



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MEASURES TO FIGHT CRIME SPELLS OUT  
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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) SPELT OUT A SERIES OF NEW MEASURES TO FIGHT CRIME.

WINDING UP A MOTION DEBATE ON LAW AND ORDER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ASPREY SAID SOME SUCCESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE POLICE MANAGEMENT IN THEIR EFFORT TO COUNTER THE EFFECT OF MANPOWER SHORTAGE.

AT MARCH 1 THIS YEAR, THERE WERE ABOUT 250 MORE POLICE OFFICERS IN THE FORCE THAN THERE WERE A YEAR AGO.

IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS, RECRUITMENT AT JUNIOR POLICE OFFICER LEVEL HAD PICKED UP; AT THE SAME TIME WASTAGE HAD DECLINED.

THE NET RESULT HAD BEEN A STEADY IF SLOW INCREASE IN POLICE STRENGTH, HE SAID.

"WE MUST ENSURE THAT THIS TREND CONTINUES," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IF IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE PAY FOR JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS WAS NOT ATTRACTING SUFFICIENT RECRUITS, THEN CLEARLY THEIR PAY HAD TO BE REVIEWED.

HE SAID THE POLICE HAD ALSO MADE VERY CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT IN NEW ANTI-CRIME EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY.

"WE WILL SEE THE DELIVERY OF 21 NEW LAUNCHES FOR THE MARINE POLICE IN 1992-93; THESE WILL HELP TO CURB CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AT SEA," HE SAID.

OTHER ANTI-CRIME EQUIPMENT INCLUDED THE COMPUTER ASSISTED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM, WHICH HAD HELPED TO RESOLVE A NUMBER OF SERIOUS CRIMES; THE ENHANCED COMMAND AND CONTROL COMPUTER SYSTEM, WHICH IMPROVES DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS; THE CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE COMPUTER SYSTEM, WHICH IMPROVES INVESTIGATION WORK; UPGRADED POLICE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT; AND THERMAL IMAGERS FOR ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT OPERATIONS ON THE BORDER.

THE POLICE WERE STREAMLINING CRIME REPORTING PROCEDURES TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO FIGHT CRIME, HE SAID.

ONE-WAY VIEWING FACILITIES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF SUSPECTS BY WITNESSES ARE IN OPERATION IN FOUR POLICE STATIONS, AND TWO MORE WILL COME INTO OPERATION THIS YEAR.

THE POLICE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING IMPROVED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WITNESSES, ESPECIALLY IN CASES OF TRIAD CRIMES WHERE INTIMIDATION IS FEARED.

MR ASPREY SAID THE ORGANISED CRIME BILL WAS NOW BEING REVISED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE BILL, WHEN ENACTED, WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN TACKLING ORGANISED CRIME AND AT THE SAME TIME BE CONSISTENT WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE. THIS IS NOT AN EASY BALANCE TO STRIKE BUT WE ARE WORKING VERY HARD ON IT," HE SAID.

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TURNING TO THE SO-CALLED POLICE "MORALE" PROBLEM, MR ASPREY SAID IT WAS WRONG TO SUGGEST THAT THE POLICE WERE PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES RELUCTANTLY AND INEFFICIENTLY.

"THE POLICE CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH DEDICATION, DETERMINATION AND COURAGE. THIS IS THE TRUE MEASURE OF MORALE," HE SAID.

"THE POLICE ARE DOING A DIFFICULT JOB. WE SHOULD RECOGNISE THEIR HARD WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS, NOT DIMINISH THEM," HE ADDED.

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MOMENTUM OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO BE INCREASED

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THE OCTOBER 1991 AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN BRITAIN, HONG KONG AND VIETNAM ON REPATRIATION HAS WORKED WELL AND IS SUCCESSFUL IN STEMMING ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM AND IN STIMULATING VOLUNTARY RETURNS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, WHEN WINDING UP AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON "VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAMME FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS" IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY).

"WE NOW NEED TO BUILD ON THIS PROMISING START BY INCREASING THE PACE OF RETURN," MR ASPREY SAID.

THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS SEEKING TO INCREASE THE MOMENTUM OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION BY EXTENDING THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT FOR NON-VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO THE LONG-TERM SCREENED-OUT POPULATION IN THE CAMPS.

SO FAR, MR ASPREY SAID, THERE HAD BEEN NO SUBSTANTIATED CASE OF PERSECUTION OR MISTREATMENT OF ANYONE WHO HAD RETURNED.

TO ENSURE THAT GUARANTEES WERE UPHELD, THE SECRETARY SAID THE UNHCR MONITORED THE TREATMENT OF EVERYONE WHO WENT BACK WHETHER UNDER THE VOLUNTARY OR THE MANDATORY RETURN SCHEME.

NEVERTHELESS, EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE IN THE CENTRES ARE GIVEN ACCURATE AND RELIABLE INFORMATION ON CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM AND RECEIVE COUNSELLING ON REPATRIATION.

ON THE EXPANSION OF REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN VIETNAM, MR ASPREY SAID THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAD JUST EXTENDED A PILOT SCHEME OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO A FULL PROGRAMME PROVIDING \$800 MILLION IN 17 PROVINCES OF VIETNAM.

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MOTION ON LAW AND ORDER PASSED

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A MOTION ON LAW AND ORDER MOVED BY THE HON PEGGY LAM WAS PASSED AFTER A THREE-AND-A-HALF HOUR DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MOTION READ: "IN VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY'S STRONG CONCERN OVER VIOLENT CRIMES AND GANG ACTIVITIES, THIS COUNCIL URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES, INCLUDING THOSE TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY, EQUIPMENT AND MORALE OF THE POLICE FORCE, SO AS TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE PEOPLE, MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER AND REDUCE THE CRIME RATE IN HONG KONG."

A TOTAL OF 21 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE. THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

NINE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS SPOKE IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAMME FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS RAISED BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW. MR ASPREY AGAIN SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

A MOTION UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WAS PASSED.

TWO BILLS, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.5) BILL 1991 AND DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1991, WERE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

TWO OTHER BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1992 AND BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992. DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

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MOTION ON FUNDING PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION PROVIDING FUNDS ON ACCOUNT TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY ON EXISTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE START OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR ON APRIL 1 AND THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

THE FUNDS INVOLVED AMOUNT TO \$39,204,635,000.

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE.

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CONSULTANTS ENGAGED IN SOME AIRPORT PROJECTS

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CONSULTANTS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED TO CARRY OUT FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON SOME PROJECTS RECOMMENDED IN THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND NOW INCLUDED IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR YEUNG ADDED THAT THESE PROJECTS INCLUDED THE NEW AIRPORT, THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING AND THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING,

"THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY PROJECTS IN WHICH WE ENVISAGE A DEGREE OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION," HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF RELEASING THE STUDY REPORTS, MR YEUNG SAID THE FINANCIAL STUDIES CONTAINED COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE INFORMATION.

"IN DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT TO PUBLISH THESE STUDIES, WE HAVE TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE RELEASE OF COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE INFORMATION WILL PREJUDICE TENDERS OR OFFERS OF FINANCING TO THE GOVERNMENT OR THE STATUTORY CORPORATIONS INVOLVED," THE SECRETARY SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, IN SOME CASES, THE BASIC ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THE EARLIER STUDIES WERE OUT OF DATE.

"WE THEREFORE CONSIDER THESE REPORTS UNSUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION AND THAT THEY MAY, IF RELEASED, CAUSE MORE CONFUSION THAN ENLIGHTENMENT," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO CONSIDERED WHETHER THE REPORTS COULD BE RELEASED AFTER REMOVING SENSITIVE INFORMATION.

"THE FACT IS THAT, IN ALL CASES, THE SENSITIVE INFORMATION CONSTITUTE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE REPORTS,

"WITHOUT THEM, THE REPORTS WOULD BE VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS," HE SAID.

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GOVT REGULARLY REVIEWS BANKING LAW

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IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO REVIEW AND REVISE LEGISLATION RELATING TO BANKS REGULARLY TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION OF AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS AND TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF DEPOSITORS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD K.S. LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SECRETARY SAID THE EXTENT TO WHICH MORE INFORMATION SHOULD BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IN RESPECT OF BANKING OPERATIONS WAS ONE OF MANY ISSUES THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THAT ON-GOING REVIEW.

"BUT WE SHALL ALSO BE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY OF THE BANKING SYSTEM," HE ADDED.

AS TO THE UNRECORDED LIABILITIES OF A BANK, MR MACLEOD POINTED OUT THAT SHOULD A BANK HAVE SUCH, THAT WAS TO SAY THAT THERE WERE CLAIMS WHICH WERE NOT RECORDED IN ITS BOOKS THOUGH IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD ACCOUNTING PRACTICES THEY OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN, IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DISCOVER THESE, HOWEVER TRANSPARENT THE OPERATIONS OF THE BANK WERE TO BECOME.

HE SAID THEY COULD WELL ONLY BE IDENTIFIED WHEN THE PERSONS PURPORTING TO HAVE SUCH CLAIMS ON THE BANK CAME FORWARD AND MADE THEIR CLAIMS.

"CERTAINLY IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE CLAIMS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN LODGED WITH THE PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR OF BCCHK (THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG) BY LIQUIDATORS OF OTHER PARTS OF THE BCC GROUP WORLDWIDE, WHETHER THEY CAN BE DESCRIBED AS 'RECORDED' OR 'UNRECORDED' LIABILITIES, ARE NOT SUCH AS COULD HAVE BEEN REASONABLY IDENTIFIED OR ANTICIPATED BY A REGULATOR OF AUDITOR.

"THESE CLAIMS, ARISING OUT OF THE BUSINESS OF BCCHK HAVE YET TO BE EVALUATED, AND IF NECESSARY, RULED UPON BY THE COURT," HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY SAID IT WOULD NOT BE A PRACTICABLE PROPOSITION TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE UNRECORDED OR POTENTIAL LIABILITIES IN OTHER AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS BEARING IN MIND THE LARGE NUMBER OF AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS AND THE SCALE AND EXTENT OF THEIR BUSINESS.

THE BEST PREVENTIVE MEASURE WAS TO ENSURE THAT ONLY INSTITUTIONS WITH PRUDENT MANAGEMENT WERE AUTHORISED TO OPERATE IN HONG KONG AND THAT INSTITUTIONS HAD GOOD AND EFFECTIVE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS WHICH COULD GUARD AGAINST FRAUD AND MALPRACTICES INCLUDING FAILURE TO KEEP PROPER RECORDS OF TRANSACTIONS, HE SAID.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, THE CONTROLS ON BANK OWNERSHIP AND THE AUTHORISATION POLICY HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED SINCE THE ENTRY OF BCCHK IN 1979.

"A PERSON PROPOSING TO BECOME A CONTROLLER OF AN AUTHORISED INSTITUTION INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG NOW HAS TO OBTAIN THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING," HE ADDED.

MR MACLEOD SAID LEGISLATION HAD ALSO BEEN AMENDED TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN REGULATORS, BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS, AND THE REPORTING OF FRAUD TO THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING BY AUDITORS.

IN ADDITION, A BANKING AMENDMENT BILL WAS BEING DRAFTED TO PROVIDE THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR EXTERNAL AUDITORS TO REPORT ON THE ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS' INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM.

"WHILE WE ARE NOT COMPLACENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP MATTERS UNDER REVIEW, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A SOUND AND ADEQUATELY SUPERVISED BANKING SYSTEM WHICH COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THAT IN OTHER CENTRES AROUND THE WORLD," HE ADDED.

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NO GUARANTEE ON KCRC'S TARGET RATE OF RETURN

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KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION'S (KCRC) TARGET RATE OF RETURN OF 12 PER CENT TO 15 PER CENT ON NET FIXED ASSETS IS NOT A PERMITTED OR GUARANTEED RETURN, BUT ONE OF THE INTERNAL GUIDELINES FOR THE KCRC TO OPERATE ON PRUDENT COMMERCIAL PRINCIPLES WITHOUT GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT, MR LEUNG SAID LAST YEAR KCRC'S RATE OF RETURN ON FIXED ASSETS WAS EIGHT PER CENT BEFORE PROPERTY INCOME AND NINE PER CENT AFTER PROPERTY INCOME.

"THE KCRC EXPECTS THAT EXCLUDING PROPERTY INCOME, THE RETURN ON ITS NET FIXED ASSETS WILL ONLY BE AROUND SIX TO SEVEN PER CENT PER ANNUM IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE INTERNAL GUIDELINES WERE ADOPTED AS THE CORPORATION'S CORPORATE INTENT, FOLLOWING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KCRC IN LATE 1990.

MR LEUNG SAID THE 12 PER CENT TO 15 PER CENT RATE OF RETURN WAS A LONG-TERM TARGET WHICH WAS INDICATIVE RATHER THAN DEFINITIVE. IT WAS NOT TO BE USED AS THE SOLE INDICATOR TO EVALUATE PERFORMANCE.

"SPECIFICALLY, A RATE OF RETURN WILL ENSURE THAT THE CORPORATION WILL BUILD UP SUFFICIENT RESERVES OVER TIME TO FINANCE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE TAXPAYER," HE SAID.

"AS THE GUIDELINES ARE INTENDED FOR INTERNAL GUIDANCE WITHIN THE KCRC AND INVOLVE COMMERCIAL CONFIDENTIALLY, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICISED," HE SAID.

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SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS

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IN VIEW OF THE SCALE AND INTENSITY OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS, THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO PROMOTE AND PROVIDE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND SITE PERSONNEL INVOLVED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BLAKE SAID THE ADDITIONAL MEASURES WOULD INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CONTRACTOR'S SITE SAFETY PLAN TO BE APPROVED AND CLOSELY FOLLOWED.

"THE CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE BEING STRENGTHENED TO GIVE CONTRACTUALLY BINDING EFFECT TO THE ADDITIONAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS," HE SAID.

MOREOVER, MR BLAKE SAID, A SITE SAFETY MANUAL INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR AUDITING SAFETY ACTIONS AND FOR EMERGENCY SUPPORT WAS BEING DEVELOPED TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK COMMON TO ALL AIRPORT-RELATED CONTRACTS.

THE USUAL QUARTERLY REPORTING ON CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING SAFETY PERFORMANCE WILL APPLY, AND CONTRACTORS' SAFETY RECORDS WILL BE REGULARLY REVIEWED.

"IF THERE ARE ANY MAJOR SITE SAFETY PROBLEMS, THERE WILL BE URGENT HIGH-LEVEL MANAGEMENT INVOLVEMENT TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION," MR BLAKE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT POOR SITE SAFETY PERFORMANCE ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS TO TENDER FOR FURTHER GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

"AS A POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT A SITE SAFETY AWARD SCHEME IS BEING CONSIDERED. THIS WILL REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH CONTRACTORS INVOLVED AND OTHER RELEVANT BODIES," HE SAID.

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GOODS SMUGGLING BY LAND NOT RAMPANT

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SMUGGLING OF UNMANIFESTED GOODS INTO CHINA BY LAND WAS NOT RAMPANT.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW WONG, MR ASPREY SAID LAST YEAR 63 CASES WERE DETECTED INVOLVING GOODS WORTH SOME \$36 MILLION.

/THE TYPES .....

THE TYPES OF GOODS TYPICALLY SMUGGLED INTO CHINA BY LAND INCLUDED VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS, COMPUTERS, CAMERAS AND AIR CONDITIONERS.

HE SAID THERE WERE TWO INCIDENTS LAST YEAR WHEN VEHICLES CROSSING IN TO CHINA DROVE STRAIGHT ON AFTER BEING DIRECTED TO THE CUSTOMS INSPECTION AREA IN HONG KONG.

THE VEHICLES WERE DIRECTED BACK TO HONG KONG BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE INCIDENTS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS, AS NO CONTRABAND WAS FOUND IN EITHER CASE.

"THERE IS CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINESE CUSTOMS AT THE VEHICULAR CROSSING POINTS, AND I WOULD NOT EXPECT PROBLEMS OF THE TYPE ENVISAGED IN THE QUESTION TO ARISE IN FUTURE," MR ASPREY SAID.

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APPROVAL NEEDED FOR DISPLAY OF SIGNBOARDS

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APPLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS TO PUT UP PUBLICITY SIGNBOARDS FOR THEIR OFFICES AT PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES ARE CONSIDERED AND PROCESSED IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHER APPLICATIONS FOR PUTTING UP SIGNBOARDS IN PUBLIC PLACES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO, MR BARNES SAID IN CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION, FACTORS SUCH AS OBSTRUCTION TO THE PUBLIC, TRAFFIC SAFETY AND THE COMMERCIAL CONTENT OF THE SIGNBOARDS WERE ALSO TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

MR BARNES SAID AN APPLICATION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO THE RELEVANT DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER IF THE SIGNBOARDS WERE PROPOSED TO BE PUT ON GOVERNMENT LAND.

"HOWEVER, DEPENDING ON THE LOCATION, APPROVAL BY THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS OR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER WOULD ONLY APPROVE NON-COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING INVOLVING THE DISPLAY OF BANNERS OR POSTERS ON HIGHWAY STRUCTURES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS, SUCH AS TRADE FAIRS AND FESTIVALS.

"WHERE THERE MAY BE POSSIBLE OBSTRUCTIONS TO TRAFFIC OR VIEW OF TRAFFIC, THE POLICE AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONSULTED," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID APPLICATIONS FOR PUTTING UP SIGNBOARDS NORMALLY TAKE SOME SIX WEEKS TO PROCESS.

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PROPOSAL TO RECYCLE CONSTRUCTION WASTE UNDER CONSIDERATION

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING PROPOSALS TO LEVY A CHARGE FOR CONSTRUCTION WASTE DISPOSAL AND TO ESTABLISH SORTING AND RECYCLING CENTRES FOR CONSTRUCTION WASTE INCLUDING TIMBER, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG, MR BLAKE SAID WOODEN PLANKS AND BOARDS USED IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WERE AT PRESENT DISPOSED OF EITHER BY TAKING TO LANDFILLS OR BY BURNING ON SITE.

"HOWEVER BURNING IS NOW MUCH LESS COMMON SINCE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES HAVE BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE," HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT ABOUT 95 PER CENT OF THE WOODEN PLANKS AND BOARDS USED IN GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WERE IMPORTED FROM COUNTRIES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

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FOREIGN WORKERS MAY EXTEND STAY FOR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

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FOREIGN WORKERS COULD APPLY TO IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR EXTENSION OF STAY PENDING CONCILIATION MEETINGS, COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION AND COURT HEARINGS IN CASE THEY HAD ANY COMPLAINT AGAINST THEIR EMPLOYERS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS ELSIE TU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHAN EXPLAINED THAT ALL FOREIGN WORKERS WERE SUBJECT TO PROTECTION UNDER HONG KONG LAW IRRESPECTIVE OF SEX, RACE AND NATIONALITY.

"THE SAME COMPLAINT MECHANISM APPLIES TO FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS AND TO WORKERS IMPORTED UNDER THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEMES.

"IF THEY HAVE ANY COMPLAINT AGAINST THEIR EMPLOYERS, THEY CAN APPROACH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE A CONCILIATION SERVICE."

IF NO SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED, HE SAID, THEIR CASES ARE REFERRED TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL FOR ADJUDICATION.

"THEY ARE SUBJECT TO THE 'TWO-WEEK RULE' ON LIMITATION OF STAY: THAT IS TO SAY, THEY ARE REQUIRED TO LEAVE HONG KONG WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE TERMINATION OF THEIR CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

"HOWEVER THEY CAN APPLY TO IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR EXTENSION OF STAY PENDING CONCILIATION MEETINGS, COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION AND COURT HEARINGS," HE SAID.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS HAS HAD A HISTORY OF MORE THAN 15 YEARS AND BOTH THE FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS WERE WELL AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, HE ADDED.

"EMPLOYERS OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS ARE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION IF THEY HAVE COMMITTED OFFENCES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE OR THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

"THE RECORDS OF OFFENCES PROVIDE USEFUL INFORMATION TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN DECIDING WHETHER AN EMPLOYER IS A SUITABLE SPONSOR IN FUTURE APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS," MR CHAN SAID.

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PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICE EXPLAINED

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THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHERE IT IS WILLING AND ABLE TO DO SO, AND WHERE THE PUBLIC INTEREST CAN BE ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FRED LI WAH-MING, MR MACLEOD SAID MOST PUBLIC TRANSPORT, HARBOUR CROSSINGS, BROADCASTING, POWER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WERE PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"WHERE THESE BUSINESSES ARE MONOPOLIES OR QUASI-MONOPOLIES, THE PUBLIC INTEREST IS USUALLY SAFEGUARDED THROUGH FRANCHISE AND/OR LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS OF SOME SORT," HE SAID.

"WHERE A PUBLIC SERVICE NEEDS TO BE PROVIDED, AND THERE IS MERIT IN GIVING ITS MANAGEMENT A LARGE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY AND IN ENSURING THAT IT OPERATES THE SERVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRUDENT COMMERCIAL PRINCIPLES, WE TEND TO SEEK TO PROVIDE IT THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF A STATUTORY CORPORATION," HE SAID.

THE MTRC, KCRC AND THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION ARE CASES IN POINT.

WHERE A PUBLIC SERVICE IS NEEDED, BUT THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS EITHER UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO DO SO (EITHER BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE OR BECAUSE IT IS NOT COMMERCIALY VIABLE), MR MACLEOD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING THAT SERVICE.

"WE WOULD, HOWEVER, ASK OURSELVES WHETHER ALTERNATIVELY THE SERVICE COULD BE PROVIDED EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES," HE ADDED.

AIDED SCHOOLS AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS AND WELFARE AGENCIES FORMED THE BULK OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES.

"WHERE THE SERVICE CANNOT BE PROVIDED IN THAT WAY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ASSUME THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF DELIVERING THE SERVICE THROUGH A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

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REVIEW ON OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES AND PASSAGES UNDERWAY

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A REVIEW IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO EXAMINE WHETHER AND HOW THE OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES AND SCHOOL PASSAGES SCHEME SHOULD BE CHANGED, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AMONG THE CONSIDERATIONS IN CARRYING OUT THE REVIEW ARE THE AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF LOCAL EDUCATION, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONSULT STAFF ON ANY PROPOSALS TO MODIFY THE OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCE SCHEME AND SCHOOL PASSAGE SCHEME BEFORE ANY CHANGES WERE INTRODUCED TO THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF SERVING OFFICERS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEPHEN NG, MR WIGGHAM EXPLAINED THAT THE TWO SCHEMES WERE INTRODUCED IN THE PAST TO FACILITATE RECRUITMENT FROM OVERSEAS AND WERE LATER EXTENDED TO LOCAL OFFICERS ON GROUNDS OF PARITY.

THERE ARE ASPECTS OF THE SCHEMES WHICH HAVE BECOME OUT-DATED, HE ADDED.

ON THE RATES OF THE ALLOWANCES, MR WIGGHAM SAID THE RATES OF OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCE VARIED FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY DEPENDING ON THE COST OF EDUCATION IN THAT COUNTRY.

"THERE ARE DIFFERENT RATES FOR DAY SCHOOL AND BOARDING SCHOOL.

"TRADITIONALLY, WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE RATES LAID DOWN BY THE UK OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (ODA) FOR ITS STAFF WORKING OVERSEAS. THE ODA RATES ARE REVISED FROM TIME TO TIME BASED ON CHANGES IN THE LEVEL OF TUITION FEES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES."

HE NOTED THAT THE COST OF SCHOOL PASSAGES ON THE UK ROUTE WAS BASED ON THE CONTRACT FARE IN THE AIR PASSAGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TWO OPERATING AIRLINES.

SCHOOL PASSAGES ON NON-UK ROUTES, WHICH ONLY CONSTITUTE ABOUT 4.5 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL, ARE BASED ON THE PUBLISHED ECONOMY CLASS FARE OR STUDENT FARE, WHERE AVAILABLE.

/MR WIGGHAM .....

MR WIGGHAM TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE EXPENDITURE ON OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES AND SCHOOL PASSAGES IN THE PAST THREE YEARS WAS:

	OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES	PASSAGES
	\$ MILLION	\$ MILLION
1989/90	112.6	52.3
90/91	168.5	66.4
91/92	211.2	103.7

(REVISED PROVISION)

THE FORECAST EXPENDITURE FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS IS:

	OVERSEAS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES	PASSAGES
	\$ MILLION	\$ MILLION
1992/93	222.1	84.7
93/94	235.4	82.5
94/95	249.6	87.4

THE FORECAST REDUCTION IN PASSAGE EXPENDITURE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS IS DUE TO A NEW TICKETING ARRANGEMENT WITH RETURN JOURNEYS STARTING IN HONG KONG AND LOWER FARES UNDER A NEW PASSAGE AGREEMENT TO BE INTRODUCED IN 1992/93, MR WIGGHAM SAID.

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MORE CONTAINER VEHICLE PARKING SPACES ON TSING YI

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EXTRA LAND TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 330 CONTAINER VEHICLES AT SAI TSOI WAN ON TSING YI SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN JULY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT, MR LEUNG SAID THERE WERE ALSO PLANS TO MAKE TWO MORE SITES AVAILABLE IN NORTHEAST TSING YI BY SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR FOR ABOUT 400 LORRIES.

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"IN THE LONGER TERM, PROVISION FOR VEHICLE PARKING WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 9, WHICH WILL HAVE A 36-HECTARE BACK-UP AREA," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES WHICH STIPULATED STANDARDS FOR PROVIDING LORRY PARKING SPACES IN NEW INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, WERE BEING APPLIED IN THE CASE OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON TSING YI.

"THE ACTUAL AVAILABILITY OF LAND FOR PARKING IS MONITORED. WHERE THERE IS A SHORTFALL, EFFORTS ARE MADE TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL SITES FOR USE ON A TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT BASIS," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE ABOUT 1,150 PARKING SPACES FOR CONTAINER VEHICLES AND ABOUT 1,800 SPACES FOR LORRIES ON TSING YI.

MR LEUNG SAID A SPOT CHECK BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LAST JANUARY SHOWED THAT ABOUT 310 CONTAINER VEHICLES AND 350 LORRIES WERE ILLEGALLY PARKED ON TSING YI OVERNIGHT.

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ROLE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS EXPLAINED

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THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (NLCDCPS) ARE CARRIED OUT BY SUBVENTED AGENCIES IN AREAS WHERE THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL FACILITIES AND WELFARE SERVICES IS NON-EXISTENT OR INADEQUATE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FUNG KIN-KEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR SUEN SAID SUCH AREAS INCLUDED TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, SQUATTER AREAS, COTTAGE AREAS, AND MARK I TO VI PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES THAT WERE DUE FOR IMMINENT REDEVELOPMENT.

THE NLCDCP TEAM IS GENERALLY THE MAIN SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCY IN THE PRIORITY AREA, PROVIDING A PACKAGE OF WELFARE SERVICES TO THE TARGET POPULATION.

SINCE MAY 1989, THE COMMITTEE ON NLCDCP HAS APPROVED THE EXTENSION OF NLCDCP TEAMS, INTER ALIA, TO MARK III TO MARK VI PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

"A TOTAL OF 51 TEAMS HAVE BEEN SET UP, 14 SERVE THESE ESTATES," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT APPROVED APPLICATIONS FROM AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN EACH CASE, MR SUEN SAID IT WAS A MATTER FOR THE AGENCY TO APPLY TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE ALLOCATION OF SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION.

"THE HOUSING AUTHORITY CONSIDERS APPLICATIONS FROM A VOLUNTARY AGENCY FOR PREMISES FOR NLCDP IN THE CONTEXT OF ALL OTHER PRIORITIES AND HAVING REGARD TO THE WISHES OF ESTATE RESIDENTS.

"TO DATE, 13 UNITS IN MARK III - VI ESTATES HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO NLCDP TEAMS FOR USE AS A BASE FOR THEIR WORK IN THE ESTATE; THERE IS ONE APPLICATION STILL BEING PROCESSED," MR SUEN SAID.

UNDER CURRENT POLICY, MR SUEN STRESSED, IF VACANT PREMISES FAIL TO ATTRACT COMMERCIAL TENANTS AFTER REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO LET, CONSIDERATION MAY BE GIVEN TO CONVERSION OF SUCH PREMISES TO COMMUNITY USE, PROVIDED THAT SUCH USE WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE BUSSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF NEARBY SHOPS.

HE ALSO SAID IT WAS THE AIM TO PROVIDE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, PREMISES THAT MEET THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

"FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRES, PREMISES BETWEEN 50 TO 140 SQUARE METRES ARE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE FOR ALLOCATION.

"BASED ON OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE, IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE PREMISES WITHIN THIS RANGE FOR USE BY THESE CENTRES," HE SAID.

IN CONCLUSION, MR SUEN SAID PROVIDED THAT SUITABLE PREMISES WERE AVAILABLE AND THAT ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WERE SUBMITTED TOGETHER WITH THE APPLICATION, IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE THE PROCESSING WITHIN FOUR MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF SUBMISSION.

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INLAND REVENUE AMENDMENT (NO. 2) BILL INTRODUCED

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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 IS TO EXEMPT FROM PROFITS TAX INCOME DERIVED FROM GOODS AND PASSENGERS UPLIFTED IN HONG KONG BY SHIPS REGISTERED ON THE HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER.

MOVING THE BILL FOR THE SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K.Y. YEUNG SAID MAJOR WORLD SHIP REGISTRATION CENTRES, OTHER THAN HONG KONG, DID NOT CHARGE TAX ON PROFITS MADE BY OWNERS OF SHIPS REGISTERED WITH THEM.

INSTEAD, THEY LEVIED INITIAL REGISTRATION FEES AND ANNUAL CHARGES.

MR YEUNG SAID AT PRESENT THERE WAS A DISINCENTIVE FOR SHIPS TO JOIN THE HONG KONG REGISTER, BECAUSE HERE THEY WERE SUBJECT BOTH TO FEES AND CHARGES AND TO PROFITS TAX.

/"BY EXEMPTING .....

"BY EXEMPTING THEM FROM PROFITS TAX, THE BILL WILL ENCOURAGE MORE SHIPS TO JOIN OUR REGISTER AND SO PROVIDE A LARGE, EVEN IF UNQUANTIFIABLE BENEFIT TO THE ECONOMY GENERALLY," THE SECRETARY SAID.

DESCRIBING THE REVENUE IMPLICATIONS AS SMALL, MR YEUNG SAID THE NOTIONAL COST TO REVENUE OF THE EXEMPTION WOULD BE LESS THAN \$30 MILLION A YEAR.

"AND, OF COURSE, WE EXPECT MOST OF THIS TO BE MADE UP FOR BY FEES AND CHARGES PAID BY NEW SHIPS COMING ONTO THE REGISTER," HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO MAKE TWO OTHER CHANGES. THE FIRST OF THESE RELATED TO CHARTER HIRE.

"FEW OPERATORS SIGN CHARTER CONTRACTS WHICH PRODUCE INCOME TAXABLE UNDER HONG KONG LAW."

NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS SOME DISINCENTIVE FOR SHIP-OWNERS TO SIGN CHARTERING CONTRACTS IN HONG KONG, BECAUSE OF THEIR POTENTIAL LIABILITY TO PROFITS TAX, HE SAID.

THE BILL SOUGHT TO REMOVE THIS UNCERTAINTY BY NOT CHARGING PROFITS TAX ON THE CHARTER HIRE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO A PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT MAINTAINED IN HONG KONG OF EITHER HONG KONG-REGISTERED OR OVERSEAS REGISTERED SHIPS.

FINALLY, THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TAKEN IN THE BILL TO CLARIFY THE LIABILITIES OF AIRLINES TO PROFITS TAX ON THEIR CHARTER HIRE INCOME.

"AS A RESULT OF THIS CHANGE, AIRLINES WILL BE ABLE TO CALCULATE THEIR TAX LIABILITY FROM THEIR OWN RECORDS," HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY SAID IT WAS NOW OVER A YEAR SINCE THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO INTRODUCE THIS LEGISLATION.

"ALTHOUGH THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE BILL ARE STRAIGHT-FORWARD, PROTRACTED CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN NECESSARY WITH THE SHIPPING AND AIRLINE INDUSTRIES ON MATTERS OF TECHNICAL DETAIL.

"THESE INCLUDE, IN PARTICULAR, AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF DEFINITIONS TO COVER THE WIDE VARIETY OF DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CAN APPLY IN DETERMINING THE TAX LIABILITY OF SHIPPING AND AIRLINE OPERATIONS," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID IT WAS PARTLY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE DRAFTING DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE MEASURES WOULD BE EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 3, 1990, THE DATE ON WHICH THE NEW SHIPPING REGISTER WAS ESTABLISHED.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE TIME TAKEN HAS BEEN WORTHWHILE, AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED NOT ONLY ON THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE BILL, BUT ALSO ON IMPORTANT DRAFTING TECHNICALITIES.

"THE RESULT IS, I HOPE, A COMPREHENSIVE AND POLISHED BILL WHICH WILL ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE MAIN AFFECTED PARTIES," HE ADDED

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 INTRODUCED

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THE PURPOSE OF THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 IS TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE SETTING UP OF A SEPARATE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID AS PART OF THE REORGANISATION PROGRAMME OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, THE GOVERNMENT WAS PROPOSING THAT THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS A SEPARATE LEGAL ENTITY.

"THIS SHOULD BOTH IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CERTAIN PROPOSED CHANGES IN WORKING PRACTICES, ALLOW FOR A MORE EFFICIENT AND STREAMLINED OPERATION," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE OFFICE, HEADED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER, WOULD ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSOLVENCY MATTERS UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE (CAP.6) AND COMPULSORY WINDING-UP OF COMPANIES UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (CAP. 32) WHICH WERE AT PRESENT UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

"THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE IS THE PRINCIPAL LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE OPERATIONS OF THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE, SECTIONS 75 AND 76 PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICIAL RECEIVER BY THE GOVERNOR AND DEFINE HIS POWERS AND STATUS," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID IN ORDER THAT HE COULD DISCHARGE HIS DUTIES EFFECTIVELY, CLAUSE 3 OF THE BILL ENABLED THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER TO DELEGATE HIS POWERS TO CERTAIN SPECIFIED OFFICERS WHO COULD ACT ON HIS BEHALF AND CARRIED OUT HIS STATUTORY FUNCTIONS AS LIQUIDATOR AND TRUSTEE OF THE ESTATES OF INSOLVENT COMPANIES AND BANKRUPT PERSONS.

SUCH DELEGATION HAS HITHERTO BEEN PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE REGISTRAR GENERAL (ESTABLISHMENT) ORDINANCE.

"THE SPECIFIED OFFICERS MAY ALSO REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER IN THE SUPREME COURT IN HEARINGS ON PETITIONS OR CIVIL LITIGATION PROCEEDINGS, AND CONDUCT PROSECUTIONS ON INSOLVENCY OFFENCES IN THE MAGISTRATES COURTS.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO STIPULATE THAT THE INCUMBENTS OF SUCH POSTS SHOULD HOLD THE APPROPRIATE LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS," HE SAID.

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID CLAUSE 4 ALSO AUTHORISED THEM TO TAKE AFFIDAVITS.

CLAUSE 6 INTRODUCED A NEW SCHEDULE WHICH SPECIFIED THE OFFICERS APPOINTED TO ASSIST THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

"THE SCHEDULE MAY BE AMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR BY ORDER PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE," HE ADDED.

HE SAID CLAUSE 5 CONTAINED TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY AND CERTAINTY AS TO THE VALIDITY OF ACTIONS TAKEN RESPECTIVELY BY OFFICERS OF REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE BEFORE AND AFTER THE DATE OF TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.

CLAUSES 7 TO 13 CONTAINED AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LEGISLATION CONSEQUENT UPON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW OFFICE AND THE TRANSFER OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

"IT IS NOT ENVISAGED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH IS PROVISIONALLY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 1, 1992, WILL REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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HK IS A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE: GOVERNOR

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DESPITE LAST NIGHT'S SHOOTING INCIDENT IN AN ARMED ROBBERY IN SHAM SHUI PO, HONG KONG WAS STILL A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE IN AND MUCH SAFER THAN MOST CITIES IN THE WORLD, THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A VISIT TO EASTERN DISTRICT, LORD WILSON SAID SUCH INCIDENTS HAD TO BE DEALT WITH IN A NUMBER OF WAYS.

THESE INCLUDE RESOLUTE POLICE ACTION; CO-OPERATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN THE PROBLEM OF SMUGGLED FIREARMS INTO HONG KONG AND SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY, HE ADDED.

ASKED IF THERE WAS SUFFICIENT POLICE MANPOWER, LORD WILSON SAID: "WE'RE NOT BAD ON MANPOWER AT THE MOMENT; WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IS TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH PEOPLE ON THE STREETS AND WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF POLICEMEN WHO ARE OUT ON THE BEAT ON THE STREETS."

"RECRUITMENT HAS BEEN GOING BETTER IN THE POLICE, AS YOU KNOW, AND THERE IS FUNDING FOR AS MANY RECRUITS AS THE POLICE CAN GET AT THE MOMENT. BUT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT POLICE MANPOWER IS KEPT AT AN ADEQUATE LEVEL," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "IT'S A VERY CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT BUDGET WHICH DEALS WITH THE SORT OF ISSUES WE SHOULD BE DEALING WITH NOW AND ALSO MAKES VERY PRUDENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE."

"AT A TIME OF PROSPERITY LIKE WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT, IT'S VERY SENSIBLE TO PLAN ALSO FOR THE FUTURE AND TO SET ASIDE FUNDS SO THAT IF WE GET PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE WE HAVE A CUSHION," HE ADDED.

"I THINK THAT IS THE SORT OF OBJECTIVE WHICH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD FULLY SUPPORT," LORD WILSON SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON CHINA'S APPOINTMENT OF HONG KONG ADVISERS, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM GETTING ADVICE FROM EACH DIFFERENT SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE I THINK THAT CAN BE HELPFUL IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF HONG KONG AND THEIR POLICIES."

"BUT THE JOB OF RUNNING HONG KONG IS A JOB FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND FOR NOBODY ELSE, THAT'S HOW IT MUST REMAIN," LORD WILSON SAID.

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GOVERNOR SEES IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS IN EASTERN DISTRICT

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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, VISITED THE EASTERN DISTRICT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO LOOK AT NEW PUBLIC HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL WONG AND EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, LORD WILSON TOURED SIU SAI WAN ESTATE, A NEWLY-DEVELOPED AND SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITY IN CHAI WAN MANAGED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

WHEN IT IS COMPLETED, THE ESTATE WILL HOUSE 31,000 PEOPLE. PLANS ARE IN HAND TO DEVELOP THE REMAINING RECLAIMED LAND TO PROVIDE HOMES FOR ANOTHER 17,000 PEOPLE UNDER THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME.

AFTER CALLING ON A FAMILY AND A HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY RUN BY THE HELPING HAND, LORD WILSON SAID: "IT IS GOOD TO SEE THAT MANY TENANTS, WHO BEFORE WERE LIVING IN OLD ESTATES, SQUATTER AREAS AND ON ROOFTOPS, ARE NOW ENJOYING MUCH BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS."

THE VISITING PARTY THEN WENT TO SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS TO SEE PROGRESS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YIU TUNG AND HING TUNG ESTATES. WHEN THEY ARE COMPLETED IN 1993-96, THE NEW ESTATES WILL PROVIDE HOUSING FOR ABOUT 40,000 PEOPLE.

LATER, THE GOVERNOR VISITED THE HAWKER STALLS AT MARBLE ROAD AND CHUN YEUNG STREET, NORTH POINT, AS WELL AS THE NEW \$105 MILLION JAVA ROAD URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX WHICH WILL COME INTO OPERATION IN APRIL THIS YEAR. THE COMPLEX CONTAINS A MARKET, A COOKED FOOD CENTRE AND INDOOR GAMES FACILITIES.

LORD WILSON WAS BRIEFED ON PLANS TO RESITE MOST OF THE HAWKERS TO TWO NEW PERMANENT MARKETS IN THE AREA, AND TO RELIEVE CONGESTION BY CONCENTRATING THE REMAINING HAWKERS ON ONE SIDE OF THE STREETS LATER THIS YEAR.

HE SAID: "THE LARGE NUMBER OF STREET HAWKERS IN THE MARBLE ROAD AREA CLEARLY CREATE SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND TRAFFIC CONGESTIONS. PROVIDING PERMANENT MARKETS AND REORGANISING LATER THIS YEAR THE AREAS WHERE HAWKING WILL BE ALLOWED SHOULD DO A GREAT DEAL TO SORT OUT THESE PROBLEMS."

HE ALSO MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS IN A TEA RECEPTION BEFORE ENDING HIS VISIT.

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STATEMENT OF FS ON CAC'S REPORT

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN NOTE OF THE FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS (CAC) IN TWO CASES CONCERNING THE CLOSURE OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE (HONG KONG) IN JULY 1991. MR MACLEOD WAS COMMENTING FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE CAC'S REPORTS TO THE TWO COMPLAINANTS AND TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF OMELCO.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING

MR MACLEOD SAID:

"THE CAC HAS FOUND THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ACTED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS AND WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF DEPOSITORS IN MIND. HE TOOK EXPERT ADVICE AND MOVED QUICKLY TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO MINIMISE THE IMPACT ON BCCHK OF THE COLLAPSE OF BCCI OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE. THESE MEASURES INCLUDED THE APPOINTMENT OF A TEAM OF BANK EXAMINERS, APPOINTING ADVISERS AND ATTEMPTING TO RING-FENCE BCCHK'S ASSETS."

"I NOTE THE CAC'S CONCLUSION THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING'S STATEMENT ON JULY 5 WAS A GENERALLY CORRECT DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION; AND THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING DID NOT DELIBERATELY MISLEAD THE PUBLIC AS ALLEGED BY THE COMPLAINANT."

"I ALSO NOTE THAT, ALTHOUGH THE CAC CONSIDERED THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TOOK ADVICE AND GATHERED INFORMATION WHICH, ON THE BALANCE OF PROBABILITY, SUPPORTED HIS VIEW THAT THE ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BCCHK, HE CONCLUDES THAT THE COMPLAINT HAS BEEN PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED."

MR MACLEOD SAID:

"I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING HAS MY FULL SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE. HE HAS DISCHARGED HIS DUTIES WITH INTEGRITY AND SKILL IN VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. THE CAC'S REPORT AMOUNTS TO A SUBSTANTIAL VINDICATION OF HIS ACTIONS DESPITE THE PARTIAL SUBSTANTIATION OF SOME ELEMENTS OF THE COMPLAINT."

/COMPLAINTS AGAINST .....

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH

MR MACLEOD SAID:

"IN THIS INVESTIGATION THE CAC CONSIDERED TWO COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS AND IN GENERAL TERMS CONCLUDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO ABUSE OF POWER. SPECIFICALLY, HE FOUND THAT ONE COMPLAINT WAS NOT SUBSTANTIATED AND THAT THE OTHER WAS PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED ON THE GROUNDS THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISLED BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF ALL OF THE SMA'S STATEMENTS OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEY WERE MADE."

"THE SMA ACTED QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO PREVENT THE ESCALATION OF A SERIOUS RUN ON THE HONG KONG BANKING SYSTEM. THE FACT THAT INCOMPLETE REPORTING OF HIS STATEMENTS MIGHT HAVE LED TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS IS REGRETTABLE, BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS INVALIDATING THE CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORTS MADE BY MR NENDICK TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE HONG KONG BANKING SYSTEM."

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NEED FOR PRIORITISATION ON REHABILITATION SERVICES STRESSED

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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REAFFIRMED GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF DISABLED PERSONS.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE LAUNCHING THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION ENTITLED "EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FULL PARTICIPATION : A BETTER TOMORROW FOR ALL", MRS WONG SAID IT OFFERED OPTIONS FOR THE WAY FORWARD AND A VISION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

"WE NEED TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO TURN OUR VISION INTO REALITY. WE NEED TO PRIORITISE AND FOCUS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WANT AS THEIR PRIORITY ITEMS.

"PRIORITISATION IS NEVER EASY, BUT IT IS NECESSARY. WE MUST NOT BE SIDE-TRACKED," SHE SAID.

THE GREEN PAPER, WHICH HAS EXAMINED A WIDE RANGE OF IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE REHABILITATION FIELD, IS PUBLISHED FOR THREE MONTHS' PUBLIC CONSULTATION UNTIL JUNE 10 THIS YEAR.

MRS WONG APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS, PARTICULARLY ON WHICH AREAS COVERED IN THE GREEN PAPER SHOULD BE ACCORDED EARLY PRIORITY.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE GREEN PAPER INCLUDE:

\* MEDICAL REHABILITATION:  
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UPGRADE MEDICAL REHABILITATION AND ESTABLISH SPECIALISATION; SET UP DAY HOSPITALS AND SPECIAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED; ESTABLISH DISTRICT-BASED GERIATRIC TEAMS; PROVIDE REHABILITATION SERVICES TO CERTAIN CHRONICALLY ILL PATIENTS; AND PROVIDE A FULL TIME REHABILITATION CO-ORDINATOR IN EACH CENTRE PROVIDING MEDICAL REHABILITATION SERVICES.

\* SPECIAL EDUCATION:  
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EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION; PROMOTE LONGER TERM EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN; AND FACILITATE CAPABLE DISABLED PERSONS TO RECEIVE HIGHER EDUCATION.

\* SERVICES FOR DISABLED ADULTS:  
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BUILD MORE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES AND RESIDENTIAL HOSTELS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS; AND STRENGTHEN VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

\* PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:  
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THE GREEN PAPER STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AS WELL AS PARTICIPATION OF DISABLED PERSONS IN THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE PROCESS OF FURTHER DEVELOPING REHABILITATION SERVICES.

\* ACCESS AND TRANSPORT:  
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INCORPORATE SPECIAL NEEDS OF DISABLED PERSONS IN CURRENT SERVICES AND WHEN NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES ARE DESIGNED IN FUTURE.

\* LEGISLATIVE MEASURES:  
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REVIEW THE GUARDIANSHIP PROVISIONS FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS, AND CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW BY THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION ON LAWS FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

\* SERVICE PROVISION AND USE OF RESOURCES:  
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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS SHOULD ADOPT A MORE INNOVATIVE, IMAGINATIVE AND FLEXIBLE APPROACH; AND EXPLORE WAYS TO IMPROVE COST-EFFECTIVENESS.

MRS WONG NOTED THAT CERTAIN PROPOSALS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH BETTER CO-ORDINATION AMONG SERVICE PROVIDERS OR BY THE STREAMLINING OF EXISTING STRUCTURES, WITHOUT INCURRING ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE.

"THE ANNUALLY RECURRENT COST OF THE MORE CONCRETE AND QUANTIFIABLE RECOMMENDATIONS IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$600 MILLION," SHE SAID.

"AS REGARDS THE REMAINING RECOMMENDATIONS, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO ESTIMATE THEIR COST.

"SOME RECOMMENDATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE THOSE DEALING WITH EMPLOYMENT, VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND THE ACCESS AND TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE DISABLED, HAVE YET TO BE PRECISELY DEFINED."

MRS WONG ALSO NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS BUDGETED FOR THE EXPANSION OF EXISTING SERVICES OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AT AN ADDITIONAL RECURRENT COST OF \$140 MILLION, AND EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THIS PACE OF EXPANSION THEREAFTER, REACHING ABOUT \$350 MILLION IN 2001-2002.

ON THIS BASIS, THE EXISTING SHORTFALLS IN SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES WILL BE FULLY MET BUT NO DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE HAS BEEN DRAWN UP AS MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLIC ON THE RELATIVE PRIORITIES OF VARIOUS SERVICES.

COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER ARE AVAILABLE FROM DISTRICT OFFICES, GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION SALES CENTRE AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SUB-OFFICES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO SEND THEIR VIEWS IN WRITING TO THE REHABILITATION DIVISION, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, P.O. BOX 25666, HARBOUR BUILDING POST OFFICE, HONG KONG, BEFORE JUNE 10 THIS YEAR.

EARLIER WHEN TABLING THE GREEN PAPER AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON, MRS WONG PAID TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY WHO WERE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO CONSIDER HOW REHABILITATION SERVICES SHOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED.

"THE GREEN PAPER HAS BEEN THE RESULT OF A TRUE COALITION OF THOUGHTS, OF VISION AND OF A SHARED CONVICTION.

"HERE I RECORD MY THANKS FOR THEIR TIME AND PARTICIPATION," SHE SAID.

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PUBLIC LAND AUCTION ON FRIDAY  
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FIVE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE IN A PUBLIC AUCTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT ON FRIDAY (MARCH 13).

THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

/THE FIRST .....

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT MA TIN ROAD, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,320 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL, EXCLUDING GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE SECOND SITE, LOCATED AT AREA 15, SHUI WAI, TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 19,830 SQUARE METRES. IT IS DESIGNATED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE THIRD SITE IS LOCATED AT AREA 14B, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 9,500 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR GODOWN AND PUBLIC LORRY PARK PURPOSES.

THE FOURTH SITE IS LOCATED AT MA LING PATH, KAU TO, AREA 46, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES. WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,700 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS EARMARKED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE REMAINING SITE IS LOCATED AT 30 SEVERN ROAD, THE PEAK, HONG KONG. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,239 SQUARE METRES AND IS ALSO DESIGNATED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NEW ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN COVERING THE AUCTION WILL BE INTRODUCED. A DESIGNATED PRESS AREA WILL BE ALLOCATED AT THE VENUE.

IT IS ADVISABLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS TO BRING ALONG TELEPHOTO LENSES.

INFORMATION OFFICERS OF THE LANDS AND WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS OPEN TO PUBLIC  
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THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SUNDAY (MARCH 15) FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO SEE THE AZALEAS IN BLOOM.

THE OPEN DAY HAS BEEN AN ANNUAL EVENT SINCE 1968.

PEOPLE WISHING TO VISIT THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE ARE REQUESTED TO ENTER BY THE MAIN GATE AND LEAVE BY THE SIDE GATES SO THAT ALL CAN ENJOY THE FLOWERS WITHOUT CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS.

THEY ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT ONLY THE GARDENS WILL BE OPEN AND THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER THE HOUSE ITSELF.

SCOUTS AND POLICEMEN WILL BE PRESENT AND VISITORS ARE ASKED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THEM TO AVOID OVERCROWDING.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1992

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY ON FOUR PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT CARMEL VILLAGE STREET, HO MAN TIN, KOWLOON.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,060 SQUARE METRES, IT IS EARMARKED FOR FEE PAYING PUBLIC PARKING AREA FOR MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH OR WITHOUT THEIR TRAILERS AND DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICLES).

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE SECOND SITE, LOCATED AT WESTERN RECLAMATION, HONG KONG, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1.15 HECTARES.

IT IS DESIGNATED FOR OPEN STORAGE OR WORKS AREA OR FOR THE STUFFING AND DESTUFFING OF CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY IS UP TO DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR AND MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE THIRD SITE IS LOCATED AT RESERVOIR ACCESS ROAD OFF MOUNT DAVIS ROAD, HONG KONG.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 600 SQUARE METRES AND IS DESIGNATED FOR A COMMERCIAL GARDEN INCLUDING GROWING, STORAGE AND SALE OF PLANTS, FLOWERS AND OTHER ANCILLARY GARDEN PRODUCTS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE REMAINING SITE IS LOCATED AT AREA 16, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SITE, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,175 SQUARE METRES, IS INTENDED FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC VEHICLE PARK FOR LICENSED VEHICLES EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS, AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON MARCH 27.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, TUEN MUN, 6TH FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES; DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1992

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273 VOLUNTARY RETURNEES BACK TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 273 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 100 MEN, 63 WOMEN, 67 BOYS AND 43 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 93RD BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 2,358 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 16,337 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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GRANTS TO ARTS GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS APPROVED

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OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS FIVE PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS WHICH HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SOLICITED BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED A TOTAL OF \$414,000 BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) UNDER THE MATCHING GRANT SCHEME.

AMONG THEM IS THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY LTD IN THE COMBINED ARTS FIELD, SPONSORED BY SAN MIGUEL BREWERY LTD.

IN THE MUSIC FIELD, THE HONG KONG PIANO AND MUSIC ASSOCIATION IS SPONSORED BY MIKROMESKOS MUSIC CENTRE, EDDY PIANO COMPANY AND MUSICAL INSTITUTE AND ROCKSON PIANO CO. LTD.

MEANWHILE, GREEN HILL ANGLO-CHINESE ARTS PERFORMANCE TROUPE IS SPONSORED BY SHING HING PLASTIC FACTORY, LO FUNG MUSIC CENTRE, 41B STORE AND YAU HANG GINSENG AND MEDICINE CO.

IN THE DRAMA FIELD, CREATION BRAND HAS TWO PROJECTS, ONE SPONSORED BY UNICORN JEWELLERY CO. LTD AND THE OTHER BY ELITE MODELLING PRODUCTION LTD; AND JOINT SCHOOL DRAMA PROJECT IS SPONSORED BY CALTEX OIL (HK) LTD.

THE CFPA HAS ALSO APPROVED 21 PROJECT GRANTS TOTTALLING \$822,246 TO 18 PERFORMING ARTS ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS.

THEY ARE CITY CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY, ZUNI ICOSAHEDRON, INSPIRED DANCE COMPANY AND HONG KONG CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DANCE FIELD.

IN THE DRAMA FIELD, THEY ARE NOVICE, HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC STUDENT'S UNION, HONG KONG SHUE YAN COLLEGE, CARLSBERG WANCHAI THEATRE, HORIZONTE DRAMA SOCIETY, ANONYMITY DRAMATIC CLUB, HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE, MR LEE YIN-KWAI AND MR FUNG CHI-KEUNG.

/IN THE .....

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1992

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IN THE MUSIC FIELD, GRANTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO HONG KONG COMPOSERS' GUILD AND HONG KONG FESTIVAL FRINGE LTD, MUSIC SOCIETY, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE CECILIAN SINGERS.

IN THE CHINESE OPERA FIELD, A GRANT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE CHING YING DRAMA SOCIETY.

APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT AND MATCHING GRANTS CAN BE MADE ANY TIME IN THE YEAR. THE APPLICANT ORGANISATION MUST BE AN APPROVED CHARITABLE INSTITUTION OR A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT-MAKING BODY.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE PLANNED PERFORMANCE DATES TO ALLOW TIME FOR ASSESSMENT BY THE RELEVANT CFPA COMMITTEES.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR PROJECT AND MATCHING GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CFPA SECRETARIAT ON 25TH FLOOR, SHUI ON CENTRE 6-8 HARBOUR ROAD, WANCHAI. TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 802 0869.

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INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SUB-OFFICE ON MOVE  
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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT'S TSUEN WAN SUB-OFFICE AND KWAI HING INSPECTORATE OFFICE WILL MOVE TO TSUEN WAN MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN ON SATURDAY (MARCH 14).

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 402 2269.

THE TSUEN WAN SUB-OFFICE IS AT PRESENT LOCATED AT FOU WAH CENTRE, 210 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN WHILE THE KWAI HING INSPECTORATE OFFICE IS ON FIFTH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES, KWAI HING.

DUE TO REMOVAL, THE OFFICES WILL SUSPEND SERVICE ON SATURDAY (MARCH 14).

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	10.3.92	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	11.3.92	-401
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+401
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.7 \*+0.4\* 11.3.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.14 PCT	21 MONTHS	2311	6.25	100.49	6.02
1 MONTH	3.99 PCT	24 MONTHS	2402	5.50	98.99	6.15
3 MONTHS	3.99 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.23 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.68 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 2,967 MN

CLOSED 11 MARCH 1992

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