



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1976

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APPROPRIATION BILL PASSED IN LEGCO
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THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1976 COMPLETED ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, RAISED A NUMBER OF POINTS ON EDUCATION, LAW AND ORDER, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, THE ROLE OF SMALL FACTORIES, AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ON EDUCATION, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE NUMBER OF DROP-OUTS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL SYSTEM.

HE SUGGESTED THAT IT BE MADE MANDATORY UNDER PENALTY OF A FINE OR OTHER APPROPRIATE PENALTY FOR ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO REPORT DROP-OUTS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WITHIN A PERIOD OF 60 DAYS OR LESS IF PRACTICABLE.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID MORE SPECIAL CLASSES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR DROP-OUTS AND OVER AGE PRIMARY PUPILS, AND INCREASING PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SUBSIDISING NURSERIES AND KINDERGARTENS FOR LOWER INCOME FAMILIES.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN STRESSED THAT THESE WERE BUT PART OF A LARGER AND MORE COORDINATED EFFORT WHICH WAS REQUIRED TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL DROP-OUTS, AS WELL AS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL MISFITS, JUVENILE DELIQUENTS AND YOUNG CRIMINALS.

IN REPLY, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY SAID THE KIND OF POLICING ENVISAGED BY MR. CHEONG-LEEN WOULD BE CUMBERSOME AND VERY EXPENSIVE SO THAT HE WOULD NOT INTEND TO PROCEED ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED.

HE BELIEVED THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING NON-ATTENDANCE WERE SOUND. +WE HAVE ALSO MOUNTED FOR THIS AND ALLIED PURPOSES A REACHING OUT SCHEME OF SOCIAL WORK, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.+

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE ALREADY ADEQUATE PLACES IN SPECIAL CLASSES FOR SLOW LEARNERS AND SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RE-ENTRANTS TO THE PRIMARY SYSTEM. +WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION AT PRESENT IN THE LIGHT OF OUR OTHER PRIORITIES TO CONSIDER SUBSIDISING KINDERGARTEN PLACES.+

ON MEDICAL AND HEALTH, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SUGGESTED TO MAKE IT COMPULSORY REGULAR MEDICAL CHECK-UPS FOR GIRLS WORKING IN MUSIC PARLOURS AND OTHER LIKE ESTABLISHMENTS.

IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS, HE SAID POSITIVE PREVENTIVE MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO REDUCE EVEN FURTHER THE INCIDENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASE IN THE COMMUNITY, +BEARING IN MIND THAT MANY YOUNG FACTORY WORKERS, APPRENTICES, MECHANICS AND LABOURERS PATRONISE SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS.+

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TURNING TO THE OPHTHALMIC SERVICE IN HONG KONG, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WITH ADVICE AND SUPPORT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SHOULD SET UP A PROGRAMME TO TRAIN TEACHERS INTO CARRYING OUT SCREENING TESTS BY USING THE SNELLEN CHART.

TOUCHING ON THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A MUCH STRONGER ANTI-DRUGS CAMPAIGN AS HE FELT THAT CURRENT DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES WERE +VERY LIMITED IN SIZE.+

HE SAID IT WAS VITALLY ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A COMMUNITY-WIDE AND WELL-COORDINATED EFFORT TO CUT OFF THE FLOW OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM JOINING THE RANKS OF THE WELL-PUBLICISED ESTIMATE OF 100,000 ADDICTS.

+I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR ALL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL TO BE INSTRUCTED AND PRIMED TO PUT ACROSS THE ANTI-DRUGS MESSAGE, TO BE AIMED ESPECIALLY AT YOUNG PEOPLE. FOR THIS PURPOSE, SUFFICIENT FUNDS MUST BE PROVIDED TO MAKE THE DRIVE AN EFFECTIVE AND ON-GOING SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, SAID THAT IN THEORY IT WAS POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE ROUTINE COMPULSORY EXAMINATIONS FOR GIRLS WORKING IN MUSIC PARLOURS AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD HAD EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT IN PRACTICE SUCH A STEP WAS NOT ANY MORE EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASES IN COMMUNITY.

REFERRING TO THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS FOR CARRYING OUT EYE TESTS, HE SAID A VISUAL SCREENING HAD ALREADY BEEN OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRIMARY ONE PUPILS IN CERTAIN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

PLANS TO EXTEND THE SCREENING TO COVER ALL PRIMARY ONE AND LATER ON POSSIBLY PRIMARY SIX PUPILS WERE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY A WORKING PARTY AS PART OF THE PROGRAMME PLAN ON REHABILITATION SERVICES, HE SAID.

ON DRUG ADDICTION, DR. CHOA REFERRED TO A STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY IN THE COUNCIL ON APRIL 7 THAT THE SERVICE OF AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERT IN DATA COLLECTING AND ANALYSIS IN THIS FIELD HAD BEEN SECURED.

THE EXPERT HAD ARRIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES AND DR. CHOA SAID HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO INFORM THE COUNCIL AT ITS NEXT SESSION THE RESULTS OF HIS INVESTIGATIONS.

THE DIRECTOR ADDED THAT THE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF ACAN HAD ALSO BEEN CONDUCTING AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE NEEDS IN THE AREA OF PREVENTIVE WORK.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS CURRENTLY WORKING ON AN OVERALL STRATEGY OF PREVENTIVE EDUCATION, INCLUDING THE BEST MEANS OF REACHING THE TARGET AUDIENCE, AND ALSO ON THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES.

ON LAW AND ORDER, MR. CHEONG-LEEN ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR A SPECIAL SECTION TO BE SET UP WITHIN THE POLICE TO TRAIN, GUIDE AND SUPERVISE NEIGHBOURHOOD PATROL UNITS, WHICH SPRANG INTO EXISTENCE BECAUSE OF A REAL AND PRAGMATIC NEED, SO THAT THEY COULD AUGMENT THE REGULAR AND AUXILIARY POLICE IN PATROLLING NEARBY STREETS, PUBLIC PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

+ALL MEMBERS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD PATROL UNITS WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE REGULARLY SCREENED, AND THEY WILL HAVE TO ABIDE BY THE GUIDE-LINES LAID DOWN AS TO RESPONSIBILITY AND SCOPE OF ACTION.+

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR MORE ORGANISED PUBLIC SUPPORT TO HELP THE POLICE COPE WITH ROBBERIES, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE RATE OF DETECTION FOR ROBBERIES HAD BEEN LOW, THAT IS, 15.1 PER CENT DURING THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1975.

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID FACILITIES FOR TRAINING MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE SECURITY PATROL MEMBERS ALREADY EXISTED, AND ALL SUCH TRAINING WAS ORGANISED BY THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, WITH THE ACTIVE CO-OPERATION OF THE POLICE THROUGH THEIR POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS AND THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

ON THE QUESTION OF POLICING THE STREETS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES, HE SAID THIS WAS A MORE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT OPERATION REQUIRING MUCH LONGER TRAINING. +I THINK IT IS REALLY BEST DONE BY THE POLICE AND WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO EXTEND MAC PATROLS TO PUBLIC PLACES.+

MR. DAVIES EMPHASISED THAT CONTINUOUS EFFORTS WERE MADE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SECURITY IN PUBLIC PLACES. HE SAID 27 ADDITIONAL POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UNITS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED THIS YEAR.

+THE POLICY REMAINS TO ENCOURAGE MAC'S TO DEVELOP SECURITY PATROLS - AFTER TRAINING AND UNDER GUIDANCE INSIDE MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS AND, TO INCREASE THE REGULAR POLICE PATROL PRESENCE IN PUBLIC PLACES,+ HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF SMALL FACTORIES, MR. CHEONG-LEEN ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 16,500 FACTORIES EMPLOYING FEWER THAN 50 WORKERS EACH. THE FACTORIES PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE ECONOMY EITHER BY OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY ON THEIR OWN OR BY DOING SUB-CONTRACTING WORK.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THEM WERE +INEFFICIENT, UNDER-CAPITALISED, OUT-OF-TOUCH WITH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN THEIR PRODUCT FIELD, AND ARE DESPERATELY IN NEED OF SOME FORM OF FLEXIBLY APPLIED GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT.

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HE SAID THAT PERHAPS A MORE IN-DEPTH STUDY SHOULD NOW BE MADE OF WHAT FURTHER SERVICES COULD BE OFFERED EITHER DIRECTLY BY THE GOVERNMENT OR INDIRECTLY BY GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED ORGANISATIONS.

MEANWHILE, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE COULD PROVIDE EXTENSION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES TO THE SMALLER FACTORIES ON A WIDER SCALE. +GOVERNMENT FOR EXAMPLE COULD SUBSIDISE UP TO 75 PER CENT OF THE COST OF ANY TECHNICAL SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE AT THE REQUEST OF ANY SMALL REGISTERED FACTORY TO IMPROVE ITS PRODUCTION QUALITY CONTROL, ADMINISTRATIVE OR OTHER RELATED PROBLEMS.

+ANY SUBSIDY IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD HELP IN THE LONG RUN TO KEEP PRODUCTION COSTS DOWN, IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PRODUCTS, AND RAISE UP THE LIVING STANDARDS OF OUR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE NOTED.

TURNING TO THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID NT RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE TOWNS, WOULD BE EXPECTING MORE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES IN RETURN FOR THE RATES THEY WERE BEGINING TO PAY.

IN PARTICULAR, HE REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR MUSEUM SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND IF A PLAN COULD BE DRAWN UP TO PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES, THE REQUISITE FUNDS SHOULD NOT UNREASONABLY BE WITHHELD.

+I WOULD ALSO REMIND THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OF THE NEED TO HAVE A COORDINATED EFFORT IN STABILISING THE NUMBER OF HAWKERS IN EXISTING TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IN EFFECTIVELY PLANNING TO HAVE HAWKERS ONLY IN OFF-STREET SITES IN ALL THE NEW TOWNS AND HOUSING ESTATES..

+THERE MUST BE A CLEAR-CUT BREAK WITH THE PAST IN THE NEW TOWNS IN THAT THERE WILL BE NO HAWKING IN THE STREETS AS EXISTS IN SUCH PROFUSE ABANDON IN THE URBAN AREAS,+ HE ADDED.

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MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976
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THE COMPULSORY PASSENGER INSURANCE SCHEME PROPOSED UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 SHOULD NOT COME INTO OPERATION UNTIL JUNE 1, 1977, IF THE BILL IS PASSED INTO LAW, SAID THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MR. ROBSON SAID : +THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION ARE AGREEABLE TO THIS PROPOSAL.

+HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION TO ADJUST ITS ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY FOR COMPULSORY PASSENGER INSURANCE, THE ASSOCIATION WILL NEED A MINIMUM OF 12 MONTHS' NOTICE FROM THE TIME THE LEGISLATION IS PASSED UNTIL THE OPERATIVE DATE,+ HE SAID.

MR. ROBSON SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL, WITH PROVISIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MOTOR VEHICLES (PASSENGERS INSURANCE) ACT, 1971, WAS TO REQUIRE THE USERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO BE INSURED IN RESPECT OF LIABILITY FOR DEATH OR BODILY INJURY OF PASSENGERS AND PROHIBITED ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE USER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE AND A PASSENGER TO RESTRICT SUCH LIABILITY.

UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG, A MOTORIST IS REQUIRED TO TAKE OUT THIRD PARTY INSURANCE TO COVER LIABILITY FOR DEATH OR INJURY ARISING FROM THE USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE TO ANY PERSON, OTHER THAN THOSE CARRIED INSIDE THE VEHICLE.

THE EXISTING PASSENGER INSURANCE IS ONLY REQUIRED TO COVER THE DEATH OR BODILY INJURY OF ONLY SUCH PASSENGERS AS ARE CARRIED FOR HIRE OR REWARD, OR BY REASON OF, OR IN PURSUANCE OF A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

MR. ROBSON SAID THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT EFFECTIVE THIRD PARTY INSURANCE FROM A FINE OF \$1,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS TO A FINE OF \$10,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS, COUPLED WITH LIABILITY FOR DISQUALIFYING THE DRIVING LICENCE FOR A PERIOD NOT LESS THAN 12 MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN THREE YEARS.

IN ADDITION, THE BILL SEEKS TO ENABLE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE REQUIRING THE PRODUCTION OF A THIRD PARTY INSURANCE CERTIFICATE ON GIVING NOTICE TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OF A CHANGE OF VEHICLE OWNERSHIP.

AT PRESENT, THIS REQUIREMENT IS ONLY MET ON INITIAL LICENSING OF A VEHICLE OR RENEWAL OF A LICENCE AND NOT ON THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF A VEHICLE.

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OVERSEAS DRIVING LICENCES

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO ABOLISH THE EXISTING DISTINCTION BETWEEN FOREIGN VISITORS AND HONG KONG PASSPORT HOLDERS, AND ALLOW BOTH CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE TO DRIVE IN HONG KONG FOR A MAXIMUM OF ONE YEAR IF THEY POSSESS A RECOGNISED OVERSEAS MOTOR DRIVING LICENCE.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

MR. ROBSON POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT AN OVERSEAS PASSPORT HOLDER COULD COME HERE AND, ON THE STRENGTH OF HIS PASSPORT AND OVERSEAS DRIVING LICENCE, OBTAIN A HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCE WITHOUT A TEST.

HOWEVER, A HONG KONG PASSPORT HOLDER COULD NOT DO THE SAME, NOR COULD HE AUTOMATICALLY BE REGARDED AS A VISITOR WHO, AS SUCH, WOULD BE ENTITLED TO DRIVE ON HIS OVERSEAS LICENCE FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS.

+IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO GET AWAY FROM THE MATTER OF NATIONALITY OR TYPE OF PASSPORT, SO THAT ANYONE WITH AN OVERSEAS DRIVING LICENCE CAN DRIVE IN HONG KONG FOR A MAXIMUM OF 12 MONTHS,+ HE SAID.

+NEW ARRIVALS PROPOSING TO STAY IN HONG KONG FOR MORE THAN A YEAR MAY, WITHIN THE YEAR, TAKE A TEST TO OBTAIN A HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCE.+

MR. ROBSON SAID HE HOPED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRIVING LICENCE REGULATIONS COULD BE PUT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN JUNE OR JULY.

HE ADDED THAT THESE WOULD REQUIRE EVERYONE TAKING UP RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG WHO WISHED TO OBTAIN A DRIVING LICENCE TO PASS A TEST WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THEIR TAKING UP RESIDENCE.

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NEW EXTENSION TO ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. E.H. NICHOLS, WILL OPEN THE NEW EXTENSION TO THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET, SHEK PAI WAN ROAD, ABERDEEN, AT 3.30 P.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT.

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FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF SWINE INFLUENZA CLOSELY WATCHED
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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO WATCH CLOSELY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF SWINE INFLUENZA AND WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON. ROGER LOBO WHO ASKED FOR A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE PRESENT SITUATION AND ASKED WHETHER OR NOT THE DISEASE WOULD AFFECT HONG KONG.

DR. CHOA SAID THAT FOLLOWING AN OUTBREAK OF INFLUENZA IN A MILITARY CAMP IN THE UNITED STATES, THE W.H.O. ALERTED IN FEBRUARY NATIONAL INFLUENZA CENTRES ALL OVER THE WORLD, OF WHICH THE VIRUS UNIT OF HONG KONG'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS ONE, TO REINFORCE SURVEILLANCE.

EARLY THIS MONTH, HE SAID A CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS WAS CALLED IN GENEVA BY THE W.H.O. TO ADVISE ON FUTURE ACTION. A SPECIALIST FROM THE VIRUS UNIT ATTENDED THE MEETING.

+THE CONSENSUS OF OPINION IS THAT IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THE OUTBREAK OF SWINE INFLUENZA-LIKE VIRUS IN FORT DIX MIGHT HAVE BEEN A UNIQUE EVENT IN A MILITARY RECRUIT POPULATION AND WOULD NOT LEAD TO A WIDE-SPREAD EPIDEMIC SUCH AS EXPERIENCED IN 1957-58 AND 1968-69,+ HE SAID.

AS REGARDS VACCINATION, DR. CHOA SAID IT WAS ACCEPTED THAT THE USE OF A VACCINE COULD MODIFY THE INCIDENCE OF INFLUENZA IN MAN, BUT IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE, IT HAD TO BE PREPARED WITH THE NEW EPIDEMIC STRAIN.

+SUCH A VACCINE WILL PROVIDE ONLY A CERTAIN DEGREE OF IMMUNITY FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME, HENCE, MASS VACCINATION AS A PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURE IS GENERALLY NOT RECOMMENDED EXCEPT IN THE FACE OF A PANDEMIC,+ HE SAID.

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MORE INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR PUBLIC AUCTION
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THE HON. JAMES WU TODAY CALLED FOR AN ASSURANCE FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THAT NO EFFORT WOULD BE SPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION AS MUCH INDUSTRIAL LAND AS POSSIBLE TO MEET THE URGENT NEED.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY BILL 1976 WHICH SEEKS TO SET UP THE AUTHORITY THAT WILL BE EMPOWERED TO ACQUIRE LAND TO DEVELOP IT FOR LETTING FOR USE BY INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

MR. WU DESCRIBED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATION AS +COMING ABOUT AT A VERY OPPORTUNE TIME,+ AND HE PRESSED FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK WHICH WOULD FLOW FROM THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY.

HE SAID HE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT RAPID ECONOMIC SUCCESS HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE ONLY BY STRONG GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN AN ESSENTIALLY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY.

+SINCE THE BASIC ESSENTIALS OF PRODUCTION ARE MAN-POWER, CAPITAL AND LAND, AND AS THE GOVERNMENT HOLDS MOST OF THE LAND AND CAN MANIPULATE THE CAPITAL SUPPLY, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST ASSUME AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.+

MR. WU WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WERE MANY WORTHWHILE INDUSTRIES THAT WERE LAND INTENSIVE AND COULD NOT BE TOLERABLY ESTABLISHED IN HIGH-RISE FACTORIES AND THESE INDEED WERE THE ONES THAT SHOULD BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION +SO LONG AS THEY ARE VIABLE, WILL UP-GRADE OUR TECHNOLOGY, PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR OUR EXISTING AND NEW INDUSTRIES AND IN GENERAL HELP TO BROADEN OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR GROWING MALE POPULATION WITH HIGH EDUCATION AND ASPIRATION.

+IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT HOWEVER THAT RULES AND PROCEDURES BE ESTABLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY TO SAFEGUARD AND ENSURE THAT ALL LAND PROVIDED WILL BE FULLY UTILISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTENTS AND PURPOSES PROPOSED, AND TO PREVENT ABUSE AND SPECULATION,+ HE ADDED.

IN REPLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, ASSURED MR. WU THAT AS MUCH GENERAL INDUSTRIAL LAND AS POSSIBLE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY PUBLIC AUCTION.

HE RECALLED THAT IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH HE SAID 28 ACRES OF LAND WOULD BE PUT ON THE MARKET BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES DURING THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR.

AS REGARDS LAND MADE AVAILABLE WITH RESTRICTED USE OR CONDITIONS ATTACHED, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID HE WAS GLAD MR. WU ACCEPTED THAT IT MUST BE PUT TO REALLY PRODUCTIVE USE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. +THIS MEANS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PLACING AT LEAST SOME RELIANCE ON THE DISCIPLINE OF THE MARKET MECHANISM,+ HE SAID.

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MORE POLICEMEN FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES

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THE NUMBER OF REGULAR POLICE OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAS BEEN INCREASED THIS YEAR, PARTICULARLY IN THOSE ESTATES WHERE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH, HE SAID FURTHER INCREASES IN UNIFORMED BRANCH STRENGTH WERE PLANNED IN 1976/77, AND +OF THE 27 NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNITS FOR WHICH PROVISION IS MADE IN THE ESTIMATES, 24 WILL BE IN PUBLIC ESTATES+.

MR. DAVIES SAID THAT DURING THE LAST YEAR THE STRENGTH OF THE POLICE FORCE HAD INCREASED BY 1,180 TO 15,400, WHICH WAS WITHIN 630 OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

+THE STRENGTH OF MOST POLICE DIVISIONS IS CURRENTLY UP TO ESTABLISHMENT IN BOTH CID AND UNIFORMED BRANCH AND IN SOME CASES EXCEEDS IT,+ HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE FLEXIBILITY, MR. DAVIES SAID, MANPOWER RESOURCES WERE DEPLOYED BY DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDERS ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC AREAS, PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO COUNTER CRIME MEASURES.

+THUS, WITHIN THE EXISTING ESTABLISHMENT, RESOURCES ARE DEPLOYED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO OPTIMUM EFFECT AND HOUSING ESTATES RECEIVE A COVERAGE PROPORTIONATE TO THEIR NEEDS AND THE COMPETING REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER AREAS,+ HE ADDED.

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COMPENSATION FOR VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS UNDER REVIEW
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE IS AT PRESENT REVIEWING THE RATES OF ASSISTANCE PAYABLE UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND WHICH WERE LAST REVISED IN OCTOBER 1974, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. F.K. LI, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, ANY REVISION OF RATES WILL ALSO APPLY TO THE TWO COMPENSATION SCHEMES ADMINISTERED BY THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD, HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. LI EXPLAINED THAT VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME MAY BE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR INJURIES BY EITHER ONE OF THE TWO ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS.

+THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD ASSESSES COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCALES APPLICABLE TO THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND,+ HE SAID. +THE LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD HAS A BROADER BASIS OF ASSESSMENT IN THAT IT CAN EITHER USE THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND SCALES OR ASSESS COMPENSATION ON THE BASIS OF COMMON LAW DAMAGES, REGARDLESS OF THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, WHICHEVER IS THE GREATER.+

IN BOTH CASES, HE ADDED, THE BOARDS MAY, AT THEIR DISCRETION, INCREASE AN AWARD UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 100 PER CENT OR REDUCE COMPENSATION IF THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.

VICTIMS OF SEXUAL OFFENCES, SUCH AS RAPE, ARE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION UNDER THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME, ALTHOUGH THE EMERGENCY FUND SCALES ARE NOT RELEVANT, HE SAID.

+IN THESE CASES, THE BOARD CONSIDERS ALL APPLICATIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH CASE AND COMPENSATION IS AWARDED ON THE MERITS OF EACH CASE, HAVING GENERAL REGARD TO THE LEVEL OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO OTHER VICTIMS OF CRIMES OF VIOLENCE,+ MR. LI ADDED.

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AMENDMENTS TO CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE

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A BILL SEEKING TO AMEND THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE TO ENABLE A PERSON INVOLVED IN A CORRUPT OR ILLEGAL PRACTICE TO GIVE EVIDENCE AGAINST ANOTHER PARTY WITHOUT BEING REGARDED AS AN ACCOMPLICE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. GARTH THORNTON, POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS AT COMMON LAW A RULE WHEREBY A COURT IS REQUIRED TO HAVE SPECIFIC REGARD TO THE DANGER OF CONVICTING A PERSON ON THE EVIDENCE OF AN ACCOMPLICE WITHOUT CORROBORATION.

THE BILL, HE SAID, SOUGHT TO MODIFY THE APPLICATION OF THIS RULE TO PROSECUTIONS FOR CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES AT THOSE ELECTIONS TO WHICH THE ORDINANCE APPLIED.

+THESE ARE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND, AS A RESULT OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY THIS COUNCIL TODAY, HEUNG YEE KUK ELECTIONS,+ HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE BILL, MR. THORNTON STRESSED THAT IT WOULD NOT MEAN THAT THE COURT WOULD HAVE ANY OBLIGATION TO BELIEVE THE EVIDENCE OF THAT OTHER PARTY TO THE CORRUPT OR ILLEGAL PRACTICE, +BUT MERELY THAT THE COURT WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT IN THE PARTICULAR CASE SUCH A WITNESS IS WORTHY OF BELIEF, THE FACT THAT HE MIGHT BE AN ACCOMPLICE BEING DISREGARDED.+

HE ADDED THAT WHAT WAS PROPOSED IN THE BILL IN RELATION TO OFFENCES AT ELECTIONS WAS ALREADY THE LAW IN RELATION TO BRIBERY GENERALLY BY VIRTUE OF THE ENACTMENT IN 1970 OF SECTION 22 OF THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE
APPLIES TO HEUNG YEE KUK
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY ADOPTED A MOTION THAT THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE SHOULD APPLY TO THE HEUNG YEE KUK AND TO ANY ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID THAT THE HEUNG YEE KUK IS A STATUTORY BODY WHICH HAS AMONGST ITS OBJECTS THE PROMOTION OF CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ITS PRINCIPAL FUNCTION IS +TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WELFARE AND PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES+.

HE SAID: +IT IS CLEARLY DESIRABLE THAT THE ELECTION FOR THE PRINCIPAL OFFICES IN THIS IMPORTANT PUBLIC BODY SHOULD NOT ONLY BE HONEST AND FREE FROM CORRUPTION, BUT SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE SO.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT, AT PRESENT, THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE APPLIES ONLY TO THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT IT SHOULD NOW BE EXTENDED TO COVER THE HEUNG YEE KUK ELECTIONS, WHICH WERE THE ONLY OTHER STATUTORY ELECTIONS FOR A PUBLIC BODY IN HONG KONG.

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BILLS PASSED
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FIVE BILLS, INCLUDING THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1976 WHICH LAYS DOWN HONG KONG'S FISCAL POLICIES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, PASSED THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE OTHER BILLS PASSED ARE THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY BILL 1976, THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1976, THE AERIAL ROPEWAYS (SAFETY) BILL 1976, AND THE LIFTS AND ESCALATORS (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

FIVE OTHER BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST READING. THEY ARE THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, AND THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

DEBATE ON THEIR SECOND READING WAS ADJOURNED. DEBATE RESUMED ON THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

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EXPANSION PROGRAMME FOR CREMATORIA

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MOVE TO PRESS FOR THE CAPACITY OF CREMATORIA TO BE INCREASED.

ANSWERING A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, MR. ROBSON SAID THIS WAS NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WOULD REDUCE THE RISK OF LONG WAITING PERIODS BUT ALSO BECAUSE CREMATION WOULD REDUCE THE NEED TO PROVIDE SCARCE LAND FOR BURIALS.

+WITH THE EASING OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCIES IT IS INTENDED TO PRESS AHEAD WITH AN EXPANSION PROGRAMME, AND IN FACT ORDERS HAVE BEEN PLACED FOR NEW CREMATORS TO BE ADDED TO THE EXISTING CAPE COLLINSON CREMATORIUM,+ HE SAID. +THESE SHOULD BE IN OPERATION WITHIN A YEAR, AND POSSIBLY IN LATE 1977 THE SMALL AND ELDERLY DIAMOND HILL CREMATORIUM CAN BE REPLACED, AND THE CAPACITY INCREASED.+

DR. FANG HAD ASKED HOW QUICKLY COULD STEPS BE TAKEN TO REDUCE THE PRESENT WAITING PERIODS FOR CREMATIONS AT THE TWO CREMATORIA.

MR. ROBSON SAID THE PRESENT WAITING PERIOD AT THE CREMATORIA WAS TWO DAYS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +NOT UNREASONABLE+.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE QUESTION COULD HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY THE SITUATION EARLIER THIS YEAR, WHEN THE WAITING PERIOD CREPT UP TO FIVE DAYS OR MORE.

IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID THE URBAN COUNCIL HAD TAKEN STEPS TO CUT DOWN THE WAITING TIME AND HAD INTRODUCED MEASURES WHICH, FOR THE TIME BEING, WOULD LIKELY HOLD THE WAITING TIME AT TWO DAYS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN CAUSE OF DELAYS WITH CREMATIONS WAS THE PRESENT OVERLOADING OF THE TWO CREMATORIA. +THIS MAKES PROPER MAINTENANCE DIFFICULT AND CREATES A CONSTANT DANGER OF SERIOUS DISRUPTION IN THE EVENT OF BREAKDOWN,+ HE SAID.

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REQUESTS BY TAI HOM VILLAGE FIRE VICTIMS REJECTED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS REJECTED THE REQUESTS BY BUSINESS OPERATORS, WHOSE UNDERTAKINGS WERE DESTROYED IN THE TAI HOM VILLAGE FIRE ON MARCH 5, FOR PERMISSION TO REBUILD ON THE ORIGINAL SITE, OR ALLOCATION OF NEW SITES OR FLATTED FACTORIES.

IN REPLY TO A PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SAID IN A LETTER THAT AS THEIR UNDERTAKINGS EXISTED IN APPARENT SAFETY, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TOLERATED THEM, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE ILLEGAL.

+SINCE EVENTS HAVE NOW PROVED THEM TO HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS FIRE RISK, IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO ALLOW THEM SIMPLY TO BE RE-ESTABLISHED UNDER THE SAME DANGEROUS CONDITIONS,+ HE SAID.

AS REGARDS ANOTHER REQUEST FOR THE ALLOCATION OF NEW SITES, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, BECAUSE LAND WAS NOT PROVIDED INDISCRIMINATELY AND FREE OF CHARGE FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

+IT IS NORMALLY SOLD ON OPEN MARKET FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS PROPERLY LOCATED AND DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE. THERE IS NO POLICY UNDER WHICH FREE LAND CAN BE PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SQUATTER INDUSTRY,+ HE ADDED.

ANOTHER REQUEST FOR FACTORY UNITS TO BE ALLOCATED TO THE BUSINESS OPERATORS WAS ALSO REJECTED.

THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS ONLY POSSIBLE WHERE SQUATTER UNDERTAKINGS DESTROYED BY FIRE WERE COVERED BY THE RELEVANT SQUATTER CONTROL SURVEY.

ALTHOUGH THE BUSINESS OPERATORS CLAIMED THAT THEIR BUSINESSES HAD EXISTED FOR OVER TEN YEARS, HE POINTED OUT, THEY DID NOT MEET THE BASIC SURVEY REQUIREMENT.

THEY WERE ALSO ADVISED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR WORKSHOP UNITS IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S FLATTED FACTORY BLOCKS AT KOWLOON BAY AND ELSEWHERE, BUT THEY DECLINED TO DO SO.

THE SECRETARY REMINDED THEM THAT THIS POSSIBILITY REMAINED OPEN, AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WOULD INFORM THEM OF THE DETAILS OF THE NEXT TENDER.

HE REITERATED SOME OF THE POINTS HE MADE IN A PREVIOUS LETTER TO THE BUSINESS OPERATORS.

HE SAID

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HE SAID THAT FAMILIES WHOSE DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION WAS AFFECTED BY THE FIRE AT TAI HOM HAD ALREADY BEEN OFFERED ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION.

THE SECRETARY ADVISED FAMILIES PREVIOUSLY DEPENDENT ON THE BUSINESS DESTROYED, WHO WERE TEMPORARILY WITHOUT INCOME, TO CALL AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S NGAU TAU KOK FIELD UNIT TO SEE WHETHER THEY QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

OPERATORS AND EMPLOYEES WISHING TO SEEK OTHER WORK, HE SAID, SHOULD OBTAIN USEFUL ADVICE FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE AT KWUN TONG.

AS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE BUSINESS OPERATORS TO RE-START THEIR BUSINESSES AT TAI HOM, THE SECRETARY URGED THEM TO CONSIDER SETTING UP NEW BUSINESSES IN RENTED ACCOMMODATION IN INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS PROPERLY DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE= APPLYING TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT FOR WORKSHOP UNIT TENANCIES IN ONE OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S FLATTED FACTORY BLOCKS= OR SEEKING EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE, THROUGH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IF NECESSARY.

THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE CLEARANCE OF THE FIRE SITE FOR TEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT AS MUCH-NEEDED RECREATION SPACE IN DENSELY POPULATED WONG TAI SIN HAD BEEN POSTPONED FOR TWO WEEKS FROM APRIL 14 TO ENABLE THE BUSINESS OPERATORS TO REMOVE THEIR MACHINERY FROM THE SITE.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD CO-OPERATE IN THE CLEARANCE.

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SCHOOLS' DANCE FESTIVAL GETS BIGGER
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MORE THAN 2,700 STUDENTS FROM 241 TEAMS TOOK PART IN THE TWELFTH SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH ONLY 240 STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN 1965 WHEN THE FESTIVAL STARTED.

WITH THE FESTIVAL GETTING BIGGER EVERY YEAR IT WAS NECESSARY TO BOOK THE CONCERT HALL OF THE CITY HALL FOR THE WHOLE OF THIS WEEK IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE PRIZE WINNERS' CONCERTS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY TOLD THE AUDIENCE AT THIS EVENING'S CONCERT.

HE CONGRATULATED THE PERFORMERS ON THEIR SUCCESS AND URGED THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR DANCING.

MR. TOPLEY SAID: +THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE QUALITY OF CLASSICAL AND FOLK DANCE HAS RISEN CONSIDERABLY AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THIS SCHOOLS' DANCE FESTIVAL.

+OUR DANCERS PERFORMED FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN LAST YEAR, AND THIS YEAR WE HAVE ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO SEND A SCHOOLS' CHINESE DANCE TEAM TO THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS AND PERFORMING ARTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. A HONG KONG SCHOOLS' CHINESE DANCE TEAM HAS BEEN FORMED AND HAS ALMOST RAISED THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF MONEY TO GO.+

THE SCHOOLS' DANCE FESTIVAL IS SPONSORED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE TWO SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY FOR SECOND MENTAL HOSPITAL
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THE FIRST CONTRACT FOR THE \$64 MILLION SECOND MENTAL HOSPITAL AT LAI CHI KOK WILL BE SIGNED AT 10.30 A.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OCCASION.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT 10.15 A.M. IN THE LIFT LOBBY OF THE 12TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, WHERE THEY WILL BE MET BY P.W.D. INFORMATION OFFICERS.

PROJECT ARCHITECTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS AFTER THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY, AND GIVE DETAILS OF THE HOSPITAL.

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