



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG, TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1980

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CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED ADJUSTMENTS TO CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE MAJORITY OF CIVIL SERVANTS WILL RECEIVE PAY ADJUSTMENTS RANGING FROM ABOUT 16 PER CENT TO 18 PER CENT, WHILE OFFICERS AT THE DIRECTORATE LEVEL WILL HAVE THEIR RANGE OF SALARIES ADJUSTED BY ABOUT NINE PER CENT TO JUST UNDER 14 PER CENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY OF PAY TRENDS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR FORMED THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION OF THE REVISION OF SCALES BETWEEN THE STAFF SIDE AND THE OFFICIAL SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL.

THE NEW SALARIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS ON THE MASTER PAY SCALE RANGE FROM \$1 180 AT POINT ONE TO \$15 230 AT POINT 51, COMPARED WITH THE EXISTING RANGE OF \$1 000 TO \$13 000.

MODEL SCALE I WORKERS WILL RECEIVE REVISED SALARIES RANGING FROM \$1 375 TO \$2 100, INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT \$1 175 TO \$1 800.

STAFF OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES WILL BE PAID FROM \$2 835 TO \$15 230 AS AGAINST THE PRESENT \$2 440 TO \$13 000 IN THE CASE OF OFFICERS, AND FROM \$1 645 TO \$4 730 AS AGAINST THE PRESENT \$1 410 TO \$4 050 IN THE CASE OF RANK AND FILE.

THE REVISED DIRECTORATE AND DIRECTORATE JUDICIAL/LEGAL GROUP PAY SCALES RANGE FROM \$16 500 TO \$36 000, COMPARED WITH THE EXISTING RANGE OF \$14 500 TO \$33 000.

THE REVISED SCALES ARE EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR AND THE NEW SALARIES WILL BE PAID IN SEPTEMBER.

THE ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST IS ABOUT \$700 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

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TEN-FOLD INCREASE IN QUOTA FRAUD PENALTIES

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THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOME SHIPMENTS THIS YEAR AGAINST HONG KONG'S QUOTA HAVE BEEN FALSELY DECLARED TO BE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN, SAID THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON PETER TSAO TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, BEFORE IT WAS PASSED INTO LAW, HE SAID THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY TO \$500 000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AGAINST POTENTIAL OFFENDERS.

/+THE LAW

+THE LAW AS IT NOW STANDS PRESCRIBES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$50 000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT. THIS HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR AT LEAST 25 YEARS AND, AS A RESULT, IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED ADEQUATE WHEN THE VALUE OF THE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND THE PROFITS INVOLVED ARE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN CONNECTION WITH ATTEMPTS TO CIRCUMVENT THE TEXTILE QUOTA SYSTEM.+

HE SAID THAT IN 1979 EIGHT COMPANIES WERE PROSECUTED FOR SHIPPING GOODS TO A MARKET SUBJECT TO QUOTA RESTRICTIONS BY FALSELY DECLARING THEM TO BE DESTINED FOR A NON-RESTRICTED MARKET.

+THESE COMPANIES WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$350 000. HOWEVER, THIS REPRESENTS JUST OVER ONE PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF THE GOODS INVOLVED,+ SAID MR TSAO.

+PUT ANOTHER WAY, HAD THE ATTEMPTS TO CIRCUMVENT THE QUOTA CONTROL SYSTEM SUCCEEDED, THE EIGHT COMPANIES WOULD HAVE BENEFITTED FINANCIALLY BY NOT HAVING TO SURRENDER THE QUOTA THAT THEY OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE TO SURRENDER.

+ROUGHLY CALCULATED, THE AMOUNT OF QUOTAS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SURRENDERED WOULD HAVE A MARKET VALUE THEN IN EXCESS OF \$10 MILLION. SET AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAT THE FINES IMPOSED SERVED AS AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT,+ HE SAID.

EXPLAINING WHY IT HAD BECOME EXPEDIENT TO TAKE THE BILL THROUGH ALL THREE STAGES AT THIS SITTING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR TSAO SAID: +MY CONCERN THAT THE DETERRENT EFFECT HAS BEEN ERODED HAS RECENTLY BEEN HEIGHTENED BY WHAT I WOULD REGARD AS A RATHER UNUSUAL PATTERN OF TRADE.

+WHILE OUR GENERAL QUOTA UTILISATION RATE THIS YEAR HAS SLOWED DOWN, NOT SURPRISINGLY HAVING REGARD TO GENERALLY SOFTER MARKET CONDITIONS ABROAD, WE HAVE FOUND THAT IN PARTICULARLY POPULAR CATEGORIES OF PRODUCTS, THIS YEAR'S QUOTA UTILISATION RATE SO FAR IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR'S.

+THIS GIVES RISE TO A SUSPICION THAT IMPROPER USE OF HONG KONG'S QUOTA MAY HAVE BEEN MADE FOR SHIPMENTS FALSELY DECLARED TO BE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN,+ HE ADDED.

WHILE HONG KONG WAS STEPPING UP THE POLICING OF THE QUOTA CONTROL SYSTEM, IN PARALLEL WITH THE INCREASED VIGILANCE, A MORE EFFECTIVE DETERRENT, IN THE FORM OF HEAVIER PENALTIES, WAS URGENTLY CALLED FOR.

+THE TYPE OF MALPRACTICE THAT WE BELIEVE IS BEING PERPETRATED NOW NOT ONLY DEPRIVES HONG KONG THE FULL USE OF ITS LIMITED ACCESS TO ITS MARKETS, BUT WOULD ALSO CAST INTO DOUBT THE EFFECTIVENESS AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE ENTIRE QUOTA CONTROL SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

+I AM SATISFIED THAT THE PROVISIONS IN THIS BILL ARE ESSENTIAL, BOTH AS A DETERRENT AND AS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE DETERMINATION OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO UPHOLD THE EFFECTIVENESS AND INTEGRITY OF THE QUOTA CONTROL SYSTEM,+ CONCLUDED MR TSAO.

THE HON FRANCIS TIEN, SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS DETERMINATION AND EFFECTIVENESS TO HAVE THINGS DONE EXPEDITIOUSLY +WHERE THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION SO DEMANDS+.

HE STRESSED THAT THE AMENDMENTS CONTAINED IN THE BILL PROVIDE HIGHER PENALTIES NOT ONLY TO DETER QUOTA ABUSERS, BUT HELP TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE QUOTA CONTROL SYSTEM WHICH HAS JUST BEEN MODIFIED.

WHILE NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NO DOUBT IMPRESS UPON THE TRADE THAT THE INCREASED PENALTIES REFLECTED ITS EARNEST DETERMINATION TO DETER UNSCRUPULOUS TRADERS, MR TIEN FELT THAT THE ULTIMATE EFFECTIVENESS COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY VIGILANT POLICING AIMED AT THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF SUCH TRADERS.

THIS, HE BELIEVED, +IS THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING REPUTATION OF HONG KONG+.

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RECRUITS URGED TO UPHOLD HIGH STANDARD

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MR LO TAK-SHING, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED A GROUP OF GRADUATING IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT RECRUITS TO UPHOLD THE DEPARTMENT'S HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

SPEAKING AT THEIR PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT PARADE GROUND MR LO SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD ACHIEVED A DESERVED REPUTATION FOR ITS HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE IN SPITE OF VERY HEAVY PRESSURE IN RECENT MONTHS.

HE MAINTAINED THAT AT A TIME WHEN IMMIGRATION POLICIES WERE INCREASINGLY A MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST, THEIR PROPER EXECUTION BECAME A MATTER OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY.

+YOUR WORK CALLS FOR AN INCREASINGLY HIGH DEGREE OF TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF EXTERNAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AS WELL AS JUDGEMENT AND HUMANITY.

+YOU WILL SOON KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO ARRIVE AT FAIR DECISIONS, QUICKLY, FIRMLY BUT COURTEOUSLY,+ MR LO ADDED.

SEVENTY ASSISTANT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND 30 IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS TOOK PART IN THE PASSING-OUT PARADE.

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DENTAL HOSPITAL OPENS SEPTEMBER

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THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL AT SAI YING PUN WILL START OPERATION THIS SEPTEMBER FOR THE TRAINING OF DENTAL SURGEONS FROM THE DENTAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR E.P. HO SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 11TH DENTAL HEALTH WEEK AT THE CITY HALL, MR HO SAID THE SHORTAGE OF DENTISTS IN HONG KONG WILL BE EASED WHEN THE FIRST DENTAL STUDENTS GRADUATE IN 1985.

+BY THE EARLY 1990'S OUR SUPPLY OF DENTISTS WILL BE MUCH IMPROVED TO BRING ABOUT A POPULATION TO DENTIST RATIO OF 4 000 TO ONE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

MR HO SAID THAT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL INTRODUCE A SCHOOL DENTAL CARE SERVICE BY STAGES TO PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS ALSO IN SEPTEMBER.

UNDER THE SCHEME, PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ROUTINE DENTAL CARE BY DENTAL THERAPISTS TRAINED IN BASIC CONSERVATIVE DENTISTRY TECHNIQUES, AND WORKING UNDER GENERAL SUPERVISION OF QUALIFIED DENTISTS.

+IT REPRESENTS A NEW LINE OF THINKING IN THAT THE HABITS OF REGULAR DENTAL CHECK-UPS AND OTHER GOOD ORAL HABITS INCULCATED IN YOUTH WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR LIFE,+ HE SAID.

THE DENTAL HEALTH WEEK IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG DENTAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE THEME, +COMMON DENTAL DISEASES+.

DURING THE WEEK, AN EXHIBITION AT THE CITY HALL WILL INCLUDE AUDIO-VISUAL SHOWS, DEMONSTRATIONS, ORAL EXAMINATIONS WITH ADVICE FROM DENTISTS, AND POSTER AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS.

A POSTER COMPETITION AND A SERIES OF RADIO AND TV PROGRAMMES ARE ALSO ORGANISED.

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JOB'S FOUND FOR REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS

ALL OF THE 434 REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHO REGISTERED WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PLACEMENT SERVICE IN MAY, HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PLACED IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE PLACEMENT SERVICE, MR CHAN YAM-PANG, SAID THAT OF THE 450 REDUNDANT TEACHERS, EIGHT FAILED TO REGISTER WHILE ANOTHER EIGHT DECLINED PLACEMENT.

LAST YEAR THE NUMBER OF REDUNDANT TEACHERS WAS 506.

THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1975 TO ASSIST REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SEEKING ALTERNATIVE JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE DROP IN POPULATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE, AS WELL AS A SHIFT OF PEOPLE FROM THE URBAN AREAS TO THE NEW TOWNS.

SINCE 1975, THE SERVICE HAS HELPED 2 064 REDUNDANT TEACHERS TO SECURE ALTERNATIVE TEACHING POSTS.

THIS YEAR, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, NOT A SINGLE REDUNDANT TEACHER WHO REGISTERED WITH THE SERVICE FAILED TO BE PLACED.

+I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THE MANY SCHOOL AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION TO MAKE THIS COME ABOUT,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO SEEK COMPENSATION INSURANCE

EMPLOYERS WERE URGED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO TAKE OUT WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE POLICIES TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST ANY CLAIM.

THE PLEA WAS MADE BY ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR YIU YAN-NANG, WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST.

MR YIU ALSO REMINDED THE MEETING THAT +NO COMPENSATION IS ADEQUATE FOR HUMAN SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE+.

+WHILST IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD INSURE AGAINST SUCH LIABILITIES, IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT THEY SHOULD PREVENT ACCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR YIU ADVISED EMPLOYERS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR INSURANCE POLICIES COVERED ALL LIABILITIES UNDER THE LAW AS WELL AS CIVIL DAMAGES.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION WAS BASED ON THE +NO FAULT+ PRINCIPLE, HE EXPLAINED.

IF AN ACCIDENT WHICH CAUSED INJURY TO AN EMPLOYEE WAS DUE TO THE EMPLOYER'S NEGLIGENCE, THE EMPLOYER WAS LIABLE TO CIVIL DAMAGES.

+MANY EMPLOYERS SEEM TO THINK THAT ONCE THEY HAVE TAKEN OUT A WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE POLICY THEY ARE WELL PROTECTED AGAINST ANY CLAIM. IT IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS THEY MAY THINK.

+THEY MUST ENSURE THAT THE INSURANCE POLICY COVERS ALL THE LIABILITIES THEY WISH TO BE COVERED. A POLICY MAY SOMETIMES EXCLUDE CERTAIN LIABILITIES SUCH AS CIVIL DAMAGES, MEDICAL EXPENSES OR CERTAIN TYPES OF WORK.

+THE EMPLOYERS SHOULD THEREFORE EXAMINE THE INSURANCE POLICY CAREFULLY TO ASCERTAIN ITS COVERAGE,+ SAID MR YIU.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ON NOVEMBER 1 THIS YEAR THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WOULD BE RENAMED EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE STATUTORY BENEFITS TO ALL EMPLOYEES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS.

THE MAXIMUM COMPENSATION FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY WOULD BE INCREASED FROM \$80 000 TO \$192 000, AND FOR DEATH FROM \$60 000 TO \$168 000.

WITHIN THESE MAXIMUM LIMITS THE NEW LEVELS OF COMPENSATION WOULD ALSO BE GOVERNED BY THE AGE FACTOR AND COMPENSATION WOULD VARY WITH THE AGE GROUP TO WHICH THE INJURED EMPLOYEE BELONGED.

+THIS AGE FACTOR IS BASED ON THE CONCEPT THAT A YOUNG PERSON WILL SUFFER MORE LOSS OF FUTURE EARNING DUE TO INCAPACITY AS HE WILL HAVE A LONGER WORKING LIFE AND COMPENSATION IS FOR LOSS OF FUTURE EARNING,+ HE SAID.

OTHER IMPROVED BENEFITS INCLUDED INCREASING THE MAXIMUM COMPENSATION FOR CONSTANT ATTENTION ARISING FROM PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY TO BE INCREASED FROM \$32 000 TO \$77 000, AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY FOR PAYING THE ESTIMATED COST OF REPAIR AND RENEWAL OF A PROSTHESIS OR SURGICAL APPLIANCE UP TO A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$30 000.

+THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THESE CHANGES WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 9, BUT THE PROVISIONS WHICH EMBODY THESE CHANGES WILL BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION ON NOVEMBER 1.

+THIS TIME LAG IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GIVE THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY SUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PREMIUM RATES AND CURRENT INSURANCE POLICIES, PARTICULARLY AS DIFFERENTIAL AGE GROUPINGS ARE BEING INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

+THE OPERATIVE DATE WAS ANNOUNCED WITHOUT DELAY SO AS TO ENABLE THE INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THE EMPLOYERS TO ARRANGE FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRENT INSURANCE POLICIES TO COVER THE ADDITIONAL LIABILITIES.

+IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN COMPENSATION, AN UNINSURED SMALL EMPLOYER COULD EASILY GO BANKRUPT IF A SERIOUS ACCIDENT SHOULD HAPPEN TO HIS EMPLOYEE AT WORK,+ SAID MR YIU.

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ADVISORY ROLE OF DABS NOT CONFINED TO LOCAL AFFAIRS

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THE ADVISORY ROLE OF DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS (DABS) IS BY NO MEANS CONFINED TO PURELY LOCAL AFFAIRS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHUI SAID DABS WERE INVITED TO ADVISE ON ISSUES HAVING NEW TERRITORIES-WIDE OR HONG KONG-WIDE IMPLICATIONS AND AFFECTING THE WELL-BEING OF LOCAL INHABITANTS.

HE SAID THE GREATER EMPHASIS ON DISTRICT MANAGEMENT, LOCAL RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE WORK OF DABS WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WELL-BEING OF LOCAL RESIDENTS.

+THIS, IN TURN, CAN HELP DAB MEMBERS DEVELOP THEMSELVES INTO A GENUINE FOCUS OF LOCAL REPRESENTATION,+ MR CHUI SAID.

SINCE NOVEMBER, 1977, HE SAID, DABS WERE CONSULTED ABOUT 400 TIMES ON VARIOUS ISSUES, INCLUDING PROPOSED LEGISLATION, GREEN PAPERS, SOCIAL SERVICES PROBLEMS AND OTHER LOCAL ISSUES.

SPEAKING AT THE CITY LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR CHUI SAID THE GREEN PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HAD EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF CONSULTATION PERFORMED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEES, AND THE PROPOSAL WAS TO UPGRADE DABS TO DISTRICT BOARDS WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY UNOFFICIALS.

+KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL PROBLEMS AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL PRIORITIES AND THE ADAPTATION OF POLICY OBJECTIVES TO SUIT LOCAL SITUATIONS WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT,+ HE SAID.

MR CHUI SAID DABS HAD BEEN SET UP TO ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO THE LINKS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND INVOLVE MORE LOCAL RESIDENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND BETTERMENT OF THEIR DISTRICT.

THEY HAD TWO DISTINCTIVE ROLES TO PLAY - ADVISORY AS WELL AS EXECUTIVE.

THEY WERE ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE GOVERNMENT ON ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PROVISION AND USE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES.

AS REGARDS THE EXECUTIVE ROLE, DABS WERE ALSO ESTABLISHED TO UNDERTAKE PROMOTION OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROJECTS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS.

THERE WERE THREE MAIN CATEGORIES OF DAB MEMBERS - OFFICIALS FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS- RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, WHO WERE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS- AND APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS.

+THE PRESENCE OF OFFICIALS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CAN SERVE TWO PURPOSES,+

/+FIRSTLY, IT

+FIRSTLY, IT FACILITATES CO-ORDINATION, AMONG DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, IN SOLVING LOCAL PROBLEMS AND ORGANISING RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

+SECONDLY, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC CAN BE CULTIVATED.

+IN FACT, OFFICIALS FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WELCOME THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DABS BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE A CONVENIENT FORUM FOR CONSULTATION AND EXPLANATION OF GOVERNMENT PLANS AND POLICIES,+ SAID MR CHUI.

THE INCLUSION OF 27 RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF DABS WAS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS OF THE RURAL POPULATION WERE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED AT DABS, HE SAID.

THIS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT WAS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO AVOID OVERLOOKING THE INTERESTS AND WELL-BEING OF RURAL RESIDENTS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS WERE DRAWN FROM A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY SO THAT MAJOR SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY WERE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED.

IT WAS ALSO DESIGNED, SAID MR CHUI, TO PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL AFFAIRS, THUS PROMOTING GREATER SENSE OF BELONGING AND PRIDE TO THE COMMUNITY.

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'NO HUNTING' BILL PASSED
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THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL PROHIBITING HUNTING IN HONG KONG WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH SEVERAL AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS.

THE CONVENOR OF THE GROUP, THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID THE PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS OF HONG KONG'S TERRITORY SIMPLY LEFT NO ROOM FOR HUNTING.

+WITH URBANISATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH OF POPULATION, THERE ARE VERY FEW AREAS LEFT, IF ANY, WHERE A GUN MAY BE FIRED WITHOUT THE RISK OF ENDANGERING LIFE AND LIMB.

+IT IS THEREFORE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT HUNTING SHOULD BE BANNED,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID ONE AMENDMENT CONCERNED THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF THE BILL WILL BE DEFERRED TO JANUARY 1, 1981, TO GIVE THE HUNTERS' ASSOCIATION TIME TO ARRANGE AFFAIRS.

/THE DEFINITION

THE DEFINITION OF +ANIMAL+ WAS ALSO RE-DEFINED TO EXCLUDE FISH AND MARINE INVERTEBRATES AND +GAME WARDEN+ RENAMED +NATURE WARDEN.+

IN ADDITION, PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION OF HUNTING AND CARRYING OF FIREARMS IN CERTAIN AREAS UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WILL BE DELETED AS HUNTING WOULD BE BANNED.

HOWEVER, MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT SPECIFIC HUNTING OPERATIONS COULD STILL BE PERMITTED UNDER A SECTION OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

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ONE IN FIVE APPLICATIONS TO BUILD SMALL HOUSES APPROVED

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THERE WERE 10 000 APPLICATIONS TO BUILD SMALL HOUSES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN 1978 AND 1979, OF WHICH 2 000 WERE APPROVED, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON F.K. HU, HE SAID HE WAS CLEARLY NOT ~~MAX~~ SATISFIED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A POLICY WHICH LEFT SUCH A WIDE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE NUMBERS OF THOSE APPLYING AND THE NUMBERS APPROVED.

+THE REASONS FOR THE GAP ARE COMPLEX AND VARIOUS,+ HE SAID.

+THE POLICY WAS APPROVED TO ASSIST THE VILLAGERS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IN SOLVING THEIR HOUSING NEEDS, AND IT HAS DONE THIS SATISFACTORILY IN MANY AREAS.

+UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE OTHER AREAS WHERE HOUSES OR SITES HAVE BEEN SOLD OR RENTED TO NON-VILLAGERS SOMETIMES AT A CONSIDERABLE PROFIT.

+THESE HOUSES OR SITES HAVE TAKEN UP MUCH OF THE AVAILABLE CROWN LAND AND IT IS NOW EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IN SOME VILLAGES TO FIND CROWN LAND NEAR THE VILLAGE.

+IN OTHER PLACES CROWN LAND NEAR THE VILLAGE MAY BE STEEP AND INVOLVE EXTENSIVE SITE FORMATION, SO THAT, FOLLOWING SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF MOST UNSATISFACTORY AND POSSIBLY DANGEROUS CONSTRUCTION, THE GOVERNMENT NOW HAS TO INSIST IN SUCH CASES ON THE SUBMISSION OF SITE FORMATION PLANS BY AN AUTHORISED PERSON.

+WITH LIMITED LAND AVAILABLE THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF SORTING OUT GENUINE FROM PURELY SPECULATIVE APPLICATIONS AND, WHEN DEALING WITH OVERSEAS APPLICANTS, THE VILLAGER WHO REALLY INTENDS TO RETURN AND RETIRE TO HIS NATIVE PLACE, AND THE FORMER VILLAGER WHO HAS NO INTENTION TO COME BACK TO LIVE IN HONG KONG AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT.+

MR AKERS-JONES SAID A NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED DURING THE LAST SEVEN YEARS AS A RESULT OF CONSULTATION WITH THE HEUNG YEE KUK TO RESOLVE OR REDUCE THESE PROBLEMS.

THERE WAS A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE KUK WHICH WOULD RESUME SOON FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE CURRENT TERM.

+CERTAINLY FRESH THINKING IS REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THE SHORTAGE OF CROWN LAND AND SCATTERED AND WASTEFUL DEVELOPMENT.

+WE WILL, I BELIEVE, HAVE TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING DESERTED PRIVATE LAND NEAR TO VILLAGES AND OF INSTALLING PATHS AND DRAINS SO AS TO PERMIT MORE ORDERLY EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT.

+I AM CONSCIOUS OF THE SHORTCOMINGS BUT, AS I SAID AT THE BEGINNING, THE PROBLEM IS COMPLEX AND VARIOUS AND RECEIVES MY PERSONAL ATTENTION,+ HE SAID.

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PREVENTIVE MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST RABIES

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT MOUNTED A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN SINCE APRIL TO INOCULATE ALL DOGS AND ELIMINATE STRAYS IN THE BORDER AREA WHEN THERE WERE RUMOURS OF OUTBREAKS OF RABIES IN CHINA.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRY HU ON MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RABIES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

HE SAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN PAID TO THE LAND BORDER AREA.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN ALSO SAID CAMPAIGNS TO INOCULATE DOGS ON JUNKS HAS BEEN MOUNTED AND THAT THESE WERE BEING CONTINUED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALL DOGS AND CATS IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG FROM ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE SOUTH-EAST ASIAN REGION, MUST HAVE A VALID IMPORT PERMIT AND AN ACCEPTABLE HEALTH CERTIFICATE.

THEY ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO SIX MONTHS' QUARANTINE.

DOGS AND CATS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, EIRE, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WITH ACCEPTABLE HEALTH DOCUMENTS MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS, HE ADDED.

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PREVENT CRIME BY ADOPTING MODERN METHODS

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THOSE TRADING IN VALUABLE ITEMS SHOULD TAKE REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS BY ADOPTING MODERN CRIME PREVENTION METHODS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON PETER C. WONG, MR DAVIES SAID THAT TO DO SO WAS IN THEIR OWN AND THE COMMUNITY'S INTEREST AND THAT IT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO REMOVING THE NEED FOR SECURITY GUARDS TO POSSESS FIREARMS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE POLICY REGARDING THE ISSUE OF ARMS LICENCES TO SECURITY GUARDS WAS REVIEWED REGULARLY.

SHOTGUNS AND REVOLVERS WERE THE WEAPONS USED AND, BEARING IN MIND THE STANDARD OF PROFICIENCY REQUIRED TO USE MORE ACCURATE HIGH VELOCITY ARMS, HE DID NOT ENVISAGE MUCH CHANGE IN WEAPONS.

MR DAVIES ALSO SAID ALTERNATIVES TO FIREARMS WERE ALSO KEPT UNDER REVIEW BUT THESE HAVE SERIOUS LIMITATIONS WHEN USED TO RESIST ARMED ASSAILANTS BECAUSE OF THEIR VERY SHORT EFFECTIVE RANGE.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THE DANGER OF THESE DEVICES FALLING INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

+OBVIOUSLY THE USE OF FIREARMS MUST BE KEPT TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM, ESPECIALLY IN CROWDED URBAN AREAS.

+MUCH MORE CAN AND SHOULD BE DONE BY THE OWNERS OF PREMISES TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL SECURITY BY INSTALLING SUCH RELATIVELY SIMPLE ITEMS AS UNBREAKABLE GLASS, CAMERAS AND GOOD ALARM SYSTEMS,+ HE ADDED.

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BILLS PASSED

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SEVEN BILLS WERE PASSED AND BECAME LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY ARE THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980- THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION BILL 1980- THE LAND REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980- THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1980- THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 AND THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1980

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REGISTRAR GENERAL TO TAKE OVER
THREE NT DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES

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THE REGISTRAR GENERAL PLANS TO TAKE OVER THE DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES IN SHA TIN, YUEN LONG AND TSUEN WAN BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR JONES SAID THIS IN REPLY TO THE HON PETER C. WONG'S COMMENTS ON THE LAND REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 WHICH WAS PASSED.

HE SAID THAT WHEN HE INTRODUCED THE BILL IN JULY, HE DID SAY IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE REGISTRAR GENERAL SHOULD ASSUME DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES AND FOR THE PROCEDURES TO BE BROUGHT INTO CONFORMITY WITH THE LAND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES IN THE LAND OFFICE AT VICTORIA.

MORE STAFF WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RE-ORGANISE THEIR SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES AND, MR JONES SAID, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AIMED TO DIGEST THESE THREE REGISTRIES BEFORE TACKLING THE OTHER FIVE.

+BUT THE INTENTION IS FOR HIM TO TAKE OVER ALL EIGHT DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AS SOON AS THIS CAN PRACTICALLY BE DONE,+ HE ADDED.

EARLIER, THE HON PETER WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS AND URGENT ATTENTION TO LAND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE SAID THE LAND REGISTRATION SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICES HAS BEEN +CONSISTENTLY VERY POOR FOR A VERY LONG TIME AND CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE.+

BUT MR WONG REGRETTED THAT NEITHER MICROFILMING NOR THE PROPOSED NEW LAND REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, MUCH LESS COMPUTERISATION, ARE TO APPLY TO THE EIGHT DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+BAD AS THIS SITUATION IS NOW, WITH THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND URBANISATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IT CAN ONLY GET WORSE UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE, AND QUICKLY,+ MR WONG NOTED.

HE WAS SPEAKING ON THE BILL TO FACILITATE THE MICROFILMING OF LAND DEEDS REGISTERED AND KEPT IN THE LAND OFFICE.

THE BILL ALSO CLARIFIES THE OBLIGATIONS AND LIABILITIES OF THE LAND OFFICER, ESTABLISHES THE EVIDENTIARY VALUE OF LAND OFFICE RECORDS AND PROVIDES FOR THE MAKING OF LAND REGISTRATION REGULATIONS BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

+ALL OF THIS IS VERY USEFUL,+ HE SAID. +IT WILL FACILITATE THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW AND IMPROVED LAND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES THEREBY IMPROVING THE SERVICE AT PRESENT PROVIDED FOR THE PUBLIC BY THE LAND OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.+

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT MICROFILMING OF LAND DEEDS ON ITS OWN IS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE.

/IT WOULD

IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO BRING THE LAND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES UP TO THE STANDARDS REQUIRED OF A MODERN COMMERCIAL CENTRE LIKE HONG KONG UNLESS THE REGISTER CARDS, ON WHICH PARTICULARS OF THE TITLE TO LAND ARE RECORDED, ARE COMPUTERISED.

HE REVEALED THAT A FEASIBILITY STUDY IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT IN DECEMBER.

+THIS IS A WELCOME NEWS, AND I HOPE THAT THE STUDY WILL BE COMPLETED WITHOUT DELAY AND THAT COMPUTERISATION OF THESE RECORDS WILL COMMENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.+

COMMENTING ON THE STAFFING SITUATION AT THE LAND OFFICE, MR WONG THOUGHT THAT UNLESS ADDITIONAL STAFF WERE RECRUITED QUICKLY, THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD FROM THE PRESENT METHOD OF REGISTRATION TO COMPLETE MICROFILMING WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO TAKE UP TO FIVE YEARS.

HE ALSO CITED STATISTICS TO SHOW THE NUMBER OF MEMORIALS OR DOCUMENTS LODGED FOR REGISTRATION SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DEEDS REGISTRATION IN 1844.

+WITH THE APPARENTLY INSATIABLE DEMAND FOR HOUSING, OFFICE SPACE AND FACTORY ACCOMMODATION, THE PRESSURE ON THE LAND OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

+IT IS THEREFORE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND INDEED IN GOVERNMENT'S OWN INTEREST THAT THE PROCESS OF MODERNISATION AND RATIONALISATION OF LAND REGISTRATION BE ACCORDED HIGH PRIORITY,+ HE ADDED.

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OFFICIALS TO SPEAK FIRST

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THE HON ROGER LOBO MOVED A MOTION IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO REVISE THE PROCEDURE IN THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE OFFICIALS TO SPEAK BEFORE THE UNOFFICIALS.

MR LOBO SAID: +THIS, WE BELIEVE, WILL PROVE USEFUL BECAUSE AS IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT OFFICIAL MEMBERS WOULD BE SPEAKING BEFORE THE UNOFFICIALS AND AS THEY MAY RAISE IMPORTANT POLICY MATTERS IN ADDITION TO THOSE INCLUDED IN YOUR EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH, THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO WILL BE COMMENTING ON THOSE AND OTHER SUBJECTS WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THEIR OFFICIAL COLLEAGUES THE RIGHT OF REPLY.+

THE MOTION WAS PASSED.

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METRIC PROGRAMME

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THE METRICATION COMMITTEE HAS EMBARKED ON A PROGRAMME TO ENCOURAGE THE ADOPTION AND DISSEMINATION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE METRIC SYSTEM -- LE SYSTEME INTERNATIONALE (SI), THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW SO, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE COMMITTEE, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF PROFESSOR S.Y. KING, WAS RESPONSIBLE, THROUGH MASS MEDIA INCLUDING POSTERS, LEAFLETS AND TELEVISION, TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO ADOPT METRIC UNITS.

+THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO INVOLVING PARTICULAR SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY IN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE S.I.,+ HE ADDED.

+AT PRESENT, TWENTY-FOUR SECTORS ARE INVOLVED RANGING FROM CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS TO HAWKERS AND HOUSEWIVES,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

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CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS INCREASED

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PENSIONS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, INCLUDING THOSE UNDER THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION SCHEME AND THE WIDOW'S AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME, WILL BE INCREASED BY 15 PER CENT.

SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON MARTIN ROWLANDS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT PENSIONS IN PAYMENT ON JULY 1, 1980, INCLUDING PREVIOUS INCREASES ALREADY APPROVED, WILL BE INCREASED BY 15 PER CENT FROM OCTOBER 1.

HE SAID THE COST OF THE ADJUSTMENTS WAS ESTIMATED AT \$14.91 MILLION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR AND \$29.82 MILLION IN A FULL YEAR.

THE INCREASE WAS BASED ON THE JULY 1, 1979-JUNE 30, 1980 MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) WHICH ROSE BY 20 POINTS (15.34 PER CENT).

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SINGLE EXCHANGE POSITIVE STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION
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THE HON PETER C. WONG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE MOVE TOWARDS UNIFYING THE FOUR STOCK EXCHANGES MUST BE CONSIDERED AS +A POSITIVE STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION+.

MR WONG, CONVENOR OF AN AD HOC GROUP FORMED TO EXAMINE THE BILL, WAS SPEAKING ON THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION BILL, PROVIDING FOR A SINGLE UNIFIED EXCHANGE, WHICH WAS PASSED.

+ALTHOUGH THE PRINCIPLE OF THE BILL WAS NEVER IN DOUBT, SEVERAL ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID SOME PROVISIONS WERE CONSIDERED TOO RESTRICTIVE AND THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NOW AGREED TO ALLOW DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES OF COMPANIES ASSOCIATED WITH BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE.

HE REGARDED THIS AS A MOST WELCOME CONCESSION WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY PLEASE THE INVESTMENT COMMUNITY.

HOWEVER, HE REGRETTED THAT AT THIS STAGE THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNABLE TO ENTERTAIN THE IDEA OF FULL CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP AS DISTINCT FROM ASSOCIATE CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP.

IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD SUCH AS THE USA AND JAPAN, HE SAID, CORPORATE MEMBERS PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE STOCK MARKETS.

AND THE TREND IN ENGLAND IS TOWARDS CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP.

+THE ADVANTAGES ARE OBVIOUS. IT IS HOPED THAT, WHEN THE LOCAL CLIMATE IN THIS AREA IS MORE AMENABLE TO REFORM, GOVERNMENT WOULD INTRODUCE SUCH CHANGES AS MIGHT BE BENEFICIAL TO THE INVESTING PUBLIC,+ MR WONG ADDED.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IS A TRI-PARTITE BUSINESS
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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IS INDEED A TRI-PARTITE BUSINESS AS WELL AS RESPONSIBILITY, ACCORDING TO THE HON FRANCIS TIEN.

THE GOVERNMENT IS PLAYING ITS PART BY PROGRESSIVELY ENACTING THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION AND IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS ENFORCEMENT MACHINERY.

BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TOO, TO PLAY THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE UNACCEPTABLY HIGH NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, HE SAID.

/MR TIEN

MR TIEN WAS SPEAKING ON THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL, WHICH WAS PASSED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SOMETIMES WHEN THE EMPLOYERS PROPERLY PROVIDED ALL THE REQUISITE SAFETY EQUIPMENT, A WORKER CHOOSES TO IGNORE THE SAFETY RULES, OR CIRCUMVENTS THE SAFETY FEATURES OR EVEN GOES SO FAR AS TO REFUSE TO WEAR OR USE THE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED.

BY THEIR IRRESPONSIBLE ACTS, SUCH WORKERS NOT ONLY ENDANGER THEMSELVES BUT FELLOW WORKERS AND OTHERS AS WELL.

MR TIEN WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO GROUP OFFENCES INTO CATEGORIES WHEN CONSIDERING THE LEVEL OF THE REVISED PENALTIES, AND TO EXTEND OFFENCES COMMITTED BY OTHER PERSONS TO INCLUDE THOSE COMMITTED BY THE WORKERS THEMSELVES.

HOWEVER, HE OPINED THAT PENALTIES BY THEMSELVES WERE NOT ENOUGH TO ENSURE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

+THERE MUST, IN PARALLEL, BE AN EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, INCLUDING A WIDE-SPREAD PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, SO AS TO ENABLE BOTH EMPLOYERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES TO RECOGNISE INDUSTRIAL HAZARDS AND UNSAFE ACTS AND BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.+

HE SAID THAT SAFETY TRAINING IS PART OF THE SYLLABUS AT THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE AND THE INSTRUCTORS THERE ATTENDED COURSES AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE.

TRAINEES AT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE, AND THE APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES AT THE GOVERNMENT'S TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES RUN BY OTHER AGENCIES, RECEIVE TRAINING IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AS PART OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COURSES, HE ADDED.

+BUT THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER IN OUR INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE WHO HAVE NEVER HAD THE BENEFIT OF BEING PROPERLY TAUGHT THE DO'S AND DON'T'S OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

+THEY SHOULD BE EXPOSED TO A WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, AND SELECTED PERSONNEL FROM EVERY INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING SHOULD BE SENT ON A SAFETY COURSE SO THAT THERE WILL BE A RIPPLE EFFECT ON THEIR RETURN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANISATIONS.

+WHAT IS BASICALLY NEEDED, IS TO INCULCATE IN EVERYONE IN INDUSTRY A DEEP AND ABIDING SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE SAFETY OF OTHERS,+ MR TIEN SAID.

PROGRAMME TO COMBAT WATER POLLUTION
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A MAJOR ONGOING PROGRAMME OF INSTALLING NEW OR IMPROVED SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES OR EXTENDING OUTFALL PIPES TO A GREATER DISTANCE OFFSHORE TO CONTROL WATER POLLUTION LEVELS IS IN FORCE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PROGRAMME, HE SAID, IS EXPECTED TO COST GOVERNMENT ABOUT \$2 000 MILLION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

MR JONES MADE THE COMMENTS IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN ANSWER TO THE HON WONG LAM, WHO ASKED WHAT MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL THE POLLUTION LEVEL IN THE WATER AT HONG KONG'S GAZETTED BEACHES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF SWIMMERS.

REGARDING THE BEACHES, MR JONES SAID, TOILET FACILITIES WERE PROVIDED AND THESE DISCHARGED EITHER INTO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS OR SEPTIC TANKS OR CESSPOOLS WHICH WERE EMPTIED REGULARLY BY STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

MR JONES POINTED OUT THAT THE LEVELS OF POLLUTION IN THE WATERS AT GAZETTED BEACHES WERE MEASURED SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH BY THE URBAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS.

+IF THE NUMBERS OF FAECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA IN SAMPLES INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF SEWAGE, THEN FURTHER TESTS ARE CARRIED OUT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER DISEASE CAUSING ORGANISMS ARE PRESENT,+ HE SAID.

+IF A HEALTH HAZARD IS CONFIRMED AND THE SOURCE OF THE POLLUTION CANNOT BE ELIMINATED, THEN THE BEACH CAN BE DE-GAZETTED AND THE PUBLIC WARNED OF THE DANGER.

+THE ONLY TIME THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED WAS AT LAI CHI KOK BAY IN 1972 AND, SINCE THEN, THE MEASURES I HAVE DESCRIBED HAVE IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF WATER AT MOST BATHING BEACHES.

+THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO MAINTAIN THIS IMPROVEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, AT REPULSE BAY WHERE A CHLORINATION PLANT TO STERILISE THE TREATED SEWAGE HAS RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT INTO OPERATION,+ HE ADDED.

MR JONES SAID THAT ALTHOUGH POLLUTION FROM SEWAGE DISPOSAL WAS BEING DEALT WITH ENERGETICALLY, THERE WERE OTHER CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS WHICH, IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND PARTS OF HONG KONG ISLAND, WAS PIG AND POULTRY MANURE WASHED DOWN IN STREAMS.

AND, IN SOME CASES, HE CONTINUED, STORMWATER DRAINS AND NULLAHS COULD CARRY POLLUTED MATTER INTO THE SEA.

HOWEVER, HE ASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WERE TACKLING, AND WERE SEEKING FURTHER WAYS TO TACKLE, THESE SOURCES AND THAT THEIR ABILITY TO DO SO WOULD INCREASE AS STAFF AND OTHER RESOURCES NEEDED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUILD UP.

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VALEDICTORY TO TWO RETIRING LEGCO MEMBERS
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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR JACK CATER, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HON F.K. LI AND THE HON J.C.C. WALDEN, WHO ARE RETIRING FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

RECALLING MR LI'S CAREER WHICH EMBRACED POSTS IN EDUCATION, HOUSING, LABOUR, CIVIL SERVICE, FINANCE, SOCIAL WELFARE, SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOME AFFAIRS, SIR JACK SAID: +IN ALL THESE, HIS WISE COUNSEL AND PENETRATING JUDGEMENT HAVE BEEN OF GREAT BENEFIT.+

+I AM GLAD TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL NOT BE, SO TO SPEAK, DESERTING US.

+WE SHALL CONTINUE TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE BREADTH OF HIS KNOWLEDGE AND ADVICE IN HIS NEW APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION, WHERE I AM SURE HE WILL AGAIN MAKE HIS MARK.+

IN COMMENDING MR WALDEN, SIR JACK SAID THAT DURING HIS LONG SERVICE HE HAD GAINED THE RESPECT OF THOSE WHO HAD COME INTO CONTACT WITH HIM IN SEVERAL FIELDS.

SIR JACK SAID MR WALDEN WOULD BE REMEMBERED FOR THE CONCERN HE HAD DISPLAYED FOR PEOPLE AND HIS EFFORTS TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT, AND IN HELPING TO ENSURE THAT BY MEANS OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE WERE MADE KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT.

AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON R.H. LOBO, IN JOINING THE GOVERNOR PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR LI AND MR WALDEN SAID THAT DURING THE EIGHT YEARS OF WHICH MR LI HAD SERVED ON THE COUNCIL HE HAD BEEN A SOURCE OF SOUND ADVICE TO ALL UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES ON THE COUNCIL AND AT UMEICO MEETINGS.

MR LOBO SAID MR LI HAD MOVED THE MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT FORWARD WITH SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND LOCAL CONDITIONS WITH LITTLE PUBLICITY, AND HE HAD NEVER BEEN ONE TO STEAL THE LIMELIGHT.

OF MR WALDEN, MR LOBO SAID HE HAD OCCUPIED MANY IMPORTANT AND OFTEN DIFFICULT POSTS AND MORE RECENTLY HE HAD BEEN STRENGTHENING THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE SCHEME.

+WE KNOW MR WALDEN HAS THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AT HEART AND WE HOPE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO FOSTER THE 'GOOD IMAGE OF HONG KONG' AFTER HIS RETIREMENT,+ SAID MR LOBO.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD
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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 8) FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO ENABLE ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA.

DURING THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS, A SECTION OF ABOUT 300 METRES OF THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD NEAR HIRAM'S HIGHWAY WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

THE WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE NEW CARRIAGEWAY NEAR THE JUNCTION WITH HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND WILL JOIN THE OLD CARRIAGEWAY AT A POINT OF ABOUT 200 METRES WEST OF THE JUNCTION.

THE EXISTING TURNING POCKET FOR THE WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD TURNING ON TO HIRAM'S HIGHWAY WILL BE CANCELLED. A NEW TURNING POCKET WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THIS MOVEMENT AT A POINT OF ABOUT 800 METRES WEST OF THE JUNCTION WITH HIRAM'S HIGHWAY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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