



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1980

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GREEN PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG
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A GREEN PAPER ENTITLED +A PATTERN OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG+ WAS PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT TODAY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

THE PAPER PUTS FORWARD PROPOSALS PRINCIPALLY DIRECTED TO THE BETTER CO-ORDINATION AND RESPONSIVENESS OF ADMINISTRATION AT DISTRICT LEVEL, AND TO THE GREATER PARTICIPATION OF THE RESIDENTS OF EACH DISTRICT IN IT.

THE SUGGESTED CHANGES INDICATE GOVERNMENT'S PRIME CONCERN WITH IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND WITH STRENGTHENING THE LINKS BETWEEN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE DISTRICTS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AS CENTRAL DIRECTION HAD TO BE MAINTAINED, WITH STABILITY BEING VITALLY IMPORTANT, THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF CHANGING THE STATUS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OR OF ALTERING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

MOREOVER BUDGETARY POLICY, THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND OF THE MAIN PROGRAMMES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CENTRALLY DIRECTED.

+BUT THERE IS MUCH SCOPE+ HE SAID +FOR THE INHABITANTS OF INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS TO HAVE MORE SAY OVER THE IMPACT, ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE CENTRAL SERVICES AND POLICIES, AND TO HAVE BETTER AND MORE UNIFORM CHANNELS FOR BRINGING THEIR VIEWS TO BEAR ON THE GOVERNMENT.+

STRESSING THE FACT THAT THE GREEN PAPER WAS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSALS WERE PRESENTED IN THE BELIEF THAT THERE WAS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

THIS COULD BEST BE ACHIEVED, IT WAS FELT, THROUGH THE STIMULUS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

THREE MONTHS HAD BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THOSE INTERESTED TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF THE PLAN AND, BASED ON COMMENTS RECEIVED, IT WAS HOPED TO INTRODUCE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION EARLY NEXT YEAR, FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF A WHITE PAPER.

THE GREEN PAPER RELATED BOTH TO THE NEW TERRITORIES AND TO THE URBAN AREA OF KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND.

FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES IT WAS SUGGESTED:

- * TO INTRODUCE AN ELECTED ELEMENT TO DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS. (WHICH WOULD BE RETITLED DISTRICT BOARDS)-
- * EACH ELECTED MEMBER WOULD REPRESENT A SEPARATE CONSTITUENCY IN THE AREA SERVED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD-
- * ELECTION WOULD BE BY ALL ADULTS OVER THE AGE OF 21 RESIDING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH MORE THAN THREE YEARS' RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

IN THE URBAN AREA IT WAS SUGGESTED:

- * THAT DISTRICT BOARDS COMPRISING OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS BE ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE WELLBEING OF RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT AND THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES. THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EXISTING RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL. THIS THEREFORE MEANS THEY WILL NOT BE QUITE AS WIDE AS THOSE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT BOARDS.
- * THAT THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SYSTEM ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN KWUN TONG BE EXTENDED TO OTHER URBAN DISTRICTS. THE COMMITTEE WHICH CONSISTS OF OFFICIALS IS MAINLY CONCERNED WITH CO-ORDINATING DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WHILE THE PROPOSALS WERE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING ADMINISTRATION AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE URBAN AREA, THERE COULD BE CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL ESPECIALLY TO DO WITH THE METHOD OF ELECTION OF ITS MEMBERS. IN VIEW OF THE PROPOSALS FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO REPLACE THE PRESENT RESTRICTED FRANCHISE BY INTRODUCING ADULT SUFFRAGE FOR URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

IT WOULD ALSO BE FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER THE DISTRICT FOCUS IN THE URBAN AREA COULD BE GIVEN EVEN GREATER CLARITY, AND THE WORK OF MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL BROADENED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW ARRANGEMENTS:

- * ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON A CONSTITUENCY BASIS, WITH THE URBAN AREA BEING DIVIDED INTO EIGHT DISTRICTS, SEVEN CONTAINING TWO CONSTITUENCIES AND A SMALLER ONE CONTAINING ONE CONSTITUENCY. EACH WOULD RETURN ONE ELECTED MEMBER TO THE URBAN COUNCIL. THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS WOULD BE INCREASED TO FIFTEEN MAINTAINING THE BALANCE BETWEEN ELECTED AND APPOINTED MEMBERS-
- * SEATS TO BE RESERVED ON DISTRICT BOARDS FOR URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED FOR THE CONSTITUENCIES IN THAT DISTRICT SO THAT THEY COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE BOARDS' WORK-
- * SIMILARLY, SEATS TO BE RESERVED FOR APPOINTED MEMBERS ON DISTRICT BOARDS OF THEIR CHOICE.

COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSALS FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SHIFT IN POPULATION, REFLECTED BY THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE NEW TOWNS, ACCENTUATED THE NEED TO PROVIDE FOR LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THOSE COMMUNITIES.

ALTHOUGH MANY RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TOWNS WERE QUALIFIED TO VOTE FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL ITS FUNCTIONS HAD LITTLE RELEVANCE TO THEIR DAILY LIVES, AND WOULD HAVE PROGRESSIVELY LESS AS A FULL RANGE OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WERE DEVELOPED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS.

+THIS IS CLEARLY ANOMALOUS,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN. +WHAT IS NEEDED IS THAT THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PRESENT COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT BOARDS BE MORE CLEARLY RECOGNISED, AND THAT THE WEIGHT OF THEIR ADVICE BE GIVEN GREATER AUTHORITY.+

IT WAS ANTICIPATED, HE SAID, THAT THE WORK OF THE BOARDS SHOULD GENERATE GREATER INTEREST BY LOCAL RESIDENTS +BY VIRTUE OF THE ADDED SPUR OF ACCOUNTABILITY. WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A CONSTITUENCY BASIS FOR ELECTIONS TO THE BOARDS THERE WOULD BE A COMMUNITY OF INTEREST BETWEEN THE ELECTORATE AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES.+

THE PRECISE COMPOSITION OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS MIGHT VARY IN EACH DISTRICT ACCORDING TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT IN GENERAL TERMS THEY WOULD COMPRISE DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS, THE CHAIRMEN OF THE RURAL COMMITTEES ELECTED AS AT PRESENT, APPOINTED MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD WOULD BE THE TOWN MANAGER OR DISTRICT OFFICER.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO CHANGE THE PART PLAYED BY THE HEUNG YEE KUK, RURAL COMMITTEES OR VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES.

HE EXPLAINED: +THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY THEIR TRADITIONAL VALUABLE ROLE, NOT ONLY IN THE RURAL AREAS BUT ALSO AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES LIVING IN THE MORE DEVELOPED AREAS.

+THEY WILL PROVIDE A MEANS BY WHICH THEIR PARTICULAR INTERESTS IN LAND, RURAL HOUSING AND RURAL TRADITION CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH GOVERNMENT.+

GOVERNMENT WILL WISH TO LEARN THE VIEWS OF SUCH BODIES ON THE PROPOSALS AT FIRST HAND.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE FUNCTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT BOARDS HAD BEEN TO EXAMINE THOSE PARTS OF CENTRAL PROGRAMME WHICH AFFECT TOWNS AND DISTRICTS, AND TO STIMULATE AND +TO GUIDE DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS ACROSS THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION THROUGH ADVICE AND DISCUSSION.+

EIGHT OF THESE BOARDS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED COVERING ALL DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE SAID: +THOUGH STILL NEW, THEY ARE FUNCTIONING WELL AND CLEARLY FILL A DEEPLY-FELT LOCAL NEED. THE GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, PROPOSES BUILDING ON THEM AS THE BASIS FOR LOCAL ADVICE AND PARTICIPATION.

+THE PROPOSALS ARE PUT FORWARD FOR A MORE FORMAL AND COHERENT FRAMEWORK FOR CONTACT, DISCUSSION, STIMULUS, AND ADVICE BETWEEN COMMUNITIES IN EACH DISTRICT AND THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.+

AS FOR THE PROPOSALS FOR THE URBAN AREA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXPERIMENT IN KWUN TONG WHICH WAS ALREADY PROVING SUCCESSFUL HAD INDICATED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CO-ORDINATION AND RESPONSIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, THEREFORE, IT WAS INTENDED TO EXTEND THE SCHEME TO THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.

AS A NEXT STEP IT WAS PROPOSED THAT ONCE EACH URBAN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED ITS OPERATION SHOULD BE REINFORCED BY THE APPOINTMENT OF A DISTRICT BOARD. THEY, LIKE THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WOULD BE CHAIRED BY AN OFFICIAL, IN THIS CASE THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS.

THE BOARDS WOULD INCLUDE A NUCLEUS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TOGETHER WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS APPOINTED FROM THE DISTRICT INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, KAIFONGS AND OTHER ACTIVE BODIES.

HOWEVER, THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE WOULD NOT BE QUITE AS WIDE AS THOSE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES BOARDS, BECAUSE IT WAS NECESSARY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EXISTING RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WHICH WOULD NOT BE CHANGED.

+THE URBAN COUNCIL,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN, +HAD FULLY DEMONSTRATED ITS WORTH OVER THE YEARS.+

THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD ALSO DIFFER FROM THEIR NEW TERRITORIES COUNTERPARTS IN THAT MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE BY APPOINTMENT, NOT BY ELECTION, TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

IT WAS NOT PROPOSED THAT CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION SHOULD NECESSARILY BE RESIDENT IN THE CONSTITUENCY FOR WHICH THEY STAND, THOUGH IT WAS CLEARLY DESIRABLE THAT THEY SHOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THAT CONSTITUENCY.

+MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE URGED TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN,+ HE SAID. +THEY CAN DO SO BY WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.+ DISCUSSIONS WILL ALSO BE CARRIED ON IN THE NORMAL WAY BY HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

VIEWS SHOULD BE EXPRESSED BY AUGUST 31, 1980.

FOLLOWING THE PERIOD OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT A WHITE PAPER CONTAINING FIRM PROPOSALS WOULD BE PUBLISHED BY THE END OF THE YEAR WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION EARLY IN 1981.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT REVISED ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE URBAN AREA COULD THEN BE DRAWN UP OVER THE FOLLOWING NINE MONTHS.

THEREFORE, HE SAID, THE FIRST ELECTION UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM COULD BE HELD IN MARCH, 1982.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROPOSALS

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S STREAMS, NULLAHS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS ARE NOT POLLUTED - AND THAT THOSE WATERWAYS THAT ARE DETERIORATING ARE CLEANED UP.

THE NECESSARY REGULATORY MEASURES ARE INCORPORATED IN THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BILL 1980, TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NEXT FRIDAY.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL, SAID A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, IS TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH SPECIFIC CONTROLS TO DIMINISH THE POLLUTION OF THE STREAMS, RIVERS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS COULD BE APPLIED.

HE SAID, +THE NEED TO LIMIT, AND IN SOME CASES DIMINISH, THE LEVEL OF POLLUTION IN THE WATERS, BOTH INLAND AND MARINE, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY A SERIES OF CONSULTANTS EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN PAST YEARS.+

FURTHER DELAYS IN TACKLING THE PROBLEM, HE SAID, COULD MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO INTRODUCE THE NECESSARY CONTROLS WITHOUT UNDULY AFFECTING EXISTING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DEVISED A DETERMINED AND POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN PREPARING THE DRAFT LEGISLATION CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HAD BEEN PAID TO THE NEED TO CREATE A BALANCE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS.

HE EXPLAINED, +IT IS TRUE THAT THE TERMS OF THE DRAFT BILL ARE GENEROUS IN TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY, BUT IT IS FELT THAT A SATISFACTORY BALANCE HAS BEEN STRUCK.+

THE MAIN PROVISIONS ARE:

- * THE GOVERNOR, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DECLARE ANY PART OF HONG KONG WATERS A WATER CONTROL ZONE. THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT THEN WOULD ESTABLISH WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES, AND ZONAL AUTHORITIES WOULD NEED TO ENSURE THESE OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED AND MAINTAINED.
- * CONTROL OVER DISCHARGES AND DEPOSITS INTO ANY PARTICULAR ZONE WOULD BE PROVIDED BY REQUIRING THOSE ALREADY DISCHARGING EFFLUENT TO OBTAIN AN EXEMPTION FOR THEIR DISCHARGE. FUTURE DISCHARGES WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CAREFUL SCRUTINY AND WOULD REQUIRE A LICENCE.

THE PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO OBTAIN A LICENCE BY A SPECIFIED DATE WOULD BE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50 000 FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE, \$100 000 FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE, AND A FURTHER FINE OF \$500 DAILY IF THE OFFENCE WAS PROVED TO BE A CONTINUING ONE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAJOR PRINCIPLE OF THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE ITS FLEXIBILITY.

+CONTROL MEASURES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY STAGES, WITH AREAS BEING DESIGNATED AND CERTAIN TYPES OF INDUSTRY CONTROLLED AT SPECIFIC TIMES,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT IF ANY PART OF THE WATERS OF HONG KONG WERE IN SUCH A CONDITION AS TO BE A DANGER TO PUBLIC HEALTH, EXEMPTIONS AND LICENCES COULD BE EITHER CANCELLED OR AMENDED.

+IT IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL THAT GOVERNMENT RETAINS THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR VARY A LICENCE SO AS TO MEET NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR RECTIFY ERRORS IN GRANTING SUCH A LICENCE IN THE FIRST PLACE,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

IF IT WERE FOUND NECESSARY TO DO SO A PROVISION IN THE BILL WOULD ALLOW FOR THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION.

PROVISIONS FOR APPEALS WOULD BE BROADLY IN LINE WITH THOSE INCORPORATED IN THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE 1980 INCLUDING PROVISION FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN APPEALS BOARD TO CONSIDER GRIEVANCES IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW CONTROLS. AS IN THE CASE OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL WILL APPLY ALSO TO THE CROWN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT CONSULTATIONS ON THE BILL HAD BEEN HELD WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, BODIES REPRESENTATIVE OF INDUSTRY SUCH AS THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRY AND THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION AND WITHIN GOVERNMENT ITSELF.

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PROPOSED BAN ON PYRAMID SELLING

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A BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO PROHIBIT PYRAMID SELLING IN HONG KONG.

THE PYRAMID SELLING PROHIBITION BILL 1980, PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, DEFINES PYRAMID SELLING AND MAKES IT AN OFFENCE TO PROMOTE SUCH A SELLING SCHEME.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT A PYRAMID SELLING SCHEME IS A SCHEME FOR THE SALE OF GOODS OR SERVICES WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING FEATURES -

/ * A PARTICIPANT

- * A PARTICIPANT HAS THE RIGHT TO RECRUIT OTHERS INTO THE SCHEME WHO MAY RECRUIT FURTHER PERSONS= AND
- * A PARTICIPANT RECEIVES A REWARD AFTER RECRUITING A PERSON INTO THE SCHEME WHICH IS BASED OTHERWISE THAN ON THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF GOODS OR SERVICES ACTUALLY SOLD EITHER BY HIM OR BY OR THROUGH THE PERSON WHOM HE HAS RECRUITED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +IN ORTHODOX DIRECT SALES SCHEMES PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN SALARIED EMPLOYEES GENERALLY RECEIVE THEIR REMUNERATION BY MEANS OF A COMMISSION ON THE GOODS THEY SELL. THEY MAY RECRUIT OTHERS INTO THE SCHEME BUT THEY ONLY RECEIVE A REWARD FOR DOING SO BASED ON GOODS OR SERVICES ACTUALLY SOLD BY OR THROUGH THEIR RECRUITS.

+PYRAMID SELLING IS A VARIATION ON THIS IN WHICH THE RECRUITING OF NEW PARTICIPANTS BECOMES THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION, WITH A PERSON RECRUITING OTHERS AND RECEIVING A REWARD EVEN WHERE THOSE OTHERS DO NOT SELL ANY GOODS OR SERVICES.+

HE SAID PYRAMID SELLING SCHEMES WERE OBJECTIONABLE FOR TWO REASONS:

- * THEY SERVED NO ECONOMIC PURPOSE BECAUSE THE GOODS OFFERED FOR SALE WERE NOT GENERALLY BOUGHT BY PEOPLE ABLE TO USE THEM. THE GOODS TENDED RATHER TO FINISH UP STOCKPILED IN THE POSSESSION OF UNSUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCHEME, UNABLE TO FIND A MARKET. SUCH PARTICIPANTS TURNED INSTEAD TO RECRUITING FURTHER PARTICIPANTS IN ORDER TO RECOVER ANY SUMS THEY HAD THEMSELVES PAID TO JOIN THE SCHEME.
- * PARTICIPANTS WERE LURED INTO SUCH SCHEMES BY THE PROMISES OF LARGE REWARDS WHICH COULD SELDOM BE ACHIEVED. IT WAS MORE USUAL FOR A PARTICIPANT TO LOSE THE MONEY THAT HE PAID TO JOIN THE SCHEME.

ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN THE ORGANISERS OF SUCH SCHEMES TENDED TO USE SOPHISTICATED AND HIGH PRESSURE RECRUITMENT TECHNIQUES.

+THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT IN HONG KONG THEY TEND TO ATTRACT GULLIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO HAVING JUST LEFT SCHOOL, ARE DRAWN BY PROMISES OF RICH REWARDS AND ARE INSUFFICIENTLY MATURE TO REALISE THAT THOSE REWARDS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE REALISED,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AROUND THE WORLD THAT PYRAMID SELLING SCHEMES WERE OBJECTIONABLE, AND MANY COUNTRIES HAD INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT OR CONTROL THEM.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REPUTABLE DIRECT SELLING ORGANISATIONS USING SALESMEN WORKING ON A COMMISSION BASIS OPERATING IN HONG KONG, AND THE BILL HAS BEEN CAREFULLY DRAFTED TO EXCLUDE THEM FROM ITS OPERATION.

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

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SIR DONALD LUDDINGTON, COMMISSIONER OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WILL BE RETIRING IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR AND WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR PETER WILLIAMS.

MR JOHN CHAMBERS WILL SUCCEED MR WILLIAMS AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR THOMAS LEE CHUN-YON, WILL ALSO BE RETIRING LATER THIS YEAR. HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR SELWYN ALLEYNE.

SIR DONALD LUDDINGTON WILL BE RETIRING AFTER 38 YEARS OF CROWN SERVICE. FOLLOWING MILITARY SERVICE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR HE WAS APPOINTED A CADET OFFICER IN HONG KONG IN 1949. AMONG THE SENIOR POSTS HE HELD WERE DEFENCE SECRETARY, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS. IN 1973 HE WAS APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS. IN 1977 HE RETURNED TO HONG KONG AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. IN 1978 HE WAS APPOINTED COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION. SIR DONALD HAS SERVED ON BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS. HE ALSO SERVED AS HONORARY COLONEL OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT.

MR PETER WILLIAMS, WHO WILL SUCCEED AS COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION, IS AGED 53. HE FIRST JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS A CADET OFFICER IN 1953. HIS APPOINTMENTS HAVE INCLUDED DEFENCE SECRETARY, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION, AND COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR. HE HAS SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. HE RETIRED FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1978 BUT RETURNED TO HONG KONG IN 1979 AS THE FIRST SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NEW STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

MR JOHN CHAMBERS IS AGED 48 AND JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN 1955 AS A CADET OFFICER. MOST OF HIS SERVICE HAS BEEN SPENT IN THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT. HE HAS BEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES SINCE 1977 AND HAS ACTED AS SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

MR THOMAS LEE WILL BE RETIRING AFTER 28 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WHICH HE JOINED AS AN ASSISTANT PROBATION OFFICER IN 1952. HE WAS PROMOTED PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER IN 1963, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN 1970 AND TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN 1971. HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE SINCE 1974 AND HAS BEEN AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR SELWYN ALLEYNE IS AGED 49. HE FIRST JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS AN ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER IN 1956. HE WAS APPOINTED A CADET OFFICER IN THE SAME YEAR AND HAS SERVED SINCE IN THE RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT, THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT. HIS TWO MOST RECENT APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE. HE HAS ACTED AS SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE.

NEW TAC CHAIRMAN APPOINTED

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MR T.S. LO, WHO WAS REAPPOINTED TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, IS TO TAKE OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THIS COMMITTEE AS FROM JULY 1, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT THIS IMPORTANT COMMITTEE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CHAIRED BY AN UNOFFICIAL UP TO 1973. SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWING HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE NEWLY CREATED POST OF SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR J.J. ROBSON ASSUMED THE CHAIRMANSHIP WHICH HE HELD UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN APRIL 1976. HIS PLACE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE WAS THEN ASSUMED BY THE PRESENT SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR DEREK JONES.

+MR LO IS NO STRANGER TO THE TAC, HAVING PREVIOUSLY SERVED ON THE COMMITTEE FROM 1967 TO 1973,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, +AND HIS APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN REFLECTS THE NEED FOR STRONG UNOFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT IN TRANSPORT MATTERS AT A TIME WHEN THE INCREASING BUILD-UP OF TRAFFIC ON THE ROADS AND THE RESULTANT CONGESTION WILL REQUIRE THE ADOPTION OF MEASURES WHICH MUST, OF NECESSITY, BE UNPALATABLE TO SOME ROAD USERS.+

+AS AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MR LO WILL ALSO BE IN A GOOD POSITION TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE TAC WHEN IMPORTANT ISSUES OF TRANSPORT POLICY COME BEFORE THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE RECALLED THAT THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE TAC HAD RECENTLY BEEN INCREASED FROM FIVE TO EIGHT AND POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO STRONG UNOFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE DETERMINATION OF TRANSPORT POLICY.

APART FROM HIS MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, MR LO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL TEACHING HOSPITAL AS WELL AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, OF THE LEGISLATION GROUP OF UMELCO AND OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TELEPHONE SERVICES.

AS SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR JONES WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE POLICY SECRETARY CO-ORDINATING THE WORK OF ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT AND THE SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THIS FIELD.

HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE TAC CONTINUOUSLY SINCE JUNE 1971 AS, SUCCESSIVELY, DEPUTY ECONOMIC SECRETARY, SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES AND SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HAS SERVED AS CHAIRMAN SINCE MAY 1976. HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE MASS TRANSIT WORKING GROUP IN 1971-72, WHICH RECOMMENDED THE BUILDING OF THE MTR AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE MASS TRANSIT STEERING GROUP AND PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY IN 1972-1975. DURING THAT PERIOD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE PRESIDED OVER THE KEY STAFF AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY WHICH ESTABLISHED THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND RECRUITED THE SENIOR STAFF FOR THE FUTURE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

/MR JONES

MR JONES WAS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING GROUP ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY FROM 1973-76 AND HE REMAINS CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING GROUP ON THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAWING UP THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES ORDINANCE AND FOR FRANCHISE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TWO MAJOR BUS COMPANIES.

MR JONES WILL NOW BE REPRESENTED ON THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN CHARGE OF THE TRANSPORT DIVISION, DR RICHARD BUTLER.

COMMENTING ON HIS APPOINTMENT, MR LO SAID TODAY: +THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF WORK INVOLVED AND THE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS WHICH NOW FACE HONG KONG ARE BOTH COMPLEX AND CONTENTIOUS.+

+BUT,+ HE ADDED, +THE POST IS A CHALLENGE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO TACKLING IT.+

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NT HAWKER LICENCE FEES REVISED

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HAWKER LICENCE AND PITCH FEES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH WERE LAST REVISED ON AUGUST 1, 1978, ARE TO BE INCREASED FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

THE REVISION IS ANNOUNCED IN AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWKER (NEW TERRITORIES) REGULATIONS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE REVISION WOULD HELP OFFSET IN PART THE HEAVY OPERATIONAL DEFICIT INCURRED IN HAWKER CONTROL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+STATISTICS SHOW THAT IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1979-80, THE TOTAL REVENUE FROM HAWKER LICENCE AND PITCH FEES IN THE NT WAS \$1 006 860 WHILE THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON HAWKER CONTROL THERE AMOUNTED TO \$22 687 870,+ HE SAID.

+WITH THE REVISED FEES, THE TOTAL REVENUE FROM HAWKER LICENCE AND PITCH FEES WILL BE INCREASED TO ABOUT \$2.5 MILLION A YEAR.

+HENCE, THERE WILL STILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL DEFICIT EVEN AFTER THE NEW RATES ARE INTRODUCED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE OTHER REASON FOR THE REVISED FEES, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, WAS TO BRING THE HAWKER LICENCE AND PITCH FEES IN THE NT CLOSER TO THOSE APPLICABLE IN THE URBAN AREAS WHERE SUCH FEES WERE LAST INCREASED ON MARCH 1 THIS YEAR.

+HOWEVER, EVEN WITH THE NEW INCREASES, THE NT FEES WILL IN MOST CASES BE SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN THOSE APPLICABLE IN THE URBAN AREAS,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HAWKER LICENCES ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATAGORIES: FIXED PITCH, ITINERANT AND TEMPORARY.

THE MAJORITY OF FIXED PITCH LICENCES ARE FOR FIXED PITCHES NOT EXCEEDING 1.1 SQUARE METRE EACH AND ANNUAL FEES FOR THESE WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$130 TO \$390.

THE MAJORITY OF ITINERANT HAWKERS WILL HAVE THEIR LICENCE FEES INCREASED FROM \$40 TO \$75 A YEAR, WHILE THE FEE FOR A TEMPORARY LICENCE REMAINS THE SAME AT \$25.

+THE HEUNG YEE KUK AND THE NEW TERRITORIES GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WERE CONSULTED ABOUT THE NEW SCALE OF FEES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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GREATER PROTECTION FOR RAPE VICTIMS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO FURTHER PROTECT THE ANONYMITY OF COMPLAINANTS IN RAPE AND INDECENT ASSAULT CASES UNDER THE CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT SINCE 1978 THE IDENTITY OF COMPLAINANTS HAS BEEN UNDER PROTECTION ONCE THEIR CASE IS FORMALLY BEFORE A COURT.

THE PRESENT BILL WILL ALLOW ANONYMITY TO VICTIMS FROM THE TIME THE COMPLAINT IS MADE TO THE POLICE.

+THE PROPOSAL, BY PROTECTING THE IDENTITY OF THOSE WHO REPORT SEXUAL OFFENCES, MAY FURTHER ENCOURAGE THE REPORTING OF SUCH OFFENCES TO THE POLICE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FROM TIME TO TIME HOWEVER, IT MAY HAPPEN THAT PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRES PUBLICITY TO BE GIVEN TO A COMPLAINT, SUCH AS WHEN THE IDENTITY OF THE VICTIM HAS TO BE REVEALED TO TRACE THE OFFENDER.

IN SUCH A CASE, PUBLICITY WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED ON PERMISSION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR ALTERNATIVELY BY A POLICE OFFICER OF THE RANK OF SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OR ABOVE WITH THE COMPLAINANT'S CONSENT. NOTICE OF THE PERMISSION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE SUBSEQUENTLY IN THE GAZETTE.

THE BILL ALSO EXTENDS TO ALL COURTS THE POWER CURRENTLY VESTED ONLY IN THE HIGH COURT TO DIRECT DURING A TRIAL THAT RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLICITY BE LIFTED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

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SECOND THROUGH TRAIN TO GUANGZHOU TO BE RETIMED
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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND THE GUANGZHOU RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION HAVE BEEN MEETING THIS WEEK IN HONG KONG.

THE DISCUSSIONS FORMED PART OF THE REGULAR REVIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, AND WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE VERY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS AND TO SEEK WAYS OF FURTHER IMPROVING THE EFFICIENT MOVEMENT OF PASSENGERS AND FREIGHTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

TWO DECISIONS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST HAVE BEEN TAKEN:

THROUGH TRAIN

AT PRESENT THE SECOND THROUGH TRAIN IS TIMED TO ARRIVE IN KOWLOON AT 2.06 PM AND DEPART AT 4 PM, ARRIVING BACK AT GUANGZHOU AT 6.54 PM. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THE ARRIVAL TIME IN GUANGZHOU IS QUITE UNSUITABLE FOR MANY PASSENGERS BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS OF CONVENIENTLY REACHING THEIR FINAL DESTINATIONS.

IT HAS, THEREFORE, BEEN AGREED THAT ON AND FROM FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1980 THE SECOND THROUGH TRAIN WILL BE RETIMED AS FOLLOWS:

DEPART GUANGZHOU: 10.10 AM
ARRIVE KOWLOON: 1.07 PM
DEPART KOWLOON: 2.55 PM
ARRIVE GUANGZHOU: 5.50 PM

FREIGHT TRAFFIC

BOTH ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP THE USE OF CHINESE-OWNED FREIGHT WAGGONS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF FREIGHT TRAFFIC FROM HONG KONG INTO CHINA, AND IN THE RECENT PAST A NUMBER OF CONSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN HANDLED UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE NOW REACHED A FORMAL AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE THE RETURN LOADING OF WAGGONS TO CHINA, THE QUANTITIES OF WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE STRICTLY REGULATED, SO AS TO AVOID, IN RELATION TO THE PRESENT TERMINAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG, ANY REDUCTION IN THE VOLUME OF INWARDS LOADED WAGGONS THAT CAN BE HANDLED.

OTHER MATTERS OF TECHNICAL INTEREST TO THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS WERE DISCUSSED AND AREAS FOR FUTURE STUDIES IDENTIFIED.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1980

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DIRECTOR OF MARINE RETIRES
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MR M. J. ALEXANDER, DIRECTOR OF MARINE, IS RETIRING FROM THE GOVERNMENT AFTER 25 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

DURING THE YEARS IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR, THE PORT OF HONG KONG HAS UNDERGONE MANY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS.

THESE INCLUDE TRANSFER OF THE MAJOR SHIP-REPAIRING FACILITIES TO TSING YI, PROVISION OF FURTHER CARGO HANDLING AREAS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR, AND THE SAFE CONSTRUCTION OF A HUGE FLOATING RESTAURANT AND ITS EVENTUAL RELOCATION WITH TWO OTHER RESTAURANTS AT SHAM WAN.

MORE RECENTLY, THERE WERE INAUGURATIONS OF FIVE PASSENGER SHIPPING SERVICES BETWEEN VICTORIA HARBOUR AND CHINESE PORTS, AS WELL AS A JETFOIL NIGHT SERVICE TO AND FROM MACAU.

HE HAS ALSO PLAYED A PROMINENT PART IN INTRODUCING MEASURES TO COPE WITH PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM, AND HAS ABLY SUPPORTED ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATIONS AT SEA.

MR ALEXANDER JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1954 AS A MARINE OFFICER AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR-MARINE OFFICER IN 1965. HE WAS SECONDED TO THE FINANCE BRANCH FROM 1969 TO 1970 AND WAS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL MARINE OFFICER IN 1971.

HE BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN MARCH 1972 AND WAS PROMOTED DIRECTOR IN APRIL 1977.

FROM MARCH 1972 TO JUNE 1975, HE CHAIRED THE SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON OIL POLLUTION WHICH WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE CONTROL OF OIL POLLUTION.

HE HAD ALSO BEEN THE FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG MERCHANT NAVY TRAINING BOARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE MERCANTILE MARINE ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE, THE PORT COMMITTEE, THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING ADVISORY BOARD, AND THE SEAMEN'S BOARD OF REFERENCE.

AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS THIS AFTERNOON, MR ALEXANDER WAS PRESENTED A FAREWELL GIFT FROM HIS COLLEAGUES BY THE DIRECTOR DESIGNATE, MR P. E. J. DAVY. HE WILL GO ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE ON JUNE 13.

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NEW LAW ON FRAUDULENT BUSINESS TRANSFERS

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A BILL SEEKING TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING LAW WHICH PROTECTS CREDITORS OF A BUSINESS IN A SALE OR TRANSFER OF ANY PART OF THE BUSINESS IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

THE TRANSFER OF BUSINESSES (PROTECTION OF CREDITORS) BILL 1980 WILL REPEAL AND REPLACE THE FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS OF BUSINESSES ORDINANCE AND WILL INTRODUCE NEW PROVISIONS TO REDEFINE THE EXTENT OF PROTECTION, AND HOW IT IS TO OPERATE.

IT PROVIDES THAT THE LIABILITY OF THE TRANSFEREE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THE VALUE OF THE BUSINESS ACQUIRED AND LIMITS THE TIME WITHIN WHICH PROCEEDINGS MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST A TRANSFEREE.

IT ALSO SETS OUT CERTAIN SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THERE MAY BE EXCEPTIONS FROM THE PROTECTION.

THE BILL WAS PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LAW SOCIETY, THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS, THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SECRETARIES AND ADMINISTRATORS, THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND HAS THEIR SUPPORT.

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FREE LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN PROVING SUCCESSFUL

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THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE WHICH THE LAW SOCIETY OPENED IN TSUEN WAN ON MAY 20 TO SERVE THE WESTERN HALF OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IS PROVING SUCCESSFUL.

THE CENTRE, MANNED BY TWO LAWYERS ON TUESDAY EVENINGS FROM 6.30 TO 9.30 PM, HAS HANDLED 31 CASES SO FAR.

TEN CASES WERE DEALT WITH ON THE CENTRE'S OPENING EVENING, 11 ON MAY 27, AND 10 ON JUNE 3.

+WE REGARD THIS AS A VERY GOOD START,+ A NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID SEVEN OF THE CASES CONCERNED LANDLORD AND TENANT DISPUTES, SIX CONCERNED COMMERCIAL AND PROPERTY DISPUTES AND A FURTHER SIX INVOLVED COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

THE REMAINDER WERE CONNECTED WITH LAND DISPUTES, MATRIMONIAL MATTERS, EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS, ESTATE ADMINISTRATION, CRIMINAL CASES AND MISCELLANEOUS CASES.

THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG REFERRED 28 OF THE CASES, WHILE THE OTHER THREE WERE REFERRED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, TSUEN WAN, THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL AND WESTERN, AND TSUEN WAN RURAL COMMITTEE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SOME DIFFICULTY WAS BEING CAUSED BY APPLICANTS GOING STRAIGHT TO THE CENTRE INSTEAD OF TO A PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS. HE SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH ON THE SPOT CASES BECAUSE THE LAWYERS' HANDS WERE ALREADY FULL WITH THOSE WHO HAD MADE APPOINTMENTS BEFOREHAND. EIGHTEEN PEOPLE HAD SO FAR APPROACHED THE CENTRE WITHOUT HAVING MADE A PRIOR APPOINTMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LAWYERS WERE DEVOTING AN AVERAGE 30 MINUTES TO EACH CASE. HE SAID BECAUSE THE SCHEME WAS PROVING SO POPULAR IT WAS PROBABLE THAT ANOTHER LAWYER AND MORE BACK-UP STAFF WOULD NEED TO BE PROVIDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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FACILITIES FOR POWER TRANSMISSION

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ENABLE POWER COMPANIES TO SEEK CERTAIN RIGHTS TO FACILITATE THE ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF TRANSMISSION LINES.

THE ELECTRICITY NETWORKS (STATUTORY EASEMENTS) BILL, PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY, ALSO CONTAINS PROVISIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF LANDOWNERS AFFECTED BY SUCH TRANSMISSION LINES.

UPON THE CREATION OF A STATUTORY EASEMENT, LANDOWNERS AFFECTED WOULD HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO COMPENSATION FOR ANY REDUCTION IN THE DEVELOPMENT VALUE OF THEIR PROPERTY (AS RESTRICTED IN THE LEASE CONDITIONS) WHICH MAY OCCUR AS A RESULT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH POWER TRANSMISSION LINES.

+THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES A PROCEDURE WHEREBY LANDOWNERS AFFECTED BY SUCH TRANSMISSION LINES MAY OBJECT TO THE METHOD AND TIMING OF WORKS WHICH A POWER COMPANY PROPOSES TO CARRY OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS RIGHTS GRANTED UNDER THE STATUTORY EASEMENT,+ SAID A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN.

HE EXPLAINED: +ARBITRATION BY THE LANDS TRIBUNAL WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE CASE OF DISPUTE BETWEEN THE POWER COMPANY AND AN INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNER ON THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION OFFERED BY THE COMPANY.+

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DISPLAY OF PRISON WORK TOMORROW
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THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WILL MOUNT A PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY AT EDINBURGH PLACE IN FRONT OF QUEEN'S PIER TOMORROW (SATURDAY) BETWEEN 12.30 PM AND 2.30 PM.

THE DISPLAY, SHOWING THE MEANINGFUL AND VARIED WORK OF THE PRISON SERVICE IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS ITS EXCELLENT STAFF WELFARE, IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN.

IT IS LOOKING FOR MATURE, EDUCATED AND RESPONSIBLE YOUNG MEN TO FILL POSTS OF ASSISTANT OFFICER II.

IN ADDITION TO THE DISPLAY, THERE WILL BE A STREET THEATRE ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES WITH PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT GROUPS AND TELEVISION ARTISTES.

A PRISON OFFICER WILL ALSO GO ON THE STAGE TO GIVE A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTING WORK OF THE PRISON SERVICE.

A MOBILE RECRUITMENT STAND WILL BE SET UP NEARBY TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING UP THE WORTHWHILE CAREER.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S MOBILE RECRUITMENT DISPLAY TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT EDINBURGH PLACE IN FRONT OF QUEEN'S PIER, STARTING AT 12.30 PM.

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NEW BUS TERMINUS IN QUARRY BAY
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A NEW BUS TERMINUS AT YAU MAN STREET, QUARRY BAY, WILL BE OPENED ON SUNDAY (JUNE 8).

CHINA MOTOR BUS ROUTES NO 22, 22M AND CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTE NO 116 WILL USE THIS TERMINUS INSTEAD OF THE EXISTING ON-STREET ONE ON KING'S ROAD.

THE ARRANGEMENT WILL HELP GREATLY IN EASING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE AREA.

TO FACILITATE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION, GREIG ROAD AND YAU MAN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1980

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WALKWAY CHANGES NEAR CHATER STATION

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TWO PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY (JUNE 8).

THEY ARE THE TEMPORARY FOOTPATH THROUGH THE GROUND FLOOR OF WORLD WIDE HOUSE (ON THE FORMER GENERAL POST OFFICE SITE) IN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, AND THE NORTHERN PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ACROSS PEDDER STREET AT ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

THE CLOSURE WILL LAST ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO FACILITATE REINSTATEMENT OF THE AREA.

DURING THIS PERIOD, PEDESTRIANS MAY INSTEAD USE THE UNDERGROUND LOBBY OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CHATER STATION.

ENTRANCES TO THE LOBBY ARE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF WORLD WIDE HOUSE, OUTSIDE SWIRE HOUSE ON CHATER ROAD- AND ON PEDDER STREET OUTSIDE WHEELLOCK HOUSE AND MARDEN HOUSE.

DIRECTION SIGNS AND BARRIERS WILL BE PUT UP IN THE AREA AND INSIDE THE MTR STATION LOBBY TO GUIDE THEM.

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