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS TO DO LIKEWISE," HE ADDED.

MR CHAU EXPRESSED THE GOVERNMENT'S DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED, AND SAID HE WAS SURE THIS WAS FELT BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

"I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT, AND I AM SURE MEMBERS WILL UNDERSTAND, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ON THE PARTICULAR FACTS OF THE TRAGIC CASE TO WHICH THE QUESTION REFERS," HE SAID.

"THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE POLICE AND A REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CORONER FOR HIM TO CONSIDER WHETHER AN INQUEST SHOULD BE HELD."

MR CHAU ALSO SAID: "AS SOON AS WE HAVE THE FULL REPORT OF WHAT OCCURRED IN THIS CASE WE SHALL WORK OUT URGENTLY WHAT LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THERE CANNOT AGAIN BE A CASE WHERE THE WRONG GAS IS USED IN AN OPERATION."

ON EXISTING LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS, MR CHAU SAID THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE GOVERNED THE MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SAFETY, QUALITY AND EFFICACY OF SUCH PRODUCTS, THERE WERE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS COVERING THE REGISTRATION OF PRODUCTS AND THE LICENSING OF IMPORTS, IMPORTERS, RETAILERS, WHOLESALEERS AND LOCAL MANUFACTURERS, HE SAID.

"INSPECTIONS OF SUPPLIERS' PREMISES AND SAMPLING OF THEIR PRODUCTS FOR ANALYSIS ARE CARRIED OUT ON A REGULAR BASIS.

"THESE CONTROL MEASURES ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE FOR THE PURPOSES OF MONITORING THE QUALITY OF MEDICINE SUPPLIED TO THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

IN RESPECT OF GASES SUCH AS OXYGEN AND NITROGEN WHICH WERE COVERED BY THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE, MR CHAU SAID A LICENCE WAS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 6 FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES FOR THEIR MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, CONVEYANCE OR USE.

SUCH LICENCES HAD TO BE RENEWED ANNUALLY. BEFORE LICENCES WERE ISSUED OR RENEWED, THE PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT FOR MANUFACTURE AND STORAGE AND THE VEHICLES FOR CONVEYANCE WAS INSPECTED TO ENSURE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE OR EXPLOSION.

THERE WERE AT PRESENT NO LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF GASES SUCH AS OXYGEN OR NITROGEN TO PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS OR CLINICS, HE SAID.

"NEITHER GAS IS DANGEROUS IN ITSELF AND SUPPLIERS AND HOSPITALS ARE ALREADY UNDER A COMMON-LAW DUTY OF CARE TO PATIENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE CORRECT GAS IS SUPPLIED AND ADMINISTERED," MR CHAU SAID.

"IN THE FIVE MAJOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, REGULAR CHECKS ARE CARRIED OUT TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE PIPING SYSTEM FOR THE SUPPLY OF OXYGEN TO OPERATING THEATRES AND WARDS.

"AS A PART OF THIS PROCEDURE, THE IDENTITY AND QUALITY OF THE OXYGEN IS ALSO CHECKED."

MR CHAU SAID THAT SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS OPERATED THEIR OWN SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES.

ENQUIRIES MADE AFTER THE TRAGIC INCIDENT LAST SATURDAY REVEALED THAT NOT ALL SUBVENTED OR PRIVATE HOSPITALS CARRIED OUT SIMILAR CHECKS ON A REGULAR BASIS, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REGISTRATION OF PATENTS RULES APPROVED

* * * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS (FEES) (AMENDMENT) RULES 1989 IN A MOTION MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

ALSO AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION BILL 1989 WAS INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

- 20 -

VISIT OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES

* * * * *

THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE PRESS OFFICE TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

"THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES ARE TO PAY A VISIT TO CHINA AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FROM NOVEMBER 1-6, 1989.

"THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES WILL ALSO VISIT HONG KONG, FROM NOVEMBER 8-10, 1989."

- - - - 0 - - - -

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT TO BE FORMED

* * * * *

A NEW DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING ALL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG WILL BE SET UP UNDER THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH, TENTATIVELY ON APRIL 1, 1990.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

BECAUSE OF THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS INTERNATIONALLY, ESPECIALLY IN DISCUSSIONS OF TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT), THE GOVERNMENT WAS KEEN TO CREATE THE NEW INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT (IPD) TO PROVIDE SPECIALIST ADVICE AND NEW IMPETUS IN THIS AREA, MR MACLEOD SAID.

HE BELIEVED BETTER CO-ORDINATION AND EFFICIENCY WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY CONSOLIDATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MATTERS UNDER ONE ROOF.

THE EXISTING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ARE SHARED BY THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID THAT THE NEW DEPARTMENT WOULD BE FORMED AROUND A NUCLEUS COMPRISING THE EXISTING TRADE MARKS AND PATENTS REGISTRIES IN HIS DEPARTMENT.

"THE MAJORITY OF EXISTING STAFF IN THE TRADE MARKS AND PATENTS REGISTRIES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE NEW DEPARTMENT AND A NEW EXAMINER (INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY) GRADE WILL BE PROPOSED," MR GLEESON SAID.

/HE NOTED

HE NOTED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH STAFF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH WOULD START SOON.

MR MACLEOD ADDED THAT A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF NEW POSTS, AT BOTH DIRECTORATE AND NON-DIRECTORATE LEVELS, WERE ALSO LIKELY TO BE NEEDED.

"DETAILS HAVE TO BE FINALISED WITH CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND FINANCE BRANCH," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE WORKLOAD OF THE NEW INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT, MR MACLEOD POINTED OUT THAT A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF NEW LEGISLATION IN THIS AREA HAD BEEN SET FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THE NEW IPD WOULD HELP IMPLEMENT NEW PROPOSALS ON PATENTS, SERVICE MARKS, COPYRIGHT, INTEGRATED CIRCUITS AND DESIGNS.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WOULD REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY REGIME, MR MACLEOD SAID.

THE IPD WOULD BECOME THE FOURTH EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY. THE EXISTING THREE ARE THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

APPLICATIONS FOR TRADE MARKS INCREASE IN 1988
* * * * *

THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR TRADE MARKS IN 1988 TOTALLED 8,956 COMPARED WITH 8,510 IN 1987.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, REPORTED THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN RELEASING THE 1988 FIGURES FOR THE TRADE MARKS AND PATENTS REGISTRIES OF HIS DEPARTMENT.

AT 4,360, THE NUMBER OF NEW TRADE MARKS REGISTERED WAS HIGHER THAN IN 1987, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRADE MARKS NOW REGISTERED TO 51,493.

IN THE PATENTS REGISTRY, THE NUMBER OF UNITED KINGDOM PATENTS RE-REGISTERED LOCALLY DURING 1988 WAS 1,070, COMPARED WITH 1,020 IN 1987.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF "LIVE" OR VAILD PATENTS RE-REGISTERED WAS NOW APPROXIMATELY 14,000, MR GLEESON SAID.

IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE A PRECISE FIGURE AS THIS DEPENDED ON THE LIVES OR VALIDITY OF THE PATENTS AS ORIGINALLY REGISTERED IN THE UK PATENTS OFFICE IN LONDON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

- 22 -

TUEN MUN DB DELEGATION LEAVES FOR SOUTH KOREA

* * * * *

A GROUP OF TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) LEFT FOR SOUTH KOREA ON A WEEK-LONG STUDY TOUR.

PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THIS AFTERNOON, CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DELEGATION, MR LAU WONG-FAT, SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A DISTRICT BOARD HAD ORGANISED A STUDY TOUR TO SOUTH KOREA.

MR LAU SAID SOUTH KOREA WAS CHOSEN IN VIEW OF THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN ITS ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC FACILITIES.

THE TRIP WILL LAST UNTIL JANUARY 25. MEMBERS WILL LOOK AT THE COUNTRY'S LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, TREATMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES, HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND TOWN PLANNING.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE DELEGATION WILL CALL ON THE ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION, MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION, KOREAN NATIONAL ROAD CORPORATION AND THE RENOWNED SAMSUNG ELECTRONIC COMPANY IN SEOUL.

WITH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER MR YIP HING-CHUNG AS VICE-CHAIRMAN AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN, AS ADVISOR, THE 23-MEMBER DISTRICT BOARD DELEGATION ALSO COMPRISED MEMBERS OF THE PRESS.

MR LAU ALSO SAID THAT A REPORT ON THE VISIT WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT BOARD AND A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION WOULD BE HELD SHORTLY AFTER THEIR RETURN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

* * * * *

THE COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT.

A PAPER WILL ALSO BE SUBMITTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO EXPLAIN THE DETERMINING FACTORS IN THE ADJUSTMENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

/TWO WORKING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

- 23 -

TWO WORKING GROUPS OF THE COMMITTEE, ONE ON STUDY ROOM FACILITIES AND THE OTHER ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF ACCOMMODATION OF SINGLETONS AND TWO-PERSON FAMILIES IN SHAM SHUI PO, WILL REPORT ON THEIR WORK.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, NAM CHEONG STREET.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SOUTHERN DB TO REPORT ON YEAR'S WORK
* * * * *

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL REPORT ON ITS FIRST YEAR'S WORK FOR THE 1988-91 TERM AT A SEMINAR FOR THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE SEMINAR, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM AT THE LEI TUNG COMMUNITY HALL IN LEI TUNG ESTATE, AP LEI CHAU.

CHAIRMEN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS FIVE COMMITTEES WILL REPORT ON THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND THE PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS MADE IN THE PAST YEAR, AS WELL AS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

THEY INCLUDE MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD; MADAM SO CHAU YIM-PING OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE; MR CHAN YAU-YUE OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE; MR KO TAM-KAN OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE; MR MAN HON-MING OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE; AND MR ALBERT S.K. POON OF THE WORKS PROJECTS COMMITTEE.

A 10-MINUTE SLIDE SHOW ON THE WORK OF THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED AT THE SEMINAR.

ABOUT 100 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AREA COMMITTEES WILL ATTEND THE SEMINAR. DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL HOLD GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON VARIOUS DISTRICT PROBLEMS AND ISSUES WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES.

THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL LEUNG, AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS MAUREEN CHAN, WILL ALSO ATTEND THE SEMINAR ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

/DURING THE

DURING THE SEMINAR, A BRIEF CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TO PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 11 MULTI-STOREY PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS WHICH TOOK PART IN THE DISTRICT'S CLEAN BUILDING CAMPAIGN.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE SEMINAR WAS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE TIES AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE AREA COMMITTEES.

THE SEMINAR FOLLOWS A SERIES OF SEVEN DISTRICT AFFAIRS SEMINARS HELD EARLIER BETWEEN AREA COMMITTEES AND LOCAL RESIDENTS ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT SEMINARS OF THIS NATURE WILL HELP THE DISTRICT BOARD TO HAVE A MORE THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS, AND AT THE SAME TIME BOOST ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH AREA COMMITTEES AND RESIDENTS ORGANISATIONS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE LEI TUNG COMMUNITY HALL, LEI TUNG ESTATE, AP LEI CHAU.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

FREE TICKETS FOR CONCERT IN TAI PO

* * * * *

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR AN ORCHESTRAL CONCERT TO BE HELD AT THE TAI PO CIVIC CENTRE BEGINNING AT 8 PM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 21).

THE CONCERT IS ONE OF THE PROGRAMMES OF THE SECOND TAI PO FESTIVAL.

THE TICKETS ARE OBTAINABLE AT THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, 1 TING KOK ROAD; TAI PO COMMUNITY CENTRE, HEUNG SZE WUI STREET; TAI PO CIVIC CENTRE, ON PONG ROAD; AND COMMUNITY HALLS IN TAI PO.

THE CONCERT IS ORGANISED BY THE SECOND TAI PO FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE MUSIC OFFICE, AND SPONSORED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD.

PERFORMING IN THE CONCERT WILL BE THE INSTRUCTORS ORCHESTRA (WESTERN) OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

- 25 -

DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC CONGESTION NEAR TSING YI BRIDGES

* * * * *

THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION PROBLEM IN THE VICINITY OF THE TSING TSUEN BRIDGE AND TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF INADEQUATE LORRY PARKING SPACES AND ILLEGAL PARKING ON TSING YI ISLAND, AND THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF ALIGHTING PASSENGERS FROM PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES.

MEMBERS WILL ASK ABOUT THE PROVISION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES AND PROPOSE TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES, KWAI CHUNG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SAI KUNG COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS VAN TRACK IMPROVEMENT

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS TO A VAN TRACK AT MANG KUNG WO AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MR HO KOON-SHUN, WILL ALSO REPORT ON A VISIT TO A PAINT FACTORY IN SAI KUNG TOWN TO LOOK AT ITS IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TO BEGIN AT 10 AM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

- 26 -

URBAN CLEARWAYS IN NORTH POINT, MONG KOK

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 21), TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD IN NORTH POINT BETWEEN HEALTHY STREET WEST AND A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES TO THE EAST WILL BE DESIGNATED A PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, IN MONG KOK, THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF PORTLAND STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH YU CHAU STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH KI LUNG STREET WILL ALSO BE MADE A PEAK HOUR DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES IN KWUN TONG, HUNG HOM

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT KING YIP STREET BETWEEN WAI YIP STREET AND HUNG TO ROAD, KWUN TONG, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM DAILY FROM SATURDAY (JANUARY 21) FOR THREE DAYS.

MOTORISTS FROM WAI YIP STREET EASTBOUND HEADING FOR KING YIP STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TSUN YIP STREET NORTHBOUND, HUNG TO ROAD EASTBOUND AND KING YIP STREET NORTHBOUND.

MEANWHILE, IN HUNG HOM, THE WUHU VEHICULAR UNDERPASS LEADING FROM NORTHBOUND CHATHAM ROAD NORTH TO SOUTHBOUND GILLIES AVENUE WILL ALSO BE CLOSED BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON SATURDAY FOR CLEANSING OF THE UNDERPASS.

VEHICLES FROM TSIM SHA TSUI, YAU MA TEI AND THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL HEADING FOR HUNG HOM ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, CHEONG WAN ROAD, ON WAN ROAD, CHEONG WAN ROAD AND GILLIES AVENUE OR VIA GASCOIGNE ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, PAK KUNG STREET, SHUN YUNG STREET, FAT KWONG STREET AND MA TAU WAI ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/27

- 27 -

TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT CASTLE PEAK ROAD WESTBOUND AT CHEUNG WING ROAD INTERCHANGE IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE CLOSED DAILY BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 5.30 AM FROM SATURDAY (JANUARY 21) FOR TWO NIGHTS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD WESTBOUND HEADING FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWAI CHUNG ROAD SOUTHBOUND, TAI LIN PAI ROAD, KWAI ON ROAD AND KWAI CHUNG ROAD NORTHBOUND.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WONG TAI SIN

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN WONG TAI SIN AND WILL LAST FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS DUE TO A WATERMAIN BURST.

WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD BETWEEN FU MEI STREET AND WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD HAS BEEN RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD BETWEEN WANG TAU HOM SOUTH ROAD AND THE EXIT OF LOK FU BUS TERMINUS HAS BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

ALSO, VEHICLES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD TO WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD.

THE FOLLOWING BUS ROUTES ARE ALSO DIVERTED:

- * ROUTES 7B, 11D AND 84M ARE DIVERTED VIA WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, FU MEI STREET, FUNG MO STREET, HENG LAM STREET AND JUNCTION ROAD ON JOURNEYS FROM LOK FU BUS TERMINUS.
- * ROUTE 7M IS DIVERTED VIA FUNG MO STREET, HENG LAM STREET, JUNCTION ROAD, WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD AND WANG TAU HOM SOUTH ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO LOK FU;
- * ROUTE 11C IS DIVERTED VIA FUNG MO STREET AND TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO SAU MAU PING (CENTRAL); AND
- * CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTE 103 IS DIVERTED VIA FUNG MO STREET, HENG LAM STREET AND JUNCTION ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO POKFIELD ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -