



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
<u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:</u>	
QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS EMPHASISED .....	1
COMMUNITY SUPPORT ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF REHABILITATION .....	4
GOVT COMMITTED TO FORWARD TRANSPORT PLANNING .....	5
F'S INTRODUCES FOUR REVENUE-RELATED BILLS .....	6
MORE PROTECTION AGAINST CHILD ABUSE .....	9
HUMAN ORGAN TRANSPLANT BILL INTRODUCED .....	10
BILL TO BETTER DEFINE BUILDING AUTHORITY'S POWERS .....	11
NO INTENTION TO REVIEW HSBC'S STATUS AS NOTE-ISSUING BANK .....	13
ELECTORAL DISQUALIFICATION PROVISION TO BE REVIEWED .....	14
ADDITIONAL INFIRMARY BEDS TO MEET DEMAND .....	14
TREASON, SEDITION AND THEFT OF OFFICIAL SECRETS ARE OFFENCES UNDER LAW .....	16
WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES UNDER STUDY ...	16
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PURSUED IN SCHOOLS .....	17
WAYS TO PROTECT GOVT'S RESERVES .....	18
GOVT TACKLING PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM .....	19
REVIEW ON LONG SERVICE AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS .....	20
UNIT COSTS OF STUDENT PLACES EXPLAINED .....	21
MEASURES TAKEN TO HELP SCHOOLS ADOPT NEW CURRICULUM .....	21
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME TO GO ON IN PRESENT FORM .....	23
SETTLEMENT DECISION IN CONTEMPT CASE EXPLAINED .....	24
REVIEW OF AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES FARES COMPLETED .....	25

/CARELESSNESS - MAJOR .....



THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE TERRITORIES  
AND DEVELOPMENT

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CARELESSNESS - MAJOR CAUSE OF OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS AT SEA .....	26
"SALEABLE FLOOR AREA" EXPLAINED .....	27
CHANGES TO APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE TABLED .....	28
THREE-HOUR DEBATE ON REHAB GREEN PAPER AT LEGCO .....	29
HIGH PRIORITY ACCORDED TO SLOPE SAFETY .....	30
CHANGES TO IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE PROPOSED .....	32
LARGEST WHOLESALE MARKET OPERATIONAL BY NEXT YEAR-END .....	33
ACTIVE SUPPORT PLEDGED FOR INDUSTRY .....	34
BABY FLIES TO AUSTRALIA FOR MAJOR CRANIOFACIAL OPERATION .....	35
TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACES INVITE APPLICATIONS .....	36
DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED .....	37
SALT WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION IN KWAI CHUNG .....	37
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS .....	38

QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS EMPHASISED

\* \* \* \* \*

DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME TO ACCELERATE THE RATE OF EXPANSION AT THE TERTIARY SECTOR, THE SEVEN LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE 41 PER CENT OF THE NEW GRADUATES ENTERING THE WORKFORCE DURING THE PERIOD 1991-96.

CONSEQUENTLY, HONG KONG WILL STILL HAVE TO RELY ON OVERSEAS GRADUATES, IMMIGRANTS AND RETURNED EMIGRANTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF GRADUATE MANPOWER AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONTINUING INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, DURING A MOTION DEBATE AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MISS CHOW SAID NOTWITHSTANDING THE STEADY EXPANSION IN THE TERTIARY SECTOR IN THE YEARS PAST, DEGREE LEVEL PLACES CONTINUED TO BE IN GREAT DEMAND.

THIS IS EVIDENT IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS LEAVING FOR OVERSEAS STUDY EVERY YEAR. AT THE SAME TIME, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF LOSS OF QUALIFIED MANPOWER THROUGH EMIGRATION, STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN OUR ECONOMY HAVE RESULTED IN AN INCREASED DEMAND FOR AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE.

"THIS IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS EMBARKED ON THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME TO ACCELERATE THE RATE OF EXPANSION AT THE TERTIARY SECTOR, WITH THE TARGET OF PROVIDING A FIRST-YEAR-FIRST-DEGREE PLACE FOR 18 PER CENT OF THE 17-20 AGE GROUP BY 1994-95," MISS CHOW SAID.

NOTING THAT MUCH HAD BEEN SAID ABOUT THE PERCEIVED IMBALANCE IN RESOURCE ALLOCATION BETWEEN THE TERTIARY AND THE SCHOOLS SECTORS, MISS CHOW SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE TERTIARY EXPANSION PROGRAMME WAS EXPENSIVE.

"HOWEVER, THE UPGC HAS A NUMBER OF BUDGETARY AND MONITORING MECHANISMS WHICH, WITHOUT ERODING THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM FOR THE INSTITUTIONS, ENSURES THAT THESE RESOURCES ARE DEPLOYED IN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAY," MISS CHOW SAID.

"BUT PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE PROGRAMME IS BEING ACHIEVED AT THE EXPENSE OF QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS.

"CONTRARY TO THE ADVERTISEMENTS PLACED BY VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL BODIES IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, THERE IS NO CUT BACK IN THE FUNDING OF SCHOOL ALLOCATION. EVEN WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE REPEATER ALLOWANCE, THERE WILL STILL BE A REAL INCREASE OF 1.5 PER CENT IN SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE. THIS FIGURE DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LIKELY SALARY INCREASE IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL PROVISION WILL BE MADE."

MISS CHOW NOTED THAT SEVERAL FACTORS ACCOUNTED FOR THE SLOWER RATE OF INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE IN THE SCHOOLS SECTOR.

/UNLIKE THE .....

UNLIKE THE TERTIARY SECTOR WHICH WAS UNDERGOING A PHASE OF QUANTITATIVE EXPANSION, THE SCHOOLS SECTOR WAS ENTERING A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION WHERE THE EMPHASIS WAS ON QUALITY RATHER THAN NUMBER, MISS CHOW SAID.

"THE DECLINE IN ENROLMENT IN SCHOOLS DUE TO DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES TOGETHER WITH THE MORE COST-EFFECTIVE MEASURES THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INTRODUCE HAVE RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN PLOUGHED BACK TO THE SCHOOLS SECTOR FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS."

FOR EXAMPLE, MEASURES COSTING \$465 MILLION ON FULL IMPLEMENTATION HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED SINCE 1990.

FURTHERMORE, AS A RESULT OF THE REVISION OF THE NUMBER OF FIRST-YEAR-FIRST-DEGREE PLACES FOLLOWING THE 1991 CENSUS POPULATION PROJECTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO REDEPLOY \$300 MILLION TO THE SCHOOLS. THIS IS ON TOP OF THE 1.5 PER CENT OF REAL INCREASE MENTIONED EARLIER AND WILL ENABLE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT MEASURES TO PROCEED IN THE 1992 SCHOOL YEAR.

CONSEQUENTLY, ALL APPROVED POLICIES ARISING FROM EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 AS WELL AS OTHER IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS ENHANCEMENT TO THE KINDERGARTEN FEE REMISSION SCHEME WILL BE FUNDED.

ADDITIONAL, FUNDING WILL HAVE TO BE EARMARKED FOR RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION TO IMPROVE THE TEACHING PROFESSION WHEN THEY ARE ACCEPTED AS GOVERNMENT POLICY.

MISS CHOW ALSO SPOKE OF THE NEED TO KEEP EDUCATION POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW.

ON TERTIARY EDUCATION, THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) HAS BEGUN ITS SCHEDULED REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME.

THIS REVIEW WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS RELATING TO THE SIZE AND QUALITY OF THE STUDENT INTAKE AND HOW THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS HAVE COPEd WITH THE CHALLENGE OF EDUCATING A LARGER AND MORE DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENTS.

WITHIN THE SCHOOLS SECTOR, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS BEEN MONITORING PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES ARISING FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN ITS VARIOUS REPORTS AND CONSIDERING THE PRIORITY OVER THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SUFFICIENT MONITORING FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEMS, SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT RULE OUT THE NEED FOR A MORE THOROUGH REVIEW.

AS REGARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS IN THE TERTIARY SECTOR, MISS CHOW POINTED OUT THAT THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ARE DEDICATED TO THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARD AND THE UNIVERSITIES ALSO HAVE THEIR OWN SYSTEM OF PEER GROUP REVIEW AND EXTERNAL EXAMINERS.

APART FROM THEIR INTERNAL MECHANISM FOR QUALITY CONTROL, THE POLYTECHNICS AND THE COLLEGES ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO UNDERGO ACCREDITATION BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION.

TURNING TO THE REPEATER ALLOWANCE, MISS CHOW SAID THE GOVERNMENT FULLY ENDORSED THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL EDUCATION. IT WAS UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG'S ORIGINAL MOTION WHICH CALLED FOR THE REPEATER ALLOWANCE TO BE RETAINED AT PRIMARY 1 AND SECONDARY 1.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE REPEATER ALLOWANCE FOR PRIMARY 1 AND SECONDARY 1 IS THE ONLY PRACTICABLE WAY TO PRODUCE THE REQUIRED SAVINGS OF \$284 MILLION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO MAKE UP ELSEWHERE IN THE EDUCATION BUDGET SHOULD IT DECIDE NOT TO PROCEED, SHE EXPLAINED.

"THIS WOULD MEAN DIPPING INTO THE \$300 MILLION NEW ALLOCATION WHICH HAS BEEN EARMARKED TO FUND QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS AND WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO BETTER TEACHING AND SUPPORT SERVICES WITHIN CLASSROOMS."

"IN OTHER WORDS, SOME OF THE MORE AWAITED REFORMS ARISING FROM THE ECR4 AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROCEED THIS YEAR.

"SUCH A STAND IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE COMMUNITY'S WISH TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS INTRODUCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

SHE ALSO DISMISSED THE ARGUMENT THAT TO ASSIGN 40, INSTEAD OF 38, PUPILS TO EACH CLASS THROUGH THE PLACES ALLOCATION SYSTEM WOULD AFFECT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AS WELL AS THE INTEREST OF PARENTS, PUPILS AND TEACHERS.

SUCH ARGUMENTS OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT 40 PER CENT OF PRIMARY 1 CLASSES AND 20 PER CENT OF SECONDARY 1 CLASSES HAVE 38 PUPILS OR LESS AND ARE THEREFORE IN A POSITION TO ACCOMMODATE THE TWO EXTRA PUPILS AND STILL KEEP WITHIN THE NORMAL CLASS SIZE.

IN FACT, THE AVERAGE SIZE OF CLASSES NOW STANDS AT 34.7 FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 36.7 FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

SHE SAID THE EFFECT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF REPEATER ALLOWANCE ON CLASS SIZE THEREFORE WOULD BE MARGINAL AND LIKELY TO DISSIPATE OVER TIME DUE TO NORMAL WASTAGE.

SHE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE REPEATER ALLOWANCE FOR THE LEVELS IN QUESTION WOULD BE RESTORED IN FULL BY THE FIFTH YEAR, WHEN THE ANTICIPATED DECLINE IN STUDENT ENROLMENT WOULD MAKE SMALLER CLASS SIZE POSSIBLE.

"I HOPE THIS TEMPORARY MEASURE COULD BE SEEN IN THE WIDER CONTEXT OF OTHER POSITIVE INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL EDUCATION," MISS CHOW SAID.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 4 -

COMMUNITY SUPPORT ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF REHABILITATION

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE TWIN GOALS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FULL PARTICIPATION INSPIRED BY THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION POLICIES AND SERVICES WILL BE ACHIEVED AND THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL PROVIDE THE DRIVING FORCE FOR ALL TO WORK TOWARDS THESE GOALS.

SHE ALSO SAID SHE WAS GRATIFIED BY MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR THE OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVES OF REHABILITATION AS DETAILED IN CHAPTER 3 OF THE GREEN PAPER.

"THIS WILL POINT THE WAY TO FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG SO AS TO ACHIEVE THE TWIN GOALS," SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG MADE THE REMARKS WHEN WINDING UP A MOTION DEBATE ON THE REHABILITATION GREEN PAPER AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE SAID REHABILITATION SERVICES COVER A WIDE SPECTRUM, RANGING FROM SOCIAL TO MEDICAL REHABILITATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED. THESE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY A HOST OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.

BUT REHABILITATION DOES GO BEYOND THE MERE PROVISION OF THESE SERVICES.

"IT CALLS FOR A SMOOTH INTERFACE BETWEEN DISABLED PERSONS AND THE BROADER ENVIRONMENT.

"FOR INSTANCE, ON THE QUESTION OF EMPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT ITSELF EMPLOYS SOME 3,769 DISABLED PERSONS - SOME TWO PER CENT OF ALL CIVIL SERVANTS INCLUDING 1,589 VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS.

"I DARE SAY THE GOVERNMENT IS THE BIGGEST EMPLOYER OF DISABLED PERSONS BUT THIS IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. WE NEED TO DO MORE AND MAINTAIN A SUSTAINED MOMENTUM AND COMMITMENT IN EMPLOYMENT AND I AM ALSO MOTIVATING OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO DO THE SAME."

MRS WONG STRESSED THAT REHABILITATION WOULD NOT BE A SUCCESS WITHOUT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE WORKING TOGETHER PARTICULARLY IF SOME OF THE STATISTICS WERE CORRECT, THAT WAS, ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE PERSONS IN HONG KONG HAD SOME FORM OF HANDICAP OR DISABILITY WHICH NEEDED TO BE REHABILITATED.

SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED VALUABLE AND DIVERSE COMMENTS, RANGING FROM MORE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES TO SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS TO ENHANCE REHABILITATION TO THOSE SUFFERING FROM DIABETES AND ASTHMA.

GIVEN THE RIGHT PRIORITY, MRS WONG POINTED OUT, THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS RESOURCES PERMIT.

/SHE URGED .....

SHE URGED THE PUBLIC FOR GUIDANCE ON WHERE THE PRIORITY SHOULD LIE.

"PRIORITISATION IS NOT ALIEN TO MANAGEMENT," SHE SAID, "IT HAS BEEN THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT TOOL TO ACHIEVE ONE'S OBJECTIVES. WE CANNOT FOREVER TOLERATE SHORTFALL. WE MUST DO SOMETHING SENSIBLE.

"WE MUST PROVIDE REHABILITATION TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY TO THE MOST URGENT AREAS IF NEEDS BE, AND TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS COMMUNITY CAN AFFORD."

"WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE AND TO DECIDE, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THE DECISION MIGHT BE, ON IMPORTANT ITEMS WHICH MUST BE RELATIVELY SPEAKING IMPLEMENTED FIRST.

"FOR AS LONG AS WE REFUSE TO FACE THE FACT AND TAKE THE NASTIES, I THINK WE WILL NOT PROGRESS. WE MUST BE ABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS AND TAKE HARD DECISIONS," MRS WONG ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT COMMITTED TO FORWARD TRANSPORT PLANNING  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO FORWARD PLANNING AS THE MEANS OF ANTICIPATING AND MEETING THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE NEW TOWNS.

THE REASSURANCE WAS GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG IN WINDING UP THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRANSPORT SERVICES OF NEW TOWNS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROAD NETWORK WOULD CONTINUE TO MEET THE DEMANDS CREATED BY NEW TOWN EXPANSION.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES BOTH WITHIN THE NEW TOWNS AND THE URBAN AREA WOULD BE EXPANDED AND UPGRADED IN KEEPING WITH PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS, HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS ALREADY A WELL ESTABLISHED PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLANNING MECHANISM IN PLACE.

"EACH YEAR, WE REVIEW THE NEED FOR IMPROVED SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH MAJOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS.

"SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLANS ARE PRESENTED TO THE RELEVANT DISTRICT BOARDS FOR ADVICE BEFORE THESE ARE INTRODUCED," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FS INTRODUCES FOUR REVENUE-RELATED BILLS

\* \* \* \* \*

FOUR AMENDMENT BILLS WHICH SEEK TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE REVENUE-RELATED PROPOSALS IN THE 1992-93 BUDGET WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD.

MR MACLEOD SAID RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND THE RATING ORDINANCE AND THE BETTING DUTY ORDINANCE WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY AND THEY WOULD BE MOVED IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME, AFTER ADEQUATE TIME FOR DISCUSSION, AT THE SAME TIME AS DEBATES ON THE BUDGET BILLS WERE RESUMED.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1992, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO TWO MAJOR BUDGET PROPOSALS.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3 OF THE BILL INCREASED THE RATE OF PROFITS TAX PAYABLE BY CORPORATIONS FROM 16.5% TO 17.5%. THIS INCREASE, APPLICABLE TO ASSESSMENTS FOR 1992-93, WOULD YIELD \$850 MILLION IN 1992-93, OR \$1.6 BILLION IN A FULL YEAR.

CLAUSE 4 OF THE BILL ADDED AN ADDITIONAL SCALE OF TAX ALLOWANCES TO THE FOURTH SCHEDULE OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE, SO THAT BASIC, MARRIED PERSONS, DEPENDENT PARENT, CHILD AND SINGLE PARENT ALLOWANCES WOULD BE INCREASED.

THE TOTAL COST TO REVENUE WOULD BE \$850 MILLION IN 1992-93, OR \$1.2 BILLION IN A FULL YEAR.

MR MACLEOD SAID IN HIS CONCLUDING SPEECH ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL IN THIS COUNCIL ON APRIL 1, HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES HAD THE EFFECT OF MAINTAINING THE REAL VALUE OF PERSONAL TAX ALLOWANCES OVER TIME.

"I ALSO SAID IN MY SPEECH ON APRIL 1 THAT IN THE NEXT BUDGET I INTEND TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY SALARIES TAX ALLOWANCES AND TO IMPROVE TAX BANDS.

"THE COMBINED EFFECT OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE TO REDUCE FURTHER THE EFFECTIVE RATES OF TAX PAID BY MIDDLE-INCOME EARNERS, WHICH ARE ALREADY LOW BY ANY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

"BUT I MUST REITERATE THAT SUCH MEASURES WILL ONLY BE POSSIBLE IF OUR FINANCIAL POSITION CONTINUES TO BE AS FORECAST. AND AMONG OTHER THINGS THIS MEANS THE PASSING OF ALL THE REVENUE MEASURES IN THE PRESENT BUDGET," HE SAID.

DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992  
-----

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE BILL HAD FOUR MAIN PURPOSES.

/FIRST, IT .....

FIRST, IT WOULD RESULT IN THE ABOLITION OF DUTY ON SOFT DRINKS. THIS MEASURE WOULD COST THE GENERAL REVENUE ABOUT \$230 MILLION A YEAR.

MR MACLEOD POINTED OUT THAT THE BEVERAGE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG HAD WRITTEN TO HIM SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, CONFIRMING THEIR EARLIER UNDERTAKING TO PASS ON THE BENEFIT OF THIS CONCESSION TO CONSUMERS.

SECONDLY, CLAUSE 6 OF THE BILL WOULD INCREASE THE DUTY RATES ON LIQUOR, TOBACCO AND FUEL.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EMPHASISED THAT THESE WERE NOMINAL INCREASES ONLY, DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THE VALUE OF THE DUTY IMPOSED IN LINE WITH INFLATION.

"I HAVE DELIBERATELY AVOIDED ANY INCREASES IN REAL TERMS. FOR THAT REASON, THOSE DUTY RATES WHICH ARE SET ON AN AD VALOREM BASIS HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED," HE SAID.

THIRDLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID A NUMBER OF THE CLAUSES OF THE BILL WERE DESIGNED TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE BUDGET PROPOSAL THAT DUTY BE PAID ON LIGHT DIESEL OIL USED BY PLEASURE CRAFT, WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 1, 1992.

"THE PRESENT EXEMPTION FROM DUTY ON FUEL ARISES FROM PROVISIONS IN THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE WHICH DATE BACK TO A TIME WHEN PLEASURE VESSELS WERE RELATIVELY FEW IN NUMBER.

"ALTHOUGH PETROL USED BY PLEASURE CRAFT IS ALREADY SUBJECT TO DUTY, MOST PLEASURE CRAFT ARE NOW ABLE TO USE DUTY-FREE DIESEL FUEL," HE SAID.

THE ENDING OF THIS INEQUITABLE DISTINCTION SHOULD INCREASE GENERAL REVENUE BY ABOUT \$80 MILLION A YEAR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

CLAUSES 6(H) AND 15(6) OF THE BILL WOULD GIVE EFFECT TO THE BUDGET PROPOSAL TO EXEMPT FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES COMPLETELY FROM THE DUTY ON DIESEL FUEL.

UNDER THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL, THIS CONCESSION WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE REFLECTED IN FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS TO BUS FARES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

THE PROPOSAL WOULD COST THE GENERAL REVENUE ABOUT \$190 MILLION A YEAR.

STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1992

-----

THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) 1992 BILL SEEKS TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO TWO PROPOSALS IN THE 1992-93 BUDGET.

/MOVING THE .....

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID, CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL WOULD BRING MOST RIGHTS, OPTIONS AND INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF STOCK WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF 'STOCK' IN THE STAMP DUTY ORDINANCE, SO THAT A SALE AND PURCHASE OR TRANSFER OF SUCH RIGHTS, OPTIONS OR INTERESTS WOULD BE CHARGEABLE WITH STAMP DUTY.

"THE PRINCIPAL EFFECT OF THIS AMENDMENT WOULD BE TO EXTEND THE APPLICATION OF STAMP DUTY TO THE SALE AND PURCHASE OR TRANSFER OF COVERED WARRANTS," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS SPEECH MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL SAID THIS WAS A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING TAX SYSTEM, SINCE THESE WARRANTS WERE A ROUTINELY TRADED FORM OF SECURITY.

CLAUSE 3 OF THE BILL WOULD REDUCE FROM 0.5% TO 0.4% THE RATE OF STAMP DUTY ON CONTRACT NOTES.

"THIS REPRESENTS A CONTINUATION OF THE GRADUAL PROCESS OF REDUCTION IN DUTY ON STOCK TRANSFERS, DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S SECURITIES MARKET," MR MACLEOD SAID.

THE EXTENSION OF STAMP DUTY TO COVERED WARRANTS WILL BRING IN AN EXTRA \$140 MILLION REVENUE A YEAR. THE REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF CONTRACT NOTE DUTY WILL COST THE REVENUE \$400 MILLION A YEAR.

#### ENTERTAINMENTS TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992

-----

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE ENTERTAINMENTS TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO AMEND THE ENTERTAINMENTS TAX ORDINANCE, TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSAL IN THE BUDGET TO ABOLISH ENTERTAINMENTS TAX ON CINEMA TICKETS.

THE COST OF THIS MEASURE TO GENERAL REVENUE WILL BE \$130 MILLION A YEAR.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL LAST WEEK, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM HONG KONG'S TWO LARGEST CINEMA OPERATORS THAT THE FULL BENEFIT OF THE CONCESSION WOULD BE PASSED ON TO CINEMA-GOERS, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF TICKETS IN THE COMING YEAR.

"I HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT THE OPERATORS CONCERNED WILL ABIDE BY THIS AGREEMENT. I HAVE, HOWEVER, NOTICED MEDIA REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT SOME FILM DISTRIBUTORS MAY NOT INTEND TO PASS ON THE FULL VALUE OF THE CONCESSION TO THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD SAID HE WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT THESE REPORTS AND WOULD BE LOOKING INTO THE SITUATION CLOSELY.

"IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, CONCESSIONS CAN OF COURSE BE REVERSED IN FUTURE BUDGETS," HE SAID.

THE DEBATE ON THE MOTIONS WERE ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 9 -

MORE PROTECTION AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE BETTER PROTECTION TO CHILDREN AND JUVENILES BY WIDENING THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A CHILD MAY BE CONSIDERED TO BE IN NEED OF CARE OR PROTECTION WAS INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID THE EFFECTS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT WOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED AS GROUNDS FOR CONSIDERING A CHILD TO BE IN NEED OF CARE OR PROTECTION.

"THIS APPROACH IS IN LINE WITH THE GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE," SHE SAID.

UNDER THE PROPOSED BILL, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WILL BE GIVEN MORE FLEXIBLE POWERS OF INTERVENTION AND INVESTIGATION WITHOUT ALWAYS HAVING FIRST TO REMOVE A CHILD FROM HOME.

THE DIRECTOR WILL ALSO BE EMPOWERED TO ISSUE A CHILD ASSESSMENT NOTICE TO THE CHILD'S PARENT, REQUIRING HIM OR HER TO BRING THE CHILD FOR A MEDICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY A DOCTOR OR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST.

IN THE CASE OF ANY REMOVAL OR DETENTION OF A CHILD OR JUVENILE UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE DIRECTOR WAS REQUIRED TO MAKE APPLICATION TO A COURT WITHIN 48 HOURS, INSTEAD OF EIGHT DAYS.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR ALL REMAINING REFERENCES TO SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR WOMEN TO BE REMOVED, SO THAT THE ORDINANCE WILL APPLY EQUALLY TO MALE AS WELL AS FEMALE CHILDREN AND JUVENILES.

THIS WILL RESULT IN THE RETITLING OF THE ORDINANCE AS THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE.

THE BILL FURTHER SEEKS TO REVISE THE LEVEL OF FINES FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE IN LINE WITH PRESENT-DAY VALUES.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HUMAN ORGAN TRANSPLANT BILL INTRODUCED

\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL WHICH PROHIBITS COMMERCIAL TRADING IN HUMAN ORGANS, WHETHER OBTAINED FROM LIVING OR DECEASED DONORS, AND REGULATES THE USE OF ORGANS OBTAINED FROM LIVE DONORS IN THE TERRITORY WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HUMAN ORGAN TRANSPLANT BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL DID NOT IN ANY WAY RESTRICT VOLUNTARY DONATIONS, ADDING THAT THESE ARE INDEED TO BE PRAISED AND ENCOURAGED.

BUT UNLIKE VOLUNTARY DONATION THROUGH CARING FOR OTHERS AND COMPASSION, THE PRACTICE OF BUYING AND SELLING HUMAN ORGANS FOR PURPOSES OF TRANSPLANT IS BOTH ETHICALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND MORALLY REPUGNANT.

"THERE CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR DEBASING THE VALUE OF THE INDIVIDUAL BY ALLOWING THE EXISTENCE OF A 'MARKET' IN HUMAN ORGANS," SHE SAID.

"COMMERCIAL ORGAN TRADING AND 'DONATION' UNDER DURESS IS CONDEMNED WORLDWIDE," SHE SAID.

THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAS ADOPTED GUIDELINES AGAINST COMMERCIAL ORGAN TRADING AND ALSO URGED MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN SUCH ACTIVITIES ON GROUNDS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS.

NOTING THAT NO CASE OF COMMERCIAL ORGAN TRANSPLANT HAD BEEN RECORDED IN HONG KONG, MRS WONG FELT THAT TIGHTER LEGISLATIVE CONTROL IS NECESSARY.

"WE THEREFORE PROPOSE NEW LEGISLATION AND HEAVY SANCTION : THE HUMAN ORGAN TRANSPLANT BILL 1992 WILL PROVIDE FOR THIS," SHE ADDED.

THE BILL SEEKS TO BAN ADVERTISING AND SOLICITATION RELATED TO COMMERCIAL ORGAN TRADING.

THE PENALTY FOR INITIATING OR NEGOTIATING ANY ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING PAYMENT FOR AN ORGAN WILL BE A FINE OF \$10,000 FOR FIRST CONVICTION AND \$25,000 PLUS IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR UPON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION.

TRANSPLANT OF ORGANS FROM LIVING DONORS WILL ALSO BE PROHIBITED UNLESS THE DONOR IS GENETICALLY RELATED OR MARRIED TO THE PROSPECTIVE RECIPIENT, OR UNLESS APPROVAL IS OBTAINED FROM THE HUMAN ORGAN TRANSPLANT BOARD.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS STIPULATION WILL ATTRACT A \$10,000 FINE FOR THE FIRST CONVICTION AND A \$25,000 FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR FOR SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

THE SECRETARY ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE BILL SUPPLEMENTED BUT DID NOT SUPPLANT A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER'S OWN CODE OF ETHICS.

IN THE CASE OF A TRANSPLANT INVOLVING A LIVING DONOR, IT IS FOR THE DOCTOR TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE OPERATION IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES.

TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TO MOTIVATE MORE GENEROUS ORGAN DONATION, MRS WONG SAID A MULTI-MEDIA CAMPAIGN IN COLLABORATION WITH PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS WAS BEING LAUNCHED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL TO BETTER DEFINE BUILDING AUTHORITY'S POWERS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WHICH SEEKS TO BETTER DEFINE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY'S POWERS AND STREAMLINE EXISTING PROCEDURES WAS INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR A.G. EASON, LISTED EIGHT PROPOSALS INVOLVED IN THE AMENDMENT.

ON THE REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS, HE SAID A SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION SIMILAR TO THAT FOR AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS WAS PROPOSED SO THAT AN ACCURATE RECORD OF REGISTERED CONTRACTORS COULD BE MAINTAINED.

THIS WOULD INVOLVE A CONTRACTOR APPLYING FOR HIS NAME TO BE INCLUDED ON A REGISTER, AND PAYING AN ANNUAL FEE TO RETAIN HIS NAME ON THE REGISTER.

THE SECOND PROPOSAL RELATES TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY'S POWERS TO DEAL WITH DEFECTIVE OR INSANITARY DRAINAGE.

MR EASON EXPLAINED THAT THE BUILDING AUTHORITY SHOULD HAVE THE EXPRESS AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH SEWERS SO AS TO CARRY OUT HIS FUNCTIONS IN RESPECT OF BOTH DRAINS AND SEWERS.

HE SAID A DEFAULT PROVISION FOR THE AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT AND RECOVER THE COST OF DRAINAGE WORKS WAS ALSO INCLUDED AND THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TAKEN TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD "OWNER" UNDER SECTION 28(3) (B).

THE THIRD PROPOSAL RELATES TO BUILDING WORKS UNDER STREETS.

NOTING THAT SECTION 31(1) OF THE ORDINANCE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY REFER TO CONSTRUCTION UNDER, AS OPPOSED TO IN, OVER, OR UPON STREETS, HE SAID AN AMENDMENT WAS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO REGULATE CONSTRUCTION UNDER STREETS.

/THE FOURTH .....

THE FOURTH PROPOSAL INVOLVES AMENDING SECTION 31(2) OF THE ORDINANCE ON THE ALTERATION OR REMOVAL OF PROJECTIONS OVER STREETS TO EMPOWER THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY WORKS AND RECOVER THEIR COST, SHOULD THE OWNER FAIL TO COMPLY WITH AN ORDER TO DO SO.

THE FIFTH PROPOSAL SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO RECOVER THE COST OF ABORTIVE VISITS IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE WORKS ARE CARRIED OUT DURING SUBSEQUENT VISITS.

"THE NEED FOR THE SIXTH PROPOSAL ARISES FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF A MICROFILM SYSTEM FOR BUILDING PLANS AND RECORDS IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE," MR EASON SAID.

HE SAID THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WOULD ENABLE MICROFILM RECORDS WHICH HAD BEEN CERTIFIED AS TRUE COPIES BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO BE TREATED AS THE ORIGINAL PLANS AND DOCUMENTS.

HE ADDED THAT THE AMENDMENTS WOULD ALSO ALLOW DESTRUCTION OF THE ORIGINALS AFTER MICROFILMING, AND ENABLE COPIES OF MICROFILM RECORDS TO BE ADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

THE SEVENTH PROPOSAL WILL REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF PLANS TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL IN RESPECT OF GROUND INVESTIGATION AND UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE WORKS WITHIN THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (MTR) PROTECTION AREAS.

"THIS WOULD HELP ENSURE THE INTEGRITY AND SAFETY OF THE MTR'S UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES," HE SAID.

THE LAST PROPOSAL RELATES TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION ON NOVEMBER 13 LAST YEAR TO INCLUDE THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN THE FOURTH SCHEDULE OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, THEREBY ALLOWING THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO DELEGATE HIS AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICERS.

HE SAID WORK CARRIED OUT BY THESE OFFICERS BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1, 1989 WHEN THE DEPARTMENT WAS SET UP AND NOVEMBER 21, 1991 WHEN THE DELEGATION INSTRUMENT WAS EFFECTED NEEDED TO BE VALIDATED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 13 -

NO INTENTION TO REVIEW HSBC'S STATUS AS NOTE-ISSUING BANK

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION (HSBC) AS A NOTE-ISSUING BANK.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN LEE AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK SAID IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON WHETHER OR NOT THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED ANY REQUEST FROM OTHER BANKS IN HONG KONG TO BE ALLOWED TO ISSUE BANK NOTES.

HE ADDED THAT DISCUSSION, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND ANY BANK WHICH MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NOTE-ISSUER MUST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SEEK MEMBERS' APPROVAL TO AMENDMENTS TO THE BANK NOTES ISSUE ORDINANCE BEFORE ANY ADDITIONAL NOTE ISSUER COULD BE APPOINTED.

ON THE CRITERIA FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE WHETHER ANY OTHER BANK IN ADDITION TO THE HSBC AND THE STANDARD CHARTERED BANK IS TO BECOME A NOTE-ISSUING BANK BEFORE 1997, THE SECRETARY SAID:

"A BANK WHICH ISSUES NOTES SHOULD BE ONE OF UNDOUBTED REPUTATION WITH SOUND AND WELL ESTABLISHED BANKING OPERATIONS LOCALLY AND AN EXTENSIVE BRANCH NETWORK.

"IT MUST COMMAND THE CONFIDENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND HAVE A FIRM LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MORE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS THAT A BANK MUST ADDRESS.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, A NOTE-ISSUING BANK WAS OBLIGED TO SUPPLY BANK NOTES TO ITS CUSTOMERS ON DEMAND WITHOUT RESTRICTION AGAINST HONG KONG DOLLAR BALANCES AND TO OTHER BANKS AGAINST U.S. DOLLARS.

IT MUST STAND READY TO ACCEPT BANK NOTES WITHOUT RESTRICTION.

MORE, IT MUST ENSURE IT HAS ADEQUATE U.S. DOLLAR FUNDING TO MEET ANY SUDDEN UPSURGE IN DEMAND FOR ITS NOTES.

THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID IT WAS ALSO REQUIRED TO HAVE ADEQUATE AND SECURE STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION AND NOTE DESTRUCTION FACILITIES, WHICH MUST BE SUBJECT TO TIGHT AUDIT CONTROL AT ALL LEVELS AND STAGES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14 .....

ELECTORAL DISQUALIFICATION PROVISION TO BE REVIEWED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO REVIEW BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS THE SPECIFIC PROVISION UNDER SECTION 19(1) (e) OF THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE CONCERNING DISQUALIFICATION.

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

UNDER SECTION 19(1) (e) OF THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE, A PERSON SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FOR BEING ELECTED OR BEING NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE OR HOLDING OFFICE AS A MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG LEGISLATURE IF HE IS A MEMBER OF ANY PARLIAMENT, ASSEMBLY OR COUNCIL, OF ANY PLACE OUTSIDE HONG KONG OR A SALARIED FUNCTIONARY OF A GOVERNMENT OF SUCH PLACE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ADDITIONAL INFIRMARY BEDS TO MEET DEMAND

\* \* \* \* \*

PLANS ARE IN HAND TO PROVIDE 876 ADDITIONAL INFIRMARY BEDS AND 48 NEW CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES WITH 5,772 ADDITIONAL PLACES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG SAID THERE WERE AT PRESENT 1,140 INFIRMARY BEDS MANAGED BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND 3,749 PLACES IN CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES.

AS AT MARCH 31 THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 3,107 APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST FOR INFIRMARY BEDS AND 8,928 APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST FOR CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOME PLACES.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SHOWS THAT AS AT MARCH 31, THERE WERE 349 PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 13,025 PLACES.

"THE FACILITIES AND STANDARD OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY PRIVATE HOMES VARY CONSIDERABLY," MRS WONG SAID.

"IN ORDER TO MONITOR THE OPERATIONS OF PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS VISITS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS TO THESE HOMES.

"THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT ALSO VISIT PRIVATE HOMES ON A REFERRAL BASIS TO INSPECT FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY."

CONCERNING THE VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR PRIVATE HOMES, MRS WONG SAID 33 PRIVATE HOMES WERE REGISTERED UNDER THE SCHEME AS AT MARCH 31, THIS YEAR AND THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THESE REGISTERED PRIVATE HOMES.

THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME FOR PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY WAS INTRODUCED AS AN EXPERIMENT IN OCTOBER 1989 TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO REGISTERED PRIVATE HOMES IN ORDER TO RAISE THEIR STANDARD OF SERVICE AND TO INCREASE THE OVERALL SUPPLY OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ELDERLY.

AS AT MARCH 31, 477 PLACES WERE BOUGHT FROM 29 REGISTERED PRIVATE HOMES AND A FURTHER 23 PLACES WILL BE BOUGHT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MRS WONG NOTED THAT 117 PRIVATE HOMES HAD CLOSED DOWN SINCE JUNE 1988 FOR VARIOUS REASONS, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH WAS BECAUSE OF OPERATORS' LOSS OF INTEREST IN THE BUSINESS AND INCREASED OPERATING COSTS.

"MOST OF THE ELDERLY RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY THESE CLOSURES WERE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER PRIVATE HOMES BY THEIR FAMILIES.

"GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE WAS SOUGHT IN ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF CASES AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ASSISTED IN PLACING THE RESIDENTS IN OTHER PRIVATE HOMES OR IN SUBVENTED HOMES.

"FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WAS ALSO PROVIDED WHERE NECESSARY," MRS WONG SAID.

THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS LONG BEEN INVOLVED IN HELPING PRIVATE HOMES TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD OF SERVICE.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE INCLUDE:

- \* A VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY WHICH SETS OUT STANDARDS FOR SPACE, STAFFING, SAFETY AND FIRE PRECAUTIONS WAS INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER 1986 AS A GUIDE TO MAINTAINING A SATISFACTORY LEVEL OF SERVICE;
- \* THE REGISTRATION OFFICE OF PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY WAS ESTABLISHED IN JUNE 1988 FOR KEEPING RECORDS OF PRIVATE HOMES, CONDUCTING REGULAR INSPECTIONS AND PROVIDING ADVICE TO HOME OPERATORS;
- \* THE VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION SCHEME AND THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME WERE INTRODUCED IN 1988 AND 1989 RESPECTIVELY TO HELP MAINTAIN SERVICE STANDARD AND TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE HOMES OPERATORS TO IMPROVE THEIR SERVICES; AND
- \* ANNUAL TRAINING COURSES FOR HEALTH WORKERS IN PRIVATE HOMES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, HONG KONG SINCE 1988.

"LEGISLATION WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED TO REGULATE ALL RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFIED MINIMUM STANDARDS," MRS WONG ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 16 -

TREASON, SEDITION AND THEFT OF OFFICIAL SECRETS  
ARE OFFENCES UNDER LAW

\* \* \* \* \*

TREASON AND SEDITION ARE OFFENCES UNDER THE CRIMES ORDINANCE AND THEFT OF OFFICIAL SECRETS IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACTS WHICH APPLY TO HONG KONG.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TO KUN-SUN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO COVER THE OTHER MATTERS MENTIONED IN MR TO'S QUESTION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES UNDER STUDY

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING OUT DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DETERMINING WHICH UNITS ARE TO BE PROVIDED WITH NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES RELATING TO THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROJECT.

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

HE SAID THESE WOULD BE SETTLED SOON AND CERTAINLY WELL BEFORE THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WAS LET.

"A SPECIALIST CONSULTANT WILL BE COMMISSIONED SHORTLY TO SURVEY EACH OF THE UNITS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED, TO CONFIRM ITS USE AND DETERMINE THE EXTENT AND COST OF MITIGATION WORK NEEDED TO MEET PREDICTED NOISE LEVELS.

"THE CONSULTANT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND CALCULATIONS WILL BE CHECKED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THEY WILL MEET THE ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS AND GIVE VALUE FOR MONEY," MR EASON SAID.

THEREAFTER OFFER LETTERS WOULD BE SENT TO THE AFFECTED PREMISES INDICATING THE AMOUNT OFFERED AND THE WORK TO BE DONE, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE AMOUNT WOULD BE THE COST TO THE GOVERNMENT WERE THE GOVERNMENT TO DO THE WORK.

TO ENABLE RESIDENTS OR OWNERS TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OR THE RESOLUTION OF ANY PROBLEMS, HE POINTED OUT THAT A TELEPHONE CONTACT NUMBER WOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE OFFER LETTER.

/TO DECIDE .....

TO DECIDE WHETHER A RESIDENTIAL UNIT WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE NOISE, HE SAID IT MUST FIRST BE ESTABLISHED THAT THE USE OF THE UNIT IS PRINCIPALLY RESIDENTIAL AND THAT IT WILL BE AFFECTED BY AN INCREASE IN NOISE LEVEL LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PROJECT.

IN THE INITIAL DETERMINATION OF WHICH PREMISES MAY BE AFFECTED, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAS USED THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED METHOD SET OUT IN THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.

HE SAID ACCORDING TO THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT, THE RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS MOST LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED ARE ALONG CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST ADJACENT TO THE PROJECT.

THEY ARE 60 TO 188 CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND 426 TO 466 DES VOEUX ROAD WEST.

HE NOTED THAT RESIDENTS IN THE AREA WOULD BE UPDATED ON THE PROJECT PROGRESS THROUGH REGULAR BRIEFINGS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND A QUARTERLY LEAFLET.

"THE PROJECT OFFICE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS ARISING FROM THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS ON THE SPOT AND ENSURE THAT REMEDIAL ACTION IS TAKEN PROMPTLY," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PURSUED IN SCHOOLS

\* \* \* \* \*

WHILE THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT'S (EPD) STAFF RESOURCES ARE LARGELY DEVOTED TO DEALING WITH POLLUTION PROBLEMS, IT DOES ASSIST THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR A.G. EASON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK.

HE SAID EPD PREPARED MATERIAL FOR USE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN APRIL 1990 WITH A \$5 MILLION GRANT FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

HE ADDED THAT EPD HAD HELPED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DEVELOP A NEW "ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION" MODULE FOR THE LIBERAL STUDIES SYLLABUS WHICH WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO SECONDARY SIX AND SEVEN LATER THIS YEAR.

EPD ALSO PROVIDES LIAISON BETWEEN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE HON MRS PEGGY LAM.

IN ADDITION, EPD HAS RECENTLY CREATED A POST OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER WHO WOULD DEVOTE MOST OF HIS TIME TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GENERALLY.

/NOTING THAT .....

NOTING THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, MR EASON SAID THE DEPARTMENT ADVOCATED A CROSS-CURRICULAR APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

TO COPE WITH CHANGING SITUATIONS, HE SAID THE SYLLABUSES FOR ALL SECONDARY SUBJECTS WERE CONSTANTLY REVIEWED TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS SUFFICIENT EMPHASIS ON CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

MR EASON POINTED OUT THAT STUDENTS WERE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS TALKS, DEBATES AND EXHIBITIONS, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

TO ASSIST TEACHERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ORGANISES REGULAR IN SERVICE TRAINING COURSES.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ARE SUPPLEMENTED BY COURSES HELD AT THE SAI KUNG FIELD STUDIES CENTRE.

"GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PURSUING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS ARE ALSO BEING DEVELOPED AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE WORK OF ALL THE TEACHERS INVOLVED IS DRAWN TOGETHER BY A PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TASKED WITH CO-ORDINATING AND IMPLEMENTING THE VARIOUS STRANDS OF THE PROGRAMME.

ON THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED, HE SAID THESE INCLUDED PROBLEMS OF FINDING SUFFICIENT TIME TO INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES INTO THE CURRICULUM AND THE TIGHT SCHEDULES AND HEAVY WORKLOADS OF TEACHERS.

"STAFF NORMALLY HAVE TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG PUPILS AND IT IS LARGELY THROUGH THE DEDICATION OF THESE STAFF THAT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IS BEING SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

#### WAYS TO PROTECT GOVT'S RESERVES

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR BRIAN JENNEY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE BULK OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESERVES WAS DEPOSITED WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND TO AVOID FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISKS AND CREDIT RISKS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DANIEL LI AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR JENNEY SAID THE REMAINING BALANCE, TO COVER OPERATIONAL CASH REQUIREMENTS, WAS HELD IN SHORT-TERM DEPOSITS WITH LOCAL BANKS.

/THE TOTAL .....

THE TOTAL INTEREST ADDED TO THE RESERVES IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE AVERAGE RESERVES IN EACH YEAR, WAS AS FOLLOWS:

	TOTAL INTEREST ----- \$ MILLION	% OF AVERAGE RESERVES -----
1990-91	5,750	8.0
1989-90	5,300	8.2
1988-89	3,122	6.2
1987-88	1,537	4.0
1986-87	1,309	4.5

----- 0 -----

#### GOVT TACKLING PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING STEPS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG ABUSE IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LAM KUI-CHUN, THE SECRETARY SAID AT PRESENT, THERE WAS NO CLEAR EVIDENCE IN HONG KONG TO SUGGEST THAT PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS WERE BEING USED AS GATEWAY DRUGS TO HEROIN AND OTHER NARCOTICS.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS AN INCREASING, THOUGH STILL SMALL, NUMBER OF PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG ABUSERS, AGED UNDER 21, WHO HAD COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE SINCE THE MID 1980S.

"WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM," THE SECRETARY SAID.

HE SAID ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL MEANS OF DEALING WITH ANY DRUG ABUSE WAS PREVENTIVE EDUCATION.

"WE GIVE REGULAR ANTI-DRUG TALKS TO SECONDARY SCHOOL AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE STUDENTS," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THESE TALKS DISSEMINATED INFORMATION ABOUT THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE, AND AIMED TO ASSISTING YOUNGSTERS TO DEVELOP SKILLS TO RESIST PEER PRESSURE TO EXPERIMENT WITH DRUGS.

"WE NOW INCLUDE IN THESE TALKS AN EXPLANATION OF THE DANGERS OF PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG ABUSE.

/"WE ARE .....

"WE ARE PLANNING TO EXTEND THESE SCHOOL TALKS TO PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS IN THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

"OUR WIDER COMMUNITY PUBLICITY ALSO NOW FOCUSES ON YOUNG PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG ABUSERS," HE ADDED.

MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO INTRODUCED LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AND TAKEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO SUPPRESS THE SUPPLY OF PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS FOR NON-MEDICAL PURPOSES.

IN 1990, THE GOVERNMENT SCHEDULED THREE OF THE PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS IN THE BENZODIAZEPINE GROUP AS DANGEROUS DRUGS. EARLIER THIS YEAR, IT SCHEDULED ALL OF THE REMAINING BENZODIAZEPINES ON THE MARKET AND LIABLE TO ABUSE.

HE SAID THIS RESULTED IN STRICTER CONTROLS OVER THE SUPPLY AND USE OF SUCH DRUGS.

"WE ARE ALSO PLANNING TO INTRODUCE SIMILAR CONTROLS OVER COUGH MEDICINES WITH MORE THAN 0.1 PER CENT CODEINE OR DEXTROMETHORPHAN, WHICH ARE ALSO INCREASINGLY BEING ABUSED BY YOUNGSTERS," HE ADDED.

FOR VICTIMS OF ADDICTION TO PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS, THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, SET UP THE FIRST COUNSELLING CENTRE DEVOTED TO TREATING PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG ABUSE IN MARCH, 1988.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE CENTRE PROVIDED COUNSELLING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG ABUSERS, MOSTLY YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO SOUGHT ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE.

"IT ALSO REFERS CLIENTS TO PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENT PRACTITIONERS FOR MEDICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### REVIEW ON LONG SERVICE AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REVIEW THE PROVISIONS ON LONG SERVICE PAYMENT AND SEVERANCE PAYMENT TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MISS CHOW TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT IF AMENDMENTS TO THESE PROVISIONS WERE CONSIDERED NECESSARY, PROPOSALS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR ADVICE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

## UNIT COSTS OF STUDENT PLACES EXPLAINED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ESTIMATED UNIT COSTS PER STUDENT PLACE FOR 1992-93 FINANCIAL YEAR IN BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE \$12,145 AND \$8,788 RESPECTIVELY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AS FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THE UNIT COSTS PER PLACE FROM SECONDARY 1 TO SECONDARY 3 ARE \$21,483 AND \$14,194 RESPECTIVELY; THAT FOR SECONDARY 4 AND SECONDARY 5 ARE \$19,678 AND \$12,134 RESPECTIVELY; AND THAT FOR SECONDARY 6 AND SECONDARY 7 ARE \$34,996 AND \$22,369 RESPECTIVELY.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIMOTHY HA WING-HO, MISS CHOW EXPLAINED THAT UNIT COSTS ARE DERIVED FROM DIVIDING COSTS AT THE RESPECTIVE LEVELS BY THE APPROVED ENROLMENT.

SHE SAID THE ESTIMATED UNIT COSTS FOR 1992-93 WERE BASED ON 1991-92 ACTUAL COSTS, ADJUSTED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ADDITIONAL COSTS ARISING FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW IMPROVEMENT MEASURES AND INFLATION, ESTIMATED AT 10.5 PER CENT FOR STAFF AND 8.5 PER CENT FOR OTHER COSTS.

THE COST COMPONENTS COVERED MAINLY STAFF, ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND MAJOR REPAIRS.

"THE ONLY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS LIE IN THE PROVISION FOR STAFF ON-COSTS FOR THE FORMER AND PROVIDENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE LATTER," MISS CHOW ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

## MEASURES TAKEN TO HELP SCHOOLS ADOPT NEW CURRICULUM

\* \* \* \* \*

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO HELP SCHOOLS AND THEIR TEACHING STAFF TO UNDERSTAND AND ADOPT THE NEW ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL (ASL) CURRICULUM, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEPHEN NG MING-YUM, MISS CHOW SAID THESE MEASURES INCLUDED:

- \* SYLLABUS OUTLINES HAVE BEEN PREPARED WITH THE ADVICE OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR CIRCULATION TO SCHOOLS;
- \* SEMINARS AND TALKS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED BY THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TO ENABLE SCHOOL HEADS, PANEL CHAIRMEN AND TEACHERS TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM;

/"IN-SERVICE .....

- \* IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES FOR PROSPECTIVE ASL TEACHERS WERE ORGANISED IN 1990-91 AND WILL AGAIN BE RUN BY THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION OF BOTH THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG IN 1991-92 AND 1992-93;
- \* OFFICERS OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE HAVE BEEN GIVING ADVICE TO SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS ON THE INTRODUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASL CURRICULUM DURING SCHOOL VISITS AND INSPECTIONS; AND
- \* A GUIDE TO THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM IS BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE ISSUED TO SCHOOLS SHORTLY.

ON CONCERNS ABOUT A PILOT SCHEME LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR TO OVERCOME THE PRACTICAL CONSTRAINTS OF THE NEW ADVANCED AND ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL SUBJECTS, MISS CHOW SAID THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHEME HAD YET TO BE PROPERLY EVALUATED AS IT HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR LESS THAN A YEAR.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT IN LINE WITH THE POLICY TO BROADEN THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM, NEW ADVANCED AND ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL SUBJECTS WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

HOWEVER, AS THERE ARE PRACTICAL CONSTRAINTS ON THE RANGE OF SUBJECTS WHICH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS CAN OFFER, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS SUGGESTED THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD FORM THEMSELVES INTO GROUPS, OR "CONSORTIA", AND POOL THEIR RESOURCES IN ORDER TO OFFER A MORE COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM TO THEIR STUDENTS.

QUOTING EXAMPLES, MISS CHOW SAID A PILOT SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, INVOLVING THE PO LEUNG KUK CENTENARY COLLEGE AND PO LEUNG KUK TANG YUK TIEN COLLEGE IN TUEN MUN.

UNDER THIS SCHEME, THE TWO SCHOOLS OFFER DIFFERENT SUBJECTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO SIXTH FORM STUDENTS OF EITHER SCHOOL.

MISS CHOW SAID HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION CANDIDATES WILL BE INFORMED BY THEIR OWN SCHOOLS ABOUT THE ASL CURRICULUM AND OF ANY CONSORTIUM SYSTEM IN OPERATION.

"IN ADDITION, A BOOKLET GIVING INFORMATION ON THE SECONDARY SIX SUBJECTS OFFERED IN EACH SCHOOL WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE INFORMATION OF SECONDARY FIVE LEAVERS AT THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES AND THE CAREER AND GUIDANCE SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT," SHE ADDED.

MISS CHOW ALSO REVEALED THAT ADDITIONAL TEACHERS FOR SPLIT-CLASS TEACHING WILL BE PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, SCHOOLS WITH INSUFFICIENT CLASSROOMS MAY APPLY FOR THE CONVERSION OF SPARE TEACHING SPACES, SUCH AS SPECIAL ROOMS, OR OPEN/COVERED CARPARK TO BE USED AS CLASSROOMS, SHE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 23 -

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME TO GO ON IN PRESENT FORM

\* \* \* \* \*

THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IN ITS PRESENT FORMAT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HOWEVER, MR ASPREY SAID, TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHEME WILL IN FUTURE BE IMPLEMENTED ONLY WHERE THERE WAS A DEMAND FOR IT, THE POLICE WOULD TARGET THE SCHEME IN BUILDINGS IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

"IT IS HOPED THAT MORE NEW BUILDINGS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEME," THE SECRETARY SAID.

HE SAID SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE SCHEME IN NOVEMBER 1985, AN AVERAGE OF 76 BUILDINGS HAD JOINED THE SCHEME EACH YEAR.

HE ADDED THAT NO RECORDS REGARDING WITHDRAWAL HAD BEEN KEPT BUT HE BELIEVED THE WITHDRAWAL RATE WOULD BE VERY LOW.

TO DATE, RESIDENTS OF 601 BUILDINGS PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEME.

MR ASPREY SAID THE POLICE WOULD CONTINUE WITH THE SCHEME IN THESE BUILDINGS.

HE SAID RESIDENTS IN NONE OF THESE BUILDINGS HAD EXPRESSED THE INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE SCHEME.

THE SCHEME WAS INTENDED AS A CRIME PREVENTION MEASURE THROUGH CO-OPERATION AMONG NEIGHBOURS AND TO STRENGTHEN LINKS WITH THE LOCAL POLICE.

HE SAID THESE OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED TO A LIMITED EXTENT ONLY.

IN SOME CASES, IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO KEEP UP INTEREST AND MOMENTUM AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE SCHEME IN A HIGH-RISE ENVIRONMENT WHERE RESIDENTS VALUE THEIR PRIVACY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SETTLEMENT DECISION IN CONTEMPT CASE EXPLAINED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, EXPLAINED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED HIM TO DECIDE TO SEEK A SETTLEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST AND THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL IN RELATION TO CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS HE INSTITUTED AGAINST THE TWO NEWSPAPERS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU, MR MATHEWS SAID IN DECEMBER 1990 CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS WERE BROUGHT AGAINST THE TWO NEWSPAPERS ARISING OUT OF ARTICLES THAT HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1990 IN THESE NEWSPAPERS REFERRING TO THE ACCUSED PERSONS IN PENDING CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL FRAUD.

"I SHOULD ADD THAT THESE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS HAVE NOT YET COME TO TRIAL AND ARE STILL SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF CONTEMPT AND TO THE REPORTING RESTRICTIONS AS IMPOSED BY THE COURT," HE SAID.

"AS REQUIRED UNDER THE SUPREME COURT RULES, I APPLIED FOR AND OBTAINED THE CONSENT OF A HIGH COURT JUDGE FOR THE CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS TO BE ISSUED," HE ADDED.

BY LATE NOVEMBER 1991 THE CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS HAD TAKEN MUCH LONGER TO COME TO TRIAL THAN ORIGINALLY HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED.

MR MATHEWS SAID: "I WAS AWARE THAT IN THE INTERVENING PERIOD BOTH NEWSPAPERS HAD EXERCISED GREAT CARE. I FORMED THE VIEW THEN IF BOTH NEWSPAPERS WERE TO UNDERTAKE TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE A HIGH DEGREE OF CARE IN COMPLYING WITH THE LAW OF CONTEMPT IN RESPECT OF PENDING TRIALS A SETTLEMENT WOULD SATISFY THE OVERRIDING PUBLIC INTEREST OF ENSURING THAT THE VERY IMPORTANT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS TO WHICH I HAVE JUST REFERRED SHOULD NOT BE PREJUDICED.

"IT WAS WITH THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE FOREFRONT OF MY MIND THAT I PROPOSED TO BOTH NEWSPAPERS THAT IF THEY WERE TO AGREE TO GIVE THE UNDERTAKING TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED, I WOULD SEEK THE COURT'S CONSENT TO WITHDRAW THE PROCEEDINGS.

"THE NEWSPAPERS AGREED TO GIVE ACCEPTABLE UNDERTAKINGS AND WITH THE COURT'S CONSENT THE PROCEEDINGS WERE WITHDRAWN."

HE SAID THE MAIN FACTOR WHICH INFLUENCED HIS DECISION IN DECEMBER 1991 TO WITHDRAW THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE TERMS PROPOSED WAS THE GREAT CARE EXERCISED BY BOTH NEWSPAPERS IN THE YEAR BETWEEN THE PUBLICATION OF THE ARTICLES AND THE CASE COMING TO TRIAL.

"IN VIEW OF THAT CARE, THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN MY PURSUING THE CASE WAS DIMINISHED AND IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I COULD SEE NO PURPOSE IN INCURRING THE COSTS OF A FULL TRIAL WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT I HAD BEEN JUSTIFIED IN MY ORIGINAL DECISION TO INITIATE THE PROCEEDINGS," MR MATHEWS SAID.

THE LEGAL COSTS AWARDED TO THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST HAD YET TO BE AGREED OR ASSESSED BY THE COURT.

REVIEW OF AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES FARES COMPLETED  
\* \* \* \* \*

A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT FARE SCALES OF AIR-CONDITIONED DOUBLE-DECKERS AND MEDIUM COACHES HAS RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED AND WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADVICE.

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

MR LEUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE FARE STRUCTURE FOR AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES SERVICES WAS DETERMINED HAVING REGARD TO THE POLICY OF AVOIDING CROSS-SUBSIDISATION FROM NON AIR-CONDITIONED BUS SERVICES.

THE ACTUAL FARES NOW CHARGED IN A GIVEN ROUTE GROUP ARE ON AVERAGE 35 PER CENT BELOW THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED FARES AS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ACCORDING TO A DISTANCE-BASED FARE SCALE, HE SAID.

IN DETERMINING THE ACTUAL FARE TO BE CHARGED ON INDIVIDUAL ROUTES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT FACTORS INCLUDING THE PROJECTED FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICE IN QUESTION, PASSENGER AFFORDABILITY, MARKET ENVIRONMENT AND FARES CHARGED ON ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT MODES.

MR LEUNG EXPLAINED THAT AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES WERE DEPLOYED ON SELECTED NEW ROUTES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO TAXIS AND PRIVATE CARS; ON EXISTING ROUTES WHERE ALTERNATIVE AIR-CONDITIONED TRANSPORT MODES WERE NOT READILY AVAILABLE; AND SPECIAL SERVICES TARGETED AT COMMUTERS WHO MAY OTHERWISE ADD TO THE PEAK HOUR CONGESTION ALONG THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

MR LEUNG SAID DISTRICT BOARDS HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON PROPOSALS BY KOWLOON MOTOR BUS (KMB) AND CHINA MOTOR BUS (CMB) FOR DEPLOYING AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES IN 1992 AND 1993, AS PART OF THEIR ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ROLLING FORWARD ANNUALLY.

AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES NOW ACCOUNT FOR 12 PER CENT AND SIX PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF KMB AND CMB'S FLEET.

"TO FACILITATE PASSENGERS' CHOICE, ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO PROVIDE BETTER PASSENGER INFORMATION AT BUS STOPS, SUCH AS TIME-TABLES SHOWING THE FREQUENCIES OF AIR-CONDITIONED AND NON AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES," HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 26 -

CARELESSNESS - MAJOR CAUSE OF OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS AT SEA  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE OUTCOME OF ENQUIRIES CONDUCTED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ON OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS AT SEA SUGGESTED THAT MOST OF THE CASES WERE CAUSED BY THE CARELESSNESS OF THE WORKERS INVOLVED OR FAILURE BY WORKERS AND THEIR FOREMEN TO OBSERVE SAFE WORKING PRACTICES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, IN HER WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE MARINE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SECTION OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAD INVESTIGATED THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF CASES WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG IN THE YEAR STATED -

YEAR ----	INJURIES -----	FATALITIES -----
1991	20	15
1990	17	8
1989	19	21

THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS BY MARINE DEPARTMENT AGAINST ALLEGED OFFENDERS IS AS FOLLOWS -

YEAR ----	SUMMONSES APPLIED FOR -----	GUILTY VERDICT -----	NATURE OF OFFENCE -----	FINES (\$) -----
1991	1	IN PROGRESS	FAILURE TO REPORT	-
1990	2	2	AN ACCIDENT	1,000
1989	3	2		4,000

MRS CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE MARINE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SECTION OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AFLOAT AND THIS SECTION COMPRISED ONE SENIOR SHIPPING SAFETY OFFICER; THREE SHIPPING SAFETY OFFICERS; AND EIGHT SHIPPING SAFETY ASSISTANTS.

"THE STAFF OF THIS SECTION PAY REGULAR VISITS TO PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS AND PRIVATE WATERFRONTS, CONDUCT SAFETY INSPECTIONS ON THE CONDITION OF CARGO HANDLING GEAR ON BOARD VESSELS IN THE HARBOUR, AND PROMOTE SAFE CARGO HANDLING PRACTICE.

"IN ADDITION, THEY CONDUCT SAFETY INSPECTIONS OF ALL VESSELS UNDERGOING REPAIR AFLOAT," SHE SAID.

/IN THE .....

IN THE EVENT OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS, CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS WERE CONDUCTED TO ASCERTAIN CAUSE AND TO PREVENT RECURRENCE, MRS CHAN ADDED.

THE SECTION PUBLISHES SAFETY GUIDES, PAMPHLETS AND POSTERS WHICH ARE DIRECTLY MAILED TO A LARGE NUMBER OF COMPANIES IN THE TRADE, AND WHICH ARE ALSO FREELY AVAILABLE AT PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS AND DISTRICT MARINE OFFICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

"SALEABLE FLOOR AREA" EXPLAINED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CONSUMERS' INTEREST REGARDING THE DISCLOSURE OF SALEABLE FLOOR AREA IN NON-CONSENT SCHEME DEVELOPMENTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR A.G. EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON J.D. MCGREGOR AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR EASON SAID BEFORE PROPOSALS WERE DRAWN UP, INTERESTED PARTIES SUCH AS THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, THE LAW SOCIETY, AND THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION WOULD BE CONSULTED.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO STATUTORY DEFINITION OF "SALEABLE FLOOR AREA", WHICH WAS COMMONLY TAKEN TO REFER TO THE FLOOR AREA EXCLUSIVELY ALLOCATED TO A UNIT BUT EXCLUDING COMMON AREAS SUCH AS STAIRS AND LIFT SHAFTS.

HOWEVER, MR EASON SAID THE LAND OFFICE CONSENT SCHEME HAD ADOPTED A STANDARD FORM OF AGREEMENT FOR SALE AND PURCHASE AND A DEFINITION OF "SALEABLE AREA".

"AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THE FORMAL AGREEMENT FOR SALE AND PURCHASE, PURCHASERS SHOULD BE WELL AWARE OF THE PRECISE SALEABLE AREA OF THE UNIT AND CAN ALSO CHECK THE FLOOR PLAN OF THE UNIT ATTACHED TO THE AGREEMENT," HE SAID.

MR EASON SAID THE SALEABLE AREA WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF MANDATORY ITEMS TO BE DISCLOSED IN SALES BROCHURES AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS FOR THE SALE OF UNCOMPLETED UNITS ON NEW GOVERNMENT LAND, THAT IS CONSENT SCHEME CASES.

FOR NON-CONSENT SCHEME DEVELOPMENTS, HOWEVER, IT IS A MATTER FOR THE DEVELOPERS TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO INCLUDE DISCLOSURE OF SALEABLE AREA IN THE SALES BROCHURES.

"PART OF THE REASONS BEHIND THE RECENT PUBLIC CONCERN AT THE DISCLOSURE OF SALEABLE AREA IS THAT, UNLIKE THE CASE OF THE CONSENT SCHEME, IN NON-CONSENT SCHEME CASES THE PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT FOR SALE AND PURCHASE IS A BINDING AGREEMENT FROM THE OUTSET," MR EASON SAID.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE PURCHASER MAY HAVE SIGNED THE PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT ON THE STRENGTH OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE SALES BROCHURE AND OTHER PUBLICITY MATERIAL, WHICH MIGHT NOT SPECIFY THE SALEABLE AREA, AND HE WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO CHECK THE SPECIFIC LAYOUT PLAN OF THE UNIT AND THE SALEABLE AREA WHEN HE HAD TO SIGN THE FORMAL AGREEMENT FOR SALE AND PURCHASE.

"IT MAY THEN BE DIFFICULT FOR THE PURCHASER TO WITHDRAW FROM THE PURCHASE WITHOUT LOSING THE DEPOSIT PAID," MR EASON SAID.

HE SAID IF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE VENDOR AMOUNTED TO MISREPRESENTATION, THE PURCHASER MIGHT SUE FOR DAMAGES AND RECOVERY OF HIS DEPOSIT.

"IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, THE COST OF LITIGATION AND THE NEED TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT MISREPRESENTATION EXISTED MIGHT DETER THE PURCHASER FROM TAKING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS," MR EASON ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHANGES TO APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE TABLED  
\* \* \* \* \*

A SUMMARY OF ALL CHANGES MADE TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1991-92 WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

EXPLAINING THE SUMMARY OF CHANGES, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR BRIAN JENNEY, SAID THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$811.9 MILLION WAS APPROVED.

"IT WAS FULLY OFFSET EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY THE DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS SUBHEADS," MR JENNEY SAID.

THIS INCLUDED \$407.3 MILLION FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TO TAKE OVER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR THE DISABLED AND THE STATUTORY APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME.

DURING THE PERIOD, NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS WERE INCREASED BY \$20.7 MILLION, NEW NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS OF \$110.9 MILLION WERE APPROVED AND APPROVED NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS OF \$32.9 MILLION WERE REVOTED.

MR JENNEY ALSO NOTED THAT A NET INCREASE OF 229 POSTS WAS APPROVED IN THE SAME PERIOD.

"ITEMS IN THE SUMMARY HAVE BEEN APPROVED EITHER BY FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY.

"THE LATTER HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(8)(A) OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 29 -

THREE-HOUR DEBATE ON REHAB GREEN PAPER AT LEGCO

\* \* \* \* \*

A TOTAL OF 25 LEGISLATORS DEBATED FOR ALMOST THREE HOURS ON THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION POLICIES AND SERVICES AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ORIGINAL MOTION MOVED BY THE HON ERIC LI WAS LOST TO AN AMENDED MOTION MOVED BY DR THE HON C.H. LEONG.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER MOTION MOVED BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG ON TERTIARY AND BASIC EDUCATION WAS DEFEATED.

AN AMENDED MOTION ON THE SUBJECT MOVED BY THE HON RITA FAN WAS PASSED AFTER 18 MEMBERS DEBATED FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ADDITION, 11 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRANSPORT SERVICES OF NEW TOWNS, WHICH WAS RAISED BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/30 .....

## HIGH PRIORITY ACCORDED TO SLOPE SAFETY

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO SLOPE SAFETY IN HONG KONG IN TERMS OF RESOURCES BEING EXPENDED AND POSITIVE ACTION BEING TAKEN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE (GEO) OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID ROUTINE CONTROL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CHECKING OF GEOTECHNICAL DESIGNS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK, CONTINUED TO BE AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THE OFFICE.

HE SAID GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL WAS NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT UNSAFE SLOPES, RETAINING WALLS AND SITE FORMATION WORKS WERE NOT CONSTRUCTED, AND THAT EXISTING UNSAFE SLOPES AND WALLS WERE MADE SAFE.

ABOUT HALF OF GEO'S PROFESSIONAL STAFF ARE COMMITTED TO THESE DUTIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID GEO WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE VIGOROUSLY THE LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURES PROGRAMME WHICH WAS INITIATED IN 1976.

THIS PROGRAMME PROVIDES FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS AND THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF STABILISATION MEASURES FOR UNSAFE GOVERNMENT SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS.

THE INVESTIGATIONS, DESIGNS AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION ARE CARRIED OUT ENTIRELY IN-HOUSE BY GEO, AND AN ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IS PROVIDED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

SINCE 1976, ALMOST \$910 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT ON STUDIES AND WORKS TO STABILISE SEVERAL HUNDRED SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS.

SUCH WORK MAY INVOLVE THE COMPACTION OF LOOSE FILL SLOPES, BUTTRESSING RETAINING WALLS AND REINFORCING CUTTINGS.

EXPENDITURE ON THE LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURES PROGRAMME IS CONTINUING AT A RATE OF ABOUT \$70 MILLION PER YEAR, AND ANNUAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SLOPE MAINTENANCE IS ADDITIONALLY ABOUT \$40 MILLION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, STABILISATION WORKS WERE COMPLETED ON 34 SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS, AND WORKS STARTED ON 21 OTHERS.

OF THESE 55 SLOPES AND WALLS, 23 WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 14 IN KOWLOON AND 18 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE EXPENDITURE DURING THE YEAR WAS ABOUT \$70 MILLION.

IN ADDITION, THE COMPLETION OF THE \$38 MILLION PROJECT ON STABILISATION AND IMPROVEMENT WORK TO THE LARGE SANITARY LANDFILL AT SAI TSO WAN HAD MADE THE AREA GEOTECHNICALY AND ENVIROMENTALLY SAFE FOR EXISTING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, WORKS WILL BE IN PROGRESS ON A TOTAL OF 52 SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS, OF WHICH 25 ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, FIVE IN KOWLOON AND 22 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE COMPRISE 36 SOIL AND ROCK SLOPES, FOUR LOOSE FILL SLOPES AND 12 RETAINING WALLS.

THE EXPENDITURE ON THE LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURE PROGRAMME DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR IS EXPECTED TO BE \$66 MILLION.

UNTIL RECENTLY, THE LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURES PROGRAMME WAS CONCERNED ENTIRELY WITH SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS WHICH COULD CAUSE LOSS OF LIFE IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE.

HOWEVER, THE PROGRAMME NOW INCLUDES THE STABILISATION OF SOME UNSATISFACTORY SLOPES AND WALLS WHICH COULD INDIRECTLY CAUSE LOSS OF LIFE BY MAJOR DISRUPTION TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES, OR WHICH COULD CAUSE MAJOR ECONOMIC DISRUPTION.

THIS CATEGORY INCLUDES SLOPES ALONG MAJOR ROADS, AND SLOPES ALONG OTHER ROADS WHICH PROVIDE THE SOLE ACCESS TO HOSPITALS, WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT IN THE CASE OF DANGEROUS SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS ON PRIVATE LAND, GEO WOULD INITIATE A STATUTORY ORDER REQUIRING OWNERS TO INVESTIGATE AND UNDERTAKE ANY LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOUND NECESSARY.

IF THE OWNERS DEFAULTED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CARRY OUT THE WORK AT THEIR EXPENSE, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE STABILISATION WORKS INITIATED AND EXECUTED BY GEO, A GREAT DEAL OF SLOPE STABILISATION WORK, AT A COST OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR, IS CARRIED OUT IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS.

THERE CONTINUES TO BE THE PROBLEM OF UNSAFE SLOPES OCCUPIED BY SQUATTERS. THESE SLOPES CANNOT BE RECTIFIED UNDER THE LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURES PROGRAMME BECAUSE CLEARANCES ARE INVARIABLY NEEDED BEFORE LARGE-SCALE WORK CAN BE CARRIED OUT.

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAS NOW CLEARED ABOUT 62,000 PEOPLE OCCUPYING SLOPES ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO LANDSLIPS; AND IS CONTINUING WITH A PROGRAMME WHICH AIMS TO CLEAR ALL SQUATTERS ON ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TERRAIN BY AROUND THE END OF 1994.

GEO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPPLY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, GROUND INVESTIGATION AND LABORATORY TESTING FOR PUBLIC WORKS, CONTROL OF BLASTING WORKS AND EXPLOSIVES, AND PROVIDING GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

CHANGES TO IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE PROPOSED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO MAKE SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS (BOR).

THE ORDINANCE IS ONE OF SIX COVERED BY THE FREEZE PERIOD WHICH EXPIRES IN JUNE. FOLLOWING A REVIEW, IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THAT CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ORDINANCE ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE BOR.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSED CHANGES WERE CONTAINED IN THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WHICH WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 6.

THE FIRST TWO SECTIONS IN QUESTION RELATE TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND ARE, IN ANY CASE, NO LONGER RELEVANT. ONE DEALS WITH THE DETENTION OF REFUGEES IN CLOSED CAMPS AND THE OTHER WITH THE RIGHT TO DETAIN TROUBLEMAKERS IN THESE CAMPS OR TO VARY THEIR CONDITIONS OF STAY.

"THESE SECTIONS ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY FOLLOWING A CHANGE IN POLICY AND THE TRANSFER OF GENUINE REFUGEES TO OPEN CAMPS IN JUNE 1988," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED, "AND THERE ARE ADEQUATE POWERS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE ORDINANCE TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO ABUSE THEIR CONDITIONS OF STAY."

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THESE AMENDMENTS APPLIED ONLY TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED BEFORE JUNE 16, 1988 AND THOSE WHO HAD BEEN SCREENED IN SINCE THEN.

"THIS IS SEPARATE FROM AND DOES NOT AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S POWERS AND INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO DETAIN ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO ARE AWAITING SCREENING OR HAVE BEEN SCREENED OUT, OR ITS POLICY OF SENDING ALL NON-REFUGEES BACK TO VIETNAM," HE ADDED.

AT THE MOMENT, EMPLOYERS ACCUSED OF HIRING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE PRESUMED TO BE GUILTY AS CHARGED UNLESS THEY CAN PROVE OTHERWISE.

THE BILL PROPOSES THAT SUCH DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO REBUT THE PRESUMPTIONS IF THEY CAN PRODUCE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE SAME AMENDMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO ANOTHER SECTION OF THE ORDINANCE CONTAINING THE PRESUMPTION THAT A PERSON IS AN UNAUTHORISED ENTRANT OR IS THE OWNER OF A VESSEL CARRYING AN UNAUTHORISED ENTRANT.

THE ORDINANCE CURRENTLY PROVIDES FOR THE DETENTION OF A PERSON PENDING AN APPEAL AGAINST THE DECISION OF A PUBLIC OFFICER, SUCH AS REFUSING AN EXTENSION OF STAY.

THIS POWER HAS NEVER BEEN USED AND IT IS PROPOSED THAT IT SHOULD BE REPEALED.

A FURTHER AMENDMENT CONTAINED IN THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE DETENTION OF DEPORTEES FOR ENQUIRIES INTO THEIR ACTIVITIES.

CURRENTLY, DEPORTEES CAN BE DETAINED FOR ENQUIRIES INTO BOTH THEIR OWN AND OTHER PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, THEY CAN, IN THEORY, BE INDEFINITELY DETAINED FOR THESE PURPOSES.

THESE POWERS HAVE NEVER BEEN USED IN THAT WAY AND THERE HAS BEEN NO INTENTION OF DOING SO.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS PROPOSED TO IMPOSE A MAXIMUM LIMIT ON THE PERIOD OF DETENTION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LARGEST WHOLESALE MARKET OPERATIONAL BY NEXT YEAR-END

\* \* \* \* \*

THE TERRITORY'S LARGEST-EVER WHOLESALE MARKET FOR FRESH PRODUCE WILL BE OPERATING ON THE SEAFRONT OF CHEUNG SHA WAN BEFORE THE END OF NEXT YEAR, CATERING TO DIFFERENT TRADES WITHIN THE SAME COMPLEX.

AS PART OF AN URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMME, THE \$740 MILLION PHASE I CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE MARKET COMPLEX WILL HOUSE A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCE WHOLESALING FACILITIES UNDER ONE ROOF, RELEASING THE LAND OCCUPIED BY EXISTING FACILITIES FOR PROPOSED GOVERNMENT/ INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE.

ROAD AND FOOTPATH CONGESTION CAUSED BY THE CURRENT MARKET OPERATIONS WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE PHASE I BUILDING WORKS OF THE WHOLESALE MARKET WAS AWARDED TO YAU LEE CONSTRUCTION LIMITED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIGNING THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAUL CORSER, SAID THE WHOLESALE MARKET WOULD INTEGRATE DIFFERENT TRADES WITHIN A SINGLE TWO-LEVEL COMPLEX WHICH, WHEN COMPLETED, WOULD HAVE THE LARGEST THROUGHPUT PER SQUARE METRES OF ANY SIMILAR FACILITY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

OCCUPYING A 10-HECTARE SITE, THE PHASE I DEVELOPMENT WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING TEMPORARY WHOLESALE FACILITIES FOR IMPORTED VEGETABLES, FRESH WATER AND MARINE FISH AND EGGS WHICH ARE SCATTERED OVER DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN THE AREA.

THE SECOND PHASE WITH A SITE AREA OF ABOUT EIGHT HECTARES IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1995. IT WILL ACCOMMODATE EXISTING WHOLESALE FACILITIES FOR FRUIT AND POULTRY.

AS THE MARKET WAS DESIGNED FOR OPERATION ROUND-THE-CLOCK AND EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR, SPECIAL THOUGHTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO MINIMISE MAINTENANCE AND TO MAINTAIN IT AT A HIGH HYGIENIC STANDARD.

/IT WAS .....

IT WAS DESIGNED TO MAXIMISE ON THE USE OF NATURAL LIGHTING AND VENTILATION TO REDUCE RUNNING COSTS.

TO PREVENT THE PASSAGE OF ODOUR ALONG WITH EFFLUENT THROUGH OTHER MARKETS, THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF EACH INDIVIDUAL MARKET WAS DESIGNED TO BE SEALED.

DUE CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE TREATMENT OF VARIOUS TYPES OF LIQUID AND SOLID WASTE RESULTED FROM ALL THE TRADES.

THE MARKET WILL BE SERVED BY FIVE FINGER PIERS ALONG ITS SEAFRONT, EACH INSTALLED WITH PURPOSE-DESIGNED MECHANISED EQUIPMENT FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING OF PRODUCE.

THE 78,000-SQUARE-METRE GROSS FLOOR AREA UNDER PHASE I WILL ACCOMMODATE A TOTAL OF 309 STALLS.

OVER 700 LORRY PARKING SPACES AND 33 CONTAINER PARKING SPACES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ACTIVE SUPPORT PLEDGED FOR INDUSTRY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF MINIMUM INTERVENTION BUT ACTIVE SUPPORT, THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION CONFERENCE (ILAC) COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MR WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT BUSINESS DECISIONS WERE BEST LEFT TO BUSINESSMEN THEMSELVES.

"HOWEVER, WE DO ACTIVELY STRIVE TO PROVIDE A CONDUCTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY.

"TWO TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE MID-1980'S WERE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY AND THE HONG KONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME (HOKLAS).

"THE FORMER PROVIDES A HIGH ECHELON MEASUREMENT SERVICE AND THE LATTER ENSURES QUALITY LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SERVICES FOR A WIDE RANGE OF TESTING FIELDS INCLUDING TOY TESTING, ELECTRICAL PRODUCT TESTING, TEXTILE TESTING, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING," HE SAID.

MR WONG NOTED THAT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION HAD BEEN SHOWING AN INCREASING INTEREST IN LABORATORY ACCREDITATION AND IN ILAC.

THIS CAME AS NO SURPRISE AS THE TRADE PERFORMANCE OF THE LEADING ECONOMIES IN ASIA IN RECENT YEARS HAD BEEN MOST IMPRESSIVE, HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES PUBLISHED BY THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE, THE ANNUAL GROWTH LAST YEAR IN THE VALUE OF WORLD TRADE, FOR BOTH EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, WAS 1.5 PER CENT.

HOWEVER, FOR THE LEADING ECONOMIES OF ASIA, THE GROWTH IN THE VALUE OF EXPORTS IN THE SAME YEAR WAS 10 TO 20 PER CENT AND FOR IMPORTS EIGHT TO 30 PER CENT.

IN THE LAST DECADE THE AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF THE DEVELOPING ECONOMIES IN THE REGION WAS 12 PER CENT PER ANNUM AND THE FORECASTED GROWTH RATE FOR THE NEXT DECADE IS SIX PER CENT PER ANNUM.

THESE FIGURES WERE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE FORECASTS FOR MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID HONG KONG HAD PARTICIPATED IN ILAC ACTIVITIES SINCE THE 1970'S AND HE WAS PLEASED TO BE HOSTING THIS SERIES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS THIS YEAR.

IN TWO YEARS' TIME, HONG KONG WOULD BE STAGING ILAC '94, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BABY FLIES TO AUSTRALIA FOR MAJOR CRANIOFACIAL OPERATION  
\* \* \* \* \*

A FOUR-MONTH-OLD BOY WILL FLY TO AUSTRALIA TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) TO UNDERGO MAJOR CRANIOFACIAL OPERATIONS.

THE BABY, YUEH YUE-FAI, A WARD OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, HAS CRANIOSYNOSTOSIS, MID-FACIAL HYPOPLASIA AND SYNDACTYLY OF BOTH HANDS AND FEET.

DURING A VISIT TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL TO BID FAREWELL TO YUE-FAI TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID THE BABY HAS TO BE FLOWN TO AUSTRALIA FOR SURGERY.

THIS IS PART OF THE TREATMENT PROTOCOL OF THIS RARE CONDITION IN THE CRANIOFACIAL SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AND THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CRANIOFACIAL UNIT, ADELAIDE.

"I SINCERELY HOPE THAT YUE-FAI WILL OVERCOME THE OPERATIONS AND RETURN TO HONG KONG SOUND AND HEALTHY," MR CARTLAND SAID.

MR CARTLAND PAID TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE CRANIOFACIAL SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, FOR THEIR EXPERT ADVICE AND THEIR EFFORT IN CONJUNCTION WITH MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE THE OPERATION POSSIBLE.

/YUE-FAI .....

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 36 -

YUE-FAI WILL BE TREATED FREE OF CHARGE UNDER THE SCHEME FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CRANIO-MAXILLO-FACIAL FOUNDATION.

YUE-FAI WAS BORN WITH APERT SYNDROME. HIS NATURAL PARENTS RELINQUISHED THEIR RIGHTS AND HE WAS PUT INTO THE CARE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AS A WARD OF THE DIRECTOR.

SINCE THEN HE HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF BY A TEAM OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS IN QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

ACCORDING TO DR HO CHIU-MING, LECTURER OF SURGERY, AND PROFESSOR WILLIAM WEI, PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THIS IS AN UNCOMMON CRANIOFACIAL ABNORMALITY AND PROMPT SURGICAL TREATMENT IS MANDATORY FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME.

SURGICAL CORRECTION OF THESE ABNORMALITIES REQUIRES A JOINT EFFORT BY SPECIALISTS OF DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES. YUE-FAI MAY NEED MULTIPLE OPERATIONS.

IN YUE-FAI'S CASE, A TOTAL OF 12 MEDICAL SPECIALISTS WILL BE INVOLVED.

DR HO EXPLAINED THAT A CHILD WITH APERT SYNDROME WAS CAPABLE OF HAVING NORMAL MENTAL DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE BRAIN IN EARLY INFANCY WAS HINDERED BY THE PREMATURE FUSION OF THE CRANIAL SUTURES.

"IF THE BRAIN IS NOT RELEASED EARLY ENOUGH, IT MAY BE FATAL OR THE CHILD MAY BE MENTALLY RETARDED."

"APERT SYNDROME IS A COMPLICATED AND RARE CRANIOFACIAL MALFORMATION WHICH IS BEST TAKEN CARE OF BY SPECIAL CRANIOFACIAL CENTRES LIKE THE AUSTRALIAN CRANIOFACIAL UNIT," HE ADDED.

A REGISTERED NURSE FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL ESCORT YUE-FAI TO AUSTRALIA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACES INVITE APPLICATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACES TO BE HELD ON JUNE 5.

THE ANNUAL EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT DRAGON RACE COMMITTEE AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD AND A BREWERY.

THE RACES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE WATERFRONT OF THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN THE MORNING OF JUNE 5 - THE DAY OF THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL.

/THEY WILL .....

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 37 -

THEY WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THE MEN'S OPEN, WOMEN'S OPEN, MIXED INVITATION AND INDUSTRIAL CUP SECTIONS.

COMPETING TEAMS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH DRAGON BOATS FOR THE RACES AS WELL AS FOR PRACTICES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION'S LI FOOK LAM INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE IN ON CHEUNG ROAD, THE TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE IN HEUNG SZE WUI STREET AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE IN TING KOK ROAD.

THE DEADLINE IS APRIL 15. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 664 8661 OR 657 7111 EXT. 255.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON LEUNG YUET-MAN ON AUGUST 16, 1989 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO A SENTENCE OF 25 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

LEUNG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF WONG KWONG-CHI.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SALT WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION IN KWAI CHUNG

\* \* \* \* \*

SUPPLY OF SALT WATER TO SOME PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 10) TO 9 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE CONNECTION WORK ON WATERMANS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT HO FUNG COLLEGE, SKH LI PING SECONDARY SCHOOL, LUI MING CHOI LUTHERAN COLLEGE, CHEUNG SHAN ESTATE AND ALL THE FLATS IN SAM TUNG UK ROAD, LO WAI ROAD AND YI PEI CHUN ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/38 .....

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1992

- 38 -

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

	DATE	\$ MILLION
	----	-----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	7.4.92	700
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	8.4.92	+847
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-847
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.3 \*-0.2\* 8.4.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.78 PCT	20 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.59	5.27
1 MONTH	3.84 PCT	23 MONTHS	2402	5.50	99.67	5.77
3 MONTHS	3.83 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.01 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.42 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,893 MN

CLOSED 8 APRIL 1992

----- 0 -----