



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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### CONTENTS

### PAGE NO.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING :

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THE KEY PRIORITY .....	1
CALL FOR GOVT TO BE MORE OPEN .....	2
EQUAL STATUS FOR CHINESE MEDICAL PRACTICE URGED .....	4
POLICY SPEECH 'DEVOID OF VISION' .....	6
DON'T EQUATE EMIGRATION WITH BRAIN DRAIN .....	10
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VR PROBLEM WELCOMED .....	11
CONCERN OVER RISE IN INFLATION .....	14
SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE URGED .....	15
DEPARTMENT ON TOWN PLANNING ADVOCATED .....	18
LIMITATIONS HAMPER ADVISORY COMMITTEES .....	19
TECHNOLOGY THE ANSWER TO LABOUR SHORTAGE .....	21
HK INDUSTRY SHOULD GO HIGH-TECH .....	24
'EYE-OPENER' IN MANAGING PUBLIC AFFAIRS .....	26
22 MEMBERS SPEAK IN LEGCO DEBATE .....	27
MOTION ON EXTENSION APPROVED .....	28
PROPOSALS ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AIMED AT IMPROVEMENTS .....	29
MARINE INTERESTS CONSIDERED AT CRUCIAL PLANNING STAGES: DIRECTOR OF MARINE .....	31

/FREE TRADE .....

FREE TRADE CREATES MORE WEALTH .....	33
INCOME LIMITS AND HOME PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME TO BE REVIEWED	34
WHOLESALE FINED \$7,000 FOR SELLING CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES .....	36
PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO CHINA FERRY TERMINAL STRENGTHENED .....	36
GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER .....	37
1.6 MILLION VOTERS REGISTERED .....	38
SOUTHERN DB TO DISCUSS TAXI FARE INCREASE .....	39
DB COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON TAXI SERVICES .....	40
HOUSING COMMITTEE TO BE BRIEFED ON REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	40
HEALTH SEMINAR FOR RESTAURANT WORKERS .....	41
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME .....	42
FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY .....	42
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS .....	43
NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER BEGINS COURTESY VISITS .....	43
HKUST APPOINTMENT TO GENERAL EDUCATION CENTRE .....	44
TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAYS IN EASTERN DISTRICT .....	45
LEFT-TURN BAN ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL .....	46

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 1 -

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THE KEY PRIORITY

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HONG KONG MUST STEP UP ITS EFFORTS IN MANPOWER TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT TO COPE WITH AN EMERGING NEW ERA, THE HON ALLEN LEE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OPENING THE DEBATE ON HIS MOTION, "THAT THIS COUNCIL THANKS THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS ADDRESS", MR LEE, THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, LISTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR HONG KONG.

HE SAID HE HAD NOTICED A NEW TREND IN THE DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE BASIS OF THE ECONOMY HAD BEGUN TO SHIFT FROM DEPENDING HEAVILY ON EXPORT PERFORMANCE TO A MUCH MORE SERVICE ORIENTED ECONOMY.

THE MANUFACTURING BASE HAD SHIFTED TO THE PEARL RIVER DELTA AREA WITH APPROXIMATELY TWO MILLION WORKERS THERE, COMPARED WITH THE LABOUR FORCE OF 850,000 IN HONG KONG.

MR LEE SAID HE CONSIDERED THIS AS A GOOD MOVE IN THE SHORT TERM BECAUSE IT GAVE HONG KONG A COMPETITIVE EDGE WHILE PROVIDING THE ECONOMY AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADJUST.

IN THE LONGER TERM, HE ENVISAGED THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER MOVEMENT OF THE PRODUCTION OF MORE SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS TO THE MAINLAND AND HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A PRODUCTION CENTRE OF LIGHT INDUSTRIAL GOODS WOULD GRADUALLY BE REDUCED.

HE ALSO EXPECTED TO SEE GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S TERTIARY SERVICES SECTOR IN THE YEARS TO COME.

"IN THE FACE OF THIS TRANSFORMATION, HONG KONG MUST PREPARE ITSELF IN MANPOWER TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY TO COPE WITH THE NEW ERA AHEAD OF US," HE SAID.

MR LEE EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE.

HE MAINTAINED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD PROVIDE AS MANY PLACES AS POSSIBLE FOR ITS YOUNG PEOPLE IN UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS.

"WE MUST ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT WHAT WE NEED IS MORE SUPERVISORS AND MANAGERS, SALES AND MARKETING SPECIALISTS, TECHNOLOGISTS AND PROFESSIONALS BECAUSE IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG, WE WILL REQUIRE THESE TALENTS," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HONG KONG MUST INVEST IN THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAD CHOSEN TO MAKE THE PLACE THEIR HOME.

/"HUMAN RESOURCES .....

- 2 -

"HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IS A SLOW PROCESS BUT THIS INVESTMENT WILL BE PAID OFF IN THE LONG RUN," HE SAID.

MR LEE PRESSED THE GOVERNMENT TO SET UP A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT BECAUSE HONG KONG COULD NOT COMPETE WITH OTHER PLACES WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY.

"IT IS BECOMING MORE EVIDENT THAN EVER THAT IF WE DO NOT SURGE AHEAD AND PAY ATTENTION TO TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, WE WILL BE SO FAR BEHIND THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CATCH UP," HE SAID.

MR LEE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL BRANCH BE ESTABLISHED TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WHICH WAS AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT BOTH IN THE SHORT AND THE LONG TERM.

TURNING TO ANOTHER MATTER, ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MR LEE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE REPRESENTATION TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF BRITISH PASSPORTS FOR THE WIVES AND WIDOWS OF EX-SERVICEMEN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY MEMBERS FELT STRONGLY THAT THESE PEOPLE SHOULD BE GRANTED BRITISH PASSPORTS.

"AFTER ALL, THESE ARE THE WIVES AND WIDOWS OF HONG KONG'S WAR HEROES WHO FOUGHT AND RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THERE ARE NOT TOO MANY SUCH PERSONS ALIVE," HE SAID.

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CALL FOR GOVT TO BE MORE OPEN

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THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE WAY AHEAD MUST BE TO BE MORE OPEN, MORE RESPONSIVE AND MORE RESPONSIBLE, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"OPEN SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT POLICY-MAKING PROCESS AND PROCEDURE CAN BE MORE EASILY SCRUTINISED; OPEN SO THAT GOVERNMENT POLICIES ARE PROPERLY EXPLAINED WITH ENOUGH FACTS AND FIGURES TO BACK UP THE RATIONALE; AND OPEN SO THAT THE COMMUNITY IS FULLY APPRAISED OF THE REAL DIFFICULTIES AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISIONS," MR CHEONG SAID.

"RESPONSIBLE SO THAT THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY IS GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION RATHER THAN MERE LIP SERVICE. RESPONSIVE SO THAT WHATEVER GENUINE AND REASONABLE DEMANDS FOR ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES ARE GIVEN DUE OBJECTIVE AND FAIR CONSIDERATION."

/SPEAKING IN .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 3 -

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MR CHEONG NOTED THAT THE PAST FEW YEARS HAD SEEN MORE INFORMATION BEING RELEASED, MORE EXPLANATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ITS POLICIES AND MORE INITIATIVE TO INTERACT WITH THE PUBLIC BY WAY OF CONSULTATION.

THE DIRECTION WAS RIGHT, BUT THE PACE OF OPENING UP WAS SOMEWHAT SLOW, HE SAID.

INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED, BUT THAT HAD NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING ENOUGH; EXPLANATIONS WERE GIVEN, BUT THEY HAD NOT BEEN FULL ENOUGH; CONSULTATIONS WERE DONE, BUT THESE HAD NOT BEEN THOROUGH ENOUGH, HE ADDED.

MR CHEONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO COME OUT OF ITS OLD AIR-TIGHT ARMOUR SUIT WHICH MIGHT SERVE WELL TO FEND OFF FLAK BUT WOULD ALSO INHIBIT ITS FLUID MOVEMENT.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS PERHAPS ONE OF THE FIRST ISSUES FOR THE PROPOSED THINK TANK TO DO SOME GOOD THINKING ABOUT.

TURNING TO THE CIVIL SERVICE, HE SAID IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WERE JUST HUMAN BEINGS AND THEY WERE EQUALLY WORRIED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE.

THIS MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY SO WITH THE TOP ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS. MANY OF THEM MIGHT BE THINKING OF TAKING OUT INSURANCE POLICIES IN A FEW YEARS' TIME OR SETTLING FOR GOOD IN WHEREVER THEY FANCIED.

THIS FRAME OF MIND, PLAGUED BY UNCERTAINTY, HARDLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE LONG-TERM COMMITMENT NECESSARY IN DEALING WITH THE TERRITORY'S LONG-TERM PROBLEMS.

"WOULD SUCH NEGATIVE FRAME OF MIND HAVE INFLUENCED THEIR JUDGEMENT WHEN THEY TOOK VIEWS ON POLICIES THAT MAY HAVE LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON HONG KONG? COULD THERE BE A POSSIBILITY THAT POLICY COMMITMENTS WHICH HAVE LONGER TERM EFFECTS GET UNDUE DELAY OR EVEN PUSHED ASIDE?" HE QUESTIONED.

HOW TO PUT THE HEARTS OF CIVIL SERVANTS AT EASE AND HENCE STABILISE THE CIVIL SERVICE - THE BACKBONE OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE - WAS ONE OF THE BURNING ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED - CHINA, THE UK AND HONG KONG, HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE PROBLEM OF A LABOUR SHORTAGE, MR CHEONG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SET UP IMMEDIATELY A WORKING PARTY COMPRISING LEADERS FROM GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND LABOUR SECTORS.

THE WORKING PARTY WOULD EXAMINE THE PROBLEM IN FULL AND DEVISE CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION THAT WOULD BE IN THE LONG-TERM INTEREST OF HONG KONG'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

/INDUSTRIALISTS WERE .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 4 -

INDUSTRIALISTS WERE ALREADY HARD HIT, AND IF THEY HAD TO CLOSE DOWN BUSINESS, JOB OPPORTUNITIES WOULD DIMINISH AND THIS CERTAINLY WAS NOT GOOD FOR THE LABOUR FORCE, HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, MR CHEONG SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT UNREASONABLE TO ASK A WORLD POWER LIKE THE UK FOR A FIRM COMMITMENT TO TAKE IN AND RESETTLE A MINIMUM OF 1,000 UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

HE NOTED THAT FROM JANUARY 1, 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1988, THE U.S. HAD TAKEN 5,497 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, CANADA HAD TAKEN 4,958, AUSTRALIA 2,542.

THE UK HAD TAKEN A MERE 88 IN 1984, 44 IN 1985, 474 IN 1986, 156 IN 1987 AND 166 IN 1988.

"WHAT HOPE DOES HONG KONG HAVE IN TRYING TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES TO HELP US MORE IF OUR SOVEREIGN STATE CONTINUES TO TAKE SUCH AN UNCARING NONCHALANT ATTITUDE?"

MR CHEONG ALSO CALLED FOR MORE GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO RELIABLE STATISTICS ON HONG KONG'S EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. BUT IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE FIGURE WAS PITIFULLY SMALL COMPARED WITH THE U.S., TAIWAN AND CHINA.

HONG KONG WAS UNIQUELY POOR IN NATURAL RESOURCES WHILE RICH IN HUMAN RESOURCES.

ONLY THROUGH HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WOULD HONG KONG BE ABLE TO UTILISE ITS HUMAN TALENTS TO MAINTAIN ITS ECONOMIC POSITION IN THE MODERN WORLD, HE SAID.

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EQUAL STATUS FOR CHINESE MEDICAL PRACTICE URGED

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CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICAL PRACTICE SHOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL STATUS WITH WESTERN-STYLE MEDICINE AS BOTH TYPES OF PRACTICE CURE DISEASE AND ALLEVIATE DISCOMFORT, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY)

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR IP NOTED THAT LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED IN 1957, WITH NO FURTHER AMENDMENTS, ALLOWING ANY PERSON OF CHINESE RACE TO PRACTISE CHINESE MEDICINE IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY.

/"WHILST ALLOWING .....

"WHILST ALLOWING CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE TO BE PRACTISED WITHOUT QUALIFICATIONS, ARE WE REALLY ALLOWING THEM SPECIAL PRIVILEGES OR ARE WE IN FACT UNDERMINING THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THAT ART, AND OVERSHADOWING THE EXPERTS WITH THE QUACKS?" SHE ASKED.

DR IP POINTED OUT THAT CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICAL PRACTICE HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS SINCE 1957.

FOR EXAMPLE, MAJOR ADVANCEMENT IN ACUPUNCTURE NOW INCLUDED THE APPLICATION OF INJECTION, ELECTRICAL STIMULATION AS WELL AS LASER USE.

"IN FACT, THE PRACTICE HAD NOW ADVANCED TO A DEGREE THAT IT HAD "BECOME DANGEROUS IN UNTRAINED HANDS".

"IF GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO KEEP ITS ARCHAIC LEGISLATION BUT RESTRICT THE PRACTICE OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE TO THAT AS PRACTISED IN 1957, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE SEEN TO BE ACTING AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE," DR IP SAID.

"TO BELIEVE THAT CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE CAN HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE HUMAN BODY AND THEREBY CURE IT OF DISEASE, ONE MUST ALSO ACCEPT THAT WHEN GIVEN BY THE WRONG HANDS, IT CAN ALSO MAIM AND KILL."

NOTING THAT SHE HAD TRIED IN VAIN TO CONVINCE THE ADMINISTRATION THROUGH DIFFERENT CHANNELS TO LOOK INTO THE PRACTICE OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, DR IP APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE THE ISSUE AS A SUBJECT FOR STUDY BY THE PROPOSED CENTRAL POLICY UNIT.

FAILING THAT, SHE SUGGESTED THAT A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE SET UP TO LOOK INTO THE ISSUE.

THIS COMMITTEE COULD DETERMINE WHETHER LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WERE NECESSARY AND WHETHER QUALIFICATIONS, REGISTRATION AND LICENSING SHOULD BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO PRACTICE, AS WELL AS ASSESSING THE IMPLICATIONS AND FEASIBILITY OF SUCH MOVES.

ON THE PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL RECREATION, DR IP SAID THAT TOO MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG SUFFERED FROM TENSION HEADACHES, GASTROINTESTINAL DISTURBANCE, INSOMNIA, OBESITY, LISTLESSNESS, BACK ACHES, NECK ACHES AND FATIGUE.

SHE MAINTAINED THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL RECREATION TO HEALTH NEEDED TO BE "ADVERTISED AND PREACHED", JUST LIKE THE ANNUAL MILLION DOLLAR ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN.

DR IP SAID SHE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE REPORT ON PHYSICAL RECREATION AND HEALTH WHICH WOULD SOON BE RELEASED BY A SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH SHE CHAIRED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORTS.

- 6 -

THE REPORT ADVOCATED HEALTH THROUGH THE ACTIVE PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL RECREATION, AND INCLUDED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRE TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL RECREATION FOR ALL.

ON LAND DEVELOPMENT, DR IP NOTED THAT EXCELLENT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN INITIATING SEVERAL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE PAST NINE MONTHS.

HOWEVER, SHE WAS CONCERNED THAT THIS PROGRESS WOULD NOT BE MAINTAINED IF THERE WERE UNNECESSARY DELAYS WHEN DEALING WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT VARIOUS PLANNING STAGES.

FOR THE CORPORATION TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES, IT WAS VITAL THAT ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, IN PARTICULAR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, GAVE PRIORITY TO THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE CORPORATION.

DR IP ALSO WELCOMED THE NEW POLICIES OUTLINED BY THE GOVERNOR, IN PARTICULAR THE CREATION OF A DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE CENTRAL POLICY UNIT, THE AIM OF PHASING OUT BISESSIONAL SCHOOLS, AND BUILDING A HOLIDAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY.

SHE ADDED THAT BY APPLYING THE SAME PRINCIPLE A SIMILAR CENTRE SHOULD BE SET UP FOR THE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED.

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POLICY SPEECH 'DEVOID OF VISION'

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THE GOVERNOR HAD FAILED TO PROVIDE ANY PERSPECTIVE AND HIS POLICY ADDRESS WAS DEVOID OF VISION, THE HON MARTIN LEE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEE SAID THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS HAD ACHIEVED MUCH ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MATTERS THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND THE LAND COMMISSION.

BUT THESE ACHIEVEMENTS PALED INTO INSIGNIFICANCE WHEN VIEWS IN THE LIGHT OF EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THINGS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE BUT WERE NOT DONE, HE SAID.

FOR, IN TERMS OF DEMOCRATISATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD FAILED MISERABLY BY RENEGING ON ITS EARLIER PROMISE OF BUILDING UP A FIRMLY BASED, DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG BEFORE 1997 - A PROMISE WHICH HE SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD MADE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 1984.

/HE SAID .....

- 7 -

HE SAID THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SAW THE TOTAL IMPOTENCE ON THE PART OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO STAND UP TO THE INTERVENTIONS OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

"THEY ASK THAT IF THESE THINGS ARE HAPPENING UNDER A BRITISH ADMINISTRATION TODAY, WHAT CHANCES DO THEY HAVE AFTER 1997 WHEN HONG KONG WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE?"

THAT THEREFORE DECIDED TO LEAVE HONG KONG, AND THEIR NUMBERS HAD INCREASED DRASTICALLY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, MR LEE SAID.

BUT DURING THIS TIME, THE HONG KONG AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT IN DENYING THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH EMIGRATION. IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT THE GOVERNOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PROBLEM EXISTED.

"NOW THAT THE EMIGRATION PROBLEM HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED, WHAT CAN OUR GOVERNMENT DO ABOUT IT? THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS: NOTHING," HE SAID.

HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED MEASURE OF BUILDING MORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS AND TO KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HONG KONG SETTLERS OVERSEAS COULD IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

MR LEE SAID THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS A LAME-DUCK ADMINISTRATION, AND THAT CHINA DID INTERFERE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG. EVERY TIME CHINA INTERVENED, IT HURT CONFIDENCE AND SENT MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE LONG QUEUES OF EMIGRANTS.

TOP OFFICIALS IN BOTH THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS. BUT THEIR COMPLAINT WAS THAT "PLEASE DO NOT INTERVENE SO OPENLY BUT PLEASE DO SO BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. PLEASE GIVE US FACE OR WE WILL LOSE CREDIBILITY WITH OUR PEOPLE".

ON THE FAILINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT, MR LEE SAID THAT, FIRST, THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE EXERCISING THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY THAT IT USED TO DO BEFORE THE INITIALLING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

SECONDLY, THE RULE OF LAW WAS SEEN TO HAVE BEEN WHITTLED DOWN RECENTLY.

HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE REPORT OF JUSTICES OF PEACE ON COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ON HEI LING CHAU.

HE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE GOVERNMENT COULD LEGITIMATELY HAVE RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST ONE OR MORE OF THE OFFICERS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IF THEY HAD COMMITTED THE OFFENCE OF CRIMINAL ASSAULT ON SOME VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

/"AND DOES .....

"AND DOES THIS NOT SMACK OF THE PRACTICE ADOPTED IN CHINA IN DEALING WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES?" HE ASKED.

HE SAID ANOTHER EXAMPLE WAS THE WAY IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DEALT WITH THE CHINESE OFFICIAL OR SEMI-OFFICIAL CORPORATIONS TRADING IN HONG KONG WHICH ENGAGED IN CORRUPT AND OTHER ILLEGAL PRACTICES.

WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE TWO SEPARATE SYSTEMS OF JUSTICE IN HONG KONG: ONE FOR COMMUNIST CADRES AND THEIR CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS, AND ANOTHER FOR THE COMMON CITIZENS, HE SAID.

IF THE RULE OF LAW WAS TO BE MAINTAINED IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997, WE MUST MAKE SURE NOW THAT IF ANY COMMUNIST CADRE COMMITTED AN OFFENCE IN HONG KONG, HE MUST BE DEALT WITH IN THE USUAL WAY, HE ADDED.

ON THE PROPOSALS TO ALLOW U.S. LAW FIRMS TO SET UP PRACTICE IN HONG KONG BY EMPLOYING LOCALLY QUALIFIED LAWYERS, MR LEE SAID THAT TO ALLOW THEM TO DO SO WOULD BE ALLOW SOMEONE WHO WAS NOT QUALIFIED TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW TO DO SO BY EMPLOYING LOCALLY QUALIFIED LAWYERS TO DO THE WORK FOR HIM.

IF THAT LOGIC WAS CORRECT, ANY WELL-KNOWN FIGURE IN HONG KONG COULD SET UP A FIRM TO PRACTISE LAW, MEDICINE, ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE UNDER THE NAME OF, SAY, ALLEN LEE AND CO, BY EMPLOYING QUALIFIED PERSONS TO WORK FOR HIM, HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID YET ANOTHER FAILING OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS THAT IT HAD FAILED TO GROOM LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE.

HE QUESTIONED WHY THE HEADS OF SO MANY IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS WERE DRAWN FROM FORMER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND RETIRED SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

SURELY THE GOVERNMENT HAD A CASE TO ANSWER AND BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD STAY HERE AFTER 1997.

TURNING TO HONG KONG'S IMAGE ABROAD, HE NOTED THAT AT THE RECENT UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HEARING IN GENEVA, THE UK AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS HAD COME UNDER STRONG CRITICISMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR POSSIBLE BREACHES OF THE U.N. CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, INCLUDING THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE AND THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE.

HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG'S TREATMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE HAS ALSO ATTRACTED A LOT OF ADVERSE CRITICISM FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

HE SAID THAT TO MANY, THE FUTURE WAS BLEAK INDEED. BUT IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THE CURE TO COME FROM THE BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG. NOR WAS IT REALISTIC TO PIN ALL HOPES ON CHINA.

FOR MANY CHINESE CADRES, HONG KONG WAS ONLY THE PERFECT PLACE OF RECREATION AFTER MANY YEARS OF LOYAL SERVICE WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

INDEED, THE SLOGAN "DANCING AND HOESE RACING WILL CONTINUE" WAS VERY INDICATIVE OF THEIR PERCEPTION OF HONG KONG, AND THEIR RATIONALE FOR WISHING HONG KONG TO EXIST UNDER A DIFFERENT SYSTEM.

LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE OFFENDED BY THAT SLOGAN, HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT IN ORDER TO HAVE A BETTER HONG KONG, WHAT WE NEEDED WAS A REVOLUTION IN OUR MINDS: OF BASIC VALUES AND OF FUNDAMENTAL PHILOSOPHY ON LIFE.

WHAT WE HAD IN HONG KONG WAS FAR FROM PERFECT, AND MANY THING WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED BEFORE 1997, HE SAID. IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WAS ONE AREA OF CHANGE.

CHANGES MUST ALSO BE BROUGHT TO SOME OF THE DRACONIAN AND OUTDATED LAWS WHICH INHIBITED THE VARIOUS FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

THESE LAWS INCLUDED THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE, THE LAWS ON LOITERING, THE LAWS REQUIRING PEOPLE TO CARRY WITH THEM PROOF OF IDENTITY AND THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE POWER OF MAGISTRATES NOT TO RECORD A CONVICTION SHOULD BE REINSTATED, AND THAT THE LAWS ON THE SPENT CONVICTION SCHEME BE AMENDED SO THAT THE POLICE WOULD DISCONTINUE GIVING PARTICULARS OF CONVICTIONS WHICH WERE CONSIDERED TO BE SPENT UNDER THE SCHEME.

MR LEE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE "RIGHT TO KNOW" LEGISLATION. THE PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY WOULD REMAIN FOREVER MERELY A PIOUS ASPIRATION UNLESS THE PUBLIC HAD ACCESS TO A RELEVANT INFORMATION.

THERE SHOULD BE AN OVERALL REVIEW AND CODIFICATION OF THE LAW RELATING TO THE POWERS OF ARREST, DETENTION AND INTERROGATION BY ALL DISCIPLINARY AGENCIES.

MR LEE SAID IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNOR AS THE HEAD OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CROP OF LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE : PEOPLE WITH PRINCIPLE, DEDICATION, COURAGE, CONVICTION, COMMITMENT, AND ABOVE ALL, PEOPLE WHO WERE WILLING TO GOVE TO THE COMMUNITY AND NOT TO TAKE FROM IT.

"WHAT WE MUST DO NOW AS A MATTER OF URGENCY IS TO ESTABLISH IN HONG KONG A TRULY DEMOCRATIC AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT BEFORE 1997 SO AS TO MAKE ROOM FOR THESE PEOPLE TO REACH THE TOP," HE SAID.

AS FOR CHINA, WHAT IT COULD DO WAS TO GIVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG A GOOD BASIC LAW, WHICH MUST PROVIDE FOR A TRULY DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF 50 YEARS FROM 1997 TO 2047.

WITH SUCH A BASIC LAW, BRITAIN COULD IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT IT BY ESTABLISHING A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT EVEN BEFORE 1997.

AND, IN THIS WAY THE RIGHT PEOPLE WOULD BE ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EVEN BEFORE 1997 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

UNLESS ALL THESE THINGS WERE DONE, AND DONE NOW, EVEN MORE PEOPLE WOULD LEAVE HONG KONG IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HE ADDED.

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DON'T EQUATE EMIGRATION WITH BRAIN DRAIN  
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EMIGRATION MUST NOT BE BLINDLY EQUATED WITH A BRAIN DRAIN BECAUSE TO DO SO COULD CREATE THE WRONG IMPRESSION THAT ONLY THOSE WHO EMIGRATE ARE THE BRAINS AND THAT THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO STAY ARE NOT, DR THE HON DANIEL TSE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"I DON'T DOUBT THAT HONG KONG HAS LOST SOME BRAINY PEOPLE THROUGH EMIGRATION, BUT I CANNOT SAY THAT EVERYONE WHO HAS LEFT IS A BRAIN, AND I AM NOT EVEN SURE THAT EVERYONE WHO HAS LEFT IS NECESSARILY A LOSS TO HONG KONG," DR TSE SAID IN THE POLICY DEBATE.

THEREFORE, AS MUCH AS WE WANTED TO FIND WAYS TO RETAIN PEOPLE AND TO ATTRACT THOSE WHO HAD LEFT TO COME BACK, WE MUST NOT DO IT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE THOSE WHO WERE COMMITTED TO STAY FEEL THAT THEY WERE INFERIOR TO THOSE WHO HAD LEFT, HE SUGGESTED.

DR TSE AGREED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD FIND WAYS TO MAKE THOSE TALENTED PEOPLE WHO HAD LEFT HONG KONG BUT STILL CONSIDERED IT THEIR HOME TO FEEL WELCOME IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

"WE SHOULD NOT TREAT THEM AS RENEGADES, BUT NEITHER SHOULD WE GO OVERBOARD TO TREAT THEM AS PRIVILEGED OR SUPERIOR CLASS," HE SAID.

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IF A PERSON WERE ATTRACTED TO COME BACK PURELY ON MATERIAL GAINS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES, NO AMOUNT OF MATERIAL INCENTIVES WOULD BE ENOUGH TO KEEP THE PERSON HERE WHENEVER ANYTHING SEEMED TO GO WRONG IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

/THE LONG-TERM .....

THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, HE SAID, MUST BE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE SO THAT HONG KONG WOULD BECOME A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE, TO WORK AND TO BRING UP THE NEXT GENERATION.

DR TSE ALSO CALLED FOR STEPPED-UP LIAISON WORK AMONG STUDENTS FROM HONG KONG WHO WERE STUDYING OVERSEAS. HE BELIEVED THAT MANY OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE HAD VERY SCANTY AND UNBALANCED INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR HOME TOWN.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE THE STAFF IN THE HONG KONG OFFICE IN LONDON TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN STUDENT LIAISON WORK.

THE SAME SHOULD BE DONE IN OTHER OVERSEAS COUNTRIES SO THAT THIS LARGE POOL OF "BRAINS" MIGHT BE DRAINED BACK.

TURNING TO HOUSING, DR TSE SAID THE RENTAL OR THE PURCHASE PRICE FOR PRIVATE HOUSING HAD GONE UP MUCH FASTER THAN SALARY RISES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE CAREFUL TO AVOID HAVING GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT WOULD INADVERTENTLY ENCOURAGE MARKET SPECULATION OR MANIPULATION.

DR TSE ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK AT ITS TRANSPORT POLICIES TO SEE WHETHER THERE WAS NEED FOR CHANGE. THE TAXI LICENCE TENDER SYSTEM WAS A GOOD CASE IN POINT, HE ADDED.

ON EDUCATION, HE SAID ONE OF THE IMPORTANT POLICIES WHICH REQUIRED A GOVERNMENT REVIEW WAS TEACHER TRAINING AT THE NON-GRADUATE LEVEL.

IF NORMAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE WAS ANY GUIDE, IT SHOULD BE MUCH HEALTHIER TO LET TEACHER TRAINING, WHICH SHOULD BE A TERTIARY LEVEL EDUCATION, DEVELOP MORE INDEPENDENTLY WITHOUT DIRECT GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VR PROBLEM WELCOMED

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THE NEWS THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IS NOW WORKING TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM NEXT APRIL WAS WELCOMED BY THE HON RITA FAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MRS FAN SAID THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE REPRESENTED AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM WHICH REQUIRED AN INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION.

/THE UNDERSTANDING .....

THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED AT THE 1979 GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS SIMPLY NOT WORKING ANY MORE, SHE SAID.

IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, LEGCO MEMBERS HAD ALREADY SEEN THE NECESSITY OF ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE INVOLVING VIETNAM, COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM AND COUNTRIES OF RESETTLEMENT IN ORDER TO FIND A DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

"HONG KONG HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED ITSELF A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND, AS SUCH, IS PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE ITS FAIR SHARE TOWARDS THE SOLUTION OF ANY INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM.

"IN THE CASE OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, WE HAVE DONE MORE THAN OUR FAIR SHARE. WHAT IS NEEDED NOW IS REASONABLE CO-OPERATION FROM RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES ON INCREASED 'RESETTLEMENT' AND FROM VIETNAM ON SPEEDY 'REPATRIATION'," SHE SAID.

MRS FAN ALSO ACCUSED THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT OF NOT ACCEPTING MORE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG.

SHE SAID HONG KONG'S POPULATION DENSITY WAS 22 TIMES THAT OF THE UK AND ITS SOCIAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES NEVER SEEMED TO CATCH UP WITH THE NEEDS OF ITS SIX MILLION POPULATION.

"I THEREFORE FIND IT HARD TO ACCEPT THE REASONS GIVEN BY THE UK FOR NOT INCREASING ITS INTAKE OF REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG FROM 20 TO 60 A MONTH AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL," MRS FAN SAID.

IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, SHE SAID, BRITAIN HAD TAKEN LESS THAN 1,000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG WHILE IN THE SAME PERIOD, BOTH CANADA AND THE U.S.A. HAD TAKEN IN FIVE TIMES THAT FIGURE.

"SURELY BRITAIN CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS. HOW CAN BRITISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HOPE TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG WHEN THEIR OWN RECORD IS SO DISMAL," SHE ADDED.

"IT IS APPRECIATED THAT AN INCREASE IN INTAKE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE A POPULAR MOVE IN THE UK, BUT THIS MUST BE BALANCED AGAINST THE RESPONSIBILITY BRITAIN HAS TOWARDS HONG KONG, AND THE WAY BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE IS INTERPRETED BY OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES.

"ONE OPTION THAT I WOULD SUGGEST FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION IS TO MAKE A COMMITMENT OF ANNUAL INTAKE OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS. IF THE NUMBER IS SET AT 700 PER ANNUM, THEN A TOTAL OF 3,500 REFUGEES CAN BE GRADUALLY RESETTLED IN BRITAIN BETWEEN NOW AND 1993."

MRS FAN ADDED THAT SUCH A COMMITMENT WOULD GIVE CONSIDERABLE HOPE TO THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG, AND WOULD MOTIVATE THEM TO PREPARE THEMSELVES BETTER IN VOCATIONAL SKILLS AND LANGUAGES FOR INTEGRATION IN THE UK.

/ "IT WILL .....

"IT WILL ALSO GIVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY A GOOD EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW. BRITAIN WILL BE TAKING THE LEAD ONCE AGAIN, AND REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG," MRS FAN SAID.

TURNING TO THE TOPIC OF CIVIC EDUCATION, MRS FAN SAID CIVIC EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC WAS AS IMPORTANT AS EVER. SHE SAID THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1991 WOULD REPRESENT AN HISTORIC STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

IT WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME EVER THAT HONG KONG'S HIGHEST LAW-MAKING BODY WAS TO HAVE MEMBERS DIRECTLY RETURNED BY AN OPEN FRANCHISE CONSISTING OF ABOUT 1.6 MILLION REGISTERED VOTERS.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEFORE IT A GREAT AND URGENT TASK OF ENSURING THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF THE VOTERS IN THE ELECTIONS.

"OF NO LESS IMPORTANCE IS THE NEED TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE THAT EACH VOTE COUNTS AND THAT VOTING IS A SACROSANCT CIVIC RIGHT AND DUTY WHICH HAS TO BE EXERCISED WITH A DUE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

"THERE SHOULD BE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES INTRODUCING THE VOTING SYSTEM AND HIGHLIGHTING SOME ESSENTIAL FACTORS WHICH ONE NEEDS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INDEPENDENTLY WHEN DECIDING TO WHOM THE VOTE SHOULD GO," SHE SAID.

"THIS, LIKE OTHER FORMS OF EDUCATION, IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE. BUT I AM SURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT, ON THE ADVICE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, WILL BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH INNOVATIVE, PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THIS SHOULD BE DONE.

"THE NEED TO DO THIS CAN HARDLY BE DISPUTED, AND THE SOONER WE START MOVING AHEAD ON THIS FRONT, THE BETTER."

ON EDUCATION, MRS FAN SAID SHE WELCOMED THE COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO GRADUALLY PHASE OUT BISESSIONAL SCHOOLS.

THOUGH DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE ENCOUNTERED, SHE SAID AN URGENT TASK THAT NEEDED TO BE TACKLED IMMEDIATELY WAS HOW TO OFFER UNISESSIONAL SCHOOLS TO PRIMARY 1, 5 AND 6 STUDENTS, AND IF THAT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, HOW TO OFFER MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES TO THESE STUDENTS IN THE FREE HALF DAY.

THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT THEY RECEIVED THE NECESSARY GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LEARNING, AND LIVING IN THIS SOCIETY.

"IN OTHER WORDS, GIVE THEM A FIRM BASE TO BUILD THEIR FUTURE ON," SHE NOTED.

/IN ADDITION, .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 14 -

IN ADDITION, MRS FAN SAID THE CODES OF AID SHOULD BE CLOSELY LOOKED AT WITH THE VIEW TO PROVIDING MORE FLEXIBILITY AND DISCRETION TO THE SCHOOLS, REDUCING THE PAPER WORK, CUTTING OUT CUMBERSOME PROCEDURES, BUT AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT SUBSIDY WAS EFFECTIVELY UTILISED AND PROPERLY ACCOUNTED FOR.

THEREFORE, SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER SETTING UP A TASK FORCE WITH EXPERTS FROM DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS TO EXPLORE WAYS OF CUTTING ACROSS RED TAPE, PROMOTING EFFICIENCY AND HELPING SCHOOLS.

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#### CONCERN OVER RISE IN INFLATION

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A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR EXPRESSED CONCERN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT INFLATION IN HONG KONG THIS YEAR MIGHT BE HIGHER THAN THE ESTIMATED SEVEN PER CENT.

"LET US HOPE THAT THE EXPECTED SLOWING DOWN OF ECONOMIC GROWTH ALL OVER THE WORLD MAY LEAVE MARKET FORCES TO ADJUST ANY EXCESSES IN INFLATION," THE HON PETER POON SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY DEBATE.

AN ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, HOWEVER, WOULD HIT HONG KONG'S EXPORT TRADE. HONG KONG MUST THEREFORE INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF ITS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IF IT WAS TO KEEP UP ITS STRONG ECONOMIC DRIVING FORCE, MR POON SAID.

"WE CAN SURVIVE AND PROSPER ONLY IF OUR GOODS ARE WELCOMED BY OTHER COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THEIR QUALITY AND REASONABLE PRICES AND ALSO KEEP UP OUR FIGHT AGAINST PROTECTIONISM," HE SAID.

MR POON SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO MORE TO ENCOURAGE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BECAUSE HONG KONG WAS LAGGING BEHIND TAIWAN, KOREA AND SINGAPORE IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE FORMATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE VERY WELCOME STEPS TOWARDS ACHIEVE THIS END," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE REGULATION OF THE FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS, MR POON SAID THERE MUST BE SUFFICIENT POWER AND SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT INVESTORS, ESPECIALLY IN CASE OF SUDDEN CRISIS, AND TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN THE INTEGRITY OF HONG KONG.

/ "NEVERTHELESS, WE .....

"NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST AVOID OVER-REGULATION WHICH WOULD STIFLE GROWTH AND EFFICIENCY OF OUR FREE MARKET ECONOMY," HE STRESSED. HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT A PROPER BALANCE COULD BE STRUCK.

ON PUBLIC FINANCES, MR POON SAID HE ENVISAGED MORE PRIVATISATION OR HIVING OFF OF SOME SERVICES IF IT WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE TO DO SO.

WHERE IT AFFECTED THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NO DOUBT WISH TO RETAIN A MEASURE OF CONTROL TO SEE THAT SUCH SERVICES WERE PROPERLY MANAGED AND NOT UNREASONABLY PRICED, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO SET UP A THINK TANK, MR POON SAID THE CONCEPT HAD WORKED WELL IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS IN THE THINK TANK SHOULD BE HIGHLY TALENTED PEOPLE WITH GREAT EXPERTISE AND DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF HONG KONG.

THEY SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT, NOT AFFECTED BY POLITICAL PRESSURE AND MUST HAVE INTEGRITY AND A SINCERE COMMITMENT TO FURTHER THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

MR POON BELIEVED THAT THE THINK TANK WOULD NOT ERODE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

RATHER, IT SHOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL AVENUE TO COLLATE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE QUICKLY TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN ACTING PROMPTLY, MORE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

ON OTHER MATTERS, HE ALSO SAID THAT EFFORTS TO REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION MUST BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE URGED

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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH BACK-UP FACILITIES SO THAT IT COULD OPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY, PROF THE HON C.K. POON SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, PROF POON EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO CATCH UP WITH THE COMMITTEE'S WORK IN TERMS OF INFRASTRUCTURAL OR TECHNICAL BACK-UP.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE DID NOT HAVE ANY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT WHICH COULD PROVIDE CENTRALISED SUPPORT. BETTER TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT BACK-UP FOR THE COMMITTEE WAS REQUIRED.

SUCH PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED BY ADJUSTING AND SIMPLIFYING THE EXISTING BUREAUCRACY AND IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

PROF POON ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY TO PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH AN ANNUAL BUDGET WHICH WOULD BE "REALISTICALLY ADEQUATE" TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES. AT PRESENT, THE COMMITTEE HAD NO CAPITAL GRANT OR INDEPENDENT VOTE.

"WHILE THERE IS NO LACK OF ENTHUSIASM OR ABILITY ON THE COMMITTEE'S PART TO FULFIL ALL THESE OBJECTIVES, WE CANNOT DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT NEW IDEAS AND ORGANISE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES BY WAVING A MAGIC WAND," HE SAID.

THERE WAS A NEED TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THROUGH PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS.

"ALL OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR HONG KONG WOULD ONLY BE WORTHWHILE IF THE MESSAGE GETS THROUGH TO OUR FACTORY WORKERS, HOUSEWIVES AND OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. AFTER ALL, THIS IS WHAT POPULAR SCIENCE EDUCATION IS ALL ABOUT," HE SAID.

A GREATER DEGREE OF CO-ORDINATION COULD ACHIEVE BETTER RESULTS.

PROF POON PRAISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR MOVING TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF HONG KONG'S FIRST TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, DESCRIBING THIS AS "ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING PROJECTS" AND "A LAUDABLE MOVE".

BUT HE LISTED A NUMBER OF FACTORS THAT WOULD DETERMINE ITS EVENTUAL SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE IN ENCOURAGING INNOVATION IN INDUSTRY.

"ONE OF THESE FACTORS IS THE ADEQUATE INPUT OF IDEAS CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED THAT ONE VERY EFFECTIVE WAY TO PRODUCE THESE IDEAS WOULD BE TO HOLD REGULAR INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE FAIRS IN HONG KONG, A PROPOSAL WHICH WAS CURRENTLY UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE.

"THROUGH THE ORGANISATION OF THESE FAIRS, HONG KONG WOULD GRADUALLY ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AS A CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE," HE SAID.

HE THEREFORE URGED ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, SUCH AS THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE PROPOSAL.

TURNING TO THE ENVIRONMENT, PROF POON MENTIONED MAJOR CONCERNS WHICH HE FELT HAD NOT BEEN ADDRESSED PROPERLY.

/HE SAID .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 17 -

HE SAID THE FIGHT AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION WOULD PRODUCE RESULTS ONLY IF LEGISLATIVE SANCTIONS WERE EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE UNIQUE SITUATION IN HONG KONG WHERE OVER 95 PER CENT OF ITS INDUSTRY WERE SMALL INDUSTRIES WITH A SMALL FACTORY SPACE.

"SOLUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OVERSEAS CANNOT BE BLINDLY APPLIED IN HONG KONG. MANY FACTORIES SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE EXTRA POLLUTION-PREVENTIVE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN SHOPS," HE SAID.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING CONSULTANCY SERVICES OR STRENGTHENING SUCH SERVICES IN SOME GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED AGENCIES, ON A NON-PROFIT MAKING BASIS, TO HELP INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES, IN PARTICULAR THE SMALL OPERATORS, TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO REDUCE POLLUTANTS.

"IN THE END, THIS WILL PROVE A FAR MORE COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO COMBAT ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION FROM INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

PROF POON ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CALL ON THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY TO WAGE WAR AGAINST SOURCES OF POLLUTION BY MAKING IT UNDERSTOOD THAT EVERY PERSON HAD A SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS ONE'S ENVIRONMENT.

HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE PREVALENT PROBLEM OF GENERAL TRAFFIC NOISE WAS COMPLETELY LEFT OUT OF THE SCHEME TO COMBAT ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION. HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS PROPERLY THIS COMPLEX PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY IN PLANNING FOR BETTER CONTROL IN FUTURE.

PROF POON QUESTIONED THE GOVERNMENT ON THE POSITION REGARDING THE MUCH PUBLICISED LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME.

HE BELIEVED THAT IN ORDER TO RETAIN CREDIBILITY, IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS PROMISED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GO AHEAD WITHOUT ANY UNNECESSARY DELAY.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 18 -

DEPARTMENT ON TOWN PLANNING ADVOCATED  
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A STRONG CASE EXISTS FOR SETTING UP A TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT SO THAT ALL IMPORTANT PROCESSES IN TOWN PLANNING ARE CONDUCTED IN AN INTEGRATED CONTEXT RATHER THAN PIECEMEAL, THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY DEBATE, MR CHENG SAID FOR MORE THAN A DECADE TOWN PLANNERS HAD FELT THAT BECAUSE OF ORGANISATIONAL CONSTRAINTS AND DIFFUSED DEPLOYMENT OF STAFF THEY HAD BEEN INHIBITED FROM MAKING THE FULLEST POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY.

WELCOMING THE CREATION OF A NEW POLICY BRANCH IN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE SETTING UP OF A NEW DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR CHENG NOTED THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD IN HIS POLICY SPEECH POINTED TO THE CLOSE CORRELATION BETWEEN PLANNING AND MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

HE FELT THAT THIS LINK WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT IT WAS TIME THAT THE PLANNERS' ROLE SHOULD BE MORE CLEARLY RECOGNISED AND IDENTIFIED IN THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. A NEW TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT COULD, LIKE THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, COME UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE NEW POLICY BRANCH DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENT.

MR CHENG ALSO NOTED THAT THE 49-YEAR-OLD TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE, WHICH OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT COPE WITH PRESENT AND FUTURE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS, WAS BEING REVIEWED.

"THIS ORDINANCE SHOULD BE ENVIRONMENT-ORIENTED AND SHOULD PROVIDE FOR PROPER AND EFFICIENT TOWN PLANNING TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION OVERALL AS WELL AS DISTRICT IMPLICATIONS; MORE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING PROCESSES; EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING PROPOSALS; AND FAIRER PLANNING SYSTEM, COMMENSURATE WITH THE TERRITORY'S UNIQUE SITUATION," HE SAID.

ON THE LABOUR SHORTAGE, MR CHENG SAID THE SOLUTION DID NOT LIE SIMPLY IN THE PROVISION OF MORE WORKERS, BUT MORE REALISTICALLY IN HONG KONG'S NEED TO TAKE A QUANTUM LEAP TOWARDS IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY.

HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE A HARD LOOK AT THE EXISTING SYSTEM TO SEE IF IT WERE NOT BY MODERN STANDARDS INEFFICIENT AND INEFFECTIVE.

TURNING TO INFLATION, MR CHENG SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT THE RATE AT WHICH COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL RENTALS HAD BEEN RISING.

/"IF WE .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 19 -

"IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO INCREASE OUR STOCK OF OFFICE AND RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION AND TO IMPROVE OUR EXISTING STOCK, WE CANNOT HOPE TO CONTINUE TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES TO BASE THEMSELVES HERE NOR CAN WE CONTROL THE CURRENT RENTAL SPIRAL WHICH, TOO, WILL DETER NEWCOMERS AND CAUSE COMPANIES ALREADY HERE TO RE-EXAMINE THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF HONG KONG VERSUS OUR ASIAN NEIGHBOURS."

HE SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY OF INCREASING THE STOCK OF UP-TO-DATE BUILDINGS WAS TO CARRY OUT FAR-REACHING REFURBISHMENT TO EXISTING BUILDINGS, CHANGING THEM IN EVERY RESPECT WITH A MINIMUM INPUT OF TIME, MANPOWER AND CONSTRUCTION RESOURCES.

THE MORE QUICKLY THAT ADDITIONAL LAND COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE SOONER THE DISQUIETING INFLATIONARY TREND COULD BE CURBED.

ON EDUCATION, MR CHENG SAID HE WELCOMED THE HIGH PRIORITY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE TO THE EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

HOWEVER, HE HOPED THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP TO BE PROVIDED WITH FIRST-DEGREE COURSE PLACES COULD BE SET HIGHER.

HE ALSO CALLED FOR HIGHER TARGETS AND GREATER COMMITMENT IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH, PARTICULARLY TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL.

"SURELY WE CAN GIVE MORE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO STUDIES WHICH, DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY, SHOULD YIELD SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMICALLY AS WELL AS ACADEMICALLY," HE SAID.

MR CHENG ADDED THAT HE SUPPORTED SETTING UP A CENTRAL POLICY UNIT.

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#### LIMITATIONS HAMPER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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THE 400-PLUS STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEES SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT CAN BE LIKENED TO A PUPPET SHOW IN WHICH COMMITTEE MEMBERS ACT ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPT PREPARED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE HON HUI YIN-FAT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OWING TO LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON THEIR FUNCTIONS, COMPOSITION AND PROCEDURES, THESE COMMITTEES HAD NOT SUCCESSFULLY PLAYED THEIR ROLE AS A SURROGATE FOR DEMOCRACY, MR HUI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY DEBATE.

/"ALTHOUGH THE .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 20 -

"ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT MEMBERSHIP OF ITS ADVISORY COMMITTEES IS DRAWN FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, IN PRACTICE THE GOVERNMENT TENDS TO DO THE CASTING OF THE SHOW," HE SAID.

THE EXCLUSION OF HON SZETO WAH FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WAS A WASTE OF MR SZETO'S INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE, EXPERT KNOWLEDGE AND LONG YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, THUS MAKING A MOCKERY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATIVE SYSTEM, HE SAID.

MR HUI ALSO NOTED THAT OF THE 14 NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF LEGCO WHO SERVED AS CHAIRMEN OF PUBLIC BODIES LAST YEAR, 12 WERE APPOINTED MEMBERS.

"THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WORK TRAINING, A PSYCHIATRY PROFESSIONAL IN HER OWN RIGHT, WHO HAS NO EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUND IN SOCIAL WORK TRAINING, OFFERS A GLARING EXAMPLE OF THE INCONCEIVABLE CRITERIA BY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTS ITS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS," HE SAID.

TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, MR HUI SUGGESTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD EXAMINE THE NEED TO GIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEES "REAL POWERS" AND A SAY IN POLICY MAKING, AND THIS SHOULD BE BUILT INTO THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RECENTLY SET UP INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES -- HOUSING AUTHORITY, PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND BROADCASTING AUTHORITY -- AND THE RELEVANT OMELCO PANELS SHOULD BE CLEARLY DEFINED.

THESE ADVISORY COMMITTEES, IF THEY WERE REALLY DETERMINED, WOULD BE ABLE TO MONITOR TO SOME EXTENT GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES WITH SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT ACTION AND THINKING.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THESE ADVISORY COMMITTEES SHOULD CONSIDER HOLDING OPEN MEETINGS TO ENSURE THAT MEMBERS WOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

TURNING TO THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, MR HUI SAID HE SHARED A DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE POLICY ADDRESS LACKED THE BROAD VISION OF A PRECURSOR.

THE IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING SERVICES AS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR, SUCH AS THE EXTENSION OF OLD AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES AND THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, WERE ALL SOCIAL POLICIES THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED SOME YEARS AGO, HE SAID.

/THE TWO .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 21 -

THE TWO MOST URGENT TASKS IN HAND WERE AN EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IMPROVED MANNING RATIO IN WELFARE ORGANISATIONS AS ENDORSED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND THE FORMULATION OF A LONG-TERM SOCIAL WORK MANPOWER POLICY.

ON THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, MU HUI SAID THAT BRITAIN WAS BOUND BOTH MORALLY AND IN DUTY TO ALLEVIATE HONG KONG'S PLIGHT BY ACCEPTING MORE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM THE TERRITORY.

"IF IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NOT TAKEN, HONG KONG WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO EXPOUND TO THE WHOLE WORLD THE UNITED KINGDOM'S GROSSLY UNFAIR TREATMENT TOWARDS HONG KONG OVER THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE ISSUE," HE SAID.

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#### TECHNOLOGY THE ANSWER TO LABOUR SHORTAGE

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BETTER TECHNOLOGY IS THE SINGLE BEST SOLUTION TO THE LABOUR SHORTAGE, THE HON DAVID LI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MR LI URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO BE FIRM IN SETTING PRIORITIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS AND TO ENSURE THAT SHORTAGES IN AREAS REQUIRING KEY SKILLS DID NOT DELAY ESSENTIAL PROJECTS.

"THIS MAY REQUIRE RELAXING IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS, AND ALLOWING SELECTED SKILLS TO WORK IN HONG KONG FOR LIMITED PERIODS," HE SAID.

HONG KONG SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, IMPORT UNSKILLED LABOUR. RATHER, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE CONTRACTORS TO LOOK ABROAD -- ESPECIALLY TO JAPAN AND NORTH AMERICA -- FOR LABOUR-SAVING PREFABRICATION AND CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES.

"TECHNOLOGY-LINKED TAX INCENTIVES MIGHT BE WORTH CONSIDERING," MR LI SUGGESTED.

WHILE WELCOMING THE RECOMMENDATION ON ESTABLISHING A TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, MR LI STRESSED THE NEED TO IMPROVE DRAMATICALLY TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY AS HONG KONG WAS INCREASINGLY LAGGING BEHIND SOUTH KOREA AND TAIWAN IN THE APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY TO INDUSTRY.

/!"WE MUST .....

"WE MUST SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHEN THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL COMPONENTS IN OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, WHICH ARE NOW GROSSLY INADEQUATE.

"WE SHOULD HELP PRODUCERS TO MOVE UPMARKET. IF WE DO NOT, WE RISK THE COLLAPSE OF OUR INDUSTRIAL SECTOR," HE SAID.

ON LEGISLATION FOR THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY NOW BEING DISCUSSED, MR LI FEARED THAT THIS WOULD GIVE REGULATORS SWEEPING POWERS, IN SOME INSTANCES IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL JUSTICE ON WHICH HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SYSTEM DEPENDED SO GREATLY FOR ITS SURVIVAL.

"THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWEEN PAST UNDER-REGULATION, WHICH ENCOURAGED ABUSES, AND OVER-REGULATION, THAT STIFLES FINANCIAL CREATIVITY," HE SAID.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMPARTIAL, INDEPENDENT APPEALS PROCEDURE SHOULD BE PROVIDED UNDER THE NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY.

TURNING TO THE BANKING INDUSTRY, MR LI SAID HE WAS PLEASED THE GOVERNMENT WAS REVIEWING A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BANKING ORDINANCE 1986 TO ESTABLISH SUCH AN INDEPENDENT APPEALS PROCEDURE FOR THAT SECTOR.

"WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WHEN DIFFERENCES OF OPINION OCCUR BETWEEN THE BANKING COMMISSIONER AND A BANK, THE BANK HAS AN AVENUE OF APPEAL THAT IS IMPARTIAL AND INDEPENDENT, BOTH IN FACT AND APPEARANCE.

"IF WE FAIL IN THIS, IT COULD DETER BANKS FROM COMMITTING THEIR RESOURCES TO THIS MARKET AND LEAD TO A DECLINE IN HONG KONG'S ROLE AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE," HE NOTED.

MR LI ALSO SAW THE NEED TO SHIFT CONTROL OVER THE CLEARING HOUSE TO THE EXCHANGE FUND.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM INVOLVED SERIOUS CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS, WHICH COULD UNDERMINE HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AND CREDIBILITY AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

AS WITH THE SECURITIES MARKETS, THE "CLOSED CLUB" APPROACH WAS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE, HE SAID.

ON THE BRAIN DRAIN ISSUE, MR LI SAID MUCH OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FOCUS SEEMED TO BE LURING EMIGRANTS BACK.

HE WARNED AGAINST OFFERING TOO MANY PRIVILEGES TO THESE EMIGRANTS LEST THEY SHOULD GENERATE HOSTILITY BETWEEN THOSE WITH FOREIGN PASSPORTS AND THOSE WITHOUT, AND SEND THE WRONG SIGNAL TO THOSE UNDECIDED ABOUT STAYING OR LEAVING.

/MR LI .....

MR LI FELT THAT IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO STAY IN OR TO RETURN TO HONG KONG, THE TERRITORY HAD TO BE COMPETITIVE IN THE LIFESTYLE IT OFFERED.

"MANY OF THE 'PERKS' OF MIDDLE CLASS LIFE ELSEWHERE ARE HARD TO COME BY HERE.

"WHILE WE CANNOT RELAX MEASURES TO CONTROL THE NUMBER OF MOTOR CARS, WE COULD CONSIDER THE DEDUCTIBILITY OF MORTGAGE INTEREST FOR RESIDENTS' OWN HOMES.

"THIS WOULD ENABLE PEOPLE WHO STAY IN HONG KONG TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS," HE SAID.

"UNDOUBTEDLY, THE BRAIN DRAIN WILL CHANGE THE WAY HONG KONG DOES BUSINESS AND THE WAY HONG KONG IS ADMINISTERED.

"THE GOVERNMENT -- WITH A CIVIL SERVICE WASTAGE RATE OF OVER FOUR PER CENT LAST YEAR -- MUST DEVELOP A NEW GENERATION OF BETTER-TRAINED, COST-EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SERVANTS. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WILL HAVE TO CHANGE. WE CANNOT AFFORD ANY MORE RED TAPE."

NOTING THAT HONG KONG'S ONLY RESOURCE WAS ITS PEOPLE, MR LI URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INVEST MUCH MORE HEAVILY IN CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES TO UPGRADE THE SKILLS OF THOSE ALREADY IN THE WORKFORCE AND TO HELP FRESH GRADUATES ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL SKILLS.

HE DESCRIBED AS TIMELY THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH AN OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE.

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S "NEW-FOUND ZEAL" TO TACKLE POLLUTION, MR LI CAUTIONED THAT WHAT HONG KONG NEEDED NOW WAS PRACTICAL ACTION, NOT GRANDIOSE SCHEMES WHICH COULD FURTHER TAX LIMITED MANPOWER RESOURCES.

HE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ADDRESS THE CRITICISM THAT IT WAS UNDERMINING POLLUTION CONTROL BY PASSING RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT CREATED THE PAST ABUSE.

IN WELCOMING THE PROPOSAL FOR A CENTRAL POLICY UNIT, MR LI SAID THE GOVERNMENT MUST RECRUIT INDEPENDENTLY MINDED TALENT TO THE UNIT, WHICH SHOULD HAVE THE CLEAR MANDATE TO ANTICIPATE WHERE HONG KONG MUST GO AND TIME TO EXAMINE THE OPTIONS.

HE HOPED THE UNIT WOULD NOT BECOME JUST ANOTHER ADVISORY BOARD TO RUBBER STAMP DECISIONS.

MR LI ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE EXPERTISE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT THAT WAS NOW REPRESENTED IN LEGCO.

HE SUGGESTED THAT A SYSTEM OF SELECT COMMITTEES BE SET UP TO WORK WITH EACH POLICY SECRETARY.

SUCH COMMITTEES, HE BELIEVED, WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND TO PRODUCE POLICIES THAT WOULD COMMAND GENERAL ACCEPTANCE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 24 -

HK INDUSTRY SHOULD GO HIGH-TECH

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HONG KONG INDUSTRY SHOULD MOVE TOWARDS HIGH-VALUED AND TECHNOLOGY-BASED PRODUCTION, IN VIEW OF THE STIFF COMPETITION FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES WITH LOWER PRODUCTION COSTS AND CHEAPER LABOUR, AND FROM ESTABLISHED COUNTRIES WITH HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY, BETTER QUALITY AND INNOVATION, THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY DEBATE, MR TAI SAID TO ACHIEVE THAT AIM HONG KONG SHOULD REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE LABOUR INTENSIVE SECTOR.

HE NOTED THAT WHILE THE TWO INDUSTRIAL ESTATES IN TAI PO AND YUEN LONG OFFERED SUITABLE INDUSTRIAL LAND TO BIG MANUFACTURERS, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT WERE RATHER LIMITED.

MR TAI URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO FORMULATE A BETTER LAND POLICY FOR THE USE OF AGRICULTURE LAND TO CATER FOR INDUSTRIAL NEEDS, SO AS TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT REGIONALLY AND LESSEN THE EVER INCREASING TRANSPORTATION AND FAMILY PROBLEMS IN THE NEW TOWNS.

"TOWN PLANNERS AND LAND ADMINISTRATORS SHOULD TAKE A REALISTIC URGENT LOOK AT THE OVERALL SITUATION AND RECOMMEND MEANINGFUL SOLUTION TO REDRESS THE PROBLEMS," HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT SUITABLE MEASURES COULD BE MADE, SUCH AS TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF CRITERIA IMPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON LAND USE.

TURNING TO YOUTH CRIME, WHICH HE MAINTAINED WAS LARGELY A RESULT OF OVERCROWDED LIVING CONDITIONS, LACK OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND LACK OF PARENTAL CARE, MR TAI SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STRENGTHEN POLICE MANPOWER AND ESTABLISH A DIVISION TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORKERS BY PROVIDING SPEEDY AND EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE.

RECALLING THAT THE WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE PROVISION FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT A PARTICULAR DISTRICT BOARD ABOUT ALL DISTRICT MATTERS, MR TAI REGRETTED THAT THE OPEN CAMP POLICY RELATING TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, WHICH LARGELY AFFECTED THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT, WAS INTRODUCED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD.

HE SAID THE EXTENT AND THE DEGREE IN IMPLEMENTING THE OPEN CAMP POLICY SHOULD BE EXERCISED WITH CAUTION AND BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME.

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- 25 -

MOREOVER, THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD PROVIDE CLEAR AND DETAILED INFORMATION AS TO THE ARRANGEMENTS.

ON THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT), MR TAI NOTED THAT THE SERIES OF ACCIDENTS HAD REVEALED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN POPULATION AND TRAFFIC VOLUME IN TUEN MUN, AND A DECREASE IN ROAD SURFACES FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, BECAUSE SOME ROAD SPACE HAD BEEN EXCLUSIVELY RESERVED FOR LRT TRACKS.

ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, MR TAI URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO DRAW UP PLANS TO IMPROVE FOUL WATER SEWAGE SYSTEMS IN THE TERRITORY WHICH, IN HIS OPINION, WERE ESSENTIAL FOR THE COLLECTION OF FOUL WATER FROM RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND RURAL AREAS.

AS TO INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, HE SAID A BALANCE MUST BE STRUCK BETWEEN PRODUCTION COSTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.

THE OVERALL PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR COULD HAVE BEEN MITIGATED TREMENDOUSLY WITH MORE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

ON TOWN PLANNING AND NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, MR TAI STRESSED THAT A REGIONAL LAYOUT PLAN WAS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE; AND THAT THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS SHOULD BE WELL CONSULTED BEFORE THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN SO THAT THE NEEDS OF THE PARTICULAR COMMUNITY COULD BE CATERED FOR.

STATING THAT URBAN FRINGE AND RURAL PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT HAD BEEN A FAILURE IN THE PAST DECADE, MR TAI SUGGESTED THAT SOME NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, AND TOWN PLANNERS COULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE LAND ADMINISTRATION.

PARTICULAR EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PUT ON THE QUESTION OF IMPLEMENTING TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

PUBLIC ENGINEERING WORK WAS EVIDENTLY NEEDED TO REDRESS THE DEFICIENCY, WHICH MIGHT NECESSARILY ENTAIL LAND RESUMPTION.

NOTING THAT SUCH ENGINEERING WORK WOULD NORMALLY TAKE THREE TO FOUR YEARS TO MATERIALISE, HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE PRIORITY AND URGENT ATTENTION TO THE WORK IF APPROVED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 26 -

'EYE-OPENER' IN MANAGING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY SPEECH WAS AN EYE-OPENER IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MANAGING PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN HONG KONG, THE HON ANDREW WONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MR WONG NOTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THE MOTION OF THANKS WAS MOVED BY A NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER.

HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS SO STRIKING ABOUT THE POLICY ADDRESS WAS NOT THE GOVERNOR'S DETERMINATION TO THINK LONG TERM AND GIVE AN ENERGETIC LEAD TO THE EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY.

NOR WAS IT THE ASSESSMENT THAT "WE IN HONG KONG DO HAVE THE ABILITY TO CONFRONT THE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE US". THAT WOULD BE PAINTING A VERY ROSY PICTURE INDEED, MR WONG SAID.

INSTEAD, WHAT THE GOVERNOR HAD DONE IN HIS POLICY SPEECH WAS TO PAINT THE PICTURE AS IT WAS, WARTS AND ALL, AND REMINDING THE PEOPLE THAT NO SOCIETY WAS WITHOUT PROBLEMS.

"WHAT A REFRESHING APPROACH TO A GUBERNATORIAL POLICY ADDRESS," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY HEARTENED BY THE INCLUSION IN THE POLICY SPEECH OF SUCH PROBLEMS AS THE PLIGHT OF THE ELDERLY, THE DISABLED AND THE VULNERABLE, THE PROBLEM OF URBAN SLUMS, AND THE LACK OF BASIC AMENITIES AND THE INACCESSIBILITY OF RURAL VILLAGES.

"IN DETERMINING POLICY PRIORITIES, A SIMPLE RULE SHOULD BE THAT THE MINIMISATION OF SUFFERING OUGHT TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE MAXIMISATION OF HAPPINESS," HE SUGGESTED.

MR WONG SAID HE WAS NOT A SUBSCRIBER TO THE "FREE LUNCH PHILOSOPHY". WHAT HE WAS AGAINST WAS THE UNFAIR, NOT UNEQUAL, DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES.

"WHAT I ADVOCATE IS A RULE WHICH MAKES GOVERNMENT MORALLY DEFENSIBLE IN THE EYES OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT IS A NECESSARY EVIL," HE SAID.

MR WONG ALSO OBSERVED THAT WHEN DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM OF THE BRAIN DRAIN, THE GOVERNOR HAD, IN A SENSE, HINTED AT A THREE-STEP PROCESS IN PUBLIC POLICY MAKING: FIRST, TO HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE PROBLEM; SECOND, TO ANALYSE THE PROBLEM CAREFULLY AND ACCURATELY; AND THIRD, TO DECIDE WHAT WE CAN AND SHOULD DO ABOUT IT.

/HE SAID .....

- 27 -

HE SAID THAT THE SECOND STEP - EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS - OUGHT TO PERVADE ALL THREE STEPS, OR ELSE THE DECISIONS MADE AND THE POLICIES PURSUED WOULD MERELY BE WHITE ELEPHANTS OR COMPROMISES WHICH DID NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

MR WONG BELIEVED THAT THE DECISION TO CREATE A THINK TANK WAS MADE PRECISELY AND SIMPLY TO ENHANCE THE POLICY ANALYSIS ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

HE ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED THE DECISION WAS BASED ON THE NEED TO HAVE A TEAM OF PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE DAY TO DAY OPERATION OF THE FUNCTIONAL BRANCHES, AND THUS CAPABLE OF LOOKING AT SUCH PROBLEM FROM BROADER AND MORE INNOVATIVE PERSPECTIVES.

THE THINK TANK - THE CENTRAL POLICY UNIT - AND THE POLICY BRANCHES SHOULD INTERACT IN ORDER TO GIVE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THE BEST ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INTERACT SO THAT THE DECISIONS FINALLY TAKEN DID TRULY SOLVE PUBLIC PROBLEMS, HE ADDED.

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22 MEMBERS SPEAK IN LEGCO DEBATE  
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TWENTY-TWO MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE FIRST DAY OF DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ON THE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

THE SITTING BEGAN AT 2.30 PM AND ENDED AT ABOUT 9 PM.

A FURTHER 23 MEMBERS ARE LISTED TO SPEAK WHEN THE DEBATE RESUMES TOMORROW.

THE MOTION BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THAT THE GOVERNOR BE THANKED FOR HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS, WAS MOVED BY THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON ALLEN LEE.

IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL PASSED A MOTION THAT THE PERIOD FOR AMENDING THE FILM CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS --- WHICH COME INTO FORCE TOMORROW --- BE EXTENDED FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF 21 DAYS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30.

THIS MOTION WAS MOVED BY THE HON SZETO WAH.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 28 -

MOTION ON EXTENSION APPROVED  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO EXTEND THE PERIOD FOR AMENDING THE FILM CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS 1988 FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF 21 DAYS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30.

THE AMENDMENT PERIOD WAS SCHEDULED TO CLOSE TODAY UNDER SECTION 34(2) OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE, WHICH PROVIDES 28 DAYS FOR AMENDING SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

THE FILM CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS 1988 WERE LAID BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 12.

SUPPORTING THE MOTION TABLED BY THE HON SZETO WAH, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE MOTION WAS PUT FORWARD IN ANTICIPATION OF COMMENTS ON THE REGULATIONS POSSIBLY RAISED BY THE FILM INDUSTRY.

NOTING THAT THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE 1988 AND THE FILM CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS 1988 WOULD COME INTO FORCE TOMORROW, MR TSAO SAID MANY IN THE FILM INDUSTRY HAD MADE COMMERCIAL PLANS AND DISPOSITIONS IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS EVENT.

"SO IN ORDER NOT TO UPSET THESE PLANS, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED NOT TO SEEK TO DELAY THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

GIVEN THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MIGHT BE ASKED TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER 30 UNDER THE MOTION, MR TSAO SAID THE FILM INDUSTRY WOULD EXPERIENCE SOME UNCERTAINTY.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH AMENDMENTS, IF ANY, WILL BE PROPOSED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FILM INDUSTRY. I THEREFORE ASSUME THAT THEY WILL ACCEPT THE UNCERTAINTY THAT MIGHT RESULT," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 29 -

PROPOSALS ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AIMED AT IMPROVEMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS ARE AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM, THE DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL, MR ERIC MARTIN, SAID THIS EVENING (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A FORUM ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY LAW ASSOCIATION ON THE ISSUE OF FOREIGN LAW FIRMS, MR MARTIN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ASKED WHY IT FELT A NEED FOR CHANGE FROM THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS.

IN OTHER WORDS, SAID MR MARTIN: "THE ARGUMENT AGAINST CHANGE IS THAT 'IF IT AIN'T BROKE WHY FIX IT?'"

"FAR FROM SUGGESTING THAT ANYTHING IS BROKEN, WE ARE PROPOSING TO MAKE WHAT IS GOOD EVEN BETTER."

MR MARTIN, WHO OPENED THE DEBATE, SAID GOVERNMENTS WERE OFTEN ACCUSED OF HAVING THEIR HEADS BURIED IN THE SAND: "BUT ON THIS OCCASION AT LEAST WE HAVE FIRMLY PLUCKED OUR HEAD FROM THE SAND AND HAVE CLEARLY IN SIGHT THE FURTHER ELEVATION OF HONG KONG ON THE WORLD STAGE."

HE SAID MUCH OF THE CRITICISMS AGAINST THE PROPOSALS WERE BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUE.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL IS TO INTRODUCE FORMAL CRITERIA, WHERE NONE NOW EXIST, TO PERMIT THE REGISTRATION THROUGH THE COURTS OF FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS, THEREAFTER TO PERMIT THOSE FIRMS, IF THEY SO WISH TO TAKE IN HONG KONG QUALIFIED SOLICITORS TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW AND TO IMPOSE A FORMAL REGIME OF DISCIPLINE OVER THOSE FIRMS THROUGH THE LAW SOCIETY," MR MARTIN SAID.

"IN OTHER WORDS, IT CONSISTS OF THREE ELEMENTS. THE FIRST IS TO FORMALISE THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGN LAWYERS WHICH IS A TIGHTENING OF EXISTING MEASURES.

"THE SECOND ELEMENT IS TO PERMIT THOSE FOREIGN LAWYERS TO HIRE IN-HOUSE HONG KONG SOLICITORS.

"THE THIRD IS TO ENABLE THE LAW SOCIETY TO DISCIPLINE FOREIGN FIRMS THROUGH CLEARLY LAID DOWN POWERS OF DISCIPLINE," HE SAID.

"IF YOU BEAR IN MIND THESE ELEMENTS, IT WILL BE SEEN THAT MUCH OF THE CRITICISMS OF THE PROPOSALS IS IN FACT BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING OF IT.

"THERE HAS BEEN A SUGGESTION THAT THE PROPOSAL IS ABOUT FOREIGN LAWYERS PRACTISING HONG KONG LAW. THAT IS NOT THE PROPOSAL.

/"FOREIGN LAWYERS .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 30 -

"FOREIGN LAWYERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED UNDER THESE PROPOSALS TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW. THERE IS IN THIS CASE NO CHANGE FROM THE PRESENT POSITION," MR MARTIN STRESSED.

"IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL OPEN THE FLOODGATES TO FOREIGN LAWYERS.

"THAT IS NOT THE PROPOSAL, FOREIGN LAWYERS ARE HERE ALREADY. THE CRITERIA THEY PRESENTLY HAVE TO SATISFY WILL NOT BE LESSENERED, IN FACT THEY WILL BE FORMALISED AND TIGHTENED," HE NOTED.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE PROPOSAL INTERFERES WITH THE LAW SOCIETY'S RIGHT OF SELF-REGULATION.

"THAT IS NOT THE PROPOSAL, IT WILL IN FACT STRENGTHEN THIS AS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE LAW SOCIETY WILL HAVE CLEARLY DEFINED POWERS OF DISCIPLINE OVER FOREIGN LAWYERS AS THEY PRESENTLY HAVE OVER HONG KONG SOLICITORS," MR MARTIN SAID.

"IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BOWED TO THE PRESSURE OF TRADE SANCTIONS. WE REPEAT THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE. IT HAS PLAYED NO PART WHATSOEVER IN OUR DELIBERATIONS," HE SAID.

THE DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL ALSO REFUTED SUGGESTIONS THAT THE PROPOSALS ARE RADICAL.

"THEY ARE NOT. THEY WILL EXTEND TO FOREIGN LAW FIRMS WHO SATISFY THE ENTRY CRITERIA SIMILAR RIGHTS TO PRACTISE MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LAW THAT ARE CURRENTLY ENJOYED BY SOME OF THE LARGER FIRMS OF HONG KONG SOLICITORS," HE SAID.

MR MARTIN SAID THERE HAD ALSO BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT THE PROPOSALS WOULD, IN SOME DAY, LOWER THE ETHICAL STANDARDS OF THE PROFESSION IN HONG KONG.

"FAR FROM BEING THE CASE, FOREIGN LAWYERS - AND I MUST STRESS THAT WE ARE NOT TALKING ONLY ABOUT AMERICAN LAWYERS - WILL NEED TO FOLLOW HONG KONG ETHICAL STANDARDS WHICH WILL BE ENFORCED THROUGH THE LAW SOCIETY'S POWERS OF DISCIPLINE," HE SAID.

MR MARTIN SAID IT WAS EASY TO REGARD THE DEBATE OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS AS SIMPLY ONE BETWEEN LAWYERS BUT IN FACT WIDER ISSUES WERE INVOLVED.

"WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST, HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A MAJOR AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE AND THE DEVELOPING INTERNATIONALISATION OF HONG KONG.

"LAWYERS IN HONG KONG HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS BUT IT IS THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISER. LAW IS A SERVICE INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

/THE MAIN .....

THE MAIN PLAYERS ON THIS INTERNATIONAL STAGE ARE NOT LAWYERS BUT BUSINESSMEN WITH MULTI-NATIONAL INTERESTS.

"WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS WHAT THE PIPER WANTS BECAUSE HE CALLS THE TUNE. AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE ECONOMIC REALITIES ARE THAT WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT CHOIR TO SING THE PIPER'S TUNE," MR MARTIN SAID.

HE SAID THE RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS WAS LIKELY TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE RANGE OF AVAILABLE LEGAL SERVICES AND GREATER INTERNATIONAL LEGAL EXPERTISE.

AN INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCE, COMMERCE AND INVESTMENT WAS LIKELY TO FOLLOW AND THERE WOULD BE MORE SPIN-OFF WORK FOR LOCAL LAWYERS, HE NOTED.

LOCAL LAWYERS WOULD ALSO HAVE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES OF BECOMING MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN GENERAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE THUS INCREASING THEIR POTENTIAL AS SUCCESSFUL LAWYERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, MR MARTIN SAID.

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MARINE INTERESTS CONSIDERED AT CRUCIAL PLANNING  
STAGES: DIRECTOR OF MARINE  
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MARINE INTERESTS WERE CONSIDERED AT THE CRUCIAL INITIAL PLANNING STAGES BEFORE PROJECTS GAINED MOMENTUM AND BECAME UNSTOPPABLE, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR DERICK HALL, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AND TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAD A DEDICATED PORT PLANNING BRANCH WHICH WERE INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF HONG KONG PLANNING WHERE THERE WAS A MARINE DIMENSION, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SHIPBROKERS AT THE FURAMA HOTEL, MR HALL SAID THAT ONE OF THE MORE DIFFICULT JOBS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WAS TO RECONCILE CONFLICTING INTERESTS BETWEEN PORT USERS AND OPERATORS.

"OFTEN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE," MR HALL SAID. "THE MIDDLE WAY SOMETIMES SIMPLY PLEASES NO ONE."

HE CITED RECLAMATION AS AN EXAMPLE AND SAID HARBOUR RECLAMATION HAD LONG BEEN REGARDED AS A PRIME SOURCE OF NEW LAND.

/"THE HARBOUR .....

"THE HARBOUR IS OFTEN QUOTED AS BEING ONE OF HONG KONG'S GREATEST NATURAL ASSETS. YET FOR THE LAST 100 YEARS WE HAVE BEEN BUSILY FILLING IT IN," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT RECLAMATION REDUCED ANCHORAGE AND MOORING SPACE AND RESTRICTED THE AREA AVAILABLE FOR NAVIGATION.

"AS WELL AS BEING THE MAIN ARTERY FOR HONG KONG'S COMMERCE, THE PORT ALSO FORMS A MUNICIPAL HIGHWAY WHICH IS GETTING STEADILY SMALLER," HE ADDED.

MR HALL SAID THERE WERE OF COURSE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND IT WAS GOVERNMENT'S FUNCTION TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN MANY COMPETING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS.

"IT IS MY JOB HOWEVER TO PUT THE MARINE SIDE AS VIGOROUSLY AND FORCIBLY AS POSSIBLE," MR HALL SAID. "WITHOUT AN EXTENSION OF THE AREA OF SHELTERED WATER, E.G. BY BREAKWATERS ETC., IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE THERE IS ROOM FOR ANY FURTHER HARBOUR RECLAMATION BEYOND THOSE ALREADY PLANNED."

ANOTHER CONFLICT WAS THAT BETWEEN THE EXPLOITATION OF THE SEABED AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SAFE ANCHORAGES AND MOORINGS.

MR HALL SAID THAT THERE WERE VAST RESERVES OF SAND SUITABLE FOR USE AS RECLAMATION-FILL OR FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES AND THAT MODERN DREDGING TECHNIQUES COULD "HOOVER" UP MILLIONS OF TONS OF SEABED.

"BUT IT CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO DESTROY OUR ANCHORAGES BY DREDGING-OUT HOLDING GROUNDS TO UNACCEPTABLE DEPTHS.

"AMPLE RESERVES OF SAND HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED IN OTHER AREAS AND THAT THE INTERESTS OF ALL COULD BE SATISFIED," SAID MR HALL.

TURNING TO THE PLANNING OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT, MR HALL SAID THAT THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT CONSULTANCIES UNDER WAY.

REFERRING TO "SOME RATHER UNKIND THINGS" SAID ABOUT GOVERNMENT CONSULTANCIES, MR HALL EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS THE AGE OF THE SPECIALIST AND AS TECHNOLOGIES BECAME MORE AND MORE VARIED AND COMPLICATED THERE WAS INCREASING COMPARTMENTALISATION OF KNOWLEDGE.

"IT WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC FOR GOVERNMENT TO RETAIN ON ITS PAYROLL EVERY SPECIALIST IT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY NEED.

"CONSULTANTS THEREFORE PROVIDE A COST-EFFECT SOLUTION. THEY ARE HIRED ONLY WHEN REQUIRED," HE SAID.

ONE OF THE LARGEST CONSULTANCIES WAS THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STUDY (PADS) WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO MAKE PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT AND AIRPORT TO THE YEAR 2011.

"ALTHOUGH PADS IS EXPECTED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS SHORTLY REGARDING THE LOCATION OF CONTAINER PORTS 8 AND 9, THE FULL RECOMMENDATIONS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL MID 1989," HE ADDED.

AS TO WHAT WAS BEING DONE IN THE SHORT TERM, MR HALL SAID ADDITIONAL MOORINGS WERE PLANNED TO PROVIDE A SHORT TERM INCREASE IN CAPACITY BY ABOUT 20 PER CENT.

"THIS TOGETHER WITH A MORE SOPHISTICATED BOOKING SYSTEM AND BETTER UTILISATION CAN (EVEN WITH PRESENT GROWTH FIGURES) BE SUFFICIENT UNTIL THE MID 1990'S," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE BUOY SYSTEM WAS APPROACHING CAPACITY IT WAS BY NO MEANS AT SATURATION LEVEL.

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FREE TRADE CREATES MORE WEALTH  
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THE OPEN TRADING SYSTEM IN HONG KONG WILL RESULT IN THE CREATION OF MORE WEALTH, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR MICHAEL SZE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF INTERSTOFF ASIA '88, MR SZE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT FREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUYING AND SELLING BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE IN DIFFERENT PRODUCTS WOULD RESULT IN THE CREATION OF MORE WEALTH ALL ROUND.

"ARTIFICIAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS WHICH PUT AN ARBITRARY CEILING ON IMPORTS OR SWINGING IMPORT DUTIES, ONLY SERVE TO DISTORT TRADE AND WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CREATION OF WEALTH IN THE LONG RUN.

"SUCH MEASURES MIGHT BENEFIT SPECIFIC SECTORS IN THE SHORT-TERM, BUT THEIR DAMAGE TO THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM AND THE CREATION OF WEALTH FOR EVERYBODY IN THE LONGER TERM FAR OUTWEIGHED THE IMMEDIATE AND SECTORAL BENEFITS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THEM," MR SZE SAID.

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ON THE SETTING UP OF THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET, MR SZE PROMISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MONITOR THE SITUATION VERY CLOSELY THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN WELCOME STATEMENTS FROM AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES SAYING THAT UPON COMPLETION OF THE SINGLE MARKET IN 1992, EUROPE WOULD FULFIL ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND WOULD NOT TURN INTO A "FORTRESS".

INTERSTOFF ASIA '88 HAD BROUGHT TO HONG KONG 150 FABRICS MANUFACTURERS FROM 20 FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

MR SZE SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS COULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO CAREFULLY SURVEY THE WIDE SELECTION OF HIGH FASHION FABRICS AND YARNS ON DISPLAY AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS.

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INCOME LIMITS AND HOME PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME TO BE REVIEWED  
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL BE REVIEWING IN ONE EXERCISE THE CURRENT INCOME LIMITS FOR BOTH THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND THE WAITING LIST AND THE AMOUNT, QUOTA AND THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF THE HOME PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME, THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR FREDDIE PANG, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH THIS EVENING, MR PANG SAID THE REVIEWING EXERCISE WAS AIMED TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY 1989.

HE SAID THAT WAITING LIST INCOME LIMITS FOR PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING WERE REVIEWED ANNUALLY, AND REVISIONS TO THE LIMITS MIGHT BE MADE AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE EFFECT OF A NUMBER OF FACTORS INCLUDING INFLATION, REAL INCOME GROWTH AND SO ON.

"GIVEN THE MOVEMENT OF PRICES AND HOUSEHOLD INCOMES IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO, THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT THESE LIMITS," HE SAID.

MR PANG POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE ADVANTAGES IN HAVING THE TWO INCOME LIMITS AND THE LOAN SCHEME REVIEWED AS ONE EXERCISE BECAUSE THEY WERE INTER-RELATED AND HAD IMPLICATION ON THE HOUSING DEMAND.

RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE PUT FORWARD TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION AS FROM APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR, MR PANG ADDED.

ON DOMESTIC RENT POLICY, MR PANG SAID RECENT REPORTS THAT THE MEDIAN RENT-INCOME RATIO WOULD BE RAISED TO 20 PER CENT WAS PURELY SPECULATION BECAUSE A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT DOMESTIC RENT POLICY HAD YET TO BE CONDUCTED.

/HOWEVER, HE .....

- 35 -

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THIS POLICY WOULD HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION FOR SOME TIME BY 1989-90, IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO ADVISE THE AUTHORITY TO RECONVENE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT DOMESTIC RENT POLICY NEXT YEAR.

TURNING TO OTHER HOUSING RELATED TOPICS, MR PANG SAID SOME REAL PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN SQUATTER CLEARANCES.

BY NEXT YEAR, A TOTAL OF 32 000 SQUATTERS OF THE TWO LARGEST REMAINING URBAN SQUATTER AREAS AT SHAU KEI WAN AND DIAMOND HILL WOULD HAVE BEEN CLEARED, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, A GOOD START HAD BEEN MADE IN THE CLEARANCE OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY.

"AFTER THESE MAJOR CLEARANCES, AND BARRING UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR TARGET OF CLEARING ALL URBAN SQUATTERS BY THE MID-90S CAN BE MET," MR PANG SAID.

ON THE LABOUR SHORTAGE, HE SAID ITS FULL EFFECTS ON PRODUCTION TARGETS UNDER THE LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY HAD YET TO BE ASSESSED, BUT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS DOING WHAT IT COULD TO ENCOURAGE GREATER MECHANISATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, THE AUTHORITY'S PRODUCTION WAS EXPECTED TO REACH ABOUT 60 000 FLATS WHICH SHOULD BE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO MAKE UP LAST YEAR'S SHORTFALL.

FURTHER MORE, THIS FIGURE WOULD REPRESENT THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF FLATS EVER COMPLETED WITHIN A SINGLE YEAR SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

TO DATE, ABOUT 55 PER CENT OF HOUSING AUTHORITY'S PROJECTS ARE RUNNING BEHIND SCHEDULE.

BUT, MR PANG SAID AS MOST OF THESE WERE ONLY MINOR DELAYS, RANGING FROM AN APPROXIMATE AVERAGE OF THREE TO SIX MONTHS, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IN THE LONG RUN THE OVERALL PRODUCTION TARGETS SHOULD BE ACHIEVABLE, GIVEN APPROPRIATE INCENTIVES AND SUITABLE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROGRAMMES.

ON REDEVELOPMENT, MR PANG SAID THE COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AIMED TO REDEVELOP OVER 500 OLDER PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS BETWEEN NOW AND 2001.

"FOR THOSE BLOCKS WHICH ARE NOT YET DUE OR SCHEDULED FOR REDEVELOPMENT, WE HAVE A CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN AND INTRODUCE IMPROVEMENTS," MR PANG SAID.

HE SAID DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, ABOUT 170 000 TENANTS IN 42 000 FLATS AND BENEFITTED FROM THE REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, A FURTHER TOTAL OF 70 000 FLATS INVOLVING SOME 280 000 TENANTS IN VARIOUS ESTATES WOULD ALSO BE RENOVATED, HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 36 -

WHOLESALER FINED \$7,000 FOR SELLING CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES

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THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WARNED VEGETABLE TRADERS NOT TO SELL VEGETABLES CONTAINING THE BANNED PESTICIDE "METHAMIDOPHOS" OR ELSE THEY WOULD BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 PLUS THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

IF THE VEGETABLES WERE PROVEN TO HAVE CAUSED POISONING IN PEOPLE, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY WOULD BE \$25,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

THIS WARNING FOLLOWS A CASE IN FANLING MAGISTRACY YESTERDAY WHEN A VEGETABLE WHOLESALER AT THE SHEUNG SHUI WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET WAS FINED A TOTAL OF \$7,000 FOR SELLING "CHOI SUM" (FLOWERING WHITE CABBAGE) AND "PAK CHOI" (WHITE CABBAGE) CONTAINING THE BANNED PESTICIDE "METHAMIDOPHOS".

THE COURT WAS TOLD THAT FOOD INSPECTORS FROM THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WENT TO THE SHEUNG SHUI WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET ON JULY 6 AND TOOK SAMPLES OF THE "CHOI SUM" AND "PAK CHOI" FROM A TRADER, WONG SUI-WAH, OF 115 SAN SHING AVENUE, SHEUNG SHUI, FOR CHEMICAL TESTING.

THE RESULT OF THE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS SHOWED THAT THE SAMPLES CONTAINED RESPECTIVELY 0.5 AND 0.3 MILLIGRAM OF "METHAMIDOPHOS" PER KILOGRAM OF VEGETABLES.

WONG WAS THEN CHARGED UNDER SECTION 52(1) OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE WITH HAVING SOLD FOOD "NOT OF THE SUBSTANCE DEMANDED BY THE PURCHASER".

WONG WAS ALSO ORDERED TO PAY COSTS OF \$434 FOR ANALYSIS OF THE SAMPLES.

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO CHINA FERRY TERMINAL STRENGTHENED

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO THE NEW CHINA FERRY TERMINAL WILL BE STRENGTHENED TOMORROW (THURSDAY) WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW CIRCULAR COACH SERVICE AND IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING SERVICES, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE NEW CIRCULAR COACH SERVICE, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OPERATION FROM NEXT WEDNESDAY, HAS BEEN ADVANCED TO START FROM 6.30 AM TOMORROW TO MEET PASSENGER DEMAND GENERATED BY THE OPENING OF THE FERRY TERMINAL.

/THE NEW .....

THE NEW KMB SERVICE, ROUTE NO. 202, WILL LINK THE NEW CHINA FERRY TERMINAL WITH THE JORDAN ROAD BUS TERMINUS, THE TSIM SHA TSUI MTR STATION AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI FERRY INTERCHANGE.

THE ROUTE STARTS FROM CANTON ROAD AND TRAVELS VIA JORDAN ROAD FERRY BUS TERMINUS, CANTON ROAD, AUSTIN ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, SALISBURY ROAD, STAR FERRY BUS TERMINUS, SALISBURY ROAD, KOWLOON PARK DRIVE AND CANTON ROAD.

THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE FROM 6.30 AM TO 10.30 PM DAILY AT A 12-MINUTE FREQUENCY. THE FARE WILL BE \$1.50 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

ALSO FROM TOMORROW, TWO BUS STOPS IN CANTON ROAD OUTSIDE THE NEW CHINA FERRY TERMINAL WILL BE DESIGNATED FOR THE EXISTING KMB BUS ROUTE 8A, WHICH OPERATES BETWEEN JORDAN ROAD AND WHAMPOA GARDENS.

AN EXTRA VEHICLE WILL BE ADDED TO GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 6, WHICH OPERATES BETWEEN WHAMPOA GARDENS AND HANKOW ROAD AND SERVES THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL EN-ROUTE ON CANTON ROAD, TO IMPROVE SERVICE FREQUENCY.

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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FIVE PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND ARE BEING OFFERED TO LET BY TENDER BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

FOUR ARE LOCATED AT FUNG SHING STREET, NGAU CHI WAN, KOWLOON.

THE SITES MEASURING 12,770, 3,770, 2,830 AND 2,730 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY, ARE FOR OPEN STORAGE, EXCLUDING CONTAINERS.

TENANCIES FOR THE SITES ARE FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE FIFTH SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 880 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR WORKSHOP WITH ANCILLARY OFFICES.

IT IS LOCATED IN AREA 26, ON LOK TSUEN, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES.

TENANCY FOR THIS SITE IS THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 25 THIS YEAR.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 38 -

1.6 MILLION VOTERS REGISTERED

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ABOUT 1.6 MILLION PEOPLE WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON MARCH 9 NEXT YEAR.

PARTICULARS OF THESE REGISTERED VOTERS ARE CONTAINED IN THE PROVISIONAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION FROM FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 11) UNTIL NOVEMBER 21 AT DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION (RED).

PEOPLE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE BUT FAILED TO REGISTER BEFORE THE DEADLINE ON SEPTEMBER 30 THIS YEAR WILL NOW HAVE UNTIL NOVEMBER 21 TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION IF THEY WISH TO TAKE PART IN THE MARCH ELECTIONS.

MORE THAN 31,500 NEW APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL DURING THIS YEAR'S REGISTRATION EXERCISE.

THE BIGGEST INCREASE IN NUMBER WAS RECORDED IN SHA TIN DISTRICT WHERE 10,086 PEOPLE WERE REGISTERED, FOLLOWED BY TUEN MUN DISTRICT WITH 2,148 PEOPLE AND SAI KUNG DISTRICT WITH 1,869 PEOPLE.

THERE WAS AN OFFSETTING REDUCTION OF 40,781 ELECTORS AS A RESULT OF THE ANNUAL VETTING EXERCISE, THE REGISTRATION OFFICER OF RED, MR LAI KWAN-TAT, SAID.

THE DELETIONS CONSIST OF 5,656 DEATH CASES, 1,588 CASES OF EMIGRATION, 25,418 CASES WHERE THE RED FAILED TO ESTABLISH CONTACT, 113 DUPLICATE ENTRIES, 314 OMISSIONS AT THE REQUEST OF THE ELECTORS AND 7,692 ENTRIES WITH DOUBTFUL ADDRESSES.

MR LAI SAID: "THE SCREENING OF ENTRIES WITH DOUBTFUL ADDRESSES WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY A LISTING OF ELECTORS IN THE SEQUENCE OF THEIR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES."

OTHER EFFORTS HAD ALSO BEEN MADE TO UPDATE THE RECORDS.

FOR DOUBTFUL CASES INVOLVING RESIDENTS OF HOUSING ESTATES MANAGED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OR THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY, THE UPDATED RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES OF SUCH PERSONS WERE OBTAINED FROM THE ESTATE MANAGEMENT, AND MORE THAN 17,500 RECORDS HAD BEEN SO AMENDED.

IN ADDITION, 5,226 CORRECTIONS WERE MADE THROUGH CONFIRMATION WITH VOTERS BY TELEPHONE OR AT POLLING STATIONS DURING THE RECENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, MR LAI ADDED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT 486 VOTERS AT THE RECENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAVE YET TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL.

/THEY WILL .....

- 39 -

THEY WILL BE REMINDED BY LETTERS TO DO SO WITHOUT DELAY, OTHERWISE THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REMAIN AS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORS.

"ELECTORS ARE ALSO URGED TO REPORT ANY CHANGE OF RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS FOR NOTIFICATIONS MADE BY DECEMBER 10, AMENDMENTS WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE FINAL REGISTER TO BE PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 13, 1989." MR LAI SAID.

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SOUTHERN DB TO DISCUSS TAXI FARE INCREASE  
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MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE INCREASE IN FARES FOR BOTH URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS AS RECENTLY PROPOSED BY TAXI OPERATORS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT'S MOVES IN LIBERALIZING THE CLOSED CENTRES FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND VARIOUS RELATED ISSUES.

AT THE MEETING, THEY WILL ALSO BE TOLD OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S REPLY TO A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE BOARD ON AUGUST 15 ON THE PROVISION OF A COVERED WALKWAY THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF A UC AMENITY PROJECT AT THE ABERDEEN WATERFRONT.

A NEWLY PRODUCED VIDEO PROGRAMME "HAPPY AND SWEET HOME IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT", WHICH WAS FUNDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AT A COST OF \$40,000, WILL BE SCREENED AT THE MEETING.

THE VIDEO FEATURES THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN RESPECT OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT AND THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A DOCUMENT ON THE CLOSURE OF UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES AND REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 40 -

DB COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON TAXI SERVICES

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THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING TAXI SERVICES AND COMMENT ON THE TRADE'S PROPOSED FARE INCREASES AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR IT TO DISCUSS KMB'S APPLICATION FOR FARE INCREASES.

IN ADDITION, THE MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER A PAPER PROPOSING THE INTRODUCTION OF FEE-PAYING METERED PARKING SPACES IN THE YAU YAT CHUEN AREA ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA ARE THE LAI CHI KOK ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME AND APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR THE SHAM SHUI PO ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN CARNIVAL 1988-89.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 55 FAT TSEUNG STREET. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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HOUSING COMMITTEE TO BE BRIEFED ON REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE BRIEFED AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IN JUNE, UNDER WHICH MOST MARKS III TO VI AND FORMER GOVERNMENT LOW COST HOUSING ESTATES WILL BE AFFECTED.

A LIST OF THE AFFECTED BLOCKS IN KWUN TONG WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

IN ADDITION, A CHIEF MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR R.N. CARPENTER, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ASBESTOS.

/THE MEETING .....

- 41 -

THE MEETING WILL ALSO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS HOUSING PROJECTS IN KWUN TONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING, WHICH BEGINS AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF KWUN TONG DISTRICT GOVERNMENT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET.

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#### HEALTH SEMINAR FOR RESTAURANT WORKERS

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MORE THAN 150 TSIM SHA TSUI RESTAURANT WORKERS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WERE BRIEFED ON THE CORRECT METHODS OF DISPOSING OF OILY SUBSTANCES AND FOOD RESIDUE AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED AS PART OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN.

AT THE SEMINAR, SPONSORED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, A SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR FROM THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH EXPLAINED THE USE OF "OIL TRAPS" TO DISPOSE OF GREASY SUBSTANCES.

HE ALSO BRIEFED THE WORKERS ON EFFICIENT METHODS OF REFUSE DISPOSAL SO AS TO KEEP RESTAURANTS CLEAN AND FREE OF RATS.

TODAY'S SEMINAR WAS THE THIRD HELD BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE CAMPAIGN WITH THE AIM OF PREVENTING CHOKAGE OF DRAINS, AND KEEPING THE ENVIRONMENT CLEAN. A TOTAL OF OVER 350 WORKERS ATTENDED THE FIRST TWO SEMINARS HELD LAST MONTH.

A BOOKLET CONTAINING SPEAKING NOTES OF THE SEMINARS HAD BEEN COMPILED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO RESTAURANTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE CAMPAIGN IS SPONSORED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 42 -

DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME 1988-89 OF THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME, TO BE CO-ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND ICAC REGIONAL OFFICE (HONG KONG WEST/ISLANDS), WILL COMPRISE FOUR CARNIVALS TO BE HELD ON LANTAU, CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU AND LAMMA ISLANDS AND A QUIZ AS THE CONCLUDING EVENT.

MEMBERS' ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY A WORKING GROUP TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO HOLD CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES WILL BE SOUGHT.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED HOSTEL AND SOCIAL CLUB FOR THE ELDERLY IN TAI O, THE PROGRESS OF THE DISTRICT'S KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN AND THE FUNDING FOR THE ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN 1988.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL. THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.15 PM.

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FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY

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ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A CANTONESE OPERA FILM SHOW AND A VARIETY SHOW DURING THE FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY THIS MONTH.

THE EVENTS ARE ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE 1988 CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE'S FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY 1988.

A CANTONESE OPERA FILM WILL BE SHOWN AT 10 AM ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 13) AT THE KING'S THEATRE IN CENTRAL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AGED 55 OR ABOVE.

/MEMBERS OF .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 43 -

MEMBERS OF ELDERLY CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND A VARIETY SHOW AND A DINNER ON NOVEMBER 25 (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FESTIVAL SAID THE EVENTS WERE AIMED AT EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO SENIOR CITIZENS WHO HAD TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

THE FESTIVAL IS FUNDED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD AT A COST OF ABOUT \$67,300.

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#### COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS

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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO ORGANISE COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS.

THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE A "PRIVILEGED MEDICAL TREATMENT SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY" IN KOWLOON CITY, VISITS TO THE ELDERLIES BY VOLUNTEER WORKERS, A "CHILDREN'S CHORUS ANNUAL CONCERT AND PARENTS GATHERING", THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT HANDBOOK AND THE PRODUCTION OF A VIDEO ON FAMILY EDUCATION.

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#### NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY), IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

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#### NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER BEGINS COURTESY VISITS

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THE NEWLY APPOINTED NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI, WILL BEGIN A ROUND OF COURTESY/FAMILIARISATION VISITS TO RURAL COMMITTEES, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY BODIES TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE VISITS ARE AIMED AT ENHANCING BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

/MR HUI .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 44 -

MR HUI WILL FIRST VISIT THE SHEUNG SHUI RURAL COMMITTEE AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW.

HE WILL ALSO CALL ON THE FANLING RURAL COMMITTEE AS WELL AS THE LUEN WO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 11) AFTERNOON.

ON NOVEMBER 15 (TUESDAY), MR HUI WILL VISIT THE TA KWU LING RURAL COMMITTEE AND THE SHA TAU KOK RURAL COMMITTEE AT 10 AM AND 11.30 AM RESPECTIVELY.

AT 2.30 PM ON THE SAME DAY, HE WILL CALL ON THE SHEK WU HUI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOLLOWED BY A COURTESY VISIT TO THE SHEUNG SHUI FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES AT 3.30 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISITS BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND ON NOVEMBER 11 AND 15.

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#### HKUST APPOINTMENT TO GENERAL EDUCATION CENTRE

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THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR MAURICE CRAFT AS DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY'S GENERAL EDUCATION CENTRE.

PROFESSOR CRAFT IS CURRENTLY PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY WHERE HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, AND WHERE HE RECENTLY COMPLETED A FOUR-YEAR TERM AS PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR.

HAVING GRADUATED FROM LONDON UNIVERSITY WITH A B.SC.ECONOMICS DEGREE, HE WENT ON TO OBTAIN POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS IN EDUCATION AT LONDON AND DUBLIN, AND A DOCTORATE IN SOCIOLOGY AT LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.

SINCE THEN HE HAS HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN TERTIARY EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITIES IN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA.

HE WAS FOR TWO YEARS PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE BEFORE BECOMING GOLDSMITHS' PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AT THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON IN 1976.

HE WENT TO NOTTINGHAM IN 1980 AND WAS SEQUENTIALLY DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION, CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR.

/PROFESSOR CRAFT .....

PROFESSOR CRAFT HAS PUBLISHED A LARGE NUMBER OF BOOKS AND PAPERS AND CARRIED OUT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF EDUCATION.

IN ADDITION TO A GREAT DEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE AT SENIOR LEVELS IN FOUR UNIVERSITIES, HE HAS BEEN NATIONALLY INVOLVED IN A RANGE OF MAJOR POLICY ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN BRITAIN. HE IS A REGULAR VISITOR TO HONG KONG.

PROFESSOR CRAFT'S WIFE, MRS ALMA CRAFT, ALSO HAS A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN THE EDUCATION FIELD HAVING MOST RECENTLY BEEN PRINCIPAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICER WITH THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AND ITS SUCCESSOR, THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM COUNCIL, IN BRITAIN.

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#### TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAYS IN EASTERN DISTRICT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN SHAU KEI WAN FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 12) TO 6 AM ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 14) TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS:

- \* THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HOI AN STREET BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND SAI WAN HO STREET AND THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SAI WAN HO STREET BETWEEN HOI AN STREET AND HOI NING STREET WILL BECOME 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS.
- \* SAI WAN HO STREET BETWEEN HOI NING STREET AND HOLY CROSS PATH WILL BE MADE URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK.
- \* ALL VEHICLES ON HOI NING STREET WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT TO SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WESTBOUND.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE EXISTING TRAM-ONLY LANE ON SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WESTBOUND FROM A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HOI LEE STREET TO A POINT ABOUT SEVEN METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HOI NING STREET WILL BE LIFTED.

MEANWHILE, THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF ELECTRIC ROAD IN NORTH POINT FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WHITFIELD ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 54 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 12) FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS.

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988

- 46 -

LEFT-TURN BAN ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 11), ALL VEHICLES OVER TEN METRES LONG WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT FROM CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL EASTBOUND TO THE HONG KONG - MACAU FERRY TERMINAL, ADJACENT TO THE JUNCTIONS OF MORRISON STREET AND CLEVERY STREET.

THE LEFT-TURN BAN WILL LAST FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

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