



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1986

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BILINGUAL LAWS PROGRAMME SET FOR NEXT SESSION
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AFTER CONSIDERING THE COMMENTS RECEIVED THE REVISED PROPOSALS ON LAWS IN CHINESE WILL BE REFERRED TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE CHINESE LAWS PROGRAMME WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLY IN THE NEXT SESSION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+I HOPE TO SEE THE FIRST AUTHENTIC CHINESE TEXT IN THIS COUNCIL BY THE END OF THE YEAR,+ HE SAID.

WINDING UP THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON LAWS IN CHINESE, MR THOMAS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE PAPER ALLOWED FOR NO SIMPLE ANSWERS, AND MEMBERS HAD DIFFERENT VIEWS ON HOW INDIVIDUAL PROPOSALS SHOULD PROCEED IT WAS CLEAR THAT MEMBERS WERE IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE HISTORIC PROJECT TO PRODUCE BILINGUAL LEGISLATION FOR HONG KONG WHICH THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL APPROVED JUST ONE YEAR AGO.

+THE COMMENTS MADE BY MEMBERS THIS AFTERNOON WILL BE OF GREAT VALUE IN ASSISTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DETERMINE THE BEST WAY FORWARD,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROGRAMME WAS TO ENSURE THAT ALL OF HONG KONG'S STATUTORY LAW WAS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE AND THAT BOTH TEXTS WERE EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.

+AUTHENTICITY HAS TWO ASPECTS,+ HE SAID, +FIRSTLY IT MEANS THAT, AS A MATTER OF LAW, BOTH TEXTS CAN BE CONSIDERED BY THE COURTS IN ASCERTAINING THE LAW.+

+SECONDLY IT MEANS THAT THE TWO TEXTS MUST BE EQUALLY GOOD.

+EXPERIENCE IN CANADA, WHERE ALL FEDERAL LAWS ARE IN BILINGUAL FORM, SHOWS THAT THE COURTS ARE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT A TEXT AS AUTHENTIC, WHATEVER THE LAW MAY SAY, IF IT READS LIKE A MERE TRANSLATION OF ANOTHER TEXT,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

THE AIM WAS, THEREFORE, TO HAVE A SYSTEM OF PARALLEL DRAFTING WHERE COUNSEL DRAFTING THE ENGLISH TEXT WORKS ALONGSIDE COUNSEL DRAFTING THE CHINESE TEXT WITH FULL DISCUSSION BETWEEN THEM AT EVERY STAGE, HE SAID.

NOTING THAT COMMENTS ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER FROM ALL THE MAIN INTEREST GROUPS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY FAVOURABLE, MR THOMAS SAID THE PARTICULAR ISSUES RAISED WERE MANY AND HIS CHAMBER WAS STILL ANALYSING THEM.

/A MAJOR

A MAJOR ISSUE THAT EMERGED WAS THE BEST WAY OF DEALING WITH TRANSLATIONS OF EXISTING LAWS - BY INVOLVING A COMMISSIONER OR A BILINGUAL LAWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OR SOME OTHER BODY.

+TIME HAS NOW ELAPSED SINCE THE WORKING PARTY ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED THIS MATTER. THE CHINESE LANGUAGE UNIT IS NOW OPERATING,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE DESIRABILITY AND PRACTICABILITY OF LIAISON WITH EXPERTS IN CHINA ON THE TERMINOLOGY OF HONG KONG'S LAWS.

+THEY POINT TO THE DIFFERENT BASIS OF OUR TWO LEGAL SYSTEMS AND THE FACT THAT HONG KONG'S TECHNICAL TERMS DIFFER FROM THOSE IN USE ON THE MAINLAND,+ HE SAID.

+I DO NOT THINK ANYONE NEED BE WORRIED ABOUT THE PROPOSALS OF THE WORKING PARTY HERE.

+WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LEGAL TERMINOLOGY IN CHINA SO THAT WE MAY MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION IN CHOOSING TERMS FOR USE IN HONG KONG, TERMS THAT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD BY HONG KONG PEOPLE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

THERE WERE ALSO MANY DIFFERENT PREFERENCES FOR THE ORDER OF PRIORITIES FOR PRODUCING BILINGUAL TEXTS, HE ADDED.

MR THOMAS SAID HE HAD THE SAME VIEW WITH THAT OF THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL - THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY HAD TO BE CURRENT LAW.

+IT REFLECTS THAT FACT, IF NOTHING ELSE, THAT THE BUSINESS OF THIS COUNCIL IS CONDUCTED IN BOTH LANGUAGES,+ HE SAID.

+AS FOR LATER PRIORITIES, THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO DECIDE WHO IS TO DECIDE THESE, NOT TO REACH THE DECISION. WE ARE GIVING THIS MORE THOUGHT,+ HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE CALL BY MEMBERS FOR A GLOSSARY, MR THOMAS SAID THE DRAFTING OF CHINESE TEXT OF THE LAWS WOULD CREATE ITS OWN GLOSSARY AS A BY-PRODUCT.

HE ADDED THAT TO UNDERTAKE THE PRODUCTION OF A GLOSSARY FOR PUBLICATION WHICH WENT FURTHER THAN THE DRAFTING NEEDS OF HIS CHAMBERS WOULD DIVERT RESOURCES AWAY FROM THE WORK OF DRAFTING THE LAWS.

MR THOMAS SAID THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAMME LAY WITH THE BILINGUAL DRAFTSMEN.

+DRAFTING IS A SKILL WHICH IS ACQUIRED MORE BY PRACTICE THAN BY INSTRUCTION - FOR THE ABILITY TO CREATE FROM DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS A COHERENT AND PRACTICAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK CANNOT BE READILY TAUGHT IN THE LAW SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EXPAND THE DRAFTING DIVISION WHICH WAS A SMALL UNIT, BUT +WE MUST BE CERTAIN THAT THE MACHINE WE HAVE CREATED IS RUNNING PROPERLY BEFORE WE MOVE INTO TOP GEAR+.

+THE CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHEME MAY APPEAR DAUNTING BECAUSE OF THE SHEER NUMBER OF ORDINANCES IN ENGLISH,+ MR THOMAS SAID, +BUT WE ARE NOT DISHEARTENED WITH SO MUCH SUPPORT FOR WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.+

NOTING THAT MASTER XUAN ZANG OF THE TANG DYNASTY HAD TRANSLATED 72 SCRIPTURES WHICH CONTAINED 1 335 VOLUMES AND OVER 13 MILLION CHARACTERS, MR THOMAS SAID THE DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSLATING INDIAN SCRIPTURES INTO CHINESE MUST HAVE BEEN NO LESS DAUNTING THAN TRANSLATING HONG KONG ORDINANCES.

+WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ONCE, CAN BE DONE AGAIN. AND WE DO NOT STAND ALONE, AS MASTER XUAN ZANG DID, FOR WE HAVE THE RESOURCES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG BEHIND US,+ HE SAID.

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SPECIAL COMMISSIONER FOR LAW TRANSLATION RECOMMENDED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP STUDYING THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON LAWS IN CHINESE HAS RECOMMENDED THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMISSIONER TO ASSUME OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSLATING LAWS INTO CHINESE, THE HON F.K. HU SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

LEADING THE COUNCIL'S ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER AS CONVENER OF THE GROUP, MR HU SAID THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS FELT THAT A SPECIAL COMMISSIONER SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRANSLATION WORK IN ADDITION TO A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

MEMBERS ALSO FELT THAT A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE SHOULD BE SET UP TO MONITOR THE STANDARDS OF THE TRANSLATION PROJECT.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT MEMBERS WERE DIVIDED ON THE DETAILED STRUCTURE OF THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

MR HU GAVE DETAILED SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PROCEDURE OF THE TRANSLATION WORK, SAYING THAT TRANSLATIONS SHOULD BE PRODUCED BY THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND SENT TO THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER FOR SCRUTINY AND AMENDMENT WHERE NECESSARY.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE COMMISSIONER SHOULD FORM PART OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS AND WORK TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS HE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY TRANSLATION WORK.

HE SUGGESTED THAT A BILINGUAL LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF EXPERTS FROM VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL FIELDS SHOULD BE SET UP TO GIVE ADVICE ON LEGAL, TECHNICAL AND TRANSLATION MATTERS.

IT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION BY THE COMMISSIONER AND ADVISE THE GOVERNOR THROUGH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON THE PUBLICATION OF AUTHENTIC TRANSLATIONS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN SCRUTINISED AND ENDORSED BY THE COMMISSIONER, HE ADDED.

MR HU ALSO FELT THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE ACCORDED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN MONITORING THE STANDARD OF THE AUTHENTIC VERSIONS ALTHOUGH COUNCILLORS SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN SCRUTINISING THE TRANSLATION IN DETAIL.

MR HU SAID IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT A PERSON OF A RIGHT CALIBRE TO FILL THE POST OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONER, BUT STRESSED THAT SETTING UP THE OFFICE WOULD BE A TANGIBLE SIGN OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO ACCORD HIGH PRIORITY TO BILINGUAL LEGISLATION.

REFERRING TO THE DISCUSSION PAPER AS A WHOLE, MR HU REPORTED THAT THE AD HOC GROUP AGREED TO A NUMBER OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS BUT HAD SOME COMMENTS ON OTHERS.

THE GROUP SUGGESTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD WORK OUT A SET OF CRITERIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DECIDE WHICH ORDINANCES FELL INTO THE +ARCHAIC+ TYPE.

ON THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSULTATION WITH PERSONS AND BODIES IN CHINA TO ENSURE HARMONISATION OF THE LANGUAGE USED IN HONG KONG STATUTES WITH THAT OF CHINA, MR HU SAID THE GROUP WAS WORRIED THAT MISCONCEPTIONS COULD EASILY ARISE, GIVEN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO LEGAL SYSTEMS.

THE GROUP FELT THAT STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE CHINESE LEGAL SYSTEM WITHOUT GIVING DUE CONSIDERATION TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

IF DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION ARISE FROM THIS ATTEMPT, THE LANGUAGE COMMONLY USED AND UNDERSTOOD BY HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD BE ADOPTED, HE SAID.

THE GROUP ALSO CONSIDERED THAT PRIORITIES IN MAKING LAWS BILINGUAL SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PREPARATION AND UPDATING OF THE GLOSSARY OF TERMS SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

IT RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, AND NOT THE GOVERNOR, SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO DECIDE WHICH BILL WAS SO URGENT AS TO WARRANT ENACTMENT IN ONE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ONLY.

THE GROUP CONSIDERED THAT SETTING UP THE BILINGUAL LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE COVERED BY STATUTE SO THAT THERE WOULD BE STATUTORY CONTROL ON ITS COMPOSITION AND THIS WOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT THE POLICY ON BILINGUAL LEGISLATION POLICY COULD BE SUSTAINED.

IT ALSO AGREED THAT A SELECT COMMITTEE, SERVING FOR A FULL LEGCO SESSION, SHOULD BE FORMED TO ENSURE CONTINUITY AND UNIFORMITY.

ON THE PRINTING FORMAT FOR THE LEGISLATION, THE GROUP SUGGESTED THAT THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE TEXT OF THE SAME SECTION OF THE ORDINANCE SHOULD BE PLACED ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER, ON FACING PAGES.

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COMPREHENSIVE POLICY SHOULD BE ADOPTED
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AN OVERALL POLICY IS NEEDED IN IMPLEMENTING THE BASIC POLICY OF DEVELOPING CHINESE AS A LANGUAGE OF THE LAW, THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ULTIMATE AIM, AS FAR AS EVIDENCE WAS CONCERNED, MUST BE TO USE CHINESE IN ALL LOCAL COURTS, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, ENGLISH MUST REMAIN THE MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION IN LEGAL SUBMISSIONS, HE ADDED, SINCE IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO TRANSLATE THE COMMON LAW OR HONG KONG LAW REPORTS INTO CHINESE.

MR WONG WAS SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE LAWS IN CHINESE.

+IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, WHERE THE LEGAL SYSTEMS ARE DERIVED FROM AND BASED ON THE COMMON LAW, BUT A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE POPULATIONS DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH AS THEIR FIRST LANGUAGE, ENGLISH IS STILL MAINTAINED AS ONE OF THE LANGUAGES OF THE LAW,+ HE SAID.

HONG KONG COULD NOT MAKE ITSELF AN EXCEPTION, AND IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ENGLISH MUST BE USED FREELY IN THE COURTS IF THE EXISTING LEGAL SYSTEM WAS TO BE MAINTAINED.

/MR WONG

MR WONG SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO RESORT TO PRECEDENTS FROM OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF HONG KONG'S LEGAL SYSTEM.

IN HIS VIEW, THE ADVANTAGES INCLUDED:

- * THE PARTICIPATION OF ENGLISH SPEAKING LAWYERS AND JUDGES IN THE LEGAL PROCESS, AND THUS CONTINUING THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM;
- * THE PRESERVATION AND STRENGTHENING OF HONG KONG'S POSITION AS AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE; AND
- * THE CONTINUED CONFIDENCE OF FOREIGN INVESTORS IN A LEGAL SYSTEM IN WHICH A LANGUAGE MORE READILY COMPREHENSIBLE TO THEM WAS USED.

MR WONG SAID ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION IN CASES OF DISAGREEMENT AS TO WHICH LANGUAGE SHOULD BE USED WAS TO GIVE THE PRESIDING JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE THE DISCRETION TO DECIDE WHETHER CHINESE OR ENGLISH SHOULD BE THE MEDIUM IN ANY GIVEN CASE.

NOTING THAT THE TASK OF TRANSLATING LAWS INTO CHINESE WOULD DRAW HEAVILY ON THE RESOURCES OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, HE SAID CAREFUL PLANNING AND SELECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION WERE VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE EXERCISE.

+TO LOCALISE OUR LEGISLATION AND MAKING IT LESS DEPENDENT ON THE ENGLISH SYSTEM, CAN ONLY BE BENEFICIAL TO OUR CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND THE EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF OUR HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, WHICH WE NOW ENJOY AND WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID HE REMAINED OF THE VIEW THAT ENGLISH SHOULD BE ACCORDED LEGAL STATUS EVEN AFTER 1997.

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LAWS SHOULD USE TRADITIONAL CHINESE CHARACTERS
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TRADITIONAL CHINESE CHARACTERS WHICH ARE UNDERSTOOD BY THE MAJORITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD BE USED IN PRODUCING LAWS IN CHINESE, THE HON K.C. CHAN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION DOCUMENT, MR CHAN SAID THE USE OF +MODERN+ SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS WOULD POSE A PROBLEM NOT ONLY TO LOCAL PEOPLE BUT ALSO TO OVERSEAS CHINESE DOING BUSINESS HERE.

/HE SUGGESTED

HE SUGGESTED THAT CANTONESE COLLOQUIAL TERMS SHOULD NOT BE BARRED COMPLETELY FROM TRANSLATIONS, STRESSING THAT THE CANTONESE DIALECT WAS THE SPOKEN CHINESE USED TOGETHER WITH ENGLISH IN LOCAL COURTS.

+CANTONESE DIALECT IS A LIVING DIALECT AND IT HAS ABSORBED QUITE A LOT OF FOREIGN TERMS WHICH ARE EASILY UNDERSTOOD,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP MATTERS CONCERNING THE LAW AND THE JUDICIARY SYSTEM DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN CHINA IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE AND PROSPERITY IN THE TERRITORY.

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LEGAL SYSTEM SHOULD BECOME FULLY BILINGUAL

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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO ENCOURAGE THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMPLETELY BILINGUAL LEGAL SYSTEM, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG SAID DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON LAWS IN CHINESE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NOTING THAT LEGISLATION IN CHINESE WAS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF A BILINGUAL LEGAL SYSTEM, MR CHEUNG SAID ITS INTRODUCTION SHOULD BE CO-ORDINATED SO THAT THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THE PRIVATE LEGAL PRACTICE COULD FUNCTION IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

IN OTHER WORDS, HE EXPLAINED, IT WAS NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE TRIALS IN CHINESE AND LEGAL PRACTITIONERS WOULD HAVE TO PRODUCE LEGAL DOCUMENTS SUCH AS CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS AND COVENANTS IN CHINESE.

HE SAID THAT IN THIS RESPECT TRAINING REMAINED A MATTER OF CONCERN, AND IT WAS NOW TIME TO REVIEW THE OVERALL MANPOWER REQUIREMENT TO AVOID DELAYS IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES.

MR CHEUNG EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF BILINGUAL LEGISLATION TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE, SAYING THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT THE SPIRIT AND PRACTICES OF THE COMMON LAW SYSTEM WOULD BE PRESERVED.

+I BELIEVE THAT BY SETTING UP A BILINGUAL LEGAL SYSTEM AND THROUGH PROMULGATING IT BY THE MOTHER LANGUAGE, OUR CITIZENS WILL UNDERSTAND BETTER THE AMBIT OF THE LAW AND THEIR OBSERVATION AND RESPECT FOR THE LAW WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED, THUS CONTRIBUTING GREATLY TO THE STABILITY OF OUR SOCIETY,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE DISCUSSION PAPER DID NOT HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHEN A COMPLETE SET OF CHINESE STATUTE LAW WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

+ONLY WITH A TIME TABLE COULD WE APPROPRIATELY ALLOCATE RESOURCES FOR AND TO EFFECTIVELY SUPERVISE THE PROGRESS OF THIS MAMMOTH WORK,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE WORK ON A BILINGUAL LEGAL SYSTEM SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE 1997.

+I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT TRANSLATION WORK SHOULD BE COMPLETED BETWEEN 1992 AND 1994, ALLOWING THREE TO FIVE YEARS BEFORE 1997 FOR THE SYSTEM TO BE PRACTISED AND TESTED,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG ADDED THAT THE QUALITY OF TRANSLATION SHOULD NOT BE LOWERED AT THE EXPENSE OF SPEED.

IN PARTICULAR, THE SPIRIT OF THE COMMON LAW AND ITS FLEXIBLE APPLICATION MUST BE PRESERVED, HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG ALSO CALLED FOR A RECONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OR ITS COMMITTEES SHOULD NOT VET THE TRANSLATED LAW.

+THE FUTURE CHINESE VERSION OF THE LEGISLATION SHOULD ENJOY EQUAL STATUS AND HAVE SAME LEGAL EFFECTS AS THE ENGLISH TEXT.

+I CONSIDER THAT THE ENACTMENT OF LAW IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE LEGISLATURE.

+BEING ITSELF A LEGISLATIVE BODY, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD UNDERTAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF VETTING THE CHINESE TRANSLATED VERSION OF THE LEGISLATION,+ HE SAID.

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COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE FINAL SAY ON INTERPRETATION
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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE LAWS MUST FIRST BE STUDIED AND APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEFORE THEY BECOME EFFECTIVE, THE HON MARIA TAM SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS WAS SUPPORTED BOTH BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP'S LEGAL SUB-GROUP THAT EXAMINED THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE LAWS IN CHINESE, SHE ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE SUB-GROUP INCLUDED MISS TAM, THE HON MARTIN LEE AND THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH.

SPEAKING DURING THE COUNCIL'S ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER, MISS TAM SAID THE BAR ASSOCIATION DISAGREED WITH ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WORKING PARTY. THIS ALLOWED THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO PRESCRIBE THAT AN EXPRESSION IN CHINESE SHOULD BE DEEMED TO HEAR THE SAME MEANING AS AN EXPRESSION IN THE CORRESPONDING ENGLISH TEXT AND VICE VERSA.

THE ASSOCIATION FELT THAT THE USE OF EXECUTIVE POWER TO MAKE LAWS HAD TO BE AVOIDED, AND THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE A FINAL SAY ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE LAWS, SHE SAID.

MISS TAM SAID THE LEGAL SUB-GROUP HAD CAREFULLY STUDIED THE PROPOSED PROVISIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT THAT PARTICULAR RECOMMENDATION BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER ORDER IN THE GAZETTE.

+THEREFORE, LIKE THE OTHER SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, IT IS WITHIN THE POWER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ SHE EXPLAINED.

MISS TAM ALSO COMMENTED ON ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION, WHICH PROPOSED THAT IN DRAFTING AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW OF EVIDENCE THE JUDICIARY SHOULD BE CONSULTED ON HOW TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE EQUAL STATUS OF BOTH LANGUAGES IN COURT.

SHE SAID THE LEGAL SUB-GROUP'S VIEW WAS THAT IF PROBLEMS OF TEXTUAL INTERPRETATION AROSE FROM EVIDENCE PRODUCED IN COURT, THEN EXPERT EVIDENCE SHOULD BE CALLED BY THE PROSECUTION OR THE DEFENCE, OR BY THE JUDGE.

SHE ALSO NOTED THAT WITH THE HONG KONG (LEGISLATIVE POWER) ORDER COMING INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 6, LAWS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WHICH HAD LONG BEEN APPLIED TO HONG KONG WOULD THEN BE LOCALISED AND BECOME THE LAWS OF HONG KONG.

+IT IS IN FACT A GREAT DIFFICULTY THAT THE LEGAL SYSTEM OF HONG KONG REMAINS UNCHANGED DESPITE THE CHANGES IN ITS LANGUAGE MEDIUM,+ SHE SAID.

THEREFORE, SHE HOPED THAT THOSE WHO PURSUED THE LEGAL FIELD COULD SPARE SOME OF THEIR BUSY TIME TO MAKE MORE COMMENTS AND LEND A HAND IN THE WORK ON THE LAWS IN CHINESE SO THAT SUCH A GREAT TASK COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.

MISS TAM POINTED OUT THAT A SENTENCE STATED IN ANNEX I TO THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, WHICH READ +IN ADDITION TO CHINESE, ENGLISH MAY ALSO BE USED IN ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT AND IN THE COURTS IN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION+, HAD GIVEN RISE TO DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS.

HOWEVER, SHE CONSIDERED THE INTERPRETATION +ONE MAY OF COURSE USE CHINESE, YET TO USE ENGLISH IS NOT IMPROPER+ TO BE MORE PRAGMATIC.

+SUCH AN INTERPRETATION WOULD MAKE CHINESE MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM OF HONG KONG, AND THERE MIGHT EVEN BE A DAY WHEN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE PLAYED A PREDOMINANT PART,+ SHE SAID.

+BUT WE DO NOT HAVE TO RUSH AND COMMIT OURSELVES BY HAVING THE EVOLUTION COMPLETED WITHIN THE PERIOD OF 10 YEARS AND 11 MONTHS,+ SHE ADDED.

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'INCORPORATE CHINESE CONCEPTS IN HK LAWS'
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IT IS NECESSARY TO INCORPORATE CHINESE CONCEPTS INTO THE EXISTING LAWS AS HONG KONG IS MAINLY A CHINESE SOCIETY, THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE LAWS IN CHINESE.

THE LAWS OF HONG KONG SHOULD THEREFORE BE REFORMED ALONG THIS LINE, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THERE MUST BE A CHINESE VERSION IN ORDER TO HIGHLIGHT CHINESE CONCEPTS.

MR YEUNG OBSERVED THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE WOULD BE USED IN ITS LEGISLATION AND JUDICIAL PROCESS IN ORDER TO MEET THE ACTUAL DEMAND OF HONG KONG.

+TO USE CHINESE IN THESE MEANS AS SOON AND AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IS A MUST, BECAUSE THIS IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH HONG KONG AND CHINA,+ HE STRESSED.

MR YEUNG ADDED THAT MORE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE CUSTOMS AND HABITS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE WHEN AMENDING OR ENACTING LAWS WITH A VIEW TO MEETING FUTURE DEMANDS.

ONE OF THE WAYS TO ENSURE THAT THE LANGUAGE USED IN THE LAWS OF HONG KONG WOULD, AS FAR AS IT IS PRACTICABLE TO GO IN LINE WITH THAT USED IN OTHER PARTS OF CHINA, WAS TO BUILD UP CONNECTIONS WITH RELEVANT CHINESE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS AND CONSULT THEIR VIEWS, HE SUGGESTED.

+WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IF WE COULD PUT OUR LEGAL LANGUAGE IN LINE WITH THAT USED IN CHINA, IT WOULD HELP IMPROVE THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA IN THE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND LEGAL FIELDS,+ HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE LAW REFORM MOVEMENT, MR YEUNG SAID THE OUTDATED LAWS SHOULD BE REPEALED WHILE THOSE REQUIRING AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE AMENDED INTO BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE TASKS OF DRAFTING BILLS BILINGUALLY AND TRANSLATING EXISTING ORDINANCES INTO CHINESE WERE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE, BUT HE SAID HE REGRETTED THAT NO SPECIFIC TIMETABLE FOR THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROJECT HAD BEEN STATED IN THE DISCUSSION PAPER.

+THIS NOT ONLY FAILS TO MEET THE PUBLIC'S PRESSING DEMAND FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BILINGUAL LAWS SYSTEM, BUT ALSO REFLECTS THAT BOTH THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION AND THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT ARE EXTREMELY SHORT OF TRANSLATION TALENTS,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

HE THEREFORE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO ENSURE THE PROGRESS WOULD NOT BE SLOWED DOWN, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE TRAINING OF CHINESE LEGAL TALENTS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.

+IN THE MEANTIME, IN ORDER TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF MANPOWER SHORTAGE AND EXPEDITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT, GOVERNMENT CAN CONSIDER TAKING MEASURES IN CO-OPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL LEGAL GROUPS WITH A VIEW TO ATTRACTING MORE LAWYERS TO SPECIFICALLY TAKE PART IN THE TASK,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER EMPLOYING FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG EXPERIENCED CHINESE LEGAL EXPERTS AND SCHOLARS TO ASSIST IN THE DRAFTING WORK BY OFFERING THEM LUCRATIVE CONTRACTS, HE ADDED.

MR YEUNG STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCALISATION OF MAGISTRATES, NOTING THAT THERE MUST BE SUFFICIENT LOCAL JUDICIAL PERSONNEL WELL-VERSED IN CHINESE TO IMPLEMENT THE BILINGUAL LAWS.

+IN FUTURE THE COURTS SHOULD ALSO ADOPT THE BILINGUAL SYSTEM PROGRESSIVELY,+ HE SAID.

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INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH CHINA +MORE PRACTICAL+
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INFORMAL RATHER THAN FORMAL CONSULTATION WITH CHINA ON THE LAWS IN CHINESE FOR HONG KONG WOULD BE A MORE PRACTICAL APPROACH AT THE PRESENT STAGE, THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE LAWS IN CHINESE, MR CHEONG-LEEN NOTED THAT CHINA WAS CURRENTLY SEEKING TO MODERNISE AND UP-DATE HER LEGAL SYSTEM AND STATUTES.

+WHAT INPUT HONG KONG GAINS FROM CHINA MUST DEPEND ENTIRELY UPON HONG KONG'S NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, AND HONG KONG'S OWN LEGAL SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

A HONG KONG GLOSSARY OF LEGAL TERMS, HE ADDED, WOULD BE AN INVALUABLE AID IN PROMOTING CLOSER EXCHANGES ON THE LEGAL SYSTEMS OF CHINA AND HONG KONG.

MR CHEONG-LEEN ENDORSED THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WITH LEGAL AND LANGUAGE BACKGROUND TO ADVISE A SPECIAL COMMISSIONER IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS WHO WOULD CO-ORDINATE THE ENTIRE TRANSLATION PROGRAMME OF THE LAWS IN CHINESE.

+IN ADDITION, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MAY SEE POINT TO APPROVE A COMMITTEE TO GENERALLY MONITOR AND KEEP AN OVERSIGHT OF THE PROGRESS MADE,+ HE SUGGESTED.

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THAT IT WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THERE SHOULD BE HARMONISATION OF STYLES BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH VERSIONS, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDED TERMINOLOGY AND FORMULATION.

WHILE AGREEING WITH THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE CHINESE TEXT SHOULD BE IN GOOD, MODERN AND EDUCATED CHINESE, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID SIMILAR REQUIREMENT SHOULD ALSO APPLY TO THE ENGLISH TEXT.

+IT IS VERY DESIRABLE TOO THAT ALL IMPORTANT STATUTES EXISTING IN 'ARCHAIC ENGLISH' SHOULD BE RE-DRAFTED IN GOOD, MODERN, EDUCATED ENGLISH WITH AN AUTHENTIC CHINESE VERSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ HE ADDED.

AS TO THE ACTUAL DRAFTING OF NEW BILLS, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID HE FAVOURED THE PARALLEL APPROACH WHEREBY BOTH AN +ANGLOPHONE+ LAW DRAFTSMAN AND A +SINOPHONE+ LAW DRAFTSMAN WOULD WORK TOGETHER ON THE DRAFTING OF EACH BILL.

+THIS APPROACH WOULD ENSURE THAT BOTH VERSIONS WOULD BE REASONABLY COMPATIBLE AND AUTHENTIC, AND CONFORMING AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE INTENTION OF THE LEGISLATURE,+ HE SAID.

FINALLY, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THAT IF THE RULE OF LAW IN HONG KONG WAS TO BE PRESERVED AND STRENGTHENED AND HONG KONG'S COMMON LAW LINK WITH THE REST OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD BE MAINTAINED, THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE HONG KONG JUDICIARY MUST BE UPHELD.

+AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND THE RULE OF LAW WILL GIVE HONG KONG PEOPLE PROTECTION AGAINST THEIR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS BEING ERODED, AND AGAINST THE EXECUTIVE FROM MAKING UNWARRANTED ENCROACHMENTS ON SUCH RIGHTS,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT A BILINGUAL SYSTEM OF LAWS FOR HONG KONG +WILL GIVE US A UNIQUE STATUS IN THE HISTORY OF CHINESE CIVILISATION WHEREBY HONG KONG WILL BECOME EVEN MORE OF A CULTURAL BRIDGE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD IN PARTICULAR.+

MR CHEONG-LEEN ADDED THAT CHINA WOULD HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM A STABLE PROSPEROUS AND PROGRESSIVE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AFTER 1997 AS LONG AS SHE KEPT HER OPEN POLICY TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

LAWS SHOULD ADOPT COMMONLY USED TERMS

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THE CHINESE TEXT OF HONG KONG LAWS SHOULD ADOPT COMMONLY USED TERMS TO WHICH HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE ACCUSTOMED.

THIS WAS STATED BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG DURING THE DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE LAWS IN CHINESE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DR CHIU EXPLAINED THAT SUCH TERMS COULD ACCURATELY EXPRESS LEGAL CONCEPTS WITH WHICH HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE FAMILIAR.

HE SAID THIS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE RECOMMENDATION MADE IN THE DISCUSSION PAPER THAT THE CHINESE TEXT WOULD BE WRITTEN IN +GOOD, MODERN AND EDUCATED CHINESE+.

DR CHIU SAID THAT SETTING UP A BILINGUAL LAWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN APPOINTING A COMMISSIONER OR SETTING UP A STANDING COMMITTEE WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE JOB.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD COMPRISE EXPERTS IN VARIOUS RELEVANT FIELDS, MIGHT ALSO OFFER ADVICE ON PRIORITY IN REGARD TO +TRANSLATING EXISTING ORDINANCES ON A SELECTIVE BASIS+.

COMMENTING ON THE PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROJECT, DR CHIU AGREED THAT THE BILINGUAL DRAFTING OF PRINCIPAL ORDINANCES SHOULD BE FIRST PRIORITY, BUT HE SUGGESTED THAT THE THIRD PRIORITY, TRANSLATING EXISTING ORDINANCES ON A SELECTIVE BASIS, SHOULD BE UPGRADED TO SECOND PRIORITY.

+ALL EXISTING LAWS WHICH ATTRACT PUBLIC ATTENTION AND ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE DAILY LIVES OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN TRANSLATION,+ HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, IN ORDER TO MAKE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND AND GET ACCUSTOMED TO THE USE OF THE AUTHENTIC CHINESE VERSION, DR CHIU SUGGESTED THAT THE COURTS WHEN GIVING VERDICTS SHOULD REFER TO THE AUTHENTIC CHINESE VERSION AS AND WHEN NECESSARY.

IN REGARD TO THE PRINTING FORMAT OF THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF THE LAWS, HE SAID THE IDEAL WAY WAS TO ADOPT THE FACING PAGE METHOD SO THAT THE READERS MIGHT SEE BOTH VERSIONS AT A GLANCE.

HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT CORRESPONDING PARAGRAPH NUMBERS SHOULD BE ADDED IN THE MARGIN OF BOTH THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH TEXTS.

/+BY DOING

+BY DOING SO, NOT ONLY CAN THE EQUAL STATUS GIVEN TO THE AUTHENTIC CHINESE AND ENGLISH VERSIONS BE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROJECT CAN ALSO BE AFFIRMED BECAUSE GREATER EMPHASIS IS NOT GIVEN TO EITHER LANGUAGE,+ HE SAID.

FINALLY, DR CHIU SAID IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT SOCIAL JUSTICE WOULD BE UPHOLD AND STABILITY AND PROSPERITY MAINTAINED, THERE WAS A PRESSING NEED FOR SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROJECT IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A COMPLETE SET OF LAWS FOR HONG KONG.

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HARMONISATION WITH CHINA IN LANGUAGE +UNNECESSARY+
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IT IS BOTH UNDESIRABLE AND UNNECESSARY THAT THE LANGUAGE USED IN HONG KONG STATUTES SHOULD HARMONISE WITH THOSE OF CHINA, THE HON LEE YU-TAI SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON LAWS IN CHINESE, MR LEE SAID HE DISAGREED WITH THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE PAPER THAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO CONSULT WITH PERSONS AND BODIES IN CHINA TO ENSURE HARMONISATION OF THE LANGUAGE USED IN HONG KONG STATUTES WITH THOSE OF CHINA.

+THE CHINESE LANGUAGE SPOKEN AND WRITTEN BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IS MUCH RICHER IN CONTENT AND MORE DIVERSIFIED IN USAGE,+ SAID MR LEE, POINTING OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD ALWAYS BEEN OPEN TO THE REST OF THE WORLD AND ITS EXTERNAL CONTACTS HAD BROUGHT IT AHEAD OF CHINA IN MANY RESPECTS.

+IT IS THEREFORE UNWISE TO FOREGO A RICHER AND MORE DIVERSIFIED MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE HARMONISATION,+ HE STRESSED.

MR LEE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE LAWS IN HONG KONG REPRESENTED ONE OF THE MOST DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

+AS THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF HONG KONG WILL REMAIN SEPARATE FROM THAT OF CHINA, DIFFERENCE MUST BE ALLOWED TO EXIST BETWEEN THE LAWS OF THE TWO PLACES, BOTH IN SPIRIT AND IN SUBSTANCE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE RECOMMENDATION TO SET UP A BILINGUAL LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTING MAINLY OF LEGAL AND LANGUAGE EXPERTS, MR LEE SUGGESTED THAT LAY MEMBERS SHOULD BE INCLUDED TO ENSURE THAT THE CHINESE TEXT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SHOULD SET UP A FACULTY OF LAW TO TRAIN PEOPLE TO FILL THE GAP IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE JUDICIARY VACATED BY EXPATRIATES AS 1997 DREW NEARER.

HE SAID HE FELT THAT LOCALISATION SHOULD NOT PROCEED TOO QUICKLY BEFORE LOCAL INSTITUTIONS COULD PRODUCE LAWYERS IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS.

+IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT THE HIGH CALIBRE OF THE JUDICIARY MUST BE UPHELD, EVEN IF IT MEANS LOCALISATION HAS TO BE SLOWED DOWN,+ HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROVISION OF SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SERVICE, NOTING THAT THE SALARIES OF SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SERVICE IN 1971 DESPITE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE DEMAND ON THEIR WORK, BOTH IN QUANTITY AND IN COMPLEXITY.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT BILINGUAL LEGISLATION WOULD FURTHER INCREASE THE IMPORTANCE AND THE DEMAND FOR SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COUNCILS, AND URGED THAT THE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE VARIOUS GRADES OF SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS BE REVIEWED.

+I DOUBT IF THE PRESENT COMPENSATION PACKAGE AND CAREER STRUCTURE WILL ATTRACT AND RETAIN PEOPLE OF THE RIGHT CALIBRE IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS,+ HE SAID.

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PAPER FAILS TO ADDRESS SOME PROBLEMS
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THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE LAWS IN CHINESE HAS FAILED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE FACT THAT HONG KONG'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS BASED ON THE COMMON LAW SYSTEM, THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE PAPER, MR TAI SAID THAT MUCH OF THE EXISTING LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG WAS GUIDED BY COMMON LAW PRINCIPLES WHICH WERE BASED ON ESTABLISHED CUSTOMS AND LEGAL PRECEDENTS OF OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS.

MANY OF THE COMMON LAW RULES WERE UNWRITTEN AND YET WERE WELL UNDERSTOOD BY LOCAL LEGAL PRACTITIONERS, HE NOTED.

+TO MAKE LAWS IN HONG KONG IN CHINESE IS NOT MERELY TO HAVE AN AUTHENTIC VERSION OF THE LEGISLATION IN CHINESE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE CONCEPTS OF LAW IN CHINESE AS WELL,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO LAW REPORT PRECEDENTS AND COURT RULES AND PRACTICE, MR TAI SAID ALL THESE FORMED AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND THEREIN LAY PROBLEMS WHICH THE DISCUSSION PAPER FAILED TO ADDRESS, DUE TO THE LIMITED SCOPE OF THE STUDY.

MR TAI SAID THE OTHER POINT WHICH THE PAPER FAILED TO CONSIDER WAS THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

POINTING OUT THAT LOCAL LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND JUDGES HAD ALL BEEN TRAINED TO PRACTISE LAW IN ENGLISH, HE SAID THE MERE FACT THAT MANY OF THEM DID SPEAK CHINESE DID NOT RENDER THEM EFFECTIVE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE.

+THEREFORE, WE MUST ALSO DIRECT OUR ATTENTION TO WHETHER WE SHOULD HAVE BILINGUAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND A BILINGUAL JUDICIARY, AND THE TIME FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION,+ HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT WHILE CHINESE WOULD ULTIMATELY BECOME THE OFFICIAL JUDICIAL LANGUAGE IN HONG KONG, PREPARATION FOR ITS REALISATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROPOSED BILINGUAL LAWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

MR TAI SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS OF PRODUCING BILINGUAL LAWS.

HE BELIEVED THAT TO MAKE LAWS GOVERNING HONG KONG IN CHINESE WOULD NOT ONLY LOWER THE INSTANCES OF INJUSTICE RESULTING FROM IGNORANCE OF EXISTING LAWS BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE PROBLEM, BUT WOULD ALSO FACILITATE THE PRACTICAL DISSEMINATION OF LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE PUBLIC.

HE ADDED THAT THE POLICY ALSO DEMONSTRATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS RESOLUTE IN PREPARING FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION BETWEEN NOW AND 1997 AS THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION STATED THAT +IN ADDITION TO CHINESE, ENGLISH MAY ALSO BE USED IN ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT AND IN THE COURTS OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION+.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1986

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GOVERNMENT LEAD TO PROMOTE CHINESE LANGUAGE URGED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS OBLIGED TO SET AN EXAMPLE TO PROMOTE AND ENHANCE THE SOCIAL STATUS OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE, THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

GIVING AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS COULD BE DONE, HE SAID IT SHOULD REVIEW THE CRITERIA OF CIVIL SERVICE RECRUITMENT, AND ACTIVELY PROMOTE THE MOTHER TONGUE.

+ONLY THEN CAN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE VERSIONS OF THE STATUTE LAW BE ACCEPTED AS OF EQUAL STATUS BY THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

MR TAM WAS SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON LAWS IN CHINESE.

WHETHER OR NOT THE OBJECT OF EQUALITY IN THE USE OF BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES COULD BE ACHIEVED WAS A QUESTION OF SOCIAL CONCEPT, APART FROM THE QUESTION OF LEGAL STATUS, HE SAID.

+IF THE SOCIAL CONCEPT DOES NOT CHANGE FROM 'PUTTING MORE WEIGHT ON ENGLISH THAN CHINESE' TO 'PAYING EQUAL ATTENTION TO BOTH LANGUAGES', IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR BOTH VERSIONS OF THE STATUTE LAW TO BE ACCEPTED EQUALLY,+ HE SAID.

+THE LAWS WRITTEN IN CHINESE IN THE FUTURE AFTER USING MUCH OF OUR RESOURCES MAY WELL BE SHELVED IN THE LOFTY ATTIC.+

MR TAM SAID THE DISCUSSION PAPER SUGGESTED THAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO CONSULT INDIVIDUALS AND BODIES CONCERNED IN CHINA TO ENSURE THE LANGUAGE USED IN THE LAWS OF HONG KONG WAS CONSISTENT WITH THAT USED IN CHINA.

+THIS SUGGESTION IS BENEFICIAL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS', BUT ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE ASPECT OF TERMINOLOGY SO THAT THE LEGAL TERMS CAN BE EASILY MADE OUT AND CONFORM TO THE GENERAL PRACTICE AND UNDERSTANDING IN HONG KONG,+ HE NOTED.

MR TAM ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PUBLICISE ALL INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROJECT, SO THAT THE PUBLIC COULD ANALYSE AND DISCUSS THE MATTER IN MORE DETAILS.

MR TAM POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST ALL LAWS IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN ENACTED IN ENGLISH, AND THE PUBLIC HAD FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.

+HENCE, TO LEGISLATE IN CHINESE AND TO TRANSLATE INTO CHINESE THE EXISTING STATUTE LAW WOULD HELP THE PUBLIC TO COMPREHEND THE LAW, AND KNOW A PERSON'S RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, AND WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR HONG KONG BECOMING A DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SOCIETY,+ HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1986

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VIOLENCE AGAINST ELDERLY REQUIRES SEPARATE CONSIDERATION
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PROTECTION OF THE ELDERLY FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RAISES A NUMBER OF NEW ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OUTSIDE THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL 1986, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HOWEVER, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ASKED TO LOOK INTO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO THE ELDERLY AND TO REPORT ON THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION, MR THOMAS SAID IN WINDING UP DEBATE ON THE BILL.

THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP WHICH SCRUTINISED THE BILL.

HE WAS GLAD THAT THE MEMBERS AGREED THAT THIS QUESTION SHOULD NOT BECOME CONFUSED WITH THE KNOWN AND PRESSING PROBLEM OF BATTERED SPOUSES AND BATTERED CHILDREN, NOR SHOULD IT DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS THAT HAD BEEN CAREFULLY TAILORED TO MEET THEIR NEEDS.

+WHILE I SYMPATHISE WITH THE CONCERN, I AM AFRAID THE SOLUTION IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS ADDING THE ELDERLY TO THIS BILL,+ HE SAID.

AMONG THE POINTS HE SAID REQUIRED SEPARATE CONSIDERATION WERE DID THE PRESENT LAW FAIL TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION, SHOULD THE RELIEF EXTEND TO VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY ANYONE OR ONLY BY RELATIVES, AND HOW OLD MUST A PERSON BE TO BE ENTITLED TO PROTECTION.

MR THOMAS PAID TRIBUTE TO DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP AND HER COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR WORK IN SCRUTINISING THE BILL, SAYING:

+AS DR IP QUITE RIGHTLY POINTED OUT, THIS IS A NEW PIECE OF LEGISLATION EMBODYING A NEW CONCEPT IN HONG KONG. THE GOVERNMENT WILL CLOSELY MONITOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND WILL WELCOME ALL COMMENTS FROM INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS AND OTHERS IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE.

IN PASSING THIS BILL INTO LAW, MEMBERS WERE PROVIDING A NEW REMEDY TO ALL VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR WHICH THERE WAS CLEAR SUPPORT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

IN RESPONSE TO CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE HON ROSANNA TAM ON THE AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL AID, MR THOMAS SAID HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT THAT ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL AID FROM VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WOULD BE HANDLED SYMPATHETICALLY AND WOULD BE GIVEN URGENT ATTENTION WHENEVER AN EMERGENCY APPEARED TO BE DEVELOPING.

/+AN EMERGENCY

+AN EMERGENCY LEGAL AID CERTIFICATE CAN BE GRANTED THE SAME DAY AND CERTAINLY WITHIN 24 HOURS,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO COUNSELLING, MR THOMAS SAID THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE VALUE OF THIS IN APPROPRIATE CASES. +BUT, WHERE THERE IS BITTER CONFLICT BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE LEADING TO VIOLENCE, COUNSELLING IS UNLIKELY TO BE HELPFUL BEFORE THERE HAS BEEN SOME COOLING-OFF PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL PASSED
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THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL 1986, WHICH MAKES IT EASIER FOR BATTERED SPOUSES TO OBTAIN PROTECTION THROUGH THE COURTS, WAS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT OFFERS IMMEDIATE REMEDY TO A WIFE OR HUSBAND WHO NEEDS IMMEDIATE BUT TEMPORARY RELIEF FROM THE VIOLENT ACT OF THE OTHER BY EXCLUDING THE CULPRIT FROM THE MATRIMONIAL HOME FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS.

THE COUPLE CAN THEN SORT OUT THEIR MATRIMONIAL DISPUTES RATIONALLY OR ONE OF THEM COULD BEGIN MATRIMONIAL PROCEEDINGS SO THAT THE FULL REMEDIES UNDER THE MATRIMONIAL COURSES ORDINANCE BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE VICTIM.

FIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS SPOKE DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOW-UP COUNSELLING IN SUCH CASES AND THE NEED FOR SIMILAR PROTECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST ABUSE OF CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY.

DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, CONVENER OF THE AD HOC GROUP THAT STUDIED THE BILL, SAID THE GROUP HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE MEASURE AFTER A SERIES OF CLARIFICATIONS HAD BEEN MADE.

THESE INCLUDED:

- * THAT PROTECTION TO SPOUSES WOULD INCLUDE 'COHABITEES' AND THE COURTS SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER THE RELATIONSHIP WAS PERMANENT OR NOT;
- * THAT A SPOUSE SUBJECT TO AN EXCLUSION ORDER AND REFUSING TO PAY RENT MAY BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT;
- * THAT AN INJUNCTION COULD BE OBTAINED FROM A HIGH COURT JUDGE IN CASES OF URGENCY OR FROM THE DISTRICT COURT, EVEN ON A SUNDAY, AND THAT LEGAL AID COULD BE OBTAINED WITHIN 24 HOURS; AND

/* THAT THE

* THAT THE DETAILS OF AN ORDER WITH THE POWER OF ARREST WOULD BE DESCRIBED IN THE INJUNCTION PAPER, A COPY OF WHICH WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE DISTRICT POLICE STATION SO THAT POLICE OFFICERS WOULD BE CLEAR AS TO THE SCOPE OF THEIR POWER.

DR IP SAID THE GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT WHERE THE INJUNCTION WAS ATTACHED TO A POWER OF ARREST OR AN EXCLUSION ORDER, THE ALLEGED CULPRIT SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD BY THE COURT, AND THE JUDGE MIGHT ADVISE THE CULPRIT TO VOLUNTARILY ACCEPT COUNSELLING.

+WE HOPE THAT GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE DOCTORS CAN SPEEDILY PROVIDE THE NECESSARY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE APPLICANT IN AN URGENT HEARING,+ SHE SAID.

AS THE ORDINANCE WAS A NEW CONCEPT IN HONG KONG, DR IP URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR ITS EFFECT FOR THREE YEARS AND REVIEW THE SPEED WITH WHICH VICTIMS OBTAINED RELIEF, AND POSSIBLE PROBLEMS IN EXECUTING THE POWER OF ARREST.

THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID MANY CASES OF SPOUSE BATTERING WERE NOT REPORTED AND HE NOTED THAT ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY'S CLIENTS WHO WERE ABUSED DID NOT APPROACH THE POLICE FOR HELP.

HE SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE SETTING UP OF DISTRICT-BASED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION COMMITTEES, WITH MORE CITIZEN INPUT, WHICH COULD ACT AS DOMESTIC MEDIATION COMMITTEES.

+THE ADMINISTRATION COULD EXPLORE THE IDEA OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES TAKING A MORE ACTIVE INTEREST IN PROMOTING RECONCILIATION IN FAMILY DISPUTE CASES,+ HE ADDED.

IT WOULD ALSO BE WORTHWHILE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO ANALYSE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SPOUSE BATTERING CASES, HE SAID, SO AS TO ADOPT A PARTICULAR APPROACH IN SEEKING OUT GROUPS WHO COULD BENEFIT THROUGH SOME FORM OF GROUP COUNSELLING OR CIVIC EDUCATION AGAINST SPOUSE BATTERING.

STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNSELLING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES, THE HON HUI YIN-FAT SAID, CASEWORK COUNSELLING NOT ONLY HEALED THE WOUND DURING THE COOLING OFF PERIOD, BUT ALSO WAS CONDUCTIVE TO REACHING A HAPPY AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION FOR ALL CONCERNED.

+IN VIEW OF THE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES ENVISAGED IN PROVIDING A MANDATORY SERVICE, FOLLOW UP COUNSELLING WORK WHICH MANY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE READY TO OFFER, SHOULD BE CLEARLY MADE KNOWN TO THOSE WHO MAY OPT TO SEEK THIS SERVICE VOLUNTARILY,+ HE SAID.

/MR HUI

MR HUI ALSO URGED THAT DRAFTING OF SEPARATE LEGISLATION BE SPEEDED UP TO COVER THE GROWING ABUSE OF ELDERLY PERSONS.

HE ALSO POINTED TO THE NEED FOR QUICK, EFFICIENT LEGAL AID FOR THOSE IN DIRE NEED OF ASSISTANCE AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PUBLICISE URGENTLY THE LOCATIONS OF LEGAL AID OFFICES WHERE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COULD SEEK HELP.

THE HON LEE YU-TAI BELIEVED THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WAS A SOCIAL PROBLEM THAT COULD NOT BE TACKLED BY LEGISLATION ALONE.

+YOUNG COUPLES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS OR PARENTS-IN-LAW SO THAT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY MAY SHARE THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES TOGETHER AND THE BURDEN ON THE YOUNG COUPLES WOULD BE REDUCED,+ HE SAID.

+PARENTS MAY ACT AS A BUFFER,+ HE SAID. +THEY MAY BE HELPFUL IN SOLVING SOME OF THE FAMILY PROBLEMS.+

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT FAMILY EDUCATION SHOULD BE PROMOTED EXTENSIVELY AND COUNSELLING SERVICES BE PROVIDED TO FAMILIES WITH PROBLEMS.

THE HON ROSANNA TAM SAID EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORDINANCE SINCE THE GOAL WAS TO PROVIDE SWIFT ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION.

SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT SHOULD DRAW UP SPECIFIC RULES, SO THAT OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE COULD CLEARLY JUDGE THE URGENCY OF EACH CASE AND ALLOW NEEDY VICTIMS TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MRS TAM ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE PROCEDURES FOR AN APPLICANT TO PROVE BODILY HARM BE SIMPLIFIED SO THAT A WARRANT OF ARREST COULD BE ISSUED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PROTECTING THE APPLICANT FROM FURTHER SUFFERING.

SHE SAID THE THREE TYPES OF COURT ORDERS MUST CARRY SUFFICIENT LEGAL SANCTION SO AS TO DETER THE RECIPIENT FROM CONTRAVENING THEIR REQUIREMENTS AND TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE VIOLENCE.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1986

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DAYA BAY FEASIBILITY STUDY BEING MADE AVAILABLE
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE REGARDED IT AS IMPORTANT THAT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE THE FEASIBILITY STUDY DEALING WITH SITE SELECTION, EQUIPMENT STUDY AND SYSTEM DESIGN OF THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WELL BEFORE THE PROJECTED OVERSEAS FACT-FINDING MISSIONS.

MR JACOBS SAID HE HAD APPROACHED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG NUCLEAR INVESTMENT COMPANY WITH THE PROPOSAL THAT THE FEASIBILITY STUDY BE DISTRIBUTED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS.

+I AM PLEASED TO INFORM MEMBERS THIS AFTERNOON THAT I HAVE NOW HEARD FROM LORD KADOORIE, THE CHAIRMAN OF CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, THAT VICE-MINISTER ZHOU PING OF THE MINISTRY OF NUCLEAR INDUSTRY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS AGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID THIS AGREEMENT WAS SUBJECT TO DISCUSSIONS AS TO THE EXACT MECHANICS OF DISTRIBUTION TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG NUCLEAR INVESTMENT COMPANY AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT VENTURE COMPANY.

+I HOPE TO SEE THE ARRANGEMENTS COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS,+ HE ADDED.

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COMPUTERISED LAND RECORDS SYSTEM WELCOMED
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GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO COMPUTERISE THE STORAGE OF LAND REGISTRATION RECORDS WAS WELCOMED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE HON HO SAI-CHU WHO URGED THAT IT BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE LAND REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HO SAID THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO INTRODUCE A MORE EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE SYSTEM OF LAND REGISTRATION TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING VOLUME OF DATA STORED AT THE LAND OFFICE WHICH WAS IN LINE WITH THE RECOVERY IN THE PROPERTY MARKET.

HE SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED TO KNOW THAT THE PLANNED COMPUTERISED LAND RECORDS SYSTEM WOULD SIMPLIFY SEARCH PROCEDURES AND REDUCE THE TIME REQUIRED FOR MAKING A LAND SEARCH, THEREBY OFFERING BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

/+IN ADDITION,

+IN ADDITION, THE PROJECT WILL INCREASE COST-EFFECTIVENESS BY ACHIEVING SAVING ON MANPOWER AND STORAGE SPACE,+ MR HO SAID.

THE COMPUTERISED LAND RECORDS SYSTEM WOULD ALSO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE REGISTRAR GENERAL TO TAKE CHARGE OF ALL LAND RECORDS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, HE ADDED.

THANKING MR HO FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPUTERISATION PROGRAMME.

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RELOCATING TRAM DEPOT 'WILL IMPROVE EFFICIENCY'
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THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF TRAM DEPOT FACILITIES WOULD BENEFIT THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC BY IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE TRAMWAY AND MAINTAINING TRAM FARES AT THE PRESENT LEVEL UNTIL THE END OF 1988, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON HARNAM GREWAL, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING A RESOLUTION UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE TRAMWAY ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 107) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR GREWAL SAID ON JULY 15 THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAD APPROVED AN APPLICATION FOR RELOCATION BY THE HONGKONG TRAMWAYS LIMITED.

THE COMPANY PROPOSED TO RELOCATE ITS DEPOT FACILITIES BY CLOSING ITS EXISTING DEPOT AT SHARP STREET AND REPLACING IT WITH TWO NEW DEPOTS, AT SAI YING PUN AND SAI WAN HO.

MR GREWAL SAID THE SHARP STREET DEPOT WAS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TRAMWAY. THE NEED FOR TRAMS TO LEAVE AND RETURN TO THE CENTRALLY LOCATED DEPOT BEFORE AND AFTER THE SCHEDULED HOURS CREATED WASTE MILEAGE ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT OF THE TOTAL DAILY MILEAGE COVERED BY TRAMS.

+RELOCATING THE DEPOT FACILITIES TO BOTH ENDS OF THE TRAMWAY WOULD ELIMINATE SUCH UNECONOMIC TRAM MILEAGE AND REDUCE THE OPERATING COST OF THE TRAMWAY,+ HE SAID.

THE HONGKONG TRAMWAY LIMITED HAD STATED PUBLICLY IT WOULD NOT INCREASE TRAM FARES UNTIL THE END OF 1988 IF THE RELOCATION PROPOSAL GAINED APPROVAL, HE ADDED.

MR GREWAL ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SHARP STREET DEPOT WAS LOCATED IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA AND THE INEVITABLE NOISE CAUSED BY OVERNIGHT MAINTENANCE AND THE MOVEMENT OF EMPTY TRAMS LATE AT NIGHT AND EARLY IN THE MORNING IN AND OUT OF THE DEPOT HAD FOR MANY YEARS BEEN A SOURCE OF COMPLAINT BY NEIGHBOURS.

+FROM AN URBAN PLANNING STANDPOINT RELOCATING THE DEPOT TO NON-RESIDENTIAL AREAS WOULD BE LOGICAL AND WOULD ELIMINATE THE PRESENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

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CORRUPTION REPORTS HIGHEST IN TEN YEARS

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A RECORD NUMBER OF CORRUPTION REPORTS WAS RECEIVED BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN 1985, THE HON S.L. CHEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE ICAC ANNUAL REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHEN SAID THE COMMISSION RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 2 550 CORRUPTION REPORTS LAST YEAR, THE HIGHEST ANNUAL TOTAL SINCE 1975.

HE NOTED THAT 1 009 OF THESE REPORTS WERE AGAINST THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS WAS ALSO THE HIGHEST OF SUCH REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE ICAC.

FOR NON-CORRUPTION COMPLAINTS, MR CHEN REPORTED A 25 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE FIGURE FOR 1984, REVERSING THE DOWNWARD TREND OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

MR CHEN SAID THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN AT FULL STRETCH DURING THE YEAR TO DEAL WITH LARGE-SCALE CORRUPTION-RELATED COMMERCIAL FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS. SPECIAL TASK FORCES HAD TO BE FORMED TO HANDLE THESE LENGTHY AND COMPLICATED CASES, RESULTING IN A STRAIN ON OTHER AREAS OF OPERATIONS.

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED, HAD CONTINUED ITS WORK IN BRINGING THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MESSAGE TO ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

+A SPECIAL EFFORT WAS MADE TOWARDS YOUNG PEOPLE DURING THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR OF 1985, RANGING FROM LIAISON WITH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN PROMOTING SOCIAL MORALITY, TO THE LAUNCHING OF SPECIAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMMES.+

IN THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION FIELD, MR CHEN SAID MORE CORRUPTION PREVENTION GROUPS HAD BEEN FORMED WITHIN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 31.

HE SAID A MILESTONE IN THE WORK OF THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION DEPARTMENT WAS REACHED IN 1985 WHEN THE ONE THOUSANDTH ASSIGNMENT REPORT WAS CONSIDERED ON NOVEMBER 7 BY THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE ADVISORY SERVICES GROUP WAS FORMED IN APRIL LAST YEAR TO ADVISE THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON CORRUPTION PREVENTION.

+WITH THE EXPANSION OF THIS KIND OF SERVICE, IT CAN BE SEEN THAT THE ICAC PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON PRIVATE COMPANIES UNDERSTANDING THE LAW AND REGULATING THEMSELVES ACCORDINGLY,+ HE SAID.

/MR CHEN

MR CHEN ALSO REFERRED TO A 1984 MASS SURVEY REPORT PUBLISHED IN 1985, WHICH SHOWED A HIGH LEVEL OF COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE IN THE COMMISSION AND A HEALTHY TREND IN PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS CORRUPTION.

FEWER PEOPLE NOW REGARD CORRUPTION AS THE MAJOR SOCIAL PROBLEM IT ONCE WAS, HE NOTED.

MR CHEN SAID THE REPORT SHOWED THE WORK OF THE ICAC HAD CONTINUED TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME AGAINST GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HOSTED BY THE ICAC IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF 1987.

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NEW COLLEGE TO BE SET UP AT CHINESE UNIVERSITY
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A BILL TO GIVE LEGAL EFFECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOURTH COLLEGE OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ENTITLED THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (DECLARATION OF SHAW COLLEGE) BILL 1986, IT PROVIDED FOR A SCHEDULE GOVERNING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW COLLEGE, THE HON S.L. CHEN SAID.

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR CHEN POINTED OUT THAT EXISTING FACILITIES AT CHUNG CHI, NEW ASIA AND THE UNITED COLLEGES OF THE UNIVERSITY HAD LONG REACHED MAXIMUM UTILISATION LEVELS.

+IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR AN EXPANSION OF COLLEGIATE FACILITIES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

+THE TIME HAS COME, THEREFORE, FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOURTH COLLEGE ALONG MUCH THE SAME LINES AS THE THREE EXISTING ONES+, HE SAID.

MR CHEN NOTED THAT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG ORDINANCE 1976 PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COLLEGES BY ORDINANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

TO ESTABLISH SHAW COLLEGE AS A COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY, THE COUNCIL HAD ACCORDINGLY PASSED A SPECIAL RESOLUTION, AND A BILL WAS NOW PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION, HE SAID.

THERE WAS ALSO A CONSEQUENT NEED TO MAKE MINOR AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, HE ADDED.

ON THE FUNDING OF SHAW COLLEGE, MR CHEN SAID SIR RUN RUN SHAW HAD MADE A GENEROUS DONATION OF \$100 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-STOREY HOSTEL FOR 1 200 STUDENTS WITH VARIOUS AMENITIES, AS WELL AS OFFICES AND QUARTERS FOR COLLEGE STAFF.

+IN RECOGNITION OF SIR RUN RUN'S LONG-TIME CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION, THE UNIVERSITY HAS DECIDED TO NAME THE NEW COLLEGE SHAW COLLEGE, AND HAS INVITED SIR RUN RUN TO BECOME ITS PATRON,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN FINDING INDUSTRIAL LAND
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THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST MANUFACTURERS IN THE DYEING AND FINISHING INDUSTRY IN FINDING SUITABLE LAND AND SOLVING THEIR OTHER PROBLEMS IF THEY WERE ABLE TO COME TOGETHER TO BUILD AND OPERATE COMMUNAL POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON STEUART WEBB-JOHNSON, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT.

MR WEBB-JOHNSON SAID SOME FACTORIES WITH WASTE DISPOSAL PROBLEMS HAD IN FACT BEEN ASSISTED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID ADVISE AND ASSIST MANUFACTURERS LOOKING FOR SITES EITHER FOR SALE BY AUCTION OR FOR GRANT UNDER THE SPECIAL INDUSTRIES POLICY IF THEY QUALIFIED THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW OR MORE SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY.

+ANOTHER OPTION IS TO INTRODUCE THE MANUFACTURER TO THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION FOR THE CORPORATION TO CONSIDER WHETHER HE QUALIFIES FOR THE OFFER OF A SITE IN ONE OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES+.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCOMMODATING SUCH FACTORIES IN THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES HAD IN FACT BEEN EXAMINED, AS A RESULT OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN A REPORT BY THE SHIRLEY INSTITUTE IN 1982.

+HOWEVER, THE EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH DEMANDS OF THIS INDUSTRY ON THE WATER SUPPLY AND THE SPECIAL NEEDS FOR WASTE DISPOSAL WOULD HAVE REQUIRED HEAVY EXPENDITURE ON ADDITIONAL INSTALLATIONS,+ HE SAID.

+AND AS A RESULT NO APPLICATION WAS MADE FOR LAND IN THE ESTATE.+

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IMPROVEMENT WILL BE SOUGHT IN FAMILY CASEWORK STAFFING
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WILL BE SEEKING FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MANNING SCALE FOR THE FAMILY CASEWORK SERVICE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON NIGEL SHIPMAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR SHIPMAN SAID: +THERE IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE MUCH SCOPE FOR ADDITIONAL INTERNAL RE-DEPLOYMENT OF STAFF WITHIN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO THE BENEFIT OF THE FAMILY CASEWORK SERVICE, HAVING REGARD TO THE STAFFING NEEDS OF THE OTHER SERVICES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES, AND ANY ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE FAMILY CASEWORK MANNING SCALE MUST DEPEND ON THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL POSTS.+

HE SAID FAMILY CASEWORK WAS CONDUCTED THROUGH A NETWORK OF 22 FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND A FURTHER 26 SUCH CENTRES RUN BY EIGHT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

AT PRESENT THERE WERE 209 CASEWORKERS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S CENTRES HANDLING A TOTAL OF 21 747 CASES, THUS GIVING AN AVERAGE CASELOAD OF 104.

IN THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES' CENTRES, THERE WERE 90 CASEWORKERS HANDLING 7 668 CASES, GIVING AN AVERAGE CASELOAD OF 85.

THE OVERALL AVERAGE WAS 98 CASES PER CASEWORKER.

+IN ADDITION, STAFF AT THE SOCIAL WORK OFFICER RANK SUPERVISE THE CASEWORKERS,+ MR SHIPMAN SAID.

THESE STATISTICS REPRESENTED AN IMPROVEMENT UPON THE POSITION RECORDED AT MARCH 31 LAST YEAR, WHEN FAMILY CASEWORKERS IN THE DEPARTMENT HAD AN AVERAGE OF 121 CASES AND THOSE IN THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAD AN AVERAGE OF 84 CASES AND THE OVERALL AVERAGE WAS 109 CASES.

HE SAID THE IMPROVEMENT WAS ACHIEVED DESPITE A TOTAL INCREASE OF OVER 800 CASES.

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TYPES OF ROAD MARKINGS EXPLAINED
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ROAD MARKINGS CAN ONLY BE INDICATIVE OF THE TYPE OF STOPPING RESTRICTION IN FORCE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON HARNAM GREWAL, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG, MR GREWAL SAID TWO TYPES OF +YELLOW LINE+ ROAD MARKINGS WERE PROVIDED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) REGULATIONS.

+A 'DOUBLE YELLOW LINE' IS USED TO INDICATE THAT STOPPING OF MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES IS NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME,+ HE SAID, +WHILE A 'SINGLE YELLOW LINE' INDICATES THAT STOPPING OF SUCH VEHICLES IS PROHIBITED FOR A PERIOD OR PERIODS OF LESS THAN 24 HOURS IN ANY DAY.+

MR GREWAL POINTED OUT THAT AS A RESULT OF A REVIEW OF THE ROAD MARKING SYSTEM FOR RESTRICTED ZONES, IT WAS THE INTENTION THAT THE FOLLOWING 'YELLOW LINE' MARKINGS BE PROVIDED:

- * A DOUBLE CONTINUOUS YELLOW LINE TO INDICATE NO STOPPING AT ANY TIME;
- * A SINGLE CONTINUOUS YELLOW LINE TO INDICATE NO STOPPING DURING PEAK PERIODS, E.G. 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM;
- * A DOUBLE YELLOW LINE, COMPRISING ONE CONTINUOUS LINE AND ONE BROKEN LINE, TO INDICATE NO STOPPING FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD BUT LESS THAN 24 HOURS IN ANY DAY, E.G. 7 AM - 7 PM.

+AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE THREE STANDARD RESTRICTION PERIODS (THAT IS, AT ANY TIME; 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM; AND 7 AM TO 7 PM) WILL BE ADHERED TO.

+HOWEVER, IN SOME AREAS, IT IS NECESSARY TO ADOPT DIFFERENT RESTRICTION PERIODS IN ORDER TO SUIT PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

THERE WOULD STILL BE A NEED TO PROVIDE TIME PLATES FOR EXACT INFORMATION ON THE RESTRICTION PERIODS, HE CONCLUDED.

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RADIATION LEVEL WITHIN INTERNATIONAL SAFETY LIMIT

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AFTER THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR PLANT ACCIDENT, SAMPLES OF IMPORTED FOOD TO HONG KONG WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN LEVELS OF RADIATION PER KILOGRAM WELL WITHIN THE STRINGENT INTERNATIONAL SAFETY LIMIT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON NIGEL SHIPMAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR SHIPMAN SAID THAT SAFETY LEVELS HAD BEEN SET BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC) ON MAY 31, 1986, AND HAD BEEN ADOPTED AS THE STANDARDS IN THE MONITORING OF IMPORTED FOOD IN HONG KONG.

EXPLAINING GOVERNMENT MEASURES, MR SHIPMAN SAID ACTIONS WERE TAKEN BY THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FIRST REPORTS ON THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT AT THE END OF APRIL THIS YEAR.

FOOD COMMODITIES FLOWN IN FROM EUROPE AS WELL AS OTHER NEARBY COUNTRIES WERE SAMPLED FOR DETECTION OF RADIO-ACTIVE CONTAMINATION, HE SAID, ADDING THAT PLANS WERE DRAWN UP TO SAMPLE COMMODITIES SHIPPED IN FROM EUROPE, AS WELL AS THOSE IMPORTED FROM CHINA, AFTER THE ACCIDENT.

+FOOD COMMODITIES IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG PRIOR TO THE REACTOR ACCIDENT WERE SAMPLED FOR DETERMINATION OF THEIR BACKGROUND RADIATION LEVELS SO THAT THESE COULD BE COMPARED WITH THE LEVELS IN FOOD IMPORTED THEREAFTER.+

MR SHIPMAN SAID THAT THE LOCAL CONSULATES OF 10 WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE ACCIDENT WERE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY DETAILS OF MEASURES TAKEN BY THEIR COUNTRIES TO PREVENT THE EXPORT OF THOSE FOOD COMMODITIES AT RISK OF CONTAMINATION.

THE UK MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOODS, MEANWHILE, WAS APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SIMILAR DETAILS FROM POLAND AND HUNGARY, WHICH WERE THE MAIN EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES EXPORTING TO HONG KONG.

+SUBSEQUENT REPLIES FROM THE CONSULS-GENERAL CONCERNED, AS WELL AS FROM POLAND AND HUNGARY THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOODS, ASSURED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT THAT STRINGENT MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN IN THESE COUNTRIES TO ENSURE THAT FOOD COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO HONG KONG WERE RADIATION FREE,+ MR SHIPMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT FOR SAFETY REASONS, THE GRANTING OF PERMISSION FOR THE IMPORTATION OF FOOD FROM ALL EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES WAS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ACCIDENT.

HOWEVER, AFTER THE EEC HAD ENACTED REGULATIONS STIPULATING THE LEVELS OF RADIATION PERMITTED IN CERTAIN FOODS, PERMISSION WAS GRANTED FOR THE IMPORTATION OF FOOD FROM EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES, BUT CERTIFICATES WERE REQUIRED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE LEVEL OF RADIATION OF EACH CONSIGNMENT COMPLIED WITH THAT SET OUT BY THE EEC COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

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CO-OPERATION TO SOLVE TYPHOON TRAFFIC URGED
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THE CO-OPERATION OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WOULD BE REQUIRED IN HELPING TO SOLVE THE STRAIN ON THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM DURING A TYPHOON, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEE YU-TAI, MR LIAO SAID IT WAS NOT THE TIMING OF HOISTING OR ANNOUNCING THE NO 8 SIGNAL BUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT AS SUCH THAT CAUSED THE STRAIN TO THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM WHEN EVERYONE RUSHED HOME AT THE SAME TIME.

MR LIAO SAID CO-OPERATION WOULD BE REQUIRED SO THAT DISPERSAL OF STAFF COULD BE MORE EVENLY SPREAD OUT, BEARING IN MIND THAT NORMALLY THERE WERE AT LEAST SIX TO 12 HOURS BEFORE GALE OR STORM FORCE WINDS AFFECTED THE TERRITORY.

THE GOVERNMENT AS THE EMPLOYER OF THE LARGEST WORKFORCE WILL BE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER, HE ADDED.

MR LIAO SAID THE HOISTING OF THE NO 8 SIGNAL MEANT THAT GALE STORM FORCE WINDS WITH SPEEDS OF 63 TO 117 KILOMETRES PER HOUR WERE EXPECTED IN HONG KONG AND WAS AIMED TO GIVE ADVANCE WARNING OF THE ONSET OF GALES.

+THE WARNING, WHICH ENABLES EVERYONE ESPECIALLY THOSE AT SEA TO TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS, MUST HAVE REGARD TO THE TIME WHEN THE RELEVANT WEATHER DATA AND THEIR ASSESSMENTS BECOME AVAILABLE.

+GIVEN THE ERRATIC BEHAVIOUR OF TYPHOONS, PREMATURE HOISTING OF A SIGNAL WOULD LEAD TO UNNECESSARY DISRUPTION WHILE DELAY MAY ENDANGER LIVES,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO POINTED OUT THAT SINCE MAJOR CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO PUBLIC SAFETY, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE OR EVEN DANGEROUS IF THE HOISTING OF THE NO 8 SIGNAL WERE TO BE RESTRICTED ONLY TO CERTAIN HOURS OF THE DAY OR NIGHT.

+FURTHERMORE, THERE WILL BE OCCASIONS, AS IN THE PAST, WHEN INCOMING OBSERVATIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED ON THE TYPHOON INDICATES IMMINENT DANGER THEREBY WARRANTING THE IMMEDIATE HOISTING OF THE SIGNAL,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO SAID THAT DURING THE APPROACH OF A TYPHOON, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WAS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO ENABLE THEM TO PLAN FOR THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMMUTERS AND, IF NECESSARY, MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE THE SUSPENSION OR RESUMPTION OF SERVICES.

/THE DIRECTOR

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WHO HAD THE DISCRETION TO ANNOUNCE THE CLOSING OF SCHOOLS AHEAD OF THE HOISTING OF THE NO 8 SIGNAL, WAS ALSO GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE OF DETERIORATING WEATHER CONDITIONS, MR LIAO SAID.

HE SAID THE DIRECTOR TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION FACTORS SUCH AS THE SAFETY OF PUPILS, TRANSPORT PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL PROGRAMMES, WHEN DECIDING ON THE SUSPENSION OF CLASSES.

+BECAUSE THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS THE SAFETY OF PUPILS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, ANNOUNCES THE CLOSING OF SCHOOLS EITHER AT 6.15 AM OR AT 11 AM TO INFORM PUPILS ATTENDING THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS BEFORE THEY LEAVE HOME,+ MR LIAO ADDED.

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INCINERATORS TO BE PHASED OUT * * * *

PLANS ARE IN HAND FOR HAVING MUNICIPAL WASTE DISPOSED OF AT NEW LANDFILL SITES, OR CONTROLLED TIPS, INSTEAD OF THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR STATION BY 1991-92, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON NIGEL SHIPMAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR, MR SHIPMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM STRATEGY WAS TO MAKE GREATER USE OF THE SANITARY LANDFILL METHOD FOR DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL WASTE.

+THIS WILL ENABLE KENNEDY TOWN AND OTHER INCINERATORS TO BE PHASED OUT,+ MR SHIPMAN SAID.

+IN THE MEANTIME, THE WASTE DISPOSAL CAPACITY PROVIDED BY THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR STATION IS INDISPENSABLE, AND THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING STEPS TO MAKE THE STATION ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE, AS FAR AS IS PRACTICABLE,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE WHOLE STATION WOULD HAVE BEEN FITTED WITH ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS, WHICH WOULD GREATLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE CHIMNEY EMISSIONS BY REMOVING MOST OF THEIR DUST PARTICLES AND GRIT CONTENT.

MOST INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTES AND ALL TOXIC OR HAZARDOUS WASTES WERE NOT ACCEPTED FOR DISPOSAL IN THE INCINERATOR TO ENSURE THAT NO HARMFUL QUANTITIES OF TOXIC OR HAZARDOUS GAS WERE GENERATED.

/+RANDOM MONITORING

+RANDOM MONITORING OF THE STACK EMISSION HAS SHOWN THAT THE GASEOUS EMISSIONS AT KENNEDY TOWN ARE NOT A CAUSE FOR ALARM,+ HE SAID.

+FROM NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WILL START A REGULAR MONITORING PROGRAMME OF THE CHIMNEY EMISSIONS AT KENNEDY TOWN AND THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL THE INCINERATOR IS CLOSED DOWN,+ MR SHIPMAN ADDED.

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DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL REMOVAL ALLOWANCES EXPLAINED
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A PAPER IS BEING PREPARED FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION ON WHETHER THE APPLICATION OF TWO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS ON REMOVAL ALLOWANCES FOR DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL TENANTS AFFECTED BY REDEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE CHANGED, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON JOHN TODD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR TODD SAID THE REASON FOR THE DIFFERENT TREATMENT OF DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL TENANTS AROSE FROM THE DIFFERENT RATIONALE BEHIND THESE TWO TYPES OF ALLOWANCES.

DOMESTIC TENANTS, HE SAID, +ARE MOVING FROM THEIR FLAT TO ANOTHER AND IN DOING SO HAVE TO INCUR REMOVAL EXPENSES AND HAVE TO FIT OUT THEIR NEW FLATS.+

THEIR ALLOWANCE WAS BASED ON THESE COSTS AND WHEN REVISED, CURRENT COSTS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

+THE NEW RATES ARE PAID TO ALL TENANTS AFFECTED AFTER THE DATE OF REVISION,+ HE SAID.

COMMERCIAL TENANTS, CONDITIONS PROVIDED FOR TERMINATION OF TENANCY BY GIVING THREE MONTHS NOTICE BY EITHER PARTY.

+THERE IS NO LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR ANY COMPENSATION TO BE PAID,+ MR TODD SAID.

BUT IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITS COMMERCIAL TENANTS TO RE-ESTABLISH THEIR BUSINESS IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S COMMERCIAL PREMISES ELSEWHERE, THE AUTHORITY RECOGNISED THE DISTURBANCE CAUSED AND, +PAYS AN EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE AS A FORM OF COMPENSATION FOR MONETARY LOSS,+ HE SAID.

/THIS ALLOWANCE,

THIS ALLOWANCE, MR TODD EXPLAINED, WAS BASED MAINLY ON LOSS OF BUSINESS, COSTS OF REMOVAL AND THE COSTS OF STARTING A NEW BUSINESS.

AS THE ALLOWANCE WAS BASED ON PAST EARNINGS AS WELL AS CURRENT FIGURES, HE EXPLAINED THAT IT APPLIED TO ALL COMMERCIAL TENANTS AFFECTED BY A SPECIFIC PHASE OF THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

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LITTLE RISK OF UNFIT FISH REACHING MARKET

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THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH HAS A SAMPLING SCHEDULE FOR FISH IN RETAIL OUTLETS AS WELL AS IN RESTAURANTS, AND THE PUBLIC CAN BE ASSURED THAT THERE IS LITTLE RISK OF FISH UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION REACHING THE MARKET, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON NIGEL SHIPMAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON RICHARD LAI, MR SHIPMAN SAID FISHERMEN WERE ALSO REMINDED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT PERIODICALLY NOT TO USE TOXIC SUBSTANCES TO CATCH FISH.

MR LAI HAD ASKED ABOUT THE MEASURES TAKEN TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF FISHERMEN DOSING THEIR CATCHES OF FISH WITH CYANIDE IN ORDER TO CATCH THEM ALIVE.

MR SHIPMAN SAID HE WAS TOLD BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT THAT THEY HAD NOT SO FAR APPREHENDED A FISHERMAN IN POSSESSION OF CYANIDE.

AS FAR AS THE DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE, HE ADDED, THE PRACTICE DESCRIBED IN PART OF MR LAI'S QUESTION WAS NOT WIDESPREAD IN HONG KONG WATERS.

MR SHIPMAN SAID THE FISHERIES PROTECTION ORDINANCE PROHIBITED THE USE OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES LISTED IN ITS SCHEDULE FOR FISHING ACTIVITIES BUT THE SCHEDULE DID NOT INCLUDE CYANIDE.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE QUESTION OF ITS INCLUSION, TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS OTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE SAME ORDINANCE, WAS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH.

IN THE MEANTIME, HE SAID, IF A FISHERMAN WERE APPREHENDED IN POSSESSION OF CYANIDE, ACTION COULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE.

MR SHIPMAN SAID HE WAS TOLD THAT ONLY FISH WHICH HAD RECEIVED SMALL DOSES OF CYANIDE WOULD REMAIN ALIVE AND, ACCORDING TO RESEARCH BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, MOST OF THE SMALL AMOUNTS OF INORGANIC CYANIDE PRESENT IN FOODS WERE DESTROYED BY THE PROCESS OF COOKING.

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OVERCHARGING BY TAXI DRIVERS 'NOT WIDESPREAD'
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THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS OF OVERCHARGING BY TAXI DRIVERS DOES NOT SEEM TO CALL FOR ANY EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON HARNAM GREWAL, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN, MR GREWAL SAID THE PROBLEM OF OVERCHARGING WAS BEING TACKLED IN THREE WAYS.

FIRSTLY, THE POLICE INVESTIGATED CASES OF OVERCHARGING AND TOOK ENFORCEMENT ACTION WHEN A CASE WAS SUBSTANTIATED.

SECONDLY, AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS WERE IN HAND WHICH WOULD REQUIRE TAXI OPERATORS TO DISPLAY INSIDE TAXIS CLEAR SIGNS WHICH INDICATED FARE RATES IN HONG KONG DOLLARS AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT.

+THIS MEASURE IS EXPECTED TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY NOVEMBER 1986,+ HE SAID.

THIRDLY, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ISSUED REGULAR WARNINGS TO TAXI OPERATOR ASSOCIATION AT ITS REGULAR CONFERENCES WITH THEM WITH A VIEW TO APPEALING TO THEIR MEMBERS TO WARN THEIR DRIVERS NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY TYPE OF MALPRACTICE, INCLUDING OVERCHARGING.

IN ADDITION, MR GREWAL SAID, +THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF TAXI MALPRACTICES WILL BE EXAMINED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH HAS BEEN RECENTLY SET UP BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF TAXI POLICY AND OPERATIONS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT OVERCHARGING OF TAXI FARES WAS AN OFFENCE UNDER REGULATION 47(2) OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS WHICH CARRIED A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A FINE OF \$3 000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

THIS REGULATION WAS IN FORCE AT ALL TIMES AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER A TYPHOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED.

MR GREWAL SAID: +TAXI DRIVERS WHO ATTEMPT TO CHARGE PASSENGERS EXCESSIVE FARES DURING TYPHOONS, OR AT ANY OTHER TIME, RENDER THEMSELVES LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.+

HOWEVER, HE SAID, DURING THE APPROACH OF A TYPHOON, POLICE OFFICERS HAD TO CONCENTRATE ON THE CONTROL AND DIRECTION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AND THE REGULATION OF PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS WHICH, AT SUCH TIMES, WERE INEVITABLY ABNORMAL.

/AS WEATHER

AS WEATHER CONDITIONS DETERIORATED, POLICE ACTIVITY WAS CENTRED UPON PROTECTING LIFE AND PROPERTY AND POLICE OFFICERS' ATTENTION HAD, BY NECESSITY, TO BE DIRECTED AWAY FROM RELATIVELY MINOR INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAW.

+THIS PUTS AN ONUS ON THE PUBLIC TO REPORT CASES OF OVERCHARGING TO THE POLICE SO THAT AN INVESTIGATION MAY BE CONDUCTED,+ HE SAID.

+IF A COMPLAINT IS SUBSTANTIATED, PROSECUTION ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.+

MR GREWAL SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE MALPRACTICE WAS WIDESPREAD.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THERE HAD BEEN ONLY 163 REPORTED CASES OF OVERCHARGING, AND THIS INCLUDED OVERCHARGING DURING TYPHOONS AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, WITH THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT DECREASING FROM 80 IN 1982-83 TO 34 IN 1984-85.

HE SAID: +OF THIS TOTAL, 71 CASES WERE PROSECUTED BY THE POLICE.+

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PLANS TO CURB INDISCRIMINATE ANIMAL WASTE DISPOSAL
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PROPOSALS TO CONTROL THE INDISCRIMINATE DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL WASTES, WHICH WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSE OF POLLUTION, WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON NIGEL SHIPMAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR SHIPMAN SAID THIS WAS PART OF THE ACTION IN HAND TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF POLLUTED WATERCOURSES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BY TACKLING THE PROBLEM AT SOURCE.

OTHER CONTROLS, INCLUDING SEVERAL PROJECTS FOR THE INTERCEPTION OF POLLUTED SURFACE WATER DRAINS AND THE DIVERSION OF THEIR CONTENTS INTO FOUL SEWERS, HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN WHILE OTHERS WERE BEING PLANNED, HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, STEPPED-UP ENFORCEMENT OF STATUTORY DRAINAGE PROVISIONS WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.

+A CONCERTED PROGRAMME OF ACTION, BASED ON PRIORITIES, IS NOW BEING DEVELOPED SO THAT THESE RESOURCES CAN BE FULLY JUSTIFIED AND SUBSEQUENTLY DEPLOYED IN A COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER,+ HE SAID.

/MR SHIPMAN

MR SHIPMAN NOTED THAT DESPITE THE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL INFRASTRUCTURE, NULLAHS AND OTHER WATERCOURSES CONTINUED TO BE POLLUTED BY DOMESTIC SEWAGE FROM UNSEWERED RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND BY INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES, MANY OF WHICH DID NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

+IN PARALLEL WITH NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENTS, THERE ARE SCHEMES TO EXTEND THE SEWERAGE NETWORK INTO RURAL AREAS,+ HE SAID.

+IN AREAS WITHOUT MUCH DRAINAGE, SEPTIC TANKS AND SMALL TREATMENT WORKS ARE REQUIRED IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

+IN ADDITION, THE DRAINAGE IN A NUMBER OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IS BEING EXAMINED WITH A VIEW TO INSTALLING COMMUNAL SYSTEMS,+ HE ADDED.

MR SHIPMAN SAID THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REGULATION WHICH PROVIDED CONTROLS ON NEW POLLUTING INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS AND LIMITED THE INCREASE IN DISCHARGES FROM EXISTING ONES, WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL WATER CONTROL ZONE IN 1987 SO THAT INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN THAT AREA COULD BE CONTAINED IN THE SHORT-TERM AND IMPROVED IN THE LONGER TERM.

AND TO IMPROVE CO-ORDINATION AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, MR SHIPMAN SAID DISTRICT WORKING GROUPS ON WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT WERE ESTABLISHED IN LATE 1983 THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DISTRICT LANDS OFFICERS.

+THESE GROUPS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN IDENTIFYING SOURCES OF POLLUTION, COORDINATING LOCAL ACTION TO CONTROL THE POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND NULLAHS AND PRODUCING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR WATERCOURSES,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE NEW CONTROLS ON THE DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL WASTE WOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE YUEN LONG TOWN AREA IN THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME.

+DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL SEWAGE FROM THE SEWERED AREA OF THE TOWN DRAINS TO A SCREENING PLANT AND THE NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, WHICH WERE COMMISSIONED IN THE MIDDLE OF LAST YEAR, ENSURE THAT THESE WASTES ARE NOW GIVEN BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT BEFORE THE EFFLUENT IS DISCHARGED INTO THE LOWER STRETCHES OF THE NULLAH.+

HE SAID ACTION TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF UNAUTHORISED CONNECTION WOULD BE TAKEN IN YUEN LONG AS PART OF THE CONCERTED PROGRAMME WHICH HE HAD MENTIONED.

+MEANWHILE, THE ANNUAL DESILTING OPERATION IN THE NULLAH PROVIDES SOME TEMPORARY ABATEMENT OF THE FOUL ODOURS,+ AND +MEASURES TO INTERCEPT THE DRY-WEATHER FLOW OR CONFINE IT TO A RESTRICTED CHANNEL ARE NOT PRACTICABLE IN THE YUEN LONG NULLAH BECAUSE OF ITS SHALLOW GRADIENT AND THE INFLUENCE OF TIDES+.

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CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT DUE ON COMPLAINTS SYSTEM
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PUBLIC VIEWS WOULD BE INVITED ON THE CHANNELS FOR THE REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES AND COMPLAINTS IN CONNECTION WITH MALPRACTICES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY PLAN TO APPOINT A +COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION+ TO ASSIST THE UMELCO OFFICE IN DEALING WITH SUCH COMPLAINTS, SIR DAVID SAID A REVIEW HAD BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND UMELCO HAD ALSO REVIEWED THESE MATTERS LAST YEAR.

A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WAS BEING FINALISED AND WAS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, TO INVITE THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC, HE SAID.

+THE PUBLIC RESPONSE WILL ASSIST GOVERNMENT IN FORMULATING SUCH PROPOSALS AS MAY APPEAR NECESSARY FOR IMPROVING OR ADDING THE PRESENT CHANNELS AND REMEDIES,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

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DIFFICULT TO DETER ARRIVAL OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
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THERE WAS LITTLE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT COULD DO TO DETER VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM COMING TO HONG KONG OTHER THAN TO MAINTAIN THE CLOSED CAMP POLICY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON RITA FAN, HE SAID THAT ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF TURNING THEM AWAY.

REGARDING THE HUGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES THAT ARRIVED IN HONG KONG SO FAR THIS YEAR, MR THOMAS SAID A TOTAL OF 1 204 REFUGEES HAD ARRIVED BY MID-JULY, MORE THAN THE WHOLE OF LAST YEAR.

+WHEN THEY ARE INTERVIEWED ON ARRIVAL, THEY ARE ASKED WHY THEY LEFT VIETNAM TO COME TO HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

/+THIS YEAR,

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+THIS YEAR, MOST OF THEM CLAIMED THEY WERE LEAVING BECAUSE OF THE POOR STATE OF THE ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL AREAS OF THE NORTH.+

MR THOMAS SAID THAT ACCORDING TO ASSESSMENT THERE WERE OTHER FACTORS AT WORK SUCH AS RUMOURS THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WAS GOING TO INTRODUCE STRICTER MEASURES TO CONTROL ILLEGAL DEPARTURES, RUMOURS THAT HARSH ECONOMIC MEASURES SUCH AS AN INCREASED LEVY ON EACH HARVEST AND DEVALUATION OF THE CURRENCY WOULD BE INTRODUCED, AND THE FACT THAT OCEAN-GOING BOATS IN SHORT SUPPLY WHICH ENCOURAGED COASTAL NAVIGATION FROM THE NORTH OF VIETNAM TO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

+AS I STATED IN THIS COUNCIL EARLIER THIS YEAR ON JANUARY 8, INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF ARRIVALS WHO ARE NOT GENUINE REFUGEES TO VIETNAM IS A VIABLE OPTION, AS FAR AS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, PROVIDED THAT GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM WOULD ACCEPT THEM AND PROVIDED WE COULD BE SATISFIED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE TREATED INHUMANELY ON THEIR RETURN.+

MR THOMAS ADDED THAT HONG KONG WAS STILL PURSUING THIS POSSIBILITY WITH THE UK GOVERNMENT.

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TWO BILLS PASSED
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THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL 1986 AND THE LAND REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (DECLARATION OF SHAW COLLEGE) BILL 1986 WAS INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON IT WAS ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO JULY 30.

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MEETING HELD ON TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS DURING TYPHOONS
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REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND MAJOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS MET THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON TO REVIEW OPERATING PROCEDURES DURING THE APPROACH OF TYPHOONS AND TO INVESTIGATE MEASURES THAT MIGHT ALLEVIATE THE INTENSE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WHEN THE NO. 8 STORM SIGNAL IS HOISTED.

THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF RAIL, BUS AND FERRY OPERATORS AND OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, THE POLICE AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RICHARD MEAKIN, CHAIRED THE MEETING.

IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT WITH INCREASING CONCENTRATION OF HIGH-DENSITY OFFICE ACCOMMODATION IN CENTRAL, WAN CHAI AND CAUSEWAY BAY, THE CONGESTION RESULTING FROM THE MASS EVACUATION OF WORK PLACES THAT COULD FOLLOW THE HOISTING OF THE NO. 8 SIGNAL WAS LIKELY TO GET WORSE IN FUTURE.

IT WAS AGREED THAT CLOSER LIAISON SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND THE MAJOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS SO THAT THEY WERE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PROBABILITY OF THE NO. 8 SIGNAL BEING HOISTED.

+THE MOVE WILL HELP TRANSPORT OPERATORS LAY ON ADDITIONAL CAPACITY FOR THE MAIN AREAS OF DEMAND,+ MR MEAKIN EXPLAINED.

MEANWHILE, THE LAND-BASED TRANSPORT OPERATORS GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES BUS SERVICES WOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR THREE HOURS AND RAIL SERVICES FOR SIX HOURS AFTER THE HOISTING OF THE NO. 8 SIGNAL.

HOWEVER, THE VULNERABILITY OF FERRY SERVICES TO CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS WOULD MEAN THAT SERVICES COULD BE WITHDRAWN AT SHORT NOTICE.

+IT IS HOPED THAT WITH THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS' ASSURANCE OF AVAILABLE TRANSPORT CAPACITY, PEOPLE WOULD SPREAD OUT THEIR JOURNEYS HOME,+ MR MEAKIN SAID.

SINCE THE NO. 8 SIGNAL WAS INTENDED TO GIVE SIX TO 12 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE OF GALE FORCE WINDS, HE HOPED THAT EMPLOYERS WOULD ARRANGE A STAGGERED AND ORDERLY DEPARTURE FOR THEIR STAFF TO HELP RELIEVE THE RUSH FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHEN THE SIGNAL WENT UP.

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GOVERNOR WRAPS UP VISIT TO NORTH AMERICA
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LEFT CHICAGO ON TUESDAY NIGHT (WEDNESDAY, HK TIME) AT THE END OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO NORTH AMERICA.

SIR EDWARD, ACCOMPANIED BY LADY YOUDE, WAS FLYING TO LONDON WHERE HE WILL BEGIN HIS ANNUAL LEAVE.

HE IS DUE TO RETURN TO HONG KONG IN A MONTH'S TIME.

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YAXLEY EXPLAINS EUROPEAN N-PLANT VISITS
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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR JOHN YAXLEY, AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

AS YOU KNOW THE MAIN PURPOSE OF MY VISIT TO EUROPE WAS TO INVESTIGATE THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR DEALING WITH INCIDENTS AT NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE PLANT OPERATORS AND BY THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN THE AREA IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING THESE STATIONS.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, I VISITED MOST OF THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WITH THE CIVIL NUCLEAR PROGRAMME INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE, THE NATIONAL RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION BOARD, THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD AND THE UK ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY.

I ALSO MET TWO LOCAL AUTHORITY EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICERS IN MANCHESTER AND PRESTON AND HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH POLICE, AMBULANCE AND FIRE SERVICES. ON EACH OCCASION I EXPLORED WITH THEM THEIR ROLE IN THE EVENT OF A NUCLEAR INCIDENT.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS A TWO-DAY EXERCISE OF EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AT THE HEYSHAM NO. 2 STATION IN LANCASHIRE. I SPENT OVER 12 HOURS AT THIS STATION AS AN OBSERVER AND TOOK PART IN THE SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS OF THE EXERCISE.

IN FRANCE I SPENT 10 HOURS AT THE GRAVELINES NUCLEAR POWER STATION WHICH IS SITUATED BETWEEN DUNKIRK AND CALAIS. THIS STATION HAS SIX REACTORS AND IS PROBABLY THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD. THE FIFTH AND SIXTH UNITS WHICH WERE COMMISSIONED LAST YEAR ARE THE SAME DESIGN AS THOSE FOR DAYA BAY.

/I HAD

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I HAD A SERIES OF MOST USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS AT ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE WHO ARE THE OPERATORS OF THE PLANT AND WHO ARE PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND OTHER SERVICES TO THE JOINT VENTURE COMPANY IN SHENZHEN. AS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM THE TALKS CENTRED AROUND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DESIGN SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING, BOTH ON AND OFF SITE.

AS YOU WILL APPRECIATE, AND AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE I LEFT, I HAVE NOT COME BACK WITH A DETAILED PLAN FOR DEALING IN HONG KONG WITH THE EFFECTS OF AN INCIDENT AT DAYA BAY. I HAVE, HOWEVER, COLLECTED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION WHICH WILL, FOLLOWING FURTHER ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION WITH OUR CONSULTANTS, ENABLE US TO DEVELOP SUITABLE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE COUNTERMEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS PART OF ITS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CIVIL CONTINGENCY PLANNING.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE
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THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JUNE 1986, AT \$12 546 MILLION, GREW BY 14.5 PER CENT OR \$1 590 MILLION COMPARED WITH JUNE 1985, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 15.1 PER CENT OR \$1 257 MILLION TO \$9 598 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT \$22 144 MILLION, WAS 14.8 PER CENT OR \$2 847 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN JUNE 1985.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 15.6 PER CENT OR \$3 078 MILLION OVER JUNE 1985 TO REACH \$22 836 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW AT A FASTER RATE THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE GAP (THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS) OF 3.0 PER CENT WAS RECORDED IN JUNE 1986, COMPARED WITH 2.3 PER CENT IN JUNE 1985.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1986 WAS \$118 407 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$65 374 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$53 033 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST HALF OF 1985, THE VALUES OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$5 357 MILLION OR 4.7 PER CENT, OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY \$4 966 MILLION OR 8.2 PER CENT, AND OF RE-EXPORTS BY \$391 MILLION OR 0.7 PER CENT. OVER THIS PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY \$10 563 MILLION OR 9.4 PER CENT, TO \$123 335 MILLION.

/AS THE

AS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW AT A FASTER RATE THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE GAP OF 4.0 PER CENT WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1986, COMPARED WITH A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS, EQUIVALENT TO 0.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DECLINE IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS (YEAR-ON-YEAR) EXPERIENCED DURING MOST OF 1985 WAS ARRESTED TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR AND THE RECOVERY HAS GATHERED MOMENTUM SINCE MARCH 1986.

THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST MOST MAJOR CURRENCIES OTHER THAN THE US DOLLAR WAS AMONGST THE MAIN CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT, AFTER DECLINING IN THE FIRST QUARTER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS RECORDED POSITIVE GROWTH AGAIN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE 1986:

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|---|----------|----------------------|
| MERCHANDISE: | DOMESTIC EXPORTS | : | \$12 546 | MILLION |
| | RE-EXPORTS | : | \$9 598 | MILLION |
| | TOTAL EXPORTS | : | \$22 144 | MILLION |
| | IMPORTS | : | \$22 836 | MILLION |
| | TRADE BALANCE | : | \$692 | MILLION (IN DEFICIT) |

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

| <u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u> | APR 86 TO | APR 85 TO | INCREASE | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|
| | JUN 86 | JUN 85 | HK\$ MN. | % |
| | HK\$ MN. | HK\$ MN. | | |
| DOMESTIC EXPORTS | 36 228 | 31 432 | 4 796 | 15.3 |
| RE-EXPORTS | 29 028 | 27 169 | 1 859 | 6.8 |
| TOTAL EXPORTS | 65 256 | 58 601 | 6 655 | 11.4 |
| IMPORTS | 67 663 | 58 772 | 8 891 | 15.1 |
| TRADE BALANCE | -2 407 | -171 | -2 236 | |

/SAME MONTH

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| SAME MONTH LAST YEAR | JUNE 1986 HK\$ MN. | JUNE 1985 HK\$ MN. | INCREASE | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|------|
| | | | HK\$ MN. | % |
| DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS) | 12 546 (56.7%) | 10 956 (56.8%) | 1 590 | 14.5 |
| RE-EXPORTS | 9 598 | 8 341 | 1 257 | 15.1 |
| TOTAL EXPORTS | 22 144 | 19 297 | 2 847 | 14.8 |
| IMPORTS | 22 836 | 19 758 | 3 078 | 15.6 |
| TRADE BALANCE | -692 | -461 | -231 | |
| LAST MONTH | JUNE 1986 HK\$ MN. | MAY 1986 HK\$ MN. | INCREASE | |
| | | | HK\$ MN. | % |
| DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS) | 12 546 (56.7%) | 12 334 (55.6%) | 212 | 1.7 |
| RE-EXPORTS | 9 598 | 9 869 | -271 | -2.7 |
| TOTAL EXPORTS | 22 144 | 22 203 | -59 | -0.3 |
| IMPORTS | 22 836 | 22 350 | 486 | 2.2 |
| TRADE BALANCE | -692 | -147 | -545 | |
| CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE | JAN-JUN 1986 HK\$ MN. | JAN-JUN 1985 HK\$ MN. | INCREASE | |
| | | | HK\$ MN. | % |
| DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS) | 65 374 (55.2%) | 60 408 (53.4%) | 4 966 | 8.2 |
| RE-EXPORTS | 53 033 | 52 642 | 391 | 0.7 |
| TOTAL EXPORTS | 118 407 | 113 050 | 5 357 | 4.7 |
| IMPORTS | 123 335 | 112 772 | 10 563 | 9.4 |
| TRADE BALANCE | -4 928 | 278 | -5 206 | |

| LAST 12 MONTHS | JUL 85 TO | JUL 84 TO | INCREASE | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|
| | JUN 86 | JUN 85 | HK\$ MN. | % |
| | HK\$ MN. | HK\$ MN. | | |
| DOMESTIC EXPORTS | 134 848 | 135 703 | -855 | -0.6 |
| RE-EXPORTS | 105 661 | 98 916 | 6 745 | 6.8 |
| TOTAL EXPORTS | 240 509 | 234 619 | 5 890 | 2.5 |
| IMPORTS | 241 982 | 230 588 | 11 394 | 4.9 |
| TRADE BALANCE | -1 473 | 4 031 | -5 504 | |

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BUSINESS COMMUNITY ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT ARTS

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PLANS ARE BEING LAID FOR ESTABLISHING AN ARTS SPONSORSHIP AWARD BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, AIMED AT ENCOURAGING BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, MR ALEX WU, IN A SPEECH TO THE 1986 WORLD CONFERENCE ON ARTS, POLITICS AND BUSINESS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN VANCOUVER, CANADA.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE, ON THE VALUE OF THE ARTS FROM A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE, MR WU SAID THAT SPONSORSHIP OF THE ARTS PROVIDED A PRESTIGIOUS METHOD OF PROMOTING A COMPANY'S PRODUCTS AND ITS CORPORATE IMAGE.

+IT IS ALSO AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF TARGETTING PUBLICITY AT A SPECIFIC MARKET SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

MR WU SAID THAT SPONSORSHIP OF THE ARTS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS AN EXTENSION OF A COMPANY'S MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES, AND AS A CRUCIAL PART OF THAT EFFORT.

+IT IS ENCOURAGING INDEED TO SEE THAT, BOTH IN THE BUSINESS AND ARTS COMMUNITIES, THERE IS A GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF SPONSORSHIP OF THE ARTS,+ HE SAID, THOUGH +A GREAT DEAL MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE.+

HE TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT THE BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS WAS FORMULATING PROPOSALS TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP AND TO ASSIST LOCAL PERFORMING GROUPS IN RAISING ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

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AMONG THESE PROPOSALS WERE THE PUBLICATION OF A SPONSORSHIP BROCHURE PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO PERFORMING GROUPS AND THE SETTING UP OF AN ARTS AWARD TO RECOGNISE MERITORIOUS SPONSORS.

MR WU, A BUSINESSMAN HIMSELF, NOTED: +BUSINESSES WILL INCREASINGLY FIND SPONSORSHIP OF THE ARTS A WORTHY INVESTMENT, NOT ONLY IN STIMULATING AND PROMOTING THE ARTS AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN THE MARKETING OF THE COMPANIES' OWN PRODUCTS AND THE PROMOTION OF THEIR CORPORATE IMAGES.+

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CAREERS EDUCATION GIVEN MORE WEIGHT

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YOUNG PEOPLE NEED PROPER GUIDANCE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THEIR FUTURE CAREERS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR J.C.A. HAMMOND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS IS BECAUSE THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT IS NOT AS SIMPLE AND SECLUDED AS THE SITUATION IN SCHOOLS, HE ADDED.

MR HAMMOND WAS SPEAKING AT THE EIGHTH SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS, AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

HE TOLD 100 CAREERS TEACHERS AND SPECIALISTS FROM RELATED FIELDS THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, IN PLANNING ITS CAREERS ACTIVITIES, WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO MEET THE EVER-GROWING AND CHANGING DEMANDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

TO SMOOTH THE TRANSITION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SCHOOLS TO THE WORLD OF WORK, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE (YEAS) HAD BEEN PAYING MUCH ATTENTION TO CAREERS INFORMATION BUILDING THROUGH THE PRODUCTION OF PAMPHLETS AND AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS.

+BESIDES PUBLISHING CAREERS PAMPHLETS, WE ARE NOW COMPILING OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION SHEETS ON 207 JOBS,+ HE SAID.

+THESE SHEETS SUMMARISE SOME BASIC INFORMATION ON A VARIETY OF JOBS, INCLUDING WORK DESCRIPTIONS, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

+THEY SHOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL LEAVERS WHEN THEY ARE ABOUT TO CHOOSE THEIR CAREERS.+

/SO FAR,

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1986

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SO FAR, 149 JOB-SHEETS IN ENGLISH AND 70 IN CHINESE HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE.

AS FOR AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS, THE YEAS HAS PRODUCED 35 SOUND-ON-SLIDE PRESENTATIONS, 50 VIDEO-CASSETTE TAPE RECORDINGS ON DIFFERENT JOBS AND 261 CASSETTE RECORDINGS ON SPECIALIST TALKS BY EXPERTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF WORK.

IT ALSO OPERATES, ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, A SERVICE WHEREBY NINE SETS OF SLIDE PRESENTATIONS, MAINLY ON BASIC CAREERS INFORMATION AND FURTHER STUDIES, ARE AVAILABLE FOR SHORT-TERM LOAN BY SCHOOLS. ALL THESE FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE OR PUBLIC VIEWING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S THREE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES.

MR HAMMOND PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CAREERS TEACHERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN GUIDING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CHOICE OF THEIR CAREERS.

+AS CAREERS EDUCATION IS NOW BEING GIVEN MORE WEIGHT, CAREERS TEACHERS WILL BE PLAYING AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT ROLE,+ HE SAID. +THROUGH YOUR DAILY CONTACTS WITH YOUR STUDENTS, YOU ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO ADVISE US OF THEIR NEEDS.+

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, STRESSED THE VALUE OF THE TRIPARTITE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS.

HE SAID THAT FOR MANY YEARS THE THREE PARTIES HAD BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION AND DISSEMINATION OF CAREERS INFORMATION AND RESOURCE MATERIALS TO STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH EXHIBITIONS, CONVENTIONS, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS.

+TOGETHER I THINK WE ARE DOING MUCH TO PROVIDE A VITAL SERVICE IN CAREERS EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR SCHOOLS,+ HE NOTED.

MR LI ALSO REVEALED THAT IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREERS EDUCATION, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD PROVIDE ALL STANDARD-SIZED GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH A FIFTH ADDITIONAL TEACHER FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

PART OF THE WORK OF THESE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS WOULD INVOLVE PUPIL COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE, INCLUDING CAREERS ADVICE, HE ADDED.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY BUILDING POLICY

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY WILL ALSO REVIEW THE FORM OF ALLOCATION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE YEAR PLAN FOR THE COMMITTEE.

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS WHETHER BOARD FUNDED ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ORGANISED IN THE DISTRICT TO SHOW THE BOARD'S SUPPORT TO THE ANTI-SMOKING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIERS ROAD, CENTRAL.

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BRIEFING BY NEW CHAIRMAN

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THE NEWLY-APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MR CHENG HON-KWAN, WILL MEET THE MEDIA TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 PM FOR A BRIEFING ON VARIOUS TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING THE COMMITTEE'S LATEST MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE BRIEFING AT ROOM 150 OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (MAIN WING).

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BELCHER'S STREET RESTRICTED ZONE
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TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORK, THE EXISTING PEAK-HOUR (7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM) DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE ON THE SECTION OF BELCHER'S STREET BETWEEN DAVIS STREET AND NORTH STREET WILL BE EXTENDED TO OPERATE FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 26).

THE MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

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PLB RESTRICTED ZONES IN SHEUNG SHUI, FANLING
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SEVERAL ROAD SECTIONS IN SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING WILL BE DESIGNATED PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITED ZONES FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 25).

THEY ARE THE ACCESS ROAD FROM JOCKEY CLUB ROAD IN SHEUNG SHUI TO SHEUNG SHUI TSUEN; THE ACCESS ROAD FROM ON KUI STREET IN FANLING TO SHUNG HIM TONG; AND THE ACCESS ROAD FROM SHA TAU KOK ROAD IN FANLING TO SHEUNG HIM TONG.

NO PLB'S WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PROHIBITED ZONES.

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