



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1990

### CONTENTS

### PAGE NO.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

CONTROL OF CAR REPAIRING OPERATIONS THROUGH LEASE CONDITIONS .....	1
INTENSIFIED PUBLICITY, EDUCATION AGAINST PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS .....	1
SHA ON PROPERTY OWNERSHIP BY PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS .....	3
STEPS TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE EXPANSION OF INTER'L SCHOOLS COMMUNITY ...	4
39 MONUMENTS PROTECTED UNDER ORDINANCE .....	5
EX-POW, WAR WIDOW GRANT RATES REVIEWED ANNUALLY .....	6
FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR CHOICE AND PROTECTION .....	6
ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MEASURES PROVED SUCCESSFUL .....	7
REVIEWS OF CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME, CIVIL SERVICE DEATH AND INJURY BENEFITS .....	8
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE-MEDIUM SECONDARY EDUCATION .....	10
COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 PASSED .....	12
COMPANIES BILL A COMMENDABLE EFFORT .....	13
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL PASSED .....	14
OPPORTUNE TIME TO ESTABLISH ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION BODY .....	14
FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY LEGISLATION ON GASES .....	16
TWO BILLS PASSED .....	18
MEMBERSHIP OF YOUTH COMMISSION ANNOUNCED .....	19
NEW MEMBER APPOINTED TO EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE .....	20
MEDICAL SERVICES IN NORTH DISTRICT ON AGENDA .....	21
DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS .....	21
PREPARATION WORK FOR WAN CHAI GREENERY PROJECT COMPLETED .....	22
CAREERS DAYS TO HELP STUDENTS PLAN FOR FUTURE .....	22
GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER .....	23
APPLICATION BY POST CAN SAVE TIME .....	24
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WAN CHAI .....	25
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN CENTRAL .....	25

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1990

- 1 -

CONTROL OF CAR REPAIRING OPERATIONS THROUGH LEASE CONDITIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

IN NEW TOWNS, CONDITIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE LEASE TO PREVENT RESIDENTIAL PREMISES FROM BEING USED FOR CAR REPAIRING OPERATIONS OR INDEED ANY OTHER NON-RESIDENTIAL USE, AND THESE LEASE CONDITIONS ARE ENFORCED.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON CLIVE OXLEY, SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PEGGY LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN THE OLDER URBAN AREAS WHERE A LEASE MODIFICATION OR CONDITIONS OF EXCHANGE CAN BE IMPOSED ON REDEVELOPMENT, THE SAME CONTROLS ARE ALSO APPLIED.

"HOWEVER, IT HAS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FOR EXISTING OPERATIONS IN THE OLDER URBAN AREAS THERE IS LITTLE THAT CAN BE DONE OTHER THAN TO MINIMISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCES THEY CAUSE," MR OXLEY SAID.

HE SAID THE CONTROL GOVERNMENT HAD AT PRESENT OVER THE USE OF BUILDINGS WAS PRIMARILY THROUGH THE ENFORCEMENT OF LEASE CONDITIONS.

"IN THE OLDER URBAN RESIDENTIAL AREAS, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT USUALLY POSSIBLE TO TAKE LEASE ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST CAR REPAIRING OPERATIONS BECAUSE THESE ARE OFTEN CARRIED OUT IN PREMISES WHERE THE USER CONDITIONS IN THE LEASES ARE EITHER SILENT OR UNRESTRICTED," MR OXLEY SAID.

"CAR REPAIRING OPERATIONS ARE REGARDED AS UNWELCOME IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS BECAUSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCES THESE TEND TO CREATE.

"HOWEVER, THIS IS A PERENNIAL PROBLEM, WHICH I CANNOT CLAIM THAT GOVERNMENT HAS SOLVED OR INDEED CAN ENTIRELY SOLVE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INTENSIFIED PUBLICITY, EDUCATION AGAINST PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS

\* \* \* \* \*

IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING TREND OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCE ABUSE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE ADVICE OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND HAS INTENSIFIED PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE THRUST OF THESE EFFORTS WAS TWO-FOLD, MR BARNES SAID IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG.

/MR BARNES .....

MR BARNES SAID THE NUMBER OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCE ABUSERS AGED UNDER 21 REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE DID NOT REVEAL THE FULL PICTURE, BUT IT INDICATED A DEFINITE UPWARD TREND IN PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

THE NUMBER OF SUCH ABUSERS REPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS WERE 58 IN 1985, 131 IN 1986, 160 IN 1987, 256 IN 1988, AND 286 UP TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

"THE DRUGS MOST COMMONLY ABUSED ARE CANNABIS, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 54 PER CENT OF NEW CASES IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1989, AND MANDRAX, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 17 PER CENT OF THESE CASES," MR BARNES SAID.

THERE WERE MANY REASONS WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ABUSED DRUGS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY SAID.

"THE COMMON CAUSES ARE THOUGHT TO BE CURIOSITY, PEER PRESSURE, A MISPLACED DESIRE FOR FUN AND EXCITEMENT AND THE MISCONCEPTION THAT PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS ARE HARMLESS.

"MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ALSO TEND TO IMITATE FOREIGN FASHIONS AND FOR SOME, REGRETTABLY, THIS INCLUDES TAKING DRUGS," HE EXPLAINED.

ON THE TWO-FOLD THRUST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS, MR BARNES SAID: "FIRSTLY, PUBLICITY IS DIRECTED AT THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, AND PARENTS IN PARTICULAR TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT IN ACTIVELY DISCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM STARTING ON DRUGS.

"AND SECONDLY, WE AIM TO PROMOTE AND EXPAND DRUG EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, WHICH STARTS AT PRIMARY 6 IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF BASIC HEALTH EDUCATION."

HE SAID THE DANGERS OF DRUGS WERE COVERED IN GREATER DETAIL IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL STUDIES, ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MORAL EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

MR BARNES SAID TO REMIND THOSE WHO HAD LEFT SCHOOLS OF THE DANGERS OF DRUGS, THE NARCOTICS DIVISION GAVE DRUG EDUCATION TALKS TO YOUNGSTERS IN YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, BOYS' AND GIRLS' HOMES AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDED THE ACAN YOUTH VOLUNTEER GROUP WHICH SOLICITED YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGNS AND THE YOUTH AGAINST DRUGS SCHEME WHICH PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE FROM YOUTH CENTRES, FACTORIES AND SCHOOLS TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROJECTS.

MR BARNES SAID IN DECEMBER 1988, A YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM A CROSS-SECTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAD BEEN FORMED TO ADVISE ACAN ON THE CURRENT THINKING OF YOUNGSTERS ON DRUG ABUSE ISSUES SO THAT REALISTIC PUBLICITY STRATEGIES COULD BE FORMULATED TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM IMPACT ON THE YOUNG.

ON THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SIDE, POLICE AND CUSTOMS ACTION IN 1989 RESULTED IN THE SEIZURE OF OVER 400 KILOGRAMS OF CANNABIS.

THERE WAS A SLIGHT REDUCTION IN THE SEIZURE OF MANDRAX TABLETS WITH ABOUT 5,000 TABLETS SEIZED IN 1989 COMPARED TO 6,400 SEIZED IN 1988.

THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE CONTROLS WHICH HAD BEEN IMPOSED BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ON THE MANUFACTURE, SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DRUG SINCE LATE 1986, MR BARNES ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SHA ON PROPERTY OWNERSHIP BY PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING A PUBLIC DEBATE ON HOUSING SUBSIDY POLICY IN 1986, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION BY PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS SHOULD NOT BE SINGLED OUT AS A CONSIDERATION FOR THE TENANTS' ELIGIBILITY TO REMAIN IN SUBSIDISED HOUSING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG.

MR TSAO SAID THAT HOWEVER, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY DECIDED THAT THE RELATIVELY PROSPEROUS TENANTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, RATHER THAN REQUIRED, TO VACATE THEIR PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS IN FAVOUR OF THOSE IN GREATER NEED.

HE SAID SINCE THE 1986 REVIEW ON HOUSING SUBSIDY, THIS POLICY HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY GIVING PRIORITY STATUS TO SITTING TENANTS IF THEY CHOSE TO PURCHASE AN HOME OWNERSHIP FLAT, AND MORE RECENTLY, TO TAKE OUT AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN TO PURCHASE A PRIVATE SECTOR FLAT, AND BY REQUIRING WELL-OFF TENANTS TO PAY HIGHER RENTS.

THE PRESENT HOUSING SUBSIDY POLICY HAD PROVED SUCCESSFUL, AND THE AUTHORITY INTENDED TO CONTINUE WITH IT "ALTHOUGH ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE REQUIRED IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCE IN FUTURE", HE ADDED.

EARLIER, MR TSAO SAID THERE WAS NO READILY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WHO WERE OWNERS OF PRIVATE DOMESTIC UNITS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STEPS TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE EXPANSION OF INTER'L SCHOOLS COMMUNITY

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO ENCOURAGE THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS COMMUNITY TO EXPAND FOLLOWING THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS LAST OCTOBER, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAUL CHENG MING-FUN, MR YEUNG SAID INSOFAR AS THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION WAS CONCERNED, ADDITIONAL PRIMARY PLACES WERE BEING PROVIDED BY EARLY 1991 IN NORTH KOWLOON AND SAI KUNG TO MEET THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN DEMAND ARISING FROM KNOWN PLANS TO EMPLOY LARGE NUMBERS OF EXPATRIATE STAFF IN THE AREA.

"TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON DEMAND FOR SECONDARY PLACES ON HONG KONG ISLAND, TWO EXISTING SCHOOLS HAVE INCREASED THEIR CAPACITY TEMPORARILY, AND A NEW ONE WILL BE BUILT, WITH A PLANNED OPENING DATE OF SEPTEMBER 1993," MR YEUNG SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT, ENROLMENT AT ALL ESF SCHOOLS WAS AT 85 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

"THE 1,300 ADDITIONAL PLACES ENVISAGED IN THE ESF'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS WILL INCREASE THE EXISTING CAPACITY BY 14 PER CENT AND THIS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET LIKELY FUTURE DEMAND," HE SAID.

PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS WHICH MET SPECIFIED CRITERIA WERE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS OF LAND AT A NOMINAL PREMIUM, MR YEUNG EXPLAINED.

"SEVEN SITES HAVE BEEN GRANTED SO FAR, AND THREE APPLICATIONS ARE BEING PROCESSED : TWO FOR EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING SCHOOLS AND ONE FOR A NEW SCHOOL.

"ABOUT 2,000 ADDITIONAL PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED, AN INCREASE OF 49 PER CENT OVER EXISTING CAPACITY," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE NEW DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME, PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD FOR THE FIRST TIME, BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A RECURRENT SUBSIDY.

"IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE LEVEL OF RECURRENT SUBSIDY WOULD BE AT LEAST 25 PER CENT OF THE COST OF AN AIDED SCHOOL PLACE.

"FURTHER DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WILL BE SENT TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT TO ENSURE THAT INTERESTED PARENTS, INCLUDING RETURNED EMIGRANTS, HAD ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION HAD ENCOURAGED SUCH SCHOOLS TO CO-OPERATE IN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

/"AS A .....

"AS A FIRST STEP ALL THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS NOW PROVIDE EACH OTHER WITH STOCKS OF RELEVANT MATERIALS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ENQUIRING PARENTS.

"THIS MEASURE WILL BE REVIEWED TOWARDS THE END OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR WHEN FURTHER MEASURES WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED," MR YEUNG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

39 MONUMENTS PROTECTED UNDER ORDINANCE  
\* \* \* \* \*

THERE ARE 39 MONUMENTS PROTECTED UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE, INCLUDING ROCK CARVINGS, FORTIFICATIONS, TEMPLES, ANCESTRAL HALLS AND PRIVATE RESIDENCES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR TSAO SAID THERE WAS A CONTINUAL PROCESS OF REVIEWING HISTORIC BUILDINGS, AND AT PRESENT 10 POTENTIAL MONUMENTS WERE BEING CONSIDERED FOR PROTECTION UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

"IN ADDITION, OVER 400 HISTORIC BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN CATALOGUED BY THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE AND NOTIFIED TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SO THAT EARLY WARNING CAN BE GIVEN IF THE BUILDINGS MAY BE AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

ON THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSERVATION OF DECLARED OR DEEMED-TO-BE MONUMENTS, MR TSAO SAID THESE VARIED ACCORDING TO WHETHER THE MONUMENT WAS IN GOVERNMENT USE.

HE SAID THE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MONUMENTS AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS USED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, SUCH AS THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND THE LAW UK FOLK MUSEUM, WERE FUNDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

"IN 1989-90, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BUDGETTED \$5.91 MILLION FOR THE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MONUMENTS, AND \$4.21 MILLION FOR HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

"FOR MONUMENTS WHICH ARE NOT IN GOVERNMENT USE, THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE HAS PROVISION FOR JUST OVER \$1 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, SUBJECT TO A LIMIT ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS OF \$300,000," MR TSAO SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EX-POW, WAR WIDOW GRANT RATES REVIEWED ANNUALLY  
\* \* \* \* \*

TO ENSURE THAT THE REAL PURCHASING POWER OF GRANTS MADE TO EX-PRISONERS OF WAR AND WAR WIDOWS IS MAINTAINED, THE RATES ARE REVIEWED ANNUALLY AND ARE ADJUSTED IN LINE WITH INFLATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG, MRS WONG SAID THERE WERE 314 EX-PRISONERS OF WAR AND 193 WAR WIDOWS CURRENTLY RECEIVING GRANTS OR OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND.

"THE GRANTS CURRENTLY BEING PAID AMOUNT TO \$2,460 PER MONTH FOR A SINGLE ADULT AND \$4,140 PER MONTH FOR A MARRIED COUPLE," SHE SAID.

ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE OTHER ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS PAYABLE TO MEET SPECIFIC NEEDS.

"ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CONSIDERED THAT THERE IS A CASE FOR PENSIONS AS OF RIGHT TO BE PAID TO EX-PRISONERS OF WAR, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE HAVE ALWAYS RECOGNISED THE SPECIAL DEBT TO THOSE WHO SERVED HONG KONG LOYALLY DURING THE WAR, INCLUDING PRISONERS OF WAR.

"THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND WAS ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE THAT EX-PRISONERS OF WAR AND THEIR WIDOWS WHO WERE IN NEED SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY PROVIDED FOR," MRS WONG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR CHOICE AND PROTECTION  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID 682 FILMS, REPRESENTATING 48 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FILMS PASSED, HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH CERTIFICATES UNDER CATEGORY III SINCE THE EXISTING FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM CAME INTO FORCE IN NOVEMBER 1988.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON DANIEL TSE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR TSAO SAID THAT HOWEVER, THERE WAS AN APPARENT DOWNWARD TREND IN MORE RECENT FIGURES.

"FILM DISTRIBUTORS HAVE RESUBMITTED FILMS WHICH WERE BANNED OR SEVERELY CUT UNDER THE PREVIOUSLY, MORE RESTRICTIVE SYSTEM.

"WE EXPECT THE PROPORTION OF CATEGORY III FILMS TO DROP GRADUALLY AS THIS BACKLOG IS CLEARED," HE SAID.

/MR TSAO .....

MR TSAO ADDED THAT THE NUMBER OF CINEMAS SHOWING CATEGORY III FILMS VARIED BETWEEN NINE PER CENT AND 33 PER CENT AND THE SITUATION WAS AFFECTED BY THE SUPPLY AND THE COMMERCIAL VIABILITY OF THE FILMS.

"THE CURRENT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN IN FORCE FOR JUST OVER A YEAR. I DOUBT IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME TO ASSESS WHETHER AND WHAT SOCIAL IMPACT CATEGORY III FILMS HAVE HAD ON OUR COMMUNITY.

"WE ARE, HOWEVER, SATISFIED THAT THE TWIN OBJECTS OF THE FILM CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, THAT IS A WIDER CHOICE FOR THE ADULTS AND THE PROTECTION OF MINORS, ARE BEING ACHIEVED," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MEASURES PROVED SUCCESSFUL

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MEASURES HAVE PROVED SUCCESSFUL IN CURBING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT INTEND TO REVIEW ITS EXISTING POLICIES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU, MR BARNES SAID ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WAS REGARDED BY MOST COUNTRIES AS A SERIOUS OFFENCE AND THAT IN THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS PARTICULARLY TO STRENGTHEN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MEASURES.

"THESE INCLUDE THE PROSECUTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA WHO HAVE COMMITTED OFFENCES UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE BY LANDING OR REMAINING IN HONG KONG WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE APPROPRIATE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITY - FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE WHO EVADE CAPTURE ON ENTRY AND WHO ARE LATER FOUND AT PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, WHETHER FROM CHINA OR ANYWHERE ELSE, HAD THE SAME RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS ANY OTHER PERSON BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURTS.

"THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA IMPRISONED IN HONG KONG AT ANY ONE TIME VARIES ACCORDING TO THE LEVEL OF PROSECUTIONS AND THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS RELEASED FOR REPATRIATION TO CHINA.

"IN THE 12 MONTHS UP TO THE END OF 1989, ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA ACCOUNTED FOR SOME 25 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PRISON POPULATION," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT EVEN THOUGH PRESSURES ON PRISON ACCOMMODATION REMAINED SERIOUS, THERE HAD RECENTLY BEEN SOME REDUCTION AND THE OCCUPANCY RATE HAD DROPPED FROM A HIGH OF 130.5 PER CENT LAST OCTOBER TO 123.8 PER CENT AT THE END OF LAST MONTH.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REVIEWS OF CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME,  
CIVIL SERVICE DEATH AND INJURY BENEFITS

\* \* \* \* \*

A SPECIAL REVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME HAS BEEN COMPLETED RECENTLY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS ARE BEING CONSIDERED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, SIR DAVID ALSO SAID A FULL-SCALE REVIEW WAS BEING MADE OF DUTY-RELATED DEATH AND INJURY BENEFITS APPLICABLE TO CIVIL SERVANTS AND DEPENDANTS.

MR POON'S QUESTION WAS IN TWO PARTS: CONCERNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED WHEN A CIVIL SERVANT DIED OR WAS INJURED WHILE ON DUTY; AND ASSISTANCE PROVIDED WHEN A CITIZEN DIED OR WAS INJURED IN HELPING TO FIGHT CRIME.

ON THE LATTER, SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN MAY 1973, THE RATES OF COMPENSATION WERE REVISED FROM TIME TO TIME, USUALLY ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, TO KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION AND THE INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE WAGES OF MANUFACTURING WORKERS.

SIR DAVID SAID THE SCHEME PROVIDED EX-GRATIA CRIMINAL INJURY COMPENSATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURY COMPENSATION BOTH TO THOSE WHO WERE INJURED, DISABLED OR KILLED AS A RESULT OF A CRIME OF VIOLENCE AND TO THOSE WHO WERE ACCIDENTALLY INJURED, DISABLED OR KILLED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER USING A WEAPON IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS DUTY.

THE SCHEME, ADMINISTERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD, WAS NON-MEANS TESTED. PAYMENTS UNDER THE SCHEME WERE MADE FROM PUBLIC FUNDS.

SIR DAVID SAID CASH COMPENSATION WAS PAID IN THE CASE OF DEATH OR INJURY OF VICTIMS AS A RESULT OF:

- (A) EFFECTING AN ARREST OR ATTEMPTED ARREST OF AN OFFENDER OR SUSPECTED OFFENDER; OR
- (B) PREVENTING OR ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME; OR
- (C) GIVING HELP TO ANY POLICE OFFICER OR OTHER PERSON WHO WAS ENGAGED IN EITHER OF THE TWO ACTIVITIES IN (A) AND (B) ABOVE.

"THE RATES OF PAYMENT IN THESE CASES ARE BASED ON THOSE PAYABLE TO VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

/THE AMOUNT .....

"THE AMOUNT PAYABLE DEPENDS ON INDIVIDUAL CASE CIRCUMSTANCES (SUCH AS WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER WAGE EARNERS IN THE FAMILY AND THE NUMBER OF DEPENDANTS) AND THE GRAVITY OF INJURIES SUSTAINED, RANGING FROM A MINIMUM OF \$270 FOR INJURY RESULTING IN ONLY ONE DAY'S SICK LEAVE, TO A MAXIMUM OF \$87,170 FOR DEATH," SIR DAVID EXPLAINED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURY COMPENSATION BOARDS HAD THE DISCRETIONARY POWER TO INCREASE THE "NORMAL" RATE OF COMPENSATION BY UP TO 100 PER CENT IF THE INCIDENT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE BOARDS AS A "COURAGEOUS ACT" IN ASSISTING IN THE PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF CRIME.

HE SAID ONE RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECENT REVIEW WAS TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE BOARDS' DISCRETION TO INCLUDE VICTIMS WHO, SUBSEQUENT TO THE EVENT GIVING RISE TO A CLAIM, HAD MADE EXEMPLARY EFFORTS, IN THE FACE OF PERSONAL EMBARRASSMENT, INCONVENIENCE OR DANGER TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF AN OFFENDER OR SUSPECTED OFFENDER.

"THIS EXTENSION OF THE DISCRETION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE RATIONALE FOR EXISTING DISCRETION," HE SAID.

ON THE PART OF THE QUESTION CONCERNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED WHEN A CIVIL SERVANT DIED OR WAS INJURED ON DUTY, SIR DAVID SAID THAT IF A CIVIL SERVANT DIED WHILE ON DUTY THE OFFICER'S DEPENDANTS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR -

- (A) A DEATH GRATUITY;
- (B) EX-GRATIA PAYMENT FOR UNTAKEN LEAVE;
- (C) ENTITLEMENT UNDER EITHER THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSION SCHEME OR WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION SCHEME IF HE HAD BEEN A CONTRIBUTOR;
- (D) A DEPENDANT'S PENSION IF THE DECEASED OFFICER WAS SURVIVED BY SPOUSE, CHILDREN OR PARENTS OR LUMP SUM COMPENSATION PAYABLE UNDER THE EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ORDINANCE; AND
- (E) FUNERAL EXPENSES OF \$23,300.

AS FOR AN OFFICER WHO HAD BEEN INJURED ON DUTY, SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD BE GIVEN PAID SICK LEAVE AND FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

"IF PERMANENTLY INJURED AND IF HIS CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO HIS OWN SUPPORT BECOMES IMPAIRED AT OR AFTER RETIREMENT BECAUSE OF THE INJURY, AN ADDITIONAL PENSION IS PAYABLE ON RETIREMENT.

"THE INJURED OFFICER CAN OPT FOR LUMP SUM COMPENSATION UNDER THE EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ORDINANCE IN LIEU OF THE ADDITIONAL PENSION," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF DUTY-RELATED DEATH AND INJURED BENEFITS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS HAD BEEN IN PLACE SINCE 1949.

THE LEVEL OF BENEFITS HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN SUBJECT TO PERIODIC REVIEWS AND ADJUSTMENTS, HE SAID.

"A FULL SCALE REVIEW OF DEPENDANT PENSIONS AND RELATED BENEFITS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS IS IN PROGRESS AT PRESENT.

"THE AIM IS TO UPDATE THE PROVISIONS AND TO REMOVE ANOMALIES IN THE LIGHT OF PRESENT DAY CIRCUMSTANCES.

"IT IS PREMATURE TO SAY AT THIS STAGE WHAT IMPROVEMENTS SPECIFICALLY WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF  
CHINESE-MEDIUM SECONDARY EDUCATION

\* \* \* \* \*

A WORKING GROUP WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS RECOMMENDED THAT EACH STUDENT GROUP BE EDUCATED THROUGH THE LANGUAGE MEDIUM MOST LIKELY TO LEAD TO HIS OR HER MAXIMUM COGNITIVE AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K. Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR YEUNG SAID THE WORKING GROUP ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT ENGLISH SHOULD ONLY BE USED AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WHERE STUDENTS COULD BENEFIT FROM IT, AND THAT FUNDS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED TO STRENGTHEN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS IN WHICH CHINESE WAS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

MOREOVER, IT RECOMMENDED THAT ENGLISH AND CHINESE SHOULD BE EQUALLY EFFECTIVELY USED AS MEDIA UP TO AND INCLUDING ADVANCED-LEVEL COURSES, AND THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT CLEAR-CUT POLICIES OF LANGUAGE USE - THAT IS, WHETHER A PARTICULAR CLASS WAS TO USE ENGLISH OR CHINESE FOR ALL SUBJECTS.

MR YEUNG SAID THE WORKING GROUP CARRIED OUT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES IN 1989, AND SEVERAL OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE-MEDIUM SECONDARY EDUCATION.

"THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE GOVERNMENT IN DETERMINING THE POSSIBLE FUTURE DIRECTION OF LANGUAGE POLICY.

"THIS WILL INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE POLICY RELATING TO THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS SHOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED," MR YEUNG POINTED OUT.

/MR YEUNG .....

MR YEUNG SAID VARIOUS LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WHICH DISCRIMINATED IN FAVOUR OF THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, AND WHICH AT THE SAME TIME STRENGTHENED THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AND CHINESE, HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1986. THESE INCLUDED:

- (A) THE SETTING UP OF A CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE IN MAY 1986 TO ENCOURAGE PUBLISHERS TO PRODUCE GOOD QUALITY TEXTBOOKS IN CHINESE: THIS HAD RESULTED IN THE PRODUCTION OF 59 ADDITIONAL SETS OF SUCH BOOKS FOR USE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, WITH A FURTHER 16 SETS NOW BEING DEVELOPED FOR PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS;
- (B) THE PUBLICATION OF HANDBOOKS WITH TECHNICAL TERMS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE FOR 19 SUBJECTS BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TOWARDS THE END OF 1986;
- (C) THE MODIFICATION OF ALL TEACHER TRAINING COURSES SINCE SEPTEMBER 1986, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR A WIDER USE OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AND THE ORGANISATION OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES FOR TEACHERS TO ASSIST THEM TO COPE WITH THE CHANGE IN THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION; AND
- (D) THE PROVISION SINCE SEPTEMBER 1988 OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO THOSE PUBLIC-SECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH HAD OPTED TO INCREASE THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, IN THE FORM OF:
  - (1) ADDITIONAL TEACHERS OF ENGLISH;
  - (2) FUNDS FOR PARTITIONING OF CLASSROOMS TO CREATE SMALLER ROOMS FOR SPLIT-CLASS LANGUAGE TEACHING;
  - (3) A SECONDARY WIREFREE INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEM FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING; AND
  - (4) A ONE-OFF LIBRARY GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL READING MATERIALS AS WELL AS OTHER TEACHING/LEARNING AIDS.

MR YEUNG SAID THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WERE PROVIDED ON A SCALE RELATED TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS OPTED TO USE CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

HE SAID RESEARCH ON THE CHANGE OF MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SINCE SEPTEMBER 1988.

THE RESEARCH WAS A THREE-YEAR PROJECT, DESIGNED TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF THE CHANGE OF THE TEACHING MEDIUM ON THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS OF STUDENTS AND ON OTHER VARIABLES, SUCH AS OPERATIONAL ASPECTS IN CLASSROOM SITUATIONS AND STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS LEARNING.

THE SAMPLE FOR THIS STUDY COMPRISED 11 SCHOOLS WHICH HAD OPTED TO CHANGE THE TEACHING MEDIUM FROM ENGLISH TO CHINESE, MATCHED AGAINST A FURTHER 11 CONTROL SCHOOLS.

SAMPLING CRITERIA INCLUDED THE SSPA PERFORMANCE OF THE SECONDARY 1 ENTRANTS AND THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS OF THE SCHOOLS, TO ENSURE COMPARABILITY OF ACADEMIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF STUDENTS.

MR YEUNG SAID THE FIRST YEAR OF THE STUDY INDICATED THAT THE SECONDARY 1 PUPILS IN THE 11 SAMPLE SCHOOLS AS A WHOLE HAD SHOWN IMPROVED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND MORE POSITIVE LEARNING ATTITUDES THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE CONTROL SCHOOLS.

"THE EFFECTS OF THE CHANGE OF THE TEACHING MEDIUM, WITH THE CONCOMITANT USE OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND REFERENCE MATERIALS WRITTEN IN THE PUPILS' FAMILIAR LANGUAGE, MIGHT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE OBSERVED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS.

"HOWEVER, AS THE STUDY HAS ONLY BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR ONE YEAR, IT IS TOO EARLY AT THIS STAGE TO DRAW FIRM CONCLUSIONS," MR YEUNG POINTED OUT.

HE ADDED THAT IN OCTOBER 1984, 57 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR USED CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION IN SEPTEMBER 1988 OF THE POLICY TO ENCOURAGE THE GREATER USE OF CHINESE, A FURTHER 69 PUBLIC-SECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAD INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF CHINESE USED IN TEACHING IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCH SCHOOLS WAS THEREFORE AT PRESENT 126.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 PASSED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989, IN WHICH PENALTIES PROPOSED ARE IN MANY CASES CONSIDERABLE, WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE INCREASED PENALTIES WERE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AND TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF INFLATION SINCE THE LAST REVISION IN 1984.

HE SAID THIS WHEN HE WAS MOVING THE RESUMED SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE BILL.

THANKING THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG FOR HIS COMMENTS ON THE BILL, SIR PIERS ADDED THAT THE PENALTIES WERE MAXIMUM PENALTIES.

/"IT IS .....

"IT IS FOR THE COURT TO DECIDE UPON THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF PENALTY IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMPANY DIRECTORS TO ACQUAINT THEMSELVES FULLY WITH THEIR DUTIES UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, AND TO BE AWARE OF THE PENALTIES INVOLVED FOR FAILING TO FULFIL THOSE DUTIES.

REFERRING TO MR WONG'S REMARK ON THE PROVISION UNDER SECTION 89(4) WHICH REQUIRED A COMPANY TO KEEP A REGISTER OF CHARGES, SIR PIERS SAID THE PROVISION WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION RELATING TO A COMPANY'S CHARGES AND THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE REGISTER HAD TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES.

"THIS INFORMATION IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO CREDITORS AND SHAREHOLDERS," HE SAID.

AS TO THE QUESTION OF PUBLICITY, SIR PIERS SAID A PRESS RELEASE WOULD BE ISSUED TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE NEW PENALTIES.

"IN ADDITION, THERE ARE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE AT THE COMPANIES REGISTRY ON SELECTED PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO BE FILED WITH THE COMPANIES REGISTRY," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COMPANIES BILL A COMMENDABLE EFFORT

\* \* \* \* \*

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 IS A COMMENDABLE EFFORT TO RATIONALISE THE FINES AND PUNISHMENTS FOR THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

BUT HE URGED THE AUTHORITIES TO APPLY THESE FINES WITH CARE TO ENSURE FAIRNESS.

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE OF THE BILL, MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THE TRACK RECORD OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS APPLYING INCREASED PENALTIES HAD BEEN PERCEIVED BY THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION AS ONE OF UNCARING BUREAUCRACY, SUCH AS THE PENALTIES FOR LATE FILING OF ANNUAL RETURNS AND LATE FILING OF TAX RETURNS.

HE NOTED THAT SECTION 89(4) PROVIDED FOR A PUNISHMENT OF \$25,000 AND A DAILY FINE OF \$500 IF A COMPANY FAILED TO KEEP A REGISTER OF CHARGES OR FAILED TO NOTIFY THE REGISTRAR WHERE THE REGISTER OF CHARGES WAS KEPT.

"WHILST THIS MAY BE FITTING TO A COMPANY WHICH HAS PURPOSELY TRIED TO HIDE A CHARGE FROM ITS CREDITORS, IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR DIRECTORS TO BE IGNORANT ABOUT THE NEED TO UPKEEP A REGISTER OF CHARGES UNTIL THE OMISSION IS POINTED OUT TO THEM AT THE TIME OF THE AUDIT.

"IT WOULD BE VERY UNFAIR TO LEVY THE FULL FINES IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL PASSED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL 1989, WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A STATUTORY CORPORATION TO BE KNOWN AS THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD, WAS PASSED INTO LAW TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT IN HONG KONG HAD REACHED A STAGE WHERE A STATUTORY BODY WITH EXECUTIVE POWERS WOULD NEED TO BE ESTABLISHED TO CO-ORDINATE THE VARIOUS EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES.

"THE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY AT THE DISTRICT AND REGIONAL LEVEL, HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE RECOGNISED," MR TSAO SAID IN REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG DURING THE DEBATE.

HE ASSURED MR CHEUNG THAT THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD WOULD SEEK TO INTERFACE WITH AND SUPPORT THE TWO COUNCILS' WORK, WITHOUT DUPLICATION OR INFRINGEMENT. HE ALSO THANKED MR CHEUNG FOR HIS SUPPORT FOR THE BILL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OPPORTUNE TIME TO ESTABLISH ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION BODY

\* \* \* \* \*

THE CREATION OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION (HKCAA) HAS COME AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME AS THE GOVERNMENT EMBARKS ON ITS PLAN TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY THE PROVISION OF DEGREE LEVEL PLACES, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K. Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID AS A LOCALLY BASED BODY, THE COUNCIL WOULD BE BETTER PLACED THAN OVERSEAS ORGANISATIONS TO ADVISE, ASSESS AND ACCREDIT DEGREE COURSES.

MR YEUNG WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION BILL 1990.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AS A PROFESSIONAL BODY THAT HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED EXTENSIVE OVERSEAS CONTACTS UNDER THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL, THE HKCAA WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERNATIONAL STANDING OF HONG KONG'S DEGREES.

"THIS IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN ENSURING THAT THE EXPANSION OF OUR TERTIARY EDUCATION IS NOT BEING ACHIEVED AT THE EXPENSE OF QUALITY.

"THE HKCAA WILL THUS BE AN INDISPENSABLE COMPONENT OF OUR EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE HKCAA WOULD BE TO ASSESS THE ACADEMIC STANDING OF DEGREE COURSES AT HONG KONG'S NON-UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS, WITH THE AIM OF ENSURING THAT THE DEGREES THEY AWARDED WOULD BE OF A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH STANDARD TO ENJOY RECOGNITION WORLD-WIDE.

THE HKCAA WOULD REPLACE BRITAIN'S COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS, ON WHOSE SERVICES HONG KONG HAD RELIED OVER THE PAST DECADE.

"OUR INTENTION IS THAT THE TWO POLYTECHNICS, THE BAPTIST COLLEGE, THE OPENING LEARNING INSTITUTE AND THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS WILL MAKE USE OF THE SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED BY THE HKCAA.

"OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE SUPPORTED WITH PUBLIC FUNDS, WILL ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO THE SERVICES OF THE COUNCIL SUBJECT TO THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNOR," MR YEUNG SAID.

THE COUNCIL WOULD INITIALLY UNDERTAKE COURSE-BY-COURSE VALIDATION OF NEW DEGREE COURSES AND RE-VALIDATION OF EXISTING ONES AT THE NON-UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS.

THE COUNCIL WOULD ALSO UNDERTAKE SOME INSTITUTIONAL REVIEWS TO DETERMINE WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS WERE CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING DEGREE PROGRAMMES.

"I EXPECT THE COUNCIL WILL GRADUALLY WIDEN THE SCOPE OF ITS WORK BY HELPING THE MORE MATURE INSTITUTIONS TO VALIDATE AND RE-VALIDATE THEIR OWN DEGREES," MR YEUNG SAID.

HE SAID HE ENVISAGED THAT THE HKCAA WOULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREDIT UNIT SYSTEMS AT THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

"THIS WOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION THIRD REPORT AND WOULD PROVIDE BOTH THE INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR STUDENTS WITH A DEGREE OF CHOICE AND FLEXIBILITY.

"I ALSO SEE THE HKCAA DEVELOPING LINKS WITH ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION AGENCIES ELSEWHERE FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE.

"CLEARLY, THE LINKING OF SYSTEMS OF CREDIT TRANSFER IS AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF FURTHERING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS," MR YEUNG ADDED.

THE HKCAA WOULD HAVE A MAXIMUM OF 22 MEMBERS, INCLUDING DISTINGUISHED LOCAL AND OVERSEAS ACADEMICS, AS WELL AS LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF HONG KONG'S PROFESSIONS, INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE.

IT WOULD BE SERVICED BY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHO WAS ALREADY IN POST, AND SUPPORTED BY A SECRETARIAT.

MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CREATE SUCH A BODY WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER 1987, AND THE TASK OF ADVISING THE GOVERNMENT FELL TO THE PROVISIONAL HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION.

HE SAID THE BILL HAD BEEN DRAWN UP ON THE ADVICE OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL.

"I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE ON RECORD THE GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION OF THE PREPARATORY WORK IT HAS DONE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

"THE BILL GIVES THE HKCAA THE NECESSARY POWERS TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDES THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR AN INDEPENDENT, PUBLICLY ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTION," MR YEUNG CONCLUDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY LEGISLATION ON GASES

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GAS SAFETY BILL 1990 SEEKS TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY LEGISLATION WITH RESPECT TO FUEL GASES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MRS CHAN SAID IT COVERED BOTH LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) AND TOWN GAS, AS WELL AS OTHER GASES, SUCH AS NATURAL GAS AND BIOGAS, THAT MIGHT BE USED AS FUEL SOURCES IN FUTURE.

SHE SAID PROVISION WAS MADE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF FUEL GAS IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, TRANSPORT, SUPPLY AND USE TO BE CONTROLLED IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY.

"THIS LEGISLATION HAS ITS ROOTS IN THE FINDINGS OF A CONSULTANCY STUDY ON GAS SAFETY IN THE EARLY 1980'S WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING A SPATE OF FUEL GAS-RELATED FATALITIES.

"AS A RESULT OF THAT CONSULTANCY STUDY, THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED A GAS ADVISOR'S OFFICE (SINCE RENAMED THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE), WHICH HAS INSTIGATED WIDE-RANGING SAFETY MEASURES WITH THE VOLUNTARY CO-OPERATION OF THE GAS INDUSTRY.

/"IN LARGE .....

"IN LARGE MEASURE THE PROVISIONS OF THE GAS SAFETY LEGISLATION WILL GIVE LEGISLATIVE BACKING TO THE MEASURES ALREADY ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL GAS INDUSTRY AND ENSURE THEIR CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE LEGISLATION HAD BEEN WIDELY CIRCULATED IN DRAFT FORM TO INTERESTED BODIES OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT SUCH AS THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL.

IT HAD ALSO BEEN THE SUBJECT OF LINE BY LINE CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL GAS INDUSTRY.

"THIS CONSULTATION AND THE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE GAINED SINCE 1982 IN IMPROVING GAS SAFETY HAS RESULTED IN LEGISLATION WHICH IS TAILOR-MADE TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

"FURTHERMORE, AS A RESULT OF MEASURES INSTIGATED AND OVERSEEN BY THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE SUCH AS THE DRAWING UP OF CODES OF PRACTICE AND THE TRAINING OF LPG INSTALLERS, THE FUEL GAS INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE IS NOW GEARED UP TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS WIDE RANGING LEGISLATION, WHICH REPRESENTS A MAJOR ADVANCE FOR GAS SAFETY IN HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE BILL INCLUDED THE APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC OFFICER AS THE GAS AUTHORITY TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGISLATION.

A GAS SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS ALSO PROVIDED FOR TO ADVISE THE GAS AUTHORITY ON MATTERS RELATING TO FUEL GAS SAFETY.

THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE CHAIRED BY THE GAS AUTHORITY AND TO COMPRISE MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT PUBLIC OFFICERS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

"THE DETAILED TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION SCHEMES NECESSARY TO ENSURE FUEL GAS SAFETY WILL BE CONTAINED IN REGULATIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

"POWERS TO MAKE THE REQUIRED REGULATIONS ARE SET OUT IN THE BILL," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID SIX SETS OF REGULATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN PREPARED AND APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENTATION AFTER ENACTMENT OF THE BILL.

THESE REGULATIONS PROVIDED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- SAFETY SPECIFICATIONS ON THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF FUEL GASES;
- SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ON THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES, VEHICLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT USED IN RELATION TO THE SUPPLY OF FUEL GASES;
- REGISTRATION SCHEMES FOR GAS SUPPLY COMPANIES, GAS CONTRACTORS AND GAS INSTALLERS;

/- SAFETY REQUIREMENTS .....

- SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ON THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF GAS FITTINGS, INCLUDING DOMESTIC GAS APPLIANCES;
- AND APPROVAL BY THE GAS AUTHORITY OF SAFE FLEXIBLE GAS TUBING.

MRS CHAN SAID THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE GAS AUTHORITY TO DRAW UP AND APPROVE CODES OF PRACTICE CONTAINING THE DETAILED TECHNICAL PRACTICES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE GAS INDUSTRY IN ORDER TO MEET THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS OF THE LEGISLATION.

THE GAS AUTHORITY WAS EMPOWERED BY THE BILL TO APPOINT INSPECTORS TO CARRY OUT DUTIES ARISING FROM THE LEGISLATION.

PROVISION WAS MADE FOR THESE INSPECTORS TO HAVE SUITABLE POWERS OF ENTRY, SEARCH AND SEIZURE.

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE PROVISIONS TO ENABLE THE GAS AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION RELATED TO THE EXERCISE OF HIS FUNCTIONS.

"LASTLY, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF APPEAL BOARDS TO HEAR APPEALS AGAINST SPECIFIED DECISIONS OR ACTIONS OF THE GAS AUTHORITY.

"EACH APPEAL BOARD IS TO COMPRISE EIGHT MEMBERS, ONE OF WHICH IS A PUBLIC OFFICER, WHILE THE OTHER SEVEN MEMBERS ARE TO BE DRAWN FROM SPECIFIED CATEGORIES OF PERSON APPOINTED TO AN APPEAL BOARD PANEL.

"PROVISION IS MADE FOR THE PANEL TO INCLUDE: REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSUMERS; CORPORATE MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS; AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE GAS INDUSTRY," MRS CHAN SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWO BILLS PASSED

\* \* \* \*

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 AND THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL 1989 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TWO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION BILL 1990 AND THE GAS SAFETY BILL 1990.

DEBATES ON THE TWO BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

AT THE START OF THE MEETING, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON CLIVE OXLEY, TOOK THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEMBERSHIP OF YOUTH COMMISSION ANNOUNCED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH TO BE SET UP TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 15) TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON YOUTH MATTERS.

THE COMMISSION WILL BE CHAIRED BY EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MRS ROSANNA TAM. OTHER NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS ARE: MR DAVID CHEUNG CHI-KONG, MRS MIRIAM LAU KIN-YEE, DR NELSON CHOW WING-SUN, MR MAK HOI-WAH, MRS JOYCE TAI POON CHING-SHEUNG, MR CHEUNG YIN-TUNG, MR LO CHI-KIN, MR CHAN MO-POW, MR HOWARD YOUNG HOW-WAH AND MR CHAN KA-KUI.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE AND THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, WILL SERVE AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ON THE COMMISSION.

THE APPOINTMENTS, MADE BY THE GOVERNOR, ARE FOR ONE YEAR STARTING ON FEBRUARY 15.

OUTLINING THE NATURE OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO YOUTH.

"THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO AIM TO PROMOTE CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION IN THE DELIVERY OF YOUTH SERVICES AND SERVE AS A CONTACT POINT FOR YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES WITH OVERSEAS ORGANISATIONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSION WILL CONDUCT RESEARCH ON YOUTH, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ADVISORY BODIES, BASED ON THE FINDINGS.

"IN DOING SO, THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO DEVELOP A REPOSITORY OF INFORMATION ON YOUTH, AND PROVIDE USEFUL REFERENCE MATERIAL TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WITH YOUTH," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO YOUTH;
- (B) TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND INFORMATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BODIES ON YOUTH MATTERS WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THAT THE INTERESTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DESIGN OF RELEVANT SERVICES PROGRAMMES;
- (C) TO ENCOURAGE BETTER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS AND PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION;
- (D) TO GATHER INFORMATION AND INITIATE RESEARCH ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO YOUTH;

/(E) TO ACT .....

- (E) TO ACT AS A FOCAL LIAISON POINT WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, AND TO PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO ACQUIRE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND EXPOSURE;
- (F) TO ENHANCE THE CIVIC AWARENESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS; AND
- (G) TO PROMOTE LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE COMMISSION WILL BE SERVICED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW MEMBER APPOINTED TO EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR OF PROFESSOR CHARLES A.E. GOODHART TO THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

PROF GOODHART IS PROFESSOR OF BANKING AND FINANCE AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

PROF GOODHART WAS FORMERLY CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND. IN 1983, HE AND AN OFFICIAL FROM THE UK TREASURY WERE INVITED TO HONG KONG TO ADVISE THE FORMER FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMIDGE, ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM.

WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF PROF GOODHART, THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL COMPRISE:

CHAIRMAN, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY; AND MEMBERS, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM PURVES, CBE, DSO, JP, MR RONALD CARSTAIRS, THE HONOURABLE PETER POON WING-CHEUNG, OBE, JP, THE HONOURABLE DAVID LI KWOK-PO, JP, AND PROFESSOR CHARLES A.E. GOODHART.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEDICAL SERVICES IN NORTH DISTRICT ON AGENDA

\* \* \* \* \*

THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

AN INFORMATION PAPER RESPONDING TO MEMBERS' ENQUIRIES AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS TO FANLING HOSPITAL, AMBULANCE SERVICE AND STAFF MORALE WILL BE TABLED.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD FOR 1990-91.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE BOARD'S "MEET-THE-PUBLIC" SCHEME, APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS, AND A REPORT FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS TALLING ALMOST \$2 MILLION AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE SUBSIDIES WILL BE USED FOR ORGANISING FESTIVALS AND RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SPORT EVENTS IN 1990-91.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS BY THE SHA TIN ARTS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PREPARATION WORK FOR WAN CHAI GREENERY PROJECT COMPLETED  
\* \* \* \* \*

PREPARATION WORK FOR THE WAN CHAI GREENERY PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, AND A BRIEF CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17) MORNING TO MARK THIS OCCASION.

UNDER THIS DISTRICT BOARD SPONSORED PROJECT, 193 PLANTERS AND 66 POTS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE CENTRAL DIVIDER OR SUSPENDED FROM LAMPPOSTS ALONG LOCKHART ROAD TO BEAUTIFY THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE PROJECT IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG AND PREPARATION WORK HAS TAKEN ABOUT ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE. A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE TAKEN PART, INCLUDING THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, THE URBAN SERVICES, HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM; CHIEF HIGHWAYS ENGINEER, MR A.G.S. EVANS; AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEISURE OPERATIONS) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR JONATHAN NG.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION, MR FUNG SHUI-WING.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF PREPARATION WORK FOR THE WAN CHAI GREENERY PROJECT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 17). THE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM AT THE O'BRIEN ROAD FOOTBRIDGE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CAREERS DAYS TO HELP STUDENTS PLAN FOR FUTURE  
\* \* \* \* \*

SECONDARY STUDENTS WILL HAVE YET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A SERIES OF SIX CAREERS DAYS STARTING ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 16).

THE ANNUAL EVENT IS BEING ORGANISED FOR THE FOURTH YEAR RUNNING BY THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC).

IT AIMS TO PROVIDE CAREERS INFORMATION ON DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES AND TRADES AS WELL AS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE COUNCIL TO ENABLE FORM 3 TO FORM 5 STUDENTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WORLD OF WORK.

/EACH CAREERS .....

EACH CAREERS DAY WILL FEATURE A SERIES OF SPECIALIST TALKS ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, VISITS TO VTC TRAINING INSTITUTES AND TRAINING CENTRES, AND A MINI-EXHIBITION ON DIFFERENT CAREERS.

MORE THAN 20,000 STUDENTS FROM ABOUT 130 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE EVENTS.

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR HAROLD KWOK, AND THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, MR NGAI SHIU-KIT, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE CAREERS DAYS AT THE VTC KWAI CHUNG TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX ON FRIDAY.

THE SCHEDULE OF THE CAREERS DAYS IS AS FOLLOWS:

VENUE -----	DATE -----
KWAI CHUNG TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX	FEBRUARY 16
CHAI WAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	FEBRUARY 23
TUEN MUN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	FEBRUARY 26
SHA TIN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	FEBRUARY 28
KOWLOON BAY TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX	MARCH 2
LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	MARCH 5

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CAREERS DAYS WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 16) AT THE VTC KWAI CHUNG TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX, 13-19 SAN KWAI STREET, HA KWAI CHUNG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE TENANCY OF A 5,150-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT TAT CHEE AVENUE, KOWLOON FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK.

THE CARPARK WILL BE USED FOR THE PARKING OF PRIVATE CARS, TAXIS AND LIGHT VANS CURRENTLY LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE LEASE IS FOR TWO YEARS AND IS RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

TENDERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON MARCH 2 THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1990

- 24 -

APPLICATION BY POST CAN SAVE TIME

\* \* \* \* \*

DRIVERS AND VEHICLES OWNERS CAN AVOID HAVING TO QUEUE UP AT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICES IF THEY APPLY TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES BY POST.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS POSTAL APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF DRIVING LICENCES, LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCES AND VEHICLE LICENCES; THE ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS AND THE TRANSFER OF VEHICLE OWNERSHIP.

POSTAL APPLICATIONS, ACCOMPANIED BY RELEVANT FORMS, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND APPROPRIATE FEES IN CHEQUES, SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL TO P.O. BOX 69511, KWUN TONG POST OFFICE.

APPLICATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE OR DRIVING TEST SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY POST TO P.O. BOX 73323, KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE.

THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED ON THE DAY THEY ARE RECEIVED. NORMALLY LICENCES WILL BE SENT TO THE APPLICANTS BY REGISTERED MAIL WITHIN SEVEN WORKING DAYS.

THE LICENSING OFFICES ARE USUALLY MORE CROWDED DURING THE BEGINNING AND END OF EACH MONTH.

ON EXTREMELY BUSY DAYS, THE FOUR LICENSING OFFICES WILL ADOPT A QUOTA SYSTEM TO COPE WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS.

UNDER THE SYSTEM, APPLICANTS ARE GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT DISC FOR A SPECIFIED TIME TO HAND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS. THE APPOINTMENT DISCS WILL BE HANDED OUT ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THE QUOTA SYSTEM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WHENEVER IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF THE LICENSING OFFICES.

"IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE QUOTA SYSTEM HAD BEEN ADOPTED ON AN AD HOC BASIS TO ENCOURAGE APPLICANTS TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE LESS BUSY PERIODS OF THE MONTH," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED THOSE WHO WISH TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEIR LICENCES EXPIRE. THEY CAN APPLY ANY TIME DURING THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD PRIOR TO THE EXPIRY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/25 .....

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WAN CHAI

\* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 16), THE BAN ON THE SOUTHERN APPROACH ROAD OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL INTERCHANGE, FROM THE JUNCTION OF THE ROAD LEADING TO NORTH POINT AND THE ROAD LEADING TO CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TO A POINT APPROXIMATELY 20 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE CANCELLED.

HOWEVER, THE BUS LANE DESIGNATED ALONG THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ROAD SECTION WILL BE MAINTAINED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOLLOWING BUS ONLY LANES ON THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL APPROACH ROADS WILL BE OPENED TO NON-FRANCHISED BUSES:

- \* THE SECTION ON CANAL ROAD FLYOVER NEAR THE JUNCTION OF THE ROADS LEADING TO CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND NORTH POINT; AND
- \* THE SECTION OF HUNG HING ROAD NEAR ITS SOUTHERN JUNCTION WITH WAN SHING STREET.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN CENTRAL

\* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY), VEHICLES EXCEEDING SEVEN METRES IN LENGTH ON WESTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT ONTO POTTINGER STREET FOR FOUR WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

VEHICLES EXCEEDING SEVEN METRES IN LENGTH TRAVELLING ON WESTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL HEADING FOR QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN VICTORIA STREET TO JOIN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -