



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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20 UNOFFICIALS SPEAK ON GREEN PAPER

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THE HON ROGER LOBO, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TODAY SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT SYSTEM SHOULD BE EXAMINED FIRST, ITS STRENGTHS IDENTIFIED AND THEN A WAY FOUND TO BUILD ON THESE STRENGTHS.

HE WAS LEADING A DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON A MOTION WHICH READ: +THAT THIS COUNCIL WELCOMES GOVERNMENT'S PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG AND COMMENDS IT TO THE PUBLIC FOR EXAMINATION AND COMMENTS.+

HE CONSIDERED THE ADMINISTRATION AS A VERY RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT, DEVOTING A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND RESOURCES TO FINDING WHAT PEOPLE WANTED.

HE STRESSED THAT THE PEOPLE MUST NOT OVERLOOK 'STABILITY' AS THEY FACED THE FUTURE WITH CONCERN AND APPREHENSION AND AMID CRIES FOR DEMOCRACY AND DIRECT ELECTIONS.

NEITHER SHOULD ONE LOSE SIGHT THAT HONG KONG WAS BUILT ON THE PEOPLE'S DETERMINATION AND THEIR CONFIDENCE, HE ADDED.

A TOTAL OF 19 UNOFFICIALS SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION. THEY WERE THE HON ALEX WU, THE HON LYDIA DUNN, THE HON PETER C. WONG, THE HON WONG LAM, THE HON CHARLES YEUNG, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, THE HON WONG PO-YAN, THE HON BILL BROWN, THE HON K.C. CHAN, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW, THE HON MARIA TAM, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, THE HON MRS RITA FAN, THE HON MRS PAULINE NG, THE HON PETER POON AND THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN.

THE HON ALEX WU SAID THAT PEOPLE HAD NOT BEEN INTERESTED IN POLITICS IN THE PAST BUT THEY MUST CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE NOW.

HE STRESSED THAT THEY MUST PREPARE THEMSELVES WELL, LEARN AND UNDERSTAND THE REAL MEANING OF DEMOCRACY IN ORDER TO SET UP A SOUND SYSTEM.

+THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION ARE THE BEST MEANS TO ESTABLISH THIS SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS NO LACK OF ABLE MEN AMONG THE 5.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

THE HON LYDIA DUNN STRESSED IT MUST BE RECOGNISED THAT REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT A PANACEA.

SHE BELIEVED THAT IN THE NEW STYLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MEMBERS SHOULD BE ENDOWED WITH EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, TAKING OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN PORTFOLIOS FROM SECRETARIES AND BECOMING ANSWERABLE FOR THOSE PORTFOLIOS IN THE COUNCIL.

/MISS DUNN

MISS DUNN POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE MUST BE CONVINCED THAT THEIR FUTURE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WOULD HAVE REAL INFLUENCE AND THIS COULD BEST BE ACHIEVED VIA EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

+IT IS SURELY SELF-EVIDENT THAT IF PEOPLE ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT THEIR VOTES MATTER, THEY WON'T BOTHER TO EXERCISE THEM, WHATEVER PERSUASIVE CAMPAIGNS ARE MOUNTED TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO SO,+ SHE SAID.

THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID THAT ON THE WHOLE, THE VARIOUS DATES SUGGESTED IN THE GREEN PAPER CONSTITUTED A REASONABLE AND WORKABLE PROGRAMME.

ON DIRECT ELECTIONS, HE SAID THAT WHEN THE TIME WAS RIPE, THEY SHOULD BE ADOPTED.

ON THE CONCEPT OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, HE SAID THAT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, MUCH THOUGHT AND CONSULTATION WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVOTED TO THE FORMULATION OF AN ACCEPTABLE FRAMEWORK WHICH WOULD FORM THE BASIS OF SUCH CONSTITUENCIES.

THE HON WONG LAM SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE SUPPORTED THE GRADUAL PACE AND THE INDIRECT ELECTIONS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, HE FOUND THAT THERE WERE INSUFFICIENT DETAILS.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT APART FROM THE CONVENTIONAL CONSULTATION CHANNELS, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO MAKE THE SILENT MAJORITY EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, IT CAN ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION WITH EACH AREA COMMITTEE AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE. VARIOUS PUBLIC FORUMS CAN BE HELD AT DISTRICT LEVEL TO ENSURE THE POOLING OF IDEAS, SO THAT THE FORTHCOMING WHITE PAPER CAN INCLUDE MORE VALUABLE OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

THE HON CHARLES YEUNG SAID THAT IF DIRECT ELECTIONS WERE TO BE INTRODUCED, THE ULTIMATE SHAPE AND MACHINERY OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT MUST BE MAPPED UP AND A PROGRAMME FOR IMPLEMENTATION FORMULATED.

NOTING THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH TIME, HE SAID THAT A +MORE SENSIBLE APPROACH+ WOULD BE TO CONDUCT THE CONSIDERATION AND PLANNING OF THE DEMOCRATISATION PACKAGE AS A SEPARATE EXERCISE.

IN THE MEANTIME, HE ADDED, THE EVOLUTIONARY STEPS OF THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT SYSTEM, AS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, COULD BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT DELAY.

DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI WAS AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS NOW.

HE STRESSED THAT CONSCIOUS, SUSTAINED EFFORTS MUST BE MADE RIGHT NOW TO EDUCATE THE MASSES ON THE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY AND THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, TO HEIGHTEN THEIR CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY BE ABOLISHED ALTOGETHER.

THE REASON HE GAVE WAS THAT THE APPOINTED SYSTEM, WHICH CO-EXISTED WITH INDIRECT ELECTIONS, COULD SERVE PRECISELY THE SAME PURPOSE OF HARNESSING THE MUCH-NEEDED SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE AND VALUABLE EXPERTISE IN THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE HON WONG PO-YAN SHARED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS STILL TOO EARLY TO HAVE DIRECT ELECTIONS. HE POINTED TO THE LOW RATES OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT AT PREVIOUS ELECTIONS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT FOR ANY ELECTIONS TO BE MEANINGFUL AND REPRESENTATIVE, AT LEAST 50 PER CENT OF THE POTENTIAL VOTERS SHOULD BE REGISTERED AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE AT LEAST A TWO-THIRDS TURNOUT OF REGISTERED VOTERS.

EXPRESSING A SIMILAR VIEW, THE HON BILL BROWN SAID, +HOWEVER GOOD A REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM MAY APPEAR IN THEORY, IT SIMPLY WILL NOT WORK UNLESS THE ELECTORATE PLAYS ITS PART THROUGH PARTICIPATING IN ELECTIONS.+

ON THE QUESTION OF CANDIDATES, HE SAID THAT PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER HAD HIGHLIGHTED CORRECTLY THE NEED FOR REPRESENTATIVES TO COME FROM ALL WALKS OF SOCIETY, AND NOT ONLY FROM THE MIDDLE AND UPPER SOCIAL STRATA.

BUT HE ADDED THAT WHATEVER THE METHOD OF SELECTION, CANDIDATES FROM THE 'GRASS ROOTS' WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PARTICIPATE UNLESS PROPER FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR THEM.

THE HON K.C. CHAN POINTED OUT THAT AS LONG AS IT WAS DEMOCRATIC, DIRECT ELECTIONS AND INDIRECT ELECTIONS THROUGH AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE WERE JUST BOTH ROADS THAT LED TO THE SAME DESTINATION.

ON THE TIMING OF THE CHANGES, HE BELIEVED THAT A CAUTIOUS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WAS BETTER THAN A BIG LEAP FORWARD, WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO DISASTROUS RESULTS.

THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG SAID THE TIME FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS WOULD BE WHEN THE SILENT MAJORITY HAD BEEN EDUCATED TO BE MORE CIVIC-MINDED AND POLITICALLY RESPONSIBLE.

ON THE CONCEPT OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE, HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA TO CONSIDER EXCLUDING APPOINTED MEMBERS FROM THE COLLEGE FOR THE 1988 ELECTIONS, IF THERE WOULD STILL BE A PROVISION FOR 16 MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1988 TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO PUBLISH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE MORE DETAILS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCEPT OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEBATE.

THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER, A STABLE FOUNDATION COULD BE LAID FOR THE FUTURE SYSTEM OF +PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ADMINISTERING HONG KONG+.

HE ALSO CALLED UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER PROMOTE CIVIC AND POLITICAL EDUCATION.

WHILE THERE WERE MERITS IN INDIRECT ELECTIONS, OTHER EQUALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE GREEN PAPER SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED, THE HON SELINA CHOW SAID.

SHE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE GREEN PAPER HAD LEFT THREE EXTREMELY VITAL ISSUES UNTACKLED: THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF EXCO AND LEGCO, PARTICULARLY THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ADMINISTRATION= THE APPOINTMENT OF UNOFFICIALS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS= AND THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IS SELECTED OR ELECTED, AND IF AND HOW HIS POWER DIFFERS FROM THAT OF THE PRESENT GOVERNOR.

SHE BELIEVED THAT THESE KEY ISSUES NEEDED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION AND THERE SHOULD BE SOME OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER THOUGHT AND DEBATE WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO.

THE HON MARIA TAM OUTLINED THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS TO UMELCO OVER THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER.

SHE POINTED OUT THEIR VIEWS WERE IMPORTANT REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY.

ON DIRECT ELECTIONS, SHE HOPED THAT THE ADVOCATES WOULD CONSIDER WHETHER THEY WERE THINKING OF ELECTIONS ON A CONSTITUENCY BASIS OR ON A SINGLE LIST BASIS AND HOW 'FREE LUNCH' POLITICAL PARTIES OR ORGANISATIONS COULD BE AVOIDED.

SHE CALLED ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP DESCRIBED THE GREEN PAPER AS +A WELL THOUGHT-OUT PACKAGE WHICH OFFERS THE LESSER OF ALL EVILS AND THAT IT CAN WORK TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG+.

+I BELIEVE, IT IS NOT SO MUCH THE METHOD WE USE TO CHOOSE WHO REPRESENT US, BUT THAT THE PERSON CHOSEN PERFORMS EFFICIENTLY ON OUR BEHALF AND FOR OUR INTEREST AT HEART,+ SHE SAID.

+SO WHILE WE EVOLVE INTO A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, LET US NOT GO OVERBOARD WITH CRITICISMS BUT RATHER CONCENTRATE ON POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES,+ SHE ADDED.

THE HON CHAN YING-LUN NOTED THAT THE GRADUAL CHANGE FROM THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM TO THE INDIRECT ELECTION SYSTEM BY AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE WAS TO TAKE THE ADVANTAGES OF BOTH.

AS FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS, HE BELIEVED THAT THEY SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AT A LATER STAGE.

TO ENSURE A SOUND ELECTION, THE PEOPLE MUST BE CIVIC-MINDED, THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE SYSTEM OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AND KNOW THEY MUST NOT BE USED AS POLITICAL WEAPONS BY OTHERS, HE ADDED.

THE HON MRS RITA FAN SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD USE VARIOUS MEANS TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE 'SILENT MAJORITY' TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

SHE SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO DISTRICT BOARDS AND DISTRICT OFFICES, NEW MEANS, SUCH AS SURVEYS OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS HOUSING, SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

AT THE SAME TIME, SHE CALLED ON THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO BREAK THEIR SILENCE.

+TO REMAIN SILENT IS TANTAMOUNT TO GIVING UP THEIR RIGHTS AND MAY THUS GIVE OTHER PEOPLE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT AS THEY WISH, POLICIES WHICH MAY NOT BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE WILL OF THE PUBLIC,+ SHE WARNED.

THE HON PAULINE NG SAID THAT OVERALL REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE ADVANCED TO 1987 AS BY THEN HONG KONG WOULD HAVE HAD THE EXPERIENCE OF TWO ELECTIONS - THE DISTRICT BOARDS ELECTION IN 1985 AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION IN 1986.

LIKE MRS NG AND MANY OTHER MEMBERS, THE HON PETER POON SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE CIVIC EDUCATION STEPPED UP AND MORE PEOPLE ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER AS VOTERS AND TO VOTE AT ELECTIONS.

THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD ON THE GREEN PAPER FROM THE PRESENT TWO MONTHS TO FOUR MONTHS.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1984

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SPEAK UP ON GREEN PAPER, SIR PHILIP URGES
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IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT THAT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE SPEAK UP ON THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER AND THAT ON THIS OCCASION WE DID NOT HAVE A +SILENT MAJORITY+, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY.

+TO THIS END,+ HE SAID, +THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DOING ITS UTMOST TO STIMULATE PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSALS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.+

SIR PHILIP SAID THAT 145 000 COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED AND ANY NUMBER COULD BE -- AND WOULD BE -- MADE AVAILABLE ON DEMAND.

HE WAS SPEAKING ON THE MOTION BY THE HON ROGER LOBO WELCOMING GOVERNMENT'S PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG AND COMMENDING IT TO THE PUBLIC FOR EXAMINATION AND COMMENT.

SIR PHILIP WELCOMED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR THE GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE GREEN PAPER WHICH, HE SAID, WAS ENSHRINED IN ITS TITLE.

SUPPORTING THE MOTION, SIR PHILIP SAID, +I CERTAINLY BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG CAN BE COMMENDED TO THE PUBLIC FOR EXAMINATION AND COMMENT.+

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S SPEECH:

+THIS DEBATE HAS BEEN TIMELY. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE PRESENT STATE OF MEMBERS' THINKING ON THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

+THEIR THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT WHEN THE WHITE PAPER COMES TO BE DRAFTED FOR SUBMISSION TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR ADVICE AND I HOPE THAT THIS DEBATE WILL ENCOURAGE THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO HAVE NOT YET EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER TO DO SO NOW.

+AS DR HO KAM-FAI, MRS RITA FAN AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS HAVE STRESSED, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE SPEAK UP ON THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER AND THAT ON THIS OCCASION WE DO NOT HAVE A 'SILENT MAJORITY'.

+TO THIS END, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DOING ITS UTMOST TO STIMULATE PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSALS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. TODAY, 145 000 COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED. THIS IS A VERY LARGE, EVEN AMAZING, NUMBER FOR AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION AND I'M ADVISED THAT THE LOCAL SHORTAGES - AND THEY WERE SHORT LIVED - HAVE BEEN OVERCOME. CERTAINLY ANY NUMBER CAN BE - AND WILL BE - MADE AVAILABLE ON DEMAND AT ALL THE USUAL CONTACT POINTS.

/+THE GOVERNMENT

+THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAVE BEEN TASKED TO ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSALS ARE EXPLAINED TO AS WIDE AN AUDIENCE AS POSSIBLE INCLUDING, I CAN ASSURE MR WONG LAM, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT'S MACHINERY HAS BEEN TASKED TO FEED BACK ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED AND HEARD FOR CENTRAL COLLATION AND ANALYSIS.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GREEN PAPER

+I WELCOME IN PARTICULAR MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR THE GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE GREEN PAPER WHICH IS, IN FACT, ENSHRINED IN ITS TITLE, NAMELY, THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG. MEMBERS HAVE ALSO ENDORSED, IT SEEMS TO ME, THE UNDERLYING APPROACH ADOPTED, THAT IS TO SAY, TO BUILD PROGRESSIVELY ON EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND WELL-ESTABLISHED PRACTICES.

+CERTAINLY, MEMBERS SEEMED TO AGREE THAT SUCH DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN OUR COMMUNITY, ON WHICH THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE FULLY REPRESENTED, AND WHICH IS MORE DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AS THE MOVER OF THE MOTION, MR ROGER LOBO AND MR STEPHEN CHEONG AND OTHER MEMBERS STRESSED, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO PROCEED IN A MANNER WHICH WILL MAINTAIN THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG AT THIS VERY CRUCIAL PERIOD IN OUR HISTORY.

COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER

+ALTHOUGH I THINK IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER HAVE BEEN FAVOURABLY RECEIVED, SOME CRITICISMS THERE HAVE BEEN, NATURALLY, AND THEY FALL INTO FIVE GROUPS: THE PROPOSALS ARE TOO CAUTIOUS; NO PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR EARLY DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; THE CONCEPT OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES HAS NOT BEEN EXPLAINED CLEARLY ENOUGH; A TRULY REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT REQUIRES NOT ONLY AN ELECTIVE SYSTEM, BUT ALSO THE DIRECT ASSOCIATION OF ELECTED MEMBERS WITH THE EXECUTIVE PROCESS; AND THE PERIOD ALLOWED FOR PUBLIC CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT IS TOO SHORT.

THE PROPOSALS

+IT IS TRUE THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER ARE FAIRLY CAUTIOUS, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THEY DO REPRESENT A VERY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE METHOD OF SELECTING THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS - FROM A SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR TO ONE OF INDIRECT ELECTIONS BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, MIXED WITH APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR. IN MY OPINION, NO APOLOGY IS NECESSARY FOR PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY AND PRAGMATICALLY. AND AS MR STEPHEN CHEONG POINTED OUT, WE MUST BE REALISTIC IN WHAT WE DO.

/DIRECT ELECTIONS

DIRECT ELECTIONS

+AS REGARDS THE QUESTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS, I DO NOT INTEND TO REPEAT ALL THE VERY VALID AND COGENT REASONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER AND WHICH YOU, SIR, REHEARSED COMPREHENSIVELY IN YOUR ADDRESS TO THIS COUNCIL ON JULY 18, AND WHICH HAVE BEEN REINFORCED BY THE REMARKS OF MANY MEMBERS THIS AFTERNOON, AS TO WHY IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO INTRODUCE SUCH ELECTIONS IMMEDIATELY. BUT I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN RULED OUT FOREVER. THE TIME FOR THEM MAY COME IN DUE COURSE, IF STRONG POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA DEVELOPS; AND IT IS MADE CLEAR IN THE GREEN PAPER THAT THIS POSSIBILITY COULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE REVIEW WHICH IT IS PROPOSED SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN 1989.

+IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT MR CHAN YING-LUN, MRS PAULINE NG AND SOME OTHER MEMBERS ARGUED THAT THE REVIEW SHOULD TAKE PLACE EARLIER THAN 1989. THERE MAY BE A CASE FOR THIS, BUT WE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBLE RISK OF ANY DISHARMONY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY WHICH THE EARLY INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MIGHT CAUSE; AND I NOTE THAT MOST MEMBERS HAVE TAKEN A SIMILAR VIEW THIS AFTERNOON.

+HERE I MUST MAKE A PASSING COMMENT ON MISS DUNN'S POINT THAT THERE IS WHAT SHE CALLS A 'DISADVANTAGE' IN THOSE ELECTED TO DISTRICT BOARDS AND REGIONAL COUNCILS FORMING AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE FOR PART OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+I WOULD REMIND HER THAT ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND OF DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SAT IN THIS CHAMBER FOR SOME YEARS. SO I THINK WE MAY HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THIS ELECTORAL COLLEGE PROPOSAL AND, PERSONAL QUALITIES AND EXPERIENCE ASIDE, THERE IS A CERTAIN LOGIC IN THE IDEA TOO, AS IN THIS GEOGRAPHICALLY COMPACT TERRITORY, THERE IS A CLOSE AFFINITY BETWEEN LOCAL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

+AT THE SAME TIME, I SHOULD LIKE TO ECHO THE REMARKS MADE BY MR YEUNG PO-KWAN, MR WONG PO-YAN AND MR BROWN, AMONG OTHERS, AND STRONGLY URGE EVERYONE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN DIRECT ELECTIONS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL IN 1985, AND THE REGIONAL LEVEL IN 1986.

+SO I, TOO, WOULD CALL UPON THEM TO REGISTER AS VOTERS DURING THE FORTHCOMING REGISTRATION EXERCISE, WHICH COMMENCES ON AUGUST 15 AND GOES ON UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

+MISS DUNN AND DR HO KAM-FAI RIGHTLY POINTED OUT THAT AN UNREPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM WOULD BE A MOST UNFORTUNATE OUTCOME OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREEN PAPER'S PROPOSALS.

+THE IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY CANDIDATES COMING FORWARD WAS ALSO MENTIONED BY SEVERAL MEMBERS. I ENDORSE MR WONG LAM'S AND DR HENRIETTA IP'S CALL FOR A GREATER WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THOSE WITH A PROVEN RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO STAND FOR ELECTED OFFICE; AND I AGREE WITH MRS PAULINE NG AND MR BROWN THAT APPROPRIATE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS NEED TO BE DEvised TO ENABLE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO COME FORWARD AND PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE.

/+I ALSO

+I ALSO HEARTILY ENDORSE THE CALLS MADE BY MR PETER POON, MR WONG LAM, AND MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG AND OTHERS FOR MORE CIVIC EDUCATION TO BE PROVIDED ALTHOUGH, HOWEVER APATHETIC HONG KONG PEOPLE MAY BE THOUGHT TO BE BY MISS DUNN AND MR ALEX WU AND MR POON ABOUT POLITICS AS SUCH, IT IS NOT MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE - AND I AM SURE IT IS NOT THEIRS EITHER AS UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS - THAT THERE IS A LACK OF INTEREST IN HOW OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ARE MANAGED. NEVERTHELESS, I AM SURE THAT THE PLANS FOR DEVELOPING CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS DESCRIBED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION IN THIS COUNCIL ON JULY 25 WILL ULTIMATELY IMPROVE WHAT MR PETER WONG DESCRIBED AS CIVIC AWARENESS.

FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES

+AS REGARDS FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, TO WHICH MRS RITA FAN, DR HO KAM-FAI AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS REFERRED, I AGREE THAT THIS CONCEPT IS DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS ONLY IN THE GREEN PAPER AND THAT MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN TO BE ANSWERED AS TO HOW TO DEFINE THE CONSTITUENCIES AND THE ELECTORAL RULES TO BE APPLIED. WE WERE DELIBERATELY SUGGESTIVE AND SUGGESTIVE ONLY IN THE GREEN PAPER. THE PURPOSE OF A GREEN PAPER, AFTER ALL, IS TO STIMULATE PUBLIC COMMENTS.

+CLEARLY, WE NEED ADVICE AS TO WHICH SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE REPRESENTED BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. SOME EXAMPLES ARE GIVEN IN THE GREEN PAPER OF WHICH SECTORS SHOULD PERHAPS BE REPRESENTED, INCLUDING THE LEGAL AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONS, THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTORS, LABOUR ORGANISATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. BUT THESE ARE EXAMPLES ONLY AND, I MUST ADMIT, TEND TO REFLECT THE CONSTITUENCIES TRADITIONALLY REPRESENTED ON THE COUNCILS UNDER THE NOMINATED SYSTEM.

+THE CASE FOR OTHER SECTORS, SUCH AS SOCIAL SERVICES AND TRADITIONAL ORGANISATIONS, WILL NOT BE OVERLOOKED AND ALL IDEAS FORTHCOMING WILL BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. THE AIM IS TO IDENTIFY ALL THOSE SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHICH PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR AFFAIRS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, AND THEN DECIDE HOW TO CATER FOR THEM.

+WHEN A DEFINITIVE LIST OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES HAS BEEN COMPILED, IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SELECT THOSE WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE THE FIRST SIX MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO BE ELECTED ON THIS BASIS IN 1985 AND, LATER ON, THOSE WHICH WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL SIX MEMBERS IN 1988.

+WE SHALL NEED TO DEFINE THESE CONSTITUENCIES CAREFULLY AS WELL AS DETERMINE HOW THE ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR EACH OF THESE CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE DRAWN UP. AS HAS BEEN INDICATED IN THE GREEN PAPER, SOME FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WILL PROBABLY CONSIST OF THE LEADING ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THAT SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY: OTHERS WILL CONSIST OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION CONCERNED. IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER SUCH QUESTIONS AS HOW THE ELECTIONS BY THESE VARIOUS FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED, AND WHAT THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTERS AND CANDIDATES SHOULD BE.

/+CAREFUL CONSIDERATION

+CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IS NOW BEING GIVEN TO ALL THESE COMPLEX MATTERS AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS WILL BE PUT FORWARD FOR DEBATE IN THE WHITE PAPER. THEN, DETAILED PROPOSALS WILL BE LAID BEFORE THIS COUNCIL IN THE NORMAL WAY.

A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM

+MISS DUNN ARGUED THAT, ONLY BY LINKING THE PEOPLE'S ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE ADMINISTRATION VIA A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM WOULD REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HAVE REAL MEANING= AND MR PETER WONG AND MR STEPHEN CHEONG ALSO TOUCHED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT, IN DUE COURSE, SOME UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MIGHT ASSUME EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN PORTFOLIOS.

+ALTHOUGH THERE ARE VALID ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF INTRODUCING SUCH A SYSTEM, AND THE LINK BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS ON ONE HAND AND THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE OTHER, PRESENTLY PROVIDED BY EX-OFFICIO AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS COULD JUST AS LOGICALLY BE PROVIDED BY APPOINTING SOME UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO EXECUTIVE POSTS, IT WOULD REPRESENT A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IN HONG KONG. THAT IS NO CONTRARY ARGUMENT IN ITSELF AND I CAN ASSURE MISS DUNN AND MRS SELINA CHOW THAT OUR MINDS ARE NOT CLOSED TO THIS POSSIBLE VIEWPOINT.

+HOWEVER, WE MUST AVOID OVERLOADING THE SYSTEM WITH TOO MANY SIMULTANEOUS REFORMS AND WE MUST BE QUITE CLEAR AS TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH APPOINTMENTS FOR THE COLLECTIVE POLICY-MAKING ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. EQUALLY, THE IMPLICATIONS OF A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARLY AND CAREFULLY THOUGHT THROUGH. HOWEVER, AS WITH DIRECT ELECTIONS, THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING SOME VARIANT OF A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM LATER ON COULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE OVERALL POSITION IS REVIEWED IN FIVE YEARS' TIME.

+MRS SELINA CHOW SUGGESTED THAT EARLY ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IS SELECTED AND HOW HIS POWERS SHOULD BE DEFINED. AS YOU, SIR, SAID IN YOUR ADDRESS TO THIS COUNCIL ON JULY 18, THESE ARE MATTERS REQUIRING FURTHER AND CAREFUL REFLECTION.

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

+FINALLY, AS REGARDS THE PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR PUBLIC CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT ON THE GREEN PAPER, I AGREE WITH MR BROWN THAT, IDEALLY, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF A RATHER LONGER PERIOD COULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED BUT, AS WE ALL KNOW, EVENTS ARE MOVING VERY FAST THESE DAYS.

+BEARING IN MIND THAT THE NEXT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN MARCH 1985 AND ALL THE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATIONS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO MEET THE AIM OF HOLDING THE FIRST ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN JULY 1985, THE SOONER WE CAN REACH A FIRM DECISION ON THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER, THE BETTER.

+IN ANY CASE, THE VOLUME OF PUBLIC COMMENT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN FORTHCOMING, SOME OF WHICH WAS REFLECTED THIS AFTERNOON BY MISS TAM AND MRS FAN, CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DO NOT NEED VERY LONG TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS ON IMPORTANT MATTERS OF THIS SORT. I AM CONFIDENT THAT BY MID-SEPTEMBER WE SHALL HAVE OBTAINED A VERY CLEAR IDEA OF THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION ON THE PROPOSALS.

+I CAN ASSURE MEMBERS THAT ALL THESE VIEWS AND, OF COURSE, THE VIEWS THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THIS AFTERNOON, WILL BE CONSIDERED MOST CAREFULLY AND WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT PAPER, WHICH, IN ITS TURN, WILL BE PLACED BEFORE THIS COUNCIL FOR DEBATE LATER THIS YEAR.

CONCLUSION

+SIR, I CERTAINLY BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG CAN BE COMMENDED TO THE PUBLIC FOR EXAMINATION AND COMMENT AND I HAVE, THEREFORE, MUCH PLEASURE IN SUPPORTING THE MOTION.+

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NO KNOWN CASE OF DTC'S FAILING TO PROVIDE RATE INFO * * * * *

THERE IS NO NEED TO INTRODUCE A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT THAT A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY SHOULD SUPPLY A BORROWER WITH THE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE RATE OF INTEREST WHICH MUST BE FURNISHED BY A MONEY LENDER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DOUGLAS BLYE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAULINE NG, MR BLYE EXPLAINED THAT UNDER A SECTION OF THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE, A MONEY LENDER IS REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE TO A BORROWER THE RATE OF INTEREST CHARGED ON THE LOAN.

+THIS MUST BE DONE IN ONE OF TWO WAYS, EITHER AS A SIMPLE INTEREST RATE (THAT IS, IN EFFECT, INTEREST COMPUTED SOLELY ON THE PRINCIPAL, EXPRESSED AS A PER CENT PER ANNUM) OR AS A 'TRUE' RATE, WHICH TAKES ACCOUNT OF ANY DECREASE IN THE BALANCE OF PRINCIPAL OUTSTANDING IF, FOR EXAMPLE, REPAYMENT IS BY INSTALMENTS,+ HE SAID.

MR BLYE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY INSTANCES OF A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY FAILING TO PROVIDE A BORROWER WITH INTEREST RATE INFORMATION WHICH MATCHES THAT REQUIRED OF MONEY LENDERS.

+I THEREFORE SEE NO NEED TO INTRODUCE A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT,+ MR BLYE SAID.

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RESPONSIBLE PERSON COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED

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DESPITE THOROUGH ENQUIRIES, THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CMB BUS ACCIDENT IN HAPPY VALLEY COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR THOMAS WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARIA TAM AS TO WHY THERE HAD BEEN NO PROSECUTION IN THE CASE WHICH RESULTED IN A CORONER'S VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE DIFFICULTY IN THIS CASE STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT THE CORONER'S VERDICT WAS +INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER BY A PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN, BUT WITHIN THE CHINA MOTOR BUS CO. LTD+.

+AFTER AN INQUEST LASTING SEVEN DAYS IN WHICH EVIDENCE WAS GIVEN BY ABOUT 30 WITNESSES, THE JURY STILL COULD NOT SAY WHO IT WAS THAT WAS CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCIDENT,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS CLEAR ENOUGH THAT A WRONG SIZED BOLT, SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN, FAILED TO RESTRAIN A MOVING ANCHOR PIN, AS IT SHOULD HAVE DONE -- AND THE DIRECT RESULT WAS THAT THE NEAR SIDE FRONT WHEEL JAMMED, CAUSING THE BUS TO VEER SUDDENLY AND UNCONTROLLABLY TO THE LEFT ONTO THE PAVEMENT,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

BUT AS THE EVIDENCE SHOWED, THE BOLT COULD HAVE BEEN FITTED AT ANY TIME IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS OR LONGER BY ANY ONE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MECHANICS AND FITTERS EMPLOYED BY CMB, HE SAID.

+IF THE CULPRIT COULD BE IDENTIFIED AND HIS RECKLESSNESS ESTABLISHED, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BRING THE CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST THAT PERSON.

+BUT DESPITE THE THOROUGH ENQUIRIES BY THE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT BEFORE THE INQUEST, AND OTHER ENQUIRIES MADE BY THE POLICE, THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

NOR WAS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT ANY OF THE SENIOR EMPLOYEES OR DIRECTORS OF THE CMB HAD BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED. CHARGES OF MANSLAUGHTER COULD ONLY BE BROUGHT AGAINST A COMPANY OR ITS DIRECTORS OR MANAGERS IF THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF RECKLESSNESS ON THEIR PART.

+SO FAR, THE INVESTIGATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PURSUED AS FAR AS THEY CAN, HAVE REVEALED NOTHING TO JUSTIFY SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS BEING MADE AGAINST THEM,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

HE SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE SENSE OF GRIEVANCE OF THE DISTRESSED RELATIVES AND THOSE WHO WERE ARTICULATING A CRY FOR JUSTICE. BUT IT WOULD NOT BE JUST TO BRING CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST SOMEONE WITHOUT EVIDENCE OF LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY MERELY TO SATISFY A CALL FOR A SCAPEGOAT.

+IT IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT INFREQUENTLY THE CASE THAT CULPRITS CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED AND THAT CRIMES GO UNPUNISHED. THIS IS SUCH A CASE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

THESE MATTERS HAD BEEN EXPLAINED AT GREAT LENGTH TO THE RELATIVES AND THEIR ADVISORS BY HIS ASSISTANT DURING LENGTHY SESSIONS MANY WEEKS AGO. IT HAD ALSO BEEN EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE ABSENCE OF CRIMINAL CHARGES DID NOT PREVENT THEM FROM TAKING CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE BUS COMPANY TO RECOVER COMPENSATION.

+MY ASSISTANT HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED TO THEM MY SYMPATHY FOR THE DISTRESS THIS DREADFUL ACCIDENT HAS CAUSED THEM.

+I AM SURE THAT MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WILL SHARE THAT SENTIMENT,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

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NEW PARKING RULES TO BE IN FORCE SOON

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AMENDMENTS TO THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) ORDINANCE REGARDING PARKING WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 25, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HARRY FANG, HE SAID THAT UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION, THE CONCEPT OF +PARKING+ HAD BEEN REDEFINED TO EXCLUDE VEHICLES ENGAGED IN LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS, OR PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS.

ANOTHER CHANGE AFFECTS THE PRESENT PROVISION THAT IF THERE IS NO SIGN PROHIBITING PARKING ON A ROAD WITH A STREET LIGHTING SYSTEM WITH LAMPS NOT MORE THAN 200 YARDS APART, PARKING IS PERMITTED EVEN IF THERE ARE NO DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES, HE POINTED OUT.

+THE NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES THAT PARKING IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WILL NO LONGER BE PERMITTED UNLESS THERE IS AN AUTHORISING SIGN OR ROAD MARKING,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

ANOTHER CHANGE IS THE CONVERSION OF 200 YARDS TO 200 METRES, HE ADDED.

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MULTI-MILLION DOLLARS SPENDING ON REGISTRY FOR DISABLED
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT \$4.7 MILLION ON CAPITAL COSTS OF THE COMPUTERISED CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR THE DISABLED, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE ANNUAL RECURRENT COSTS OF THE REGISTRY AMOUNT TO \$1.1 MILLION, MR HENDERSON SAID, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

A TOTAL OF 7 973 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF FOUR AND 20 ARE REGISTERED WITH THE REGISTRY. THEY INCLUDE 1 211 SEVERE, 2 727 MODERATE AND 1 914 MILD CASES.

THE RATIOS BY AGE OF THE NUMBER OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS TO THE ESTIMATED POPULATION IN HONG KONG RANGE FROM 39.50 PER 10 000 PERSONS AT THE AGE OF FOUR TO 59.31 PER 10 000 PERSONS AT THE AGE OF 14, HE SAID.

FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, THE HIGHEST RATIO, 10.75 PER 10 000 PERSONS, IS RECORDED FOR THE AGE OF 19.

AT 20.19 PER 10 000 PERSONS, THE 12 YEARS OLD GROUP HAS THE HIGHEST RATIO OF MODERATELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

THE HIGHEST RATIO OF MILDLY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS, 17.68 PER 10 000 PERSONS, IS FOUND AT THE SEVEN YEARS OLD LEVEL.

WHILE NO COMPARABLE RATIOS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES OR OTHER COUNTRIES ARE AVAILABLE, APPROACHES WILL BE MADE TO OBTAIN SUCH FIGURES, MR HENDERSON SAID.

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ILLEGAL MEDICAL ADS: SOME PROSECUTIONS
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SOME PROSECUTIONS FOR UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS WERE BROUGHT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THOUGH NONE OF THE CASES INVOLVED REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID TODAY.

MR THOMAS WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO QUESTIONS BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP CONCERNING +ILLEGAL MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS+ ON DISPLAYED SIGNBOARDS, IN NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND TELEVISIONS BROADCASTS.

THE INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL COUNCIL, MR THOMAS SAID.

STATISTICS OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ORDINANCE WERE NOT MAINTAINED IN A SEPARATE FORM BY THE POLICE, HE SAID.

/THE UNDESIRABLE

THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ORDINANCE, MR THOMAS SAID, PLACED NO SPECIFIC DUTY ON ANY PERSON OR BODY TO REPORT BREACHES.

+IN ENFORCING THESE PROVISIONS, THE POLICE ONLY ACT ON COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO THEM BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

+IT IS NOT PRACTICABLE TO EXAMINE ALL ADVERTISEMENTS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

+THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW THEREFORE DEPENDS UPON THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC IN LODGING COMPLAINTS THAT CAN BE ACTED UPON,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

AS FULL STATISTICS WERE NOT AVAILABLE, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO CATEGORISE THOSE WHO WERE PROSECUTED, HE SAID.

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USE OF HEPATITIS VACCINE STUDIED

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THE HEPATITIS B VACCINE HAS NOT BEEN USED IN GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED HOSPITALS FOR PATIENTS REQUIRING HAEMODIALYSIS, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON RUDY KHOO SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, HE SAID A SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT CONSISTING OF EXPERTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND BOTH UNIVERSITIES HAD BEEN SET UP TO ADVISE ON THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY OF IMMUNISATION AND TO IDENTIFY THE HIGH RISK GROUPS WHICH SHOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY FOR VACCINATION.

+IN THE LAST MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT VACCINATION OF HAEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS SHOULD BE FURTHER STUDIED IN THE LIGHT OF LOCAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA,+ HE SAID.

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HARBOUR TUNNEL BY-LAWS AMENDED

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THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BY-LAWS 1984, MADE BY THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY, WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, EXPLAINED THAT THE AMENDMENT MADE THE COMPANY'S EXISTING BY-LAWS CONSONANT WITH THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION SO THAT ITS PROVISION WILL ALSO APPLY IN THE TUNNEL AREA.

THE NEW LEGISLATION WILL COME INTO FORCE ON AUGUST 25.

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LET PEOPLE DO THINGS THEIR WAY -- BRAY

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY, TODAY (THURSDAY) DREW ATTENTION TO SOME OF THE FINER FEATURES OF HONG KONG'S SOCIETY WHICH MIGHT BE LOST TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE TERRITORY.

SPEAKING AT THE CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE SOCIETY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER THIS EVENING, MR BRAY GAVE AS EXAMPLES IMPRESSION OF DISORDER AND SCUFFLE ON THE SOCIETY'S TRADING FLOOR AND THE APPARENT CHAOS AT A HAWKER MARKET.

+OFTEN, WE SEEM TO BE JOSTLING EACH OTHER IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN UNCIVILISED WAY BUT WE ARE DOING IT WITH A VIEW TO GETTING BUSINESS DONE AND WITHOUT ANY INTENTION TO HURT ANYBODY,+ HE SAID.

HE ASKED THOSE NOT FAMILIAR WITH HONG KONG TO REMEMBER ONE IMPORTANT THING.

+IT IS THAT THEY MUST LET HONG KONG PEOPLE DO THE THINGS THEMSELVES IN THE WAY THEY SEE FIT. NOTHING COULD BE MORE DISASTROUS THAN FOR A KIND-HEARTED PASSER-BY TO DASH INTO THE TRADING FLOOR AND TRY TO PUT A STOP TO A SCUFFLE OR TO PUT HIS BODY OVER THE 'VICTIM' IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIM. JUST LEAVE THE SYSTEM ALONE. IT WORKS,+ HE SAID.

+TODAY WE ARE FACING CHANGE. THERE WILL BE UNACCUSTOMED SIGHTS, THERE WILL BE CONCERN AND WORRIES WHICH BLUR OUR VISION FROM TIME TO TIME SO THAT THINGS MAY APPEAR TO US TO BE SOMEWHAT DISORDERED.

+I AM SURE THAT WITH OUR USUAL SENSE OF MUTUAL TRUST AND FAITH WE SHALL BE ABLE TO SEE ORDER IN DISRUPTION, DISCIPLINE IN FREEPLAY AND ABOVE ALL, SUCCESS IN ADVERSE CONDITIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE TRUST AND FAITH DISPLAYED IN THE WAY BUSINESS IS TRANSACTED IN THE TRADING FLOOR OF THE EXCHANGE SOCIETY.

+IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE CHINESE STYLE FOR A DEAL TO BE STRUCK BY A GLANCE, A TOUCH OF HAND, OR AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF A GESTURE. IT IS EVEN QUICKER AND MORE RELIABLE THAN BUSINESS TRANSACTED THROUGH A COMPUTER.+

+IT IS THROUGH TRUST AND FAITH THAT THE SOCIETY HAS GROWN FROM A LOCAL MARKET TO AN INTERNATIONAL ONE AND I BELIEVE THE SAME TRUST AND FAITH HAVE ALSO HELPED HONG KONG TO BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AND TRADING CENTRE,+ HE SAID.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1984

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NINE NOMINATED FOR LABOUR BOARD ELECTION

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NINE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR ELECTION ON AUGUST 30 AS EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE 1985 - 1986 YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT LETTERS TO ALL REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' UNIONS WERE ISSUED ON JULY 12 INVITING THEM TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES.

AS NOMINATIONS CLOSED AT 5 PM TODAY (THURSDAY), THERE WERE ALTOGETHER NINE NOMINATIONS:

- (1) MR WONG WAI-HUNG OF ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT LAND AND ENGINEERING SURVEYING OFFICERS
- (2) MR MAK HOI-WAH OF HK SOCIAL WORKERS' GENERAL UNION
- (3) MR LUK TUNG-CHING OF HK CIVIL SERVANTS GENERAL UNION
- (4) MR LEUNG YING-TONG OF HK AND K ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES' GENERAL UNION
- (5) MR SEZTO WAH OF HK PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION
- (6) MR TAM YIU-CHUNG OF HK AND K DEPARTMENTAL STORE WORKERS ASSOCIATION
- (7) MR LEE SHING-CHU OF HK STEVEDORES UNION (CHAP YIU)
- (8) MR LEUNG CHAU-TING OF ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT CLERICAL OFFICERS, CLERICAL ASSISTANTS AND OFFICE ASSISTANTS
- (9) MR LEE KAI-MING OF HK STOREHOUSES AND TRANSPORTATION STAFF ASSOCIATION.

OUT OF THE NINE CANDIDATES, FOUR WILL BE ELECTED TO BE EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD BY SECRET BALLOT ON AUGUST 30.

THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD IS A NON-STATUTORY BODY WHICH ADVISES THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON LABOUR MATTERS, INCLUDING LEGISLATION AND THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE BOARD COMPRISES SIX EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES AND SIX EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AS CHAIRMAN.

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VALUE OF READING STRESSED
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FACILITY IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH IS A VITAL FACTOR IN HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY BUT THE UTILITARIAN ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE FACILITY IS ONLY PART OF THE VALUE OF READING, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 10TH WORLD CONGRESS ON READING THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, MR HENDERSON ADDED THAT READING ALSO PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT AND REFRESHMENT.

HE SAID THE PROMOTION OF GOOD READING HABITS IS CENTRAL TO OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE HONG KONG READING ASSOCIATION, ALTHOUGH IN ITS FORMATIVE YEARS, IS MAKING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROMOTION OF LITERACY IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

+BUT LET US REMEMBER THAT READING IS ULTIMATELY A MEANS TO AN END - TO GIVE ACCESS TO THE WORLD OF INFORMATION AND THE WORLD OF LITERATURE. THE TREASURY OF THE HUMAN MIND AND SPIRIT THAT LIES IN THE BOOKS OF THE WORLD - THAT IS THE PRIZE OF BEING ABLE TO READ,+ MR HENDERSON NOTED.

+THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE-TEACHER EDUCATION THROUGH TRAINING COURSES IN THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION.

+IN ADDITION, SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH EXTRA LANGUAGE TEACHERS TO STRENGTHEN REMEDIAL TEACHING PROGRAMMES, NEW TEACHING SYLLABUSES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED, PROVISION IS BEING MADE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF CLASS LIBRARIES, WIRE-FREE INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN SCHOOLS TO FACILITATE LANGUAGE TEACHING, AND THE BRITISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED TO PROVIDE IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS,+ HE NOTED.

REITERATING THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD TEACHER TRAINING, MR HENDERSON PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CONGRESS IN THIS FIELD.

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MP'S PRESS CONFERENCE
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THE RT HON DAVID HOWELL, CONSERVATIVE MP FOR GUILDFORD, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 4 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS' MESS, 3RD FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

MR HOWELL IS VISITING HONG KONG AND WILL LEAVE TOMORROW EVENING.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1984

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DRIVING TEST PAPERS TO BE REVISED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S DRIVING TEST SECTION WILL REVISE ALL ITS WRITTEN TEST PAPERS ACCORDING TO THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS FROM LATE THIS MONTH WHEN THE NEW REGULATIONS COME INTO EFFECT.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT, THE DRIVING TEST SECTION IS DISTRIBUTING FREE INFORMATION PAMPHLETS TO HELP CANDIDATES, WHOSE WRITTEN TEST APPOINTMENT FALLS ON OR AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF THE NEW LEGISLATION, PREPARE FOR THE REVISED TESTS.

THE PAMPHLETS ARE +A GUIDE FOR DRIVERS+ AND +LANGUAGE OF THE ROAD+.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE REVISED TESTS MAY BE MADE BY DIALLING 3-317716, 3-317723 OR 5-263523.

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TIN SHUI WAI CLEARANCE STARTS AUGUST 8

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THE CLEARANCE AT TIN SHUI WAI IN THE NORTH-WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO STAGES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE FIRST STAGE WILL BEGIN ON AUGUST 8 AND INVOLVE CHIU KAR YUEN VILLAGE AND THE AREA AROUND THE TAI RIVER, AFFECTING ABOUT 140 FAMILIES.

THE SECOND STAGE WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS AT PAK SHA TSAI, WHERE 100 FAMILIES LIVE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO SPLIT THE CLEARANCE INTO TWO PHASES AS THERE WERE STILL SOME OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED WITH THE PAK SHA TSAI VILLAGERS.

+WE HOPE THESE CAN BE SETTLED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE LAND AT TIN SHUI WAI IS NEEDED FOR HOUSING,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN REACHING AGREEMENT WITH THE FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THE AREA TO BE CLEARED NEXT WEEK.

MANY HAD ALREADY COLLECTED THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES WHICH GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO PAY AND LEFT THE AREA TO GO INTO PUBLIC OR TEMPORARY HOUSING.

/+WE EXPECT

+WE EXPECT THE OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE BEFORE AUGUST 8,+
HE SAID.

THE REMAINING CHEQUES WERE AVAILABLE AT YUEN LONG DISTRICT
OFFICE AND THE SPOKESMAN URGED THOSE ELIGIBLE TO COLLECT THEM
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO FARMERS WHO HAD NOT YET DISPOSED
OF THEIR LIVESTOCK, FISH AND POULTRY TO ARRANGE TO SELL THEM
BEFORE THE CLEARANCE DATE.

ON HOUSING ENTITLEMENTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID GOVERNMENT
HAD OFFERED FLATS IN TWO OF THE MOST MODERN ESTATES IN THE
NEW TERRITORIES - BUTTERFLY ESTATE AND WU KING ESTATE AT
TUEN MUN - AND AT LEAST TWO THIRDS OF THE ELIGIBLE FAMILIES
HAD ALREADY MOVED THERE.

THE OTHERS WERE EXPECTED TO DO SO SHORTLY.

THOSE FAMILIES ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING HAD BEEN
OFFERED ACCOMMODATION AT PAK KOK, TUEN MUN, AND MANY OF THESE
FAMILIES HAD ALSO MOVED IN.

NINE FAMILIES HAD ASKED FOR A FARM RESITE AND ALL THE
APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE A GREAT DEAL TO HELP THE
FAMILIES TO BE CLEARED AND HAD AGREED TO PAY EX-GRATIA
ALLOWANCES TOTALLING MORE THAN \$8 MILLION.

THESE WERE PAID FROM PUBLIC FUNDS AND WERE +MORE THAN
FAIR+.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REVIEWED
THE RATES REGULARLY ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS AND HAD RECENTLY
APPROVED INCREASES.

HE SAID THE CLEARANCE WAS ESSENTIAL AS THE LAND WAS
REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR
135 000 PEOPLE.

AFTER THE CLEARANCE HAS BEEN COMPLETED WORK WILL START
ON SITE. A CULVERT WILL BE CONSTRUCTED FOR FUTURE DIVERSION
OF THE TAI RIVER AND A THREE-HECTARE WORKS AREA WILL BE FORMED.

FIRE PREVENTION FOR +BEDSPACE+ LODGERS
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MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES FOR +BEDSPACE+ APARTMENTS IN THE DISTRICT AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY WILL STUDY A REPORT PREPARED BY A WORKING GROUP FORMED EARLY THIS YEAR TO CONSIDER PROVIDING FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND FORMING FIRE-FIGHTING TEAMS FOR BEDSPACE APARTMENTS AND SIMILAR HOSTELS.

THE WORKING GROUP WAS CHAIRED BY THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER AND COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FIRE SERVICES AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE RECENTLY-PUBLISHED GREEN PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG AND A PAPER ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISTRICT BOARDS, AREA COMMITTEES AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

THEY WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE LATEST POSITION REGARDING THE SEARCH FOR A PROPER CAR-PARK SITE AND ON HAWKER ACTIVITIES IN MONG KOK.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 3 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF TUNG PING BUILDING, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

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OPEN FORUM FOR EASTERN RESIDENTS

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EASTERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD AND GIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN AN OPEN FORUM ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 5) AFTERNOON.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE EASTERN DISTRICT FORUM IS AIMED AT PUBLICISING NEXT YEAR'S DB ELECTIONS AND ENABLING RESIDENTS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

SPEAKERS ON THE PANEL WILL INCLUDE THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR LUI HAU-TUEN; DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MADAM ANITA CHAN, MR CHOI WING-ON AND MR WONG TIN-JOE; AND THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

THEY WILL TALK ON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS, MEDICAL SERVICES, FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, AND THE BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING EFFORTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO SQUATTER VILLAGES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE 90-MINUTE FORUM WILL START AT 3 PM AT THE PAVILION IN VICTORIA PARK. IT WILL BE RECORDED AND BROADCAST ON RTHK RADIO 1 AT 8 AM THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY (AUGUST 11).

EASTERN IS THE FIFTH DISTRICT TO HOLD THE FORUM. THE OTHER 13 DISTRICTS WILL HOLD SIMILAR FORUMS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS UNTIL EARLY NOVEMBER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT FORUM TO BE HELD AT 3 PM ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 4) AT THE PAVILION IN VICTORIA PARK.

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WORK ON ARTS COUNCIL UNDER WAY

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THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO FORM AN ARTS COUNCIL TO PROMOTE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

+STUDENTS, RESIDENTS, MEMBERS OF CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS, AND ANYONE WORKING IN THE DISTRICT ARE WELCOME,+ A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+THE AIMS OF HAVING A COUNCIL ARE TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF ARTS AND CULTURE IN THE DISTRICT AND TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES BETWEEN LOCAL ARTS OR CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT.+

HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS, AND MEMBERSHIPS COULD BE FOR GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS.

/INTERESTED PARTIES

INTERESTED PARTIES ARE BEING INVITED TO A PREPARATORY MEETING TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 9 DURING WHICH MEMBERS FOR THE COUNCIL'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE WILL BE SELECTED FROM AMONG THOSE PRESENT.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (CHAI WAN), MR STEPHEN NG, WILL CHAIR THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR, 884-886 KING'S ROAD.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE ARTS COUNCIL AND THE MEETING CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MISS YVONNE YIP AT 5-573265.

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NEW MAXICAB SERVICE IN SHAM SHUI PO

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A NEW MAXICAB ROUTE RUNNING FROM SHAM SHUI PO FERRY PIER TO MONG KOK KCR STATION WILL BE INTRODUCED ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 4).

THE ROUTE, NO. 32K, WILL START AT SHAM SHUI PO FERRY PIER AND OPERATE VIA YEN CHOW STREET, YEE KUK STREET, LAI CHI KOK ROAD, BOUNDARY STREET, TAI KOK TSUI ROAD, FUK TSUN STREET, MONG KOK ROAD, SAI YEE STREET AND BUTE STREET.

THE RETURN JOURNEY WILL BE VIA BUTE STREET, SAI YEE STREET, MONG KOK ROAD, SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, ARGYLE STREET, CHERRY STREET, TAI KOK TSUI ROAD, BOUNDARY STREET, HAI TAN STREET AND YEN CHOW STREET.

THE ROUTE WILL OPERATE FROM 6.30 AM TO 11.05 PM, AND THE FARE WILL BE \$1.50.

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JOGGING TRACK TO BE BUILT

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A JOGGING AND FITNESS TRACK WILL BE BUILT ON TOP OF THE MAGAZINE GAP ROAD SERVICE RESERVOIR ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

IT WILL BE 130 METRES LONG AND LINKED TO MAGAZINE GAP ROAD BY AN EXISTING PATH.

THE TRACK WILL BE BUILT IN CONCRETE AND A VARIETY OF FITNESS EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED.

WORK IS DUE TO START IN MID-OCTOBER AND BE COMPLETED IN FOUR MONTHS.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS TO BE SUBMITTED BY AUGUST 24.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1984

- 24 -

SITTING-OUT AREA FOR CHEUNG CHAU

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AN 850-SQUARE-METRE LOCAL OPEN SPACE WHICH WILL BE USED AS A SITTING-OUT AREA IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN FRONT OF THE PAK TAI TEMPLE ON CHEUNG CHAU.

THE AREA ALREADY HAS A MINI-SOCCER PITCH AND THE LOCAL OPEN SPACE WILL BE BUILT NEXT TO IT.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES LANDSCAPING THE SITTING-OUT AREA AND BUILDING A PAVILION, A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND AN ELECTRICITY METER ROOM.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE WORK, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE FIVE MONTHS, IS THE PROVISION OF LIGHTING AND COURT-MARKINGS FOR THE MINI-SOCCER PITCH.

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WATER MAINS WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT 2-24 AND 3-45 REPULSE BAY ROAD, ALL PREMISES ALONG SHOUSON HILL ROAD, SHOUSON HILL ROAD EAST, SHOUSON HILL ROAD WEST AND DEEP WATER BAY ROAD, AND 2 ISLAND ROAD, INCLUDING HONG KONG COUNTRY CLUB.

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