



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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OBJECTIVES OF ANTI-DRUGS BILL'S PROVISIONS EXPLAINED

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THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) BILL 1989 IS NOT DIRECTED SOLELY AT THE BANKING INSTITUTIONS AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR BANK EMPLOYEES TO FEAR THAT THEY WILL BE PUT INTO A DIFFICULT POSITION BY THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR BARNES SAID DURING THE DRAFTING AND CONSULTATION STAGES THERE HAD BEEN PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROVISIONS, NAMELY, CLAUSE 25.

A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO THE BILL FOLLOWING AN IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY BY AN OMELCO AD HOC GROUP, HE NOTED.

ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS REPLACED THE WORDS "KNOWING OR SUSPECTING" WITH "KNOWING OR HAVING REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE" IN SUBCLAUSE (1) OF CLAUSE 25.

POINTING OUT THE TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES OF CLAUSE 25, MR BARNES SAID: "IN CREATING AN OFFENCE WITH SUBSTANTIAL PENALTIES, IT IS INTENDED TO DENY DRUG TRAFFICKERS THE BANKING AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THROUGH WHICH THEIR PROFITS ARE CHANNELLED INTO LEGITIMATE INVESTMENTS.

"IN PROVIDING THE DEFENCE OF REPORTING, IT IS INTENDED THAT THE REPORTING OF SUSPICIONS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. THIS WILL ASSIST IN THE INVESTIGATION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCES."

MR BARNES SAID THE ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTED THE NEED TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHAT WAS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED, AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BE AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE.

OTHER POINTS ON CLAUSE 25 THAT WERE RAISED ADVOCATED THAT SPECIFIC DEFENCES SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR BANK EMPLOYEES, COMPLIANCE OFFICERS AND THE BANKS THEMSELVES.

"THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF AND APPRECIATES THE CONCERN FELT BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OVER THE LIABILITY OF THEIR EMPLOYEES," MR BARNES NOTED.

"HOWEVER, IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THE BILL PROVIDES NO DEFENCE FOR A PERSON PROSECUTED UNDER CLAUSE 25. SUBCLAUSE (4) PROVIDES THE DEFENCE THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT THAT THE ARRANGEMENT, AS DEFINED IN SUBCLAUSE (1), INTO WHICH HE ENTERED, RELATED TO THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING.

"IT ALSO PROVIDES THE DEFENCE THAT HE INTENDED TO REPORT THE MATTER TO AN AUTHORISED OFFICER BUT HAD A REASONABLE EXCUSE FOR NOT DOING SO," HE SAID.

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"IT IS TRUE THAT THESE DEFENCES ARE NOT DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR BANK TRANSACTIONS. BUT THE CLAUSE IS NOT DIRECTED SOLELY AT THE BANKS," MR BARNES EXPLAINED.

NEVERTHELESS, RECOGNISING THAT BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WOULD BE A MAJOR GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS TO BE AFFECTED, THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS AND THE HONG KONG DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ASSOCIATION, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, HAD DRAWN UP MODEL GUIDELINES WHICH WOULD BE RECOMMENDED TO THEIR MEMBER INSTITUTIONS.

"THESE GUIDELINES AIM TO ENSURE THAT INTERNAL PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE FOR INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBERS TO REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT TRANSACTIONS WHICH ARE SUSPECTED OR BELIEVED TO BE DRUG RELATED," MR BARNES SAID.

"IF THE SUSPICION OR BELIEF IS SHARED BY THE MANAGEMENT, AS REPRESENTED BY COMPLIANCE OFFICERS, IT WILL BE FURTHER REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITIES.

"WHERE SUCH GUIDELINES ARE IN PLACE IN AN INSTITUTION AND AN EMPLOYEE HAS FOLLOWED THEM IN GOOD FAITH, BUT A TAINTED TRANSACTION HAS NEVERTHELESS NOT BEEN RELAYED TO THE AUTHORITIES, THERE WOULD BE A GOOD CASE FOR HIM, IF INDEED HE WAS PROSECUTED AT ALL, TO INVOKE THE DEFENCE THAT HE HAD REASONABLE EXCUSE FOR FAILING TO REPORT SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES," HE EXPLAINED.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY SAID THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD INDICATED THAT REGARD WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE EXISTENCE AND CONTENT OF THE MODEL GUIDELINES WHEN CONSIDERING WHETHER TO PROSECUTE IN INDIVIDUAL CASES.

"BUT IT IS, OF COURSE, NOT POSSIBLE TO FETTER THE DISCRETION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHETHER OR NOT TO PROSECUTE," MR BARNES STRESSED.

ON A POINT RAISED THAT THE MODEL GUIDELINES DRAWN UP BY THE TWO ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO IN THE LEGISLATION, MR BARNES SAID IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEVISE A LEGISLATIVE SCHEME HAVING REFERENCES TO SUCH GUIDELINES WHICH COULD APPLY TO ALL PARTIES THAT MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY CLAUSE 25 OF THE BILL, AND WHICH WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPAIR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LEGISLATION.

ON THE NEED FOR SPECIFIC DEFENCES FOR COMPLIANCE OFFICERS AND THE BANKS THEMSELVES, MR BARNES SAID: "I DO NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ANY STATUTORY DEFENCE FOR THE COMPLIANCE OFFICER BECAUSE HE IS NOT A PERSON WHO WOULD ENTER INTO AN ARRANGEMENT AS SUCH AND HENCE WOULD NOT ATTRACT ANY LIABILITY, UNLESS COMPLICITY COULD BE PROVED ON HIS PART.

"FURTHERMORE, TO GIVE BLANKET IMMUNITY TO BANKS WHICH MIGHT BE TAINTED BY ANY OFFENCES COMMITTED BY COMPLIANCE OFFICERS WOULD BE UNSATISFACTORY, AS THIS WOULD CREATE A MAJOR LOOPHOLE, HAVING REGARD TO THE FACT THAT A COMPLIANCE OFFICER IS DESIGNATED BY THE INSTITUTION TO REPRESENT THE MANAGEMENT, AND GIVEN THE GENERAL ABSENCE OF LIABILITY ON HIS PART."

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ON A SUGGESTION TO SPECIFICALLY LIMIT THE APPLICATION OF THIS LAW TO TRANSACTIONS TAKING PLACE IN HONG KONG, MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT CLAUSE 25 CLEARLY STATED THAT A PERSON MUST ENTER INTO AN ARRANGEMENT BEFORE HE COULD COMMIT AN OFFENCE.

"THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE LAW TO STATE THAT ENTERING INTO AN ARRANGEMENT MUST TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG BECAUSE THERE IS A COMMON LAW PRESUMPTION THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF CLEAR AND COMPELLING WORDS, STATUTES WILL NOT BE GIVEN EXTRA-TERRITORIAL EFFECT," HE SAID.

"LAWS IN HONG KONG ARE ALL DRAFTED ON THE BASIS OF THIS PRESUMPTION AND THERE IS NO REASON TO DEPART FROM THE PRINCIPLE IN THIS CASE," HE ADDED.

"NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING CONCERN OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, I AGREE THAT THIS PART OF THE LEGISLATION SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES GAINED FROM ITS OPERATION AND THAT A REPORT SHOULD BE MADE TO THIS COUNCIL IN DUE COURSE," MR BARNES SAID.

TURNING TO CONCERN THAT THE OPERATION OF RESTRAINT ORDERS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO HURT BONA FIDE CREDITORS, MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE LEGISLATION.

"IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COURTS THAT RESTRAINT ORDERS MADE UNDER THE DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCES ACT, THE LEGISLATION CORRESPONDING TO OUR OWN BILL, OPERATE ON SIMILAR PRINCIPLES TO THE LEGALLY WELL KNOWN 'MAREVA' INJUNCTIONS IN CIVIL LAW.

"THUS, IN MAKING A RESTRAINT ORDER, THE COURT WILL ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT OPERATE OPPRESSIVELY AGAINST THIRD PARTY CREDITORS IN RESPECT OF A DEFENDANT'S BONA FIDE BUSINESS AND TRADE DEBTS, LIVING EXPENSES, LEGAL EXPENSES AND OTHER SIMILAR EXPENSES," HE SAID.

"PROVISION WILL BE MADE IN THE SUPREME COURT RULES FOR CONDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO RESTRAINT ORDERS. THE COURTS SHOULD THUS ENSURE THAT BONA FIDE CREDITORS ARE NOT PREJUDICED," HE ADDED.

OTHER AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE CHINESE TEXT OF THE BILL WHICH WAS THE RESULT OF PAINSTAKING WORK BY THE OMLECO SUB-GROUP ON THE CHINESE TEXT, MR BARNES SAID.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY POINTED OUT THAT THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, BEING JUSTIFIABLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CLAUSE 25 ON THEIR OPERATIONS, HAD ASKED THAT THE LEGISLATION SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS AFTER ITS ENACTMENT.

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"HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE MAJOR IMPACT OF THE LEGISLATION ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR ARISES ONLY FROM CLAUSE 25, AND CONSIDERING THE DESIRABILITY OF BRINGING THE OTHER PROVISIONS INTO EFFECT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, THE AD HOC GROUP AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE AGREED THAT CLAUSE 25 SHOULD COME INTO EFFECT ON A DATE LATER THAN THE MAIN PART OF THE LEGISLATION," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE 1986 DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCES ACT WAS AMENDED IN 1988 IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND SOME OF THESE AMENDMENTS, LARGELY REFINEMENTS, WERE CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR HONG KONG AND HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENTS.

THE BILL WAS PASSED.

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SPIRIT OF DRUG TRAFFICKING PROCEEDS BILL ENDORSED

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FULLY ENDORSED THE SPIRIT OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) BILL 1989, THE HON MARIA TAM TOLD THE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE SAID THE BILL AIMED AT CURBING MONEY LAUNDERING BY INTRODUCING NEW INVESTIGATIVE POWERS TO FACILITATE THE IDENTIFICATION OF PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND BY CREATING A NEW OFFENCE OF ASSISTING IN THE RETENTION AND CONCEALMENT OF SUCH PROCEEDS.

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MISS TAM SAID MEMBERS ALSO WELCOMED THE NEW INITIATIVES AIMED AT ATTACKING THE ASSETS OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND PREVENTING PROFITS DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING TO BE SIPHONED OFF TO OTHER, LEGITIMATE LINES OF BUSINESS.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE EXTENSIVE POWERS PROVIDED UNDER THE BILL ENABLING THE COURTS TO FREEZE AND CONFISCATE PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING, A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP WAS SET UP TO STUDY THE BILL, SHE SAID.

A CHINESE TEXT SUB-COMMITTEE WAS ALSO SET UP TO STUDY THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE BILL, WORKING ALONGSIDE THE GROUP.

THE AD HOC GROUP, OF WHICH MISS TAM WAS CONVENER, MET A TOTAL OF 15 TIMES -- FIVE TIMES WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, ONCE WITH THE BANKING SECTOR AND IN NINE INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS, BEFORE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE TO THE LEGCO IN-HOUSE MEETING.

THE CHINESE TEXT SUB-COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE HON MIRIAM LAU, MET 13 TIMES WITH LAW DRAFTSMEN FROM THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT BEFORE COMPLETING ITS TASK.

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AS A RESULT OF THEIR HARD WORK, MISS TAM SAID THE GROUP AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAD NOW AGREED ON A PACKAGE OF 21 AMENDMENTS TO THE ENGLISH VERSION AND 50 AMENDMENTS TO THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE BILL.

SHE NOTED THAT THIS PACKAGE OF AMENDMENTS REPRESENTED A COMPROMISE REACHED BETWEEN MANY DIFFERENT AND SOMETIMES CONFLICTING CONSIDERATIONS.

SHE ADDED: "WE BEGAN OUR TASK BY INVITING VIEWS FROM PROFESSIONAL BODIES INVOLVED IN EARLIER DRAFTING OF THE BILL. THESE INCLUDE THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS, THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES, THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION, THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG, AND THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS.

"WE RECEIVED LENGTHY AND DETAILED WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS FROM ALL THESE PROFESSIONAL BODIES, AND MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BANKING SECTOR TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN THE BILL AND THE CONTENTS OF THEIR GUIDELINES."

MISS TAM NOTED THAT THE GROUP'S MAIN CONCERN WAS THAT THOSE OFFERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THEIR CLIENTS IN GOOD FAITH SHOULD NOT BE UNFAIRLY PREJUDICED BY ANY DRACONIAN MEASURES OF THE LAW WHILST ON THE OTHER HAND THE LAW MUST BE MADE EFFECTIVE.

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POWERFUL WEAPON IN FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

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THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) BILL 1989, WHEN ENACTED, WILL BE A POWERFUL WEAPON IN HONG KONG'S FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND, IN PARTICULAR, AGAINST THE DRUG TRADE, THE HON DAVID LI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON IT, MR LI SAID HONG KONG MUST USE EVERY LEGITIMATE METHOD AT ITS DISPOSAL TO STAMP OUT THIS EVIL TRADE.

HE SAID THE FINANCIAL SECTOR RECOGNISED THAT IT HAD A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND IT WELCOMED THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE BILL.

"FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG ARE ALREADY DOING THEIR UTMOST TO ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THIS FIGHT, AND ARE PREPARED TO CO-OPERATE FULLY WITH THE AUTHORITIES," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR LI SAID THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY STILL HAD A NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS TO THE BILL WHICH THE GOVERNMENT, "MOST REGRETTABLY, HAS ADAMANTLY REFUSED TO ALTER".

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT A POINT OF CONCERN WAS THE ISSUE OF CRIMINAL LIABILITY IN HONG KONG.

"THE CURRENT DRAFT OF THE LEGISLATION FAILS TO CLARIFY WHAT THE TERRITORIAL LIMITATIONS OF THE BILL WILL BE AND WHETHER OR NOT PERSONS IN HONG KONG WILL BE HELD LIABLE FOR PARTICIPATING INDIRECTLY IN OR SIMPLY HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

"UNDER THE LEGISLATION AS NOW DRAFTED, BANKS WHICH RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OR MAKE CREDIT DECISIONS FOR BRANCHES OUTSIDE HONG KONG MAY INADVERTENTLY INCUR LIABILITY EVEN THOUGH THE ILLEGAL ACT TOOK PLACE ABROAD."

MR LI SAID A SIMPLE AMENDMENT SPECIFYING THAT THE LEGISLATION APPLIED ONLY TO TRANSACTIONS WITHIN THE TERRITORY WOULD REMOVE THIS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANOMALY.

"OTHERWISE, WE MAY FACE THE SITUATION WHERE THE HONG KONG-BASED REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FIND THEY ARE NOT ABLE OR NOT PREPARED TO EXERCISE FULL CONTROL OVER FOREIGN OFFICES," HE SAID.

MR LI SAID IT WAS CERTAINLY NOT THE WISH OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE BANKS TO MOVE THEIR REGIONAL HEAD OFFICES AWAY FROM HONG KONG, AS THIS WOULD UNDERMINE THE TERRITORY'S POSITION AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

IN ADDITION, THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF GUIDELINES, MR LI SAID, NOTING THAT IT WOULD GIVE THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY A FAR GREATER DEGREE OF COMFORT IF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BILL WERE REFERRED TO SPECIFICALLY IN THE LEGISLATION.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAD INDICATED THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO REVIEW THE BILL AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL INDUSTRY STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT A DATE SHOULD BE FIXED NOW FOR THIS REVIEW.

"THE REVIEW SHOULD OCCUR WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER THE LEGISLATION COMES INTO FORCE. IT SHOULD INVOLVE A THOROUGH, INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE OPERATION OF THE LAW, AND SHOULD RECOMMEND ANY AMENDMENTS NEEDED TO ELIMINATE AMBIGUITY AND IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF ENFORCEMENT," MR LI SAID.

CALL TO HIT DRUG TRAFFICKERS HARD

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THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) BILL 1989 SHOULD ALLOW LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ATTACK THE TRAFFICKERS WHERE IT HURTS, BY GETTING AT THE PROCEEDS, THE HON PETER WONG HONG-YUEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL WHEN DEBATE ON IT RESUMED. MR WONG SAID IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO STICK TO THE ORIGINAL MUCH HIGHER DUTY FROM BANKERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS TO REPORT ON MERE SUSPICION AND NOT THE LESSER DUTY OF "HAVING REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE".

HE SAID SINCE THE ADMINISTRATION WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS LESSER DUTY, HE WAS PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE MAJORITY BUT WOULD WATCH THE SUCCESS RATE OF THE LEGISLATION IN PUTTING THE "MR BIGS" OUT OF BUSINESS.

"WE SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE ALL APPROPRIATE MEANS TO TACKLE THIS HITHERTO UNSOLVABLE PROBLEM BECAUSE WE ONLY HAVE TO SEE THE WAY THE COCAINE BARONS OF SOUTH AMERICA OVERRIDE EVEN GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR PURSUIT OF THE FAST BUCK," HE SAID.

MR WONG ALSO SAID THAT IN CALCULATING THE MONETARY VALUE OF A RESTRAINT ORDER, THE VAGARIES OF SUCH AN EXERCISE COULD EASILY UNDER-ESTIMATE THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO SATISFY CREDITORS.

"I WOULD WELCOME AN ASSURANCE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION THAT PROCEDURES WILL BE PUT IN PLACE TO PREVENT SUCH AN UNFAIR TREATMENT," HE SAID.

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BILL PROVIDES TOUGHER SANCTIONS AGAINST INSIDER DEALING

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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) BILL 1989 IS TO PROVIDE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION OF INSIDER DEALING AND TO EMPOWER THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL TO IMPOSE SEVERE PENALTIES ON INSIDER DEALERS, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR NENDICK SAID IT INCORPORATED MANY OF THE EXISTING PROVISIONS IN PART XIII A OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN RELATION TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE TRIBUNAL, THE SCOPE OF ITS INQUIRY AND ITS POWERS OF INVESTIGATION.

"THE BILL ALSO INTRODUCES A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT CHANGES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT TRIBUNAL SYSTEM," HE SAID.

FIRST, THE BILL INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY THE SANCTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE IMPOSED BY THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL.

AT PRESENT, THE ONLY SANCTION AVAILABLE WAS PUBLIC CENSURE, BUT THIS WAS INADEQUATE AND MORE EFFECTIVE DETERRENTS WERE REQUIRED.

TO THIS END, MR NENDICK SAID, THE BILL EMPOWERED THE TRIBUNAL TO IMPOSE SEVERE PENALTIES ON PERSONS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN INSIDER DEALING, DISQUALIFY SUCH PERSONS FROM THE DIRECTORSHIP OR THE MANAGEMENT OF ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE COMPANY FOR UP TO FIVE YEARS, REQUIRE THE DISGORGEMENT OF ANY PROFIT MADE OR LOSS AVOIDED, AND IMPOSE A FINE OF UP TO THREE TIMES THE RELEVANT AMOUNT.

"WE BELIEVE THAT TOUGHER SANCTIONS COUPLED WITH THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE TRIBUNAL SYSTEM IS THE RIGHT APPROACH IN TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF INSIDER DEALING IN HONG KONG," THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

"HOWEVER, AS I HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY, WE HAVE NOT RULED OUT THE OPTION OF CRIMINALISATION ENTIRELY. WE SHALL REVIEW THE MATTER IN THREE YEARS' TIME IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE OF INCREASED TRIBUNAL SANCTIONS UNDER THE BILL," HE ADDED.

SECONDLY, THE BILL PROVIDED A MORE COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION OF INSIDER DEALING. IT NOW CAUGHT AS AN INSIDER A PERSON WHO WAS CONTEMPLATING OR HAD CONTEMPLATED A TAKEOVER BID AS WELL AS ANY PERSON INFORMED BY AN INSIDER, COMMONLY KNOWN AS A "TIPPEE".

"IT ALSO CATCHES DEALING IN THE SECURITIES OF A RELATED CORPORATION AND THE PROMOTION OF INSIDER DEALING ON AN OVERSEAS STOCK EXCHANGE," MR NENDICK EXPLAINED.

"MOREOVER, IT ADDS AN IMPORTANT NEW REQUIREMENT THAT AN INSIDER OR TIPPEE MUST KNOW THAT HE IS IN POSSESSION OF INSIDER INFORMATION," HE ADDED.

THIRDLY, THE BILL GRANTED A LIMITED RIGHT OF APPEAL. PERSONS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN INSIDER DEALING MIGHT APPEAL ON A POINT OF LAW TO THE COURT OF APPEAL.

"WE HAVE NOT PROPOSED A GENERAL RIGHT OF APPEAL BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THE TRIBUNAL IS BEST PLACED TO DECIDE ON THE FACTS OF THE CASE. THIS RIGHT WILL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE EXISTING RIGHT OF JUDICIAL REVIEW," MR NENDICK POINTED OUT.

FOURTHLY, THE BILL REQUIRED THAT SITTINGS OF THE TRIBUNAL BE HELD IN PUBLIC UNLESS THE TRIBUNAL CONSIDERED THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE, A SITTING, OR ANY PART THEREOF, SHOULD BE HELD IN PRIVATE.

"AT PRESENT, THE TRIBUNAL'S PROCEEDINGS ARE IN PRIVATE. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST FOR PROCEEDINGS TO BE HELD IN PUBLIC, AS IN THE CASE OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A COURT OF LAW," MR NENDICK SAID.

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FIFTHLY, THE BILL EMPOWERED THE TRIBUNAL TO ORDER A PERSON FOUND TO BE INVOLVED IN INSIDER DEALING TO PAY TO THE GOVERNMENT SUCH SUMS AS IT SAW FIT TOWARDS THE EXPENSES OF THE INQUIRY AND ANY RELATED INVESTIGATION CARRIED OUT BY THE TRIBUNAL.

"WE CONSIDER IT REASONABLE TO REQUIRE INSIDER DEALERS TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE TRIBUNAL'S EXPENSES," THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF INSIDER DEALING IN FUTURES CONTRACTS, MR NENDICK SAID DURING THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION BILL IN APRIL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD UNDERTAKEN TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION'S POWERS OF INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER INSIDER DEALING IN FUTURES CONTRACTS, AND TO REPORT BACK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"WE HAVE CONSIDERED WHETHER THE BILL BEFORE THIS COUNCIL SHOULD ALSO BRING FUTURES CONTRACTS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF INSIDER DEALING. THIS QUESTION RAISES A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE VERY CAREFUL EXAMINATION," HE SAID.

"FIRST OF ALL, THE DEFINITION OF 'RELEVANT INFORMATION' FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSIDER DEALING REQUIRES SOME ATTENTION. SHOULD THIS RELATE TO UNPUBLISHED PRICE-SENSITIVE INFORMATION ABOUT A CORPORATION, AN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, THE POLITICAL SITUATION OR THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE?

"SECONDLY, WE HAVE THE BURDEN OF PROOF. WHAT EVIDENCE IS REQUIRED TO SHOW A SUFFICIENT CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTICULAR INFORMATION AND A MATERIAL CHANGE OR LIKELY MATERIAL CHANGE IN THE PRICE OF A FUTURES CONTRACT?"

"THIRDLY, WE HAVE THE QUESTION OF SCOPE. SHOULD IT EMBRACE ALL FINANCIAL FUTURES OR JUST STOCK INDEX FUTURES CONTRACTS?" THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY ASKED.

"THESE ARE NOT EASY QUESTIONS TO ANSWER. AN INDICATION OF THE DIFFICULTY INVOLVED IS THAT FUTURES CONTRACTS ARE NOT CAUGHT BY THE EQUIVALENT U.S. LEGISLATION AND ONLY CAUGHT IN A VERY LIMITED WAY, IF AT ALL, BY THE UK LEGISLATION AS THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS HAVE YET TO BE TESTED BEFORE THE COURTS," MR NENDICK SAID.

"HAVING REGARD TO THE COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED AND THE NEED TO INTRODUCE TOUGHER PENALTIES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE QUESTION OF FUTURES CONTRACTS SHOULD NOT BE ADDRESSED IN THE PRESENT BILL," HE ADDED.

MR NENDICK SAID THE QUESTION WOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED WITH THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION IN THE LIGHT OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION IN OPERATION AND LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WOULD BE PREPARED IF AND WHEN THESE WERE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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REDUCTION OF NOISE NUISANCE THE AIM
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THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT)(NO.2) BILL 1989 SEEKS TO REDUCE NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY AUDIBLE BURGLAR ALARMS, 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 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY PEOPLE LIVING IN AREAS WHERE THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF SHOPS AND BUSINESSES, FREQUENTLY COMPLAINED OF THE NOISE CAUSED BY BURGLAR ALARMS.

"SUCH ALARMS OFTEN RING FOR VERY LONG PERIODS WHILE THE POLICE TRY TO CONTACT THE OCCUPIERS OF THE PREMISES CONCERNED TO ASK THEM TO TURN OFF THE ALARMS," HE SAID.

TO REDUCE THIS NOISE NUISANCE, THE BILL PROPOSED THAT ANY PERSON IN CONTROL OF AN ALARM SYSTEM MUST FIT A DEVICE TO THE SYSTEM TO CUT OFF THE AUDIBLE SIGNAL WITHIN 15 MINUTES OF IT FIRST RINGING.

"THE BILL FURTHER PROPOSES THAT THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR NOT FITTING SUCH A DEVICE SHOULD BE A FINE OF \$5,000 AND THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT," HE SAID.

"THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 50,000 AUDIBLE ALARMS IN HONG KONG.

"IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT, FOLLOWING ENACTMENT, THERE SHOULD BE A GRACE PERIOD OF ONE YEAR BEFORE THE BILL'S PROVISIONS COME INTO EFFECT.

"THE FITTING OF A CUT-OFF DEVICE TO AN AUDIBLE ALARM IS A SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE OPERATION."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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THREE MAIN ELEMENTS OF EMPLOYEE'S ENTITLEMENT PROTECTED
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THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND WILL NOW PROTECT THREE MAIN ELEMENTS OF AN EMPLOYEE'S ENTITLEMENT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE - WAGES IN ARREARS, WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K. Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, MR YEUNG ALSO ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REVIEW THE \$4,000 LIMIT PROPOSED IN THE BILL AFTER ONE YEAR IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE AND THE RESOURCES OF THE FUND.

ON MEMBERS' PROPOSAL THAT THE LIMIT OF PAYMENT BE RAISED FROM THE PROPOSED \$4,000 TO \$8,000, MR YEUNG SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND WAS TO PROVIDE QUICK RELIEF TO EMPLOYEES WHO HAD SUDDENLY LOST THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

"WHEN THE PROPOSED FIGURE OF \$4,000 FOR SEVERANCE PAYMENTS IS TAKEN TOGETHER WITH WAGES IN ARREARS AND WAGES PAYABLE IN LIEU OF NOTICE, THE IMMEDIATE RELIEF CAN BE AS HIGH AS \$14,000.

"SEEN IN THIS LIGHT, AND HAVING REGARD TO THE RESOURCES OF THE FUND, IT WOULD SEEM PRUDENT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO SET THE LIMIT FOR SEVERANCE PAYMENTS AT \$4,000 PER EMPLOYEE," MR YEUNG SAID.

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VITAL TO HAVE RESERVE FOR ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

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IT IS VITAL TO BUILD UP A RESERVE FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND TO CATER FOR A POSSIBLE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN THE EVENT OF WHICH PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND COULD INCREASE TREMENDOUSLY, THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHUNG, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND BOARD, SAID THIS IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE FUND TO COVER SEVERANCE PAYMENTS.

MR CHUNG SAID THE FUND AT PRESENT HAD AN ACCUMULATED SURPLUS OF ABOUT \$160 MILLION. NEVERTHELESS HE STRESSED THAT THE SURPLUS WAS THE RESULT OF ACCUMULATION OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS DURING WHICH HONG KONG ENJOYED AN ECONOMIC BOOM.

"THE ACCUMULATED SURPLUS SO FAR WOULD BE WIPED OUT BY PAYMENTS TO ABOUT 11,500 EMPLOYEES OR 0.4 PER CENT OF THE ENTIRE LABOUR FORCE OF ABOUT 2.7 MILLION IN A CERTAIN SCENARIO WHICH, OF COURSE, NO ONE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN," HE NOTED.

A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP WAS FORMED TO EXAMINE THE BILL AND TWO REPRESENTATIONS FROM CONCERNED LABOUR ORGANISATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED, MAINLY ON THE SETTING OF THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF PAYMENT FOR EACH APPLICANT. THE GROUPS REQUESTED THAT THE LIMIT SHOULD BE SET AT \$8,000 AND \$16,000 RESPECTIVELY.

THE AD HOC GROUP, HAVING DULY CONSIDERED THE VIEWS CONVEYED IN SUCH REPRESENTATIONS, THE VIEWS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE FUND AND THE SEEMINGLY UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AHEAD, HAD AGREED TO TAKE A CAUTIOUS APPROACH BY SETTING THE LIMIT AT \$4,000 AS PROPOSED IN THE BILL, SUBJECT TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROMISE TO REVIEW THE SITUATION ONE YEAR AFTER THE EXTENSION CAME INTO EFFECT, MR CHUNG SAID.

/HE RECALLED

HE RECALLED THAT WHEN THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY ORDINANCE CAME INTO EFFECT IN APRIL 1985, IT ONLY PROVIDED FOR PAYMENT OF WAGES IN ARREARS ON THE INSOLVENCY OF EMPLOYERS. EMPLOYEES MIGHT SEEK PAYMENT FROM THE FUND OF AN AMOUNT UP TO FOUR MONTHS' WAGES BUT NOT EXCEEDING \$8,000.

IN JULY 1987, THE FUND WAS EXTENDED TO COVER SEVEN DAYS' WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE OR AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000.

HE WELCOMED THE BILL WHICH WOULD GIVE ADDED PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES.

AFTER THE EXTENSION TO COVER SEVERANCE PAYMENT, THE FUND'S CURRENT MAXIMUM LIMIT OF PAYMENT PER APPLICANT WOULD AMOUNT TO \$14,000, INCLUSIVE OF \$8,000 AS ARREARS OF WAGES, \$2,000 AS WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE AND \$4,000 AS SEVERANCE PAYMENT.

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FREEZE ON EXISTING DEVELOPMENT DENSITY NECESSARY

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A FREEZE ON THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT DENSITY IN MANY AREAS OF KOWLOON AFFECTED BY A RELAXATION OF EXISTING AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS (AHR) WAS NECESSARY TO AVOID UNACCEPTABLE STRAIN ON THE ALREADY OVERLOADED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THESE AREAS, THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE TEMPORARY CONTROL OF DENSITY OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT (KOWLOON) BILL 1989, MR CHENG, THE CONVENER OF AN AD HOC GROUP FORMED TO SCRUTINISE THE BILL, SAID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PHASE II REVIEW BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT ON THE AHR WOULD LEAD TO A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN EXISTING PLOT RATIO.

HE NOTED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE AREAS WITH RELAXED AHR TO THEIR MAXIMUM PERMITTED DENSITY UNDER THE NEW AHR WOULD PUT SEVERE STRAIN ON THE EXISTING AND PLANNED INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

ALSO, IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT LAND WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS AND OTHER FACILITIES TO CATER FOR THE ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT DENSITY THAT THE RELAXED AHR WOULD PERMIT, HE ADDED.

MR CHENG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS HIGHLY CONCERNED THAT THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN PLOT RATIO ARISING FROM THE RELAXED AHR WOULD GIVE DEVELOPERS A SIGNIFICANT INCENTIVE TO DEVELOP OR REDEVELOP TO THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED DENSITY, THUS CAUSING UNACCEPTABLE STRAIN ON THE ALREADY OVERLOADED INFRASTRUCTURE IN KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON.

/"ALTHOUGH IT

"ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA ON THE PROPERTY MARKET, MEMBERS SHARE THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW THAT A FREEZE ON THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT DENSITY IS NECESSARY UNTIL A COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING STRATEGY FOR THE METROPOLITAN AREA IS FORMULATED BY THE METROPLAN," HE NOTED.

THE PRESENT INTENTION WAS THAT THE BILL WOULD EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1990, UNLESS EXTENDED BY A RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHENG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP HAD QUESTIONED THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE RELAXED AHR ON THE FLIGHT PATH OF THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT.

"THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ASSURED MEMBERS THAT ALTHOUGH THE REVIEW OF AHR IS DONE AS A SEPARATE EXERCISE FROM THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STUDY, JUDGING FROM THE LOCATIONS OF THE SHORTLISTED REPLACEMENT AIRPORTS, THE RELAXATION OF AHR RESULTING FROM THE REVIEW WILL NOT CAUSE OBSTACLE PROBLEMS TO THE NEW AIRPORT," MR CHENG NOTED.

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TERRITORIAL RAIL STRATEGY STUDY PLANNED

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT A TERRITORIAL RAIL STRATEGY STUDY WILL BE CARRIED OUT THIS YEAR TO ASSESS THE RAIL PROJECTS PROPOSED BY THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY (CTS-2).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY, MR LEUNG SAID THE STUDY WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A FREIGHT LINE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST WAS SHOWN ON THE RAIL PROPOSALS.

WHETHER THE NORTHWEST URBAN RAIL LINK SHOULD TERMINATE IN YUEN LONG OR TUEN MUN WOULD BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS OF A TERRITORIAL RAIL STRATEGY STUDY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR RESPECTIVE ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY AND FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY.

REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DEDICATED RAIL LINK TO SERVE THE FUTURE AIRPORT, MR LEUNG SAID THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A LINK WAS NOW BEING EXAMINED IN PADS.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE CO-ORDINATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, MR LEUNG SAID: "NOT ONLY WOULD UNFETTERED COMPETITION ADD TO CONGESTION IN AREAS OF HIGH DEMAND, THE RESULTANT WASTEFUL USE OF RESOURCES IS LIABLE TO START A VICIOUS CIRCLE LEADING EVENTUALLY TO HIGHER FARES ON ALL MODES, FEWER CHOICE AND INADEQUATE SERVICES FOR THE LESS POPULATED AREAS."

/BUT,

BUT, MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THE CO-ORDINATION POLICY DID PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO CHANGING DEMAND.

CITING AN EXAMPLE OF THE FLEXIBLE APPLICATION OF THE CO-ORDINATION POLICY, MR LEUNG SAID THAT TO COPE WITH THE MTR CONGESTION PROBLEM DURING THE RUSH HOURS, BUS SERVICES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED ALONG THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR TO GIVE AN ALTERNATIVE FOR MTR COMMUTERS.

"THERE IS, HOWEVER, A PRACTICAL LIMIT TO HOW FAR WE CAN GO. ONCE IMPORTANT CONSTRAINT IS THE SHORTAGE OF BUS TERMINUS IN THE URBAN CENTRES," HE SAID.

TURNING TO RAIL SERVICES, HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW REVIEWING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION.

FULL ACCOUNT OF VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN, INCLUDING THE OPERATION OF RAILWAYS, THE INTERFACE WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATIONS, THE MONITORING AND CONTROL AND BROAD STRATEGIES.

ON BUS SERVICES, HE SAID THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE IMPROVED AND EXPANDED TO MEET THE TRAVELING DEMANDS OF NEW DEVELOPMENT AREAS, AND IMPROVED TO SATISFY THE PUBLIC'S GROWING EXPECTATIONS.

AS REGARDS FERRY SERVICES, MR LEUNG STRESSED THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROMOTE FERRY SERVICES WHEREVER PRACTICABLE TO HELP RELIEVE ROAD CONGESTION.

HOWEVER, RECENT STUDIES HAD SHOWN VERY LIMITED SCOPE FOR FERRY EXPANSION.

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COMPUTER ASSISTS IN FLEXIBLE ADJUSTMENT OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES

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THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES CAN BE ADJUSTED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FUTURE CHANGES IN TRANSPORT DEMANDS AND DEVELOPMENTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY IN HONG KONG.

MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS EQUIPPED WITH AN ENHANCED COMPUTER TRANSPORT PLANNING MODEL TO FACILITATE UPDATING THE DATA BASE.

/SHOULD THERE

SHOULD THERE BE ANY SLOWDOWN IN THE RATE OF INCREASE OF PRIVATE CARS OR CHANGES IN TRAVEL DEMAND THESE WOULD BE FED INTO THE COMPUTER TO ASSIST A FLEXIBLE ADJUSTMENT OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE ROAD AND RAIL PROJECTS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER WERE REQUIRED NO MATTER WHERE THE AIRPORT WOULD BE RELOCATED ALTHOUGH ADJUSTMENTS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO THE TIMING AND SCALE OF SOME OF THE PROPOSED PROJECTS.

THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME WAS ALSO INTENDED TO IMPROVE THE NEED FOR LINKING THE NEW TOWNS AND THE URBAN CENTRES, AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL HARBOUR CROSSINGS AND CROSS BORDER LINKS.

WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, KWUN TONG BYPASS, THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, ROUTE 5 AND THE WIDENING OF TAI PO ROAD, THE NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT LINKS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE TERRITORY WOULD BE WELL-ESTABLISHED BY THE EARLY 1990s.

REGARDING THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF THE LOCAL AND DISTRIBUTOR ROADS, MR LEUNG STRESSED THAT MANY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FORM OF FLYOVERS AND ROAD WIDENING SCHEMES AT A TOTAL COST OF OVER \$3 BILLION HAD BEEN PROPOSED.

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USE OF GOODS VANS TO BE DISCOURAGED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE MEASURES TO DISCOURAGE THE USE OF GOODS VANS AS A CHEAP SUBSTITUTE FOR PRIVATE CARS, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THE TRUCKING TRADE MUST ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO USE ITS VEHICLES EFFICIENTLY AND OUTSIDE THE PEAK HOURS.

"ON CERTAIN ROADS, THE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF GOODS DURING SPECIFIC HOURS IS ALREADY PROHIBITED BY MEANS OF CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS," MR LEUNG SAID.

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A RAPID GROWTH IN GOODS VEHICLE TRAFFIC AND THEIR DOMINANT USE OF ROAD SPACE, MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THESE VEHICLES WOULD REMAIN THE MAIN CARRIERS OF INTERNAL GOODS.

HE SAID THE SCOPE OF HANDLING INTERNAL FREIGHT THROUGH RAIL AND WATERBORNE TRANSPORT WAS LIMITED AS THIS WOULD INVOLVE DOUBLE HANDLING FROM RAIL OR BARGE TO LORRIES TO FINAL DESTINATIONS AND VICE VERSA.

/GIVEN THE

GIVEN THE SMALL SIZE OF THE TERRITORY AND THE SHORTAGE OF RAIL FREIGHT YARDS AND WHARFAGE AND ASSOCIATED CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES, THE FREIGHT HANDLERS AND CONSIGNEES WOULD PREFER THE DIRECT DOOR TO DOOR SERVICE OFFERED BY GOODS VEHICLES.

THERE WAS ALSO VERY LIMITED SCOPE FOR EXPANDING THE FREIGHT HANDLING CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING RAILWAY LINE, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF PLANNING, MR LEUNG EMPHISED THAT EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION WOULD NOT ONLY REDUCE PRESSURE ON OUR TRANSPORT SYSTEM BUT ALSO PRODUCE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT.

HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE TRANSPORT BRANCH AND DEPARTMENTS WERE WORKING CLOSELY WITH TRANSPORT AND LAND PLANNERS ON PADS, METROPLAN AND MAJOR RECLAMATION STUDIES.

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RAILWAY SYSTEMS SHOULD BE FURTHER EXTENDED
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HONG KONG'S RAILWAY SYSTEMS, WHICH HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR SUCCESS IN REDUCING SUBSTANTIALLY THE CONGESTION PROBLEM ON ROAD NETWORKS, SHOULD BE FURTHER EXTENDED, THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY, MR CHENG SAID HE LENT HIS SUPPORT TO THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY TO TSEUNG KWAN O (JUNK BAY) WHICH WAS NECESSARY TO MEET THE ANTICIPATED HIGH CONCENTRATION OF POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT.

"THIS WILL NOT ONLY HELP ATTRACT PEOPLE TO MOVE INTO THE NEW TOWN BUT WILL GREATLY IMPROVE THE MOBILITY OF THE 270,000 RESIDENTS THE TOWN IS EXPECTED TO HOUSE BY 2001," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, MR CHENG SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER EXTENDING THE MTR LINE TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENNEDY TOWN WHERE TRAFFIC CONGESTION POSED A SEVERE HEADACHE FOR BOTH PASSENGERS AND DRIVERS ALIKE.

"MOST OF US WOULD AGREE THAT WITHOUT SUCH AN MTR LINE, THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN THAT PART OF HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE EASILY RESOLVED.

"AS WE ARE AWARE, THE WESTERN DISTRICT IS BEING REVIVED AS ONE OF OUR MAJOR COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS ON HONG KONG ISLAND," HE SAID.

MR CHENG SAID HE FULLY AGREED WITH THE GREEN PAPER THAT THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED FOR A NEW RAIL HARBOUR CROSSING TO MEET THE RAPID GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR CROSS HARBOUR PASSENGER TRIPS.

/THE SUGGESTION

THE SUGGESTION FOR AN MTR HARBOUR CROSSING FROM YAU MA TEI TO FORTRESS AS THE NEXT RAIL HARBOUR CROSSING PROVIDED AN ACCEPTABLE OPTION AS IT WOULD BRING RELIEF TO THE HEAVILY CONGESTED NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

"BESIDES, THE INTERMEDIATE KCR/MTR INTERCHANGE STATION AT HUNG HOM WHICH IS INCLUDED IN THIS DESIGNATED RAIL HARBOUR CROSSING WOULD RELIEVE THE CURRENTLY OVERLOADED INTERCHANGE AT KOWLOON TONG AND WOULD MAXIMISE THE USE OF THE KCR LINE FROM KOWLOON TONG TO HUNG HOM," HE ADDED.

MR CHENG ALSO SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER TWO RAILWAY PROPOSALS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN THE GREEN PAPER.

THE FIRST ONE WAS THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION'S REPORTED PLANS TO EXTEND ITS RAIL SYSTEM FROM HUNG HOM TO HAPPY VALLEY OR CAUSEWAY BAY.

"THIS IS A CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION WHICH WOULD HELP RELIEVE THE SEEMINGLY NEVER ENDING CONGESTION PROBLEM AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND AT THE SAME TIME, WOULD ALSO UTILISE EFFECTIVELY THE SECTION OF THE KCR LINE FROM KOWLOON TONG TO HUNG HOM, A SECTION WHICH IS AT PRESENT UNDER-USED," HE SAID.

MR CHENG SAID THE SECOND PROPOSAL WAS A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM BEING PROPOSED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO LINK THE SOUTH OF HONG KONG ISLAND TO CENTRAL THROUGH A TUNNEL AND FOLLOWING A ROUTE SIMILAR TO THE PEAK TRAM'S.

HR COMMENTED: "THIS PROPOSAL, IF APPROVED, WILL EASE TRAFFIC DEMANDS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, ESPECIALLY IN THE DENSELY POPULATED WAH FU AND POK FU LAM WHERE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IS SUCH A COMMON EYESORE.

"THIS PROJECT SHOULD THEREFORE BE ENCOURAGED AND ITS CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED.

"WE MUST APPRECIATE THAT ANY PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN A PROJECT OF THIS MAGNITUDE IS BVIOUSLY A SIGN OF DEMONSTRATING A FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG."

IN CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, MR CHENG APPLAUDED THE GREEN PAPER'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROUTE 3 HIGHWAY FROM THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF HONG KONG ISLAND THROUGH THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND WEST KOWLOON TO YUEN LONG; AND THE ROUTE 7 HIGHWAY FROM THE END OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR THROUGH THE PLANNED CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION TO WESTERN DISTRICT AND ROUND THE COAST TO ABERDEEN.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT THE WORK ON THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION SHOULD COMMENCE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY TO ACCOMMODATE THIS MAJOR ROAD SYSTEM," HE NOTED.

TRANSPORT PROPOSALS WILL STIMULATE EXPANSION
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THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD IN THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY AND THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WOULD, IF IMPLEMENTED, STIMULATE DOMESTIC EXPANSION ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE, THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR TAI WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY.

HE SAID THE EFFICIENCY OF HONG KONG'S EXPORT AND RE-EXPORT PERFORMANCE OVER THE YEARS HAD NOT GENERALLY BEEN MATCHED BY WHAT HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR MEETING THE TERRITORY'S TRAFFIC AND SEWERAGE NEEDS.

WITH THE SPENDING ON INFRASTRUCTURES LAGGING BEHIND THE ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE, THERE WAS A PRESSING NEED TO BRING THE CONGESTED HONG KONG AND ITS INADEQUATE RURAL COMMUNICATION NETWORK INTO THE 20TH CENTURY.

"IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT CAUSED TO HONG KONG BY RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA AND TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST ANY UNFAVOURABLE GLOBAL REACTIONS THAT COULD AFFECT HONG KONG'S OPEN ECONOMY, THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS SHOULD ENCOURAGE AND STIMULATE DOMESTIC GROWTH IN THE 1990'S THUS PROVIDING US WITH AN ECONOMIC BUFFER," HE SAID.

MR TAI ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD PAID LITTLE ATTENTION IN THE PAST TO THE OCCUPATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESIDENTS WHEN DEVELOPING NEW TOWNS.

THE RESULT WAS THAT OVER 40 PER CENT OF THE WORKING POPULATION RESIDING IN NEW TOWNS HAD TO TRAVEL TO THE URBAN AREA FOR WORK, THUS CREATING UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP FOR THESE PEOPLE AND IT ALSO CAUSED EXCESSIVE CONGESTION ON THE ROADS.

HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT IN THE INCEPTION STAGE OF PREPARING TOWN PLANS AND IN SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICES SUCH AS TOWN PLANNING, TRANSPORT BRANCH, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH.

HE URGED THAT THIS SUGGESTION BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IN THE GOVERNMENT'S RURAL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY.

TURNING TO THE TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES, MR TAI SUGGESTED THAT AN EARLY COMMITMENT BE MADE TO PROJECTS SUCH AS ROUTE 5 AND THE RAIL-LINK FOR PASSENGER AND CONTAINER FREIGHT TRAFFIC.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING BETTER USE OF FERRY SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

SEPARATE FREIGHT RAILWAY LINE SUGGESTED

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THE HON EDWARD HO TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ENDORSED A PROPOSAL IN THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY ON EXPANDING THE EXISTING RAIL SERVICES. HOWEVER, HE MADE A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY HAD SERVED WELL THE NORTH EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND PART OF KOWLOON, IT WAS CONSTRAINED BY FREIGHT SERVICES AND INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER SERVICES WHICH INHIBITED MORE FREQUENT AND BETTER SERVICES FOR COMMUTERS.

"IN THE LONG TERM, WE MUST CONSIDER A SEPARATE LINE FOR FREIGHT AND INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER TRAVEL FOR THE RAILWAY," HE SAID.

IN TERMS OF FREIGHT, MR HO SAID, THE GREEN PAPER HAD NOTED THAT IN 1986 GOODS VEHICLES CONSTITUTED 42 PER CENT OF ROAD TRAFFIC AND IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THESE VEHICLES WOULD CONSTITUTE 51 PER CENT OF ROAD TRAFFIC BY 2001.

"THIS IS AN INORDINATE PROPORTION OF ROAD USAGE BY GOODS VEHICLES. THEREFORE, MORE FREIGHT SHOULD BE TRANSPORTED BY RAIL, TAKING PRESSURE OFF THE ROAD.

"IN THIS REGARD, IT IS NOT APPARENT IN THE GREEN PAPER WHAT PROPOSALS GOVERNMENT HAS TOWARDS IMPROVING FREIGHT TRANSPORT ON THE RAIL SYSTEM," HE COMMENTED.

MR HO DID NOT AGREE WITH THE GREEN PAPER'S SUGGESTION THAT THE "PARK-AND-RIDE" METHOD WAS UNLIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE IN HONG KONG BECAUSE MOST OF THE COMMUTING DISTANCES WERE TOO SHORT.

"I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY, JUST TO TAKE ONE EXAMPLE, A PUBLIC CARPARK CANNOT BE BUILT NEAR THE CHOI HUNG MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION SO THAT PRIVATE CAR DRIVERS CAN TAKE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY FOR ONWARD JOURNEY," HE NOTED.

MR HO QUESTIONED THE GREEN PAPER'S SUGGESTION THAT THE OBSTACLES TO THE "PARK-AND-RIDE" METHOD WERE THAT PARKING CHARGES WERE USUALLY HIGH, AND THAT THE "PARK-AND-RIDE" METHOD WOULD IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON THE ALREADY CONGESTED RAIL CORRIDORS DURING THE PEAK PERIODS.

"I FIND THAT THESE ARGUMENTS ARE HARD TO ACCEPT FOR THE COST OF CARPARKS CAN OFFSET CAPITAL COSTS OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION, AND IF THE RAIL SYSTEM IS INADEQUATE, THEN MORE LINES SHOULD BE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE," HE SAID.

MR HO ALSO SAID THE GREEN PAPER HAD DEVOTED VERY LITTLE ATTENTION IN TERMS OF TRANSPORT PROVISIONS TO THE THIRD PHASE OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O (JUNK BAY) NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT, THE EXPANSION OF TIN SHUI WAI AND MA ON SHAN, WHICH WERE ALL POTENTIAL AREAS WHERE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WOULD RELY HEAVILY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1989

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CURB ON TRUCKS AND VANS URGED

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VANS AND SMALL TRUCKS DO NOT MEET THE PRINCIPLE OF ECONOMICAL USE OF ROAD SPACE, AND A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY TO CONTROL THE INCREASE OF TRUCKS AND VANS MUST BE MAPPED OUT, THE HON DAVID CHEUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY, MR CHEUNG DOUBTED WHETHER THE TWO-FOLD INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUCKS, VANS INCLUDED, IN THE PAST DECADE WAS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO NEED AND DEMAND.

"MANY OWNERS CUM DRIVERS OF THESE TRUCKS AND VANS SIMPLY USE THESE TRUCKS AND VANS AS MEANS OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT, AND IN THE BUSY DISTRICTS OF HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND EVEN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MANY TRUCKS AND VANS LIE IDLE IN THE STREETS WAITING TO BE CALLED," HE OBSERVED.

MOREOVER, THE PARKING OF THESE TRUCKS AND VANS IN THE STREETS, DOUBLE AND TRIPLE PARKING AT TIMES, WAS A GREAT HINDRANCE TO TRAFFIC FLOW.

HE BELIEVED ONE OBVIOUS REASON FOR VANS BEING USED AS PRIVATE CARS WAS THE LOWER TAXATION ENJOYED BY THE VANS.

"VANS HAVE INDEED BEEN USED NOT ONLY AS PRIVATE CARS BUT ALSO AS MINI-SHOPS FOR SELLING CLOTHES, FRUITS, VEGETABLES, LUNCH BOXES, TEA, COFFEE AND SNACKS. THEY ENJOY THE ADVANTAGE OF MOBILITY, ECONOMY OF SPACE, RENT FREE AND STORAGE WHEN NOT IN USE," HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG ALSO STRESSED THAT WHEREVER THE NEW AIRPORT MIGHT BE LOCATED, A RAIL LINK WAS ESSENTIAL IN TERMS OF THE POSSIBLE VOLUME OF CARGO AND THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS AND OTHER PEOPLE GOING TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT.

THE BURDEN OF ROAD TRAFFIC WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY RELIEVED BY A RAIL LINK, HE SAID.

"TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO USE RAIL, CHECK-IN FACILITIES IN THE RAILWAY TERMINAL MUST BE AVAILABLE SO THAT PASSENGERS COULD CHECK IN THEIR LUGGAGE AND THEN TAKE THE COMFORTABLE TRAIN RIDE TO THE AIRPORT WITHOUT THE NEED OF CARRYING THEIR LUGGAGE ON TO THE TRAIN," HE POINTED OUT.

FINALLY, MR CHEUNG SAID FURTHER THOUGHT MUST BE GIVEN TO THE REGIONALISATION OF SCHOOLS.

HE REGRETTED THAT THERE WAS STILL TOO MUCH CROSS-REGION SCHOOL ALLOCATION, RESULTING IN TOO MANY STUDENTS STILL HAVING TO TRAVEL SOME DISTANCE TO SCHOOL.

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LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE ON RENT CONTROL EXPLAINED

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THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE IS TO ACCELERATE THE PHASING OUT OF RENT CONTROL, PROVIDED THAT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP CAN BE AVOIDED.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING A RESOLUTION TO EFFECT CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE.

THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED.

MR BARNES SAID AMENDING LEGISLATION HAD BEEN PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EACH YEAR SINCE 1981 FOR PRE-WAR PREMISES, AND EACH YEAR SINCE 1983 FOR POST-WAR ONES.

THIS WAS DONE TO RAISE THE CONTROLLED RENTS PROGRESSIVELY, BRINGING THEM CLOSER TO PREVAILING MARKET LEVELS AND EVENTUAL DECONTROL.

"THE FIRST PROPOSAL IN THE RESOLUTION IS TO RAISE THE PERMITTED RENT OF PRE-WAR PREMISES COVERED BY PART I OF THE ORDINANCE, TO A MORE REALISTIC LEVEL," HE SAID.

"RENTS OF PRE-WAR PREMISES ARE DERIVED FROM A STANDARD RENT AS AT DECEMBER 25, 1941. THE CURRENT PERMITTED RENT IS SET AT 39 TIMES THIS LEVEL, AND IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO INCREASE THIS WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, TO 43 TIMES THE STANDARD RENT.

"THIS CHANGE WOULD BRING THE AVERAGE PERMITTED RENT OF PRE-WAR PREMISES UP FROM 71 PER CENT TO 79 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET LEVEL.

"IT WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT, OR \$150 PER MONTH, ON CURRENT PERMITTED RENTS AND WOULD AFFECT ABOUT 1,350 DOMESTIC PREMISES."

MR BARNES SAID THE SECOND PROPOSAL IN THE RESOLUTION WAS TO RAISE THE SO-CALLED "MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT" IN THE RENT INCREASE MECHANISM THAT APPLIED TO POST-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES PROTECTED UNDER PART II OF THE ORDINANCE TO 65 PER CENT EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 19, 1989.

"RENT INCREASES PERMITTED IN RESPECT OF TENANCIES PROTECTED UNDER PART II OF THE ORDINANCE, ARE LIMITED TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CURRENT RENT AND THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT, BUT SUBJECT TO A CEILING OF 30 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT RENT," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, IF THE NEW RENT CALCULATED ACCORDING TO THIS FORMULA IS LESS THAN A SPECIFIED PERCENTAGE (AT PRESENT 60 PER CENT) OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT THE PERMITTED RENT INCREASE WOULD BE THE AMOUNT WHICH WILL BRING THE NEW RENT UP TO THIS MINIMUM PERCENTAGE."

/MR BARNES

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MR BARNES SAID THE THIRD PROPOSAL IN THE RESOLUTION SOUGHT TO FURTHER EXTEND THE LIFE OF PART II OF THE ORDINANCE, FROM DECEMBER 19, 1989 TO DECEMBER 18, 1991.

"PART II OF THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES PROTECTION OF RENT CONTROL AND SECURITY OF TENURE TO ABOUT 60,000 POST-WAR DOMESTIC TENANCIES, PLUS AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF SUB-TENANCIES," HE SAID.

"AS EXPLAINED EARLIER, IF PART II IS ALLOWED TO EXPIRE AFTER DECEMBER 18, 1989, THE TENANTS CONCERNED WILL FACE, ON AVERAGE, AN IMMEDIATE RENT INCREASE OF MORE THAN 35 PER CENT AND IN SOME CASES, OF MORE THAN 100 PER CENT."

MR BARNES SAID THE RENT CONTROLS WOULD BE REVIEWED AGAIN NEXT YEAR, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE STATE OF THE PROPERTY MARKET AND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES.

"ANY FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS DECONTROL WILL BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THE SITUATION AT THAT TIME," HE ADDED.

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NEW PEAK TRAMWAY BY-LAWS APPROVED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED THE PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY BY-LAWS FOR THE MODERNISED TRAMWAY.

MOVING A MOTION UNDER THE PEAK TRAMWAY ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THE COMPANY REQUIRED A NEW SET OF BY-LAWS TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF PASSENGERS OR THOSE IN THE VICINITY OF TRAMWAY PREMISES SUCH AS STOPS WHEN ITS MODERNISED TRAMWAY STARTED OPERATION EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE BY-LAWS ALSO SET OUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ISSUE OF PASSENGER TICKETS, THE PAYMENT OF FARES AND THE HANDLING OF LOST PROPERTY.

THEY ALSO PROHIBITED THE CARRIAGE OF FIREARMS AND DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES IN TRAMWAY PREMISES.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES AND THE PENALTIES FOR THE CONTRAVENTION OF THE BY-LAWS WERE ALSO PRESCRIBED.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY WOULD BE A FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

THE EXISTING PEAK TRAMWAY BY-LAWS, WHICH WERE MADE IN 1923, WOULD BE REPEALED.

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ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN PRIVATE SECTOR INCREASE

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ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE CONTINUED TO INCREASE AND THEY NOW ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT HALF OF ALL THE ALLEGATIONS INVOLVING CORRUPTION RECEIVED BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC).

DR THE HON DANIEL TSE SAID THIS WHEN TABLING THE 1988 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ICAC IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NOTING THAT CASES INVOLVING CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WERE COMPLEX, DR TSE SAID THE INVESTIGATIONS MADE BY THE ICAC'S OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT OFTEN TOOK CONSIDERABLE TIME TO COMPLETE, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE HIGH CASELOAD WHICH THE DEPARTMENT CARRIED FORWARD FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

MEANWHILE, HE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN A DECLINE OF TWO PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF CORRUPTION REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE ICAC IN 1988 OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THIS SHOWED THAT THE HEALTHY TREND OF PREVIOUS YEARS, WITH A STEADILY REDUCING NUMBER OF REPORTS INVOLVING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PUBLIC BODIES, HAD CONTINUED.

DR TSE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS THAT PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES MADE TO THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION DEPARTMENT OF THE ICAC FOR ADVICE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES HAD INCREASED BY 44 PER CENT DURING THE YEAR.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE TRENDS IN RESPECT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR REFLECTED THE SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OF THE ICAC'S COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATING THE PUBLIC AGAINST CORRUPTION, TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO REPORT THEIR SUSPICIONS TO THE ICAC, RATHER THAN AN INDICATION OF MORE CORRUPT ACTIVITY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

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'CAVEAT EMPTOR' APPLIES

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THE GOVERNMENT NEITHER ENCOURAGES NOR DISCOURAGES EMIGRATION CONSULTANTS SETTING UP BUSINESS IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NOR DID THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGE OR DISCOURAGE HONG KONG PEOPLE FROM USING THEIR SERVICES, MR TSAO SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER WONG.

/MR WONG

MR WONG HAD ASKED WHAT CONSUMER PROTECTION MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO PROTECT PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM EMIGRATION SPECIALISTS WHO "HAWKED THEIR SKILLS AND WARES FOR REWARD IN HONG KONG".

"THIS IS AN AREA OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS WHERE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE MUST BE CAVEAT EMPTOR, I.E. LET BUYERS BEWARE," MR TSAO SAID.

"THE SERVICES AVAILABLE VARY FROM FILLING FORMS OUTSIDE CONSULATES TO MAPPING OUT AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY TO QUALIFY AS AN INVESTOR.

"THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO CONSULT, ON WHAT TO CONSULT, AND HOW MUCH IT IS REASONABLE TO PAY FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED, MUST BE ONE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL TO MAKE.

"I CAN ONLY SUGGEST THAT THE BEST ADVICE CAN PROBABLY BE PROVIDED BY THE CONSULATE OF THE COUNTRY CONCERNED.

"OF COURSE, IF THERE IS ANY EVIDENCE OF A CRIMINAL ACT SUCH AS FRAUD OR DECEPTION, THEN A REPORT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE POLICE."

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PM DOES NOT NEED SPECIFIC INVITATION

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THE PRIME MINISTER, AS INDEED ANY MINISTER OF THE CROWN, IS ALWAYS WELCOME TO VISIT HONG KONG AND DOES NOT NEED A SPECIFIC INVITATION TO DO SO.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SELINA CHOW.

MRS CHOW HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, TO VISIT HONG KONG DURING HER PLANNED VISIT TO KUALA LUMPUR IN OCTOBER FOR THE MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY HEADS.

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ENERGY POLICY HAS SERVED HK WELL

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS CURRENT ENERGY POLICY WHICH, LARGELY BASED ON THE OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES, HAS SERVED HONG KONG WELL, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN NORMAL TIMES WHEN SUPPLIES ARE ADEQUATE WE DO NOT WISH TO BE SO RESTRICTIVE THAT INDUSTRIES ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IN ANY WAY," MR NENDICK SAID IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM PROF THE HON C. K. POON.

"IT IS ALSO NOT OUR WISH TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT THE LIFESTYLE OF OUR COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK POINTED OUT TWO LOCAL FACTORS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICY FOR HONG KONG.

FIRST, HONG KONG WAS A VERY SMALL USER OF ENERGY BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, AND SECONDLY, THE TERRITORY WAS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS FOR ENERGY GENERATION.

"HOWEVER, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE COMPLACENT AND WE CERTAINLY SEE SCOPE FOR CONSERVING ENERGY," HE ADDED.

AS FAR AS ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDINGS WAS CONCERNED, MR NENDICK SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING THE COMMISSIONING OF A CONSULTANCY STUDY TO RECOMMEND HOW THIS COULD BEST BE ACHIEVED THROUGH LEGISLATION.

THIS WAS IN ADDITION TO A DETAILED ENERGY UTILISATION STUDY WHICH WAS UNDERTAKEN ON MAJOR BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS IN THE EARLY 1980'S.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD SINCE PUBLISHED INFORMATION ON ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDINGS AND HAD MADE IT AVAILABLE TO THOSE INVOLVED IN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

REFERRING TO THE OIL CRISES OF 1973 AND 1979, MR NENDICK NOTED THE PUBLIC SECTOR HAD LEARNT THEIR LESSONS AND HAD MAINTAINED A NUMBER OF ENERGY ECONOMY MEASURES, SUCH AS THE REDUCTION OF NON-ESSENTIAL LIGHTING AND AIR-CONDITIONING.

"THE CONCEPT OF ENERGY CONSERVATION IS INCLUDED ALSO IN THE CURRICULA OF BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO NURTURE A MORE ENERGY-CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

IN 1979, THE OIL (CONSERVATION AND CONTROL) ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SWIFT ACTION IN REGULATING THE SUPPLY AND CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY.

"FROM TIME TO TIME WE HAVE IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR ADVERTISING DISPLAYS AND FLOODLIGHTING. WE HAVE ALSO IN THE PAST ADOPTED DAYLIGHT SAVING HOURS AND EVEN THE SUSPENSION OF NIGHT RACE MEETINGS," MR NENDICK SAID.

RAISING STAFFING STANDARDS IN KINDERGARTENS
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK APPROVAL SHORTLY FOR A PACKAGE OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO RAISE STANDARDS OF STAFFING IN KINDERGARTENS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SO CHAU YIM-PING, MR YEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN REVIEWING PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN ITS REPORT NO.2.

"WE INTEND TO SEEK APPROVAL SHORTLY FOR A PACKAGE OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO RAISE STANDARDS OF STAFFING IN KINDERGARTENS," HE SAID.

THE MEASURES INCLUDED:

* A LARGE-SCALE PROGRAMME OF BASIC TRAINING TO ENSURE THAT, WITHIN A FIVE YEAR PERIOD, ALL KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS OBTAIN AT LEAST THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATION;

* PUBLISHING RECOMMENDED SALARY SCALES;

* ENABLING OPERATORS TO MEET HIGHER STAFF COSTS BY ALLOWING HIGHER FEES TO BE CHARGED, AND BY RAISING THE EXISTING LEVEL OF FEE ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE NEEDY PARENTS;

* WAYS AND MEANS OF ENCOURAGING OPERATORS TO EMPLOY A HIGHER PROPORTION OF TRAINED STAFF.

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NOTHING TO PREVENT PROMOTION OF POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE
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NOTHING IN THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE OR REGULATIONS PREVENTS STUDENTS FROM RECEIVING INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION AIMED AT PROMOTING POLITICAL AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS ONLY WHERE SUCH INSTRUCTION OR EDUCATION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST OR TO THE WELFARE OF THE STUDENTS OR OF EDUCATION GENERALLY THAT IT MIGHT BE PROHIBITED.

"IT IS TRUE THAT THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MAY REQUIRE A STUDENT WHO HAS TAKEN PART IN PROCESSIONS, PROPAGANDA OR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TO BE EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL," HE ADDED.

/ "THIS POWER

"THIS POWER, HOWEVER, HAS NEVER BEEN INVOKED."

SINCE THERE APPEARED TO BE A MISCONCEPTION THAT THE EDUCATION REGULATIONS PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND IN SCHOOLS, MR YEUNG SAID THERE WAS A CASE FOR REVIEWING THEM TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WERE IN ORDER, SO LONG AS THE WELFARE AND INTERESTS OF STUDENTS WERE SAFEGUARDED.

"THIS WILL BE INCLUDED IN OUR CURRENT REVIEW OF THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS, AND I HOPE WE COULD REACH A VIEW BEFORE TOO LONG," HE SAID.

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MEASURES TO PROTECT TAI A CHAU ENVIRONMENT

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MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN AT THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE HOLDING CENTRE AT TAI A CHAU TO ENSURE THAT THE ISLAND'S ENVIRONMENT IS ADEQUATELY PROTECTED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES TIEN, MR BARNES SAID BASIC FACILITIES SUCH AS WATER TANKS AND GENERATORS HAD BEEN INSTALLED AT TAI A CHAU WHICH WAS CONTINUING TO BE USED AS A TEMPORARY HOLDING CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

"THE CONDITIONS ON THE ISLAND ARE FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. THE BOAT PEOPLE ARE INTENDED TO BE HELD IN TRANSIT ONLY AND TO BE MOVED TO ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION WHEN AVAILABLE.

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONTINUING ARRIVALS OF LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT THE USE OF THE ISLAND CAN BE RELINQUISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE," MR BARNES SAID.

THE MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT TO THE ISLAND AROSE FROM THE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE CURRENTLY DETAINED THERE AND THE ABSENCE OF WASTE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL FACILITIES, PROPER SEWAGE AND DRAINS, HE NOTED.

MR BARNES SAID THE POLICE HAD MOBILISED THE BOAT PEOPLE TO COLLECT THE RUBBISH THEMSELVES FOR DISPOSAL BY INCINERATION, AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD CARRIED OUT PEST CONTROL MEASURES INCLUDING SPRAYING AND ANTI-MOSQUITO AND FLY CONTROL.

"THERE ARE FURTHER PLANS TO BRING MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT TO DIG REFUSE PITS, PREPARE TOILET AREAS, INSTAL LATRINES AND IMPROVE DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL," HE SAID.

"THE POLICE HAVE WARNED THE BOAT PEOPLE TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE MARICULTURE RAFTS AND POLICE PATROLS HAVE BEEN MOUNTED TO PREVENT ACCESS.

/"UNFORTUNATELY,

"UNFORTUNATELY, OTHER LIVESTOCK, IN THE FORM OF SOME SEMI-WILD CATTLE WHO TEND TO WANDER ALL OVER THE ISLAND, CANNOT BE OFFERED COMPLETE PROTECTION," MR BARNES ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SAFETY OF POLICE OFFICERS STATIONED ON THE ISLAND WOULD BE ENSURED BY ESTABLISHED OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, AND CONTINGENCY PLANS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP FOR DEALING WITH ANY POTENTIAL DISTURBANCE.

"VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ON TAI A CHAU, UNLIKE THOSE HELD IN OTHER DETENTION CENTRES, ARE NOT CONFINED WITHIN A FENCED AREA. COMPLETE POLICING, GIVEN THE SITUATION ON THE ISLAND AND THE POLICE RESOURCES AVAILABLE, IS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE.

"HOWEVER, THE MAIN AREAS WHERE THE POPULATION IS CONCENTRATED ARE REGULARLY PATROLLED AND PROMPT ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST ANY PERSONS WHO BREACH THE LAW," MR BARNES SAID.

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LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD CONSULTED ON LEAVE PROPOSAL

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD WAS CONSULTED RECENTLY ON A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE PROVISION OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE FOR WORKERS FROM SEVEN DAYS TO UP TO 10 DAYS, DEPENDING ON LENGTH OF SERVICE.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED OF THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG.

"THE BOARD'S ADVICE WILL BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND I AWAIT THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR'S RECOMMENDATIONS," MR YEUNG ADDED IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE MARRIAGE LEAVE WITH PAY IN HONG KONG.

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GOVERNMENT TO CLOSE JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CLOSE DOWN THE LANDFILL AT JORDAN VALLEY NEXT YEAR WHEN A NEW REFUSE TRANSFER STATION IS OPENED AT KOWLOON BAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN GIVING A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI ON GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS GENERATED BY THE LANDFILL, MR BARNES SAID:

/"THE ONLY

"THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THE PROBLEM OF ODOURS IN THE SUMMER WILL FINALLY BE SOLVED IS BY CLOSURE.

"WE PROPOSE TO CLOSE DOWN JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL IN 1990 WHEN THE NEW REFUSE TRANSFER STATION IS OPENED AT KOWLOON BAY."

FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE NEXT YEAR, A FINAL SOIL COVER WOULD BE PLACED OVER THE LANDFILL. A GAS CONTROL SYSTEM WOULD ALSO BE INSTALLED TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO HAZARDOUS EMISSION OF LANDFILL GAS.

MR BARNES SAID THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WAS PREPARING THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE FINAL COVER AND THE GAS CONTROL SYSTEM.

HE ADDED THAT THE SOLID WASTES DISPOSAL STRATEGY RECOGNISED THAT REFUSE IN HOT CLIMATES ALWAYS SMELLED, HOWEVER WELL-MANAGED.

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THAT IN THE MEANTIME, IN THIS SUMMER AND NEXT, THE GOVERNMENT HAD EMPLOYED A RELIABLE AND EXPERIENCED LANDFILL CONTRACTOR TO MANAGE THE LANDFILL.

THE METHODS USED TO COMPACT, COVER AND SEAL THE REFUSE WERE UP TO DATE AND PROPERLY SUPERVISED BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND ALSO MONITORED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

"THE LEACHATES FLOW INTO THE FOUL DRAINAGE SYSTEM. MOREOVER, THERE ARE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPOSING OF LEACHATE FROM REFUSE WHEELING VEHICLES AND THE WASHING OF THE VEHICLES AND THE ROADS AROUND THE LANDFILL SITES," MR BARNES SAID.

HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT MORE COULD BE DONE TO MAKE JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL OFFEND LESS. THE ONLY REAL ANSWER WAS REMOVAL AND TO ENSURE THAT THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF MANAGEMENT WERE MAINTAINED MEANWHILE.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS IS BEING DONE," HE ADDED.

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MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS NOT SPECIFIED

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THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE DOES NOT SPECIFY ANY MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A MANAGER OF A SCHOOL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TAKES INTO ACCOUNT VARIOUS FACTORS, INCLUDING THE APPLICANT'S EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF EDUCATION, CHARACTER AND AGE," MR YEUNG EXPLAINED.

/"THE DIRECTOR

"THE DIRECTOR MAY REFUSE THE APPLICATION IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT CONSIDERED FIT AND PROPER, OR IF OTHER STIPULATIONS IN SECTION 25 OF THE ORDINANCE ARE NOT MET."

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, MR YEUNG ADDED THAT IF IT APPEARED TO THE DIRECTOR AT ANY TIME THAT A MANAGER COULD NOT PERFORM SATISFACTORILY THE DUTIES INVOLVED, THE APPROVAL TO BE A MANAGER MIGHT BE WITHDRAWN.

"SINCE MANY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY NOW IN THEIR MIDDLE AGE HAVE HAD LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS STAGE TO STIPULATE ANY MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT," HE SAID.

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NINE BILLS PASSED

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NINE BILLS, INCLUDING A PRIVATE BILL, WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE EIGHT GOVERNMENT BILLS WERE THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE COUNTRY PARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE TEMPORARY CONTROL OF DENSITY OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT (KOWLOON) BILL 1989, THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) BILL 1989, THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS) BILL 1989, THE BETTING DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 AND THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

THE PRIVATE BILL WAS THE SAILORS HOME AND MISSIONS TO SEAMEN INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

IN ADDITION, TWO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) BILL 1989 AND THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989.

DEBATES ON THESE TWO BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

TWO MOTIONS, MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS AND THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT UNDER THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE AND THE PEAK TRAMWAY ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY, WERE PASSED.

THE 1988 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WAS TABLED IN THE MEETING.

THE COUNCIL DEBATED A MEMBER'S MOTION CONCERNING THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY IN HONG KONG.

THE MOTION, MOVED BY THE HON MARIA TAM, READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY IN HONG KONG AND URGES THE GOVERNMENT ACTIVELY TO PURSUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY."

TWELVE MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION. THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT SPOKE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. THE MOTION WAS PASSED.

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REASSURANCES GIVEN ON SAI KUNG VBP CAMP

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REITERATED ASSURANCES THAT THE TEMPORARY CAMP FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE IN SAI KUNG WOULD NOT CAUSE POLLUTION TO THE AREA.

"ADEQUATE MEASURES WILL BE IN PLACE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, AVOID POLLUTION AND ENSURE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WILL NOT BE AFFECTED," HE SAID.

"THE CAMP IS IN A REMOTE LOCATION ON THE COFFER DAM WELL BELOW THE HIGH ISLAND WEST DAM AND WILL NOT IMPINGE ON THE AREAS WITHIN THE COUNTRY PARK."

MR ASPREY HAS INFORMED THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN IN A LETTER THIS WEEK THAT A DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAMP.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE OBJECTIONS AND POINTS MADE BY THE BOARD, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE EFFECT ON THE CHONG HING WATER SPORTS CENTRE, THE SAFETY OF THE LOCAL POPULATION AND THE SECURITY OF THE CAMP," HE SAID.

"I CAN ASSURE THE DISTRICT BOARD THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF THE CAMP IS VERY MUCH IN OUR MINDS.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORCED TO LOOK FOR A REMOTE SITE FOR MORE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION TO COPE WITH THE CONTINUING LARGE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

"SO FAR THIS YEAR WE HAVE HAD MORE THAN 25,000 NEW ARRIVALS; IN MAY AND JUNE ALONE, THERE WERE 9,194 AND 9,691 RESPECTIVELY."

MR ASPREY STRESSED THAT NO REFUGEE VISITORS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE AREA OF THE WATER SPORTS CENTRE AND THE BOAT PEOPLE CAMP.

"WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE EFFECT OF THE CAMP ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND WE SHALL TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO POLLUTION EITHER OF THE SEA OR OF THE LAGOON USED BY THE WATER SPORTS CENTRE, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

TO DEAL WITH WASTE WATER FROM KITCHENS, SHOWERS AND CLOTHES-WASHING AREAS IN THE CAMP, MR ASPREY SAID THERE WOULD BE A TREATMENT SYSTEM INVOLVING THE USE OF SETTLEMENT TANKS AND SAND FILTRATION.

"WE DO NOT INTEND TO OPEN THE CAMP BEFORE THIS TREATMENT SYSTEM IS IN OPERATION," HE SAID.

"OTHER ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES INCLUDE THE COLLECTION OF WASTE IN METAL TANKS AND EMPTYING THEM ON A REGULAR BASIS FOR DELIVERY TO SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES OUTSIDE THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT."

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OPEN FORUM ON RIGHT OF ABODE ISSUE

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A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP UNDER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD AN OPEN FORUM ON THE ISSUE OF RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN ON FRIDAY (JULY 14) IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING AT 15 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE FORUM IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE FIVE AREA COMMITTEES IN THE DISTRICT, THE WAN CHAI KAIFONG ASSOCIATION AND THE METHODIST CENTRE.

IT AIMS TO AROUSE RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF THEIR RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN, AND ADVISE THEM ON THE ACTIONS THEY COULD TAKE IN GETTING BACK THE RIGHT.

SPEAKING AT THE FORUM WILL BE OMELCO MEMBER, MRS RITA FAN; AND THREE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR CHUNG YEE-ON, MR NORMAN LO AND MS ANNA TANG.

THE THREE DB MEMBERS WILL SPEAK ON "BRITISH CHINESE AND 1997", "LESSONS FROM THE PAST" AND "CITIZENS AND THEIR POLITICAL RIGHTS" RESPECTIVELY.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE FORUM WHICH WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE, STARTING AT 7.30 PM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPEN FORUM ON THE ISSUE OF RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (JULY 14), BEGINNING AT 7.30 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING, 15 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION CALL

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, DR DANIEL TSE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CALLED FOR WIDER SUPPORT IN PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

IN AN INFORMAL LUNCHEON MEETING WITH SENIOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, DR TSE EMPHASISED THAT A WELL-ESTABLISHED LEGAL SYSTEM AND GOOD OBSERVANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW BY THE PEOPLE WERE "THE KEYS TO STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE SOCIETY".

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"IN THE RUN UP TO 1997, LOCAL RESIDENTS SHOULD STEP AHEAD TO RECOGNISE THEIR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AS PROTECTED UNDER THE LAW," HE SAID.

DR TSE ALSO OUTLINED THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

THESE INCLUDE THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT CONTRIBUTES TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS AND CONTINUED STABILITY.

ALSO IMPORTANT IS THE NEED TO HIGHLIGHT THE FACT THAT THE CONTINUED WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG DEPENDS ON THE PEOPLE'S RATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN ITS ADMINISTRATION AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO UPHOLD THE SPIRIT OF THE RULE OF LAW.

FURTHERMORE, RESIDENTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE 1991 DIRECT ELECTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF VOTING. ALSO THE BASIS FOR DEVELOPING THEIR INDEPENDENT THINKING OVER THESE ISSUES SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

DR TSE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED \$2.1 MILLION FOR THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN 1989-90.

THE COMMITTEE HAS AGREED THAT IN 1989-90 MORE RESOURCES SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF, AND PARTICIPATION IN, THE POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OF HONG KONG; AND TO PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF THE RULE OF LAW.

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PREPARATION FOR AREA COMMITTEE GATHERING UNDERWAY

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE 1,800 MEMBERS OF THE 89 AREA COMMITTEES IN THE 10 URBAN DISTRICTS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS MAKING THE FORTHCOMING BIG GATHERING FOR AREA COMMITTEES A SUCCESS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, AT AN "A STEP CLOSER" SEMINAR FOR AREA COMMITTEES IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

HE SAID THE GATHERING WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN WAN CHAL ON NOVEMBER 18 AS THE CLIMAX TO THE SERIES OF "A STEP CLOSER" SEMINARS.

MR LAN SAID AN ORGANISING COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR RAYMOND WONG, HAD BEEN FORMED WITH MEMBERS DRAWN FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES.

/THE COMMITTEE

THE COMMITTEE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING RECENTLY TO DISCUSS PREPARATION WORK FOR THE GATHERING AND A SECOND MEETING WOULD BE HELD WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO.

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, DISTRICT OFFICERS AND THEIR STAFF WERE KEEPING IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH AREA COMMITTEES TO PLAN THE PROGRAMMES TO BE CONTRIBUTED BY THE AREA COMMITTEES IN THE GATHERING.

MR LAN NOTED THAT AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ONE DISTRICT HAD INDICATED THEIR PLAN TO PRESENT A SONG AND DANCE PROGRAMME INVOLVING MEMBERS' APPEARANCE IN CHINESE TRADITIONAL COSTUMES AND PERFORMING THE DRAGON DANCE.

MR LAN SAID PROGRAMMES AS SUCH WOULD ADD EXCITEMENT TO THE GATHERING.

"I AM VERY PLEASED WITH AREA COMMITTEES' RESPONSE TO, AND SUPPORT FOR, THE GATHERING, WHICH WILL NOT ONLY STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AREA COMMITTEES AND THE CNTA, BUT ALSO THAT AMONG THE AREA COMMITTEES THEMSELVES," HE NOTED.

TURNING TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND DISTRICT BOARDS, MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT AREA COMMITTEES WERE PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THESE ACTIVITIES.

"AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS, COMING FROM VARIOUS RESIDENTS' ORGANISATIONS, HAVE AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF PROMOTING COMMUNITY UNITY AND SERVING AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT AREA COMMITTEES HAD WORKED HARD TOWARDS BUILDING A HARMONIOUS COMMUNITY.

AREA COMMITTEES, APART FROM REFLECTING TO THE AUTHORITIES PROBLEMS CONCERNING PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD, ALSO TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN PLANNING VARIOUS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECTS WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

SINCE LAST YEAR, THE CNTA HAD BEEN PROVIDING AREA COMMITTEES WITH FUNDS FOR ORGANISING THESE PROJECTS.

"AREA COMMITTEES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY PLAYING AN ACTIVE AND IMPORTANT ROLE IN COMMUNITY BUILDING, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE NECESSARY RESOURCES SO THAT THEY WOULD FULFIL THEIR ROLE MORE EFFECTIVELY," MR LAN CONCLUDED.

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VISIT TO NEW LIFE FARM
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A GROUP OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE NEW LIFE FARM OF THE NEW LIFE PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION IN TUEN MUN TO GET A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS.

THE YOUTHS WERE BRIEFED ON THE OPERATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL WORKSHOP AND HOSTEL WHICH PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR 40 AND SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT FOR 60 DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS.

WORKERS IN THE FARM GROW VEGETABLES AND PLANTS, REAR PIGS AND PIGEONS AND SELL THE PRODUCE. THE INCOME, AFTER DEDUCTING THE COSTS OF SEEDS, YOUNG ANIMALS, FODDER, FERTILISERS AND SO ON, WOULD BE SHARED AMONG THE WORKERS.

TO SUPPLEMENT THE INCOME FROM FARMING, THE FARM ALSO OBTAINS SIMPLE ASSEMBLY WORKS FROM OTHER SHELTERED WORKSHOPS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE VOLUNTEERS LEARNED THAT THE FARM'S OPEN ENVIRONMENT, RELAXED WORKING PATTERN AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES ARE CONDUCIVE TO THE REHABILITATION OF MENTAL PATIENTS, ESPECIALLY CHRONIC PATIENTS WHO ARE OLD AND HAVE LIMITED WORKING CAPACITY.

EARLIER, THE GROUP WAS BRIEFED ON MENTAL ILLNESS AND REHABILITATION SERVICES BY A SOCIAL WORKER.

THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE ASSOCIATION'S SHAN KING HALF-WAY HOUSE, WHERE RESIDENTIAL CARE IS PROVIDED FOR 40 RECOVERED MENTAL PATIENTS.

THE GROUP WAS TAKING PART IN A YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, "CONCERN, REALISE AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR COMMUNITY", ORGANISED BY THE WEST KOWLOON REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

OTHER GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING PART IN THE PROGRAMME HAD PAID VISITED VARIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICE FACILITIES SUCH AS HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, YOUNG OFFENDERS AND THE DISABLED.

THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL TAKE PART IN A TRAINING CAMP AT THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TRAINING CAMP IN TAI PO THIS WEEKEND WHEN THEY WOULD SHARE THE EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM THE VISITS AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE SERVICES FOR CLIENTS IN THESE FACILITIES.

THE PROGRAMME IS ONE IN A SERIES OF REGIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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CYC MEMBERS TO TOUR MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE

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THIRTY-SEVEN OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WHO WERE AWARDED A TRIP OVERSEAS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES IN THE CYC MERIT AWARD SCHEME THIS YEAR, WILL BE LEAVING FOR KUALA LUMPUR IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE NEXT WEEK.

THE 37 MEMBERS INCLUDE 15 BOYS AND 22 GIRLS FROM 19 PRIMARY AND 18 SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

ADDRESSING THE CYC MEMBERS AT A FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND TEA PARTY TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, URGED THEM TO PROMOTE THE SPIRIT AND THE GOOD WORK OF CYC WHILE VISITING THE TWO COUNTRIES.

MR LI SAID THE DELEGATION WOULD BE REPRESENTING THE 270,000 CYC MEMBERS IN HONG KONG AND SHOULD PASS ON THE MESSAGE OF THE CYC MOVEMENT TO YOUTHS IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.

THEY SHOULD ALSO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE OBTAINED OVERSEAS WITH THEIR FELLOW MEMBERS ON THEIR RETURN, HE SAID.

THE CYC MERIT AWARD SCHEME IS AIMED AT BUILDING UP MEMBERS' COMMUNITY SPIRIT THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE SELECTED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE THIS YEAR.

THE TRIP IS SPONSORED BY THE LAW'S FOUNDATIONS TRUST, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE COMMISSIONS IN HONG KONG.

TO MARK THE DEPARTURE OF THE DELEGATION, MR LI PRESENTED A FLAG TO THE DELEGATION LEADER MR CHAM CHUNG-MING, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE CYC COUNCIL (WAN CHAI DISTRICT).

ALSO ATTENDING THE CEREMONY AND PARTY TODAY WERE THE DELEGATION MEMBERS' PARENTS AND SCHOOL HEADS.

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DB COMMITTEE TO REVIEW TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN RESPONSE TO A SURVEY ON THE DISTRICT'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PROBLEMS.

THOSE INVOLVED IN THE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME ARE THE TRANSPORT, THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, THE HIGHWAYS, AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS, AS WELL AS THE POLICE AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

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AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE SETTING UP OF AN ORGANISING COMMITTEE TO CO-ORDINATE THE DISTRICT'S 1989-90 ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS ARE A PROGRESS REPORT ON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN KWUN TONG, THE SETTLED BUS AND FERRY ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, AND THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, TUNG YAN STREET.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT MEASURES
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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT MEASURES AT THE ELEVATED WALKWAY ADJOINING THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO ENDORSE THE REVISED COST ESTIMATES FOR REPAIRING ON-STREET DISTRICT BOARD NOTICE BOARDS.

AT THE MEETING, A MEMBER WILL ASK WHAT STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO PREVENT RESIDENTS OF MEI SUN LAU BUILDING IN SHEK TONG TSUI FROM BEING AFFECTED BY THE NOISE GENERATED BY AIR-CONDITIONING COOLERS OF A NEARBY INDUSTRIAL BUILDING IN DES VOEUX ROAD WEST.

A DOCUMENT ON THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT WILL BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN ROOM 1416, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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KWAI TSING DB TO DISCUSS TRANSPORT POLICY GREEN PAPER

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY IN HONG KONG.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRANSPORT BRANCH, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENT TO BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE GREEN PAPER AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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

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DB COMMITTEE TO BE BRIEFED ON REMEDIAL MEASURES

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REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BRIEF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON THE LANDSLIP AND FLOODING PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT AS WELL AS REMEDIAL MEASURES AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TUEN MUN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WILL EXPLAIN THE EXPANSION OF THE DEVELOPMENT STUDY OF AREA 38 IN SOUTHWEST TUEN MUN.

THEY WILL ALSO SEEK MEMBERS' VIEWS REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CYCLETRACK ALONG THE WEST BANK OF TUEN MUN NULLAH AND THE CLOSURE OF A TEMPORARY ACCESS TO MCLEHOSE TRAIL NEAR KAM FAI GARDEN FOR 12 MONTHS.

MEANWHILE, MEMBERS WILL ASK OFFICERS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TO EVALUATE THE AIR QUALITY IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO RECEIVED REQUESTS FROM RESIDENTS FOR IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS NEAR THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE TUEN MUN CLOSED CENTRE AND AT BUTTERFLY ESTATE.

THE MEETING WILL EXAMINE A REQUEST TO CONVERT THE LAM TEI MARKET INTO A MARKET COMPLEX, PROBLEMS CREATED BY LORRIES AT SAN HUI MARKET AND A REQUEST FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TO USE LIDDED RUBBISH BINS.

/THE FINANCIAL

THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, PROGRESS REPORT OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, A LAYOUT PLAN FOR THE KAR WO LEI VILLAGE RESITE AND THE PROPOSED MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS APPLICATION REMINDER
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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDIES UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS TO MAKE THEIR APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE ON FRIDAY (JULY 14).

THE SECRETARY OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MR JAMES LI, SAID: "A TOTAL OF \$665,000 WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND INTEREST-FREE LOANS FROM THE FUNDS.

"I WOULD THEREFORE URGE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS NOT TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY OF OBTAINING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES."

APPLICATION FORMS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON AND FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES LIAISON OFFICES.

THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS WERE SET UP IN 1978 TO HELP PEOPLE WHO WISH TO SERVE THE LOCAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES INDUSTRIES OR RELATED TRADES ON COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES, AND ALSO THOSE EMPLOYED IN THE INDUSTRIES.

THE AWARDS WILL BE TENABLE AT ANY UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, CITY POLYTECHNIC, BAPTIST COLLEGE, ANY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND ANY ACCEPTABLE OVERSEAS INSTITUTION.

APPLICANTS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDIES SHOULD BE HONG KONG RESIDENTS UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE.

APPROVED COURSES FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION INCLUDE THOSE ON AGRICULTURE, VETERINARY SCIENCE, MARINE SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY OR ANY APPLIED SCIENCE RELEVANT TO THE LOCAL AGRICULTURE OR FISHERIES INDUSTRIES AND RELATED TRADE.

MR LI SAID DEPENDANTS OF FARMING AND FISHING FAMILIES STUDYING IN FORMS FOUR TO SEVEN WERE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WOULD CLOSE ON AUGUST 16.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE FUNDS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 3-7332244 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES IN CENTRAL
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 14) FOR INSTALLING GANTRY SIGNS ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL:

- * CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WESTBOUND BETWEEN CLUB STREET AND MANDARIN HOTEL;
- * CHATER ROAD BETWEEN ICE HOUSE STREET AND PEDDER STREET;
- * ICE HOUSE STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND CHATER ROAD; AND
- * JACKSON ROAD BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND CHATER ROAD.

IN ADDITION, CHATER ROAD BETWEEN CLUB STREET AND ICE HOUSE STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND; AND ICE HOUSE STREET BETWEEN CHATER ROAD AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING ON GLOUCESTER ROAD ARE ADVISED TO PROCEED VIA HARCOURT ROAD (AT GROUND LEVEL) AND COTTON TREE DRIVE TO JOIN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

FOR THOSE HEADING FOR CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, THEY MAY TRAVEL VIA HARCOURT ROAD (AT GROUND LEVEL), COTTON TREE DRIVE, LAMBETH WALK, CHATER ROAD AND ICE HOUSE STREET; OR PROCEED VIA HARCOURT ROAD FLYOVER, MURRAY ROAD, COTTON TREE DRIVE, LAMBETH WALK, CHATER ROAD AND ICE HOUSE STREET; OR DRIVE VIA HARCOURT ROAD FLYOVER, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, CLUB STREET, CHATER ROAD AND ICE HOUSE STREET.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING FROM THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL TO CENTRAL ARE ADVISED TO USE QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND QUEENSWAY.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 14), VEHICLES EXCEEDING SEVEN METRES IN LENGTH WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM ELECTRIC ROAD TO TSING FUNG STREET, NORTH POINT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TSING FUNG STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH ELECTRIC ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES TO THE WEST WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

THESE MEASURES WILL LAST FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

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HEAVY VEHICLE BAN IN HORNSEY ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 14), VEHICLES OVER 5.5 TONNES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER HORNSEY ROAD IN THE MID-LEVELS.

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PLB BAN IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 14), PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER ROAD A LEADING FROM YEN CHOW STREET TO NAM CHEONG ESTATE IN SHAM SHUI PO.

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