



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

FIRM PLANS TO SOLVE CONGESTION PROBLEM IN NORTHWEST NT	1
ANTI-TAX EVASION BILL CONSISTENT WITH BILL OF RIGHTS	2
EXTENSION OF WEEKEND FARES TO SATURDAY MORNINGS	4
WAYS TO IMPROVE LABOUR TRIBUNAL EFFICIENCY UNDER STUDY	4
FEEES ON REGISTRATION OF PATENTS APPROVED	5
BILL TO BETTER ENFORCE CUSTOMS' FORFEITURE PROVISIONS INTRODUCED	5
BILL TO REMOVE DIFFICULTIES IN ENFORCEMENT OVER FORFEITURE OF SEIZED GOODS	7
GOVERNOR TO BRIEF LEGCO ON OVERSEAS VISITS	8
BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT GAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION	8
CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES ARE CONFIDENTIAL	9
PROPERTY MARKET SHOWS DOWNWARD TREND	10
WORK ON NEW TELECOM POLICY IN PROGRESS	10
VIETNAMESE REPATRIATION POLICY REITERATED	11
SHA OUTLINES GOVT POLICY ON GAMBLING	13
PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME EXPLAINED	14
CMB FARES TO BE MAINTAINED AT REASONABLE LEVELS	14
USERS' COMMITTEES TO HAVE MONITORING AND ADVISORY ROLES . . .	15

/AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES

AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES UPGRADED	16
APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME TO BE LAUNCHED	16
MEASURES IN PLACE TO FIGHT RESTAURANT KITCHEN POLLUTION ...	17
REVIEW UNDERWAY TO ENSURE EFFICIENT BERTH SERVICE	18
319 FISHERMEN REGISTER FOR COMPENSATION CLAIMS	18
IRREGULARITIES OF LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS WILL BE INVESTIGATED	19
TRAINING COURSE ON REMEDIAL TEACHING	19
COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN NORTHWESTERN NT MEET DEMAND	20
MOTION ON NORTHWEST NT TRANSPORT PASSED	21
GOVERNOR IN JAPAN	22
HK AND JAPAN ARE GOOD FRIENDS: GOVERNOR	23
FS COMMENTS ON AIRPORT FUNDING REQUESTS	24
NEW BUSINESS REGISTRATION RECORDS SYSTEM	25
TECHNOLOGY REVIEW BOARD HOLDS FIRST MEETING	26
TWO SITES PUT UP FOR AUCTION	27
GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER	28
MORE SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS URGED	29
PAC TO HOLD FURTHER HEARING ON FRIDAY	29
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	30

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 1 -

FIRM PLANS TO SOLVE CONGESTION PROBLEM IN NORTHWEST NT

* * * * *

THE CONGESTION OF ROAD LINKS TO THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES IS BEING TACKLED POSITIVELY AND ENERGETICALLY THROUGH SEEKING AND IMPLEMENTING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS AND ACHIEVING SHORT-TERM RELIEF, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE EXTERNAL TRANSPORT NETWORK OF NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES, MR LEUNG SAID THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION LAID IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROUTE 3 (COUNTRY PARK SECTION), INCLUDING THE TING KAU BRIDGE WHICH WOULD LINK AU TAU AND TSING YI.

"WE ARE ABOUT TO CONSIDER INVITING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO HELP US DECIDE WHETHER AND WHEN TO PRIVATISE THIS PROJECT," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID ANOTHER LONGER-TERM SOLUTION WAS TO PROVIDE A RAIL LINK TO THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES (NWNT) WHICH WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RAIL DEVELOPMENT STUDY, THE RESULTS OF WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"AT THIS STAGE I CANNOT PRE-EMPT THE OUTCOME OF THAT STUDY, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME A RAIL LINK TO THE NWNT HAS OBVIOUS ATTRACTIONS IN THAT THE SAME CORRIDOR COULD BE SHARED WITH A PROPOSED FREIGHT LINE FROM THE BORDER TO THE CONTAINER PORT AS WELL AS A NEW CROSS BORDER PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE.

"FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE MUST AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THIS STUDY," HE SAID.

IN THE INTERIM, MR LEUNG SAID EVERY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO TACKLE THE MORE URGENT PROBLEM OF PEAK-HOUR CONGESTION.

THESE INCLUDED:

- * A TOTAL OF \$2.7 BILLION IS NOW BEING SPENT ON NEW ROADS IN THE NWNT INCLUDING THE FINAL SECTION OF THE NT CIRCULAR ROAD FROM FAIRVIEW PARK TO AU TAU, THE YUEN LONG/TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR, AND THE YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS.
- * SOME \$740 MILLION TO BE SPENT ON WIDENING CASTLE PEAK ROAD. WORK ON THE SECTION BETWEEN SO KWUN WAT AND SAM SHING IS NOW NEARING COMPLETION AND WORK ON THE DUALLING AND REALIGNMENT OF THE SECTION CLOSEST TO TSUEN WAN WILL BEGIN AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.
- * EXTRA CLIMBING LANES WILL BE PROVIDED IN THREE UPHILL SECTIONS OF TUEN MUN HIGHWAY. WORK ON THE FIRST OF THESE IS DUE TO START IN 1994, AT A COST OF \$150 MILLION.

MR LEUNG SAID ORDERS WERE LIKELY TO BE PLACED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY TO PROVIDE TWO 300-SEAT FAST VESSELS RUNNING BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND CENTRAL.

/THESE NEW

THESE NEW VESSELS, WHEN AVAILABLE PROBABLY IN AUGUST 1993 WOULD BOOST THE CAPACITY OF THE HIGH-SPEED FERRY SERVICE FOR TUEN MUN BY ABOUT 50 PER CENT.

IN THE INTERIM, ALL MEANS OF CONVENTIONAL VESSELS WOULD BE DEPLOYED TO MEET DEMAND.

IN ADDITION, MR LEUNG SAID A WORKING GROUP WAS NOW BEING ESTABLISHED COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE RELEVANT DISTRICT BOARDS TO CONSIDER THIS ISSUE.

THE WORKING GROUP WILL FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON PRACTICAL METHODS OF IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW. THESE INCLUDE HOW TO MANAGE BETTER THE ROAD SPACE AVAILABLE AND TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

IT WILL CONSIDER A WIDE RANGE OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES SUCH AS THE BETTER SCHEDULING OF ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME, THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING BUS-ONLY LANES AND OTHER MEASURES TO FACILITATE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

"IT CAN ALSO CONSIDER MEASURES TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY AND TO SPEED UP THE RECOVERY OF BROKEN DOWN VEHICLES WHICH MAY BLOCK THE CARRIAGEWAY," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ANTI-TAX EVASION BILL CONSISTENT WITH BILL OF RIGHTS

* * * * *

THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL 1992 WHICH SEEKS TO PREVENT SUSPECTED DEFAULTING TAXPAYERS FROM LEAVING THE TERRITORY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR KWONG KI-CHI, ALSO SAID THE BILL GAVE TAXPAYERS FOR THE FIRST TIME THE RIGHT TO APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE FOR A REVOCATION OF DEPARTURE PREVENTION DIRECTIONS OR "STOP ORDERS" AND TO APPEAL TO THE HIGH COURT.

MR KWONG SAID THE BACKGROUND TO THIS LEGISLATION WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO BRING LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG INTO LINE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

THE "STOP ORDERS" PLAY AN ESSENTIAL PART IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO COMBAT TAX EVASION.

DOUBTS HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN RAISED AS TO WHETHER THE EXISTING PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE ISSUE OF THESE "STOP ORDERS" ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS, MR KWONG SAID.

"WE ARE THEREFORE SEEKING TO AMEND THE LAW TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS IN THESE PROVISIONS TO ENSURE BILL OF RIGHTS CONSISTENCY, WHILE PRESERVING THE COMMISSIONER'S ABILITY TO PROTECT PUBLIC REVENUE," MR KWONG SAID.

THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE ALLOWS THE COMMISSIONER TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE TO A DISTRICT JUDGE IN RESPECT OF A PERSON WHO HE BELIEVES IS ABOUT TO, OR IS LIKELY TO LEAVE HONG KONG WITHOUT PAYING ALL TAX ASSESSED UPON HIM.

THE DISTRICT JUDGE MUST THEN ISSUE THE "STOP ORDER" TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO TAKE MEASURES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE PERSON FROM LEAVING HONG KONG WITHOUT PAYING THE TAX DUE.

MR KWONG SAID SUCH MECHANISM DID NOT PROVIDE A TAXPAYER WITH ANY AVENUE FOR APPEAL.

IN JUNE LAST YEAR, A DISTRICT JUDGE REFUSED TO ISSUE THREE "STOP ORDERS" SINCE TO DO SO COULD CONTRAVENE THE BILL OF RIGHTS THAT PROVIDES FOR CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS TO THE FREEDOM TO LEAVE HONG KONG, WHERE THIS IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

"THE BILL BEFORE THIS COUNCIL PROVIDES SPECIFICALLY FOR CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH A 'STOP ORDER' MAY BE REVOKED," MR KWONG SAID.

IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE BILL SHOULD GO FURTHER AND TRANSFER TO THE COURTS THE DISCRETION TO DECIDE WHETHER A "STOP ORDER" SHOULD BE ISSUED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

"SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD INEVITABLY TAKE A GOOD DEAL OF TIME IN INDIVIDUAL CASES.

"IN THE CASE OF DEFAULTING TAXPAYERS, OR TAXPAYERS WHO MAY INTEND TO DEFAULT, THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST DEPENDS CRITICALLY ON SPEED OF ACTION," HE SAID.

MR KWONG SAID TO TRANSFER DISCRETION TO ISSUE "STOP ORDERS" TO THE COURTS WOULD PROVIDE A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONS WITH UNPAID TAX TO ABSCOND AT WILL WHICH WOULD BE AN OPEN INVITATION TO TAX EVASION.

HE SAID THE BILL INTRODUCED PRESERVED THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PROTECT PUBLIC INTEREST BY TAKING SWIFT AND EFFECTIVE ACTION TO PREVENT DEFAULTING TAXPAYERS FROM LEAVING THE TERRITORY. IT ALSO STRENGTHENED THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS.

"BY REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER TO SERVE A COPY OF THE "STOP ORDER" UPON THE TAXPAYER AND BY PROVIDING PROPER CHANNELS OF APPEAL, IT ENSURES THAT THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE WILL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS," MR KWONG SAID.

EXTENSION OF WEEKEND FARES TO SATURDAY MORNINGS

* * * * *

THE WEEKDAY FARES FOR OUTLYING ISLAND FERRY SERVICES WOULD HAVE GONE UP BY ANOTHER 50 CENTS PER TRIP HAD THERE NOT BEEN THE EXTENSION OF WEEKEND FARES TO SATURDAY MORNINGS.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING A DEBATE ON A RESOLUTION THAT SEEKS TO REPEAL THE EXTENSION OF HONGKONG YAUMATEI FERRY'S (HYF) WEEKEND FARES TO SATURDAY MORNINGS.

MR LEUNG SAID THE IMPACT OF WEEKEND FARES ON ISLANDS RESIDENTS WAS MINIMAL AS THE HIGHER FARES WERE INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR HOLIDAY-MAKERS.

"REGULAR COMMUTERS, INCLUDING URBAN DWELLERS WHO WORK ON THE OUTLYING ISLANDS, ARE PROTECTED BY THE USE OF MONTHLY TICKETS.

"ISLANDS RESIDENTS WHO TRAVEL LESS FREQUENTLY CAN AVOID THE HIGHER WEEKEND FARES BY USING RETURN TICKETS AVAILABLE TO THEM AT WEEKDAY FARES."

MR LEUNG SAID IF THE WEEKEND FARES ON SATURDAY MORNINGS WERE REMOVED, IT WAS ESTIMATED HYF WOULD SUFFER A REVENUE LOSS OF ABOUT \$4 MILLION A YEAR.

"OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, IT WOULD FURTHER REDUCE HYF'S ALREADY MODEST RATE OF RETURN AND ACT AS A DISINCENTIVE FOR CONTINUED INVESTMENTS.

"WITHOUT FURTHER INVESTMENTS, SERVICE STANDARDS COULD SUFFER AND NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS MAY NOT BE DELIVERED IN TIME," MR LEUNG SAID.

THE RESOLUTION WAS DEFEATED IN A VOTING BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WAYS TO IMPROVE LABOUR TRIBUNAL EFFICIENCY UNDER STUDY

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING AN ADDITIONAL CHANNEL OF QUASI-JUDICIAL ARBITRATION AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WITH THE POWER TO MAKE LEGALLY BINDING AWARDS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, WHEN SPEAKING ON A MOTION MOVED BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK TO AMEND THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (FEES)(AMENDMENT) RULES 1992 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

- 5 -

"WE ARE ASSESSING, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, THE STAFFING, FINANCIAL AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS APPROACH AND HOPE TO WORK OUT CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE MANPOWER PANEL OF THIS COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR," MR CHAN SAID.

NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT SUPPORT MR LAU'S MOTION, MR CHAN EXPLAINED THAT IF IT WAS PASSED, IT WOULD RESULT IN THE PRESENT FEE UPDATING EXERCISE WHICH HAD ALREADY COME INTO EFFECT ON OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR BEING REVERSED.

"WE DO NOT FAVOUR THIS COURSE OF ACTION WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WILL NECESSITATE SHARPER INCREASES WHEN FEES ARE UPDATED NEXT TIME," HE SAID.

MR CHAN ALSO REVEALED THAT THE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL WAS BEING CAREFULLY EXAMINED BY THE JUDICIARY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FEES ON REGISTRATION OF PATENTS APPROVED

* * * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS (FEES) (AMENDMENT) RULE 1992 TO INCREASE THE FEES TO THE REGISTRAR OF PATENTS ON THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MS DENISE YUE, SAID THESE FEES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1989.

FOLLOWING A COSTING EXERCISE UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, IT IS PROPOSED THAT ALL FEES BE INCREASED TO COPE WITH THE COST OF SERVICES PROVIDED AND TO BRING THEM IN LINE WITH THE LEVEL OF FEES CHARGED FOR SIMILAR SERVICES RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS.

MS YUE SAID THIS WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE ESTABLISHED POLICY OF USERS PAYING THE FULL COST FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL TO BETTER ENFORCE CUSTOMS' FORFEITURE PROVISIONS INTRODUCED

* * * * *

A BILL THAT SEEKS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT IN ENFORCING THE FORFEITURE PROVISIONS IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 ALSO SEEKS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES RELATED TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES.

/MOVING THE

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MS DENISE YUE, SAID OWING TO AN INCREASE IN SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES IN RECENT YEARS, THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE HAD TO STORE AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF SEIZED ARTICLES.

SINCE 1988, THE STORAGE SPACE REQUIRED HAD INCREASED FIVE TIMES AND ADDITIONAL COSTS HAD BEEN INCURRED.

"AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER, SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE CHECKS AND BALANCES, TO DISPOSE OF THOSE SEIZED ARTICLES WHICH ARE PERISHABLE OR DETERIORATING IN NATURE OR DIFFICULT TO STORE, PRIOR TO CONCLUSION OF ANY FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS," SHE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THE COMMISSIONER IS OBLIGED TO SERVE NOTICES OF SEIZURES ON ALL PARTIES WHO APPEAR TO HIM TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SEIZED GOODS.

"THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN SERVING NOTICES OF SEIZURES ON PERSONS WHO DO NOT HAVE A PERMANENT ADDRESS IN HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

MS YUE SAID AMENDMENTS WERE PROPOSED TO LIMIT THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE COMMISSIONER NEEDED TO SERVE A NOTICE OF SEIZURE TO THE OWNER, AND TO BROADEN THE CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WHO COULD MAKE A CLAIM TO THE COMMISSIONER AND TO THE MAGISTRATE IN A FORFEITURE HEARING.

"THIS WOULD ALLOW MORE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES BY THE COMMISSIONER WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUITY," SHE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY SAID IT TOOK ON AVERAGE ABOUT 12 MONTHS FROM THE POINTS OF SEIZURE TO CONCLUDE THE CRIMINAL AND FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS OF A NORMAL CASE OF PROSECUTION UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

WHERE THE CLAIMANT OF THE SEIZED GOODS WAS ALSO THE DEFENDANT OF THE FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS, SHE SAID THE AMENDMENTS WOULD SHORTEN THE PROCEEDINGS BY SIX MONTHS.

THIS WOULD HELP ECONOMISE THE USE OF RESOURCES BY THE COMMISSIONER, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE JUDICIARY AND ALSO HELP ALLEVIATE THE STORAGE PROBLEM.

AS TO THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES RELATED TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES, MS YUE SAID THIS WAS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE DETERRENT AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE IN WEAPONS AND GOODS WITH MILITARY APPLICATIONS.

STRATEGIC COMMODITIES OFFENCES, WHEN TRIED ON INDICTMENT, WOULD ATTRACT A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF SEVEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND AN UNLIMITED FINE, IN LINE WITH THE PENALTIES IN OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS, SHE ADDED.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR OFFENCES ON SUMMARY CONVICTION WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 7 -

BILL TO REMOVE DIFFICULTIES IN ENFORCEMENT
OVER FORFEITURE OF SEIZED GOODS

* * * * *

THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 WHICH SEEKS TO REMOVE OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES FACING THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE IN ENFORCING THE PROVISIONS OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE ON THE FORFEITURE OF SEIZED GOODS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR KWONG KI-CHI, SAID MEMBERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAD EXPERIENCED PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN ENFORCING THESE PROCEDURES.

HE SAID EXTENSIVE, AND IN MANY CASES UNNECESSARY DOCUMENTATION WAS REQUIRED IN SERVING NOTICES.

"SERVICE OF NOTICES IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT IF THE OWNERS RESIDE OVERSEAS OR IF THE OWNERS 'DISAPPEAR' AFTER LODGING THE NOTICE OF CLAIM."

MR KWONG SAID CONFISCATED GOODS WERE ALSO POSING A SIGNIFICANT AND COSTLY STORAGE PROBLEM.

HE SAID A REVIEW HAD BEEN CONDUCTED TO STREAMLINE THE FORFEITURE PROVISIONS TO RESOLVE THESE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES.

MR KWONG SAID THE BILL WOULD EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER TO DISPOSE OF SEIZED ARTICLES WHICH WERE PERISHABLE OR DIFFICULT TO STORE BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF THE FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS.

"THIS WILL PRODUCE SAVINGS IN STORAGE SPACE AND COST," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE BILL WOULD ALSO BROADEN THE CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE WHO COULD MAKE A CLAIM TO THE COMMISSIONER OR THE MAGISTRATE IN FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS.

"THIS WILL ENABLE ANYONE WITH A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THE SEIZED GOODS TO COME FORWARD TO CLAIM THE GOODS.

"IT NOW TAKES ON AVERAGE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO CONCLUDE CRIMINAL AND FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS.

"THE AMENDMENTS WILL SHORTEN THIS PERIOD BY UP TO SIX MONTHS IN CERTAIN CASES," MR KWONG SAID.

HE SAID THE BILL WOULD PRODUCE SAVINGS IN STAFF TIME AND STORAGE SPACE WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE FAIRNESS OF THE SYSTEM TO THE PUBLIC.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992.

- 8 -

GOVERNOR TO BRIEF LEGCO ON OVERSEAS VISITS

* * * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO SUSPEND ITS STANDING ORDERS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO BRIEF MEMBERS ABOUT HIS OVERSEAS VISITS AT A SITTING ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 1).

MOVING THE MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS 7, 11 AND 12, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID THE GOVERNOR, AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, WOULD LIKE TO MEET MEMBERS SOON AFTER HIS RETURN FROM HIS CURRENT OVERSEAS VISITS TO BRIEF THEM ABOUT HIS VISITS AND TO ANSWER MEMBERS' QUESTIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT GAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

* * * * *

THE INTRODUCTION OF BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) (BN(O)) PASSPORTS SINCE 1987 HAS GONE SMOOTHLY AND NO STATE HAS WITHHELD RECOGNITION OF THE PASSPORTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN 1987 THE UK CARRIED OUT AN EXTENSIVE BRIEFING EXERCISE IN ANTICIPATION OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW BN(O) STATUS TO EXPLAIN IT TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

"AT THAT TIME, NO COUNTRIES INDICATED RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT BN(O) PASSPORTS," MR STRACHAN SAID.

MR STRACHAN ALSO SAID SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY CITIZEN (BDTC) AND BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) (BN(O)) PASSPORT HOLDERS HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO MORE STRINGENT IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS THAN BEFORE.

HE ALSO SAID THE UK GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ISSUED ANY KIND OF NOTIFICATION TO OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES, REMINDING THEM TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO HOLDERS OF BRITISH PASSPORTS ISSUED IN HONG KONG BECAUSE THE UK WOULD HAND OVER HONG KONG TO CHINA IN 1997.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 9 -

CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

* * * * *

THE CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS ARE BY CONVENTION CONFIDENTIAL.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MS LAU ASKED WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD REQUEST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO GIVE A FULL AND FRANK DISCLOSURE OF THE RELEVANT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS SINCE THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS ON OCTOBER 7 SO THAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD NO LONGER BE KEPT IN THE DARK ON NEGOTIATIONS WHICH AFFECT THEIR FUTURE.

MR SZE SAID MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WERE BRIEFED ON DISCUSSIONS OF HONG KONG ISSUES BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS.

HE SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, AS SET OUT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE VICE-PREMIER IN LONDON, REMAINED AS FOLLOWS:

- * HMG STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE GOVERNOR AND HIS CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS, WHICH ARE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW;
- * THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN HMG'S POLICY TOWARDS HONG KONG;
- * IT REMAINS HMG'S WISH TO WORK IN CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION ON THE BASIS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION; AND
- * THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS THE CHINESE SIDE MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNOR HAD ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE INTENDED TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE REGULARLY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM LEGCO MEMBERS AND TO DISCUSS GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROPOSALS.

HE WILL NEXT DO THIS ON DECEMBER 1, MR SZE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

PROPERTY MARKET SHOWS DOWNWARD TREND

* * * * *

THE TIGHTENING OF LENDINGS BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS AND THE CONSTANT SUPPLY OF NEW FLATS HAVE ALREADY SEEN THEIR EFFECTS ON THE PROPERTY MARKET WHICH HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE SLOWER GROWTH RATE IN RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING AND THE DROP IN THE NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND OFFICE," MR NENDICK SAID.

RESULTS OF A SURVEY, CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, INDICATED THAT GROWTH IN RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING SLACKENED FROM 16% FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1991 TO 8% FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1992.

FIGURES UP TO OCTOBER SUGGESTED THAT THE DOWNWARD TREND IS CONTINUING.

NEVERTHELESS THE COMMISSIONER HAS CONTINUED TO URGE AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS NOT TO RELAX THEIR LENDING STANCE.

HE HAS ALSO ADVISED INSTITUTIONS NOT TO ENTER INTO ARRANGEMENTS WITH PROPERTY DEVELOPERS WHICH WOULD ALLOW BORROWERS TO OBTAIN LOANS IN EXCESS OF 70% OF PROPERTY VALUES.

"WHILST THERE MAY BE SOME INSTANCES OF EXCEPTIONS TO THE 70% LOAN-TO-VALUE RATIO, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT IN GENERAL THE BANKING SECTOR IS CONTINUING TO HOLD THE LINE," MR NENDICK SAID.

HE SAID IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT BELIEVE THAT FURTHER INITIATIVES WERE CALLED FOR AT THIS STAGE.

"HOWEVER, AS I HAVE INDICATED, THE SITUATION IS KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WORK ON NEW TELECOM POLICY IN PROGRESS

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID SHE HOPED SHORTLY TO INTRODUCE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORDINANCES WHICH WERE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT NEW POLICY MEASURES.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO RENEW THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE FOR THE PROVISION OF LOCAL VOICE TELEPHONE SERVICES, WHEN IT EXPIRES IN 1995, BUT TO REPLACE IT WITH A NON-EXCLUSIVE LICENCE, SHE SAID.

AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH HONG KONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED ON A PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO REDUCE THE COST TO CONSUMERS OF INTERNATIONAL DIRECT DIAL TELEPHONE CALLS AND TO REPLACE THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S FORMER SCHEME OF CONTROL BY A SYSTEM OF PRICE-CAPPING.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEVEN POON IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS CHAN SAID CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN FINALISING THE DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS IN AREAS SUCH AS PRICE-CAPPING AND NETWORK INTERCONNECTION.

"SINCE JUNE, WE HAVE ALSO MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN PLANNING FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMPETITIVE REGIME FOR THE LICENSING OF LOCAL FIXED TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS," SHE SAID.

A DECISION ON THE NUMBER OF NEW LOCAL NETWORKS TO BE LICENSED WILL BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE NUMBER OF NEW NETWORKS WHICH THE MARKET IS LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SHE ADDED.

SINCE THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY ISSUED A GUIDANCE NOTE IN SEPTEMBER THAT CALLED FOR PROPOSALS BY FEBRUARY 1 NEXT YEAR, 52 PARTIES HAD REGISTERED INTEREST WITH THE AUTHORITY.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE GUIDANCE NOTE SETS OUT THE BROAD LICENSING CRITERIA THAT THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY INTENDS TO APPLY AND INDICATES THE GENERAL LEVEL OF PAYMENTS THAT MOBILE TELEPHONE AND NEW LOCAL FIXED NETWORKS MAY EXPECT TO RECEIVE FOR DELIVERING AND RECEIVING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC.

IN A FURTHER STEP TO HELP POTENTIAL NEW FIXED NETWORK PROVIDERS IN PREPARING THEIR PROPOSALS, MRS CHAN SAID THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY HAD RECENTLY HOSTED A TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON NETWORK INTERCONNECTION.

IN ADDITION, SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, SHOULD BE MADE TO THE REGULATORY STRUCTURE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

VIETNAMESE REPATRIATION POLICY REITERATED

* * * * *

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, REITERATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO WISH TO SEPARATE FAMILIES IN THE REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS FROM HONG KONG.

BUT IN THE VERY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE EX-CHINESE VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (ECVIIS) WHO WERE MARRIED TO SCREENED-OUT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHILE BEING DETAINED IN HONG KONG, THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RETURN THEM TO CHINA AND THEIR VIETNAMESE SPOUSES TO VIETNAM, HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 12 -

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR STRACHAN SAID NO RESETTLEMENT COUNTRY WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ECVIIS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT A SCREENED-OUT VIETNAMESE MIGRANT WILL ALSO HAVE TO RETURN TO VIETNAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION AGREED AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN JUNE 1989.

"IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO RELAX OUR RULES IN THIS INSTANCE.

"TO DO SO WOULD CREATE A POTENTIAL LOOPHOLE IN OUR IMMIGRATION CONTROLS AND POSSIBLY ENCOURAGE VIETNAMESE SETTLED IN CHINA TO ENTER HONG KONG ILLEGALLY WITH A VIEW TO MARRYING VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS," HE SAID.

"BEARING IN MIND THAT OVER 200,000 VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN RESETTLED IN CHINA SINCE 1978/79, THIS DANGER OF ABUSE OF OUR IMMIGRATION CONTROLS IS VERY REAL," HE ADDED.

MR STRACHAN EXPLAINED THAT A MARRIAGE BETWEEN AN ECVII AND A SCREENED-OUT VIETNAMESE MIGRANT DID NOT CHANGE THEIR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.

PRIOR TO A MARRIAGE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN AN ECVII AND A VIETNAMESE MIGRANT, THE ADMINISTRATION EXPLAINS CLEARLY THE POSITION TO THEM AND THEY ARE THEREFORE MADE WELL AWARE OF THEIR LIKELY FUTURE SEPARATION, HE ADDED.

THE NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS IN 1991 BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM HAS FACILITATED MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE REPATRIATED ECVIIS, OR THEIR VIETNAMESE SPOUSES UPON THEIR RETURN TO VIETNAM, MAY APPLY THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS IN CHINA, OR IN VIETNAM, TO REUNITE WITH THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS.

BUT MR STRACHAN SAID THIS WAS ULTIMATELY A MATTER FOR CHINA AND VIETNAM.

"THE UNHCR HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN SUCH CASES," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 13 -

SHA OUTLINES GOVT POLICY ON GAMBLING

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON GAMBLING IS TO RESTRICT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GAMBLING BUT TO ALLOW CONTROLLED OUTLETS FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS STRICT LAWS AND FIRM ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES, SUPPORTED BY THE PROVISION OF CONTROLLED ALTERNATIVES WHERE A COGENT NEED FOR SUCH ALTERNATIVES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, HE SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN, MR SUEN ALSO SAID OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES (OCBCs), INTRODUCED IN 1974 AS ONE OF THE MEASURES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL GAMBLING ON HORSE RACING, HAD PROVED MOST EFFECTIVE.

AS REGARDS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OCBCs WHICH MAY BE ESTABLISHED, MR SUEN SAID IT WAS 134 - A FIGURE ADOPTED IN 1979.

"THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF CENTRES HAS FLUCTUATED OVER THE YEARS, FROM 121 IN THE 1983/84 RACING SEASON TO 130 IN 1989/90.

"AT PRESENT THERE ARE 125."

ON THE CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OCBC, MR SUEN SAID EACH APPLICATION WAS CONSIDERED ON ITS INDIVIDUAL MERITS.

THESE INCLUDE THE SIZE OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE, ITS LOCATION, PROXIMITY TO EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES AS WELL AS LOCAL PUBLIC OPINION AND POLICE COMMENTS ON THE LEVEL OF ILLEGAL GAMBLING PREVALENT IN THE AREA.

MR SUEN SAID THE NEW TUEN MUN OCBC THEATRE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN DUE COURSE.

AND HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER WILL MONITOR THE USE OF THIS FACILITY CLOSELY.

THE NEW TUEN MUN OCBC COMPRISES 144 BETTING WINDOWS AND A BETTING THEATRE WITH A SEATING CAPACITY FOR 530 PEOPLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 14 -

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME EXPLAINED

* * * * *

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME (PSPS) PROJECTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE SAME BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND ADMINISTRATION CONTROLS AS OTHER PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WHEN A DECISION IS MADE TO DISPOSE OF A SITE FOR PSPS DEVELOPMENT, DEVELOPERS ARE INVITED BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT TO TENDER FOR THE SITE," MR EASON SAID.

THE TENDER CONDITIONS INCLUDE SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS OF THE FLATS AS WELL AS OTHER CONDITIONS REQUIRED BY VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, PRINCIPALLY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE WORKS DEPARTMENTS.

REGARDING THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF PSPS FLAT OWNERS, MR EASON SAID THEY WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF OTHER OWNERS OF FLATS.

"COMPLAINTS OR COMPENSATION CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF BUILDING DEFECTS OR MANAGEMENT ASPECTS MAY BE LODGED WITH THE DEVELOPER OR THE APPOINTED MANAGEMENT COMPANY UNDER THE DEED OF ASSIGNMENT OR THE DEED OF MUTUAL COVENANT."

MR EASON SAID THE ROLE OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN A PSPS DEVELOPMENT WAS TO ADVISE AND LIAISE WITH THE DEVELOPER AND THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY TO ENSURE PROMPT ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS AND FOLLOW-ACTION.

"UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF SALE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY, AS A FINAL RESORT, INTERVENE TO CARRY OUT ANY NECESSARY RECTIFICATION WORKS, AND CHARGE THE EXPENSES AGAINST THE RETENTION MONEY OR A 10-YEAR BANK GUARANTEE PROVIDED BY THE DEVELOPER," MR EASON ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CMB FARES TO BE MAINTAINED AT REASONABLE LEVELS

* * * * *

THE NORMAL CRITERIA ADOPTED IN DETERMINING PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES AND THE SPECIAL TERMS IN CHINA MOTOR BUS'S NEW FRANCHISE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE FUTURE CMB FARES WILL BE MAINTAINED AT REASONABLE LEVELS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MIRIAM LAU, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/MR LEUNG

MR LEUNG SAID IN DETERMINING THE FARES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, THE GOVERNMENT NORMALLY ALLOWED THE OPERATING COMPANIES TO RECOVER COSTS AND EARN A REASONABLE PROFIT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT FACTORS INCLUDING SERVICE QUALITY, COMMITMENT TO FURTHER INVESTMENTS, CHANGES IN OPERATING COSTS AND MARKET ENVIRONMENT, PASSENGER AFFORDABILITY AND OTHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

"THE OBJECTIVE IS TO BALANCE, ON THE ONE HAND, THE NEED TO KEEP FARES AT ACCEPTABLE LEVELS, AND ON THE OTHER, A REASONABLE INCENTIVE FOR CONTINUED INVESTMENTS, WITHOUT WHICH PUBLIC DEMAND FOR BETTER SERVICES COULD NOT BE MET," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE SPECIAL TERMS IN CMB'S NEW FRANCHISE ALSO PROVIDED FOR WIDER EXPOSURE BY THE COMPANY TO MARKET FORCES, MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT MONITORING OF ITS OPERATION AND GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITS SERVICES THROUGH THE MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT OF PASSENGER LIAISON GROUPS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

USERS' COMMITTEES TO HAVE MONITORING AND ADVISORY ROLES

* * * * *

"USERS' COMMITTEES" AS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR EACH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AS AND WHEN THE DEPARTMENT DEVELOPS ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI WAH-MING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR WIGGHAM SAID DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING ACCOUNTABILITY, WOULD BE DEVELOPED FOR EACH USERS' COMMITTEE IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGES.

"IN GENERAL THE COMMITTEES WILL REVIEW THE OUTCOME OF DEPARTMENT'S MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE PLEDGES; CONSIDER REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS ON THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC IN RELATION TO THE SERVICES COVERED BY A PLEDGE; AND ADVISE AS THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE ON MATTERS COVERED BY A PLEDGE," HE SAID.

THESE COMMITTEES WOULD COMPRISE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH OR RELY ON THE SERVICES SUBJECT TO A PLEDGE.

IT IS PLANNED THAT ALL DEPARTMENTS PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC SHOULD JOIN IN THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE PROGRAMME OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO YEARS, MR WIGGHAM ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES UPGRADED

* * * * *

KOWLOON MOTOR BUS, CHINA MOTOR BUS AND CITYBUS COMPANIES HAVE UPGRADED THE SYSTEM INSIDE THEIR AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES TO PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF TEMPERATURES FROM WHICH A SUITABLE ONE CAN BE SELECTED TO IMPROVE PASSENGER COMFORT DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID KOWLOON MOTOR BUS WAS ALSO ARRANGING FOR HEATERS TO BE FITTED WHILE WINDOWS OF AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES OPERATED BY THE NEW LANTAO BUS COMPANY COULD BE OPENED TO MODERATE TEMPERATURES.

IN ADDITION, THE FRANCHISED COMPANIES ARE LIAISING WITH OVERSEAS BUS MANUFACTURERS ON FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING DESIGN CHANGES WHICH CAN PROVIDE BETTER CONTROL OF TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY AND AIR CIRCULATION INSIDE BUSES.

ON EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES, MR LEUNG SAID THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT INTENDED TO BRING IN, BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR, LEGISLATION PRESCRIBING NOISE STANDARDS FOR VEHICLES, INCLUDING BUSES.

IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED ONLY ONE COMPLAINT ABOUT EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME TO BE LAUNCHED

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY HAS FINALISED PLANS FOR ADMINISTERING THE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME ON THE ADVICE OF THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ITDC).

THIS WAS REPORTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MS DENISE YUE.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT, MS YUE SAID FINANCE COMMITTEE'S ENDORSEMENT WOULD BE SOUGHT SHORTLY AND THE SCHEME WOULD BE LAUNCHED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

AS THE SCHEME BREAKS NEW GROUND FOR HONG KONG, IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO, AND TO OBTAIN EXPERT ADVICE ON, A NUMBER OF COMPLEX ISSUES RELATING TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT, SHE SAID.

A SPECIALIST COMMITTEE UNDER THE ITDC HAS MET SIX TIMES TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES.

"THIS WORK HAD TAKEN LONGER THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED, BUT WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE APPROACH ADOPTED IS SOUND AND PRACTICAL," MS YUE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEASURES IN PLACE TO FIGHT RESTAURANT KITCHEN POLLUTION
* * * * *

MEASURES ARE IN HAND TO ELIMINATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CAUSED BY VENTILATION SYSTEMS IN THE KITCHENS OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

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

IN THE CASE OF NUISANCES SUCH AS THE EMISSION OF DUST PARTICLES OR EXCESSIVE HOT FUMES AND AN OBNOXIOUS SMELL, A NUISANCE NOTICE MIGHT BE SERVED ON THE LICENSEE OF A RESTAURANT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE HIM TO ABATE THE NUISANCE WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD, HE SAID.

IF THE LICENSEE FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE NOTICE HE IS LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND, ON CONVICTION, A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND A DAILY FINE OF \$100, MR EASON SAID.

IN THE CASE OF AIR OR NOISE POLLUTION ASSOCIATED WITH KITCHENS IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT STAFF MIGHT SERVE ABATEMENT NOTICES UNDER THE AIR OR NOISE POLLUTION ORDINANCES AS APPROPRIATE, HE ADDED.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SUCH A NOTICE IS AN OFFENCE WHICH, ON CONVICTION, CARRIES A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 FOR A NOISE POLLUTION OFFENCE AND \$5,000 FOR AN AIR POLLUTION OFFENCE, MR EASON SAID.

"FOR PERSISTENT OFFENDERS, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS MAY CONSIDER SUSPENDING OR CANCELLING THEIR RESTAURANT LICENCE."

SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE IN 1989, ONLY ONE NOTICE HAD BEEN SERVED ON A LICENSEE TO CURTAIL NOISE ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPERATION OF A DIESEL STOVE.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WERE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO REDUCE THE NUISANCES CAUSED TO RESIDENTS BY VENTILATION SYSTEMS AND STOVES IN RESTAURANT KITCHENS AND REGULAR INSPECTION, CONSTANT MONITORING, AND EXPEDITIOUS RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS WOULD CONTINUE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

- 18 -

REVIEW UNDERWAY TO ENSURE EFFICIENT BERTH SERVICE

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAS RECENTLY INITIATED A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT IN THE ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BERTHS AT THE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS (PCWAS) TO ENSURE THAT THESE FACILITIES CAN BE FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY USED BY GENUINE OPERATORS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS CHAN SAID IN DUE COURSE FULL CONSULTATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, IN PARTICULAR THE USERS OF PCWAS, BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS WERE TAKEN.

PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS ARE MANAGED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND ARE OPEN TO ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO MAY HANDLE CARGO AFTER PAYING THE APPROPRIATE FEE.

BERTHS ARE ALLOCATED ON A "FIRST COME FIRST SERVED" BASIS AND ARE CHARGED ON A TIME BASIS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

319 FISHERMEN REGISTER FOR COMPENSATION CLAIMS

* * * * *

A TOTAL OF 319 FISHERMEN HAD REGISTERED CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOUTH CHEUNG CHAU SPOIL AREA IN A REGISTRATION EXERCISE CARRIED OUT LAST MONTH.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONG EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR EASON SAID THE AMOUNT OF EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION PAYABLE FOR VALID CLAIMS HAD YET TO BE ASSESSED AND WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON THE VALUE OF THE ANNUAL FISH HARVEST IN THE AREA WHICH WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$1.5 MILLION AT 1991 PRICES.

HE SAID IN THE LIGHT OF FISHERMEN'S REPRESENTATIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION WAS REVIEWING THE RULE OF FISHING VESSELS OVER 15 METRES LONG NOT BEING ELIGIBLE FOR EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION.

ON RETRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, MR EASON EXPLAINED THAT A FISHERMAN WAS ENTITLED TO APPLY FOR APPROVED RETRAINING COURSES IF HE WAS A PERMANENT HONG KONG RESIDENT WHO HAD BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE SAME EMPLOYER OR IN THE SAME INDUSTRY FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

"THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ALSO PROVIDES VOCATIONAL TRAINING FREE OF CHARGE TO IN-SHORE FISHERMEN WHO WISH TO JOIN THE DISTANT WATERS FISHING FLEET," MR EASON SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

IRREGULARITIES OF LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS WILL BE INVESTIGATED
* * * * *

INVESTIGATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON REPORTS OF IRREGULARITIES REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS REGISTERED IN PARTS II AND III OF THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST (REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 1990.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID THE DUTY OF MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS ARE DEFINED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE.

"THE LAW STIPULATES THAT MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS REGISTERED IN PART II OR PART III OF THE REGULATIONS MUST WORK UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST REGISTERED IN PART I," SHE SAID.

"THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPERVISION OF THEM VARY DEPENDING ON THE NATURE OF THE JOB.

"IF REPORTS OF IRREGULARITIES REGARDING THEIR PRACTICE ARE RECEIVED BY THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD, INVESTIGATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED IN THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS (REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS.

"THE REGULATORY PROCEDURES FOR MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS WORKING IN THESE LABORATORIES ARE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF-REGULATION OF THE PROFESSION AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY."

AS AT YESTERDAY (TUESDAY), 1,082 MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS WERE REGISTERED IN PART I, 849 IN PART II AND 226 IN PART III OF THE REGISTER.

THE EXACT NUMBER OF MEDICAL LABORATORIES AND THEIR BRANCH OFFICES IS NOT KNOWN BUT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 100 OF THEM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAINING COURSE ON REMEDIAL TEACHING
* * * * *

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS TO SET UP A WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN TO ASSIST SCHOOLS ENROLLING A HIGH PROPORTION OF ACADEMICALLY LESS ABLE STUDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE WORKING PARTY, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO START WORK IN EARLY JANUARY NEXT YEAR, WILL COMPRISE PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND OTHERS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHAN SAID UNDER THE SCHOOL-BASED REMEDIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME RECOMMENDED IN EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4, TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS ENROLLING A HIGH PROPORTION OF STUDENTS IN THE LOWEST 10 PER CENT OF THE ABILITY RANGE WERE SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE TRAINING ON REMEDIAL TEACHING FROM SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

ABOUT 630 TEACHERS WILL UNDERGO THIS FOUR-WEEK TRAINING ON A BLOCK-RELEASE BASIS A YEAR.

SUPPLY TEACHERS WILL BE ENGAGED TO COVER THOSE TEACHERS WHO ARE CHOSEN TO ATTEND THIS COURSE.

"THE COURSE CONTENT WILL FOCUS ON THE SKILLS OF REMEDIAL TEACHING AND THE USE OF RESOURCE MATERIALS," MR CHAN SAID.

"WE EXPECT THAT, UPON COMPLETION OF THE TRAINING, THESE TEACHERS WILL RETURN TO THEIR SCHOOLS AND WILL FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE AND CONFIDENT IN DISCHARGING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN NORTHWESTERN NT MEET DEMAND

* * * * *

EXISTING COMMUNITY SERVICE FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES ARE ON THE WHOLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANNING RATIOS TO MEET DEMAND, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIK CHI-YUEN, MRS WONG SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF WELFARE CLIENTS INCLUDING CHILDREN CENTRES, YOUTH CENTRES, SOCIAL CENTRES AND MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE PLANNING RATIOS FOR THESE SERVICES ARE ONE CHILDREN CENTRE AND ONE YOUTH CENTRE TO 20,000-30,000 GENERAL POPULATION; ONE SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY TO 3,000 ELDERLY PERSONS AGED 60 AND OVER; AND ONE MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY TO 25,000 PERSONS AGED 60 AND OVER.

THESE COMPARE WITH THE EXISTING RATIOS OF ONE CHILDREN CENTRE TO 23,946 GENERAL POPULATION; ONE YOUTH CENTRE TO 22,172 GENERAL POPULATION; ONE SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY TO 3,198 PERSONS AGED 60 AND OVER; AND ONE MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY TO 27,182 PERSONS AGED 60 AND OVER.

AS FOR REMOTE RURAL AREAS WHERE THE POPULATION DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN COMMUNITY SERVICE FACILITIES UNDER THE CURRENT PLANNING STANDARDS, MRS WONG SAID SMALLER SCALE FACILITIES MAY BE ESTABLISHED.

"NEARBY FACILITIES ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO EXTEND THEIR SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS IN REMOTE RURAL AREAS THROUGH OUTREACHING PROGRAMMES," SHE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 21 -

MOTION ON NORTHWEST NT TRANSPORT PASSED

* * * * *

A MOTION ON THE EXTERNAL TRANSPORT NETWORK OF NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES MOVED BY THE HON WONG WAI-YIN WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A TOTAL OF 15 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE TWO-HOUR MOTION DEBATE.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE WAS THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG.

IN ADDITION, THREE MOTIONS WERE PROPOSED UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE. OF THEM, TWO MOVED BY THE HON K K FUNG AND THE HON ALBERT CHAN WERE DEFEATED, AND THE OTHER BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK WAS PASSED.

ALSO PASSED WERE THREE MOTIONS. ONE OF THEM WAS ON THE SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS PROPOSED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD. THE OTHER TWO WERE MOVED UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE AND THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS ORDINANCE BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG AND THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MS DENISE YUE RESPECTIVELY.

FOUR BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED. THEY WERE THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL 1992, EXEMPTIONS FROM REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF POWERS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL AND IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/22

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 22 -

GOVERNOR IN JAPAN

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID IN TOKYO TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE HOPED HIS VISIT WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT TIES BETWEEN JAPAN AND HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON HIS ARRIVAL AT TOKYO'S NARITA AIRPORT, HE SAID HE WAS VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR A LONG TIME BECAUSE IT COINCIDED WITH THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HONG KONG JAPAN BUSINESS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE.

THIS COMMITTEE "HELPS TO STRENGTHEN THE LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN WHICH ARE ALREADY VERY CONSIDERABLE, BOTH IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT".

MR PATTEN IS SPENDING ALMOST FOUR DAYS IN TOKYO AT THE INVITATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AS PART OF THE VISIT HE WILL BE MEETING A NUMBER OF JAPANESE LEADERS.

"I'LL BE TALKING TO THEM ABOUT ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION, THE IMPORTANCE OF FREE AND OPEN TRADE FOR ALL OF US, AND I'LL BE EXPLAINING SOME OF MY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES DURING MY FIVE-YEAR GOVERNORSHIP OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID HE WAS SURE THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HONG KONG "AND EQUALLY SURE THAT EVERYONE HERE, AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, RECOGNISES THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION RESTS PRINCIPALLY WITH PEKING AND LONDON AND, OF COURSE, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG".

THE GOVERNOR SAID OBVIOUSLY SINCE HONG KONG WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CAPITAL, "THERE'S A GOOD DEAL OF INTEREST AROUND THE WORLD IN HOW WE ARE DOING AND WHAT OUR OBJECTIVES ARE".

TONIGHT MR PATTEN IS MEETING JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN AT A DINNER HOSTED BY THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN TOKYO.

TOMORROW HE WILL ADDRESS THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE JOINT HONG KONG JAPAN, JAPAN HONG KONG BUSINESS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE BEFORE GOING ON TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER MR MIYAZAWA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 23 -

HK AND JAPAN ARE GOOD FRIENDS: GOVERNOR
* * * * *

HONG KONG AND JAPAN ARE GOOD FRIENDS WITH A SHARED COMMITMENT TO AN OPEN ECONOMY, AN OPEN WORLD ECONOMY AND OPEN TRADE BETWEEN ALL NATIONS, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"AND THAT'S GOING TO BE AN EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT CAUSE FOR US ALL TO ARGUE FOR IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD," HE ADDED.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR TOKYO, MR PATTEN SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE VISIT WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED SOME TIME AGO.

"MY PREDECESSOR HAD BEEN PLANNING TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE HONG KONG-JAPAN BUSINESS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE WHICH TAKES PLACE EVERY OTHER YEAR IN TOKYO, AND PART OF THE REASON FOR MY VISIT IS TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THAT COMMITTEE WHICH HAS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN BRINGING TOGETHER THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

ASKED IF HE WOULD BE SEEKING FURTHER INTERNATIONAL APPROVAL FOR HIS POLITICAL REFORMS, MR PATTEN SAID: "I THINK THAT JAPAN, LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES, RECOGNISES THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IS PRIMARILY A MATTER FOR PEKING, FOR LONDON AND FOR HONG KONG."

"AND LIKE OTHER NATIONS, JAPAN WOULDN'T WANT TO INTERFERE IN THAT, BUT HONG KONG HAS AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION; IT'S AN INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL AND THEREFORE IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT OTHERS ARE INTERESTED IN OUR SUCCESS AND IN OUR DEVELOPMENT," HE ADDED.

"WHAT I'M AWARE OF IS THAT DECISIONS ON THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THAT'S TRUE UNDER THE EXISTING ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT; IT'S TRUE UNDER ANNEX TWO OF THE BASIC LAW," HE ADDED.

"I'M UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS, BECAUSE AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE BASIC LAW IS SILENT ON THOSE MATTERS AND THERE AREN'T EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE. I'VE PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS.

"THERE ARE ONE OR TWO OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD BY INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS. I VERY MUCH WELCOME A DEBATE ABOUT THE BEST WAY FORWARD," HE SAID.

"THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF NEXT YEAR AND IT WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO DO SO ON THE BASIS OF PROPOSALS THAT ARE ON THE TABLE. IT WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF VACUUMS," MR PATTEN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 24 -

FS COMMENTS ON AIRPORT FUNDING REQUESTS
* * * * *

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, HAD A NUMBER OF MEETINGS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH GROUPS OF LEGCO MEMBERS ON GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTS FOR FUNDS FOR THE AIRPORT SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT WHICH WILL GO BEFORE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THESE MEETINGS, MR MACLEOD SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT SPECULATING ABOUT CONTINGENCY PLANS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

HE SAID: "I THINK TO START SPECULATING ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE WOULD NOT ACTUALLY BE HELPFUL IN RELATION TO OUR MAIN AIM WHICH IS, AFTER ALL, TO CONTINUE TALKING TO CHINA AND TO REACH AGREEMENT."

"WE ARE TRYING HERE TO BE HELPFUL AND TO PROCEED WITH ONE CONTRACT AND AT THE SAME TIME TO TALK TO CHINA AND SEEK TO REACH AGREEMENT.

"SO WE DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WILL MAKE REACHING AGREEMENT LESS LIKELY AND I THINK TO BEGIN TO SPECULATE ABOUT CONTINGENCY PLANS AND WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF WE DON'T REACH AGREEMENT AND SO ON, WOULD NOT ACTUALLY BE VERY HELPFUL," HE SAID, ADDING THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF LEGCO MEMBERS WERE BEGINNING TO FIND THAT A SENSIBLE ARGUMENT.

ON MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE REQUEST FOR FUNDS, HE SAID WHILE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SUMMARISE THEIR VIEWS, IT WAS FAIR TO SAY THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR THE SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT ITSELF.

BUT ON THE OTHER EXPENDITURE WHICH RELATES TO SITE SUPERVISION, TO RELATED HEADQUARTERS COSTS AND SO ON, HE SAID THERE WAS SOME FEELING THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THAT WAS REDUCED TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM THAT WAS REQUIRED.

ON OTHER CONTRACTS WHICH RELATE TO WORK AFTER SITE PREPARATION, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DESIGN CONTRACTS TO THE ABSOLUTE TOP PRIORITY FIRST FIVE AND THEREFORE REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WHICH MEMBERS WERE ASKED TO VOTE ON FRIDAY.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE RESPONSE OF THE INDEPENDENT LEGISLATORS, HE SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THEIR VIEWS.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOW CONSIDER MEMBERS' COMMENTS VERY SERIOUSLY AND HOPEFULLY WOULD COME TO SOME CONCLUSIONS WHICH WOULD HELP MEMBERS IN RELATION TO FINDING AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM PACKAGE OF RELATED MEASURES WHICH COULD BE PUT TO MEMBERS ON FRIDAY, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW BUSINESS REGISTRATION RECORDS SYSTEM
* * * * *

THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1992 AND THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1992 WILL COME INTO EFFECT NEXT MONTH.

"STARTING FROM DECEMBER 1, THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION OFFICE WILL IMPLEMENT A NEW SYSTEM WHEREBY RECORDS WILL BE KEPT ON COMPUTERS AND MICROFILM," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

A PERSON WHO APPLIES FOR BUSINESS REGISTRATION WILL HAVE TO USE THE NEW FORMS PRESCRIBED IN THE REGULATION.

"A PERSON CARRYING ON BUSINESS AT A BRANCH WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BRANCH," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE NEW FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 28) FROM THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:

HONG KONG: FIRST FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 3
 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD
 WAN CHAI
 HONG KONG

KOWLOON: FIRST FLOOR, MONGKOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES
 30 LUEN WAN STREET
 MONG KOK
 KOWLOON

TSUEN WAN: FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION
 MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING
 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD
 TSUEN WAN
 NEW TERRITORIES

AS REGARDS THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON BUSINESS REGISTRATION, THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION OFFICE WILL PROVIDE CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES OF EXTRACTS RETRIEVED FROM THE NEW MICROFILM AND COMPUTER STORAGE SYSTEM.

HOWEVER, THE OFFICE WILL REMOVE RECORDS OF BUSINESSES WHICH HAVE CEASED OPERATION FOR 10 YEARS OR MORE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANY PERSON WHO HAS FURTHER ENQUIRIES RELATING TO BUSINESS REGISTRATION MATTERS MAY CALL 594 0888.

TECHNOLOGY REVIEW BOARD HOLDS FIRST MEETING

* * * * *

THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW BOARD (TRB) CONCLUDED ITS FIRST THREE-DAY MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TRB WAS ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ITDC) ON BROAD STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY TRENDS AND LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

COMMENTING ON THE MEETING, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE ITDC, SAID: "THE TRB'S JOB IS TO LOOK AT WHERE HONG KONG COULD AND SHOULD BE HEADING IN TECHNOLOGY."

"IT HAS MADE AN EXCELLENT START ON THIS IMPORTANT AND DEMANDING TASK AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING ITS REPORT," HE ADDED.

CHAIRMAN OF THE TRB, PROFESSOR CHARLES K KAO, ALSO DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS HIGHLY USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE.

BESIDES PROFESSOR KAO, THE TRB COMPRISES THREE LOCAL AND FIVE OVERSEAS MEMBERS.

THEY ARE:

- * DR JOHN ASHWORTH, DIRECTOR OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE;
- * MR T H BARMA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY;
- * SIR JOHN CADOGAN, FORMER DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, BRITISH PETROLEUM GROUP, AND CURRENTLY VISITING PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY, IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE;
- * DR VICTOR K K FUNG, CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PRUDENTIAL ASIA CAPITAL LTD;
- * DR CHARLES HERZFELD, FORMER DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE;
- * DR DEREK ROBERTS, PROVOST OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON;
- * MR C D TAM, SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER (ASIA PACIFIC), MOTOROLA SEMICONDUCTORS HONG KONG LTD; AND

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 27 -

* DR CHRIET TITULAER, PRESIDENT OF CHRIET TITULAER PRODUKTIES
B.V. IN THE NETHERLANDS.

DURING THE THREE-DAY MEETING, TRB MEMBERS EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH
ABOUT 50 BUSINESSMEN, TECHNOLOGISTS AND ACADEMICS WITH INTERESTS IN
THE MAJOR MANUFACTURING AND SERVICES SECTORS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWO SITES PUT UP FOR AUCTION

* * * *

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL PUT UP TWO GOVERNMENT
LAND LOTS FOR AUCTION ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 27) AFTERNOON.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN THE THEATRE OF THE CITY HALL AT
2.30 PM.

THE FIRST SITE IS AT MUI WO FERRY PIER, MUI WO, LANTAU ISLAND.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 741 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS INTENDED
FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, CINEMA AND HOTEL) PURPOSES.

THE SECOND LOT, AT 35-42 ROSE STREET, YAU YAT TSUEN, KOWLOON,
HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,312 SQUARE METRES AND IS EARMARKED FOR PRIVATE
RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION. A
PRESS AREA WILL BE DESIGNATED AT THE VENUE. PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOULD
BRING ALONG TELEPHOTO LENSES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/28

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 28 -

GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

* * * * *

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF THREE PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED IN AREA ONE, TSING YI, AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 6,400 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS INTENDED FOR A PUBLIC FEE-PAYING CAR PARK FOR PRIVATE CARS AND GOODS VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS BUT INCLUDING COACHES).

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

THE SECOND SITE IS LOCATED IN AREA 33, TAI PO.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.47 HECTARES, THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR A PUBLIC FEE-PAYING CAR PARK.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

THE REMAINING SITE IS LOCATED IN AREA TWO, TIN SHUI WAI, YUEN LONG, HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,435 SQUARE METRES.

THE SITE IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF THE TENANT'S GOODS, AND/OR NEW UNLICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE (EXCLUDING ANY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, SCRAPPED CARS/METAL, CONTAINER, CONTAINER VEHICLE, CONTAINER-TRAILER, CEMENT AND OTHER DUSTY MATERIALS).

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON DECEMBER 11.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES IN KWAI TSING, TAI PO AND YUEN LONG; OR AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

THE TENDER PLAN MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED IN THESE OFFICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS URGED

* * * *

SCHOOLS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO STRENGTHEN SPORTS PROGRAMMES BY FORMING MORE SPORTS CLUBS, ORGANISING MORE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND MAKING FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR AFTER-SCHOOL-HOUR USES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD SEMINAR ON "SPORT IN SCHOOLS - THE FUTURE CHALLENGE.

ON TRAINING, MR WONG SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE TWO-YEAR AND THREE-YEAR COURSES FOR NEW PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED BY SOME OF THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND SHORT COURSES WILL ALSO BE RUN REGULARLY BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO HELP OTHER SERVING TEACHERS TO UPDATE THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN COACHING AND ORGANISING SPORTS ACTIVITIES, MR WONG ADDED.

MR WONG PRAISED THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS IN SCHOOLS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PAC TO HOLD FURTHER HEARING ON FRIDAY

* * * * *

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A FURTHER PUBLIC HEARING ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 27) ON THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT NO. 19 ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 THIS YEAR.

THE HEARING WILL BEGIN AT 8.30 AM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO ANSWER POINTS RAISED IN THE REPORT WILL BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR H C PANG AND PRINCIPAL TRANSPORT OFFICER (PUBLIC TRANSPORT), MS Z WONG.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING IS AS FOLLOWS:

TIME	OFFICIALS	SUBJECT
-----	-----	-----
8.30 AM	DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR H C PANG AND PRINCIPAL TRANSPORT OFFICER (PUBLIC TRANSPORT) MS Z WONG	REPROVISIONING OF FERRY PIERS IN KWUN TONG (PARAGRAPHS 10.1 - 10.16)

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992

- 30 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * *

	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.4 *-0.1* 25.11.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.93 PCT	15 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.30	4.44
1 MONTH	3.60 PCT	18 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.30	4.63
3 MONTHS	3.74 PCT	21 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.30	4.86
6 MONTHS	3.86 PCT	24 MONTHS	2411	4.625	99.30	5.06
12 MONTHS	4.32 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,711 MN

CLOSED 25 NOVEMBER 1992

- - - - 0 - - - -