



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LAW PASSED FOR BETTER CONTROL OF VIDEO-GAMES PLACES

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THE MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN ONE SITTING +TO PROVIDE FOR BETTER CONTROL OF VIDEO-GAME ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOR STRONGER PENALTIES AGAINST THOSE CONVICTED OF RUNNING ESTABLISHMENTS ILLEGALLY+.

THE BILL DISPENSES WITH THE PREVIOUS DEFINITIONS OF +AUTOMATIC MACHINE+ AND +AUTOMATIC MACHINE CENTRE+ AND INTRODUCES A NEW AND ALL-EMBRACING DEFINITION OF +AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRE+. THIS DEFINITION MAKES LICENSABLE ANY PREMISES WHICH USE ALL IMAGINABLE TYPES OF AUTOMATIC OR VIDEO-GAME MACHINES.

IT ALSO GIVES THE COURTS MANDATORY POWERS ON CONVICTION TO ORDER THE CONFISCATION OF THOSE MACHINES WHICH HAVE BEEN SEIZED FROM ILLEGAL OPERATORS, UNLESS THE OWNER CAN SHOW SPECIAL AND EXCEPTIONAL REASONS WHY THIS SHOULD NOT BE DONE.

THREE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.

MR ALLEN LEE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EXISTING ILLEGAL VIDEO-GAME ESTABLISHMENTS WERE HIGHLY PROFITABLE.

THE EXTENT OF SUCH PROFIT WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE WILLINGNESS OF UNSCRUPULOUS OPERATORS TO COMPROMISE THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE VERY YOUNG, HE SAID.

+WE MUST STOP THESE ILLEGAL OPERATIONS AS SOON AS WE CAN,+ MR LEE SAID.

MR ANDREW SO COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS RESOLUTION AND EFFORTS TO UPHOLD THE SPIRIT AND DIGNITY OF LAW ENACTMENT AND ENFORCEMENT.

HE FELT THAT THE BILL AIMED ONLY AT THOSE UNSCRUPULOUS OR ILLEGAL OPERATORS AND WOULD HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO ILL EFFECTS ON LAW-ABIDING BUSINESSMEN OR APPLICANTS.

BUT HE REITERATED THE PLEAS MADE EARLIER BY SOME UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS IN THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROCESS THE APPLICATIONS FOR VIDEO-GAME LICENCES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

MR K.C. CHAN SAID RECENT EVENTS INDICATED THAT SOME UNSCRUPULOUS VIDEO-GAME OPERATORS DID NOT ACCEPT THE SPIRIT OF THE LEGISLATION BUT CHOSE TO PLAY AROUND WITH WORDS AND THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD OUTWIT THE LAW.

+THIS LEADS TO A MUCH MORE SERIOUS AND FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE, I.E. THE UNDERMINING OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM AND OPEN DEFIANCE TO GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY,+ SAID MR CHAN.

+THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF OUR COMMUNITY REST ON THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF LAW AND ORDER AND WE CANNOT AND MUST NOT ALLOW ANY UNSCRUPULOUS OPERATORS TO ROCK IT.+

HE BELIEVED THE BILL, WHICH PROVIDES FOR A MORE FLEXIBLE DEFINITION OF +AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES+ AND FOR STIFFER PENALTIES, WOULD DETER THOSE WHO THOUGHT EVASION WOULD PAY.

NEED FOR +STRONG SANCTIONS+ STRESSED

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RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH UNLICENSED OPERATORS OF VIDEO-GAME CENTRES, WITH THEIR CAVALIER ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE LAW, CALLED FOR STRONG SANCTIONS THAT WOULD FORCE THEM EITHER TO CLOSE OR TO OPERATE IN ACCEPTABLE REGULATED CIRCUMSTANCES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY WHEN HE MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1982 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BILL, WHICH WAS PASSED INTO LAW TODAY, PROVIDES FOR THE FINE FOR OPERATING UNLICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS TO BE INCREASED FROM \$1 000 TO \$50 000 AND FOR THE MANDATORY FORFEITURE OF MACHINES FOUND IN UNLICENSED CENTRES.

IT ALSO INTRODUCES A DEFINITION OF ESTABLISHMENTS REQUIRING LICENSING WHICH WOULD COVER SCORELESS MACHINES. THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE NOW CALLED +AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES+.

A SCHEDULE IS INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF +AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES+ TO ALLOW FOR THE INCLUSION OF ANY NEW MACHINES BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, HE SAID.

MR BRAY SAID THE EMERGENCE OF SCORELESS MACHINES HAD NOT BEEN FORESEEN DURING DRAFTING OF THE LAST AMENDMENT BILL BECAUSE A GREAT PART OF THE ENJOYMENT OF THE SKILLED PLAYERS WAS ACHIEVING A VERY HIGH SCORE.

+AS ABOUT 100 ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE SPRUNG UP WITH THESE MACHINES THERE CLEARLY IS SUFFICIENT CONSUMER INTEREST FOR THEM TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY SAID HE HAD RECEIVED ADVICE FROM THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT THAT SOME OF THESE MACHINES, WHICH STILL HAD REFERENCE TO A SCORE ON THEIR COMPUTER PROGRAMMES, ALTHOUGH NOT ACTUALLY DISPLAYING THE SCORE, WERE ARGUABLY COVERED BY THE PRESENT ORDINANCE.

+HOWEVER, IT IS VERY EASY TO RE-PROGRAMME THE CIRCUITS TO CIRCUMVENT THIS AND IN SOME MACHINES THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DONE ALREADY.+

MR BRAY SAID VIDEO OR AMUSEMENT GAMES WERE FOUND IN AN AREA OF RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. THE NEW BILL, HE ADDED, PROVIDES FOR LEGISLATIVE FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH FUTURE INNOVATIONS AND, SHOULD MORE LOOPHOLES BE FOUND, THEY CAN BE STOPPED VERY QUICKLY.

HOWEVER, THE BILL ALSO INCLUDES ANOTHER SCHEDULE WHICH ALLOWS FOR EXEMPTION OF MACHINES OR PREMISES FROM LICENCE REQUIREMENT. THESE INCLUDE, FOR INSTANCE, STRENGTH-TESTING MACHINES COMMONLY SEEN IN FUN FAIRS, OR A FUND-RAISING PARTY USING VIDEO-GAME MACHINES FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

ON THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES, MR BRAY SAID THE TIME TAKEN BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING HAD NOW BEEN REDUCED CONSIDERABLY AND THERE WAS NO EXCUSE FOR INTENDING OPERATORS NOT TO APPLY FOR A PROPER LICENCE.

IN FACT, HE SAID, THE COMMISSIONER HAD DEALT WITH ALL 1 372 LICENCE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED UP TO FEBRUARY 9. THIS WAS LESS THAN HALF OF THE TWO MONTHS HE HAD PROMISED IN JANUARY WHEN HE SPOKE BEFORE THE COUNCIL, MR BRAY ADDED.

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NT DB ELECTION RESULTS +HIGHLY SATISFACTORY+
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THE RESPONSE TO LAST WEEK'S NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WAS HIGHLY SATISFACTORY AND WAS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE KEEN PUBLIC INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID ABOUT 97 000 PEOPLE VOTED IN THE ELECTIONS, REPRESENTING OVER 51 PER CENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT A SEPARATE REPORT NEEDED BE MADE TO THE COUNCIL AS TO HOW THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD BE APPLIED DURING THE URBAN AREA ELECTIONS SINCE, AFTER ALL, THE FIRST STAGE OF PREPARING FOR THESE ELECTIONS WOULD BEGIN NEXT WEEK WITH THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FROM MARCH 19 TO APRIL 30.

+IN GENERAL ALL THE FORMAL PROCEDURES WORKED REMARKABLY WELL AND THE RESULTS INDICATED THAT BY AND LARGE THE OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL EFFORT IN ENSURING THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL WAS CORRECTLY PITCHED,+ HE SAID.

+INDEED, I SHOULD LIKE TO PLACE ON RECORD MY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED ACHIEVE THIS.

+WITH REGARD TO DETAIL, I WILL OF COURSE LOOK AT OUR PROCEDURES TO SEE IF ANY CHANGES ARE NECESSARY AND WILL ARRANGE TO BRIEF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL SEPARATELY IF SO WISHED.+

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REPORT ON FIRST JSEA OUT NEXT MONTH

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AN ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN MADE OF THE FIRST JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) HELD IN 1980-81 AND A FULL REPORT WOULD BE ISSUED TO ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS NEXT MONTH, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW SO AS TO WHETHER GOVERNMENT HAD MADE ANY ASSESSMENT OF THE JSEA.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF JSEA WAS TO SELECT A PROPORTION OF THE FORM III PUPILS IN THE FAIREST POSSIBLE WAY AND TO ALLOCATE THEM TO THE AVAILABLE AIDED FORM IV PLACES WITH THE LEAST DISRUPTION AND INCONVENIENCE POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

+THE FINDINGS OF THIS FIRST ASSESSMENT INDICATE THAT THIS MAIN OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED,+ MR LEUNG ADDED.

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 92 980 ENTRIES RECEIVED FROM FORM III PUPILS LAST YEAR, 52 521 WERE ALLOCATED AIDED FORM IV PLACES, WHILE 1 052 WERE GIVEN PLACES IN FULL-TIME CRAFT COURSES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

THE FORMER GROUP REPRESENTED 58.6 PER CENT OF THE NET ENTRIES AFTER WITHDRAWALS AND THE SUCCESSFUL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE APPLICANTS WERE EXCLUDED, THE DIRECTOR SAID.

+OF THE PUPILS ALLOCATED FORM IV PLACES, 80 PER CENT WERE ALLOCATED PLACES WITHIN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

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TWO MONTHS FOR PUBLIC TO CONSIDER ROADS BILL

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THE PUBLIC WILL BE GIVEN FULL OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) BILL 1982, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS SAID TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR GRIFFITHS SAID DEBATE ON THE BILL WOULD BE ADJOURNED FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO ALLOW FULL OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATIONS AND TO PERMIT A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE BILL BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO TAKE PLACE.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID THE OBJECT OF THE BILL WAS TO CURE THE DEFECTS OF THE EXISTING STREETS (ALTERATION) ORDINANCE, PASSED IN MAY 1970, AND TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE CODE, SELF-CONTAINED WITHIN ONE ORDINANCE, DEALING WITH ALL MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH NEW ROADWORKS OF ALL KINDS, INCLUDING TUNNELS, AS WELL AS WITH THE ALTERATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF EXISTING STREETWORKS.

IT ALSO SOUGHT TO CLARIFY THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTY RELATING TO COMPENSATION, AND TO STRIKE A REASONABLE AND FAIR BALANCE BETWEEN THE EXPECTATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO BE COMPENSATED FOR DAMAGE OR LOSS CAUSED TO HIM BY STREETWORKS AND THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF SOCIETY AS A WHOLE IN HAVING STREETWORKS BUILT AT NOT TOO EXTRAVAGANT COST, HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID THAT IN THE 12 YEARS SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE STREETS (ALTERATION) ORDINANCE, THE COMPLEXITY, SOPHISTICATION AND SIZE OF CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECTS DESIGNED AND BUILT TO ASSIST IN SOLVING HONG KONG'S TRAFFIC PROBLEMS HAD INCREASED, AS HAD THE NEED FOR ROADS WITHIN AND LEADING TO THE NEW URBAN AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THE EFFECTS OF THESE CHANGES, AND EXPERIENCE IN ITS OPERATION, HAVE MADE PLAIN THAT THE PRESENT ORDINANCE IS SERIOUSLY DEFECTIVE IN A NUMBER OF WAYS AND NOT CAPABLE OF ADAPTATION BY AMENDMENT TO MEET THE PRESENT-DAY NEEDS OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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CHANGES TO MEDICAL PRACTICE LAW PLANNED

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PROPOSALS WERE BEING PREPARED FOR AMENDING THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE MEDICAL COUNCIL DIRECTLY TO ASSESS QUALIFIED FOREIGN DIPLOMA HOLDERS FOR PRACTICE HERE, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WERE IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF PREPARATION AND WERE LIKELY TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION SHORTLY, HE SAID.

DR THONG WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR T.S. LO, WHO ASKED WHY DOCTORS QUALIFIED TO PRACTISE IN HIGHLY-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LIKE THE U.S.A. WERE PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM PRACTISING IN HONG KONG AND WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS OF THIS PROHIBITION, MEDICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY.

DR THONG EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT, THREE CATEGORIES OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ARE ALLOWED TO BE PLACED ON THE REGISTER, NAMELY:

- A) ANY PERSON WHO HOLDS A COLONY DIPLOMA, I.E., THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MEDICINE AND BACHELOR OF SURGERY (M.B.B.S.) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG;
- B) ANY PERSON WHO HOLDS A QUALIFICATION OR DEGREE RECOGNISED BY THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL (G.M.C.) OF THE UNITED KINGDOM; AND
- C) ANY LICENTIATE OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG.

DR THONG SAID THAT ANY PERSON, BESIDES HONG KONG UNIVERSITY GRADUATES COULD ALSO BE PLACED ON THE REGISTER LOCALLY ON SATISFYING THE UK GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL OR THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG MEDICAL COUNCIL.

/DOCTORS QUALIFIED

DOCTORS QUALIFIED IN OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S. AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WERE THEREFORE NOT PROHIBITED FROM PRACTISING LOCALLY PROVIDED THEY WERE ALSO QUALIFIED, WILLING AND ABLE TO GO THROUGH THE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM, HE SAID.

HE SAID 174 HOLDERS OF U.S. AND CANADIAN QUALIFICATIONS HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE LOCAL MEDICAL REGISTER BY VIRTUE OF THEIR GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL REGISTRATIONS IN THE PAST 40 YEARS.

DR THONG SAID THAT THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AT PRESENT HAD NO DISCRETION TO PLACE ON THE REGISTER, STRAIGHTAWAY, HOLDERS OF 'FOREIGN DIPLOMAS'.

HE SAID ALSO THAT SINCE DIPLOMA HOLDERS FROM THE U.S.A. AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WERE NOT PROHIBITED AS SUCH FROM PRACTISING HERE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ASSESS ACCURATELY THE MEDICAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PRESENT LEGISLATION.

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QEH CUSTOMER RELATIONS SCHEME A SUCCESS

THE CUSTOMER RELATIONS OFFICE SET UP AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL IN JUNE LAST YEAR AS A PILOT SCHEME, HAS PROVED BENEFICIAL TO PATIENTS, THEIR RELATIVES AND HOSPITAL STAFF.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

DR THONG SAID THE PROJECT WAS STARTED WITH THE PRIMARY AIM OF HELPING PATIENTS AND THEIR RELATIVES TO OBTAIN PROMPT HOSPITAL SERVICE AND TO EXPLAIN HOSPITAL PROCEDURES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES TO THEM.

IT WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO RELIEVE PROFESSIONAL HOSPITAL STAFF FROM NON-PROFESSIONAL MATTERS.

+THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT HAD, BY AND LARGE, BEEN ATTAINED,+ DR THONG SAID.

+THE PATIENTS AND THEIR RELATIVES, IN PARTICULAR, HAVE BENEFITED MUCH FROM THE DIRECT CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO COULD GIVE CLEAR EXPLANATIONS ABOUT HOSPITAL PROCEDURES AND SERVICES ON THE SPOT WHICH AT TIMES APPEAR TO THEM TO BE CUMBERSOME AND COMPLICATED AND HAVE ALSO SAVED UNNECESSARY CONCERN ABOUT THE CONDITIONS OF PATIENTS AND THEIR TREATMENT,+ SAID DR THONG.

+IN REGARD TO THE BENEFIT TO THE STAFF, THE SCHEME HAS REDUCED SUBSTANTIALLY THE TIME FORMERLY SPENT BY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ON PATIENT RELATION MATTERS, THUS ALLOWING THEM TO CONCENTRATE ON PATIENT CARE.+

DR THONG SAID THE UNIT HAD DEALT WITH ABOUT 80 COMPLAINTS AND MORE THAN 3 000 ENQUIRIES.

THE PROJECT AND ITS STRUCTURE WERE BEING APPRAISED IN DETAIL, HE SAID, TO DETERMINE ITS FUTURE.

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EFFECTS OF APPRENTICESHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL ON EMPLOYERS
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AN UNOFFICIAL, MR S.L. CHEN, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE APPRENTICESHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL WOULD HAVE ON EMPLOYERS OF APPRENTICES IN DESIGNATED TRADES.

THE BILL, WHICH WAS PASSED TODAY, IS AIMED AT TRANSFERRING CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE TO THE NEW VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR CHEN SAID THAT UP UNTIL NOW, EMPLOYERS HAD ONLY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO DEAL WITH.

+BUT WITH PROPOSED TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FROM THE COMMISSIONER TO THE DIRECTOR FOR SOME OF THE PROVISIONS AND THE RETENTION OF THE COMMISSIONER AS THE AUTHORITY FOR THE OTHERS, NOTABLY REGULATIONS 8, 9, 10 AND 11, WILL IT MEAN THAT IN FUTURE EMPLOYERS HAVE TO DEAL WITH MORE THAN ONE AUTHORITY AND POSSIBLY BE VISITED BY INSPECTORS OF BOTH DEPARTMENTS IN RESPECT OF EVERY REGISTERED APPRENTICE?+ HE ASKED.

+IF THIS IS THE CASE, I AM AFRAID THAT THE ADDITIONAL RED TAPE WOULD, I HAVE NO DOUBT, DETER EMPLOYERS FROM TAKING ON YOUNG PEOPLE FOR TRAINING.

+I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO HAVE AN ASSURANCE FROM GOVERNMENT THAT THIS IS NOT ITS INTENTION AND THAT SUCH A SITUATION WILL NOT ARISE IN FUTURE.+

MR CHEN ALSO CRITICISED CLAUSE 10 WHICH EMPOWERS THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING TO MAKE REGULATIONS ONLY +WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER+.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS ALREADY A PROVISION IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WHEREBY ALL REGULATIONS HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+I HAVE GRAVE DOUBTS IN THE WISDOM OF USING THE PHRASE 'WITH THE APPROVAL OF' AS IT MAY UNNECESSARILY TIE THE HANDS, AS IT WERE, OF THE DIRECTOR.

+I SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO REPLACE THE WORDS 'WITH THE APPROVAL OF' BY 'IN CONSULTATION WITH' IN CLAUSE 10,+ MR CHEN SAID.

/IN REPLY TO

IN REPLY TO MR CHEN'S POINTS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, THE HON K.W.J. TOPLEY GAVE ASSURANCE THAT THE RETENTION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AS THE AUTHORITY FOR REGULATIONS 8, 9, 10 AND 11 WOULD NOT MEAN ADDITIONAL WORK FOR EMPLOYERS.

+NOR WILL EMPLOYERS, IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF EVENTS BE VISITED BY INSPECTORS OF TWO DEPARTMENTS IN RESPECT OF REGISTERED APPRENTICES,+ HE ADDED.

MR TOPLEY SAID THE COMMISSIONER HAD INDICATED HE WOULD DELEGATE HIS POWERS UNDER REGULATIONS 8, 9, 10 AND 11 TO INSPECTORS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 33 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICERS OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT AS APPROPRIATE.

THE COMMISSIONER HOWEVER REMAINED THE AUTHORITY FOR THESE REGULATIONS AND WOULD MONITOR EVENTS THROUGH REGULAR REPORT FROM THE NEW DEPARTMENT.

REFERRING TO CLAUSES 10 AND 11 OF THE BILL, HE SAID IT WAS CORRECT THAT CLAUSE 10 WOULD AMEND SECTION 47 OF THE MAIN ORDINANCE SO THAT REGULATIONS IN FUTURE WOULD BE MADE BY THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR.

+SOME OF THE REGULATIONS DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH SHOULD REMAIN WITHIN THE GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, E.G. CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT SUCH AS HOURS OF WORK, THE PAYMENT OF WAGES ETC.

+IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF POWERS WITHIN THE SECTION, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE WIDERANGING POWERS IN SECTION 47(1)(1), I THINK IT IS CORRECT THAT ALL THE REGULATIONS SHOULD BE MADE BY THE DIRECTOR WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER.

+THIS APPEARS TO TIE THE HANDS OF THE DIRECTOR BUT THIS IS BETTER THAN NOT TYING HIS HANDS AT ALL IN THE SORT OF CASES TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEN'S SUGGESTION THAT +WITH THE APPROVAL OF+ SHOULD BE REPLACED BY +IN CONSULTATION WITH+ WOULD NOT REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR TO FOLLOW THE COMMISSIONER'S ADVICE OVER THESE MATTERS AND HE BELIEVED THIS WOULD BE WRONG, MR TOPLEY SAID.

+I FEEL THAT THE WORDING OF THIS CLAUSE IS BEST LEFT AS SHOWN IN THE BILL,+ HE SAID.

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'DE-FEDERALISATION' SET FOR APRIL 1

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THE DE-FEDERALISATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WOULD BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 1, 1982, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

FROM THAT DATE, FIVE SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS WOULD BE FORMED - BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, WATER SUPPLIES AND LANDS.

LATER ON THIS YEAR, SIR PHILIP SAID, A NEW ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD BE FORMED BY HIVING OFF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL OFFICE FROM THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

ULTIMATELY, AN URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION WOULD ALSO BE HIVED OFF AND CONVERTED INTO ANOTHER SEPARATED DEPARTMENT ANALOGOUS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

SIR PHILIP SAID THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION IS AT PRESENT LOCATED, AS A MATTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE, WITHIN THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

AS REGARDS THE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS ENVISAGED BETWEEN THE SEVERAL SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE LANDS AND WORKS GROUP, HE SAID THESE WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE YEARS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE FEDERALISED PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

+HOWEVER, IN FUTURE, THE CO-ORDINATING AGENCY WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, WORKING THROUGH THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, RATHER THAN THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, WORKING THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

+THE EXISTING NETWORK OF INTER-DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES WILL HAVE TO BE SOMEWHAT RESTRUCTURED TO REFLECT THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS AND THIS WILL BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH WOULD FUNCTION AS AN ORDINARY POLICY BRANCH WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, IT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO PERFORM CERTAIN RESIDUAL FUNCTIONS PREVIOUSLY UNDERTAKEN BY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

THESE FUNCTIONS INCLUDE THE FORMULATION AND REVIEW OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS, PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING, THE ASSESSMENT AND GRADING OF CONTRACTORS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND THE MONITORING OF PROGRESS ON THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AS A WHOLE, HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, THE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY GIVING EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS TO SPLIT UP THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INTO FOUR SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS AND TO CREATE A LANDS DEPARTMENT FROM APRIL 1.

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GOVERNMENT CO-ORDINATING ROLE IN ARBITRATION URGED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY AND VIABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATIONS.

TWO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL DURING ITS SECOND-READING, CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PLAY A CO-ORDINATING ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AS A CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

MR PETER C. WONG POINTED OUT THAT EVEN THOUGH THE BILL WAS PASSED INTO LAW, MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE.

+RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ARBITRATION IN HONG KONG WILL HAVE TO BE DRAFTED, AND THIS WILL REQUIRE THE SAME DEGREE OF CARE, EXPERTISE AND CONSULTATION AS THE DRAFTING OF THE BILL ITSELF,+ HE SAID.

+AT A TIME WHEN THINGS ARE MOVING VERY QUICKLY, IT WOULD BE WISE TO PROCEED AS SWIFTLY AS IS PRACTICABLE WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE NECESSARY SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.+

THERE WAS ALSO THE NEED TO PROVIDE SUITABLE ARBITRATION FACILITIES, MR WONG NOTED, ADDING THAT THIS WAS AN AREA WHERE PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH ARBITRATION WOULD NO DOUBT WISH TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE.

+SIMILARLY, THE SHORTAGE OF ARBITRATORS IN HONG KONG WILL BE ANOTHER AREA WHERE THESE INSTITUTIONS WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER AND SEEK WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

MR F.K. HU FELT THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION SERVICES WOULD FURTHER ENHANCE THE POSITION OF HONG KONG AS A LEADING FINANCE AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE.

HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED THAT AFTER THE BILL WAS ENACTED, SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS THE SHIP OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS, SHOULD BE HELD ON THE WAYS AND MEANS OF MAKING HONG KONG AN ARBITRATION CENTRE.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE BY PROVIDING THE NECESSARY ARBITRATION FACILITIES.

+THE GOVERNMENT CAN FURTHER ASSIST IN PUBLICISING AND PROMOTING ARBITRATION IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+IT CAN ALSO HELP GREATLY IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING.+

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MID-LEVELS BUILDING BAN EXTENDED

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THE STATUTORY BAN ON BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN MID-LEVELS IS TO BE EXTENDED FOR FOUR MORE MONTHS.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD, MOVED A RESOLUTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO EXTEND THE STATUTORY RESTRICTION UNTIL JULY 31.

THE TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT (MID-LEVELS) ORDINANCE, ENACTED IN MAY 1979, ENABLES A DETAILED GEOTECHNICAL SURVEY OF THE HILLSIDE SLOPES IN THE AREA TO BE COMPLETED.

IT WAS ORIGINALLY DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1981 BUT WAS EXTENDED FOR THREE MONTHS UNTIL MARCH 31 TO ENABLE AMENDMENTS TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS TO BE INTRODUCED SO THAT THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE WOULD BE ABLE TO EXERCISE APPROPRIATE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL ON NEW BUILDING WORKS IN MID-LEVELS.

AT THAT TIME, IT WAS HOPED THAT IT WOULD PROVE POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE THE AMENDING BILL IN TIME FOR IT AND AMENDING REGULATIONS TO COME INTO FORCE BY THE END OF MARCH.

MR MCDONALD SAID, +IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT MORE TIME IS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING PROCESS AND TO ENABLE THE DRAFT LEGISLATION TO BE ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE BEING INTRODUCED TO THE COUNCIL.+

THEREFORE, HE ADDED, A FURTHER FOUR MONTHS EXTENSION OF THE STATUTORY RESTRICTION ON NEW BUILDING IN MID-LEVELS WAS NECESSARY.

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INCREASED FINES PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED INCREASING THE PENALTIES PRESCRIBED IN THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS ORDINANCE.

AN AMENDMENT BILL PROVIDING FOR FINES RANGING FROM \$5 000 TO \$50 000 WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, POINTED OUT THAT THE FINES PRESCRIBED IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WERE FIXED IN 1963 AND WERE INSUFFICIENT TO ACT AS A DETERRENT.

+IN RECOMMENDING THE LEVELS OF THE REVISED PENALTIES, I HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE OFFENCES AND WHETHER THE OFFENCE WAS COMMITTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN THE OWNER IN A SIMILAR WAY TO FINE LEVELS RECENTLY REVISED FOR ALL SAFETY REGULATIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE.

/+THE SAME

+THE SAME CRITERIA WILL BE FOLLOWED WHEN I MAKE CONSEQUENTIAL PROPOSALS TO REVISE PENALTIES UNDER THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS REGULATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

THE BILL ALSO AMENDS THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CREATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVICE POSTS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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'INADVERTENT SIDE-EFFECT' CORRECTED
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A NEW CLAUSE WAS ADDED TO THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO CORRECT AN INADVERTENT SIDE-EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE SO THAT NORMAL INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE UNHINDERED.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HENRY CHING, IN MOVING THE ADDITION, SAID IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY THE HONG KONG DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ASSOCIATION THAT THE AMENDMENT, IN CLAUSE 17, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH SECTION 8(2) (A) OF THE ORDINANCE, COULD PREVENT A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY FROM OBTAINING A SMALL OVERDRAFT OR OTHER ADVANCE FROM A BANK OUTSIDE HONG KONG IN A CURRENCY OTHER THAN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.

THE NEW CLAUSE 2A, HE SAID, AMENDS SECTION 8(2) (A) OF THE ORDINANCE, WITH CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO OTHER SECTIONS.

+THE RESULT WILL BE THAT A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY CAN TAKE A DEPOSIT (WHICH BY DEFINITION INCLUDES AN OVERDRAFT) OF ANY SIZE, IN ANY CURRENCY, AND OF ANY MATURITY, FROM A BANK, WHETHER OR NOT THAT BANK IS LICENSED UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

ALSO AT COMMITTEE STAGE, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY MOVED AN AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 2(A) OF THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 TO CORRECT AN ANOMALY IN THE PROPOSED DEFINITION OF A +LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE+.

MR CHING SAID THE PROPOSED DEFINITION, AS PRESENTLY DRAFTED, WOULD INCLUDE THE BRANCHES IN HONG KONG OF CERTAIN BANKS INCORPORATED OUTSIDE HONG KONG WHICH ARE REGISTERED OR LICENSED UNDER THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

+THIS IS AN UNUSUAL SITUATION WHICH EXISTS ONLY BECAUSE THESE INSTITUTIONS DO NOT HAVE THE WORD BANK IN THEIR TITLE, THOUGH THEY ARE RECOGNISED AND SUPERVISED AS BANKS IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

+IT IS CLEARLY APPROPRIATE THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG, WHICH INCLUDE THE BUSINESS OF TAKING DEPOSITS, SHOULD BE REGULATED AND SUPERVISED UNDER THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE, RATHER THAN UNDER THE NEW SECTIONS OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE COVERING REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES.+

MR CHING SAID THE AMENDMENT WOULD PREVENT ANY ARGUMENT AS TO WHICH OF THE TWO ORDINANCES APPLIED TO THESE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

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+STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION+
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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO STREAMLINE THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND AWARDS OF THE POLICE FORCE WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL DURING ITS SECOND READING DEBATE, MR T.S. LO SAID THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL WAS CERTAINLY A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

MR LO, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP, SAID: +IN MAY 1980 THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP RECOMMENDED TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AMONGST OTHER THINGS THAT A MEANS SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR ENFORCING THE RETIREMENT OF OFFICERS ADJUDGED MANIFESTLY UNFIT TO SERVE IN THE POLICE.

+IF, AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL, THE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS ARE MADE TO THE DISCIPLINE REGULATION, IT WOULD BE TRUE TO SAY THAT FROM A PRACTICAL VIEWPOINT MEANS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO ENFORCE THE RETIREMENT OF INSPECTORS AND JUNIOR RANKS ADJUDGED MANIFESTLY UNFIT.

+THIS STILL LEAVES THE POSITION OF GAZETTED OFFICERS UNCHANGED AND UNSATISFACTORY,+ MR LO ADDED.

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, POINTED OUT THAT GAZETTED OFFICERS ARE SUBJECT TO COLONIAL REGULATIONS.

+THESE REGULATIONS ALREADY PROVIDE BOTH FOR THE COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF A GAZETTED OFFICER FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ACTS OF MISCONDUCT AND, WHERE THE PUBLIC INTEREST SO REQUIRES, FOR THE RETIREMENT OF A GAZETTED OFFICER WITHOUT THE NECESSITY FOR A FORMAL DISCIPLINARY HEARING,+ HE SAID.

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PHASING IN OF NT GENERAL RATE

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE GENERAL RATE PERCENTAGE CHARGES FOR THE RATING AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HENRY CHING SAID, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED POLICY, THE FULL GENERAL RATE CHARGE FOR EACH RATING AREA IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS 11 PER CENT AND PHASED IN OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF ASSESSMENT THE ACTUAL CHARGE APPLIED WAS 50 PER CENT OF THE FULL CHARGE, IN THE SECOND 60 PER CENT, IN THE THIRD 70 PER CENT, AND SO ON UNTIL THE FULL CHARGE WAS APPLIED IN THE SIXTH YEAR, HE SAID.

THE FULL CHARGE ALREADY APPLIED TO 35 OUT OF THE 44 RATING AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+OF THE BALANCE OF NINE RATING AREAS, FIVE WILL BE IN THEIR SIXTH YEAR OF ASSESSMENT IN 1982-83, AND THE FULL CHARGE OF 11 PER CENT SHOULD BE APPLIED TO THEM.

+THE REMAINING FOUR AREAS WILL BE IN THEIR THIRD YEAR OF ASSESSMENT, AND THE CHARGE FOR THEM SHOULD BE 70 PER CENT OF THE FULL CHARGE, OR 8 PER CENT,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, MR CHARLES YEUNG CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE A PORTION OF THE RATES GENERATED FROM THE DISTRICTS FOR THE USE OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

HE NOTED THAT A PROPORTION OF THE RATES IN THE URBAN AREA HAD BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE URBAN COUNCIL SINCE APRIL 1973 TO MEET ITS LOCAL EXPENDITURE AND GROWTH WITHOUT RECOURSE TO AN ANNUAL GRANT FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE.

THIS FINANCIAL AUTONOMY HAD ENABLED THE URBAN COUNCIL TO INITIATE AND PROVIDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES.

IN ADDITION, MR YEUNG SAID, FUNDS HAD ALSO BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE TO THE EIGHT ADVISORY BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SINCE THEIR FORMATION FOR LOCAL USE TO AUGMENT CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.

+WITH THE PLANNED PROGRAMME FOR THE FORMATION OF DISTRICT BOARDS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, IT IS HIGH TIME THAT GOVERNMENT GAVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THE ALLOCATION OF A PORTION OF THE RATES GENERATED FROM THE DISTRICTS, FOR THE USE OF DISTRICT BOARDS, IN LINE WITH THE PROCEDURE FOR URBAN COUNCIL RATES.

+THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL IN THE DISBURSEMENT OF ITS RATES WILL PROVIDE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN USING DISTRICT BOARD RATES, IF I MAY BE ALLOWED TO PROPOSE THE NAME,+ SAID MR YEUNG.

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EIGHT BILLS PASSED

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EIGHT BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY ARE : THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1982, THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE APPRENTICESHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 AND THE HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982.

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INCREASE IN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF HOUSING AUTHORITY
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPROVED THE HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASED NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

SPEAKING ON THE BILL, MR CHARLES YEUNG NOTED THAT THE SHIFT IN THE EMPHASIS OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME TO THE NEW TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY TO THE NEW TOWNS, SWEEPS ALONG WITH IT THE CONCOMITANT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF LAND RESUMPTION, CLEARANCE, COMPENSATION AND RESETTLEMENT.

+IT IS THEREFORE APPROPRIATE AND FELICITOUS TO ENLIST THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO SERVE ON THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

+THE PROPOSAL IN THE BILL TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTION BOTH IN NUMBER AND SOURCE OF MEMBERSHIP ON THE APPOINTMENT OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS TIMELY AND OPPORTUNE, ALBEIT THE URBAN COUNCILLORS WHO HAVE SERVED OR ARE SERVING ON THE AUTHORITY HAVE MADE AN OUTSTANDING AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION IN PROVIDING QUALITY HOUSING FOR SO MANY IN SO SHORT A TIME, PARTICULARLY AGAINST A SCARCITY OF LAND RESOURCE AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CONSTRAINTS,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL ALSO GIVES LEGAL EFFECT TO THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME'S NEW SALES FORMULA, WHICH EXCLUDES THE VALUE OF THE LAND BUT INTRODUCES FAR TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS ON RE-SALE.

MR YEUNG CONSIDERED THIS A NECESSARY MEANS TO ENSURE THAT FLATS GO TO THE GENUINE HOME-SEEKERS.

+FOR THE SAKE OF FAIRNESS TO THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE, NO EFFORT SHOULD BE SPARED IN FUTURE IN DETECTING ANY BREACH OF CONDITIONS AND IN ENFORCING THE SANCTIONS CREATED BY LAW WITH A VIGILANT EYE ON ABUSE AND CIRCUMVENTION,+ HE URGED.

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GUARANTEE FOR MTR LOAN
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION TO COVER THE REPAYMENT OF A \$68-MILLION LOAN.

THE SUM BORROWED UNDER THIS GUARANTEE WILL BE USED TO FINANCE THE ISLAND LINE CONTRACT FOR TUNNELS BETWEEN TAI KOO SHING AND SAI WAN HO, INCLUDING THE TAI KOO SHING STATION.

THIS BRINGS THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL GUARANTEE COMMITMENT IN RESPECT OF THE OUTSTANDING LOANS AVAILABLE TO THE MTR CORPORATION TO \$7 252 MILLION.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1982

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SIX ECONOMIC SURVEYS APPROVED

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SIX CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDERS ENABLING THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TO COLLECT FULL STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES THIS YEAR WERE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HENRY CHING, SAID THE ORDERS FORMED PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC SURVEYS OF THE MAIN SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

THE SIX ORDERS INCLUDE :

- * A BENCHMARK SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES;
- * A FOURTH ANNUAL SURVEY OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF SERVICES;
- * A SURVEY OF BANKS, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AND REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OF FOREIGN BANKS;
- * A PERMANENT SURVEY OF THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS;
- * A PERMANENT QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT; AND
- * A PERMANENT QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1982

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NEW SITE FOR EXHIBITION CENTRE STUDY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS SELECTED A NEW SITE FOR THE STAGE II CONSULTANCY FOR THE EXHIBITION CENTRE.

THE SITE OF 20 000 SQUARE METRES IS AT THE EASTERN END OF THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION NEAR THE WAN CHAI FERRY PIER.

THE CONSULTANCY WILL BE OVERSEEN BY A NON-STATUTORY BOARD CHAIRED BY EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR MR MICHAEL SANDBERG.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONSULTANCY INCLUDE DRAWING UP A DETAILED BRIEF AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR A MULTI-STOREY DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE AN EXHIBITION CENTRE OF ABOUT 20 000 SQUARE METRES GROSS AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND MAXIMUM APPROPRIATE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION.

THE SITE WAS CHOSEN AFTER THE BOARD, BASED ON PROPOSALS FROM A NUMBER OF CONSULTANTS, TURNED DOWN ANOTHER POTENTIAL SITE IDENTIFIED IN THE FIRST STAGE OF THE CONSULTANCY. THE BOARD CONCLUDED THAT THE LATTER 15 000 SQUARE-METRE SITE IN TSIM SHA TSUI WAS NOT SUITABLE FOR AN EXHIBITION CENTRE WHICH COULD MEET HONG KONG'S FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE CONSULTANCY, THE BOARD WILL CONFIRM WHETHER AN EXHIBITION CENTRE SHOULD BE BUILT IN HONG KONG AND, IF SO, WILL RECOMMEND HOW THIS SHOULD BE ACHIEVED AND WHAT FORM THE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD TAKE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT A NUMBER OF CONSULTANTS WILL BE INVITED TO HONG KONG SHORTLY TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE NON-STATUTORY BOARD.

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UMELCO VISIT TO SHENZHEN

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A DELEGATION OF ELEVEN UMELCO MEMBERS LED BY SIR S.Y. CHUNG, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WILL VISIT THE SHENZHEN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE FOR ONE DAY TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE UMELCO SECRETARIAT.

THE DELEGATION WILL VISIT A VARIETY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND WILL MEET SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE SHENZHEN ADMINISTRATION.

FURTHER VISITS TO SHENZHEN BY UMELCO MEMBERS ARE PLANNED.

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IMPORTED CASE OF CHOLERA

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A 31-YEAR-OLD MAN HAS BECOME THIS YEAR'S FIRST IMPORTED CASE OF CHOLERA AFTER RETURNING TO HONG KONG FROM A VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES LAST WEEK.

LABORATORY TESTS TODAY CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS CONTRACTED CHOLERA OF THE EL TOR STRAIN, A DISEASE WHICH IS ENDEMIC IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION.

MR MA PO LING, WHO LIVES ALONE IN A KOWLOON TONG APARTMENT, RETURNED TO HONG KONG ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 3 AFTER VISITING THE PHILIPPINES FOR 20 DAYS.

HE STARTED HAVING DIARRHOEA ON HIS LAST DAY IN MANILA AND AFTER RETURNING TO HONG KONG HE AGAIN HAD DIARRHOEA ON MARCH 5. THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS PERSISTED WITH DIARRHOEA THREE OR FOUR TIMES A DAY.

HE WAS ADMITTED TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL YESTERDAY FOR TREATMENT AND INVESTIGATION AND IS REPORTED TO BE IN A SATISFACTORY CONDITION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC THAT ALTHOUGH THIS IS AN IMPORTED CASE, THE PUBLIC MUST BE ON THE ALERT AT ALL TIMES TO GUARD THEMSELVES AGAINST THE DISEASE, WHICH IS PARTICULARLY PREVALENT IN THE SUMMER MONTHS.

+WE MUST KEEP UP OUR VIGILANCE BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD,+ HE STRESSED.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE PERSONAL, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, WHICH IS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AS THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA.

+CHOLERA, LIKE OTHER GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASE, IS TRANSMITTED THROUGH CONTAMINATED FOOD AND WATER. THE MOST DANGEROUS ITEMS OF FOOD ARE THOSE STORED AT ROOM TEMPERATURE WITHOUT COVER AND EATEN WITHOUT FURTHER COOKING, CUT FRUITS AND FOODS SOLD BY MOBILE HAWKERS,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT SIMPLE RULES SUCH AS WASHING OF HANDS BEFORE EATING AND AFTER VISITING TOILET SHOULD BE STRICTLY OBSERVED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ANTI-CHOLERA VACCINE BY ITSELF IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE EFFICACIOUS IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE AS IT ONLY GIVES PARTIAL AND SHORT-LIVED PROTECTION TO THE INDIVIDUAL.

THREE IMPORTED CASES OF CHOLERA WERE REPORTED IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1982

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ABERDEEN TUNNEL -- BUS AND MAXICAB SERVICES
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SIX BUS SERVICES AND TWO MAXICAB ROUTES WILL BE CHANNELLED TO USE THE NEW LINK TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AND MORE CONVENIENT SERVICES FOR THOSE COMMUTING FROM ABERDEEN TO WAN CHAI, CENTRAL, CAUSEWAY BAY, NORTH POINT AND TO KOWLOON.

THESE SERVICES WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON MONDAY (MARCH 15) FOLLOWING THE PARTIAL OPENING OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL ON FRIDAY.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER, MRS DOROTHY CHAN SAID THE SINGLE TUBE WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 6.30 AM AND 10.30 PM.

THE TWO NEW BUS ROUTES - NO. 70 AND NO. 75 FROM ABERDEEN TO CENTRAL BUS STATION AND WONG CHUK HANG TO CENTRAL - WILL ONLY OPERATE DURING THE OPERATIONAL PERIOD OF THE TUNNEL AT A FARE OF \$1.40 FOR A SINGLE JOURNEY.

THREE OTHER ROUTES, NO. 72 FROM ABERDEEN TO CAUSEWAY BAY - ROUTE 90M FROM AP LEI CHAU TO ADMIRALTY AND ROUTE 38 FROM CHI FU FA YUEN TO NORTH POINT WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE AFTER THE TUNNEL'S CLOSURE AT 10.30 PM BUT WILL USE DEEP WATER BAY ROAD AND STUBBS ROAD. THE OPERATION HOURS OF ROUTE 170 FROM WAH FU TO SHA TIN, WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. FARES FOR THESE FOUR ROUTES WILL BE BETWEEN \$1.40 AND \$4.

ANOTHER NEW ROUTE - BUT ONE WHICH WILL NOT BE USING THE TUNNEL - WILL BE INTRODUCED DURING THE MORNING PEAK BETWEEN 6 AM AND 8 AM FROM TIN WAN TO CHATER MTR STATION. ROUTE 79M WILL OPERATE EVERY TEN MINUTES AND ONLY FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY AT A FARE OF \$1.30.

IN ADDITION, WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF ROUTE 70, THE EXISTING NO. 70M SERVICE BETWEEN SHEK PAI WAN AND CHATER STATION WILL BE CANCELLED AND ROUTE 7 FROM ABERDEEN TO CENTRAL BUS STATION WILL BE EXTENDED TO SHEK PAI WAN.

AT THE SAME TIME, ROUTE 95 FROM AP LEI CHAU TO SHEK PAI WAN WILL BE CONVERTED INTO A CIRCULAR ROUTE.

AS TO THE TWO MAXICAB SERVICES, MRS CHAN SAID THEY WILL OPERATE FROM ABERDEEN TO CAUSEWAY BAY (ROUTE 4) AND TO WAN CHAI (ROUTE 35).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

VISIT TO ABERDEEN TUNNEL

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MR HAROLD BEATON, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, WILL TOMORROW (THURSDAY) VISIT THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL PRIOR TO ITS PARTIAL OPENING ON FRIDAY.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM FROM THE TOLL BOOTHS ON THE SOUTH PORTAL ON THE ABERDEEN SIDE.

OFFICIAL TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. THOSE WISHING TO USE THE FACILITY ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE OPEN CARPARK OUTSIDE THE RECEPTION OFFICE OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AT 2.30 PM.

OFFICERS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR CI'S

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FROM MONDAY (MARCH 15), APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY OR RE-ENTRY PERMITS FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16 SHOULD BE MADE BY THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THIS WAS TO BRING PROCEDURES FOR SUCH APPLICATIONS IN LINE WITH THOSE FOR BRITISH PASSPORTS.

+IF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS NOT IN HONG KONG, THE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE BY A RELATIVE OR A REPRESENTATIVE. IN SUCH CASES, PARENTAL OR THE GUARDIAN'S WRITTEN CONSENT IS REQUIRED,+ HE ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE ENQUIRIES MAY TELEPHONE 5-434711.

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LITTER FROM COUNTRY PARKS TOPPED 3 000 TONNES

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THE AMOUNT OF RUBBISH COLLECTED FROM COUNTRY PARKS LAST YEAR WAS ENOUGH TO FILL 31 STOREYS OF CONNAUGHT CENTRE, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR JOHN WHOLEY SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD ROTARIANS OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST THAT SOME 3 000 TONNES OF LITTER WERE COLLECTED FROM 5 000 LITTER BINS PROVIDED IN THE COUNTRY PARKS.

+AT 10 KILOGRAMS PER CUBIC METRE, 300 000 CUBIC METRES REPRESENTS A PILE OF LITTER 50 METRES BY 50 METRES AND 120 METRES HIGH. IT IS A DAUNTING TASK TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS VOLUME OF LITTER EACH SUCCESSIVE YEAR,+ HE SAID.

MR WHOLEY SAID THAT TO HELP OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM THE DEPARTMENT WAS ORGANISING VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE SCHEMES WHERE INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COULD ASSIST IN COUNTRY PARKS MANAGEMENT WORKS.

+HIKING GROUPS HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD IN THIS WORK AND HAVE COLLECTED 2 000 BAGS OF LITTER FROM THE MOST REMOTE COUNTRYSIDE LOCATIONS. THE COMMUNITY CHEST 'CLEAN FOR CHARITY' SCHEME HAS RESULTED IN THE COLLECTION OF 700 BAGS OF LITTER WHILST OUR OWN 'CARE FOR THE COUNTRY PARKS' SCHEME HAS RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF WORK PROJECTS INVOLVING THE COLLECTION OF 600 BAGS OF LITTER, TENDING 3 000 TREES AND ASSISTANCE WITH OTHER SIMPLE 'ESTATE' WORK,+ HE SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE THE ACTIVITY, HE SAID, BECAUSE THE YOUNGSTERS ENJOYED IT. AND IT WAS CERTAIN THAT A PERSON'S ATTITUDE TO THROWING LITTER INTO A STREAM WOULD CHANGE IF THEY EXPERIENCED THE UNPLEASANT JOB OF RETRIEVING SOMEONE ELSE'S LITTER FROM A SIMILAR SITUATION.

HOWEVER, THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IN ORGANISING THE ACTIVITY, HE ADDED, WAS THE LACK OF FUNDS FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORT AND, IDEALLY, PACKED LUNCHES WHICH FORM A GREAT INCENTIVE FOR GROUPS OF VOLUNTEERS- AND OF SUPERVISORS WHO WERE WILLING TO TAKE CHARGE OF SUCH GROUPS.

+WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE,+ SAID MR WHOLEY, +IS MORE SPONSORSHIP OF THIS TYPE FROM SERVICE CLUBS.

+IDEALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PUT A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS IN TOUCH WITH A SPONSORING ORGANISATION AND THEN TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A WORK PROJECT WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT A PREDETERMINED DESTINATION. THE ASSISTANCE OF A SPONSOR IN PROVIDING A COACH AND LUNCHES IS FAR MORE VALUABLE THAN THE GIFT OF MONEY WHICH, FOR THIS TYPE OF PROJECT, IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO ADMINISTER,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1982

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES TO HOLD CEREMONIAL PARADE IN STANLEY
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THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A CEREMONIAL PARADE ON FRIDAY (MARCH 12) AT ITS STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

DURING THE PARADE, THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, WILL PRESENT CLASPS TO THE COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDAL TO 20 OFFICERS FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY SERVICE.

THE RECIPIENTS HAVE TOGETHER SERVED SOME 526 YEARS WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

ON PARADE WILL BE 205 CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS IN SEVEN CONTINGENTS FROM VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDED BY THE PRINCIPAL OF THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, MR JOHN ASHWORTH.

OF THEM, 57 ARE NEW RECRUITS WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED THEIR SIX MONTHS' BASIC TRAINING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONIAL PARADE AND PRESENTATION OF CLASPS TO THE COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDAL BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, AT 4.15 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 12) AT THE PARADE GROUND OF THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, STANLEY. MR GARNER WILL ALSO ADDRESS THE CEREMONY.

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 01 KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 3.30 PM SHARP.

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HK-US TEXTILE TALKS RESUME
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NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW HK-US TEXTILE AGREEMENT, WHICH BEGAN IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 8, AND WERE RECESSED AFTER FIVE DAYS, WILL BE RESUMED TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN HONG KONG.

THE COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, MR LAWRENCE MILLS, WILL LEAD THE HONG KONG DELEGATION. LEADING THE US SIDE WILL BE CHIEF TEXTILES NEGOTIATOR, MR PETER MURPHY.

THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT EXPIRES AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, AND HAS TO BE REPLACED WITH NEW ARRANGEMENTS NEGOTIATED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE RECENTLY-EXTENDED MFA.

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PRESERVING A VILLAGE LINK WITH THE PAST

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IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE LINKS WITH THE PAST AND MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO THE PRESENT GENERATION, THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR B.D. WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY AT SHEUNG YIU VILLAGE IN WHICH MR LUI CHE-WOO, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, UNVEILED A PLAQUE TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST STAGE OF RESTORATION OF THE VILLAGE.

MR WILSON THANKED THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS FOR DONATING \$200 000 FOR RESTORING THE GATEHOUSE LEADING INTO THE VILLAGE, WHICH IS THE FIRST PHASE OF RESTORATION.

+WE'D LIKE THE TUNG WAH TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THEIR ACTION IN HELPING TO RESTORE AN HISTORICAL VILLAGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND OF FUTURE GENERATIONS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE UNAWARE OF HOW NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGERS LIVED IN FORMER DAYS,+ MR WILSON SAID.

SITUATED ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF PAK TAM CHUNG ESTUARY IN NORTH SAI KUNG, SHEUNG YIU VILLAGE HAS BEEN DESERTED FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS.

ABOUT 150 YEARS AGO, SOME HAKKAS WITH THE FAMILY NAME OF WONG SETTLED IN THE VILLAGE AND STARTED A KILN INDUSTRY.

YEARS LATER, WHEN THE INDUSTRY DECLINED, THE HAKKA PEOPLE LEFT THE VILLAGE.

LAST YEAR THE DESERTED VILLAGE WAS REVERTED TO THE CROWN AND IN NOVEMBER, WAS DECLARED A MONUMENT.

THE FIRST PHASE OF RESTORATION BEGAN IN JANUARY THIS YEAR AND WAS COMPLETED IN EARLY MARCH. WORK ON THE SECOND PHASE IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOON.

WHEN THE RESTORATION IS COMPLETED, THE VILLAGE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS A FOLK MUSEUM.

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PROHIBITED ZONE IN CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AREA

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THE CENTRAL CARRIAGEWAY IN A SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND ROAD LEADING TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL INTERCHANGE IN WAN CHAI NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH THE NORTH POINT-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITED ZONE FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 12).

NO VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THIS ROAD SECTION.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1982

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CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL USERS THAT WITH EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 12), THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE THE CANAL ROAD WEST RAMP TO GET TO THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL.

A DOUBLE WHITE LINE WILL BE PAINTED ON THE FLYOVER AND VEHICLES FROM THE CANAL ROAD WEST RAMP CANNOT CROSS OVER TO JOIN THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL LANE.

MOTORISTS FROM LEIGHTON ROAD WISHING TO GO TO THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL SHOULD TURN LEFT TO WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND ENTER THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER AT THE JUNCTION OF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD OR ALTERNATIVELY THE WATERFRONT ROAD.

MOTORISTS FROM MORRISON HILL ROAD COULD EITHER USE LEIGHTON ROAD, WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD, AND JOIN THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER AT THE JUNCTION OF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD OR THEY CAN USE THE MARSH ROAD FLYOVER TO JOIN THE WATERFRONT ROAD TO THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL.

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