



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1992

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CS ON PRESS FREEDOM

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FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S 1989 OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHOULD BE APPLIED TO HONG KONG AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOW ARRANGE FOR THIS TO BE DONE LATER IN THE YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN WINDING UP A MOTION DEBATE ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ASKED TO APPLY THE 1989 ACT TO HONG KONG BY AN ORDER IN COUNCIL AND HE EXPECTED THIS PROCESS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE 1989 OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT WAS A CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE ON ITS OUTDATED PREDECESSOR - THE 1911 OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT.

SIR DAVID SAID THE NEW ACT NARROWED THE SCOPE OF THE LAW TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY FOR PROTECTING OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND IT ADDED THE IMPORTANT NEW NATIONAL INTEREST SAFEGUARD.

"I HOPE MEMBERS WILL AGREE THAT THIS IS A PROGRESSIVE, IMPORTANT AND WELCOME DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID SOME MEMBERS HAD EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUED APPLICATION TO HONG KONG OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S 1911 OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT AND THEY HAD POINTED OUT THAT SECTION 2 OF THIS ACT COVERED ALL OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MADE IT AN OFFENCE TO DISCLOSE SUCH INFORMATION WITHOUT LAWFUL AUTHORITY.

"THE BROAD SCOPE OF SECTION 2 HAS BEEN A CAUSE FOR CONCERN BOTH HERE AND INDEED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. THESE CONCERNS WERE ADDRESSED WHEN SECTION 2 WAS REPLACED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BY A NEW PROVISION WHICH MUCH NARROWS THE SCOPE OF THE OFFENCE," HE SAID.

THE 1989 OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT MAKES IT AN OFFENCE TO DISCLOSE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ONLY IN SIX SPECIFIC CATEGORIES.

THESE ARE:

- (I) SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE;
- (II) DEFENCE;
- (III) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS;
- (IV) FOREIGN CONFIDENCES;
- (V) INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME; AND
- (VI) SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNDER A STATUTORY WARRANT.

/HE POINTED .....

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HE POINTED OUT THAT AN ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARD WAS INTRODUCED WHICH SPECIFIED THAT REVEALING SUCH INFORMATION IN MOST OF THESE SPECIFIC AREAS WAS ONLY AN OFFENCE IF THE DISCLOSURE COULD BE DEMONSTRATED TO HAVE BEEN DAMAGING TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY ALSO SAID SOME MEMBERS HAD SAID THAT RATHER THAN APPLYING THE UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION DIRECTLY TO HONG KONG, THEY WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE 1911 ACT REPLACED BY LOCALLY ENACTED LAWS.

"I UNDERSTAND THIS ARGUMENT, BUT WE IN THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE TAKEN THE VIEW THAT THIS IMPORTANT ADVANCE SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED.

"IT WOULD TAKE FAR LONGER CLEARLY TO ENACT LOCAL LEGISLATION AND I CAN SEE NO GOOD REASON TO DELAY ACTION WHEN WE HAVE A READY-MADE PROVISION WHICH IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THE PRESENT LAW," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS IN RELATION TO PRESS FREEDOM, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID LEGISLATION DEALING WITH PRESS FREEDOM HAD TO BE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH FREELY ON THE ONE HAND AND THE NEED TO PROTECT PRIVACY, PUBLIC ORDER AND PUBLIC MORALS ON THE OTHER.

"OUR TRADITIONAL FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION HAS BEEN ENSHRINED IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS. BUT ARTICLE 16 OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THIS FREEDOM MAY BE BALANCED BY LAWS DESIGNED TO PROTECT OTHER PEOPLE'S RIGHTS, OR TO PROTECT PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY OR PUBLIC MORALS," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY BELIEVED THAT THE RIGHT BALANCE IN BOTH THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND THAT THE PROOF OF THIS STATEMENT WAS THE ROBUST, VARIED, INFORMED AND CRITICAL, MEDIA WHICH HAD BECOME SO MUCH A PART OF OUR LIFE IN HONG KONG.

HE NOTED THAT MS EMILY LAU AND OTHERS HAD ARGUED THAT CERTAIN EXISTING LEGISLATION RESTRICTED PRESS FREEDOM AND THAT THESE PROVISIONS WERE IN BREACH OF ARTICLE 16 OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

SIR DAVID SAID MS LAU HAD MADE MUCH OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS ORDINANCE AND THAT SHE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THE FACT THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS ENABLED MEASURES TO BE TAKEN DEROGATING FROM THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

"IN THE WORDS OF THE BILL THESE MEASURES ARE LIMITED TO THE 'EXTENT STRICTLY REQUIRED BY THE EXIGENCIES OF THE SITUATION' AND SHALL BE TAKEN 'IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW'.

"THE BILL GOES ON TO SAY THAT NO MEASURE SHALL BE TAKEN THAT'S UNDER THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS THAT FIRSTLY 'IS INCONSISTENT WITH ANY OBLIGATION UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW THAT APPLIES TO HONG KONG' OR SECONDLY 'INVOLVES DISCRIMINATION SOLELY ON GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOUR, SEX, LANGUAGE, RELIGION OR SOCIAL ORIGIN'; OR THIRDLY, 'DEROGATES FROM ARTICLES 2, 3, 4(1) AND (2), 7, 12, 13 AND 15'.

/SIR DAVID .....

SIR DAVID SAID THE BILL CLEARLY DID ALLOW FOR DEROGATIONS TO BE MADE FROM ARTICLE 16 IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

"I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TWO POINTS. FIRSTLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD WISH THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE NECESSARY POWER TO DEAL WITH AN EMERGENCY SITUATION FORMALLY DECLARED BY THE GOVERNOR, PROVIDED THE POWERS USED DO NOT IN ANY WAY CONTRAVENE THOSE LIMITATIONS LAID DOWN IN THE BILL.

"AND THE SECOND POINT IS THAT DESPITE MS LAU'S IMPASSIONED ASSERTION THAT PARTS OF THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS ARE IN BREACH OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THEY ARE BOTH WITHIN THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE BILL," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS ADVISED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HIS TEAM THAT THE LAWS IDENTIFIED BY MS LAU AND OTHERS WERE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 16 OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

"WE SHALL STUDY FURTHER THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS IN THE DEBATE TODAY. BUT, I WOULD NOT WISH TO LEAVE MEMBERS IN ANY DOUBT AS TO OUR VIEW WHICH IS THAT THESE LAWS ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND, NOR DO THEY INFRINGE PRESS FREEDOMS.

"THE POINT HAS BEEN MADE AND WE AGREE WITH IT," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT ULTIMATELY, IT WAS ONLY THE VIEW OF THE COURTS WHICH COUNTED.

"SOME EXISTING LAWS HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED IN THE COURTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY ARE AT ODDS WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS - FOR EXAMPLE, CERTAIN PRESUMPTIONS IN THE LAW DEALING WITH DRUGS. BUT IN A SOCIETY GOVERNED BY THE RULE OF LAW, THIS IS AN ENTIRELY NATURAL PROCESS," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH THIS MOTION AND THE ADMINISTRATION WAS COMMITTED TO DEFENDING THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S JUDGEMENT WAS THAT NONE OF THE LAWS MENTIONED BREACHED ARTICLE 16 OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

AND FOR THAT REASON THE THREE OFFICIALS THEREFORE VOTED IN FAVOUR OF THIS MOTION.

ON THE PROPOSED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ORDINANCE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT POSITION WAS THAT THE CASE FOR SUCH A LAW HAD NOT BEEN PROVEN.

HE NOTED THAT THE BILL PREPARED BY 'JUSTICE', THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND IT WAS BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED.

"BUT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE FAR FROM CONVINCED THAT A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ORDINANCE IS THE BEST WAY FOR HONG KONG TO PROCEED.

"THE BENEFITS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC FROM SUCH A LAW WOULD NOT, IN OUR VIEW, BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE COSTS WHICH ALL AGREE ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL.

"AND WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED TO AVOID THE CREATION OF A NEW LAYER OF BUREAUCRACY WHICH IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS MIGHT DO LITTLE TO ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY'S ACCESS TO INFORMATION," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED IT HAD A DUTY TO EXPLAIN ITS DECISION AND ITS POLICIES TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND IT MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AT ALL LEVELS OF THE HONG KONG'S SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

"I BELIEVE WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE AND THAT WE ARE AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION.

"BUT I ACCEPT THAT THERE IS SCOPE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN OUR SYSTEMS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY. I AM NOT HOWEVER, CONVINCED, THAT A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ORDINANCE IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE STEP FOR HONG KONG," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS SIR DAVID SAW WITH SUCH A LEGISLATION WAS THAT, PARADOXICALLY, RATHER THAN MAKING MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, IT MIGHT RESULT IN LESS BEING MADE AVAILABLE.

"IN SOME COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY SUCH AN ACT, THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPARATUS HAS CREATED A GREAT RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF CIVIL SERVANTS TO PUT THEIR VIEWS AND ADVICE ON PAPER.

"THIS WOULD CLEARLY BE AN UNHEALTHY DEVELOPMENT, AND ONE WHICH WOULD NOT BE CONDUCIVE TO GOOD, OR INDEED, OPEN GOVERNMENT HERE.

"THERE IS A BALANCE TO BE STRUCK AND I THINK WE NEED TO BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT ACCEPTING PROPOSALS WHICH SUPERFICIALLY LOOK LIKE A STEP FORWARD BUT WHICH MIGHT IN PRACTICE BE RETROGRADE.

"SO I WOULD REITERATE THAT WE REMAIN UNCONVINCED THAT THE ENACTMENT OF A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ORDINANCE IS THE RIGHT STEP FOR HONG KONG," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

GOVT COMMITTED TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: SHA

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT A MOTION DEBATE ON THE DRAFT CHARTER FOR YOUTH, MR SUEN SAID THIS CAN BE DEMONSTRATED BY THE RANGE OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES WHICH "COLLECTIVELY PROMOTE THE INTEREST AND WELL-BEING OF OUR YOUTH."

THESE COVER POLICIES ON EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE, SECURITY, RECREATION AND CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WHICH PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO YOUTH'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

"SUCH POLICIES HAVE ALSO EVOLVED IN BREADTH AND DEPTH TO KEEP IN PACE WITH THE CHANGING NEEDS OF OUR YOUTH," HE ADDED.

AFTER ALL, MR SUEN SAID, IT HAD LONG RECOGNISED THAT PEOPLE IN THE 10 - 29 AGE GROUP WHICH CONSTITUTED A THIRD OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL POPULATION "ARE OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET: AN ASSET TO BE TREASURED AND RESPECTED; FOR TODAY'S YOUTH WILL BE TOMORROW'S LEADERS, OPINION MAKERS AND WORKFORCE."

IN THIS CONNECTION, MR SUEN IS CONFIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE LITTLE PROBLEM IN ADOPTING PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED BY THE DRAFT CHARTER FOR YOUTH AND IN CONDUCTING REVIEW OF ITS POLICIES AFFECTING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE COMPREHENSIVE IN MEETING THOSE AIMS.

MR SUEN SAID A SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH LAST YEAR REVEALED THAT THEY ASPIRE FOR BETTER EDUCATION AND BELIEVE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD STUDY HARD, WORK HARD, LEARN MORE LANGUAGES AND RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

THE MAJORITY, HE SAID, PERCEIVED THEMSELVES AS ENJOYING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THEIR PARENTS.

ALTHOUGH THESE WERE ALL POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES WHICH WOULD SERVE OUR YOUTH WELL, MR SUEN SAID THERE WAS, NEVERTHELESS, INCREASING CONCERN ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF THEIR GROWING UP IN A MORE COMPLEX SOCIETY WHERE TRADITIONAL VALUES AND WESTERN INFLUENCE INTERPLAY.

IN THIS CONTEXT, MR SUEN OBSERVED, QUESTIONS WERE BEING ASKED ON HOW BEST TO EQUIP THEM TO DEVELOP INTO MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS. FOR THIS REASON, A CHARTER WHICH PROVIDED GUIDANCE FOR THE YOUTH AND ALL OTHER SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY WAS "INDEED TIMELY."

IN RESPONSE TO SOME MEMBERS' CALL FOR THE INSTITUTION OF A YOUTH POLICY, MR SUEN EXPLAINED THAT THIS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE.

"ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE AN EXPLICIT STATEMENT UNDER THE LABEL OF YOUTH POLICY, THE REALITY IS THAT POLICIES RELATING TO YOUTH AND THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR THEIR WELL-BEING ARE BEING VIGOROUSLY IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED AGENCIES.

"A SPECIFIC POLICY ON TOP OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM CREATES DUPLICATION OF WORK AND THIS MAY NOT RESULT IN THE BEST DEPLOYMENT OF OUR RESOURCES AT A TIME WHEN THE GROWTH IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE MUST BE CONTAINED.

"FURTHERMORE, WE DO NOT THINK THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO DEVISE A POLICY SPECIFICALLY FOR A PARTICULAR AGE GROUP BECAUSE CERTAIN RIGHTS AND PROTECTION APPLY EQUALLY TO THE YOUNG AS WELL AS ALL OTHER MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY," MR SUEN EXPLAINED.

TURNING BOTH TO THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND THE DRAFT CHARTER, MR SUEN RECALLED THAT THIS COMMITMENT WAS REAFFIRMED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER 1989.

SUBSEQUENTLY, THE COMMISSION, AFTER ALMOST TWO YEARS OF HARD WORK, HAS NOW DEVELOPED A DRAFT CHARTER WHICH SETS OUT THE PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

IN ITS CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, MR SUEN SAID, THE COMMISSION HAD INDICATED THAT IT EXPECTS THE CHARTER TO SERVE AS A FOCAL POINT AND FACILITATE BOTH POLICY-MAKERS AND DELIVERY AGENTS TO PLAN AND ORGANISE YOUTH ACTIVITIES.

"THIS DOCUMENT IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT IS THE FIRST-EVER LOCALLY DEVELOPED CHARTER DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR HONG KONG CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR SUEN EMPHASISED THAT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WAS A MULTI-FACETTED SUBJECT WHICH COULD NOT BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ONE SINGLE PARTY.

THE COMMISSION HAD THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THE CHARTER WOULD OPERATE ON A SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION AND THAT BIENNIAL REVIEWS WOULD BE ORGANISED TO ASSESS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS.

"THE COMMISSION'S SUGGESTION ON REVIEWS WITH WIDE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REINFORCES THE SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION IN PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING OF YOUTH," MR SUEN SAID.

AS MUCH DISCUSSION AMONG THOSE INVOLVED IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN GENERATED, MR SUEN HOPED THAT MORE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS WILL BE RECEIVED DURING THE REMAINING TWO MONTHS OF THE CONSULTATION.

MR SUEN BRIEFLY EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S EXISTING POSITION COVERING THE FAMILY, EDUCATION, PROTECTION AGAINST ABUSES, PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, VOTING AGE, YOUTH SUICIDES AND TRIADS IN SCHOOLS.

ON FAMILY ASPECT, MR SUEN SAID FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY LIFE AND HOW IT COULD BE SUSTAINED.

THE MAIN TARGET GROUPS, HE SAID, WOULD BE ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, MR SUEN SAID THE DRAFT CHARTER "HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED TO PROMOTE YOUTH'S CIVIC KNOWLEDGE AND PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS TO AFFORD YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THEIR LIVES."

"OUR COMMUNITY BUILDING STRATEGY AIMS TO PROMOTE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE A SENSE OF BELONGING AND MUTUAL CARE," HE SAID.

TURNING TO VOTING AGE, MR SUEN SAID THE MATTER WAS BEING EXAMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT. HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE VIEWS THEY HAD EXPRESSED IN THAT REGARD WOULD BE GIVEN FULL WEIGHT BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

IN CONCLUSION, MR SUEN ONCE AGAIN TURNED TO THE DRAFT CHARTER AND SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD VERY CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE BEST MEANS BY WHICH IT COULD FURTHER AFFIRM ITS SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

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GOVT WELCOMES VIEWS ON LRT IMPROVEMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION (KCRC) WOULD TAKE THE CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) SERVICES FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN PLANNING FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SYSTEM, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON LRT SERVICES, MR LEUNG SAID THE KCRC HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED A GOOD TRACK RECORD IN DELIVERING A SAFE, RELIABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE SERVICE.

SINCE COMMISSIONING IN 1988, THE LRT HAD CARRIED A TOTAL OF 277 MILLION PASSENGERS OVER 18 MILLION KILOMETRES UP TO THE END OF LAST YEAR.

THE DAILY PATRONAGE HAD GROWN FROM 180,000 TO 262,000 AND WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 300,000 IN 1993.

"ITS INCREASING POPULARITY HAS BROUGHT ABOUT PEAK HOUR CONGESTION, PARTICULARLY ALONG YUEN LONG MAIN ROAD," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE CORPORATION HAD TAKEN MEASURES TO RELIEVE CONGESTION, PARTICULARLY DURING THE PEAK PERIODS, AND TO IMPROVE PASSENGER SAFETY.

THESE INCLUDED EXTENDING A SUPPLEMENTARY BUS ROUTE A59 TO LEUNG KING AREA; ADDING ANOTHER SUPPLEMENTARY ROUTE A58 BETWEEN KIN SANG AND FERRY PIER IN JANUARY; FLEXIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF FIVE COUPLED LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES TO MEET PASSENGER DEMANDS AND PROVIDING PLATFORM ASSISTANTS AT BUSY PLATFORMS DURING THE MORNING PEAK TO SPEED UP BOARDING AND ALIGHTING.

/"IN ADDITION .....

"IN ADDITION, KCRC HAS ORDERED 30 NEW VEHICLES AT A COST OF \$388 MILLION FOR DELIVERY FROM LATE 1992, THEREBY ADDING OVER 40 PER CENT TO ITS EXISTING CARRYING CAPACITY.

"AS A LONG-TERM SOLUTION, CONSTRUCTION OF THE LONG PING LINK IS BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED BY THE KCRC," HE SAID.

REGARDING COMMENTS ON LRT FARES, MR LEUNG SAID THE CURRENT AVERAGE FARE WAS \$2.1 PER TRIP. THIS COULD BE TRANSLATED INTO AN AVERAGE FARE PER PASSENGER KILOMETRE OF \$0.39.

"THIS COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH AN AVERAGE FARE PER PASSENGER KILOMETRE OF \$0.48 - \$0.72 FOR AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES PROVIDED BY KMB, AND \$0.56 - \$0.69 FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES RUNNING BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG."

MR LEUNG EMPHASISED THAT KCRC'S AUTONOMY TO SET FARES WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR CONDUCIVE TO ITS ABILITY TO BORROW MONEY FOR SERVICE EXPANSIONS AND IMPROVEMENT.

"ANY UNDUE INTERFERENCE WITH THE CORPORATION'S FINANCIAL AUTONOMY TO SET FARES IS LIKELY TO AFFECT ADVERSELY ITS CREDIT RATINGS, INCREASE BORROWING COSTS AND UNDERMINE ITS ABILITY TO OPERATE AND DEVELOP WITHOUT GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY.

"HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF HIGH UPFRONT INVESTMENT AND TO AVOID UNACCEPTABLY HIGH-FARE INCREASES, THE KCRC DOES NOT EXPECT TO ACHIEVE A RETURN ON INVESTMENT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DECADE," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MISCONCEPTION THAT LRT WAS BEING SUBSIDISED BY DOMESTIC TRAFFIC ALONG THE KCR LINE.

"THIS IS NOT CORRECT. THE LRT IS BEING SUBSIDISED BY OTHER KCRC BUSINESSES MAINLY BY PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS AND FREIGHT TRAFFIC."

REGARDING SAFETY, MR LEUNG SAID OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE LRT SAFETY RECORDS HAD CONTINUED TO IMPROVE, WITH THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS DROPPING FROM 33 IN 1989 TO 21 LAST YEAR.

"OF ALL THE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ROAD-BASED PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ONLY 0.6 PER CENT WERE RELATED TO THE LRT. THIS RATE IS THE LOWEST AMONG ALL ROAD-BASED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THERE HAD BEEN CALLS TO OPEN UP THE TRANSIT SERVICE AREA (TSA) TO OTHER TRANSPORT MODES.

"I WISH TO POINT OUT THAT WITHIN THE TSA, THE LRT ALREADY FACES COMPETITION FROM PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, RESIDENTIAL COACHES, AND TAXIS. THERE ARE ALSO EXTERNAL BUS ROUTES CONNECTING THE TSA AND THE URBAN AREAS.

"THE LRT ENJOYS NO MORE PROTECTION THAN A FRANCHISED BUS SERVICE WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE.

/"NEVERTHELESS, IN .....

"NEVERTHELESS, IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS, THE CORPORATION IS NOW REVIEWING THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE TSA AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE LRT SYSTEM, AND HOPES TO HAVE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," HE SAID.

ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, MR LEUNG SAID THREE LRT REGIONAL EXTENSIONS IN TUEN MUN WERE PUT INTO SERVICES IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND EARLY THIS MONTH TO MEET THE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC DEMAND IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES.

"THE TIN SHUI WAI LINK IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT A COST OF \$150 MILLION. ITS COMMISSIONING EARLY NEXT YEAR WILL ADD ANOTHER 2.7 KM TO THE LRT SYSTEM.

"IN THE LONGER TERM, THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING A RAILWAY LINKING THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES WITH THE URBAN AREAS IS BEING CONSIDERED AS PART OF GOVERNMENT'S RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY NOW IN PROGRESS. ITS FINDINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY NEXT YEAR.

MR LEUNG SAID THE CORPORATION HAD RECENTLY EMPHASISED ITS CORE VALUES OF A CUSTOMER-ORIENTED SERVICE BASED ON QUALITY, PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH PASSENGERS AND THE COMMUNITY.

"I AM SURE THAT THE CORPORATION WILL CONTINUE TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE OF MEETING THE EVER INCREASING CUSTOMER DEMANDS AND EXPECTATIONS IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

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GOVT TO CONSIDER PRIVATISING KCR

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING AT PRESENT THE POSSIBILITY OF PRIVATISING ONLY THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY (KCRC), THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR YEUNG KAI-YIN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DAVID LI KWOK-PO, MR YEUNG SAID A GREAT DEAL OF WORK WOULD NEED TO BE DONE BEFORE ANY DECISION COULD BE TAKEN.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY, FOR EXAMPLE, TO CONSIDER HOW AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE BUSINESS OF THE KCRC MIGHT BE REGULATED BY THE GOVERNMENT, SO THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST MIGHT BE SAFEGUARDED.

HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES.

ONLY WHEN ALL THESE COMPLEX POLICY ISSUES HAVE BEEN FULLY CONSIDERED WOULD THE GOVERNMENT BE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE THE ACTUAL STEPS LEADING TO PRIVATISATION.

FOR EXAMPLE, RE-WRITING THE KCRC ORDINANCE, VALUATION OF THE KCRC'S ASSETS AND FUTURE BUSINESS AND PRIVATE PLACEMENT VERSUS PUBLIC PLACEMENT.

IN DEFINING THE TERM "PRIVATISATION", MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT IT DID NOT MEAN THE CONTRACTING OUT, BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, OF THE OPERATION OF SUCH UNDERTAKINGS AS CARPARKS, ABATTOIRS AND ROAD TUNNELS.

"THE CONTRACTING OUT OF THESE UNDERTAKINGS INVOLVES NO CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF THE ASSETS, WHICH IS WHAT PRIVATISATION INVOLVES.

"NOR DOES THE TERM INCLUDE CORPORATISATION," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID NORMALLY, A GOVERNMENT-OWNED UNDERTAKING WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR PRIVATISATION ONLY IN THOSE CASES WHERE THE UNDERTAKING HAD ALREADY TAKEN THE FORM OF A COMPANY OR CORPORATION, AND WAS ESSENTIALLY A BUSINESS.

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#### ROLE OF GOVT APPOINTED DIRECTORS EXPLAINED

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THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT APPOINTED DIRECTORS TO THE PUBLIC/PRIVATE COMPANIES AND STATUTORY CORPORATIONS IS TO REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INTERESTS AND TO PROVIDE A READY MEANS WHEREBY GOVERNMENT POLICIES CAN BE COMMUNICATED EFFECTIVELY TO THE COMPANY OR THE CORPORATION.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEVEN K.L. POON AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE ORDINANCES PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNMENT DIRECTORS, SUCH AS THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ORDINANCE (CAP 230) AND THE FERRY SERVICES ORDINANCE (CAP 104), HAD EXPRESS PROVISIONS REQUIRING THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED DIRECTORS TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC IN PRIORITY TO THOSE OF THE COMPANY AS A WHOLE.

"SUCH PROVISIONS, WHERE AVAILABLE, PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PROTECTION TO THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTORS AGAINST CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

"WHEN SUCH EXPRESS PROVISIONS ARE ABSENT, THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED DIRECTORS ARE GIVEN GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS ON THEIR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE BOARDS AND THE PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW SHOULD THERE BE A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST - DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY SHOULD DECLARE AN INTEREST AND/OR REFRAIN FROM VOTING AND, IF IN ANY DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS," SIR DAVID SAID.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT GOVERNMENT DIRECTORS WERE APPOINTED TO PUBLIC/PRIVATE COMPANIES AND STATUTORY CORPORATIONS ONLY WHERE THERE WERE STRONG JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THEIR PRESENCE ON THE BOARDS TO REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INTERESTS.

"IT IS INTENDED THAT SUCH APPOINTMENTS SHOULD, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, BE PROVIDED FOR BY STATUTE WITH EXPRESS PROVISIONS DEFINING THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTORS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR POSITION ON THE BOARD IS PROPERLY SAFEGUARDED.

"WHERE SUCH PROVISIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESENT, CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO AMENDING THE LAW TO INCLUDE THEM WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, SUCH AS WHEN THE RELEVANT ORDINANCE IS NEXT AMENDED," HE ADDED.

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE COMPANIES AND STATUTORY CORPORATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT APPOINTED DIRECTORS ON THEIR BOARDS:

PUBLIC/PRIVATE COMPANIES  
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1. CHINA MOTOR BUS CO. LTD.
2. CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE CO. LTD.
3. HONG KONG AIR CARGO TERMINAL LTD.
4. HONG KONG BUILDING & LOAN AGENCY LTD.
5. HONG KONG DESIGN INNOVATION CO. LTD.
6. HONG KONG IPM MANPOWER INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
7. HONG KONG NUCLEAR INVESTMENT CO. LTD.
8. HONG KONG PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CO. LTD.
9. HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY
10. HONG KONG TELECOM INTERNATIONAL LTD.
11. HONG KONG TELEPHONE CO. LTD.
12. HONG KONG & YAUMATI FERRY CO. LTD.
13. KOWLOON MOTOR BUS CO. (1933) LTD.
14. TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL CO. LTD.
15. NEW HONG KONG TUNNEL CO. LTD.
16. NEW LANTAO BUS CO. (1973) LTD.
17. PRODUCTIVE HEAT TREATMENT CO. LTD.
18. PROVISIONAL HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CO. LTD.
19. STAR FERRY CO. LTD.

STATUTORY CORPORATIONS  
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1. HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
2. HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION
3. LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
4. MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION
5. OCEAN PARK CORPORATION

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APPOINTMENT OF AIRPORT AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN EXPLAINED

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IT WAS NOT PROPOSED TO CONSIDER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY ANY PERSON WHO HAD A MAJOR AND DIRECT BUSINESS INTEREST IN THE NEW AIRPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO ESTABLISH ANY HARD AND FAST RULES SUCH AS ELIMINATING FROM CONSIDERATION ANY PERSON WHO HAD AN INTEREST, HOWEVER REMOTE AND MINOR, IN THE NEW AIRPORT," MRS CHAN SAID IN A REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU WAI-HING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT AND SIGNIFICANCE ANY INVOLVEMENT AND WHETHER SUCH INVOLVEMENT CREATES ANY REAL AND UNRESOLVABLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST," SHE ADDED.

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CHEK LAP KOK CAPABLE OF HANDLING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AIRCRAFT

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CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT IS BEING PLANNED AS AN AIRPORT FOR THE FUTURE WHICH WILL BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AIRCRAFT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BEING AN OPERATIONALLY SAFE, EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, IN A REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT ON THE BASIS OF WHAT THE GOVERNMENT KNEW AT PRESENT ABOUT DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS OF THE SECOND GENERATION SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT, IT WAS LIKELY THAT THESE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE POWERED BY ENGINES WHOSE NOISE EMISSIONS WOULD BE IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE NOISE STANDARDS CURRENTLY SET BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION.

"FOR SUCH AIRCRAFT TO BE A COMMERCIALY VIABLE PROPOSITION, THE MANUFACTURERS WILL, NO DOUBT, HAVE CONSIDERABLE INCENTIVE TO MAKE THEM ENVIRONMENTALLY AND OPERATIONALLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE WORLD'S MAJOR AIRPORTS, OF WHICH CHEK LAP KOK WILL BE ONE.

"FOR THESE REASONS, THE NOISE GENERATED ON LANDING AND TAKE-OFF BY SUCH AIRCRAFT IS EXPECTED TO BE SIMILAR TO THAT GENERATED BY THE MOST MODERN SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT SUCH AS THE BOEING 747-400, MD-11 AND AIRBUS 320 CURRENTLY FLYING INTO HONG KONG.

"NO SPECIAL STEPS ARE ENVISAGED TO BE NEEDED TO MAKE THEM COMPATIBLE WITH CHEK LAP KOK," MRS CHAN ADDED.

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EXPECTED WINDSHEAR INCIDENT AT CHEK LAP KOK WELL WITHIN  
INT'L OPERATION STANDARD

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WHILE WINDSHEAR WILL OCCUR AT CHEK LAP KOK IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, ITS EXPECTED INCIDENCE IS WELL WITHIN ALL ACCEPTED NORMAL STANDARDS FOR THE OPERATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"WINDSHEAR, A CHANGE IN WIND DIRECTION AND/OR WIND SPEED OVER A GIVEN DISTANCE, IS AN OCCASIONAL OCCURENCE USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH WEATHER PHENOMENA LIKE THUNDERSTORMS, MRS CHAN SAID IN A REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED AT CHEK LAP KOK WINDSHEAR WOULD OCCUR BUT ITS DURATION WAS LIKELY TO BE SHORT (A MATTER OF MINUTES) AND DISRUPTION TO AIR TRAFFIC WOULD BE ONLY MINOR.

"THE NEW AIRPORT MAY ALSO BE AFFECTED ON RARE OCCASIONS BY 'LEE WAVE' WINDSHEAR WHICH IS CAUSED BY THE TOPOGRAPHY OF CHEK LAP KOK ISLAND AND THE HIGH LAND IMMEDIATELY TO THE SOUTH OF THE AIRPORT.

"IN THE CASE OF THIS TYPE OF WINDSHEAR, DISRUPTION TO AIRPORT MOVEMENTS IS LIKELY TO LAST SLIGHTLY LONGER.

"EXTENSIVE TESTING HAS SHOWN THAT SUCH INTERRUPTIONS WILL NOT EXCEED 0.5% OF THE AIRPORT OPERATION TIME IN TOTAL, A FIGURE WELL WITHIN INTERNATIONALLY-ACCEPTED GUIDELINES," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID MOST WINDSHEAR CONDITIONS CAUSED NO THREAT TO THE OPERATION OF THE TYPE OF LARGE PASSENGER AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD BE USING THE NEW AIRPORT.

"IN SEVERE CONDITIONS, HOWEVER, AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO DELAY UNTIL CONDITIONS HAD IMPROVED," SHE ADDED.

MRS CHAN SAID TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS, THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY'S MASTER PLAN CONSULTANTS HAD RECOMMENDED THAT A SYSTEM SHOULD BE INSTALLED TO DETECT WINDSHEAR CONDITIONS AND ALERT PILOTS TO THE PRESENCE OF WINDSHEAR AND ITS SEVERITY.

"PILOTS CAN THEN MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE INTENDED OPERATION, OR TO TAKE ACTION TO AVOID THE WINDSHEAR.

"THE COST OF THE SYSTEM RECOMMENDED BY THE MASTER PLAN CONSULTANTS IS APPROXIMATELY HK\$63 MILLION. THIS INCLUDES THE COST OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SYSTEM DESIGN WORK AS WELL AS EQUIPMENT COST," MRS CHAN SAID.

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DRUG AMENDMENT BILL TO COMPLY WITH BILL OF RIGHTS INTRODUCED

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A BILL WHICH SOUGHT TO AMEND THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE TO ENSURE ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, EXPLAINED THAT THE ORDINANCE HAD BEEN REVIEWED IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL COURT RULING IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE COURT OF APPEAL RULED THAT SOME PRESUMPTIONS IN SECTIONS 46 AND 47 WERE INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE AND, IN CONSEQUENCE, HAD BEEN REPEALED.

SECTION 46 OF THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT ANY PERSON FOUND IN POSSESSION OF MORE THAN A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF A DANGEROUS DRUG IS PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN IN POSSESSION OF THE DRUG FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAFFICKING.

SECTION 47 OF THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES PRESUMPTIONS OF POSSESSION AND KNOWLEDGE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS UNDER CERTAIN SPECIFIED CONDITIONS.

WHILE ENSURING THAT THE ORDINANCE COMPLIED WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE, MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAINTAIN ITS ABILITY TO BRING SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS FOR DRUG OFFENCES.

"THE BILL PROPOSES TO DELETE OR AMEND PROVISIONS WHICH WERE RULED TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE, AND TO DELETE OR AMEND OTHER PROVISIONS WHICH MAY BE VULNERABLE TO SIMILAR CHALLENGES," HE SAID.

SPECIFICALLY, THE BILL SEEKS:

- \* TO REMOVE THE SEPARATE OFFENCE OF POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS FOR THE PURPOSES OF UNLAWFUL TRAFFICKING AND TO INCLUDE IT AS A TRAFFICKING OFFENCE;
- \* TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OFFENCES ON INDICTMENT TO SEVEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$1 MILLION;
- \* TO AMEND AND REPEAL INCOMPATIBLE PRESUMPTIONS CONCERNING MANUFACTURING, PRESCRIBED MINIMUM AMOUNTS AND DIVANS; AND
- \* TO LIMIT THE SCOPE OF THE PRESUMPTION CONCERNING POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILLS TO AMEND PREVENTION OF  
BRIBERY AND ICAC ORDINANCES INTRODUCED

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TWO BILLS WHICH SOUGHT TO AMEND THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION ORDINANCES WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), FOLLOWING A REVIEW TO IDENTIFY THOSE PROVISIONS THAT WERE INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN RECOMMENDING LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS LEGISLATION WAS AN ENTIRELY NEW AREA OF LAW FOR HONG KONG AND A LOCAL JURISPRUDENCE WAS ONLY JUST BEGINNING TO DEVELOP.

"A CAUTIOUS APPROACH IS JUSTIFIED AT THIS STAGE," MR MATHEWS SAID.

IN LINE WITH THIS APPROACH, HE SAID THE AMENDING BILLS WOULD EITHER REPEAL OR AMEND ALL PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE WHICH WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE.

"THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT, NEVERTHELESS, THAT OTHER PROVISIONS MAY STILL BE AT RISK OF BEING CHALLENGED AS BEING INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS. SUCH CHALLENGES SHOULD BE LEFT FOR THE COURTS TO DECIDE UPON IF THEY ARE MADE," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE COMMISSIONER OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WAS SATISFIED THAT THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED IN THE TWO BILLS WOULD NOT HAVE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT UPON THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

ON THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, HE SAID CLAUSE 2 WOULD REPEAL THOSE PARTS OF SECTION 16 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WHICH ENABLED AN INVESTIGATING OFFICER TO DETAIN ANY PERSON FOUND IN AN OFFICE, REGISTRY OR OTHER ROOM USED BY A PUBLIC BODY, WHICH THE OFFICER WAS EMPOWERED TO SEARCH.

CLAUSE 3 SOUGHT TO REPEAL THOSE PARTS OF SECTION 17 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WHICH EMPOWERED AN INVESTIGATING OFFICER TO DETAIN ANY PERSON FOUND IN THE PREMISES OR PLACE WHICH HE ENTERED AND SEARCHED WITH A WARRANT.

CLAUSE 5 SOUGHT TO REPEAL SECTION 18 WHICH PRESENTLY ENABLED A MAGISTRATE TO ISSUE A WARRANT FOR THE APPREHENSION AND ADMISSION TO BAIL OF A PERSON WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATION AND WHO WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE HONG KONG. A CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO 17C(3) WOULD BE EFFECTED BY CLAUSE 4.

CLAUSE 6 SOUGHT TO AMEND SECTION 30 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE SO THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER BE AN OFFENCE TO DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF A PERSON WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATION OR THE DETAILS OF THAT INVESTIGATION AFTER THAT PERSON HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

MR MATHEWS POINTED OUT THAT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE SUGGESTION THAT THE PROHIBITION ON PRE-ARREST DISCLOSURE SHOULD ALSO BE REMOVED.

"WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR THIS PROHIBITION TO REMAIN.

"FIRSTLY, GIVEN THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF INVESTIGATIONS OF CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS, PREMATURE DISCLOSURE CAN COMPROMISE THE ENTIRE INVESTIGATION PROCESS.

"SECONDLY, THE REPUTATION OF THE PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE PROTECTED, PARTICULARLY IN CASES WHERE NO CRIMINAL CHARGES ARE SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT," SAID MR MATHEWS.

ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, CLAUSE 2 WOULD REPEAL THOSE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 10C OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WHICH PRESENTLY ENABLED AN OFFICER AUTHORISED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION TO DETAIN ANY PERSON FOUND IN THE PREMISES OR PLACE WHICH HE WAS EMPOWERED TO SEARCH.

CLAUSE 3 WOULD REPEAL THAT PART OF SECTION 13 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WHICH EMPOWERED THE COMMISSIONER TO REQUIRE ANY PERSON TO PROVIDE HIM WITH ANY INFORMATION WHICH HE CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

DEBATES ON THE TWO BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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AMENDMENT OF ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES LAW  
TO MEET INT'L HUMAN RIGHTS LAW  
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A BILL SEEKING TO AMEND THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) ORDINANCE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID THE AMENDMENTS FOLLOWED, AND WERE SIMILAR TO, THOSE IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED TO SUBSTITUTE A NEW SECTION 10, SO AS TO LIMIT THE SCOPE OF PRESUMPTIONS CONCERNING POSSESSION OF ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES, AND TO DELETE SECTION 11, SO AS TO REPEAL THE PRESUMPTION CONCERNING MANUFACTURING.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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PROPERTY SALE PROFITS CHARGEABLE TO TAX

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PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF PROPERTY ARE CHARGEABLE TO PROFITS TAX IF THEY ARISE FROM THE CARRYING ON OF A BUSINESS OF PROPERTY DEALING OR PROPERTY TRADING, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR YEUNG KAI-YIN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HOH TIK CHI-YUEN, MR YEUNG SAID PROFITS ARISING FROM THE SALE OF CAPITAL ASSETS WERE EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED FROM ASSESSMENT TO TAX.

HE SAID ARGUMENTS COULD ARISE OVER WHETHER THE VENDOR OF A PARTICULAR PROPERTY WAS CARRYING ON A BUSINESS OF PROPERTY DEALING, OR WHETHER HE WAS MERELY SELLING A CAPITAL ASSET.

"WHILE A BODY OF LAW HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE COURTS TO HELP IN RESOLVING SUCH QUESTIONS, MOST INDIVIDUAL CASES CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED BY LOOKING AT THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SALE, WHETHER THE VENDOR HAS CARRIED OUT OTHER PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS, THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS, THE REASONS GIVEN FOR PURCHASE AND FOR SALE AND OTHER RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES," MR YEUNG SAID.

HE SAID THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT (IRD) EXAMINED ALL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS WHICH CAME TO ITS KNOWLEDGE AND DECIDED WHETHER, IN ITS OPINION, PROFITS ASSESSABLE TO TAX HAD ARISEN.

HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE IRD WAS FULLY CAPABLE OF MAKING APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENTS OF PROFITS TAX LIABILITY ON PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS ONCE THESE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED, THERE MIGHT BE DIFFICULTY IN SOME CASES IN FINDING OUT WHETHER A TRANSACTION HAD ACTUALLY TAKEN PLACE.

"HOWEVER, FOLLOWING THE RECENT ENACTMENT OF THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1992, DETAILS OF ALL TRANSACTIONS IN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES MUST NOW BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S STAMP DUTY OFFICE.

"THIS NEW REQUIREMENT WILL PROVIDE A SOURCE OF INFORMATION WHICH WILL ENSURE THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF TRANSACTIONS LIKELY TO GIVE RISE TO PROFITS CHARGEABLE TO TAX," MR YEUNG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE IRD DID NOT KEEP SEPARATE STATISTICS ON PROPERTY DEALING.

FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES, THE PROFITS TAX REVENUE FROM PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS, INCLUDING PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT, WAS GROUPED WITH THAT FROM GENERAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL (OTHER THAN BANKING) BUSINESS.

/THE TAX .....

THE TAX ASSESSED TO THIS SECTOR FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS WAS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAR ENDED:	31.3.89	31.3.90	31.3.91
TAX ASSESSED: (\$ MILLION)	3,800	4,760	5,557

"THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT KEEP STATISTICS SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF TAX OWED BY INDIVIDUAL TRADES OR BUSINESSES," HE SAID.

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MORE INFORMATION NEEDED ON SKY RAIL PROPOSAL

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE KOWLOON SKYRAIL COMPANY, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE CONCEPT OF BUILDING A 4.7 KM LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM FROM HUNG HOM BAY TO TSIM SHA TSUI SHOULD BE SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE.

BUT MR LEUNG SAID FURTHER DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE HELD WITH THE COMPANY TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT, PARTICULARLY ON ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND FINANCIAL VIABILITY.

HE SAID THE COMPANY HAD SINCE PROVIDED SOME OF THIS INFORMATION BUT MORE WAS NEEDED.

"ONCE ALL THE RELEVANT DETAILS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND EVALUATED, A DECISION WILL BE TAKEN ON WHETHER OR NOT THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH THE COMPANY TO BUILD AND OPERATE THE SYSTEM," MR LEUNG SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG, MR LEUNG SAID IN EVALUATING THE PROPOSAL, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHETHER THE SYSTEM WOULD PROVIDE A REAL TRANSPORT BENEFIT AND COULD BE SUCCESSFULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE GENERAL PLANNING FOR THE KOWLOON PENINSULA.

OTHER MAIN CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDED WHETHER THE SYSTEM WOULD MEET APPROPRIATE SAFETY AND OPERATING STANDARDS AND BE VIABLE TO BE BUILT AND OPERATED ON A SELF-FINANCING BASIS WITHOUT ANY GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE 'SKY RAIL' SYSTEM WOULD NOT BE AUTHORISED WITHOUT, AMONG OTHER REQUIREMENTS, THE PRODUCTION OF A FULL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SHOWING THAT IT WOULD SATISFY THE GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STANDARDS.

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NOISE ABSORBENT WORKS FOR WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT FOUND THAT THREE SECTIONS OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR NEEDED NOISE ABSORBENT SURFACES.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FUNG KIN-KEE, MR BARNES SAID THE OTHER PORTIONS WHICH WERE NEAR INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS DID NOT JUSTIFY THEM.

HE SAID WORKS ON TWO PORTIONS (FROM TAI KOK TSUI ROAD TO TONG MI ROAD AND WHERE THE CORRIDOR RUNS ABOVE TAI KOK TSUI ROAD) STARTED IN JUNE LAST YEAR AND WERE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, MORE THAN A MONTH AHEAD OF THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE.

"RESURFACING WORK FOR THE THIRD PORTION (FROM KIU KIANG STREET TO TAI KOK TSUI ROAD) IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN LATE 1992 AND WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY 14 WEEKS TO COMPLETE," HE NOTED.

MR BARNES SAID NO DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING THE WORKS SO FAR.

"PREPARATORY WORK FOR RESURFACING OF THE THIRD PORTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR IS ALREADY AT AN ADVANCED STAGE, AND CANNOT BE ACCELERATED FURTHER," HE SAID.

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GOVT'S EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE USE OF PLASTIC

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THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE USE OF PLASTIC HAVE BEEN MAINLY CONCENTRATED ON PROPAGANDA THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF MESSAGES TO USE LESS PLASTIC BAGS IN ALL ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN AND LITERATURE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PEGGY LAM AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES SAID ONE OF THE MAIN MESSAGES TO BE PUT ACROSS ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ON JUNE 5 WAS "USE LESS PLASTIC BAGS".

IT WOULD BE BACKED BY ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, POSTERS, LEAFLETS AND PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS.

MR BARNES SAID RECYCLING FOR PLASTIC BAGS HAD PROGRESSED VERY LITTLE BECAUSE IT INVOLVED WASTE SEPARATION AND CLEANING BEFORE THE MATERIAL WAS USEFUL.

A SURVEY OF THE PUBLIC'S ATTITUDE TO VARIOUS WAYS OF REDUCING THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN.

MR BARNES SAID DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN MADE WITH SOME OF THE BIGGER SUPERMARKET CHAINS ON THE PROPOSITION THAT THEY CEASE TO ISSUE FREE PLASTIC BAGS TO THEIR SHOPPERS.

"THIS HAS NOT RESULTED IN ANY CHARGING OR REDUCTION IN PLASTIC BAGS ISSUED, BUT IT HAS ENCOURAGED ONE COMPANY TO START A SCHEME FOR TAKING BACK OLD SHOPPING BAGS WHICH ARE SUBSEQUENTLY RECYCLED," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID A WASTE PAPER RECOVERING SCHEME STARTED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR HAD INVOLVED 16 PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN RECOVERING WASTE PAPER IN PRIVATELY PROVIDED CONTAINERS.

"WE AIM TO EXPAND THE SCHEME TO OTHER ESTATES, AND THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO SPREAD IT INTO STATIONS AND TERMINALS AND ON BOARD FERRIES."

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#### MEASURES TO RELIEVE OLI OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCY

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THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLI) IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING A NUMBER OF COST SAVING AND INCOME GENERATING STRATEGIES TO ENABLE IT TO BECOME ENTIRELY SELF-FINANCING BY 1993-94.

HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE INSTITUTE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL IF, IN ADDITION TO THESE STRATEGIES, IT CAN BE RELIEVED OF THE BURDEN OF A COMMERCIAL RENTAL FOR ITS PREMISES WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR SOME 10 PER CENT OF ITS RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE OLI HAD PUT FORWARD A PROPOSAL TO RELIEVE ITSELF OF THE BURDEN OF COMMERCIAL RENT BY ESTABLISHING A PURPOSE-BUILT HEADQUARTERS.

"THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH INCLUDES AN APPLICATION FOR A LAND GRANT, IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

"WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION FROM THE OLI FOR A LOAN TO MEET HALF OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING ITS OWN HEADQUARTERS, WHICH IS VERY ROUGHLY ESTIMATED TO COST \$200 MILLION.

"IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE INSTITUTE AN EMPTY SCHOOL BUILDING WHICH, WITH CERTAIN ALTERATIONS AND RENOVATIONS, COULD BE USED AS EXTRA CLASSROOMS AND STORAGE SPACE," MR CHAN SAID.

MR CHAN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON FUNDING FOR THE OLI WAS THAT IT SHOULD BECOME SELF-FINANCING AT LEAST ON ITS RECURRENT ACCOUNT BY 1993-94.

A SETTING UP GRANT OF \$55.8 MILLION WAS PROVIDED TO THE INSTITUTE TO COVER EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL ITEMS. AN ANNUALLY RECURRENT BUT DECREASING GRANT WAS ALSO MADE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1989-90 TO 1991-92.

PROVISION FOR A FURTHER GRANT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE 1992-93 DRAFT ESTIMATES.

"IT IS OUR INTENTION THAT NO FURTHER GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION WOULD BE GIVEN AS FROM THE 1993-94 FINANCIAL YEAR," THE SECRETARY SAID.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT IN EACH OF THE THREE PRECEDING FINANCIAL YEARS, THE OLI HAD NOT FOUND IT NECESSARY TO SEEK SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BUT HAD HAD A SMALL SURPLUS ON ITS RECURRENT ACCOUNT.

"THIS IS CLEAR TESTIMONY TO THE OLI MANAGEMENT'S SKILL AND DETERMINATION TO DEVELOP WITHIN ITS BUDGET CEILING," MR CHAN ADDED.

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#### SGO POSTS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO SCHOOLS GRADUALLY

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 (ECR 4) WILL REQUIRE MOST OF THE STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS (SGO) POSTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO BE TRANSFERRED GRADUALLY TO SCHOOLS AS ADDITIONAL POSTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN SAID THIS WAS TO ENABLE SCHOOL HEADS TO CHOOSE ONE OF THEIR TEACHERS TO SERVE AS A STUDENT GUIDANCE TEACHER (SGT).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NG MING-YUM, MR CHAN SAID: "SUBJECT TO FUNDS BEING AVAILABLE, THE TARGET FOR THE 1992-93 SCHOOL YEAR IS TO CREATE 29 SGT POSTS IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH, IN ADDITION TO 173 SGO POSTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT(ED), WILL BE ENOUGH TO ACHIEVE THE MANNING RATIO OF ONE SGT/SGO : 2,500 STUDENTS."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RATE AT WHICH THE TRANSFER OF POSTS FROM THE ED TO AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS TAKES PLACE WOULD DEPEND LARGELY ON THE WASTAGE RATE OF SGOS IN THE ED: HIGHER THE WASTAGE, FASTER THE RATE OF TRANSFER OF POSTS.

IN 1990/91, A TOTAL OF 38 SGOS WHO HAVE BEEN RECRUITED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR REPORTED FOR DUTY.

"NO RECRUITMENT EXERCISE WAS CONDUCTED IN 1990/91 SINCE SGO POSTS WERE TO BE GRADUALLY TRANSFERRED TO SCHOOLS IN 1992 AS RECOMMENDED IN ECR 4. THE WASTAGE RATE OF SGOS FOR 1990/91 WAS 11.9 PER CENT."

MR CHAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SGTS WOULD NOT BE RECRUITED BY THE SCHOOLS THEMSELVES.

"SCHOOL HEADS WILL SELECT ONE OF THEIR EXPERIENCED TEACHERS AS A SGT. SINCE SGT POSTS ARE RANKED AT ASSISTANT MASTER (AM) LEVEL, A PROMOTION RANK, NO DIFFICULTIES IN FILLING THEM ARE EXPECTED."

HE STRESSED THAT THE VERY CONCEPT OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH, INVOLVING THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE IN SCHOOLS BY SCHOOL-BASED GUIDANCE TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER TEACHERS, WAS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE STUDENT GUIDANCE SERVICE.

IN ADDITION, PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR SGTS WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING TEAM OF THE ED TO ENSURE THAT THE QUALITY OF THE SERVICE IS MAINTAINED, HE SAID.

"THE PROVISION OF ONE STUDENT GUIDANCE TEACHER TO EVERY SCHOOL WITH 24 CLASSROOMS OR MORE IS AN ULTIMATE TARGET WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

"THERE IS AS YET NO FIXED TIME-TABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS IMPROVED PROVISION STANDARD."

ON THE MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE, MR CHAN SAID IT WAS UP TO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR TEACHING STAFF, INCLUDING THE SGTS.

"THE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING TEAM OF THE STUDENT GUIDANCE SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL, HOWEVER, PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SGTS.

"MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WILL PAY REGULAR VISITS TO SGTS IN SCHOOLS TO HELP THEM HANDLE DIFFICULT CASES, AND WILL ORGANISE REGULAR MEETINGS AND SEMINARS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE."

MR CHAN NOTED THAT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES WERE CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR SGOS RATHER THAN SGTS, SINCE THE LATTER POSTS HAD NOT YET BEEN CREATED.

UPON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH TO GUIDANCE, ALL SGTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE PRE-SERVICE TRAINING COMPRISING A FOUR-MONTH FULL-TIME COURSE WHICH INCLUDES FIELDWORK IN SCHOOLS OVER A TEN-WEEK PERIOD, HE SAID.

"THIS COURSE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY PART-TIME TRAINING OF FIVE MONTHS IN THE ORGANISATION OF PREVENTIVE PROGRAMMES AND STUDENT SUPPORT GROUPS.

"IN ADDITION, A 10-MONTH PART-TIME REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMME WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPERIENCED SGTS."

ON WHETHER ANY INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN MADE TO FIND OUT IF SGTS WERE REQUIRED TO TAKE UP TEACHING WORK IN ADDITION TO THEIR OWN DUTIES, MR CHAN SAID NO INVESTIGATION HAD YET BEEN MADE.

/HOWEVER, HE .....

HOWEVER, HE SAID: "IN IMPLEMENTING THE SGT SCHEME, A NUMBER OF MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO HELP THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MONITOR WHETHER THE ADDITIONAL SGT POSTS ARE USED AS INTENDED FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH.

THESE INCLUDED ENSURING, THROUGH CIRCULARS TO HEAD-TEACHERS, THAT THE DUTIES OF SGTS WERE EXPLICITLY SPELLED OUT, AND THE REGIONAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE STUDENT GUIDANCE SECTION MAINTAINING FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH HEAD-TEACHERS THROUGH SCHOOL VISITS AND MEETINGS, AS WELL AS REGULAR MEETINGS WITH SGTS.

"IF THE POSTS WERE FOUND NOT TO BE USED APPROPRIATELY, THEY WOULD BE WITHDRAWN," MR CHAN ADDED.

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GUIDELINES FOR POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT EXPLAINED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO PLANS TO FURTHER TIGHTEN THE EXISTING POLICY GUIDELINES FOR SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS TO TAKE UP POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TWO PENSIONS ORDINANCES, A RETIRED OFFICER REQUIRED THE GOVERNOR'S PRIOR APPROVAL BEFORE TAKING UP ANY POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT OR ENGAGING IN ANY BUSINESS ACTIVITY, THE PRINCIPAL PART OF WHICH WAS CARRIED ON IN HONG KONG, WITHIN TWO YEARS OF HIS RETIREMENT.

"IN THE CASE OF AN OFFICER AT SECRETARY LEVEL OR ABOVE THE PERIOD IS FIVE YEARS," HE SAID.

"NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS REQUIREMENT MAY RESULT IN THE SUSPENSION OF PENSION."

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU, MR WIGGHAM NOTED THAT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT HAD BEEN SET UP SINCE OCTOBER 1987 TO CONSIDER AND ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON ALL INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS FROM DIRECTORATE OFFICERS AND ON ANY OTHER APPLICATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE REFERRED TO IT BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLE IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO IMPROPRIETY IN THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT, THAT IS, THERE SHOULD BE NO CONFLICT WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

IN THIS RESPECT, ACCOUNT WOULD BE TAKEN OF WHETHER THE OFFICER HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN POLICY FORMULATION OR DECISION, THE EFFECTS OF WHICH COULD HAVE BENEFITTED HIS PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER; WHETHER THE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER MIGHT GAIN AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OVER COMPETITORS BECAUSE OF THE OFFICER'S PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE; THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE OFFICER TAKING UP THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT; AND ESPECIALLY FOR SENIOR OFFICERS, WHETHER THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT WOULD RESULT IN AN UNDESIRABLY HIGH PUBLIC PROFILE.

A SANITISATION PERIOD FROM THE CESSATION OF ACTIVE SERVICE MAY BE APPLIED TO DIRECTORATE OFFICERS, WHERE THIS IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.

"BUT IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS WITH SUBSTANTIAL WORKING EXPERIENCE CAN BE OF CONSIDERABLE VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORKFORCE AS A WHOLE AND THEIR CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD NOT BE DISCOURAGED," MR WIGGHAM ADDED.

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HK GINI COEFFICIENT NOT HIGH BY INT'L STANDARD  
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THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY IF THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO ADOPT POLICIES THAT FACILITATE ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENCOURAGE INITIATIVE AND ENTERPRISE, ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL COUPLED WITH SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT THE LOWER INCOME GROUPS.

IN REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST POPULATION CENSUS, THE GINI COEFFICIENT BASED ON HOUSEHOLD INCOME WAS ESTIMATED AT AROUND 0.476 LAST YEAR, AND IT WAS NOT PARTICULARLY HIGH BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

THE GINI COEFFICIENT, AS A SUMMARY MEASURE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME, COULD IN THEORY RANGE FROM ZERO TO ONE, WITH A HIGHER VALUE REFLECTING GREATER INCOME DIVERSITY.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE SUGGESTED THAT GINI COEFFICIENT OF 0.48 IN HONG KONG WAS BROADLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SINGAPORE, AND NOT TOO MUCH ABOVE THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA.

"A DEGREE OF INCOME DIVERSITY IS COMMON EVEN IN THE MOST ECONOMICALLY ADVANCED COUNTRIES," SHE ADDED.

MRS CHAN SAID WHILE THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE GINI COEFFICIENT FOR HONG KONG OVER THE YEARS, OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE WAS THE FACT THAT MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME HAD RISEN BY 56 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE PAST DECADE.

"MOREOVER, SUBSTANTIAL INCOME GROWTH IS RECORDED FOR ALL INCOME GROUPS, INCLUDING THE LOWER INCOME GROUP.

"IN GENERAL, THE COMMUNITY IS SHARING IN THE FRUITS OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES WERE DIRECTED TOWARDS FOSTERING AN ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE COULD DEVELOP THEIR TALENTS AND POTENTIAL TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.

"THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL ADVANCEMENT AND HIGHER INCOME IRRESPECTIVE OF THE SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF INDIVIDUALS.

/"INDEED, THIS .....

"INDEED, THIS IS A KEY DRIVING FORCE BEHIND HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS," SHE NOTED.

AT THE SAME TIME, MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR LOWER INCOME GROUPS. FOR EXAMPLE, SHE SAID, AROUND HALF OF ALL EMPLOYEES, WHO HAD RELATIVELY LOWER INCOME, DID NOT PAY TAX.

"THIRTY-SEVEN PER CENT OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS LIVE IN HEAVILY SUBSIDISED PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING WHILST PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROVIDES A SAFETY NET FOR THOSE UNABLE TO WORK OR TO EARN ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

"NO ONE NEED BE DEPRIVED OF EDUCATION OR MEDICAL CARE THROUGH LACK OF MEANS," MRS CHAN SAID.

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#### WIDE-RANGING SERVICES FOR SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO EXPANDING CHILD CARE AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES TO HELP PARENTS CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A TARGET OF 1,400 DAY NURSERY PLACES FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWO AND SIX HAS BEEN SET ANNUALLY UNTIL DEMAND IS FULLY MET.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NG MING-YUM AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG SAID: "AT THE SAME TIME, DAY CRECHES FOR CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE WILL BE EXPANDED BY PHASES, PARTICULARLY IN NEW TOWNS, TO CATER FOR NEEDY AND SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES."

THE SECRETARY SAID EXPANSION OF FAMILY AIDÉ AND HOME HELP SERVICES HAD ALSO BEEN ACCORDED PRIORITY.

"IT IS PLANNED THAT 31 ADDITIONAL FAMILY AIDE WORKERS AND 44 ADDITIONAL HOME HELP TEAMS WILL BE PROVIDED BY 1995/96."

MRS WONG NOTED THAT THERE WERE 34,256 SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY LAST YEAR.

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE 20 SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS IN THE MARINE POPULATION.

SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP CAN APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

ON TOP OF THE BASIC RATE, SPECIAL GRANTS ARE PROVIDED INCLUDING FEES FOR CHILDREN TO ATTEND A DAY CRECHE, DAY NURSERY OR AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMME OR TO PARTICIPATE IN OTHER SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WHICH HELP TO ALLEVIATE THE SOCIAL DEPRIVATION CAUSED BY THE ABSENCE OF ONE PARENT.

SINCE NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, A CHILD SUPPLEMENT OF \$185 PER CHILD PER MONTH HAS BEEN INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE AN ALLOWANCE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF FAMILIES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

APART FROM FINANCIAL SUPPORT, PUBLIC HOUSING CAN BE ARRANGED FOR ELIGIBLE SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS.

"SINCE JULY 1991, PERSONS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN CAN BE GRANTED A CONDITIONAL TENANCY IN A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE, IF THEY ARE UNDERGOING DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS AND HAVE A GENUINE NEED FOR HOUSING," THE SECRETARY NOTED.

"THE TENANCY WILL BE CONFIRMED WHEN THEY HAVE OBTAINED LEGAL CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH COURT PROCEEDINGS."

OTHER SUPPORTING SERVICES INCLUDE:

- \* CHILD CARE SERVICES - INCLUDING DAY CRECHES, DAY NURSERIES, THE OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE, AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMMES AND, IF NECESSARY, RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN FROM SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES;
- \* FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES - SUCH AS HOME DELIVERY OF MEALS AND ASSISTANCE WITH HOUSEHOLD CHORE; AND
- \* COUNSELLING - TO HELP SINGLE PARENTS COPE WITH STRESS AND EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM SINGLE PARENTHOOD, PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE ON PROPER CHILD CARE AND DISCIPLINE.

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CONCERTED EFFORTS TAKEN TO HELP STREET SLEEPERS

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THE WORKING GROUP ON STREET SLEEPERS WILL COMPLETE ITS DELIBERATIONS SOON AND INTENDS TO PRODUCE A REPORT LATER THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MRS WONG SAID SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THE WORKING GROUP HAD MET REGULARLY TO DISCUSS ISSUES CONCERNING STREET SLEEPERS.

"SOME OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, SUCH AS THE URBAN HOSTEL SCHEME AND MORE FLEXIBLE APPLICATION OF COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING CRITERIA FOR STREET SLEEPERS, HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED," SHE NOTED.

ON THE SUGGESTION TO PROVIDE VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR STREET SLEEPERS, THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY AND OTHER TRAINING CENTRES OPERATED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ALREADY PROVIDED A WIDE RANGE OF SUCH TRAINING OPEN TO ALL.

/HOWEVER, SHE .....

HOWEVER, SHE ADDED, THE PROVISION OF SUCH TRAINING WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE ANY MAJOR IMPACT ON THE PROBLEM OF STREET SLEEPERS.

ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL SURVEY ON STREET SLEEPERS 1991 CONDUCTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN MARCH LAST YEAR, UNEMPLOYMENT WAS NOT ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS CITED BY STREET SLEEPERS FOR BEING HOMELESS.

IN FACT, A STREET SLEEPER WITH NORMAL WORKING ABILITY CAN BE REFERRED TO THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR JOB PLACEMENT.

THOSE WHO ARE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED OR EX-MENTAL PATIENTS CAN ALSO BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION WHILE THOSE WITH SOCIAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS DRUG ADDICTION IN THE PAST OR PERSONALITY PROBLEMS, CAN BE REFERRED TO THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR JOB PLACEMENT.

FURTHERMORE, THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES AND OUTREACH TEAMS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ALSO PROVIDED MANY OUTREACHING SERVICES FOR STREET SLEEPERS, MRS WONG SAID.

"ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS HAVE BEEN SET UP TO REACH OUT TO STREET SLEEPERS, THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE CO-OPERATION AMONGST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT CONCERTED EFFORTS ARE TAKEN TO HELP STREET SLEEPERS," SHE ADDED.

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#### COMPLAINTS ON WATER COOLING TOWERS

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THE GREAT MAJORITY OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED ON WATER COOLING TOWERS WERE BELIEVED TO RELATE TO THE NOISE CREATED, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO, MR BARNES SAID IN EACH OF THE LAST TWO YEARS, ABOUT 500 COMPLAINTS RELATING TO NOISE WERE RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN 1989 WAS MUCH LOWER.

"COMPLAINTS AS TO THE STRUCTURAL SAFETY OF THE TOWERS, OR AS TO NUISANCE CAUSED BY WATER DRIPPING FROM THEM ARE BELIEVED TO BE FEW," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID COMPLAINTS AS TO NOISE CAUSED BY WATER COOLING TOWERS WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD), AS TO THE STRUCTURAL STABILITY OF THE TOWERS AND THEIR SUPPORTING FRAMEWORK THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO), AND AS TO NUISANCE CAUSED BY DRIPPING OF WATER EITHER THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT OR THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT DEPENDING ON THE AREA IN WHICH THE NUISANCE WAS FOUND.

/THE SECRETARY .....

THE SECRETARY SAID IF THE COMPLAINT WAS JUSTIFIED, EITHER A WARNING WAS ISSUED OR PROSECUTION WAS INITIATED, DEPENDING ON THE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM.

"IF WARNINGS ARE IGNORED, ENFORCEMENT ACTION IS NORMALLY THEN STARTED.

"DURING THE LAST YEAR, ABOUT 50 PROSECUTIONS FOR EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM WATER COOLING TOWERS WERE INITIATED," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE BASIC CRITERIA FOR INSTALLING AND OPERATING WATER COOLING TOWERS WERE CONTAINED IN A CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL REGISTERED CONTRACTORS AND THE AIR-CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, THE PRACTICE NOTE ISSUED BY THE BOO AND RELATED GUIDES ISSUED BY THE EPD.

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COURTESY EMPHASISED IN POLICE TRAINING

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COURTESY WAS EMPHASISED DURING THE BASIC TRAINING OF JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS AT THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL (PTS) AND IN SUBSEQUENT TRAINING, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY REV THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD, MR ASPREY SAID THE TRAINING WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF OFFICERS EXPERIENCED IN HANDLING PUBLIC RELATIONS.

"DURING THE TRAINING AT PTS, LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS AND VIDEO PRESENTATIONS ARE ORGANISED FOR JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS RELATING TO COURTESY," HE SAID.

THESE TOPICS INCLUDED THE CORRECT MANNER OF DEALING WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO ELICIT THEIR CO-OPERATION, AND WAYS OF AVOIDING FRICTION AND HANDLING PEOPLE WHO ARE UNCO-OPERATIVE, HE SAID.

"DURING SUBSEQUENT IN-SERVICE TRAINING SESSIONS, JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN CASE STUDIES OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED BY THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICE (CAPO) INVOLVING RUDENESS, IMPOLITENESS AND MISCONDUCT," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE ADDED THAT LECTURES ON THE PROPER CONDUCT AND MANNER OF AN OFFICER IN STOP AND SEARCH OPERATIONS, RAIDS AND IN TAKING STATEMENTS WERE ALSO ORGANISED FOR IN-SERVICE AND PROMOTION COURSES.

"COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS FOR BAD MANNERS SUCH AS THE USE OF ABUSIVE LANGUAGE ARE HANDLED IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHER COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED BY CAPO," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR CAPO TO FOLLOW IN INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS.

"RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS BY CAPO ARE EXAMINED BY THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN A THOROUGH AND IMPARTIAL MANNER," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1992

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LOW CRIME RATE IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES

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CRIME STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1987 TO 1991 SHOWED THAT THE CRIME RATE IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WAS GENERALLY MUCH LOWER THAN THAT IN THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FUNG KIN-KEE, MR ASPREY SAID THE POLICE AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TOOK MEASURES TO PREVENT CRIME IN THE DESIGN OF NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN ORDER TO MINIMISE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMITTING CRIMES.

HE SAID AS RESIDENTS MOVED IN, THEY WERE REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY THROUGH BRIEFINGS AND A TENANT'S HANDBOOK. ESTATE ASSISTANTS AND SECURITY GUARDS WERE EMPLOYED TO PATROL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

"LOCAL CRIME RATES AND TOPICAL ISSUES ARE REVIEWED AT DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, AREA COMMITTEE AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE MEETINGS AT WHICH BOTH THE POLICE AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ARE REPRESENTED.

"AS A RESULT, ADDITIONAL MEASURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES BY THE PROVISION OF METAL GRILLES AND BY MODIFICATIONS INSIDE LIFTS," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY POINTED OUT THAT THE POLICE CAREFULLY MONITORED THE CRIME TRENDS IN HOUSING ESTATES, SO AS TO ENSURE THAT NEW PROBLEMS WERE IDENTIFIED AT AN EARLY STAGE.

"THEIR CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU ALSO OFFERS ADVICE TO RESIDENTS ON MEASURES TO PREVENT CRIME," HE ADDED.

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FEEES TO BE CHARGED FOR VERBATIM REPORTS

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO PRESCRIBE THE FEES FOR FURNISHING, TO ANY PARTY TO A DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY HELD BY THE NURSING BOARD, A COPY OF ANY RECORD OF THE INQUIRY WAS INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL UNDER THE NURSES REGISTRATION ORDINANCE STIPULATES THAT A FEE IS TO BE CHARGED FOR FURNISHING VERBATIM RECORDS.

"HOWEVER, THE ORDINANCE CONTAINS NO PROVISION FOR SUCH REGULATIONS TO BE MADE.

/"THE AMENDMENT .....

"THE AMENDMENT BILL IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO RECTIFY THE POSITION," SHE SAID.

THE MIDWIVES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND THE PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 TABLED AT THE SAME TIME ALSO SEEK TO RECTIFY SIMILAR POSITIONS.

DEBATES ON THE THREE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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ARRANGEMENT FOR CLEARANCE OF RENNIE'S MILL COTTAGE AREA

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL ADVISE THE RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY THE CLEARANCE OF THE RENNIE'S MILL COTTAGE AREA OF THE REHOUSING AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG, MR BARNES SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO REVEAL THE DETAILS OF THE EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION PACKAGE WHICH WERE STILL BEING WORKED OUT.

MR BARNES SAID RENNIE'S MILL HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED WOULD BE OFFERED REHOUSING IN A NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IN TSEUNG KWAN O WHICH WAS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

"THERE SHOULD THUS BE ADEQUATE TIME FOR REHOUSING BEFORE THE PHYSICAL CLEARANCES WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN MAY AND OCTOBER 1993."

HE SAID REQUESTS FOR REHOUSING ELSEWHERE WOULD ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND OTHER COMMITMENTS.

ON COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKINGS AFFECTED BY THE CLEARANCE, MR BARNES SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE REPROVISIONED, BUT THE OPERATORS, IF ELIGIBLE, WOULD BE PAID EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES.

THE PROBLEMS OF RELOCATING COMMUNITY FACILITIES HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE SPONSORS SINCE 1990 AND HELP WITH REMOVAL OR REPROVISIONING WOULD VARY ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF EACH CASE AND AN EVALUATION BY THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT OF THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY EACH TO THE COMMUNITY.

"THESE DISCUSSIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE WELL IN HAND," HE SAID.

ON THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOLS AFFECTED, MR BARNES SAID TWO PUBLICLY FUNDED SCHOOLS WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN TSEUNG KWAN O AND A SITE HAD BEEN PROVISIONALLY RESERVED FOR A PRIVATELY FUNDED ONE SUBJECT TO SATISFYING CERTAIN LAND GRANT CONDITIONS.

"THE ALLOWANCES PAYABLE FOR AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES ARE EX-GRATIA AND STANDARDISED, SO THAT THERE IS LITTLE SCOPE FOR APPEAL OVER THE RATES, ALTHOUGH THESE ARE REVISED REGULARLY," MR BARNES ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1992

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NO DECISION ON FUNERAL PAVILION ON CHEUNG CHAU

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NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST MADE BY THE CHEUNG CHAU LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FUNERAL PAVILION OR HALL (BUT NOT FUNERAL PARLOUR) WITH PRIVATE FUNDS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT, MR BARNES SAID SEVERAL POSSIBLE SITES INCLUDING TAI SHEK HAU AND THE PEAK OF CHEUNG CHAU HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS CONSULTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ON THE MATTER.

"BUT THE ISSUE IS COMPLEX, AS THE VIEWS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, THE DEMAND FOR A FUNERAL PAVILION, AND THE DESIRABILITY TO LOCATE THE SITE REASONABLY AWAY FROM RESIDENTIAL UNITS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT IT IS RELATIVELY EASILY ACCESSIBLE, ALL MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE," MR BARNES SAID.

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TWO MOTIONS PASSED AFTER 5-HOUR DEBATES

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TWO MOTIONS, ONE ON PRESS FREEDOM AND THE OTHER ON THE CHARTER FOR YOUTH, WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AFTER A TOTAL OF FIVE-HOUR DEBATE THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

THE FIRST MOTION MOVED BY THE HON EMILY LAU ON PRESS FREEDOM WAS PASSED AFTER A TWO-AND-A-HALF HOUR DEBATE BY 15 LEGISLATORS.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

TWENTY-FOUR MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE YOUTH MOTION, MOVED BY THE HON ERIC LI ON THE CHARTER FOR YOUTH. THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ADDITION, EIGHT MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SERVICES, WHICH WAS RAISED BY THE HON WONG WAI-YIN.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

/EARLIER IN .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1992

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EARLIER IN THE SESSION, LEGISLATORS PASSED THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WITH AMENDMENTS.

A TOTAL OF SEVEN BILLS WERE ALSO INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

THEY WERE THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992, ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, MIDWIVES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

A PRIVATE BILL, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, WAS INTRODUCED BY THE HON DAVID LI FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND DEBATE ON IT WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1992

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REGULAR SINO-US TRADING STATUS GOOD FOR HK: GOVERNOR  
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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE BELIEVED THAT A REGULAR TRADING STATUS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA WAS VERY GOOD FOR HONG KONG.

RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE US SENATE VOTE ON CHINA'S MFN STATUS, LORD WILSON SAID: "I HOPE IT MEANS THAT MFN STATUS, IN OTHER WORDS, NORMAL TRADING STATUS, WILL NOW CONTINUE, BUT OF COURSE WE HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE IF THERE IS A PRESIDENTIAL VETO AND THEN WHAT THE OPPOSITION TO THAT VETO MIGHT BE."

HE SAID FROM A HONG KONG POINT OF VIEW; AND A SOUTHERN CHINA POINT OF VIEW BECAUSE IT AFFECTS THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF GUANGDONG, FUJIAN AND HONG KONG, HE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT NORMAL TRADING STATUS FOR CHINA WOULD CONTINUE.

LORD WILSON WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE HUNG HOM RAILWAY STATION BEFORE DEPARTING FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO GUANGDONG.

ASKED IF HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SENATE VOTE WHICH PLACES CONDITIONS ON CHINA'S MFN STATUS, LORD WILSON SAID: "I WOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT UNCERTAINTY OVER CHINA'S TRADING STATUS IN RELATION TO THE UNITED STATES."

"I DON'T THINK UNCERTAINTY IS A GOOD THING FOR TRADING. I DO BELIEVE THAT TRADING IS A VERY GOOD WAY TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA; I THINK THAT IS THE WAY IN WHICH RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA SHOULD BE DEVELOPED," HE ADDED.

LORD WILSON SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISITS TO GUANGZHOU, DONGGUAN AND SHENZHEN.

"I HAVEN'T IN FACT BEEN TO GUANGZHOU SINCE 1987 ALTHOUGH I'VE BEEN TO SHENZHEN MORE RECENTLY, AND THIS TIME IT'S A PARTICULARLY GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE NEW GOVERNOR OF GUANGDONG, MR ZHU SENLIN," HE SAID.

LORD WILSON SAID THE VISIT TO GUANGZHOU WAS ALSO AIMED AT GIVING A BOOST TO THE IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG PROVINCE, ADDING: "IN ORDER TO TRY TO SHOW IN GUANGZHOU THAT WE VALUE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GUANGDONG."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSING WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS COMMON CONCERNS THAT AFFECT HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG WITH THE AIM OF ENCOURAGING THE PROCESS OF A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE ON SECURITY MATTERS.

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STI COMMENTS ON MFN VOTE

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THE US SENATE YESTERDAY PASSED A BILL ATTACHING CONDITIONS ON RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MFN TRADE STATUS BY 59 TO 39 VOTES.

COMMENTING ON THIS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID THE VOTE FALLS SHORT OF THE TWO-THIRD MAJORITY WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OVERRIDE A PRESIDENTIAL VETO.

"THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE US ADMINISTRATION HAS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT PRESIDENT BUSH WOULD VETO ANY LEGISLATION WHICH SOUGHT TO ATTACH CONDITIONS TO THE EXTENSION OF CHINA'S MFN STATUS.

"FOR THIS REASON, HONG KONG SHOULD NOT BE ALARMED OVER THE RESULTS OF THIS VOTE IN THE SENATE," MR CHAU SAID.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S CASE IS HEARD AND OUR INTERESTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE US ADMINISTRATION," HE ADDED.

UNDER NORMAL US PROCEDURES, ONCE THE BILL IS PASSED TO THE PRESIDENT, HE WILL HAVE TEN DAYS IN WHICH TO VETO IT.

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NEW ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES ANNOUNCED

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TOUGHER, NEW ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES HAVE BEEN ENACTED.

PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED SUCH AS THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY, ADVERTISERS, BUILDING MANagements AND CINEMA AND TRANSPORT OPERATORS - ARE GIVEN DIFFERENT GRACE PERIODS OF SIX TO 12 MONTHS BEFORE ENFORCEMENT ACTION IS TAKEN.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADDRESSED INTERESTED PARTIES ABOUT PROVISIONS OF THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1992, PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON JANUARY 31.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR DEREK GOULD, SAID THE AMENDMENT BILL WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING ANTI-SMOKING POLICY.

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO DISCOURAGING SMOKING THROUGH A PROGRESSIVE AND PRAGMATIC PACKAGE OF PREVENTION, LEGISLATION AND EDUCATION MEASURES," HE SAID.

"THE LEGISLATION COMPRISES THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE PASSED RECENTLY, THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) REGULATIONS TO BE AMENDED SHORTLY AND ORDER TO BE MADE BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE."

UNDER THE AMENDMENT, NO-SMOKING AREAS ARE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SEATING ACCOMMODATION IN CINEMAS, THEATRES AND CONCERT HALLS, AND AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES.

OPERATORS WILL HAVE TO PUT UP ANTI-SMOKING SIGNS IN THESE AREAS BY AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR AND PATRONS MUST CEASE TO SMOKE IN THESE AREAS BY THAT DATE.

AN ORDER BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WILL REQUIRE MANagements TO INDICATE ON THESE NO SMOKING SIGNS THE LEVEL OF PENALTY.

IN ADDITION TO GIVING LEGISLATIVE BACKING FOR PROHIBITING CIGARETTE ADVERTISING ON TELEVISION AND RADIO - ALREADY IN EFFECT THROUGH LICENSING CONTROLS SINCE DECEMBER 1 LAST YEAR - THE AMENDMENT ALSO PROHIBITS CIGARETTE ADVERTISING IN CINEMAS.

A GRACE PERIOD UNTIL AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR WILL BE GIVEN.

THE DEFINITION OF CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENT HAS ALSO BEEN REVISED TO INCLUDE EVENTS SPONSORED BY CIGARETTE BRAND NAMES.

ANOTHER MEASURE INTRODUCED BY THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE IS TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF CIGARETTES WITH A TAR CONTENT EXCEEDING 20 MILLIGRAMS EACH. SUCH CIGARETTES WOULD NO LONGER BE PERMITTED FROM FEBRUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

"WE ARE AMENDING THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) REGULATIONS SHORTLY TO RESTRUCTURE THE TAR GROUP DESIGNATIONS," MR GOULD ADDED.

"IN ADDITION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WILL SOON BE MAKING AN ORDER TO INCREASE THE PROMINENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF HEALTH WARNINGS AND TAR GROUP DESIGNATIONS ON CIGARETTE PACKETS AND IN ADVERTISEMENTS AND TO PROVIDE FOR ROTATION OF HEALTH WARNINGS."

THE AMENDMENT HAS ALSO RAISED THE LEVELS OF PENALTY FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES. THE FINE FOR SMOKING IN A NO-SMOKING AREA HAS BEEN RAISED FROM \$1,000 TO \$5,000.

AN OFFENDER WHO FAILS TO GIVE HIS NAME AND ADDRESS WHEN REQUIRED IS NOW LIABLE, UPON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000, UP FROM \$3,000.

SELLING CIGARETTES IN PACKETS OR CONTAINERS WITHOUT THE PRESCRIBED HEALTH WARNING AND TAR GROUP DESIGNATION NOW ATTRACTS A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$20,000, INSTEAD OF \$5,000 PREVIOUSLY.

THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO DISPLAY THE REQUIRED HEALTH WARNING AND TAR GROUP DESIGNATION IN AN ADVERTISEMENT WILL BE \$15,000, PLUS \$1,500 FOR EACH DAY THE OFFENCE CONTINUES (UP FROM \$5,000 PLUS \$500 PER DAY).

THE SAME PENALTY WILL APPLY TO ADVERTISING CIGARETTES ON TELEVISION AND RADIO OR IN A CINEMA.

MR GOULD SAID FURTHER MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WERE NOW BEING CONSIDERED.

"WE WILL BE CONSULTING THE PUBLIC AND RELEVANT PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THESE IN DUE COURSE," HE ADDED.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES AND THE INTENDED GRACE PERIODS:

EFFECT OF THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1992 -----	GRACE PERIOD -----	
* PROHIBITION OF CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENT ON TELEVISION AND RADIO (SECTION 13)	NOT APPLICABLE, ALREADY IN OPERATION	
* PROHIBITION OF SMOKING IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC AREAS (SECTION 3) AND IN ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORT CARRIERS (SECTION 4);  REQUIREMENT TO DISPLAY "NO SMOKING" SIGNS IN PRESCRIBED MANNER (SECTION 5); AND  PROHIBITION ON CIGARETTE ADVERTISING IN CINEMAS (SECTION 13A)	UNTIL 1.8.1992	
* PROHIBITION OF SALE OF CIGARETTE WITH A TAR CONTENT EXCEEDING 20 MG (SECTION 8A); AND  REVISED DEFINITION OF CIGARETTE ADVERTISING (SECTION 14)	UNTIL 1.2.1993	
FURTHER MEASURES -----	TO BE EFFECTED BY -----	GRACE PERIOD -----
* TAR-GROUP DESIGNATION TO BE RESTRUCTURED	AMENDMENT TO SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) REGULATIONS	UNTIL 1.2.1993
* THE EXISTING SINGLE GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING TO BE REPLACED BY STRONGER AND MORE PRECISE MESSAGES WHICH ARE TO BE USED IN ROTATION	NEW SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (NOTICES) ORDER	UNTIL 1.2.1993
* "NO SMOKING" SIGNS TO CARRY A STATEMENT OF MAXIMUM PENALTY	NEW SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (NOTICES) ORDER	UNTIL 1.8.1992

\* HEALTH WARNING AND TAR NEW SMOKING UNTIL 1.2.1993  
 GROUP DESIGNATION (PUBLIC HEALTH)  
 WHERE REQUIRED TO BE (NOTICES) ORDER  
 DISPLAYED MORE  
 CONSPICUOUSLY AND TO  
 BE ENLARGED

\* HEALTH WARNING ON NEW SMOKING UNTIL 1.2.1993  
 OUTDOOR CIGARETTE (PUBLIC HEALTH)  
 ADVERTISING SIGNS (NOTICES) ORDER  
 TO BE FREE FROM  
 VISUAL OBSTRUCTION,  
 PROPERLY LIT UP AND  
 CLEARLY VISIBLE

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AWARENESS OF INDOOR AIR QUALITY STRESSED

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HONG KONG WOULD NEED A CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT FROM ALL BUILDING DISCIPLINES, IN PARTICULAR, ENGINEERS IN THE FIELD OF HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC), TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A HEALTHY AND FUNCTIONAL INDOOR ENVIRONMENT AMIDST THE GROWING TREND OF "SICK BUILDING SYNDROME".

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR KWOK PING-KI, IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS AT A SEMINAR ON "INDOOR AIR QUALITY" (IAQ) ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR KWOK NOTED THAT WITH BUILDINGS NOWADAYS MADE MORE AIR TIGHT AND PEOPLE SPENDING MORE AND MORE TIME INDOORS, THE DEMAND FOR A HEALTHY AND COMFORTABLE WORKING ENVIRONMENT WAS ON THE INCREASE.

HE SAID IAQ HAD BECOME AN ISSUE OF INCREASING VISIBILITY AND ATTENTION IN RECENT YEARS. THE LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE, WHICH THE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM WAS CONSIDERED AS THE PRIMARY CAUSE, SERVED AS A CATALYST TO BRING MORE CONCERN OVER IAQ AND HUMAN HEALTH IN THE AIR-CONDITIONING INDUSTRY.

MR KWOK STRESSED THAT THE SOLUTION TO BETTER IAQ WAS BY NO MEANS SIMPLE AND REQUIRED CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT FROM ALL BUILDING DISCIPLINES, FROM BUILDING SERVICES DESIGNERS DOWN TO THE PEOPLE OPERATING THE SYSTEM AND MAINTAINING IT.

HE STATED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURE TO ENSURE COMFORT AND GOOD INDOOR AIR QUALITY WAS THE PROPER DESIGN AND SELECTION OF THE HVAC SYSTEMS TO BE UTILISED IN THE BUILDINGS. WITH THE PROGRESS IN INSTRUMENTATION TECHNOLOGY, THE ENGINEERS IN THE FIELD WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.

REGARDING THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN IAQ EQUIPMENT, MR KWOK BELIEVED THAT THE TREND WAS TOWARDS AN INCREASING EMPHASIS ON REMOVAL OF GASEOUS CONTAMINANTS SUCH AS CARBON DIOXIDE, AMMONIA AND HYDROGEN SULPHIDE.

HE NOTED THAT THE TRADITIONAL METHOD TO IMPROVE IAQ WAS TO DILUTE AND REMOVE THE INDOOR AIR CONTAMINANTS BY THE INTRODUCTION OF OUTSIDE AIR. ITS EFFECTIVENESS DEPENDED ON THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THE AIR OUTSIDE.

"NOWADAYS OUTSIDE AIR IS VERY MUCH POLLUTED. INTRODUCING OUTSIDE AIR DIRECTLY TO CONDITIONED SPACE MAY, IN EXTREME CASES, BRING IN MORE CONTAMINANTS.

"CONVENTIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF IAQ, SUCH AS AIR-FILTERS, CANNOT REMOVE GASEOUS CONTAMINANTS AND SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH MORE SOPHISTICATED GAS PHASE FILTRATION EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

HE SAID OTHER CHANGES TO TAKE PLACE WOULD INCLUDE:

- \* BETTER AND MORE FLEXIBLE VENTILATION SYSTEM TO COLLECT AND REMOVE CONTAMINANTS CLOSE TO THE SOURCES FOR MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS;
- \* BETTER AIR FILTRATION EQUIPMENT TO REMOVE FINE CONTAMINANTS THAT CAN CAUSE RESPIRATORY DAMAGE;
- \* INCREASED USE OF AIR MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS AIR FLOW METERS AND CARBON DIOXIDE DETECTORS FOR BETTER IAQ CONTROL; AND
- \* INCREASED USE OF ADVANCED AND SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS NEGATIVE-ION GENERATORS AND WATER-SCRUBBERS, TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF INDOOR AIR.

MR KWOK ALSO NOTED THAT THE IMPROVEMENT OF IAQ WAS CLOSELY RELATED TO ENERGY CONSERVATION - ANOTHER TOPIC WHICH HAD RECEIVED GREAT ATTENTION SINCE THE OIL CRISIS IN THE 70'S. FROM THEN, MANY COUNTRIES HAD IMPLEMENTED STRINGENT ENERGY CODES TO LIMIT THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF BUILDINGS.

WHILE RECKONING THE WISDOM AND FORESIGHT IN ALL THESE ENERGY SAVING MEASURES, HE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT MANY OF THE ENERGY SAVING MEASURES IN BUILDINGS WERE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT DUE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO IAQ ISSUES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TO CONSERVE ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF OUTSIDE AIR WOULD CAUSE THE CONCENTRATION OF INDOOR AIR CONTAMINANTS TO BUILD UP AND AT WORST HAZARDOUS TO HUMAN HEALTH.

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, NEARLY ALL APPROACHES TO IAQ IMPROVEMENT IN THE PAST WERE MADE AT THE EXPENSE OF MORE ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

A TYPICAL EXAMPLE WAS THE REPLACEMENT OF ORDINARY AIR-FILTERS BY HIGH-EFFICIENCY TYPE WHICH HAD A HIGHER PRESSURE DROP DEMANDING A MORE POWERFUL FAN, AND IN TURN CONSUMED MORE ENERGY.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES TO IMPROVE IAQ WOULD BE OUTWEIGHED BY THE PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE. A RECENT STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES SHOWED THAT PRODUCTIVITY IN AN OFFICE BUILDING COULD BE IN THIS WAY INCREASED BY AS MUCH AS 18 PER CENT.

MR KWOK WAS OF THE OPINION THAT ENERGY CONSERVATION SHOULD BE GIVEN DUE WEIGHT IN IAQ IMPROVEMENT BUT THAT IAQ SHOULD NOT BE COMPROMISED FOR THE SAKE OF ENERGY CONSERVATION, WITH THE PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD PLAYING A ROLE TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO.

"THE OBJECTIVE OF HOW TO ACHIEVE A HEALTHY AND FUNCTIONAL INDOOR ENVIRONMENT REMAINS A CHALLENGE TO ARCHITECTS, BUILDING MANAGERS, THE OCCUPANTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE HVAC ENGINEERS WHO DESIGN, SPECIFY, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM IN BUILDINGS," HE SAID.

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#### IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT STRESSED

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T. H. BARMA, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED MANUFACTURERS TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP THEIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AFTER OBTAINING ISO 9000 REGISTRATION.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A SEMINAR ON QUALITY MANAGEMENT, MR BARMA SAID THE QUALITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1990 PLACED HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY.

"FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT TO SUCCEED IT MUST BE TOTAL - THAT IS, FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE ENTIRE ORGANISATION, FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DOWNWARDS.

"HONG KONG'S MANAGERS HAVE A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES. IF THEY ACQUIRE THE AWARENESS, COMMITMENT AND VISION TO LEAD THEIR COMPANIES TO QUALITY EXCELLENCE, HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE RECOGNITION AND BENEFITS THAT A SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY ATTRACTS TO ITSELF," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID WE LIVED IN AN AGE OF INTENSE COMPETITION AMONG OUR NEIGHBOURS, GREATER DEMANDS FROM CONSUMERS, GROWING PROTECTIONISM IN OUR MAIN MARKETS, AND TIGHT PRESSURE ON LABOUR AND OTHER RESOURCES.

"THE EMPHASIS NOW IS NOT SO MUCH ON QUANTITY BUT ON SUCH CONSIDERATIONS AS SENSITIVITY AND FLEXIBILITY IN MARKETING, PUNCTUAL DELIVERY, THE APPLICATION OF GREATER TECHNOLOGY TO THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS, AND MORE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES.

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"ABOVE ALL, THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE QUALITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE FINAL PRODUCT," HE SAID.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, HE ADDED, MORE AND MORE OF OUR OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS WERE INSISTING ON QUALITY CERTIFICATION AS A BASIC REQUIREMENT BEFORE BUSINESS CONTRACTS WERE AWARDED OR SALES CONCLUDED.

"IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THE ISO 9000 STANDARDS ARE BEGINNING TO PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE IN THESE BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS: BY PROVIDING A RELIABLE, EFFICIENT AND RECOGNISABLE SYSTEM WITHIN WHICH PRODUCTS CAN BE MANUFACTURED," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID MORE THAN 30 COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY ADOPTED THE STANDARDS AS REFERENCES FOR THEIR NATIONAL QUALITY SYSTEMS.

HE SAID FOR MANY INDUSTRIES, CERTIFICATION TO ISO 9000 STANDARDS OR THEIR EQUIVALENT WAS FAST BECOMING A PRECONDITION FOR DOING BUSINESS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

"ISO 9000 IS BECOMING THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT," MR BARMA SAID.

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DEPOSIT PROTECTION SCHEME CONSULTATION PAPER NOW AVAILABLE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT COPIES OF THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED CONSULTATION PAPER ON DEPOSIT PROTECTION SCHEME (DPS) COULD NOW BE OBTAINED, FREE OF CHARGE, FROM THE VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT REACHED ANY CONCLUSION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A DEPOSIT PROTECTION SCHEME SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AND IS ANXIOUS TO HEAR THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"HOPEFULLY, THE PAPER WOULD ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN CONSIDERING THE MATTER," HE SAID.

"AS THIS IS A VERY COMPLICATED SUBJECT AFFECTING VIRTUALLY EVERYONE, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ENCOURAGED TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE PAPER SO THAT THEY CAN HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT A DPS IS DESIRABLE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CONSULTATION PERIOD WILL CLOSE AT THE END OF MAY THIS YEAR.

THOSE WHO WISH TO COMMENT ARE INVITED TO SEND THEIR SUBMISSIONS TO THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, 1802, TOWER I, ADMIRALTY CENTRE ON OR BEFORE MAY 31 THIS YEAR.

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AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY PUBLIC INQUIRY

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AIR HONG KONG LIMITED (AHK) SUBMITTED THREE APPLICATIONS ON AUGUST 20, 1990 TO OPERATE SCHEDULED ALL-CARGO SERVICES TO 80 CITIES WORLDWIDE (INCLUDING 17 POINTS WHICH AHK HAS ALREADY BEEN LICENSED TO SERVE). AHK'S APPLICATIONS, WHILE SUPPORTED BY 17 REPRESENTORS, WERE OPPOSED BY CATHY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LIMITED (CPA) AND HONG KONG DRAGON AIRLINES LIMITED (HDA).

IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF DESTINATIONS AND PARTIES INVOLVED, A TWO-PHASE PUBLIC INQUIRY WAS ADOPTED TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATIONS. PHASE I OF THE INQUIRY WAS CONDUCTED BETWEEN MARCH 11 AND 14, 1991 TO CONSIDER THE GENERAL ABILITY OF AHK TO MOUNT THE EXTENSIVE SERVICES APPLIED FOR AND THE NEED FOR AN ALL-CARGO AIR SERVICE BASED IN HONG KONG.

FOLLOWING THE PHASE I INQUIRY, ATLA DECIDED THAT IT COULD NOT CONSIDER LICENSING AIR CARGO SERVICES TO SOME 20 DESTINATIONS WHICH AHK PROPOSED TO SERVE PARTLY BY TRUCKS AS WELL AS CARGO AIRCRAFT. AS FOR THE REMAINING DESTINATIONS, ATLA DECIDED THAT MORE DETAILED EVIDENCE SHOULD BE PRODUCED BY THE APPLICANT (AHK) AND THE OBJECTORS (CPA AND HDA) AT PHASE II OF THE INQUIRY, SO THAT THE PROPOSED DESTINATIONS CAN BE CONSIDERED ON A POINT-BY-POINT BASIS.

PHASE II OF THE INQUIRY WAS CONDUCTED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 25 AND 29, 1992 WITH THE SAME PANEL MEMBERS WHO SAT IN PHASE I OF THE INQUIRY. AT THE INQUIRY, AHK DID NOT PUT FORTH FURTHER EVIDENCE TO FACILITATE CONSIDERATION OF GRANTING LICENCES TO 13 POINTS. THEREFORE, ATLA HAS DECIDED THAT TOGETHER WITH 23 POINTS WHICH AHK PROPOSED TO SERVE BY LAND TRANSPORT, APPLICATION FOR SERVICES TO THESE 36 POINTS SHOULD BE REFUSED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AUTHORITY HAS DECIDED THAT LICENCES SHOULD BE GRANTED TO AHK FOR SERVICES TO 17 POINTS TO WHICH AHK IS ALREADY LICENSED AND TO 11 POINTS NOT OPPOSED BY CPA AND HDA DURING THE PHASE II INQUIRY. IN RESPECT OF THE REMAINING 16 POINTS, ATLA, HAVING CONSIDERED WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS PREPARED BY PARTIES CONCERNED AND ORAL EVIDENCE PRODUCED AT THE INQUIRY, HAS DECIDED THAT LICENCE FOR ONLY 3 POINTS WOULD BE GRANTED WHILE THE GRANT OF LICENCE TO THE REMAINING 13 POINTS COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED BECAUSE THERE WAS NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE ON DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL FREIGHT CAPACITY. LICENCES GRANTED ARE FOR FIVE YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM MARCH 1, 1992.

COPIES OF ATLA'S FULL DECISION FOR PHASE II OF THE INQUIRY ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES NEWSROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1992

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SPECIAL MEETING ON NEW AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

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MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE NEW AIRPORT MASTER PLAN AT A SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 2 (MONDAY).

THEY WILL BE BRIEFED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, MR RICHARD ALLEN, AND PROJECT DIRECTOR, MR DOUGLAS OAKERVEE.

THE SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE HALL, FIRST FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING (NEW ANNEXE), STARTING AT 11 AM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS ARE REQUESTED TO RESERVE A SEAT BY TELEPHONING MS LEUNG WING-CHONG ON TEL. 802 3511 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

AS SEATING IN THE CONFERENCE HALL IS LIMITED, BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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NEW DIRECTOR OF AUDIT APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT MR B.G. JENNEY WILL SUCCEED MR R.J. HUTT AS DIRECTOR OF AUDIT.

MR HUTT WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON MARCH 5 THIS YEAR.

MR JENNEY HAS WORKED IN THE FINANCE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SINCE 1974.

HE HAS AN EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL OPERATIONS, AND HIS EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE WILL ASSIST THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT IN ITS EXPANDING ROLE IN MONITORING THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCES.

/THE FOLLOWING .....

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE TWO OFFICERS:

MR B.G. JENNEY  
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MR JENNEY, AGED 56, IS A CONTRACT OFFICER. HE SERVED IN TANZANIA FROM 1958 TO 1969 BEFORE HE JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN DECEMBER 1969.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE 'C' IN APRIL 1974 AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN THE FINANCE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN APRIL 1981.

MR JENNEY WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN OCTOBER 1987.

MR R.J. HUTT, OBE, JP  
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MR HUTT, AGED 56, JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS AN AUDITOR IN 1958.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR AUDITOR IN SEPTEMBER 1971, PRINCIPAL AUDITOR IN OCTOBER 1976, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AUDIT IN JULY 1980 AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOUR YEARS LATER.

HE WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF AUDIT IN DECEMBER 1988.

ON HIS RETIREMENT, MR HUTT WILL HAVE COMPLETED 33 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

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LAB ENDORSES BETTER PLAN TO HELP  
PNEUMOCONIOSIS SUFFERERS

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ENDORSED A PROPOSAL FOR A REVISED PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION SCHEME MODELLED ON COMMON LAW PRINCIPLES.

THE REVISED SCHEME SOUGHT TO CHANGE LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS TO A PNEUMOCONIOSIS SUFFERER TO MONTHLY PAYMENTS WHICH WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL HE DIED.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WERE ALSO INFORMED OF A PROPOSAL BY THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD TO INCREASE THE RATE OF LEVY IMPOSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE FROM 0.02 PER CENT TO 0.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS AND QUARRY PRODUCTS.

THE PROPOSED INCREASE IS NECESSARY TO MEET THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD'S FUTURE COMMITMENTS.

THE LAB MEETING ALSO NOTED A PROGRESS REPORT ON LABOUR LEGISLATION, WHICH INCLUDED PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD THIS YEAR.

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## UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE TWO UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON SO THAT THEY CAN BE CLOSED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED AT THE FIRST FLOOR OF NO. 69 SHUN NING ROAD AND AT FLAT F ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF NOS. 163-173 CAMP STREET.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON APRIL 23 AND APRIL 30 RESPECTIVELY WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORKS WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	25.2.92	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	26.2.92	-8
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+8
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.8 \*+0.1\* 26.2.92

## HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

## EF BILLS

## HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.95 PCT	21 MONTHS	2311	6.25	100.77	5.85
1 MONTH	3.94 PCT	24 MONTHS	2402	5.50	99.39	5.92
3 MONTHS	3.94 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.19 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.83 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 4,810 MN

CLOSED 26 FEBRUARY 1992

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