



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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'TRADING FUNDS' CONCEPT BEING EXAMINED

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IN THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO EXAMINE WHETHER THERE ARE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE IN THE METHOD OF DELIVERY OF VARIOUS SERVICES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE EXAMINING THE SCOPE FOR INTRODUCING A NEW CONCEPT, TRADING FUNDS. ABOUT WHICH I SPOKE IN THIS COUNCIL LAST SESSION," SIR PIERS SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW.

"BRIEFLY, THIS CONCEPT ALLOWS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO BE RUN ON A MORE COMMERCIAL BASIS."

MR BARROW HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY PLANS TO PROGRESSIVELY PRIVATISE, CORPORATISE OR CONTRACT OUT PUBLIC SERVICES.

SIR PIERS EXPLAINED THAT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT DIFFERED GREATLY IN THEIR NATURE AND SCOPE.

SOME THAT WERE MOST PROPERLY OR CONVENIENTLY DELIVERED BY AGENCIES OUTSIDE THE ADMINISTRATION WERE ALREADY PROVIDED THROUGH SUBVENTED BODIES, CORPORATIONS AND THE LIKE.

"ONE OF OUR BASIC PRINCIPLES IS THAT WE SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO PROVIDE EACH AND EVERY SERVICE THROUGH AN APPROPRIATE ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK.

"CLEARLY, THIS MEANS THAT WE DO NOT INTRODUCE PRIVATISATION, CORPORATISATION OR CONTRACTING OUT FOR THEIR OWN SAKE, BUT ONLY WHERE SUCH AN APPROACH RESULTS IN A MORE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF A PARTICULAR SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

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MEASURES TO CURB ACCIDENTS ON TUEN MUN HIGHWAY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS IMPLEMENTED A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO HELP REDUCE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ON TUEN MUN ROAD INVOLVING, IN PARTICULAR, HEAVY VEHICLES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAU WONG-FAT, MR LEUNG SAID THE TWO MAIN CAUSES OF THESE ACCIDENTS WERE IMPROPER DRIVING BEHAVIOUR, SUCH AS CARELESS LANE CHANGING AND OVERTAKING, AND DRIVING AT SPEEDS WHICH WERE TOO HIGH HAVING REGARD TO THE PREVAILING ROAD AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.

/MR LEUNG

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MR LEUNG SAID EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNS ALONG TUEN MUN ROAD DIRECTED ALL VEHICLES TO KEEP TO THE LEFT UNLESS OVERTAKING, AND THE POLICE GAVE PRIORITY TO ENFORCING THE SPEED LIMIT AND LANE DISCIPLINE.

"IN ADDITION, THE PROPOSED EXPRESSWAY LEGISLATION WILL SPECIFICALLY CONTROL THE LANE DISCIPLINE OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLES ON HIGH SPEED ROADS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO HEAVY VEHICLES," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT SINCE 1984, THERE HAD BEEN A PROGRAMME TO RESURFACE TUEN MUN ROAD WITH A HIGH GRADE FRICTIONAL COURSE WHICH WOULD REDUCE VEHICLE BRAKING DISTANCE AND IMPROVE THE SKIDDING RESISTANCE OF THE ROAD SURFACE, ESPECIALLY WHEN WET.

"ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE REMAINING WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED BY EARLY 1991," HE SAID.

ON ENSURING PROPER LOADING OF GOODS VEHICLES, MR LEUNG SAID THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) REGULATIONS REQUIRED ALL DRIVERS TO ENSURE THAT THE LOADS CARRIED IN THEIR VEHICLES WERE PROPERLY SECURED.

A CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE PROPER LOADING OF GOODS VEHICLES WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, HE ADDED.

DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE ANNUAL ACCIDENT FIGURES ON TUEN MUN ROAD INVOLVING MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES WERE 13 CASES IN 1986, 24 IN 1987 AND 48 IN 1988. THERE WERE 24 CASES UP TO JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE CASUALTY FIGURES WERE 26 IN 1986, 40 IN 1987 AND 100 IN 1988. THERE WERE 45 CASUALTIES UP TO JUNE THIS YEAR.

MR LEUNG SAID THESE FIGURES MUST BE VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF INCREASING VOLUME OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON TUEN MUN ROAD IN RECENT YEARS AS A RESULT OF POPULATION BUILD-UP IN TUEN MUN AND GROWING CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC.

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PROCEDURES FOR CIVIL SERVICE STAFF COMPLAINTS

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THE ADMINISTRATION HAS WELL ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS FROM CIVIL SERVANTS ABOUT CAREER-RELATED MATTERS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARIA TAM, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THERE WAS A STAFF COMPLAINTS OFFICER IN EVERY DEPARTMENT DESIGNATED TO HANDLE STAFF COMPLAINTS.

/"IN DOING

"IN DOING SO, HE IS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW PROCEDURES WHICH PROVIDE FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE CASE, CONSULTATION WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, SEEKING LEGAL ADVICE WHERE APPROPRIATE AND REFERRAL OF HIS EVENTUAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID DECISIONS ON CASES WERE NORMALLY MADE AT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LEVEL.

"STAFF MAY ALSO LODGE THEIR COMPLAINTS WITH THE POLICY SECRETARY OR THE CHIEF SECRETARY, AS HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. DIRECTLY," SIR DAVID SAID.

"IN EITHER CASE, THE POLICY BRANCH WILL ENSURE THAT A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE CASE IS UNDERTAKEN, AGAIN IN FULL CONSULTATION WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED INCLUDING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, BEFORE A DECISION IS REACHED," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE REVIEW OF EACH CASE WAS SUPERVISED BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLICY AREA, AND DEPENDING ON THE NATURE OF COMPLAINT, THE CASE MIGHT BE REFERRED TO THE POLICY SECRETARY OR THE CHIEF SECRETARY PERSONALLY FOR A RULING.

"ADDITIONALLY, COLONIAL REGULATION 68 CONFERS ON ALL PUBLIC OFFICERS THE RIGHT TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR ON MATTERS OF A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NATURE," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE HAD DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM THE GOVERNOR TO INVESTIGATE AND DECIDE ON SUCH PETITIONS WHERE THE SUBJECT RELATED TO CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL MATTERS.

"IN CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE MAY CALL FOR REPORTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PETITIONER; IF NECESSARY, HE WILL SEEK ADVICE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, WILL CONSULT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN CERTAIN PRESCRIBED CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE DISAGREED WITH THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OR OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, OR WHERE HE CONSIDERED THAT THE PETITION GAVE RISE TO AN IMPORTANT POINT OF POLICY, THE PETITION WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE GOVERNOR FOR A DECISION.

"FINALLY, ANY PUBLIC OFFICER AGGRIEVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION MAY PETITION THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER COLONIAL REGULATION 69." SIR DAVID SAID.

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EARLY START ON REPATRIATION A FIRM OBJECTIVE

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IT IS CLEARLY IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG TO HAVE THE DETERRENT VALUE OF REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE NON-REFUGEES IN PLACE BEFORE THE START OF THE NEXT SAILING SEASON, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"I HOPE MEMBERS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT I CANNOT BE MORE SPECIFIC AT THIS STAGE, BUT I CAN SAY THAT THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF REPATRIATION REMAINS OUR FIRM OBJECTIVE," MR BARNES SAID IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT.

HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (CPA) APPROVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN JUNE THIS YEAR OFFERED THE BEST CHANCE OF ACHIEVING HUMANE AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM.

"THERE ARE THEREFORE NO PLANS AT THIS STAGE TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF OTHER MEASURES OR TO REVIEW THE POLICY OF GRANTING FIRST ASYLUM TO VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE," HE SAID.

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT IT HOPED TO BE ABLE TO START REPATRIATING NON-REFUGEES AS SOON AS ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN CONCLUDED.

"THESE DEPEND ON PROGRESS IN OUR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF THE CPA SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE FOR HONG KONG WERE: FIRST ASYLUM, SCREENING, RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES, AND REPATRIATION OF NON-REFUGEES.

"THE FIRST THREE ELEMENTS ARE NOW FIRMLY IN PLACE, BUT PROGRESS ON THE FOURTH HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING," HE SAID.

TO BE EFFECTIVE, THE CPA MUST BECOME IN PRACTICE WHAT IT WAS MEANT TO BE, A PLAN OF ACTION WHICH WAS IMPLEMENTED FAIRLY, FIRMLY AND FULLY.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AN EARLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME FOR NON-REFUGEES, AS WELL AS FULLY SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY RETURNS.

"WE SEE THESE TWO MODES OF RETURN TO VIETNAM AS BEING COMPLEMENTARY AND PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF CONTINUING ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER IN FUTURE," MR BARNES SAID.

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ROLE OF GOVT LAWYERS IN CIVIL LITIGATION

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT WHILE HE HAS THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROSECUTIONS AND PROSECUTIONS POLICY, THE POSITION IS DIFFERENT IN CIVIL LITIGATION CASES INVOLVING THE GOVERNMENT.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER WONG, MR MATHEWS SAID THAT IN CIVIL LITIGATION CASES THE LAWYERS WITHIN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS REPRESENTED THE GOVERNMENT.

"THEY ACT AND CONDUCT CIVIL LITIGATION IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS WOULD LAWYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTING THEIR CLIENTS. THEY ACT UPON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF CLIENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH THEY ARE REPRESENTING.

"GOVERNMENT'S LAWYERS DO NOT FORMULATE POLICY FOR CLIENT DEPARTMENTS. THEY ADVISE ON THE LAW AND ON THE LEGAL POSITION.

"BUT ULTIMATELY IT IS FOR THE CLIENT DEPARTMENTS TO INSTRUCT THE GOVERNMENT'S LAWYERS ON THE COURSE OF ANY LITIGATION AND THOSE LAWYERS WILL ONLY ARGUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE INSTRUCTIONS," MR MATHEWS SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S LAWYERS WERE, OF COURSE, UNDER A DUTY TO ENSURE THAT THE LAW WAS CORRECTLY APPLIED; THAT ONLY POINTS ARGUABLE IN LAW WERE TAKEN, AND THAT THEIR CLIENT DEPARTMENTS WERE MADE FULLY AWARE OF THE LEGAL AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ANY ARGUMENT OR INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW WHICH, IF ACCEPTED BY THE COURT, MIGHT REQUIRE A CHANGE IN DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES OR PRACTICES.

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POSSIBLE CHANGES TO FIREARMS LAW UNDER STUDY

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A WORKING GROUP ON THE USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, HAS BEEN CONSIDERING POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG, MR BARNES SAID ALTHOUGH IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE USE OF IMITATION FIREARMS IN CRIME WAS BEING CONTAINED AT A STEADY LEVEL UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, IT WAS FELT THAT GREATER CONTROL MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE FURTHER PROCESSING OF A DRAFT BILL HAD BEEN DEFERRED PENDING SUITABLE TEST CASES UNDER THE EXISTING LAW, HE SAID.

/MR BARNES

MR BARNES SAID THERE WERE NO ACCURATE OR COMPREHENSIVE STATISTICS ON THE USE OF IMITATION FIREARMS IN CRIME, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES OF DEFINITION.

"SOMETIMES CONVERTED OR HOMEMADE FIREARMS ARE USED WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF BEING FIRED AND ARE THUS TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES GENUINE FIREARMS.

"AT OTHER TIMES TOY OR REPLICA GUNS, WHICH CANNOT BE FIRED, ARE USED.

"THEREFORE, UNLESS A FIREARM IS ACTUALLY DISCHARGED DURING THE COURSE OF A CRIME IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY WHETHER IT IS GENUINE OR NOT," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID BECASUE OF THIS, THE POLICE CLASSIFIED OBJECTS WHICH APPEARED TO BE FIREARMS AND USED IN CRIME, BUT NOT DISCHARGED, AS "PISTOL-LIKE OBJECTS".

OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, THE USE OF PISTOL-LIKE OBJECTS IN CRIME, AS WITH THE USE OF GENUINE FIREARMS, HAD FLUCTUATED ALTHOUGH THE AVERAGE WAS 200 CASES ANNUALLY.

"FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN 154 CASES.

"THIS WOULD GIVE A PROJECTED FIGURE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR OF 205 CASES, WHICH IS ABOUT AVERAGE," HE ADDED.

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GUIDELINE ON ACCESS TO PERSONAL RECORDS

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REQUESTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ACCESS TO PERSONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THEM KEPT BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS MAY BE ENTERTAINED, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID THAT AT PRESENT, IN THE ABSENCE OF DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION, AND AS A GENERAL GUIDELINE, SUCH REQUESTS MIGHT BE ENTERTAINED IF DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION WAS NOT PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST, OR WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF GOOD FAITH ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OR ON THE PART OF THE PERSON WHO PROVIDED THE INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE REQUESTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY BY THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED HAVING REGARD TO THEIR OBLIGATIONS AND OPERATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, MR LIAO SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON EDWARD HO.

/MR HO

MR HO HAD ASKED WHETHER A PERSON WAS PERMITTED TO HAVE ACCESS TO HIS PERSONAL RECORDS KEPT BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND HE CITED A RECENT CASE OF A MAN ON WHOM THE POLICE HAD KEPT AN ERRONEOUS CRIMINAL RECORD.

MR LIAO SAID THIS HAD BEEN AN UNUSUAL AND UNIQUE CASE CAUSED BY HUMAN ERROR.

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CONSULTATION NOT REQUIRED

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THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) OR THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON PROCEDURES CONCERNING BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT, MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT THESE PROCEDURES WERE CONDUCTED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE AND THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

RECORDS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF BOAT PEOPLE WERE KEPT BY THE BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRY SUB-DIVISION OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

"THE BIRTHS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS. CHILDREN BORN TO VIETNAMESE PARENTS WITH REFUGEE STATUS ARE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG, UNDER SECTION 13A(1) OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, AS REFUGEES PENDING RESETTLEMENT WITH THEIR PARENTS.

"THE STATUS OF CHILDREN BORN TO VIETNAMESE PARENTS WHO HAVE YET TO BE SCREENED DEPENDS UPON THE ULTIMATE DETERMINATION OF THEIR PARENTS AS REFUGEES OR NON-REFUGEES.

"MEANWHILE, THEY ARE COVERED BY SECTION 13D(1) OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID CHILDREN BORN TO VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PARENTS WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES DID NOT HAVE REFUGEE STATUS.

THEIR PARENTS MIGHT, HOWEVER, APPLY ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD TO THE REFUGEE STATUS REVIEW BOARD FOR A REVIEW OF THE DECISION WITHIN 28 DAYS OF RECEIVING THE NOTICE OF DETERMINATION.

ALL DEATHS OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, INCLUDING HOMICIDE AND NATURAL DEATHS, WERE REFERRED TO THE CORONER FOR A DECISION ON THE NEED FOR AN INQUEST.

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"WHERE NECESSARY, THE CORONER WILL ASK THE POLICE TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE OF DEATH," HE POINTED OUT.

MR BARNES SAID THE REMAINS OF THE DECEASED WERE FIRST TRANSFERRED TO A PUBLIC MORTUARY AND WERE DISPOSED OF EITHER BY CREMATION OR BURIAL.

THESE MATTERS WERE HANDLED BY THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

"IF CREMATION TAKES PLACE, THE ASHES ARE KEPT BY THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED OR HANDLED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AT THE WISH OF THE FAMILY.

"IF THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED WISHES TO SEND THE ASHES BACK TO VIETNAM, IT CAN BE ARRANGED THROUGH THE UNHCR OR THE RED CROSS," HE ADDED.

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TRADING PARTNERS TOLD OF HK'S CONCERNS ON SANCTIONS

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GIVEN THE CLOSE ECONOMIC LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, ANY MAJOR ECONOMIC DAMAGE DONE TO CHINA RESULTING FROM ECONOMIC OR TRADE SANCTIONS APPLIED BY THIRD COUNTRIES IS LIKELY TO HAVE ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS ON HONG KONG, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF SOME OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS TO HONG KONG'S CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO AS APPROPRIATE," SIR PIERS SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO COMMENT ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THIRD COUNTRIES.

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RESOLUTION ON WIDOW'S PENSION APPLICATION PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A RESOLUTION THAT IT APPROVE A MODIFICATION OF THE PENSIONS ORDINANCE TO ALLOW A WIDOWED NURSING OFFICER TO BUY BACK HER PRE-MARRIAGE SERVICE AS PENSIONABLE SERVICE.

MOVING A MOTION TO MODIFY THE APPLICATION OF THE PENSIONS ORDINANCE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, EXPLAINED THAT THE CASE CONCERNED AN APPLICATION BY MRS YAN LAM PUI-FONG, A NURSING OFFICER II WHO RETIRED ON MAY 21, 1989.

HE SAID ON MAY 27, 1966, THE GOVERNMENT IN AN ENLIGHTENED MOOD HAD ACCEPTED THE POLICY THAT MARRIAGE SHOULD CEASE TO BE A BAR TO THE APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN OFFICERS ON PENSIONABLE TERMS.

"PRIOR TO THAT, WOMEN OFFICERS WERE REQUIRED TO RETIRE ON MARRIAGE, AND IF THEY HAD NOT LESS THAN FIVE YEARS SERVICE, COULD RECEIVE A MARRIAGE GRATUITY UNDER THE PENSIONS LEGISLATION.

"MARRIED WOMEN OFFICERS WERE APPOINTED ON TEMPORARY TERMS, AND SHOULD THEY BE WIDOWED, WERE ALLOWED TO TRANSFER TO THE PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE POLICY FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE MARRIAGE BAR WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 17, 1972, ALTHOUGH WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT TO MAY 27, 1966.

"WOMEN OFFICERS MARRIED AFTER MAY 27, 1966 WERE ALLOWED AN OPTION, TO BE EXERCISED WITHIN SIX MONTHS FROM NOVEMBER 17, 1972, TO TRANSFER TO PERMANENT TERMS AND TO BUY BACK THEIR PRE-MARRIAGE SERVICE BY REFUNDING THEIR MARRIAGE GRATUITY," HE SAID.

MRS YAN HAD MARRIED IN 1967, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES THEN PREVAILING SHE WAS REQUIRED TO RETIRE ON MARRIAGE AND WAS RE-APPOINTED ON TEMPORARY TERMS.

MRS YAN WAS SUBSEQUENTLY WIDOWED, AND SHE TRANSFERRED TO PERMANENT TERMS ON FEBRUARY 27, 1972.

SHE WAS THEREFORE NOT ON TEMPORARY TERMS ON NOVEMBER 17, 1972 AND WAS THUS UNABLE TO EXERCISE AN OPTION TO BUY BACK HER PRE-MARRIAGE SERVICE, SIR DAVID SAID.

"IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT A SITUATION SUCH AS MRS YAN'S WAS NOT ENVISAGED AT THE TIME THE OPTION ARRANGEMENTS WERE DRAWN UP AND IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO DEPRIVE HER OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY BACK HER PRE-MARRIAGE SERVICE BECAUSE OF HER WIDOWHOOD," HE SAID.

"HAD THE REMOVAL OF THE MARRIAGE BAR BEEN IMPLEMENTED ON MAY 27, 1966 WHEN THE POLICY WAS ACCEPTED, MRS YAN WOULD NOT HAVE HAD TO RETIRE FROM PENSIONABLE SERVICE ON HER MARRIAGE IN 1967.

/ "SUBSEQUENTLY, HAD

"SUBSEQUENTLY, HAD HER HUSBAND BEEN ALIVE WHEN THE POLICY WAS IMPLEMENTED IN 1972, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUY BACK HER PRE-MARRIAGE SERVICE TO AUGMENT HER PENSION BENEFITS.

"APART FROM MRS YAN, THERE IS NO KNOWN CASE OF A WOMAN OFFICER WHO WAS MARRIED AND WIDOWED BETWEEN MAY 27, 1966 AND NOVEMBER 17, 1972." HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID TO REMEDY THE SITUATION, THE GOVERNOR HAD EXERCISED HIS AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 20(A)(1) OF THE PENSIONS ORDINANCE, TO MODIFY THE APPLICATION OF REGULATION 19(8)(C) OF THE PENSIONS REGULATIONS TO ENABLE MRS YAN TO BUY BACK HER PRE-MARRIAGE SERVICE WITHIN A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF APPROVAL OF THE MODIFICATION BY LEGCO.

"THIS COUNCIL IS NOW ASKED TO SIGNIFY BY RESOLUTION ITS APPROVAL OF THE MODIFICATION SO THAT THE MODIFICATION MAY TAKE EFFECT PURSUANT TO SECTION 20A(2) OF THE PENSIONS ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

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CHARGES FOR INTERCONNECTION SERVICES INCREASED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S CHARGES FOR INTERCONNECTION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC TELEPHONE NETWORK FOR PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE AND VALUE ADDED SERVICES.

THE MAXIMUM MONTHLY RENTAL CHARGE PER INTERCONNECTION LINE WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$60 TO \$69, AND THE MAXIMUM PER MINUTE USAGE CHARGE PER LINE WILL BE RAISED FROM SEVEN CANTS TO NINE CENTS.

"THE ADMINISTRATION IS SATISFIED THAT THESE REVISED CHARGES ARE FULLY JUSTIFIED BY THE CURRENT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROVIDING INTERCONNECTION SERVICES," THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON RAFAEL HUI, SAID IN MOVING A MOTION UNDER THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE THAT RELEVANT AMENDMENTS BE MADE TO PART II OF THE SCHEDULE OF CHARGES.

MR HUI EXPLAINED THAT PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES RELIED ON THE INTERCONNECTION SERVICE TO CONNECT MOBILE TELEPHONES CUSTOMERS WITH PUBLIC TELEPHONE NETWORK SUBSCRIBERS.

VALUE ADDED SERVICE PROVIDERS INTERCONNECTED WITH THE PUBLIC TELEPHONE NETWORK IN ORDER TO DELIVER THEIR SERVICES TO THEIR CUSTOMERS.

THE CURRENT CHARGES FOR INTERCONNECTION SERVICES HAD BEEN IN FORCE SINCE 1985 AND THE CHARGES WERE FIXED ON THE BASIS THAT REVENUE FROM INTERCONNECTION SHOULD COVER THE COST OF PROVIDING THE SERVICE, HE ADDED.

"A REVIEW HAS RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED OF THE COSTS INVOLVED IN PROVIDING INTERCONNECTION," HE SAID.

AS PART OF THE REVIEW THE TELEPHONE COMPANY CONDUCTED A SIX MONTH MEASURING EXERCISE, MONITORED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, OF THE USE OF ITS NETWORK BY INTERCONNECTING SERVICES.

"THE CONCLUSION OF THE REVIEW IS THAT CURRENT COSTS JUSTIFY AN INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY RENTAL CHARGE PER INTERCONNECTION LINE FROM \$60 TO \$69 AND AN INCREASE IN THE PER MINUTE USAGE CHARGE FROM SEVEN CENTS TO NINE CENTS.

"IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, THE INCREASES ARE 15 PER CENT AND 28 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY," MR HUI SAID.

WHILE SUCH INCREASES WERE HIGHER THAN THE CURRENT ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION, MR HUI SAID, THEY WERE THE FIRST INCREASES FOR OVER FOUR AND A HALF YEARS.

"THESE INCREASES IN INTERCONNECTION CHARGES WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE OVERALL TELEPHONE TARIFF ADJUSTMENT IMPLEMENTED FROM JUNE 1, BECAUSE THE REVIEW HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED AT THAT TIME.

"THE NEXT REVIEW OF THE INTERCONNECTION CHARGES WILL BE IN TWO YEARS' TIME," HE ADDED.

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PURPOSE OF RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS BILL EXPLAINED

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THE RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS BILL 1989, IF ENACTED, WILL ENABLE THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON "THE LAW APPLICABLE TO TRUSTS AND ON THEIR RECOGNITION" TO APPLY TO HONG KONG, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR MATHEWS SAID IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THAT THOSE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION SET OUT IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE BILL WOULD HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW IN HONG KONG.

IN 1984, THE HAGUE CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW ADOPTED THE CONVENTION WHICH, SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION, WAS SIGNED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM IN JANUARY 1986.

"THE UNITED KINGDOM NOW PROPOSES TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION AND HAS ASKED WHETHER HONG KONG WISHES TO BE INCLUDED IN THAT RATIFICATION.

"BEFORE HONG KONG CAN BE INCLUDED, PROVISION MUST BE MADE FOR THE CONVENTION TO HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW IN HONG KONG," MR MATHEWS SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION WAS TO ESTABLISH COMMON PRINCIPLES BETWEEN STATES ON THE LAW OF TRUSTS AND TO DEAL WITH IMPORTANT ISSUES CONCERNING THEIR RECOGNITION.

THE CONCEPT OF A TRUST WAS NOT RECOGNISED IN MANY COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT HAD A CIVIL LAW SYSTEM, WHERE IT WAS NOT ACCEPTED THAT ONE INDIVIDUAL MIGHT HOLD ASSETS ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER.

TO AVOID THESE DIFFICULTIES, THE CONVENTION INTRODUCED THE CONCEPT OF A TRUST INTO JURISDICTIONS WHERE IT HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN ACCEPTED AND PROVIDED RULES FOR DETERMINING THE LAW WHICH GOVERNED SUCH A TRUST AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH IT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED.

"IF THE CONVENTION IS EXTENDED TO HONG KONG, HONG KONG DOMESTIC LAW WILL BE UNAFFECTED BUT TRUSTS ESTABLISHED HERE AND TO WHICH HONG KONG LAW APPLIES WILL RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF RECOGNITION IN CONVENTION COUNTRIES," MR MATHEWS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL ON THIRD PARTY INSURANCE FOR PASSENGER VESSELS
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) A BILL MAKING THIRD PARTY INSURANCE A PRE-LICENCE CONDITION FOR ALL MAIN CLASSES OF PASSENGER-CARRYING VESSELS EXCEPT KAITOS AND SAMPANS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, MR LEUNG SAID AT PRESENT ONLY PLEASURE VESSELS WERE SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE AS A LICENSING REQUIREMENT.

HE SAID UNDER THE BILL ABOUT 670 VESSELS WOULD BE AFFECTED, INCLUDING FRANCHISED FERRIES, LICENSED FERRIES, WATER-TOUR BOATS, LAUNCHES AND WALLA-WALLAS.

"THE REQUIRED INSURANCE PROVIDES INDEMNITY OF A SPECIFIED MINIMUM AMOUNT IN RESPECT OF LIABILITY FOR DEATH OR BODILY INJURY TO ANY PERSON, ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF LICENSED VESSELS IN HONG KONG WATERS," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE SAID MANY LOCAL FERRY OPERATORS, INCLUDING THE TWO FRANCHISED COMPANIES, WERE VOLUNTARILY PROVIDING THIRD PARTY INSURANCE PROTECTION FOR THEIR PASSENGERS THAT COMPLIED WITH THE MINIMUM LIABILITY LIMIT PROPOSED.

/SUCH INSURANCE

SUCH INSURANCE COVER WAS USUALLY OBTAINED FROM OVERSEAS PROTECTION AND INDEMNITY ASSOCIATIONS BECAUSE LOCAL INSURERS WERE RELUCTANT TO INSURE THE LARGER VESSELS AS THEIR PORTFOLIO OF MARINE LIABILITY INSURANCE BUSINESS WAS NORMALLY NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO SPREAD THE RISKS INVOLVED, HE SAID.

"THE PROTECTION AND INDEMNITY ASSOCIATIONS ARE MADE UP OF SHIPOWNERS WHO SHARE EACH OTHER'S RISKS AND PAY ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION INTO A COMMON FUND WHICH PROVIDES ALL FORMS AND LEVELS OF SPECIALIST MARINE INSURANCE COVER WORLDWIDE.

"AT PRESENT, ONLY A FEW PROTECTION AND INDEMNITY ASSOCIATIONS ARE REPRESENTED LOCALLY AND AUTHORISED UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO CONDUCT INSURANCE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID TO GIVE LOCAL FERRY OPERATORS AND VESSEL OWNERS A SUFFICIENTLY LARGE POOL OF SUCH ASSOCIATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM, THE BILL PROPOSED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO APPROVE ANY SUITABLE PROTECTION AND INDEMNITY ASSOCIATION AS AN AUTHORISED INSURER FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE COMPULSORY INSURANCE SCHEME.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE CLAIMS AGAINST OVERSEAS INSURERS NOT REGISTERED IN HONG KONG MIGHT INVOLVE, FOR SOME CLAIMANTS, GREATER DELAY, HIGHER EXPENSES AND MORE DIFFICULTIES.

TO MEET THESE PROBLEMS, THE BILL CONTAINED A NUMBER OF SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING PROVISIONS EMPOWERING THE HIGH COURT TO HEAR AND DETERMINE CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF INSURANCE POLICIES ISSUED IN AN OVERSEAS COUNTRY, HE SAID.

ON THE ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS, MR LEUNG SAID THE BILL PROVIDED A TWO-TIER PENALTY SYSTEM.

"OWNERS OF LARGER VESSELS WHO FAIL TO TAKE OUT THE REQUIRED THIRD PARTY INSURANCE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO HEAVIER PENALTIES, NAMELY A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$100,000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

"FOR SMALLER VESSELS, THE SAME OFFENCE ATTRACTS A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$15,000 AND 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THE BILL REQUIRED OWNERS TO DISPLAY CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE ON THEIR VESSELS FOR PASSENGERS' INFORMATION.

"IT PROVIDES FOR A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AGAINST FAILURE TO GIVE INFORMATION OR PRODUCE RECORDS OF INSURANCE ON DEMAND BY PUBLIC OFFICERS," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERED THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE NECESSARY REGULATIONS, INCLUDING THE POWER TO PRESCRIBE, FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF VESSELS, THE MINIMUM LEVELS OF LIABILITY TO BE COVERED BY POLICIES OF INSURANCE.

IT DEALT WITH TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ALLOWED APPROPRIATE POLICIES OF INSURANCE IN EXISTENCE BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE TO REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL RENEWAL.

MR LEUNG SAID TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR VESSEL OWNERS TO SEEK SUITABLE INSURANCE COVER, PROVISIONS IN THE BILL WOULD COME INTO FORCE SIX MONTHS AFTER ENACTMENT.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST VICE ESTABLISHMENTS PROPOSED

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THE ADMINISTRATION ENVISAGES THAT PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH NUISANCES ASSOCIATED WITH VICE ESTABLISHMENTS AND WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS IN DISTRICTS CONCERNED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR BARNES SAID IT INCLUDED PROVISIONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF SIGNBOARDS ADVERTISING THE SERVICES OF PROSTITUTES AND FOR A SCHEME TO CLOSE PREMISES OR FORFEIT VESSELS WHERE VICE-RELATED OFFENCES HAD REPEATEDLY TAKEN PLACE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT NUISANCES ASSOCIATED WITH PROSTITUTION HAD GIVEN RISE TO PROBLEMS OF SECURITY, EMBARRASSMENT AND DISTURBANCE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND INCONVENIENCE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

"THESE NUISANCES ARE ACTIONABLE AS CIVIL WRONGS. HOWEVER VERY FEW ACTIONS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BECAUSE OF THE EXPENSES INVOLVED AND THE TIME TAKEN TO GO THROUGH THE COURT PROCEDURES." HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY RESIDENTS OF THESE DISTRICTS, THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAD SET UP A WORKING GROUP IN 1983 TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM, AND THE WORKING GROUP HAD RECOMMENDED THE CREATION OF A NEW SUMMARY PROCEDURE WHICH WAS ESSENTIALLY CIVIL IN NATURE.

THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, CONSIDERED THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO COMPLAIN FOR FEAR OF RETALIATION FROM THE ORGANISED CRIME SYNDICATES RUNNING THE VICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

"THE COMMITTEE THEREFORE ADVISED THAT A SCHEME BASED ON THE CRIMINAL LAW SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

/"PROPOSALS BASED

"PROPOSALS BASED ON CRIMINAL LAW, WHICH INCLUDED PROVISIONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF SIGNBOARDS ADVERTISING THE SERVICES OF PROSTITUTES, AND FOR A SCHEME TO CLOSE PREMISES OR FORFEIT VESSELS WHERE VICE-RELATED OFFENCES HAVE REPEATEDLY TAKEN PLACE, WERE PUBLISHED IN JULY 1988 AS A WHITE BILL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

"COMMENTS RECEIVED INDICATED SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSALS." MR BARNES SAID.

HE ADDED THAT SOME PEOPLE, HOWEVER, WERE CONCERNED THAT THE BILL DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY PROTECT "INNOCENT" LANDLORDS.

IN VIEW OF THAT, THE SCHEME TO CLOSE PREMISES OR FORFEIT VESSELS HAD BEEN REVISED TO INCLUDE A PERIOD OF GRACE OF FOUR MONTHS FOLLOWING A FIRST CONVICTION.

DURING THE GRACE PERIOD, ANY FURTHER CONVICTION RELATING TO VICE ON THE PREMISES CONCERNED WOULD NOT ACTIVATE THE CLOSURE ORDER.

"THIS WOULD ENABLE THE LANDLORD TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO PROTECT HIS PREMISES, INCLUDING EVICTING THE OFFENDING TENANTS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS THEMSELVES, MR BARNES EXPLAINED CLAUSE 3 OF THE BILL AMENDED SECTION 147 OF THE CRIMES ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR SOLICITING FOR ANY IMMORAL PURPOSE FROM \$1,000 TO \$10,000.

CLAUSE 4 INTRODUCED SIX NEW SECTIONS TO THE CRIMES ORDINANCE.

SECTION 147A OF THE BILL MADE IT AN OFFENCE TO DISPLAY, OR TO PERMIT THE DISPLAY OF, A SIGN WHICH MIGHT REASONABLY BE UNDERSTOOD TO ADVERTISE THE SERVICES OF PROSTITUTE. THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE WAS A FINE OF \$10,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

SECTIONS 147B TO 147F PROVIDED FOR THE POLICE TO REMOVE OFFENDING SIGNS, WHETHER OR NOT THE PERSON COMMITTING THE OFFENCE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED.

CLAUSE 5 OF THE BILL INTRODUCED 12 NEW SECTIONS WHICH SET OUT THE PROCEDURE FOR THE CLOSURE ORDER SCHEME AND FOR THE FORFEITURE OF VESSELS.

SECTION 153A PROVIDED FOR PREMISES TO BE CLOSED BY THE COURTS FOR SIX MONTHS IF:

(A) A PERSON IS CONVICTED OF A SPECIFIED OFFENCE IN RELATION TO THE PREMISES;

(B) A NOTICE RELATING TO THE CONVICTION IS AFFIXED TO THE PREMISES AND PUBLISHED IN ONE ENGLISH AND ONE CHINESE NEWSPAPER WITHIN TWO WEEKS; AND

/(C) A SECOND

(C) A SECOND SPECIFIED OFFENCE IS COMMITTED IN RELATION TO THE PREMISES BY ANY PERSON WITHIN A 12-MONTH PERIOD AFTER THE GRACE PERIOD.

SECTION 153C GAVE A COURT THE DISCRETION TO ORDER THE FORFEITURE OF VESSELS IN RELATION TO WHICH THERE WERE TWO CONVICTIONS OF SPECIFIED OFFENCES.

SECTIONS 153D AND 153E DESCRIBED THE FORFEITURE PROCEDURE.

SECTION 153G PROVIDED FOR THE COURT TO SUSPEND A CLOSURE ORDER FOR TWO YEARS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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REVISED REGISTRATION FEES FOR HOSPITALS PROPOSED
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THE HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES AND MATERNITY HOMES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, WHICH SEEKS TO INCREASE THE FEES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES AND MATERNITY HOMES TO ACHIEVE FULL-COST RECOVERY, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, SAID TO REFLECT DIFFERENT COSTS INCURRED IN FIRST REGISTRATION AND SUBSEQUENT REGISTRATION, THE BILL PROPOSED TO REPLACE THE SINGLE EXISTING FEE OF \$20 BY A FIRST REGISTRATION FEE OF \$1,350 AND A SUBSEQUENT REGISTRATION FEE OF \$90.

IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE PROPOSED INCREASES WOULD GENERATE ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$4,100 PER ANNUM, HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THE OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO TAKEN TO ENABLE FUTURE CHANGES IN FEES TO BE MADE BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

GIVEN THE SMALL AMOUNT OF REVENUE INVOLVED AND THE LIMITED NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED, IT WAS PROPOSED NOT TO GO THROUGH THE FULL LEGISLATIVE PROCESS EACH TIME THE FEES WERE REVISED, HE POINTED OUT.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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NUMBER OF TOURISTS TO DROP AFTER RECORD YEAR

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THE RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY AS VISITOR ARRIVALS IN JUNE AND JULY DROPPED BY OVER 20 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, THE HON MARTIN BARROW, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THERE WERE SOME IMPROVEMENTS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME FOR VISITOR ARRIVALS FROM MAJOR LONG-HAUL MARKETS TO RETURN TO PREVIOUS LEVELS.

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR, MR BARROW SAID A DROP OF FIVE PER CENT IN VISITOR ARRIVALS WAS BEING FORECAST THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 1988.

"THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED A DROP SINCE 1971," HE SAID.

THE 1988-89 YEAR HAD BEEN A RECORD ONE FOR TOURISM BOTH IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF VISITORS AND THE AMOUNT THEY SPENT IN HONG KONG.

VISITOR ARRIVALS ROSE 24 PER CENT OVER 1987 TO 5.6 MILLION AND TOURISM RECEIPTS GREW BY 31 PER CENT TO \$33 BILLION, WHICH WAS EQUIVALENT TO 7.8 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT.

MR BARROW POINTED OUT THAT HOTELS ACHIEVED A RECORD AVERAGE OCCUPANCY RATE OF 92 PER CENT DURING 1988.

BY THE END OF THE YEAR THERE WERE 23,000 ROOMS IN HONG KONG'S HOTELS AND ANOTHER 4,800 WERE BEING ADDED THIS YEAR. A FURTHER 4,000 WERE SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN 1990.

MR BARROW SAID THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, BACKED BY THE INDUSTRY, HAD EMBARKED ON AN EXTENSIVE MARKETING PROGRAMME TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S SUCCESS AS ASIA'S MOST POPULAR TRAVEL DESTINATION.

"SOME 20 LARGE-SCALE PROMOTIONS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR MAJOR MARKETS IN THE COMING YEAR TO PROJECT HONG KONG AS AN EXCITING AND VIBRANT TRAVEL DESTINATION, OFFERING MORE HOTEL ROOMS, INCREASED AIRLINE CAPACITY AND NEW VISITOR ATTRACTIONS.

"THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON ATTRACTING MORE HIGH-YIELD VISITORS AND EXTENDING THEIR LENGTH OF STAY.

"THE ASSOCIATION WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES WITH AIRLINES, HOTELS AND TOUR WHOLESALERS TO STRETCH THE MARKETING DOLLAR AND MAXIMISE THE IMPACT OF THE HONG KONG TRAVEL MESSAGE OVERSEAS.

"INCREASED NUMBERS OF THE TRAVEL TRADE AND INFLUENTIAL CONSUMER MEDIA HAVE BEEN INVITED TO COME AND EXPERIENCE HONG KONG FIRST-HAND AND REPORT ON THE MANY NEW ATTRACTIONS, TOURIST FACILITIES AND HOTEL DEVELOPMENTS TO GENERATE MORE INTEREST IN TRAVELLING TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR BARROW SAID WITH A SLOW-DOWN IN VISITOR ARRIVALS AND STIFFER COMPETITION FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES WHICH HAD INVESTED HEAVILY IN THEIR TOURISM PROMOTIONS, THE INDUSTRY WAS ACUTELY AWARE THAT IT NEEDED THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE TO ENSURE THAT TOURISM WOULD CONTINUE TO BE HONG KONG'S THIRD-LARGEST EARNER OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

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FOUR BILLS INTRODUCED

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FOUR BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS BILL 1989; THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; THE CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; AND THE HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES AND MATERNITY HOMES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989. DEBATES ON THE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

THE COUNCIL ALSO PASSED TWO MOTIONS, MOVED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY UNDER THE PENSIONS ORDINANCE AND BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES UNDER THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS RECORDED A SMALL DECLINE IN SEPTEMBER 1989 WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1988.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS, THOUGH STILL SIGNIFICANT, CONTINUED TO SLOW DOWN. THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS ALSO MODERATED.

THIS IS SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN SEPTEMBER 1989 WAS \$19,542 MILLION, \$409 MILLION OR 2.1 PER CENT LOWER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1988, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$4,212 MILLION OR 16.1 PER CENT TO \$30,435 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT \$49,977 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER 1989, WAS THUS \$3,803 MILLION OR 8.2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1988.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 5 PER CENT OR \$2,217 MILLION OVER A YEAR EARLIER, TO \$46,908 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER 1989.

AS THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS WAS SLOWER THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF \$3,069 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.5 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN SEPTEMBER 1989.

THIS COMPARES WITH A SURPLUS OF \$1,483 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.3 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS RECORDED IN SEPTEMBER 1988.

THE SURPLUSES RECORDED IN SEPTEMBER ARE LARGELY SEASONAL.

PUTTING THESE TRADE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1989 WAS \$418,716 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$163,928 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$254,788 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1988, IN VALUE TERMS TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$69,395 MILLION OR 19.9 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY \$7,555 MILLION OR 4.8 PER CENT, AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$61,840 MILLION OR 32.1 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY \$65,627 MILLION OR 18.5 PER CENT, TO \$420,230 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$1,514 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.4 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1989.

/THIS COMPARES

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$5,282 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.5 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1988.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JAPAN, THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE VARIOUS MAJOR MARKETS REMAINED SLUGGISH IN SEPTEMBER.

PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS WERE THAT THE GROWTH RATE IN VALUE TERMS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA SHOWED A SMALL DECLINE.

THIS MIGHT BE PARTLY DUE TO A SETBACK IN OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES, AND PARTLY DUE TO THE AUSTERITY PROGRAMME IN CHINA HAVING INTENSIFIED SINCE JUNE.

WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN GREW MODERATELY, THOSE TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM FELL.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, HONG KONG'S LARGEST EXPORT MARKET, SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE, HOWEVER.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT, ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS CONTINUED TO FALL IN SEPTEMBER. THIS SUGGESTED THAT DOMESTIC DEMAND HAD CONTINUED TO SLACKEN.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1989.

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$19,542 MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$30,435 MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$49,977 MILLION	
	IMPORTS	:	\$46,908 MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 3,069 MILLION	[IN SURPLUS]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST THREE MONTHS	JUL 89 TO SEP 89		JUL 88 TO SEP 88		INCREASE	
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	61,870	60,755	1,115			1.8
RE-EXPORTS	93,692	75,627	18,065			23.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	155,562	136,382	19,180			14.1
IMPORTS	143,607	132,912	10,695			8.0
TRADE BALANCE	11,955	3,470	8,485			

/SAME MONTH

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SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	INCREASE	
	1989 HK\$ MN.	1988 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	19,542 (39.1%)	19,951 (43.2%)	-409	-2.1
RE-EXPORTS	30,435	26,223	4,212	16.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	49,977	46,174	3,803	8.2
IMPORTS	46,908	44,691	2,217	5.0
TRADE BALANCE	3,069	1,483	1,586	

LAST MONTH	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST	INCREASE	
	1989 HK\$ MN.	1989 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	19,542 (39.1%)	21,224 (40.0%)	-1,682	-7.9
RE-EXPORTS	30,435	31,826	-1,391	-4.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	49,977	53,050	-3,073	-5.8
IMPORTS	46,908	47,976	-1,068	-2.2
TRADE BALANCE	3,069	5,074	-2,005	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-SEP	JAN-SEP	INCREASE	
	1989 HK\$ MN.	1988 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	163,928 (39.2%)	156,373 (44.8%)	7,555	4.8
RE-EXPORTS	254,788	192,948	61,840	32.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	418,716	349,321	69,395	19.9
IMPORTS	420,230	354,603	65,627	18.5
TRADE BALANCE	-1,514	-5,282	3,768	

/OCT 88

LAST 12 MONTHS	OCT 88	OCT 87	INCREASE	
	TO SEP 89 HK\$ MN.	TO SEP 88 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	225,219	210,488	14,731	7.0
RE-EXPORTS	337,245	246,652	90,593	36.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	562,464	457,140	105,324	23.0
IMPORTS	564,426	462,400	102,026	22.1
TRADE BALANCE	-1,962	-5,260	3,298	

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BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN HK RETURN TO NORMAL: STI
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BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING THOSE INVOLVING CHINA, HAVE QUICKLY RETURNED TO NORMAL SINCE JUNE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID YESTERDAY (TUESDAY, BRUSSELS TIME).

"THE FUNDAMENTAL ATTRACTIONS OF HONG KONG AS A PLACE FOR BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT REMAIN UNSHAKEN. AND NEW INVESTMENT HAS CONTINUED TO COME IN," HE TOLD THE ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN BRUSSELS IN A SPEECH ENTITLED: "HONG KONG: WILL IT WORK?"

CITING JUST A FEW SIGNIFICANT EXAMPLES, MR CHAN SAID TOWARDS THE END OF JULY, FIVE CONSORTIA BID FOR THE LARGEST SITE EVER SOLD IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT. IT WAS A CLOSE CONTEST WON BY A BID OF US\$350 MILLION.

"HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL TERMINALS RECENTLY SECURED A LOAN OF US\$1.35 BILLION TO CONSTRUCT TWO NEW CONTAINER TERMINALS. THE LOAN SYNDICATE INVOLVED U.S., JAPANESE AND HONG KONG INTERESTS. THE PAPER WAS OVERSUBSCRIBED ON ISSUE.

"AND FOUR CONSORTIA BID FOR THE FRANCHISE TO BUILD AND OPERATE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CABLE TELEVISION NETWORK IN HONG KONG.

"THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER BROUGHT TOGETHER CODITEL OF BELGIUM, US WEST AND HONG KONG INTERESTS. THEY WILL BE INVESTING US\$700 MILLION IN BUILDING THE SYSTEM," HE SAID.

ALSO SINCE JUNE, MR CHAN ADDED, A SERIES OF INVESTMENT PLANS HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED BY JAPANESE INVESTORS, THEREBY DEMONSTRATING THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

/"THE NEC

"THE NEC CORPORATION, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL INVEST OVER US\$4 MILLION TO SET UP A MANUFACTURING AND SERVICING COMPANY IN HONG KONG FOR THEIR PERSONAL COMPUTERS, DISK DRIVES AND PRINTERS, WHILE THE DAIDO CONCRETE COMPANY WILL PUT IN MORE THAN US\$10 MILLION TO EXPAND ITS PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN ONE OF OUR INDUSTRIAL ESTATES.

"OTHER MAJOR INVESTMENTS INCLUDE A US\$15 MILLION SEMICONDUCTOR ASSEMBLY HOUSE WITH EUROPEAN AND SINGAPOREAN INTERESTS, AND A US\$21 MILLION JOINT VENTURE INVOLVING THE BRITISH ICI GROUP," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID IN ADDITION TO THESE MAJOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT PROJECTS, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO INVESTING HEAVILY IN THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE, THROUGH THE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET OUR FUTURE NEEDS.

"ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO, OUR GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED OUR FIRM DECISION TO REPLACE OUR OVER-CROWDED KAI TAK AIRPORT WITH A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK ON LANTAU ISLAND.

"THIS IS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR A MASSIVE EXPANSION OF OUR PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES TO COPE WITH OUR RAPIDLY GROWING ROLE AS ENTREPOT AND REGIONAL HUB.

"THE TOTAL INVESTMENT, WHICH WE HOPE WILL COME PARTLY FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS WELL AS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, IS ESTIMATED TO BE OF THE ORDER OF US\$16 BILLION. AND IT WILL HAVE A PAY-BACK PERIOD EXTENDING WELL BEYOND 1997," HE SAID.

TURNING TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC FUTURE, MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG, WITH ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION, HIGHLY EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, WAS AN IMPORTANT TRADING, FINANCIAL AND SERVICES CENTRE AT THE HUB OF THE INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

HE SAID HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION INCREASED BY OVER 30 PER CENT A YEAR IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, AND ACCOUNTED FOR 78 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXTERNAL TRADE IN 1988.

MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH ASIA ALONE NOW ACCOUNTED FOR SOME 60 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S GLOBAL TRADE, REFLECTING THE TERRITORY'S SUCCESS IN DEVELOPING NEW MARKETS AND REDUCING ITS TRADITIONAL DEPENDENCE ON MARKETS IN NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE.

"BUT HONG KONG IS, AND WILL REMAIN, A WORLD TRADER WHO OPERATES AND THINKS IN GLOBAL TERMS.

"OUR GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE FREE TRADE POLICY AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM EMBODIED IN THE GATT. THIS COMMITMENT WILL REMAIN LONG INTO THE FUTURE.

"AS OUR PAST DEVELOPMENT SHOWS, GLOBAL FREE TRADE IS THE BEST POSSIBLE FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD OUR ECONOMIC PROGRESS," HE SAID.

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CONCLUDING HIS SPEECH, MR CHAN SAID: "HONG KONG WORKS AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK IN THE FUTURE.

"IT IS WELL POISED TO CONTINUE PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN BOTH THE REGIONAL AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, AND TO DO SO FOR MANY YEARS TO COME."

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GOVT LAND SOLD FOR \$343 MILLION

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THREE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$343 MILLION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TOPPING THE LIST WAS A LOT AT LAM HING STREET, KOWLOON BAY, WHICH WAS BOUGHT BY HEAVY FULL LTD FOR \$200 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$160 MILLION.

THE LOT, COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,803 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR GODOWN PURPOSES ONLY. THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 26,000 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1993.

THE SECOND LOT IS LOCATED IN AREA 29A, FANLING, AND IS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

BIDDING OPENED AT \$70 MILLION AND THE LOT WAS BOUGHT BY GREATER CHINA LAND COMPANY LTD FOR \$100 MILLION.

IT COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,915 SQUARE METRES AND THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 11,712 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1992.

THE THIRD LOT IS LOCATED IN AREA 8, TAI PO. IT IS FOR INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN PURPOSES AND COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,618 SQUARE METRES.

BIDDING OPENED AT \$26 MILLION AND THE LOT WAS BOUGHT BY PONDAFUN LTD FOR \$43 MILLION.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 9,223 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1992.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE, WAS CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR NIGEL BURLEY.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989

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FULL HONOURS FOR SENIOR FIREMAN

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AN OFFICIAL FUNERAL SERVICE WITH FULL HONOURS FOR THE LATE SENIOR FIREMAN CHAN JENG-YU, WHO DIED IN A NO. 4 ALARM FIRE IN A BUILDING AT 603-609 NATHAN ROAD, MONG KOK, ON OCTOBER 23, WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 31) OUTSIDE TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATION.

THE FUNERAL CORTEGE WILL STOP OUTSIDE THE BUILDING AT NATHAN ROAD FOR "ON-SITE" FUNERAL RITES EN ROUTE TO THE CHAI WAN CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERY WHERE MR CHAN WILL BE BURIED.

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP AN AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER WONG MAN-CHIU TO WORK OUT DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUNERAL.

A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS DOING ALL IT COULD TO ASSIST THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED.

HE SAID FUNERAL EXPENSES, WHICH WERE EXPECTED TO EXCEED \$60,000, WOULD BE BORNE BY THE FIRE SERVICES WELFARE FUND AND GRANTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

FURTHERMORE, AN ADVANCE PAYMENT OF ABOUT \$84,000, WHICH AMOUNTED TO A QUARTER OF THE DEATH GRATUITY, WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MRS CHAN EARLY NEXT WEEK AS AN INTERIM RELIEF TO HER FAMILY, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT OFFICERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S WELFARE SECTION WERE ASSISTING MRS CHAN IN APPLYING FOR A SATISFACTORY PUBLIC HOUSING UNIT.

"THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACCOMMODATED IN A DEPARTMENTAL QUARTER UNTIL ALTERNATIVE HOUSING IS SECURED," HE SAID.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, FSD OFFICERS ARE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO MRS CHAN IN MAKING A CLAIM FOR INDEMNITIES UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE," HE ADDED.

IN A BRIEF CEREMONY HELD AT THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST THIS AFTERNOON, REPRESENTATIVES FROM FOUR LIONS CLUBS AND A LIONESSE CLUB PRESENTED FIVE CHEQUES, EACH WITH A DONATION OF \$10,000, TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN, WHO RECEIVED THEM ON BEHALF OF THE CHAN FAMILY.

THE REPRESENTATIVES CAME FROM THE LIONS CLUB OF BRAEMAR HILL, MOUNT CAMERON, PENINSULA, PHOENIX AND THE LIONESSE CLUB OF BRAEMAR HILL.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989

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NEW CASE OF CHOLERA CONFIRMED

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A 57-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS CONFIRMED TO BE SUFFERING FROM CHOLERA, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS IS THE SIXTH CASE INVOLVING LOCAL RESIDENTS SO FAR THIS YEAR. OF THE SIX CASES, THREE WERE CLASSIFIED AS LOCAL CASES AND THREE AS IMPORTED CASES.

IN THE LATEST CASE, THE MAN RETURNED TO HONG KONG ON OCTOBER 18 AFTER A TRIP AND FELL ILL ON THE SAME DAY. HE HAD DIARRHOEA AND ATTENDED A PRIVATE PRACTITIONER AND WAS LATER ADMITTED TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL. HIS CONDITION WAS DESCRIBED BY THE ATTENDING DOCTOR AS "SATISFACTORY".

LABORATORY TEST RESULTS CONFIRMED THAT THE PATIENT WAS SUFFERING FROM CHOLERA EL TOR. AS THE MAN HAD BEEN TRAVELLING OUTSIDE HONG KONG, THE CASE WAS CLASSIFIED AS AN IMPORTED ONE.

MEANWHILE, OFFICERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD VISITED THE HOME OF THE PATIENT IN TO KWA WAN. MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY HAD RECEIVED MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND WERE PRESCRIBED PREVENTIVE DRUGS. THE PREMISES WAS ALSO DISINFECTED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT DESPITE THE COMING OF THE COOLER SEASON, THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO OBSERVE STRICT PERSONAL, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE TO AVOID CONTRACTING CHOLERA.

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KWAI TSING DB TO DISCUSS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND THE POLITICAL MODEL FOR THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF THE OPENING OF ROUTE 5 ON TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT AND KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR FARE INCREASES.

THEY WILL MOVE A MOTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNMENT TO ENACT THE AIR POLLUTION (FUEL RESTRICTION) REGULATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KWAI CHUNG.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989

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YUEN LONG DB TO DISCUSS STUDY TOUR

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YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER WHETHER TO CONDUCT A STUDY TOUR TO JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA AT THE BOARD'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE AIM OF THE TOUR IS TO STUDY THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, HIGHWAYS, RECREATIONAL AND AMENITY FACILITIES, URBAN UNDERGROUND DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES' MAJOR CITIES.

ALSO, A MEMBER WILL ASK WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT SCHOOL PLACES IN YUEN LONG IN VIEW OF THE INCREASE IN POPULATION IN NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES AND THE DIFFICULTIES IN RECRUITING SCHOOL TEACHERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PUBLIC HOUSING MANAGEMENT

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THE HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL REVIEW THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PROGRESS REPORT ON PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 6 TUNG YAN STREET.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER SIX APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS TALLING \$125,100 AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE FUNDS ARE TO BE USED FOR CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON THE VIEWS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE, PUBLISHING A HANDBOOK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SHA TIN, AND ORGANISING A DAY CAMP, A FUN DAY AND CARNIVALS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM.

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MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE TAI KOK TSUI SUB-OFFICE ON MOVE

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THE TAI KOK TSUI SUB-OFFICE OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE HAS MOVED TO NEW PREMISES FROM ITS TEMPORARY OFFICE AT TUNG CHAU STREET.

THE NEW ADDRESS IS GROUND FLOOR, HOI HONG BUILDING, 31A AND B ANCHOR STREET.

IT OFFERS A PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE. ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE DURING OFFICE HOURS ON TEL. 3-965060.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989

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CASH AID TO BOAT INCIDENT VICTIMS' FAMILY

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED \$4,762 IN CASH TO THE FAMILY OF TWO VICTIMS OF A BOAT INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED ABOUT 65 KILOMETRES SOUTHEAST OF HONG KONG LAST WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 18).

THE CASH ASSISTANCE COMPRISED \$3,000 IN BURIAL GRANT AND \$1,762 FOR MAINTENANCE.

IN THE INCIDENT, A 22-YEAR-OLD MEMBER OF THE FAMILY DIED AND THE 29-YEAR-OLD OWNER OF THE BOAT WAS MISSING.

APART FROM CASH ASSISTANCE, SOCIAL WORKERS FROM THE ABERDEEN FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE COUNSELLING SERVICE. THE FAMILY'S APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS BEING PROCESSED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN FANLING

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 27), U-TURN FROM SOUTHBOUND JOCKEY CLUB ROAD ONTO NORTHBOUND JOCKEY CLUB ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH THE ACCESS ROAD TO FANLING HOSPITAL WILL BE PROHIBITED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE URBAN CLEARWAY FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY ON THE SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF JOCKEY CLUB ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH THE ACCESS ROAD TO FANLING HOSPITAL AND A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CANCELLED.

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