



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1986

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UK TO GET HK'S 'STRONG FEELINGS' ON NATIONALITY

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THE +STRONG FEELINGS+ OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON ISSUES CONCERNING THE DRAFT HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER 1986 WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

THIS ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES.

EXPRESSING OFFICIAL MEMBERS' SUPPORT OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S MOTION ON +THE WHITE PAPER ON THE DRAFT HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER 1986,+ SIR DAVID SAID:

+THE ADMINISTRATION FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE THRUST OF THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED IN SUPPORT OF THESE ISSUES AND THE DEPTH OF FEELING SURROUNDING THEM.+

SIR DAVID SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THAT MEMBERS WOULD RECOGNISE THAT THE ISSUES THEMSELVES RAISED A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THESE WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER DETAILED CONSIDERATION.

IN HER LETTER TO BRITISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, WRITTEN ON BEHALF OF ALL THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, AND IN HER SPEECH ON THE MOTION, THE HON LYDIA DUNN HAD CONVEYED THE +STRONG AND UNANIMOUS FEELING OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON THREE ISSUES CONCERNING THE DRAFT HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER 1986,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

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GOVT DUTY BOUND TO CONVEY NATIONALITY ISSUE CONCERNS

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS A DUTY TO CONVEY TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE STRENGTH OF FEELING BOTH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND AMONG THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE DRAFT HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER 1986.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN WHEN INTRODUCING A MOTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE SAID THAT THE MOTION REFLECTED ANXIETIES EXPRESSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE DRAFT ORDER.

THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE VIEWS WAS WELL KNOWN BOTH IN HONG KONG AND IN WESTMINSTER AS A LETTER HAD BEEN SENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, INCLUDING ALL MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, EXPRESSING THE UNOFFICIALS' DETAILED VIEWS, SHE ADDED.

ELABORATING, SHE SAID THAT THE VIEWS OF THE UNOFFICIALS ON THIS MATTER WERE UNANIMOUS.

/SHE NOTED

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SHE NOTED THAT UNANIMITY AMONG MEMBERS IN HISTORIC TIMES OF AN ENTIRELY APPOINTED COUNCIL HAD BEEN THE RULE RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION.

+UNANIMITY AMONG MEMBERS OF AN ENTIRELY ELECTED BODY IS RARE.

+IN OUR COUNCIL I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT UNANIMITY IS NEITHER SO RARE AS TO BE ASTONISHING NOR SO COMMON AS TO BE UNREMARKABLE.

+ON REALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT AFFECT FUNDAMENTALLY THE LIVES OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WE ARE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT AMONG A VERY DIVERSE GATHERING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE,+ SHE SAID.

REITERATING THAT ON THE MATTER OF NATIONALITY THE UNOFFICIALS WERE UNANIMOUS, MISS DUNN SAID THAT THEIR VIEWS HAD RECEIVED COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE THEY WERE PUBLISHED.

+IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO IGNORE THEM,+ SHE STRESSED.

+THE SECOND POINT I WISH TO MAKE IS THAT THE ACTION WE ASK SHOULD BE TAKEN IS ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ALONE AND IF IT IS NOT TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY WILL REST SOLELY WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT,+ SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND NO PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WERE REQUIRED.

+THE DECISIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS THAT WE WANT TAKEN ARE FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE.

+THEY AFFECT THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY BRITISH NATIONALS,+ SHE STATED.

MISS DUNN SAID THAT THEY WERE ASKING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW BRITISH NATIONALS HOLDING BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS TO VISIT BRITAIN FREELY AND TO MAKE THIS RIGHT CLEAR IN THE PASSPORTS.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO BEING ASKED TO MAKE FULL BRITISH CITIZENS OF THOSE BRITISH NATIONALS WHO WERE OF NON-CHINESE DESCENT AS WELL AS THOSE FEW REMAINING BRITISH NATIONALS IN HONG KONG WHO FOUGHT FOR THE DEFENCE OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

+WE CONSIDER THAT THESE MODEST REQUESTS ARE THE VERY LEAST THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN EXPECT TO SEE SATISFIED AFTER NEARLY A CENTURY AND A HALF OF BRITISH RULE,+ SHE SAID.

+THEY ARE TOTALLY WITHIN THE GIFT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT,+ SHE ADDED.

/MISS DUNN

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MISS DUNN STRESSED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD A DUTY TO CONVEY TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE STRENGTH OF FEELING BOTH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND AMONG THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+IT WILL DO THEIR AUTHORITY IN THIS COMMUNITY NO GOOD IF IT FALLS ON DEAF EARS,+ SHE CAUTIONED.

POINTING OUT THAT THEY COULD ONLY ASK IN THIS WAY BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT, MISS DUNN SAID: +IF OUR REQUESTS ARE REJECTED, IT WILL ADD TO THE PROFOUND RESENTMENT FELT BY MANY OF BRITAIN'S MOST LOYAL SUBJECTS WHO WILL BELIEVE THEIR INTERESTS HAVE BEEN BETRAYED.

+AND IT WILL BE SEEN BY PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD AS A MEAN AND UNWORTHY DENIAL OF THE JUST CLAIMS OF BRITAIN'S MOST VULNERABLE AND DESERVING NATIONALS.+

THE MOTION STATES THAT +THIS COUNCIL REQUESTS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO CONVEY TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE DEEP CONCERN EXPRESSED IN THIS COUNCIL ABOUT THE EROSION OF THE RIGHTS OF HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS AND TO URGE UPON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DETAILED PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE LETTER DATED THE 3RD JANUARY 1986 ADDRESSED BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND TABLED IN THIS COUNCIL TODAY.+

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NEW METHOD OF CALCULATING RATES PROPOSED
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A BILL WHICH CONTAINS PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THE METHOD OF CALCULATING RATES PAYABLE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AND PROVIDES FOR REGIONAL COUNCIL RATES WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMIDGE, PROPOSED THAT WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1986, THE TWO COUNCILS SHOULD RECEIVE RATES ACTUALLY COLLECTED ON THEIR BEHALF.

HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE RATES PERCENTAGE IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL AREAS BE INCREASED FROM THE PRESENT 5.5 PER CENT TO 6 PER CENT TO MEET THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF BOTH COUNCILS.

SIR JOHN SAID THE URBAN COUNCIL HAD SOUGHT AN INCREASE IN RATES REVENUE TO MEET NORMAL GROWTH AND INFLATION, INDICATING THAT THEIR REQUIREMENTS WERE FOR TOTAL RATES REVENUE OF \$1 690 MILLION IN 1986-87 AND \$1 772 MILLION IN 1987-88.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID AFTER CLOSE EXAMINATION HE PROPOSED THAT THE PERCENTAGE PRESCRIBED FOR URBAN COUNCIL RATES SHOULD BE INCREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH YIELDS OF THIS ORDER.

+THIS WILL RESULT IN A TOTAL RATES PERCENTAGE IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA OF 6 PER CENT, MADE UP OF URBAN COUNCIL RATES OF 3.5 PER CENT AND GENERAL RATES OF 2.5 PER CENT.+

AS FOR THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, SIR JOHN SAID IT HAD BEEN ESTIMATED THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS AS \$744 MILLION IN 1986-87 AND AS \$880 MILLION IN 1987-88, AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT REVENUE FROM FEES AND CHARGES.

+THE PROJECTED YIELD FROM THE CURRENT NEW TERRITORIES RATES OF 5.5 PER CENT OF \$746 MILLION AND \$827 MILLION IN THESE TWO YEARS IS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS.

+I THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THE RATES PERCENTAGE IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA ALSO BE INCREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT TO 6 PER CENT AND THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL SHOULD RECEIVE ALL THE REVENUE FROM THE INCREASED RATES PERCENTAGE.+

SIR JOHN SAID THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF 0.5 PER CENT IN THE TOTAL RATES PERCENTAGE IN BOTH THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREAS WAS NOT EXPECTED TO CAUSE HARDSHIP TO RATEPAYERS.

+WE HAVE CONDUCTED A CAREFUL STUDY OF WHAT IS INVOLVED. PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WILL ON AVERAGE FACE INCREASES OF \$1.70 TO \$6.40 PER MONTH IN 1987-88, THAT IS NO INCREASE IN 1986-87.

+FOR RATEPAYERS OF SMALL DOMESTIC UNITS WITH A NET AREA OF LESS THAN 100 SQUARE METRES, THE AVERAGE INCREASE WILL BE ABOUT \$10 AND \$13 PER MONTH IN 1986-87 AND 1987-88 RESPECTIVELY.

+FOR DOMESTIC UNITS OF OVER 100 SQUARE METRES, THE AVERAGE INCREASE WILL BE ABOUT \$56 PER MONTH FOR THE TWO YEARS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

BILL PROVIDES FOR NEW TDC MEMBERS
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THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 WOULD PROVIDE FOR REPRESENTATION OF THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONG KONG, ON THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON MICHAEL SZE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, HE SAID THAT WHEN THE COUNCIL WAS CREATED IN 1966, PROVISION WAS INCLUDED FOR APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION ON ITS COUNCIL OF RELEVANT MAJOR ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE AND ITS OVERSEAS IMAGE.

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THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONG KONG, BEING THEN ALMOST WHOLLY CONCERNED WITH IMPORTS FROM CHINA DID NOT SEEK SUCH REPRESENTATION AT THAT TIME.

+IN RECENT YEARS THIS POSITION HAS ALTERED MATERIALLY, NOT ONLY WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG, BUT ESPECIALLY WITH THE SPECTACULAR GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S TWO-WAY TRADE WITH CHINA AND THE RE-EMERGENCE OF OUR ENTREPOT TRADE,+ MR SZE SAID.

+ACCORDINGLY, A NEW DIMENSION TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TDC HAS BEEN CREATED, INCLUDING ITS PLANS TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN PEKING THIS YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

MR SZE SAID THAT WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONG KONG, AS A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY OF THE COUNCIL UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE 1985, IT SHOULD BE REPRESENTED ON THE TDC IN THE SAME WAY AS THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

POWER FOR COMPENSATION ORDER SOUGHT
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THE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1985 SOUGHT TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR OR THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES TO ORDER ANY OFFICER OR MEMBER OF THE FIRE SERVICES TO COMPENSATE THE GOVERNMENT FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY WHICH THAT INDIVIDUAL MIGHT HAVE CAUSED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR THOMAS EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT THE ORDER MIGHT ONLY BE MADE AS A FORM OF PUNISHMENT WHERE AN OFFICER OR MEMBER HAD BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AGAINST DISCIPLINE.

THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION THAT MIGHT BE ORDERED WAS LIMITED TO ONE MONTH'S SALARY AND PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION MIGHT BE ORDERED ONLY WHERE THE LOSS OR DAMAGE WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE NEGLIGENCE OR FAULT OF THE PERSON CONCERNED, MR THOMAS SAID.

+THE BILL WILL BRING THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE INTO LINE WITH THE POLICE FORCE ORDINANCE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO ORDER COMPENSATION TO BE PAID IN ADDITION TO OR INSTEAD OF A PUNISHMENT,+ HE SAID.

/IN ADDITION,

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IN ADDITION, MR THOMAS SAID HE WOULD BE MOVING AN AMENDMENT IN COMMITTEE TO DELETE A PROVISION OF THE BILL WHICH PROVIDES A STATUTORY RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST A COMPENSATION ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR AS IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE.

ANOTHER OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL SOUGHT TO EXTEND THE BENEFITS OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WELFARE FUND TO CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, HE SAID.

THESE BENEFITS INCLUDED CLUB FACILITIES, HARDSHIP GRANTS TO OFFICERS AND FAMILIES, LOANS FOR WELFARE PURPOSED AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

THE THIRD OBJECTIVE SOUGHT TO AMEND THE SEVENTH SCHEDULE OF THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF RECENT CHANGES IN THE CIVILIAN ESTABLISHMENT.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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REPATRIATION OF VR'S NOT FEASIBLE

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OUT OF THE 110 000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO HAVE COME TO HONG KONG SINCE 1975, 22 HAVE ASKED TO RETURN TO VIETNAM AND AMONG THEM ONLY 14 HAVE ACTUALLY RETURNED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) HAD BEEN AWAITING A REPLY FROM THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT SINCE 1983 ON WHETHER IT WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE REMAINING EIGHT.

IN VIEW OF THE SMALL NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO HAVE RETURNED TO VIETNAM, MR THOMAS SAID THE GOVERNMENT DOUBTED WHETHER VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION ON A LARGE SCALE WAS LIKELY TO BE FEASIBLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD NO DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND SUCH NEGOTIATIONS COULD ONLY BE INITIATED THROUGH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

HE ADDED THAT THE GENERAL SITUATION WAS THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION WERE UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNHCR WHICH REGARDED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AS THE MOST DESIRABLE SOLUTION TO REFUGEE PROBLEMS.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, MR THOMAS SAID THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY HAD TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST FEBRUARY THAT IF THOSE ARRIVING HERE WERE JUDGED TO BE ILLEGAL TRAVELLERS RATHER THAN GENUINE REFUGEES, THEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER IT A VIABLE OPTION TO RETURN THEM TO VIETNAM IN THE SAME WAY THAT ALL ILLEGAL TRAVELLERS WERE RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

+HOWEVER, WE COULD ONLY DO THIS PROVIDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM WOULD ACCEPT THEM AND PROVIDED THAT WE COULD BE SATISFIED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE TREATED INHUMANELY ON THEIR RETURN,+ HE SAID.

+TO DATE THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, WITH WHOM HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS CONTACT, HAS CONSIDERED REPATRIATION ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS, BUT HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET EITHER OF THESE PROVISOS.+

+WE DO NOT THINK, THEREFORE, THAT INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION IS FEASIBLE AT PRESENT,+ MR THOMAS ADDED.

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1 255 CHINESE VISITORS GRANTED HK STAY
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A TOTAL OF 2 735 PEOPLE OUT OF 129 785 VISITORS FROM CHINA HOLDING TWO-WAY PERMITS HAD APPLIED FOR PERMANENT STAY IN HONG KONG BETWEEN 1983 AND 1985, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, MR THOMAS SAID A TOTAL OF 1 255 APPLICATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL.

+VIRTUALLY ALL WERE APPROVED ON THE GROUND THAT THE APPLICANT HAD A STATUTORY RIGHT TO LAND IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN REASONS GIVEN IN THEIR APPLICATIONS FELL INTO TWO MAIN GROUPS.

THE FIRST COMPRISED STATUTORY CLAIMS TO RIGHT TO LAND IN HONG KONG UNDER SECTION 8(1) OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

THESE INCLUDED THOSE WHO CLAIM TO HAVE HONG KONG BELONGER STATUS BY VIRTUE OF BEING BORN IN HONG KONG BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1983, BY DESCENT OR BY REGISTRATION UNDER RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1981 AND OTHERS WHO CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF SEVEN YEARS.

THE SECOND GROUP IS COMPASSIONATE, SUCH AS THE DESIRE TO JOIN HUSBANDS, WIVES, PARENTS, CHILDREN OR OTHER RELATIVES IN HONG KONG, MR THOMAS SAID.

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FREQUENT MOVES OF PERSONNEL EXPLAINED

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THE ADMINISTRATION WAS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT FREQUENT MOVES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WAS DISRUPTIVE TO DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED AS WELL AS THEIR CONTACTS IN THE PUBLIC AND THE PRIVATE SECTORS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANSWERING DR THE HON DANIEL TSE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE POLICY WAS GENERALLY TO LEAVE EXPERIENCED MIDDLE-RANKING OFFICERS IN POST FOR A PERIOD OF BETWEEN TWO-AND-A-HALF TO THREE YEARS.

+INDEED, MORE SENIOR OFFICERS GENERALLY STAY WITH A DEPARTMENT OR BRANCH FOR CONSIDERABLY LONGER PERIODS.

+ON OCCASION, HOWEVER, THE DURATION IS RELUCTANTLY REDUCED DUE TO OPERATIONAL AND OTHER UNFORESEEN REASONS,+ HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT GENERAL GRADE OFFICERS, SUCH AS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, WERE SUBJECT TO TRANSFER FROM TIME TO TIME.

+THIS IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GIVE THESE OFFICERS A RANGE OF EXPERIENCE FOR THEIR CAREER DEVELOPMENT.

+EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR OFFICERS DESTINED FOR VERY SENIOR APPOINTMENTS TO HAVE ACCUMULATED A WIDE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE COURSE OF THEIR CAREERS,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

SCHOOL PLACES SYSTEM WIDELY DISCUSSED

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THERE WAS EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF A WORKING PARTY'S REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION (SSPA) SYSTEM IN 1981, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON MIKE PAGLIARI, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SZETO WAH, MR PAGLIARI SAID THAT COMMENTS ON THE REPORT WERE INVITED AT THAT STAGE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, TEACHERS, HEADS OF SCHOOLS, SCHOOL SPONSORING BODIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER.

+FURTHER ACTION WAS DEFERRED ON THE ADVICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THE IMPENDING REVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM BY THE PANEL OF VISITORS MIGHT HAVE A MAJOR BEARING ON THE SSPA SYSTEM AND THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THAT REVIEW,+ HE SAID.

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WHEN THE LLEWELLYN REPORT DID NOT OFFER ANY SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE SYSTEM ITSELF, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER DELAY IN PRESSING AHEAD WITH CERTAIN PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SYSTEM, ALL OF WHICH REFLECTED THE FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM THE EXTENSIVE EARLIER CONSULTATION, AND TOOK INTO ACCOUNT EXPERIENCE WITH OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS, HE ADDED.

MR PAGLIARI SAID THAT A DISCUSSION PAPER SETTING OUT THESE PROPOSALS WAS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION LAST AUGUST.

+THE BOARD ENDORSED THE PROPOSALS AND AGREED THAT THE MAJOR SCHOOLS COUNCILS AND ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD BE FURTHER CONSULTED ON THE PROPOSALS AND THAT THE BOARD SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THEIR VIEWS BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER,+ HE SAID.

MR PAGLIARI SAID THAT COPIES OF THE DISCUSSION PAPER WERE THEN CIRCULATED TO 12 MAJOR SCHOOLS COUNCILS AND SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS FOR THEIR VIEWS.

+THEY WERE ALSO SENT, FOLLOWING A REQUEST BY THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION COMMITTEE, TO THE CHAIRMEN OF 25 SSPA DISTRICT COMMITTEES, WHO REPRESENT ALL THE SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE SYSTEM.

+THESE VIEWS ARE NOW BEING COLLATED AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR ITS FURTHER CONSIDERATION,+ HE SAID.

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EDUCATION SYSTEM BEING MODIFIED TO CATER FOR ALL
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THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEMS OF STUDENTS WHO MAY NOT FIT INTO THE NINE-YEAR COMPULSORY EDUCATION SYSTEM BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF INTEREST OR ABILITIES LIES IN TRYING TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT VARIETY AND SUPPORT IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM TO CATER FOR THEIR NEEDS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON MIKE PAGLIARI SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JACKIE CHAN, MR PAGLIARI SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE NEED, DURING THE NINE YEARS OF COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL, TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATION WHICH MEETS THE NEEDS OF ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND NOT SIMPLY THOSE OF THE MORE ACADEMICALLY INCLINED.

+AS REGARDS VARIETY, THE REVIEW OF THE CURRICULUM IS A CONTINUING PROCESS AND FORMS THE BASIC TASK OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

+THE OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO ENCOURAGE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THE INCLUSION OF MORE TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL SUBJECTS ALONGSIDE THE TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC ONES,+ HE SAID.

/HE NOTED

HE NOTED THAT IN RECENT YEARS WE HAD SEEN A MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION WITHIN STANDARD SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WHICH PLACED A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SUBJECTS OF THIS KIND.

+THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS APPROACH IS BOUND TO BE A GRADUAL ONE, HOWEVER, NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THE LIMITATION OF FACILITIES WITHIN INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE VALUE ATTACHED BY MANY PARENTS TO ATTAINMENT IN ACADEMIC SUBJECTS,+ MR PAGLIARI SAID.

FOR STUDENTS WHO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO COPE WITH THE NORMAL CURRICULUM BECAUSE OF LIMITED ABILITY, INADEQUATE MOTIVATION OR PERSONALITY OR BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD PROVIDED A WIDE RANGE OF SUPPORTING SERVICES TO HELP THEM, HE SAID.

+THESE INCLUDE SUCH MEASURES AS PROVISION OF REMEDIAL TEACHING AND PROVISION OF ADVISORY SERVICES TO SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND PARENTS,+ HE SAID.

SAI KUNG WATER ACCEPTABLE FOR FISH CULTURE
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THE QUALITY OF WATER IN YUNG SHUE AU, SAI KUNG, IN TERMS OF SALINITY, OXYGEN AND NUTRIENTS WAS ACCEPTABLE FOR FISH CULTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS WAS DETERMINED FROM PERIODIC ANALYSES OF WATER SAMPLES CONDUCTED IN THE AREA SINCE 1982, HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, HE SAID THAT PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION SHOWED THAT GILL DAMAGE CAUSED BY PARASITIC INFECTION WAS INVOLVED IN THE DEATH OF SOME 38 TONNES OF FISH THERE IN DECEMBER 1985.

+IT IS THOUGHT THAT DIETARY IMBALANCE, A SUDDEN TEMPERATURE DROP AND EXCEPTIONALLY STAGNANT TIDAL CONDITIONS WERE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE MORTALITY,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATION WAS IN PROGRESS.

MEANWHILE, THE FISH FARMERS HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO RETURN TEMPORARILY TO YIM TIN TSAI EAST, WHERE MANY OF THEM USED TO FARM BEFORE MOVING TO YUNG SHUE AU.

+NO FURTHER ASSISTANCE FOR THESE FISH FARMERS - OTHER THAN THE USUAL EXTENSION SERVICES - IS PLANNED AT THIS STAGE,+ MR CHAMBERS ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1986

2-2-1 COLLEGE SYSTEM 'SATISFACTORY'

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THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED THAT THE 2-2-1 SYSTEM CURRENTLY OPERATING AT ONE POST-SECONDARY COLLEGE IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE OBJECTIVES ENVISAGED IN THE 1978 WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SEDONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON MIKE PAGLIARI, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI, MR PAGLIARI SAID AT PRESENT ONLY ONE OF THE TWO REGISTERED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES WAS OPERATING UNDER A 2-2-1 SYSTEM, THE OTHER HAD ELECTED TO CONTINUE TO OFFER A FOUR-YEAR DIPLOMA COURSE.

THE 2-2-1 SYSTEM WAS DESIGNED TO EXTEND THE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORM 5 LEAVERS WISHING TO TAKE A TWO-YEAR COURSE AT THE SIXTH FORM LEVEL AND TO CONTINUE THEREAFTER FOR TWO FURTHER YEARS ON A COURSE WHICH WILL EQUIP THEM WITH A PROFESSIONAL OR OTHER VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION.

THE EXTRA YEAR FOLLOWING THE TWO TWO-YEAR POST FORM-5 COURSES IS OPTIONAL AND RECEIVES NO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR THE COLLEGE INVOLVED IS PROVIDING SOME 420 AND 680 PLACES AT THE SIXTH FORM AND THE HIGHER DIPLOMA LEVELS.

THIS MADE A SMALL BUT NONETHELESS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT'S TARGETS FOR SIXTH FORM AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, MR PAGLIARI SAID.

THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STUDENTS AT BOTH THESE LEVELS WAS SATISFACTORY, HE SAID.

THIS WAS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT 81 PER CENT OF ITS SIXTH FORM STUDENTS OBTAINED PASSES IN TWO OR MORE SUBJECTS IN THE A-LEVEL EXAMINATION IN 1985 AND THAT 95 PER CENT OF ITS HIGHER DIPLOMA GRADUATES EITHER OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT OR PROCEEDED ON FURTHER STUDIES WITHIN FOUR MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION ACCORDING TO SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE COLLEGE IN 1983 AND 1984, HE NOTED.

MR PAGLIARI SAID THESE FACTS INDICATED THAT THE SYSTEM WAS WORKING AS ENVISAGED AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER REVIEW, PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE COLLEGE'S ABILITY TO MEET THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR COURSES TO SUPPLEMENT WHAT THE PUBLIC SECTOR WAS PROVIDING AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO ENABLE THE COLLEGE TO DO SO.

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\$4 MILLION SPENT ON STREET LIGHTS IN SQUATTER AREAS

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ABOUT \$4 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT ON INSTALLING STREET LAMPS IN SQUATTER AREAS SINCE THE SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME BEGAN IN 1983, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON HAIDER BARMA, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, HE SAID 590 STREET LIGHTS HAD BEEN INSTALLED IN 21 SQUATTER AREAS.

UP TO THE END OF 1985, ELECTRICITY CHARGES HAVE AMOUNTED TO \$142 000, OR \$240 PER STREET LIGHT A YEAR, HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE PROVISION OF STREET LIGHTING WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR TYPES OF PROJECTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE BASIC SERVICES IN SQUATTER AREAS.

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PARKING METER TIMES FOR LORRIES TO BE ALTERED

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OPERATIONAL HOURS OF PARKING METERS FOR GOODS VEHICLES IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL AREAS WILL BE ALTERED IN ABOUT A MONTH'S TIME TO TACKLE THE PARKING PROBLEM FACED BY LORRY DRIVERS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE METER PARKING TIMES WOULD BE ADJUSTED TO OPERATE FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM, INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT 8 AM TO MIDNIGHT.

MR MACPHERSON SAID THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY IDENTIFIED AREAS WHERE SUCH PARKING PROBLEMS EXISTED.

+THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AND ENDORSED BY THE RELEVANT DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE CONVERSION PROGRAMME IN THE AREAS CONCERNED WILL START IN ABOUT ONE MONTH'S TIME,+ HE SAID.

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FIRST HONG KONG TRAINED DENTISTS START WORK

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THE FIRST LOCALLY TRAINED QUALIFIED DENTISTS HAVE BEGUN TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY, MARKING AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL, THE HON LYDIA DUNN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE REPORT OF THE HOSPITAL TOGETHER WITH A STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1984-85, SHE SAID THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW SAW FOR THE FIRST TIME A FULL COMPLEMENT OF STUDENTS WITH THE 1980 INTAKE ENTERING ITS FIFTH YEAR.

+SUBSEQUENTLY, 68 GRADUATES WERE AWARDED THE BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY DEGREE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND BECAME THE FIRST LOCALLY TRAINED QUALIFIED DENTISTS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY,+ SHE SAID.

MISS DUNN ADDED THAT SHE WAS PLEASED AND PROUD TO REPORT THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL HAD GIVEN RECOGNITION TO HONG KONG'S DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY.

+THIS OF COURSE GIVES OUR DEGREE THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION IT FULLY DESERVES AND REFLECTS THE VERY HIGH STANDARDS OF OUR FACILITIES, OUR TEACHING STAFF AND OUR STUDENTS,+ SHE SAID.

WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THE FIRST GRADUATES, SHE SAID, FORMAL POSTGRADUATE COURSES HAD COMMENCED AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES ON THE DENTAL HEALTH OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WERE ALSO WELL UNDERWAY.

MISS DUNN ALSO CITED THE FAVOURABLE COMMENTS MADE BY THE PANEL OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS WHO ASSESSED THE FIRST BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY EXAMINATIONS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF STUDENTS AND THE CLINICAL FACILITIES AND GENERAL STANDARD OF THE HOSPITAL.

+WE HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY IN THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL AN INSTITUTION OF WHICH WE CAN BE PROUD,+ SHE SAID.

SHE EXPRESSED HER GRATITUDE TO THE FACULTY AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, ADDING THAT SHE WAS SURE THAT HONG KONG WOULD MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF ITS TALENTED YOUNG GRADUATES.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1986

CONSULTATION ON BRB REPORT EXTENDED A MONTH
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IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM SEVERAL DISTRICT BOARDS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO GIVE THE PUBLIC AN EXTRA MONTH IN WHICH TO COMMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BROADCASTING REVIEW BOARD.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE ORIGINAL THREE-MONTH CONSULTATION PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 1985 WILL NOW BE EXTENDED TO RUN THROUGH TO THE END OF FEBRUARY.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT COPIES OF THE FULL CHINESE TRANSLATION OF THE REPORT HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS IN DECEMBER.

GOVERNOR TO VISIT FACTORIES
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL VISIT TWO FACTORIES IN KWAI CHUNG ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 10) AFTERNOON.

THE FACTORIES ARE THE ELECTRONIC DEVICES LIMITED, LOCATED ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF GENERAL GARMENT BUILDING, 100-110 KWAI CHEONG ROAD, AND THE TYCO (H.K.) LIMITED, ON THE SECOND FLOOR, FLAT B, ROXY INDUSTRIAL CENTRE, 58-66 TAI LIN PAI ROAD.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT.

A COACH FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CARPARK AT 2 PM ON FRIDAY FOR THE ELECTRONIC DEVICES LIMITED.

THOSE TRAVELLING ON THEIR OWN SHOULD ARRIVE BEFORE 3.30 PM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS POLLUTION CONTROLS

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EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL ON THE CONTROL OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY ANIMAL WASTES AT THE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WORKING PARTY ON HAWKER AND RELATED POLICIES UNDER THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON HAWKER AND MARKET POLICIES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROJECT OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND STAGE TWO DEVELOPMENT WORKS IN SIU SAI WAN.

THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE WORKS IS ABOUT \$110 MILLION, AND IS SCHEDULED TO START IN MID-1987 AND BE COMPLETED BY LATE 1989.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE'S CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD.

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ANIMAL WASTES CONTROL TO BE DISCUSSED

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A CONSULTATION PAPER ON CONTROL OF ANIMAL WASTES WILL BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETING AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE AT JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING ROUNDABOUT, NEW TERRITORIES.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1986

SAI KUNG BEACHES BEING MADE MORE ATTRACTIVE
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FOUR GAZETTED BEACHES IN SAI KUNG UNDER THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S MANAGEMENT WILL BE MADE MORE ATTRACTIVE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF BEACH BUILDINGS AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES.

DISCLOSING THIS AT A MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE RSD'S DISTRICT LEISURE MANAGER, MR CHARLES CHU, SAID NEW BEACH BUILDINGS FOR TRIO AND KIU TSUI BEACHES WERE COMPLETED AND HANDED OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR MANAGEMENT IN DECEMBER 1985.

CONSTRUCTION OF SIMILAR FACILITIES FOR THE HAP MUN BAY BEACH AND CLEAR WATER BAY (FIRST) BEACH WOULD START SOON AND EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

MR CHU ADDED THAT EIGHT GAZETTED BEACHES IN SAI KUNG RECORDED 3 300 000 IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE LAST SWIMMING SEASON FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ONGOING EFFORT TO PROMOTE LEISURE SERVICES FOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS, MR CHU SAID IT WOULD ORGANISE 22 RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

+IT IS EXPECTED THAT 3 344 PEOPLE WILL TAKE PART IN THESE PROGRAMMES, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH ARE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED IN RESPONSE TO THE ANNUAL SAI KUNG FESTIVAL, SUCH AS THE ROAD RACE, NEW FUN GAMES DAY, CHILDREN'S GAMES DAY, AND FOOTBALL KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION,+ MR CHU SAID.

ON THE PROVISION OF RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES IN CAMPS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT, MR CHU SAID MANY ADDITIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES WERE NOW AT THE PLANNING STAGE, INCLUDING SWIMMING POOLS, TENNIS COURTS, SQUASH COURTS AND HARD SURFACED SOCCER PITCHES WHICH WOULD BE BUILT ON THE RECLAMATION SITE SOUTH OF THE TOWN CENTRE.

+BUT THEY ARE NOT SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BEFORE 1988-89 AND LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS HAVE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN MAKING USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES AT THE TWO CAMPS -- THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE AND LADY MACLEHOSE HOLIDAY VILLAGE -- IN THE INTERIM PERIOD,+ MR CHU ADDED.

MR CHU EXPLAINED THAT RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES IN THE TWO CAMPS WERE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR USE BY CAMPERS PARTICIPATING IN ORGANISED CAMPING PROGRAMMES. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, OCCASIONS IN WHICH THE CAMP FACILITIES WERE NOT USED. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN MADE TO MAKE THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE BOTH TO THE CAMPERS AND OTHER GROUPS.

+IN ADDITION, LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS CAN ALSO APPLY FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF THESE FACILITIES AT A HIRE CHARGE SIMILAR TO OTHER DISTRICT FACILITIES,+ MR CHU SAID.

THE COMMITTEE WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THE PROVISION OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH PRIMARILY CONSISTED OF LIBRARY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES HELD REGULARLY IN THE SAI KUNG PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THEY INCLUDED BOOK EXHIBITIONS, INTEREST GROUPS, INTELLECTUAL GAMES, HI-FI CONCERTS, A MINI-CULTURAL PRESENTATION FOR CHILDREN AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN. A VARIETY SHOW WAS ALSO PLANNED AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT PRIMARY SCHOOL ON MARCH 29.

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SHORT-TERM TENANCY SOUGHT FOR SHA TIN SITES
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TWO SHA TIN SITES ARE BEING OFFERED ON SHORT-TERM TENANCY BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

ONE AT TIN SAM MEASURING ABOUT 3.156 HECTARES WILL BE FOR A SECOND OFF-STREET TRAINING CENTRE FOR DRIVERS OF ARTICULATED VEHICLES, PRIVATE CARS, MOTOR CYCLES AND OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT.

ANCILLARY FACILITIES TO PREPARE DRIVERS FOR THE DRIVING TEST AND TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED AT THE CENTRE.

THE TENANCY, FOR FIVE YEARS INITIALLY, CAN BE RENEWED FOR QUARTERLY PERIOD AFTERWARDS.

THE OTHER LOT AT SAN TIN WAI MEASURES ABOUT 1.928 HECTARES AND IS FOR USE AS A WATERSLIDE AND RECREATIONAL PARK.

THE INITIAL TENANCY PERIOD IS ALSO FOR FIVE YEARS, RENEWABLE FOR SIX MONTHLY PERIODS AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTING TENDERS FOR BOTH SITES IS NOON ON JANUARY 24.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SHA TIN: THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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130 STALLS JOIN MONG KOK MARKET CLEAN UP
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MORE THAN 130 STALLS IN MONG KOK MARKET TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOOK PART IN THE ANNUAL CLEAN-UP COMPETITION TO BRING A NEW AND HEALTHY LOOK TO THE AREA.

THE STALLS COMPETED IN THREE GROUPS ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF GOODS SOLD - SEAFOOD, MEAT AND VEGETABLES.

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THE PANEL OF JUDGES INCLUDED THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (MONG KOK), MR EARNEST CHEUNG= DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT, MR HA KAM-KAYE A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR CHAN KWOK-MING, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE, MR HO KWONG-HUNG.

OUTSIDE THE MARKET, RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT WERE TREATED TO AN AFTERNOON OF FREE ENTERTAINMENT WHICH INCLUDED SINGING, ACROBATICS AND A MAGIC SHOW STAGED ON A MOBILE STREET THEATRE.

THE COMPETITION, SPONSORED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, WAS PART OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN ORGANISING COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE AWARENESS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND CLEANLINESS AMONG STALL OPERATORS.

FOLLOWING THE CLEANING UP OF MARKET STALLS, A CLEAN STREET COMPETITION AND A CLEAN BUILDING COMPETITION WILL BE LAUNCHED ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 10) UNTIL THE END OF THIS MONTH TO GIVE A THOROUGH FACE-LIFT TO THE ENTIRE DISTRICT.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN WAN CHAI
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE CLOSURE OF TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN WAN CHAI FOR DRAIN CLEARANCE WORKS. DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

* JANUARY 11 TO 18:

THE SECTION OF MARSH ROAD BETWEEN GLOUCESTER ROAD AND JAFFE ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE SECTION OF JAFFE ROAD BETWEEN CANAL ROAD WEST AND MARSH ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY WESTBOUND AND PARKING SPACES ON THIS SECTION OF JAFFE ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM ON JANUARY 11 TO 6 AM ON JANUARY 19.

NORTHBOUND VEHICLES ON MARSH ROAD WILL BE PERMITTED TO TURN RIGHT TO LOCKHART ROAD WHILE WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON INNER GLOUCESTER ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO STEWART ROAD TO JOIN LOCKHART ROAD. HOWEVER, VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN FROM NORTHBOUND MARSH ROAD TO SOUTHBOUND MARSH ROAD UNDER THE MARSH ROAD FLYOVER.

* JANUARY 20 TO 27:

THE SECTION OF MARSH ROAD BETWEEN JAFFE ROAD AND LOCKHART ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

/DURING THE

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DURING THE CLOSURE, NORTHBOUND VEHICLES ON MARSH ROAD WILL BE AGAIN PERMITTED TO TURN RIGHT TO LOCKHART ROAD AND WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON INNER GLOUCESTER ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE STEWART ROAD TO JOIN LOCKHART ROAD.

MEANWHILE, TO FACILITATE THE LAUNCHING OF THE PEDAL KART RACE AT THE HONG KONG STADIUM, LEARNER DRIVERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CIRCUIT ROAD AROUND THE HONG KONG STADIUM FROM 9 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 11) TO 9 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THEY WILL ALSO BE BANNED FROM ENTERING EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD, CAROLINE HILL ROAD AND COTTON PATH FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 12).

THE METERED CAR PARKING SPACES AT STADIUM PATH WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM ON SATURDAY TO 6 PM THE NEXT DAY.

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RESTRICTED ZONE IN MONG KOK

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THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF DUNDAS STREET BETWEEN SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET SOUTH AND NATHAN ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY STARTING 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 11).

NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREA.

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