



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM MUST CONTINUE - BLYE
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FOR HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY TO ENDURE, ITS FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMIC SYSTEM MUST BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DOUGLAS BLYE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+HONG KONG'S SIZE AND MEAGRE ENDOWMENT MEAN THAT CONTINUED ECONOMIC SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON STEADILY EXPANDING TRADE WITH OTHER ECONOMIES.

+THIS REQUIRES THAT THE GOODS AND SERVICES PRODUCED HERE REMAIN INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE, THAT BUSINESSMEN REMAIN EAGER AND ABLE TO SEIZE ANY TRADING OPPORTUNITIES THAT PRESENT THEMSELVES, AND THAT THE LABOUR FORCE REMAINS HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND HARD-WORKING, + MR BLYE SAID IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON 'ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG'.

FUNDAMENTAL TO THE HONG KONG SYSTEM IS THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO OWN PROPERTY AND TO USE THEIR SKILLS, ABILITIES AND CAPITAL AS THEY CHOOSE.

+IT IS THESE RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF HONG KONG AS A CENTRE OF TRADE AND BUSINESS THAT GENERATE THE ENTERPRISE AND MOTIVATION OF OUR COMMUNITY, + HE STRESSED.

HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, MR BLYE SAID, WAS FUNDAMENTALLY GOOD AT PRESENT, AND WOULD BE ABLE TO DEVELOP AND COPE WITH DEMANDS PLACED UPON IT IN THE FUTURE.

WHILE SHARING THE CONCERN ABOUT INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT, HE POINTED OUT THAT RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR INCREASED BY 30 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER LAST YEAR'S CORRESPONDING PERIOD.

ON INTERNATIONAL TRADING PRACTICES AND RELATIONSHIPS, HE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO IMPORT THE TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATE TO ITS NEEDS.

+IN THIS CONNECTION, THE REPORTED LIBERALISATION OF U.S. EXPORTS OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS TO CHINA IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN, + HE SAID.

ON THE NEED TO CLARIFY THE TERRITORY'S STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING ENTITY, MR BLYE SAID, +I CAN PERHAPS BEST DEMONSTRATE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION THAT HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY BEYOND 1997 REQUIRES OUR CONTINUING PARTICIPATION AND STATUS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS BEING MAINTAINED. +

/WHILE STRESSING

WHILE STRESSING IT IS VITAL FOR HONG KONG TO MAINTAIN ITS GATT RIGHTS, MR BLYE NOTED THAT THE GATT OPERATES BY CONSENSUS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSENSUS AGAINST HONG KONG COULD EFFECTIVELY DISPOSSESS IT OF ITS STATUS IN THAT BODY.

BUT HE ADDED, +IN THIS CONNECTION, WE CAN ALL BE ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE SEPARATELY BY THE CONSULS GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAPAN THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS -- GOVERNMENTS OF TWO OF OUR LARGEST TRADING PARTNERS -- SUPPORT HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN GATT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.+

HE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO RETAIN AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK WHICH IS FLEXIBLE AND WHICH DOES NOT STIFLE ENTERPRISE.

+IT IS NOT EASY TO BE PRECISE ABOUT WHAT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE OUR CONTINUED ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND STABILITY AND TO PRESERVE THE SPECIAL MAGIC THAT IS HONG KONG.

+BUT WE HAVE A STRONG FOUNDATION AND, PROVIDED THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT HAS SERVED US SO WELL CONTINUES, WE HAVE AMPLE CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM,+ MR BLYE STATED.

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WORD SOUGHT ON HK'S FUTURE TRADING STATUS

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS URGED TODAY TO SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND THE EEC ON WHETHER THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO TREAT HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADING PORT IN 1997.

THE CALL WAS MADE BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBER THE HON ALLEN LEE, IN MOVING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE +ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG+ IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT +AS WE MOVE INTO THE FUTURE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY CONTINUED ECONOMIC SUCCESS RATHER THAN GETTING INVOLVED IN WORLD POLITICAL ENTANGLEMENTS WHICH ARE TOTALLY OUT OF OUR CONTROL AND WHICH WOULD AFFECT OUR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL.+

THERE WAS NO QUESTION TODAY, HE SAID, THAT THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WAS THE MAINSTAY OF THE ECONOMY. IT ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 25 PER CENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND EMPLOYED ABOUT 36 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE.

+THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY SHOULD ALSO BE ASSESSED IN TERMS OF ITS SUPPORTIVE EFFECTS ON OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, SUCH AS SHIPPING, INSURANCE, BANKING AND COMMERCE,+ SAID MR LEE.

/+I WOULD

+I WOULD EXPECT THAT THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WOULD AMOUNT TO AS HIGH AS 50 PER CENT OF GDP. THEREFORE, I NEED NOT STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF OUR INDUSTRY.+

WHEN THE GARMENT AND TEXTILE SECTOR, WHICH IS THE LARGEST SECTOR OF THE INDUSTRY, WAS RESTRICTED BY QUOTAS, HONG KONG WAS FORCED TO DIVERSIFY INTO OTHER INDUSTRIES WITH GROWTH POTENTIAL.

+JUDGING FROM THE EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THIS INDUSTRY POSSESSES THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING THE LARGEST INDUSTRY IN THE EARLY 1990'S, PROVIDED THAT WE MOVE UP-MARKET WITH TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS, FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF OUR TECHNOLOGY BASE COMPLEMENTED BY BETTER DESIGN AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT OF CONSUMER ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS,+ HE SAID.

+THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IS A TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE INDUSTRY. SO FAR, THE GROWTH RATE HAS INDICATED THAT WE ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ALTHOUGH MUCH MORE SUPPORT IS NEEDED FROM OUR GOVERNMENT TO ENHANCE THE GROWTH OF THIS KEY INDUSTRY AND TO ENABLE US TO COMPETE WITH OUR COMPETITORS.+

ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR HONG KONG'S TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC SUCCESS WAS ITS STATUS AS A FREE TRADING PORT IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

WHEN THE QUESTION OF 1997 SURFACED, SAID MR LEE, HE FOUND HIMSELF GIVING MUCH THOUGHT TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE STATUS.

+WILL OUR TRADING PARTNERS GIVE HONG KONG THE SAME STATUS AS WE ENJOY TODAY? WILL HONG KONG BE ABLE TO ATTRACT FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT? WILL HONG KONG COME UNDER THE +COCOM+ EMBARGO,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT COCOM WAS THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR MULTILATERAL EXPORT CONTROLS, FORMED IN NOVEMBER 1949.

THE PURPOSE WAS TO CONTROL THE EXPORT OF TECHNOLOGY AND STRATEGIC COMMODITIES FROM CAPITALIST COUNTRIES TO COMMUNIST OR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES PARTICULARLY DEALING WITH THE EXPORT OF COMMODITIES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH, TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS AND DEFENCE.

IT CONSISTS OF 15 COUNTRIES, NAMELY: USA, CANADA, UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, HOLLAND, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG, NORWAY, DENMARK, PORTUGAL, TURKEY AND GREECE.

THESE ARE OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, HE SAID, AND ALTHOUGH HONG KONG DOES NOT COME UNDER THE COCOM EMBARGO, WE MUST HOWEVER, ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENT OF NOT EXPORTING OR RE-EXPORTING COMMODITIES UNDER THE COCOM EMBARGO.

AS THE UNITED STATES WAS HONG KONG'S BIGGEST TRADING PARTNER, MR LEE USED IT AS AN EXAMPLE TO STATE CLEARLY THE COMPLICATED PROCEDURE WHICH HONG KONG MUST FOLLOW.

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A HONG KONG COMPANY MUST COMPLETE AN I-629 FORM AND SEND IT TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR APPROVAL TO EXPORT FROM USA. THE US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MUST THEN OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, THE CIA, SECURITY COUNCIL, AIR FORCE, ARMY, NAVY AND THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

+IF ANY OF THE ABOVE ORGANISATIONS REJECTS AN APPLICATION, THEN THE COMMODITIES CANNOT BE SOLD.

+MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATING,+ SAID MR LEE.

+BEFORE AN APPLICATION IS APPROVED, IT TAKES MONTHS, SOMETIMES YEARS, JUST TO PROCESS THE APPLICATION. OF COURSE, SOME APPLICATIONS NEVER RECEIVE APPROVAL.+

MR LEE, REFERRING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE INDUSTRY, SAID ITS IMPLICATIONS ON THE FUTURE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL AND VIABILITY WAS +UNIMAGINABLE+.

THEREFORE HE SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF THE WORKING GROUP WHICH SHOULD COMPRISE THREE TO FOUR PERSONS. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE SHOULD BE TO SEEK THE NECESSARY CLARIFICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND THE EEC.

+WE MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE NOW,+ HE SAID.

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FORMAL LINK WITH GATT URGED
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INTERNATIONAL LINKAGE WITH THE WORLD WAS A MAJOR FACTOR BY WHICH HONG KONG WOULD KEEP ITS TRADE CONNECTIONS AND EXPORT GROWTH, DR THE HON FRANCIS TIEN SAID TODAY IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

+THEREFORE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, HONG KONG SHOULD FIGHT FOR THE STATUS OF BEING A FORMAL MEMBER OF GATT SO THAT HONG KONG COULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HER INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS INDEPENDENTLY,+ HE SAID.

HE CONCEDED THAT THE TECHNICALITIES INVOLVED IN ACHIEVING THIS MIGHT BE COMPLICATED, BUT HE FELT THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS NEGOTIATING ON OUR FUTURE WOULD BEAR IN MIND THE CONSEQUENCES THAT MIGHT ARISE SHOULD OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GATT BE CUT OFF AFTER 1997.

NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOOD REPUTATION OF THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES TO HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD BEAR TWO POINTS IN MIND -

/FIRST, WHETHER

FIRST, WHETHER OVERSEAS BUYERS STILL HAVE TRUST ON THE QUALITY OF OUR PRODUCTS, AND,

SECOND, WHETHER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997 WILL AFFECT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS.

+AS REGARDS THE QUALITY OF PRODUCTS, HUMAN INVESTMENT WOULD BE THE SOLUTION,+ HE SAID.

+HONG KONG NEEDS AN AMPLE SOURCE OF SKILLED LABOUR TO KEEP UP WITH THE EVER-PROGRESSING TRENDS IN THE WORLD.+

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG HAD DEVELOPED A MANPOWER TRAINING SYSTEM WITH GOOD TRAINING FACILITIES OVER THE YEARS, BUT HE WARNED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE EXISTING SYSTEM COULD COPE WITH ALL OUR FUTURE MANPOWER PROBLEMS.

+WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OUR TRAINING SYSTEM AND TO IMPROVE OUR TRAINING FACILITIES FOR THE FUTURE,+ HE STRESSED.

ON THE QUESTION OF COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS, DR TIEN SAID THAT THIS WAS RELATED TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

+I BELIEVE THAT IF THE AGREEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, OVERSEAS TRADERS WILL BE SATISFIED THAT THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM IN HONG KONG WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AND HENCE THEY WILL BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS WITH OUR LOCAL TRADERS WITH TRUST IN THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

+I, IN MY PERSONAL CAPACITY, SHALL BE LEADING A GROUP OF HONG KONG GARMENT MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS TO BEIJING TOMORROW.

+THE GROUP CONSISTS OF BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS, OLD HANDS AS WELL AS UP-AND-COMING YOUNG EXECUTIVES IN THE INDUSTRY. WE SHALL MEET THE CHINESE LEADERS AND IT IS MY INTENTION TO REFLECT THE ABOVE VIEWS AT THESE MEETINGS,+ HE SAID.

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SYSTEM ALSO DIFFERS IN PRINCIPLES - SO
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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EXISTING ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF CHINA AND THAT OF HONG KONG DOES NOT LIE ONLY IN ECONOMIC POLICY, BUT ALSO IN PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPLES, THE HON ANDREW SO SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON +ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG+ IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR SO CAUTIONED THAT POLITICAL PRESSURE COULD ERODE AND CHANGE AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM AT ANY TIME.

+THEREFORE, WE NEED A DETAILED SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT,+ HE STRESSED.

/NOTING THAT

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NOTING THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SYSTEM WAS BASICALLY CAPITALISTIC, MR SO SAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE SYSTEM WAS BUILT ON ITS BELIEF IN FREEDOM, HUMAN DIGNITY, HUMAN VALUE AND THE PEOPLE'S CREATIVITY.

+APART FROM ACCEPTING THE RIGHT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY IN A CAPITALISTIC SOCIETY AND THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND THE REFRAINING OF GOVERNMENT FROM COMPETING AGAINST HER PEOPLE, HONG KONG OWES ITS SUCCESS TO THE FACT THAT THE PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO GIVE FULL PLAY TO THEIR ABILITY AND WISDOM AS WELL AS THEIR ENTERPRISING SPIRIT, THUS WINNING OVERSEAS MARKETS AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT FREE ENTERPRISE WAS NOT THE SOLE FACTOR TO OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

+WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT WE UNEQUIVOCALLY RESPECT THE HUMAN DIGNITY.

+THE GOVERNMENT, BESIDES PROVIDING FAVOURABLE ECONOMIC CLIMATE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, ALSO CATERES TO THE NEED OF THE YOUNG, THE AGED, THE HANDICAPPED AND THE SICK, AND SEES TO THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN MAKING TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT WHILE HONG KONG HAD MADE MISTAKES IN THE PAST, IT HAD MADE GOOD ITS MISTAKES AND HAD BECOME STRONGER THEREAFTER.

ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, MR SO SAID BOTH CHINA AND BRITAIN WERE DETERMINED THAT ITS PROSPERITY AND STABILITY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND THE LEADERS EVEN GAVE THE PROMISE THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR 50 YEARS.

+THE LEADERS OF CHINA ALSO REALISE THAT THE EXISTING ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF HONG KONG IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THAT CURRENTLY OPERATING IN CHINA, THENCE COMES THE PROPOSAL -- 'TWO SYSTEMS WITHIN ONE NATION',+ HE SAID.

+I FERVENTLY HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE A PEACEFUL AND UNITED CHINA AND I DO NOT DOUBT THE SINCERITY OF THE CURRENT LEADERS OF BOTH CHINA AND BRITAIN ON MAINTAINING THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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LAND LEASE POLICY DETAILS CALLED FOR
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SUFFICIENT DETAILS ON FUTURE POLICY ON LAND LEASES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT, THE HON F.K. HU SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE, HE SAID, +IF SUFFICIENT DETAILS ON LEASES OF LAND ARE SPELLED OUT IN THE AGREEMENT WITH POLICY AND PROCEDURE FULLY CLARIFIED, DEVELOPERS WILL BE AT EASE TO INVEST IN REAL ESTATE BUSINESS AND THE USERS, INCLUDING MANUFACTURERS, WILL HAVE NO HESITATION IN BUYING OR RENTING LAND PROPERTIES AND THERE WILL BE NO DOUBT FOR HONG KONG TO ACHIEVE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY BOTH BEFORE 1997 AND AFTER 1997.+

+AS PROSPERITY OF THE PROPERTY MARKET PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE PROSPERITY OF THE ECONOMY OF HONG KONG, AND THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG AS A WHOLE IS THE POST-1997 YEARS RELIES ON OUR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN PROSPERITY FOR THE NEXT 13 YEARS WHICH AGAIN DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH ASSURANCE WE CAN GET OUT OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH IS TO BE ANNOUNCED, I SUBMIT THAT IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD CONTAIN SUFFICIENT DETAILS ON HOW THE FUTURE POLICY OF LAND AND LEASES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED,+ HE SAID.

MR HU SAID DEVELOPERS WERE HESITANT ABOUT PUTTING THEIR MONEY INTO REAL ESTATE BECAUSE OF MARKET UNCERTAINTY.

SLUGGISHNESS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET WOULD EVENTUALLY AFFECT HONG KONG'S POSITION AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL, TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRE.

THESE WERE ALL IMPORTANT FACTORS IN ENSURING THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, HE SAID.

ON THE FUTURE POLICY ON THE LAND LEASES, MR HU PROPOSED THAT:

- * FOR HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON SOUTH OF BOUNDARY STREET INCLUDING LAND SOLD BY THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT, IF THE LEASE IS VALID BEYOND 50 YEARS AFTER 1997, THE OWNER SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE USE OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY UNTIL THE END OF THE LEASE.
- * FOR HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON SOUTH OF BOUNDARY STREET, IF THE LEASE EXPIRES BEFORE 50 YEARS AFTER 1997, AND FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES NORTH OF BOUNDARY STREET, WHERE LEASES EXPIRE IN 1997, THEY SHOULD ALL BE EXTENDED UP TO 2047 UPON EXPIRY OF LEASES ON PAYMENT OF A NOMINAL LAND TAX SIMILAR TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE 1973 WHICH REQUIRED PAYMENT OF THREE PER CENT PER ANNUM OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THE PREMISES AT THE DATE OF RENEWAL.
- * FOR ANY LAND IN NEW TERRITORIES SOLD BY THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT, THE LEASE SHOULD BE UP TO 2047.

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INDUSTRIALISTS URGED TO KEEP INVESTING
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THE HON WONG PO-YAN URGED INDUSTRIALISTS TO HAVE FAITH IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE AND TO GET ON WITH INVESTING AND RE-INVESTING IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

+NOW IS THE CRUCIAL TIME FOR OUR INDUSTRIALISTS TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF RE-INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS IN MANPOWER AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG WAS SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON +ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG+ IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 WERE UP 30 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER LAST YEAR'S CORRESPONDING QUARTER.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR'S RE-INVESTMENT WAS FAR BEHIND THE EXPORT PERFORMANCE.

+IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES, THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BENEFIT FURTHER FROM THE RECOVERY OF WORLD TRADE. THIS IS A REAL THREAT TO OUR ECONOMY,+ HE STRESSED.

HE SAID THAT MANY INDUSTRIALISTS FELT THAT THEIR FUTURE WAS NOT CLEAR WHILE THE NEGOTIATION ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE WAS STILL GOING ON CONFIDENTIALLY.

HE CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL THAT BOTH SIDES TO THE NEGOTIATION MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE OF THE INDUSTRIALISTS IN HONG KONG.

+IN THIS CONNECTION, I BELIEVE THAT INDUSTRIALISTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN AGREEMENT WITH ENOUGH DETAILS TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM WILL NOT CHANGE IN FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT BOTH SIDES WERE TRYING THEIR BEST TO CONVINCE INDUSTRIALISTS.

BUT THE PROBLEM WAS THAT INDUSTRIALISTS WERE NOT YET CONVINCED, HE ADDED.

+MORE DETAILED AND CONCRETE INDICATIONS SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING AND AGREED REGARDING THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT WOULD BE PRACTISED IN HONG KONG IN 1997 AND AFTER,+ HE SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SUGGESTED THAT INDUSTRIALISTS SHOULD KEEP THEIR NERVES.

+SINCE IT IS CERTAIN THAT OUR PRESENT SYSTEMS WILL NOT CHANGE BEFORE 1997 AND THAT WE HAVE AT LEAST 13 MORE YEARS TO DO BUSINESS UNDER RULES WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH, WE SHOULD GET ON WITH OUR BUSINESS,+ HE SAID.

/MR WONG

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MR WONG ADDED THAT 13 YEARS WERE LONG ENOUGH FOR ANY BUSINESSMAN TO COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE CYCLE, AND PROBABLY TWO, OF INVESTMENT AND TO RECOUP ANY INVESTMENT.

+FOR THE PERIOD AFTER 1997, CONSIDERING THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE MUTUAL INTEREST IN AND COMMON OBJECTIVES ABOUT HONG KONG, PLUS THE EFFORT THAT WE, THE HONG KONG PEOPLE, ARE EXPRESSING CLEARLY OUR OPINION CONCERNING OUR FUTURE, WE CAN BELIEVE IN GOOD FAITH THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO US.

+ON THAT BELIEF, WE SHOULD NOT DRAG OUR FOOT ANY LONGER REGARDING INVESTMENT OR RE-INVESTMENT,+ HE SAID.

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+DISMANTLE BARRIERS OF MISTRUST+ - CHEONG
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BARRIERS OF MISTRUST BETWEEN BRITAIN, CHINA AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE DISMANTLED TO BRING REAL STABILITY AND PROSPERITY TO HONG KONG, SAID THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG.

HE MADE THIS PLEA WHEN SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE FELT THAT WITH AN UNDERSTANDING ALREADY REACHED OVER THE MAJOR PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY, AND IF BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE REALLY SINCERE IN WISHING HONG KONG WELL, THERE SHOULD BE NO PLACE FOR FURTHER UNNECESSARY MISUNDERSTANDINGS THROUGH MISINTERPRETATION AND MISTRUST.

HE SAID: +I URGE AGAIN TODAY THAT RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBLE PERSONS, WHO MAY HAVE A HAND IN SHAPING OF THE FUTURE OF THIS TERRITORY, SHOULD TRY TO WORK TOGETHER WITH A PRAGMATIC, REALISTIC AS WELL AS MUTUALLY RESPECTFUL SPIRIT, SO THAT WHATEVER PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE CAN BE MET WITH A VIGOROUS SENSE OF COMMON PURPOSE.+

HE CALLED UPON THOSE WHO DOUBTED THE SERIOUSNESS OF DAMAGE THAT A CONFIDENCE CRISIS MIGHT DO TO THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, TO LOOK HARD AND MORE OBJECTIVELY AT THE REALITY OF HONG KONG. FOR THESE PROBLEMS WERE REAL AND NOT IMAGINARY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ASKED THOSE WHO HAD DOUBTS AND FEARS ABOUT THE PRACTICABILITY OF THE +ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS+ CONCEPT TO TRY TO ACCEPT FIRST THE SINCERITY AND GOOD INTENTIONS OF THE PROPONENTS BEHIND SUCH A CONCEPT. SECONDLY, THE CONCEPT MUST BE EVALUATED IN A MORE POSITIVE LIGHT, HE ADDED.

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+ON A LESS CONCEPTUAL NOTE, AS A PRACTICAL STEP TOWARDS DISMANTLING THE BARRIERS OF MISTRUST, I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL AND USEFUL IF THE LEADERS OF CHINA CAN BE PERSUADED TO PAY VISITS TO HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+SUCH VISITS CERTAINLY WILL PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENABLE CHINA'S LEADERS TO OBTAIN FIRST HAND IMPRESSIONS ABOUT HONG KONG.

+IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE MORE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND TALK TO THE LEADERS OF CHINA,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF THE ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, HE SAID HE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT ITS CONTINUED WELL BEING FROM NOW TO 1997 AND BEYOND WAS THE MOST VITAL KEY TO OUR FUTURE.

+THIS IS ALSO THE KEY UPON WHICH THE FUTURE SUCCESSES OF THE ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS CONCEPT HINGES ON,+ HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TO SECURE THE FUTURE WELL BEING OF HONG KONG, THERE MUST BE A FRAMEWORK WHEREBY HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ALL ITS PRESENT AUTONOMY IN THE HANDLING OF EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

HE FELT THAT HONG KONG MUST BE GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO PARTICIPATE INDEPENDENTLY IN GATT, MFA AND ALL THE RELATED ORGANISATIONS AND MUST BE GIVEN COMPLETE AUTONOMY TO NEGOTIATE, BE SIGNATORY TO AND TO IMPLEMENT ANY MULTI-LATERAL OR BILATERAL TRADE RELATED AGREEMENTS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

+SUCH A FRAMEWORK NEEDS TO BE SPELT OUT CLEARLY AND IN DETAIL IN THE FUTURE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT AND THE AGREEMENT MUST CONFIRM THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE GIVEN FULL AUTONOMY TO OPERATE WITHIN SUCH FRAMEWORK,+ HE SAID.

THE REASON FOR SPELLING IT OUT CLEARLY AND IN DETAIL WAS NOT SIMPLY TO GIVE A POSITIVE SIGNAL TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG. +IT IS NECESSARY BECAUSE IT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH FOR EITHER BRITAIN OR CHINA OR BOTH TO SIMPLY PROCLAIM TO THE WORLD THAT HONG KONG HAS BEEN GIVEN SUCH AUTONOMY.

+OTHER TRADING PARTNERS MUST BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT HONG KONG'S AUTHORITY IN SUCH MATTERS AS WE ARE NOW BEING SO ACCEPTED,+ HE SAID.

APART FROM OUR VITAL INDEPENDENT LINK WITH GATT, HE SAID THE AGREEMENT MUST ENSURE THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR STATUS IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, THE ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANISATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION - FOR THEY TOO HAD AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ECONOMY.

HE SAID THAT LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THE AGREEMENT MUST GIVE HONG KONG THE AUTONOMY AND AUTHORITY TO ENABLE IT TO CONTINUE THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WE HAD DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS REGARDING A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE ISSUES.

/+THIS IS

+THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE, AS A RESULT OF WORKING CLOSELY AND JOINTLY WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE COLLECTIVE STRENGTH IS AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO THE HARSH DEMANDS BY THE STRONGER DEVELOPED IMPORTING COUNTRIES FOR LARGER DOSES PROTECTIONISM, NOT ONLY IN TEXTILES BUT ALSO IN OTHER MOVES TOWARDS MORE STRINGENT INTERNATIONAL TRADE RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES SUCH AS THE PROPOSED CODES OF SELECTIVE SAFEGUARDS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE WELL BEING OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY THAT - FIRST, THE NEED TO ALLOW TOTAL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL AND PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF HONG KONG AND, SECOND, THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF HONG KONG'S STATUS AS A FREE PORT.

+THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH SUBJECTS NEEDS NO FURTHER ELABORATION. YET IF BOTH SUBJECTS WERE NOT EMBODIED IN THE FUTURE AGREEMENT, IT WOULD HAVE A VERY DAMAGING EFFECT ON FOREIGN AS WELL AS LOCAL INVESTMENTS ON NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG,+ HE WARNED.

+IT IS HOPED THAT BOTH BRITAIN AND CHINA WOULD RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A VIABLE ECONOMY IN HONG KONG AND THAT THOSE AREAS MENTIONED BRIEFLY ABOVE WOULD BE COVERED IN DETAIL IN THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT, SO THAT HONG KONG WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THE NECESSARY FRAMEWORK TO ENABLE OUR ECONOMY TO PROGRESS WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY THEREBY PROVING TO THE WORLD THROUGH REAL ACTIONS AND RESULTS THAT THE CONCEPT OF +ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS+ IS INDEED PRAGMATIC AS WELL AS VIABLE,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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NEED FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS STRESSED

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HONG KONG'S OBJECTIVE FOR ITS FUTURE MUST BE NOT ONLY STABILITY AND PROSPERITY BUT STABILITY AND PROSPERITY WITH CONTINUED PROGRESS, THE HON BILL BROWN SAID IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON +ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG+ IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+CONTINUED PROGRESS WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR SOCIAL SERVICES, OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, HOUSING, TRANSPORT SYSTEMS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, IN WHICH WE LIVE IN GENERAL, AND AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE TO ACHIEVE LESS INCOME DISPARITY AND A MORE EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH IN PARTICULAR,+ HE SAID.

+SUCH PROGRESS WILL HAVE TO BE PAID FOR, BUT THIS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE UNLESS WE MAINTAIN THE HIGH RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED OVER RECENT DECADES,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT +WE SHOULD BE PLEASED+ AT THE RECENT DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS EMANATING FROM THE COMPLETED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

/+THESE PROPOSALS

+THESE PROPOSALS WILL NECESSITATE TRULY ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF INVESTMENT BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN INFRASTRUCTURE; INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH MUST GO AHEAD IF THAT NECESSARY HIGH GROWTH RATE OF WHICH I HAVE JUST SPOKEN, AND THE PROGRESS OF WHICH THE GOVERNOR SPOKE LAST AUTUMN, IS TO BE ACHIEVED,+ HE SAID.

+THE AGREEMENT SOON TO BE SIGNED BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM MUST BE SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED TO GIVE CONFIDENCE TO OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY - BOTH INDIGENOUS AND FOREIGN -- SO THAT WE CAN STOP WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE AND GET ON WITH THE JOB,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED IT WAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE THAT THIS IN TURN SHOULD BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE PROPERTY MARKET AND THUS RESTIMULATE THE DEMAND FOR LAND.

IN PRESENT MARKET CONDITIONS THE +WAIT AND SEE+ ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN LAND MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE THE EXTENT TO WHICH SALES COULD BE ACHIEVED, HE SAID.

+IT IS IMPORTANT, FOR OUR ABILITY TO FINANCE THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WILL DEPEND IN NO SMALL DEGREE ON THE PROCEEDS OF LAND LEASES,+ HE ADDED.

+THIS IS ALL THE MORE SO AS WE ARE PROBABLY NOW QUITE CLOSE TO THE CEILING AT WHICH TAX LEVELS CAN BE RAISED WITHOUT DAMAGING OUR SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND THERE IS A LIMIT TO WHICH WE CAN ISSUE BONDS OR RAISE DEBT WHICH HAS TO BE SERVICED AND REPAID EITHER BY THIS ADMINISTRATION OR ITS SUCCESSOR.

+HOWEVER IT IS FINANCED, THE INFRASTRUCTURE WE CREATE IN THE NEXT DECADE WILL BE VITAL TO THE CONTINUED WELL-BEING OF THIS COMMUNITY WELL BEYOND 1997.

+AND NOT ONLY THIS COMMUNITY, FOR CHINA HERSELF ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE STONES OF THE MOUNTAIN HONG KONG REMAIN IMPORTANT FOR POLISHING THE JADE OF HER MODERNISATION PROGRAMME - PARTICULARLY IN THE NEARBY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES,+ MR BROWN SAID.

HE STATED THAT WERE THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG TO BE HANDED OVER TO A NEW AUTHORITY TODAY, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT COULD DO SO WITHOUT SHAME OF ITS STEWARDSHIP.

+IT IS THE DUTY OF THIS COUNCIL TO SEE THAT OUR ECONOMIC POLICIES IN THE PERIOD AHEAD ARE DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED IN SUCH A WAY THAT WHOEVER HANDS OVER IN 1997 IS ABLE TO DO SO WITH A RECORD THAT REMAINS UNBLEMISHED AND PREFERABLY IMPROVED IN REGARD TO ALL THOSE MATTERS ON WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN,+ HE STRESSED.

HE SAID THAT NATURALLY POLICIES AIMED IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+WE HOPE THAT BOTH CHINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL ALSO SUPPORT US BY REACHING AN AGREEMENT THAT IS ACCEPTABLE AND HELPFUL TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WHAT IS QUITE CLEARLY AN OBJECTIVE COMMON TO ALL PARTIES,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1984

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CHANGES IN LEGAL AID PROPOSED

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PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE LEGAL AID SYSTEM WERE A SIGNIFICANT FIRST STEP TOWARDS PLACING LEGAL SERVICES WITHIN THE GRASP OF THE SO-CALLED 'SANDWICH' CLASS, THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR THOMAS WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

HE SAID HONG KONG COULD BE JUSTLY PROUD OF THE EXTENT OF LEGAL AID AVAILABLE TO LITIGANTS, BUT THE FACILITIES REQUIRED CONSTANT REVIEW IF THEY WERE TO CONTINUE TO MEET THE PUBLIC NEED.

+MUCH HAS BEEN SAID OF LATE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW. EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT IS THE PRINCIPLE THAT ACCESS TO THE COURTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

+THIS BILL REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES TO THOSE IN NEED AND AS SUCH I AM CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL BE WIDELY WELCOMED.+

MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE BILL WAS THE RESULT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A WORKING PARTY ESTABLISHED IN JUNE 1981 MADE UP OF PEOPLE CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF LEGAL AID IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT WHILE THE IMPOSITION OF A MEANS TEST ON APPLICANTS FOR LEGAL AID WAS CLEARLY JUSTIFIED, THE LIMITS INEVITABLY HAD TO BE ARBITRARY AND THERE WERE FEARS THAT SOME APPLICANTS WHO FAILED THE MEANS TEST MIGHT NEVERTHELESS BE HARD PRESSED TO PAY FOR THE SERVICES OF A PRIVATE LAWYER.

+IT IS TO MEET, AT LEAST IN PART, THIS NEED, THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME IS PROPOSED,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

+IN ESSENCE, THE BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME ARE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL APPLICANTS WHO SATISFY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID THAT THEY HAVE REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR TAKING PROCEEDINGS IN THE HIGH COURT FOR DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES OR DEATH, ALTHOUGH AT THIS STAGE CLAIMS FOR MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE ARE EXCLUDED.

+FINANCIAL LIMITS WILL APPLY, HIGHER THAN THOSE FOR THE EXISTING LEGAL AID SCHEME. THEY ARE TO BE FIXED AT A GROSS MONTHLY INCOME NOT EXCEEDING \$15 000 AND DISPOSABLE CAPITAL OF \$100 000 OR LESS,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

HE SAID THAT WHEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER MISS MARIA TAM HAD CALLED LAST OCTOBER FOR SUCH A SCHEME TO BE INTRODUCED, HE HAD INDICATED THAT FINANCING OF THE SCHEME WAS BEING DISCUSSED.

/+IT WAS

+IT WAS ALWAYS INTENDED THAT THE SCHEME SHOULD BE SELF-FINANCING AND THAT THOSE WHO ARE SUCCESSFUL IN LITIGATION SHOULD PAY A PROPORTION OF THEIR DAMAGES TO THE SCHEME. THOSE WHO ARE UNSUCCESSFUL LITIGANTS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE AT ALL, ALTHOUGH ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE CALLED UPON TO PAY \$300 ON THEIR APPLICATION AND A FURTHER \$400 IF THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

ANY COSTS RECOVERED FROM THE DEFENDANT WOULD BE DEDUCTED FROM THE PLAINTIFF'S CONTRIBUTION. NO CONTRIBUTION WOULD EXCEED THE VALUE OF THE AMOUNT RECOVERED, AND THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID COULD WAIVE CONTRIBUTIONS IF HE CONSIDERED THAT PAYMENT WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS HARDSHIP.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT THE SCHEME WOULD BE SELF-FINANCING, AN INITIAL LOAN WAS REQUIRED TO SET UP THE FUND AND PUT THE SCHEME INTO OPERATION.

THE LOTTERIES FUND HAD DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO SET ASIDE \$1 MILLION AS A LOAN TO BE DRAWN UPON AS AND WHEN REQUIRED.

+NO DOUBT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL THINK THAT THE JUXTAPOSITION OF LOTTERIES AND THE LEGAL PROCESS IS SIGNIFICANT, BUT THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHEME IS THAT THE LOSSES OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL LITIGANTS WILL BE MADE UP BY THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE WHO ARE SUCCESSFUL. ALL BEING WELL, THERE WILL BE NO LOSERS,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

+IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IT WILL TAKE SOME FIVE YEARS TO REPAY THE LOAN AND INTEREST AND THAT THE SCHEME SHOULD ACHIEVE AN OPERATING SURPLUS WITHIN SOME TWO YEARS.+

MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME WAS A BOLD INITIATIVE WHICH PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

HE SAID HE WANTED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO FOUR POINTS:

- * THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID WOULD HAVE DISCRETION TO REFUSE LEGAL AID IF HE CONSIDERED IT WOULD BE UNREASONABLE TO GRANT IT,
- * THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT WOULD NO LONGER BE PRECLUDED FROM ACTING FOR MORE THAN ONE PARTY WHEN TO DO SO WOULD UNNECESSARILY HOLD UP THE CONDUCT OF THE LITIGATION,
- * THE BENEFITS TO AN AIDED PERSON AND THE COSTS FOR WHICH HE COULD BE LIABLE HAD BEEN CLARIFIED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE, AND
- * IT HAD BEEN MADE AN OFFENCE FOR AN ASSIGNED SOLICITOR OR COUNSEL TO TAKE ADDITIONAL FEES FROM AN AIDED PERSON.

/MR THOMAS

MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME AND THE ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL AID ORDINANCE WERE A GREAT STEP FORWARD.

+SOME MAY SAY THAT THE SCHEME IS STILL UNDULY RESTRICTED IN ITS APPLICATION BUT IT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS AN EXPERIMENT ON WHICH FURTHER EXTENSIONS CAN BE BUILT ONCE IT HAS BECOME ESTABLISHED AND IS OPERATING SMOOTHLY,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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EMPLOYMENT BILL GETS BROAD SUPPORT
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EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN GENERAL SUPPORTED THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1984 IN PRINCIPLE, THE HON ALLEN LEE SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LEE SAID: +THIS BILL CONTAINS SOME AMENDMENTS WHICH CAUSE CONCERN TO A MULTITUDE OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FOUR EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS WOULD LIKE TO DRAW ATTENTION TO SECTION 11B OF PART IIA CONCERNING THE END OF YEAR PAYMENT.

IN HIS VIEW, THE CONSEQUENCES OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE BY VIRTUE OF +ORAL+, +EXPRESSED+ OR +IMPLIED+ MEANS MIGHT CAUSE UNNECESSARY DISPUTE OVER THE INTERPRETATION OF THE CONTRACT.

+I KNOW THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD NOTED THIS POINT BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT AMENDMENT IS NOT FEASIBLE BECAUSE THE LAW HAS LONG ALLOWED FOR SUCH CONTRACTS TO BE RECOGNISED,+ MR LEE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT HE AND OTHER MEMBERS HAD A DISCUSSION WITH NINE WORKERS' UNIONS OVER THE BILL.

+A FEW POINTS REGARDING PAYMENT OF MATERNITY LEAVE, DEFINITION OF 'WAGES', SUB-CONTRACTORS AND MAIN CONTRACTORS OVER THE PAYMENT OF WAGES AND THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE END OF YEAR PAYMENT HAD BEEN RAISED.

+THESE POINTS HAD BEEN PASSED ON TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO CONSIDER WHILE SOME POINTS WERE CLARIFIED WITHOUT FURTHER MISUNDERSTANDING,+ HE SAID.

TO AVOID ANY DELAY OF THE BILL, MR LEE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE PASSED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, LEAVING OTHER SUGGESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AND, IF APPLICABLE, INCORPORATED INTO THE ORDINANCE IN THE FUTURE.

/THANKING MR

THANKING MR LEE FOR HIS SUPPORT, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, DR THE HON JAMES HAYES SAID, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BRING THE NEW LEGISLATION CONCERNING END OF YEAR PAYMENT INTO OPERATION ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE 1985 LUNAR YEAR.

THIS MEANS THAT THIS PART OF THE LEGISLATION WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PAYMENT PERIOD.

DR HAYES SAID: +THIS SHOULD HELP ALL CONCERNED TO AVOID THE COMPLICATIONS WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE ARISE FROM THE CALCULATION OF CURRENT END OF YEAR PAYMENTS, WHETHER PRO-RATA OR IN FULL, WERE THIS PART TO BE APPLIED IN THE INTERIM.+

IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE REMAINING PROVISIONS OF THE BILL SHOULD COME INTO OPERATION ON AUGUST 1, 1984.

DR HAYES POINTED OUT THAT UNDER CLAUSE 25 OF THE BILL, WHICH AMENDED SECTION 44 OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, EMPLOYERS WERE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON END OF YEAR PAYMENT TO THEIR EMPLOYEES BEFORE THEY ENTERED THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

HE SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD PREPARED A SHORT GUIDE ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ON END OF YEAR PAYMENT, IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH. THE GUIDE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION AT ALL OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT FROM FRIDAY (JULY 13).

DR HAYES SAID THAT IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL REGISTERED APPRENTICES AS WELL AS ALL THOSE EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE BENEFIT FROM THE NEW PROVISIONS, HE WOULD MOVE AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE A CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THIS EFFECT TO SECTION 48 OF THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE.

+IT HAS NOT BEEN NECESSARY TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE BILL THOUGH, AS MR LEE HAS SAID, SOME OF THE POINTS MADE WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION,+ DR HAYES ADDED.

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NEW RULES FOR ELECTIONS PROPOSED

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AMENDMENTS TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISTRICT BOARD AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS WERE PROPOSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1984.

+FOLLOWING THE LAST ROUND OF DISTRICT BOARD AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETED A REVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION RELATING TO ELECTORAL AND ASSOCIATED ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS,+ HE SAID.

/+AS A

+AS A RESULT, THE BILL BEFORE THE COUNCIL SEEKS AMENDMENTS TO THE RELEVANT ORDINANCES, WHICH ARE MOSTLY OF A TIDYING UP NATURE AND DESIGNED TO IMPROVE PROCEDURES AND FACILITATE THE BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS.+

AMONG THE PROPOSED PROVISIONS ARE:

- * AFTER DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN 1985 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL CEASE TO BE BOARD MEMBERS, THOUGH THEY WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEND MEETINGS.
- * A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER WHO FAILS TO ATTEND MEETINGS FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS WITHOUT A REASONABLE EXCUSE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM HOLDING OFFICE.
- * A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER CONVICTED OF OFFENCES RELATING TO BRIBERY AND CORRUPT PRACTICES AFTER HIS ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.
- * THE ELECTORAL TIMETABLE WILL BE MOVED FORWARD BY ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR ELECTIONEERING.
- * TWO NEW PROVISIONS TO PREVENT BRIBERY AND INTIMIDATION IN RELATION TO STANDING AS A CANDIDATE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT MONEY RECEIVED FOR ELECTION ACTIVITIES SHALL BE USED ONLY FOR THAT PURPOSE.
- * CANDIDATES WILL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THEIR ELECTION EXPENSES WITHIN A SET TIME LIMIT.
- * THE MINIMUM AGE OF AN ELECTION, POLLING OR COUNTING AGENT SHOULD BE 21 YEARS.
- * ELECTIONS WILL FINISH LATER - AT 10.30 PM AS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE PROVED VOTING WAS HEAVIEST IN THE EVENING.
- * THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF PERMITTED EXPENSES FOR A CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE RAISED TO \$20 000 FROM THE PRESENT \$13 000- AND FOR URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP TO \$35 000 FROM \$23 000.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TRAFFIC LAW TIDIED UP

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A BILL TO CORRECT SHORTCOMINGS AND ERRORS IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE 1982 BEFORE IT IS IMPLEMENTED AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH WAS GIVEN A SECOND READING BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE BILL, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984 WAS MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT.

CLAUSES OF THE BILL PROVIDE FOR THE FOLLOWING :

- * THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT CAN REQUIRE THE PRODUCTION OF A DESIGN PLAN FOR A VEHICLE. THIS IS ESSENTIAL FOR VEHICLE EXAMINATIONS, PARTICULARLY IF INTERNAL MODIFICATIONS ARE INVOLVED.
- * TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ALLOW THE GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW LEGISLATION. IN PARTICULAR, IT WILL TAKE SOME YEARS TO INTRODUCE ALL THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS AND MARKINGS AND EXISTING ONES WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE EFFECT UNTIL REPLACED.
- * A PRIVATE BUS CAN STILL BE USED FOR DRIVER TRAINING PURPOSES AND A NON-FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUS CAN STILL BE HIRED FOR RECREATIONAL OUTINGS.
- * THE OFFENCE OF FAILURE TO PRODUCE A DRIVING LICENCE IS EXTENDED FROM ITS APPLICATION ONLY WHERE A PERSON IS DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE TO INCLUDE PERSONS SUSPECTED OF BEING INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT, COMMITTING TRAFFIC OFFENCES OR MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO OBTAIN DRIVING LICENCES.
- * THE PLACING OF CERTAIN SIGNS OR ROAD MARKINGS COVERED BY THE ROAD USERS' CODE. IN PARTICULAR TO ALLOW THE USE OF A PORTABLE TRIANGULAR SIGN TO GIVE ADVANCE WARNING OF A BREAKDOWN.
- * THE REQUIREMENT UPON DRIVERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO STOP AND EXCHANGE PARTICULARS IN THE EVENT OF PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENTS IS EXTENDED TO THE DRIVERS OF ALL VEHICLES. THUS A CYCLIST WHO CAUSED INJURY TO A PEDESTRIAN WOULD BE INCLUDED. A DRIVER WOULD ALSO HAVE TO REPORT TO THE POLICE NOT ONLY WHEN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVES PERSONAL INJURY, BUT ALSO WHEN DAMAGE IS INVOLVED AND PARTICULARS ARE NOT EXCHANGED AT THE SCENE.
- * THE POWERS OF A POLICE OFFICER TO REQUIRE THE OWNER OR PERSON IN CHARGE OF A VEHICLE TO DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF THE DRIVER WHEN THE VEHICLE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT ARE EXTENDED. AT PRESENT THE POWER APPLIES ONLY WHEN TRAFFIC OFFENCES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED. THE THREE MONTH TIME LIMIT FOR SUCH A DEMAND OF DISCLOSURE IS REMOVED.

/* IF A

- * IF A VEHICLE FAILS AN EXAMINATION, THE FEE FOR A FURTHER EXAMINATION SHOULD BE DOUBLE, UNDER THE PRESENT PROVISIONS. THIS IS TO BE DELETED AS THE PAYMENT OF A SECOND FEE AND THE INCONVENIENCE OF RE-PRESENTING A VEHICLE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO DETER MISUSE OF THE EXAMINATION AS A DIAGNOSTIC CHECK TO GET BY WITH MINIMUM REPAIRS.
- * IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE TO FORGE A DRIVING LICENCE OR MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS ABOUT CANCELLATION, TRANSFER OR RETENTION OF A REGISTRATION MARK.
- * CERTAIN OTHER MINOR AMENDMENTS ARE ALSO MADE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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PUBLIC TO SEE WHERE THE MONEY GOES

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UNDER A BILL GIVEN A SECOND READING BY THE COUNCIL TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT MUST, IN FUTURE, BE LAID BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND PUBLISHED BEFORE THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HOLDS PUBLIC SESSIONS.

THE AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 WAS MOVED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS.

+SINCE 1971, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, ACTING THROUGH THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, HAVE BECOME ALERT WATCHDOGS OVER PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

+EACH YEAR THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT SCRUTINISES THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS LOOKING BOTH FOR IRREGULARITIES AND ALSO VALUE FOR MONEY.

+THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE THEN CALLS THE CONTROLLING OFFICERS BEFORE IT AND FOLLOWS UP THE DIRECTOR'S QUERIES BY TAKING EVIDENCE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE REACHED ITS OWN CONCLUSIONS ON THE QUERIES RAISED BY THE DIRECTOR. THE COMMITTEE AND THE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS WERE THEN PUBLISHED AT THE SAME TIME.

THE COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED ITS HEARINGS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN PUBLIC WITH FULL MEDIA COVERAGE, AND THE ADMINISTRATION FULLY SUPPORTED THIS DECISION, HE SAID.

+NOW TO THE BILL AND WHY IT IS NECESSARY. TO ACCOMPLISH OPEN SESSIONS MEANS CHANGING THE LAW GOVERNING AUDIT PROCEDURES.

/+WHAT IS

+WHAT IS NEEDED IS A CHANGE IN THE RULES SO THAT THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT MUST BE LAID BEFORE COUNCIL AND PUBLISHED BEFORE THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HOLDS ITS PUBLIC SESSIONS. THE BILL ACCOMPLISHES THAT SIMPLE OBJECTIVE,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO THE UNOFFICIALS ON THE PAC FOR ADVOCATING THIS MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF MORE OPEN GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE REFORM WOULD COMPLEMENT THE SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR WHEN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD MEETINGS IN PUBLIC.

+THAT REFORM HELPS PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE ADMINISTRATION SEEKS FUNDS FROM THE REVENUE FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

+THIS LATEST CHANGE WILL HELP PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE ADMINISTRATION IS CALLED UPON TO ACCOUNT FOR ITS USE OF THOSE FUNDS,+ HE SAID.

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\$100 LEVY ON BUSINESS REGISTRATION PROPOSED
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A BILL SEEKING TO IMPOSE AN ANNUAL LEVY ON BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES TO FINANCE A PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE COUNCIL HEARD THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, SPEAK ON THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW FUND WOULD BE USED TO MAKE PROMPT PAYMENT OF WAGES OWED TO WORKERS BY EMPLOYERS WHO BECOME INSOLVENT.

THE BILL IS IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY WORKERS OF COMPANIES IN RECEIVERSHIP, HE SAID.

THE GROUP'S REPORT WAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND ITS MAIN RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT THE INSOLVENCY FUND SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED, AND FINANCED BY AN INCREASE IN THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION TAX.

AT PRESENT MANY WORKERS HAVE TO WAIT SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE RECEIVING WAGES OWED TO THEM WHILE PROCEDURES ARE COMPLETED. ONCE THE FUND IS ESTABLISHED IT WILL BE ABLE TO STEP IN IMMEDIATELY.

THE MAIN LEGISLATION IS BEING DRAFTED AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, SAID MR HENDERSON.

THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 PROVIDES FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A \$100 LEVY ON BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND.

THIS IS A HOLDING FUND UNTIL LEGISLATION IS FINALISED.

THE PROPOSAL IS FOR THE LEVY TO TAKE EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR.

MR HENDERSON SAID THE LEVY WOULD ESTABLISH A WORKING CAPITAL FOR THE FUND.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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GOVERNMENT TACKLES GANG PROBLEMS * * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WAS TACKLING THE PROBLEMS OF GANGS AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN HONG KONG, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON G.L. MORTIMER, SAID THAT THE BANDING TOGETHER OF YOUNG PEOPLE INTO GANGS WAS A WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON.

THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO DO ALL THAT WAS POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE MORE DISTURBING ASPECTS OF THE PHENOMENON -- IN PARTICULAR THE VIOLENCE AND ORGANISED CRIME TO WHICH GANG ACTIVITY INVOLVING STUDENTS COULD LEAD IF IT WAS NOT CHECKED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

MR MORTIMER WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI ABOUT THE NUMBER OF GANG FIGHTS AND THE ACTION BEING TAKEN TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY INVOLVING STUDENTS.

MR MORTIMER SAID THAT THERE WERE NO SEPARATE STATISTICS FOR GANG FIGHTS INVOLVING STUDENTS. AN EXAMINATION OF ALL GANG FIGHTS REPORTED IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1982, 1983 AND 1984 REVEALED THAT IN 1982 THERE WERE ON AVERAGE 95 GANG FIGHTS PER MONTH, IN 1983 THERE WERE 136 AND IN 1984 THERE WERE 185.

HE SAID THESE GANG FIGHTS INVOLVED ALL INCIDENTS INVOLVING FOUR OR MORE PEOPLE, AND RANGED FROM SCHOOL BULLYING-TYPE ACTIVITY TO SERIOUS, PRE-PLANNED FIGHTS WITH WEAPONS.

MR MORTIMER SAID THAT IN DECEMBER IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WAS PREPARING TO RE-EXAMINE THE SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF AN APPARENT INCREASE IN GANG AND TRIAD ACTIVITY. A WORKING GROUP ON GANGS HAD SINCE BEEN ESTABLISHED, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, AND WAS REVIEWING GANG ACTIVITY, INCLUDING STUDENTS INVOLVEMENT, WITH A VIEW TO DEVISING AN OVERALL STRATEGY TO COMBAT SUCH ACTIVITY.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE POLICE MAINTAINED A NETWORK OF CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE UNITS WHICH COLLECTED AND COLLATED INFORMATION ABOUT GANG AND TRIAD ACTIVITY. EACH POLICE DISTRICT HAD AN ANTI-TRIAD UNIT WHICH CONCENTRATED ON TRIAD-RELATED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING GANG FIGHTS. ANTI-GANG OPERATIONS WERE REGULARLY MOUNTED, BASED ON THIS INTELLIGENCE.

ON THE SUBJECT OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN GANG FIGHTS AND GANG CRIME GENERALLY, MR MORTIMER SAID THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS HAD RECENTLY BEEN ASKED TO REVIEW EXISTING GOVERNMENT SERVICES AIMED AT COMBATING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

+THESE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES,+ HE SAID.

+THE POLICE ALSO HAVE WELL-ESTABLISHED LINKS WITH SCHOOLS THROUGH JUNIOR POLICE CALL, POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS AND CRIME PREVENTION UNITS, ALL OF WHICH HELP TO PROVIDE AND ENCOURAGE HEALTHY LAWFUL PURSUITS FOR STUDENTS.+

MR MORTIMER SAID THE REVIEW HAD FOUND THAT THE RANGE OF THESE SERVICES WAS ADEQUATE, BUT THAT IN SOME AREAS A SHORTAGE OF RESOURCES MEANT THAT SERVICES WERE NOT OPERATING AS EFFECTIVELY AS THEY MIGHT.

HE SAID THAT THE LAST FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN, BETWEEN JULY 1983 AND MARCH 1984, HAD BEEN AIMED AT THE 14-20 YEAR AGE GROUP TO WARN SUCH PEOPLE OF THE DANGER OF BEING DRAWN INTO GANG AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

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MORE YEARS IN JAIL FOR FIREARMS OFFENDERS
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A BILL TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES INVOLVING THE USE OF FIREARMS WAS GIVEN ITS SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE BILL, THE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, WAS MOVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON G.L. MORTIMER.

HE EXPLAINED THAT PENALTIES WOULD BE INCREASED FROM 14 YEARS TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RESISTING ARREST WHILE IN POSSESSION OF ARMS, AMMUNITION OR AN IMITATION FIREARM; AND FOR CARRYING ARMS, AMMUNITION OR AN IMITATION FIREARM WITH CRIMINAL INTENT; AND FOR POSSESSING ARMS OR AMMUNITION WITH INTENT TO ENDANGER LIFE.

/THE PENALTY

THE PENALTY FOR POSSESSING ARMS OR AMMUNITION WITHOUT A LICENCE WILL BE INCREASED FROM 10 TO 14 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT, AND THAT FOR CONVERTING AN IMITATION FIREARM INTO A FIREARM, FROM FIVE TO 14 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

SECONDLY, SAID MR MORTIMER, THE BILL WILL INTRODUCE A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT SO THAT IF THE PROSECUTION FAILS TO PROVE A CHARGE OF CARRYING AN IMITATION FIREARM WITH CRIMINAL INTENT, THE PERSON CHARGED MAY STILL BE CONVICTED OF THE LESSER ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE OF SIMPLE POSSESSION.

+CRIME STATISTICS SHOW AN INCREASING USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME GENERALLY AND IN SUCH CRIMES AS GOLDSMITH ROBBERIES IN PARTICULAR,+ SAID MR MORTIMER.

+THE WORKING GROUP ON THE USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, RECOMMENDED THE INCREASED PENALTIES PROPOSED IN THIS BILL, HAVING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE RECENT TRENDS IN CRIME STATISTICS AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF PENALTIES FOR SUCH OFFENCES PREVAILING ELSEWHERE IN THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION.+

THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED, HE SAID, TO HALT THE INCREASING USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME BY MAKING OFFENDERS LIABLE TO VERY LONG TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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PRIVATE SECTOR ABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE ELECTRICITY
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THE RECORD SUPPORTS THE VIEW THAT THE TASK OF PROVIDING ELECTRICITY THROUGHOUT HONG KONG IS BEST LEFT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY.

THIS IS SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL, MR JACOBS SAID.

+ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL IS TO ENSURE THAT COMSUMERS ENJOY A RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT SERVICE, AND THAT THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THIS SERVICE IS MADE,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW SO.

THE SCHEMES REQUIRE THE POWER COMPANIES TO SUBMIT PLANS TO THE GOVERNMENT, OUTLINING THEIR PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL EXPANSION AT LEAST ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS, AND SPECIFICALLY WHENEVER THERE IS TO BE ANY MAJOR NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

/+IF IT

+IF IT APPEARED THAT A PLAN WAS INADEQUATE TO ENSURE A CONTINUED RELIABLE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY, WE WOULD IN DISCUSSION WITH THE COMPANY CONCERNED REQUIRE AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN UNTIL WE WERE ABLE TO RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THAT IT BE APPROVED,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

IN 1983 TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS RETAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED THAT THE EXPANSION PLANS OF BOTH POWER COMPANIES WERE ADEQUATE TO MEET THE RISING DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING THE NEW TOWNS.

MR JACOBS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT AS ADDITIONAL ASSURANCE, THE CONSULTANTS WOULD BE ASKED TO ADVISE ON THE ADEQUACY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS OF BOTH POWER COMPANIES, EVEN THOUGH EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THESE NETWORKS TO BE RELIABLE.

ON THE SALE OF ELECTRICITY TO CHINA, MR JACOBS SAID THAT ITS MAXIMUM ANTICIPATED DEMAND WAS AMONG THE FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PREPARATION BY CHINA LIGHT AND POWER OF ITS REGULAR FINANCING PLANS.

+FURTHERMORE, IT IS A CONDITION OF THE AGREEMENTS IN RELATION TO THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO CHINA THAT IN THE EVENT OF ANY UNEXPECTED SHORTAGE, HONG KONG CONSUMERS SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY,+ HE POINTED OUT.

BUT HE ADDED THAT AN UNEXPECTED SHORTAGE WAS UNLIKELY, AS THE PEAK LOAD TIMES OF HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG WERE DIFFERENT.

ON TOWN GAS, MR JACOBS REPORTED A SECOND PRODUCTION PLANT WAS BEING PLANNED BY THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY.

THIS WAS PARTLY TO MEET THE CONTINUING GROWTH IN DEMAND, AND PARTLY TO PROVIDE TOWN GAS TO NEW DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

+WORK ON EXTENDING THE EXISTING TOWN GAS TRANSMISSION SYSTEM IS NOW IN PROGRESS IN PARALLEL WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1984

- 25 -

DOUBLED FEES WILL BRING IN \$1 MILLION
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FEES FOR VARIOUS SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE ARE TO BE GENERALLY INCREASED BY 100 PER CENT.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON MR G.L. MORTIMER MOVED THE SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY OF THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE SERVICES WERE PROVIDED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND INCLUDED THE POST-REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, THE SEARCH OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RECORDS, AND THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION OF ADDITIONS OR ALTERATIONS TO THE NAME OF A CHILD.

+THE FEES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1975,+ SAID MR MORTIMER. +THE OBJECT OF THE REVISIONS NOW PROPOSED IS TO RECOVER A GREATER PROPORTION OF THE COST OF THE SERVICES.+

HE EXPLAINED THE REVISIONS WERE BASED ON A COST STUDY AND TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPACT ON USERS OF THE SERVICES.

+MOST OF THE FEES ARE TO BE INCREASED BY 100 PER CENT. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1 MILLION PER ANNUM WILL BE GENERATED.+

MR MORTIMER ALSO MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE FOREIGN MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984. THIS BILL REVISES FEES FOR THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES AND LICENCES IN RESPECT OF FOREIGN MARRIAGES. THE CHARGES HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1950.

IT IS PROPOSED THEY BE INCREASED FROM \$1 AND \$30 TO \$5 AND \$60 RESPECTIVELY.

A THIRD SET OF FEE INCREASES WAS CONTAINED IN THE LEGITIMACY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, ALSO MOVED FOR A SECOND READING BY MR MORTIMER.

THIS PROPOSES REVISIONS IN FEES FOR THE RE-REGISTRATION OF THE BIRTH OF LEGITIMATED PERSONS AND THE ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPIES OF ENTRIES OF THE BIRTH OF SUCH PERSONS.

THE FEES HAVE NOT CHANGED SINCE 1971 AND IT IS PROPOSED THEY GO UP FROM \$1.50 AND \$15 TO \$10 AND \$30 RESPECTIVELY.

DEBATE ON THE BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

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POLICE UNITS REORGANISED
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NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNITS HAD BEEN REORGANISED TO GIVE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF MANPOWER AND TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON G.L. MORTIMER, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON PAULINE NG ON THE REASONS FOR THE REORGANISATION AND ITS PROGRESS.

MR MORTIMER SAID THAT A DISADVANTAGE OF THE ORIGINAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNIT SCHEME HAD BEEN THAT, REGARDLESS OF LOCAL CRIME LEVELS, THE UNITS HAD BEEN GIVEN MANPOWER ACCORDING TO FIXED MANNING SCALES.

AS MANY AS 42 PER CENT OF ESTABLISHED NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNITS MANNED ON A 24-HOUR BASIS HAD BEEN RECEIVING FEWER THAN THREE REPORTS A DAY.

+WHEN THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED 10 YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A REAL NEED FOR EASY ACCESS TO POLICE SERVICES AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNIT MET THAT NEED,+ MR MORTIMER SAID.

+HOWEVER, SINCE THAT TIME THE BEAT RADIO SCHEME HAS BEEN INTRODUCED AND BEAT PATROLS ARE IN THEMSELVES EFFECTIVELY MOBILE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNITS AND, AS A RESULT OF THIS REORGANISATION, THIS MOBILITY CAN BE EXPLOITED TO THE FULL.+

MR MORTIMER SAID THAT THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNIT ORIGINALLY HAD THE DUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MONITORING ALL POLICE WORK IN HIS AREA AND OF FOSTERING POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS.

+IN THE NEW SCHEME, NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CO-ORDINATORS WILL BE FREE TO DEVOTE ALL THEIR TIME TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS WORK WITHIN THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY. MOREOVER, THE SCHEME WILL NOW COVER THE WHOLE TERRITORY,+ MR MORTIMER SAID.

WHILE THE SPEED OF INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW SCHEME HAD NATURALLY VARIED FROM DISTRICT TO DISTRICT, MR MORTIMER SAID, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE FULL REORGANISATION WOULD BE COMPLETED IN ALL DISTRICTS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

MOVE TO IMPROVE CARGO FLOW
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A BILL TO HELP IMPROVE THE FREE FLOW OF TRANSHIPMENT CARGO THROUGH HONG KONG WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON ERIC HO, MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL.

MR HO SAID THAT WHENEVER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF ANY ARTICLE IS PROHIBITED, EXCEPT UNDER LICENCE, THESE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS ALSO APPLY TO CARGO BEING TRANSHIPPED THROUGH HONG KONG AND INVOLVING A CHANGE OF CARRIER - WHETHER TRAIN, SHIP OR AIRCRAFT.

+THIS HINDERS AN ELEMENT OF OUR ENTREPOT TRADE, PARTICULARLY FOR OUTWARD AIR CARGO WHICH OFTEN HAS TIGHT SCHEDULES NORMALLY INVOLVING A STOP-OVER IN HONG KONG OF NOT MORE THAN A FEW HOURS.+

THE BILL WOULD EMPOWER THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE TO EXEMPT ANY PERSON FROM LICENSING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO TRANSHIPMENT THROUGH THE TERRITORY OF CERTAIN PROHIBITED CARGO AND RESERVED COMMODITIES, AND TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS UPON WHICH SUCH EXEMPTION WILL BE GRANTED OR REVOKED.

THIS WAS A DEVELOPMENT OF INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS INTRODUCED IN 1975, MR HO EXPLAINED.

+I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE THIS COUNCIL THAT SAFEGUARDS WILL BE BUILT IN TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S INTEGRITY IN THE EYES OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS IN RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING WE HAVE GIVEN.

+IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD STRESS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DILUTION OF DETERRENTS TO, OR ENFORCEMENT AGAINST, SMUGGLING AND IMPORT AND EXPORT FRAUD. THE AIM IS TO FACILITATE HONG KONG'S TRANSHIPMENT TRADE, AND THUS IMPROVE ITS FUNCTIONING AS AN ENTREPOT.+

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE RESERVED COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, MR HO SAID THAT IT TOO WOULD FACILITATE THE TRANSHIPMENT TRADE IN THE COMMODITIES WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

+IT WILL THUS IMPROVE HONG KONG'S FUNCTIONING AS AN ENTREPOT,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE TWO BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

HIGH RECOVERY RATE OF STOLEN VEHICLES
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THE RECOVERY RATE OF STOLEN VEHICLES IN HONG KONG WAS EXTREMELY HIGH BY WORLD STANDARDS, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON G.L. MORTIMER, SAID THE RECOVERY RATE HAD REMAINED CONSTANT AT ABOUT 70 PER CENT FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS AND THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

HE SAID THIS COMPARED WITH A RATE OF SOME 14 PER CENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND 40 PER CENT IN JAPAN.

ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR MORTIMER SAID THERE REMAINED SOME SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT AND HE COULD NOT SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TOTALLY SATISFIED WITH THE DETECTION RATE.

MR MORTIMER SAID THAT IN 1983, 4 901 VEHICLES WERE REPORTED MISSING AND 3 527, OR 72 PER CENT, WERE RECOVERED.

IN 1982, 3 777, OR 70.6 PER CENT, WERE RECOVERED, OUT OF 5 353 VEHICLES REPORTED MISSING AND IN 1981, 2 547, OR 70.2 PER CENT, WERE RECOVERED OUT OF 3 626.

STEPS BEING TAKEN TO COUNTER VEHICLE THEFT INCLUDED CRIME PREVENTION PUBLICITY AND POLICE OPERATIONS AIMED AT NEUTRALISING GANGS INVOLVED, HE SAID.

+THROUGH THE USE OF ROAD BLOCKS, THE CHECKING OF VEHICLES PARKED IN REMOTE OR UNUSUAL PLACES, AND VISITS TO BACK-STREET GARAGES, REPAIR SHOPS AND SPARE PARTS OUTLETS, THE POLICE ARE CONSTANTLY RECOVERING STOLEN VEHICLES,+ MR MORTIMER SAID.

+VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONSIDER WAYS OF MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR CRIMINALS TO CHANGE THE REGISTRATION AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS ON VEHICLES AND OF IMPROVING THE SECURITY OF LOCKS AND IGNITION SYSTEMS.+

MR MORTIMER SAID THAT ONE OF THE MAIN TARGETS OF THE 1984 FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN, WHICH WILL SOON BE ANNOUNCED, WOULD BE TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC ABOUT PRECAUTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN TO AVOID VEHICLE THEFT.

+I AM SURE THAT THIS TYPE OF CRIME IS BEST COMBATED BY THIS MULTI-FACETED APPROACH INVOLVING A JOINT EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC, THE POLICE AND THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE MOTOR TRADE,+ MR MORTIMER SAID.

NO PLANS TO CONTROL CHINESE MEDICAL PRACTICE

THE GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT DOES NOT SEE THE NEED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS ON PRACTITIONERS OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, ACCORDING TO THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON RUDY KHOO.

DR KHOO WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, WHO ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER SETTING STANDARDS FOR, AND REQUIRING, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT REGISTRATION OF ACUPUNCTURISTS, CHINESE HERBALISTS AND BONESETTERS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGES THE RIGHT OF ANY PERSON OF CHINESE RACE TO PRACTISE MEDICINE OR SURGERY ACCORDING TO PURELY CHINESE METHODS.

+THEREFORE, GOVERNMENT HAS NO JURISDICTION IN THIS MATTER, NOR DOES IT SEE THE NEED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS AT THIS TIME, +HE SAID.

DR KHOO ALSO RECALLED THAT A QUESTION ALONG SIMILAR LINES WAS ASKED IN THE COUNCIL IN JULY 1974 AT WHICH TIME THE REPLY GIVEN WAS IN THE NEGATIVE.

+THE POSITION TODAY REMAINS UNCHANGED IN REGARD TO ACUPUNCTURISTS, CHINESE HERBALISTS AND BONESETTERS, WHO CAN BE REFERRED TO AS PRACTITIONERS OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, + HE SAID.

NEW RULES ON LEGAL AID

NEW RULES AND CLARIFICATIONS ON LEGAL AID WERE DETAILED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL CASES (AMENDMENT) RULES 1984, THE ACTING LAW DRAFTSMAN, MR J. J. O'GRADY, SAID THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE EMPOWERS THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO MAKE RULES, SUBJECT TO LEGCO APPROVAL, FOR THE GRANTING OF LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL CASES.

A NEW PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMITMENT OF ACCUSED PERSONS FOR HIGH COURT TRIAL WAS BROUGHT INTO EFFECT AT THE START OF 1984. THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS NOW MADE RULES WHICH WILL ENABLE LEGAL AID TO BE GRANTED TO ACCUSED PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED FOR TRIAL UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURE AND SEEK TO BE DISCHARGED ON THE GROUND OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE, OR WHO APPLY FOR BAIL IN CONNEXION WITH COMMITMENT PROCEEDINGS.

THE NEW RULES ALSO CLARIFY THE POWER OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID TO REFUSE LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL CASES, AND ENLARGE THE POWER OF THE COURTS TO GRANT SUCH AID WHERE THE DIRECTOR HAD REFUSED IT.

ALSO CLARIFIED ARE THE DUTIES OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ASSIGNED TO ACT FOR LEGALLY AIDED PERSONS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE SETTLING OF APPEALS AND FEES PAYABLE.

+THESE AMENDING RULES REPRESENT A MODEST BUT WELCOME IMPROVEMENT TO THE PROCEDURES WHICH APPLY TO LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL CASES,+ SAID MR O'GRADY.

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DANGEROUS SIGNS: NO PROSECUTIONS IN THREE YEARS
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IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, NO PROSECUTIONS HAD BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST OWNERS OF DANGEROUS SIGNS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON SAID TODAY.

THE REASON, HE SAID, WAS THAT WHERE OWNERS HAD BEEN LOCATED, THEY HAD EITHER REMOVED OR REPAIRED THE DANGEROUS SIGNS THEMSELVES. WHERE THE OWNER COULD NOT BE TRACED, THE AUTHORITIES HAD HAD TO REQUEST THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO REMOVE THE SIGNS AND NO PROSECUTION COULD BE INSTITUTED, HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR MACPHERSON SAID THAT ADVERTISING SIGNS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED HOARDINGS, SCAFFOLDINGS OR OTHER STRUCTURES ARE CONTROLLED BY SECTION 105 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 132.

THE AUTHORITIES FOR CONTROL ARE THE URBAN COUNCIL IN THE URBAN AREAS, AND THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AS REGARDS MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY, HE SAID THE PRESENT PROCEDURE WAS THAT ALL SIGNS CONSIDERED DANGEROUS WERE REFERRED EITHER BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY OR THE PUBLIC TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY FOR INSPECTION.

IF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY CONSIDERED THE SIGN TO BE DANGEROUS, A CERTIFICATE WOULD BE SERVED ON THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY WHICH WOULD IN TURN SERVE A NOTICE ON THE OWNER OF THE SIGN, REQUIRING THE OWNER TO EFFECT REPAIRS OR REMOVAL IN A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME.

/IF THE

IF THE OWNER COULD NOT BE FOUND, OR IF THE SPECIFIED PERIOD EXPIRED WITHOUT ANY REMOVAL OR REPAIRS BEING EFFECTED, THE AUTHORITY THEN REQUESTED THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO HAVE THE SIGN REPAIRED OR REMOVED.

IN URGENT CASES, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAD DELEGATED POWER TO REMOVE DANGEROUS SIGNS IMMEDIATELY.

OWNERS OF ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS WERE ALSO REMINDED IN TROPICAL CYCLONE ADVISORY BULLETINS ISSUED OVER THE RADIO AND TELEVISION THAT THE FASTENINGS AND FRAMEWORK OF SIGNBOARDS WHICH OVERHANG PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES OR SITUATE ON TOP OF BUILDINGS SHOULD BE SECURE, AND THAT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO THE SIGNS, IF ANY, SHOULD BE CUT OFF AS SOON AS TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 WAS HOISTED, HE SAID.

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FEWER VEHICLES USE HARBOUR TUNNEL * * *

A TOTAL OF 2 676 150 VEHICLES USED THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL IN JUNE THIS YEAR, FOLLOWING THE START OF THE CROSS-HARBOUR (PASSAGE TAX) ORDINANCE ON JUNE 1, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THIS FIGURE WAS DOWN FROM THE 3 285 858 VEHICLES USING THE TUNNEL IN MAY.

THE TOTAL COMPRISED THE FOLLOWING, WITH THE MAY FIGURES IN BRACKETS: 1 967 621 PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS (2 465 685), 109 368 MOTORCYCLES (140 286), 57 591 LIGHT BUSES AND DUAL-PURPOSE VEHICLES (61 381), 37 633 SINGLE-DECKER BUSES (38 548), 111 591 DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES (116 565), AND 392 346 GOODS VEHICLES (463 393).

MR SCOTT WAS GIVING THE DETAILED FIGURES AS REQUESTED BY THE HON PETER POON.

THE DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF VEHICLES USING THE TUNNEL IN JUNE WAS 89 205, DOWN FROM THE AVERAGE OF 105 994 IN MAY, MR SCOTT SAID.

THIS WAS BROKEN DOWN INTO THE FOLLOWING, WITH THE MAY FIGURES IN BRACKETS: 65 587 PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS (79 538), 3 646 MOTORCYCLES (4 525), 1 920 LIGHT BUSES AND DUAL-PURPOSE VEHICLES (1 980), 1 254 SINGLE-DECKER BUSES (1 243), 3 720 DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES (3 760), AND 13 078 GOODS VEHICLES (14 948).

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YOUNG PROTECTED FROM TATTOOS
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FORTY PER CENT OF YOUNG PERSONS IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE TATTOOED, ACCORDING TO RECENT SURVEYS.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON G.L. MORTIMER, AS HE MOVED THE SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE TATTOOING OF YOUNG PERSONS BILL 1984.

+THE PURPOSE OF THIS LEGISLATION IS TO PROHIBIT THE TATTOOING OF ANY PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS EXCEPT FOR MEDICAL REASONS BY A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER,+ HE SAID.

+RECENT SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OF YOUNG PERSONS RESIDING IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THEIR CONTROL HAVE SHOWN THAT APPROXIMATELY FORTY PER CENT OF THE INMATES WERE TATTOOED. MAGISTRATES SITTING IN THE JUVENILE COURT IN HONG KONG HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS TO BE EXTENSIVELY TATTOOED.

+THIS ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TATTOOS AND CRIMINAL OR DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR MAKES THE REHABILITATION OF SUCH YOUNG PERSONS ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT, SINCE PROFESSIONALLY EXECUTED TATTOOS ARE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE.

+A WAYWARD YOUNG PERSON IS THUS LIABLE TO BEAR THIS PHYSICAL REMINDER OF AN ILL-SPENT YOUTH FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.+

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLYING WITH THE NEW RULES WILL BE ON THE TATTOOIST RATHER THAN THE YOUNG PERSON, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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RULES UNDER COMPANIES ORDINANCE APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CONCURRED TODAY WITH SECTION 296 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, EMPOWERING THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO MAKE GENERAL RULES CONCERNING THE WINDING-UP OF COMPANIES.

UNDER THE SECTION, THE CHIEF JUSTICE IS ALSO EMPOWERED TO MAKE RULES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, INCLUDING RULES ON COSTS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN MOVING A RESOLUTION UNDER THE SECTION OF THE ORDINANCE.

+THESE AMENDMENTS ARE CONSEQUENTIAL UPON THE ENACTMENT OF THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1984, AND ARE REQUIRED TO BRING THE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION INTO LINE WITH THE NEW PROVISIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL COMPANIES ORDINANCE,+ MR JACOBS EXPLAINED.

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FEE CALCULATION EXPLAINED

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THE WAY GOVERNMENT DETERMINES THE LEVEL OF FOREBEARANCE FEES PAYABLE WHERE BREACHES OF LEASE CONDITIONS OCCUR WAS OUTLINED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON EDDY SHORT.

ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON SELINA CHOW, MR SHORT SAID IN LEASE ENFORCEMENT CASES INVOLVING A BREACH OF LEASE CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF RESIDENTIAL PREMISES FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, THE LESSEE IS NORMALLY GIVEN 28 DAYS TO PURGE THE BREACH.

IF THIS CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED AND IF THE LESSEE CAN PUT FORWARD ACCEPTABLE REASONS, AN EXTENSION OF THIS PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF A FOREBEARANCE FEE.

+FOREBEARANCE FEES ARE INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT BREACHES OF LEASE CONDITIONS ARE CORRECTED WITHIN THE SHORTEST PRACTICAL TIME AND HAVE THEREFORE BEEN SET WITH THIS OBJECTIVE IN MIND,+ MR SHORT SAID.

WHERE RESIDENTIAL PREMISES ARE USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, FOREBEARANCE FEES TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE AVERAGE RENTAL FOR INDUSTRIAL ACCOMMODATION, HE SAID.

FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS, THE FOREBEARANCE FEES ARE CALCULATED AT A MONTHLY RATE OF \$21 PER SQUARE METRE ON THE AREA IN BREACH.

FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, THE FEE CHARGED IS EITHER ON THE SAME BASIS OR AT THE RATE OF ONE PER CENT PER MONTH OF THE CAPITAL VALUE OF THE AREA IN BREACH, WHICHEVER IS THE HIGHER.

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TWO BILLS ON SURCHARGES INTRODUCED

TWO BILLS CONCERNING SURCHARGES WERE MOVED THROUGH THE SECOND READING BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DOUGLAS BLYE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY ARE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1984 AND THE RATING (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1984.

BOTH BILLS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE INITIAL SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT ON AMOUNTS NOT PAID BY THE DUE DATE IS SUBJECT TO A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT ON AMOUNTS IN DEFAULT NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE, MR BLYE EXPLAINED.

CLAUSE 2 OF EACH BILL ALSO SEEKS TO VALIDATE THE ADDITIONAL SURCHARGES IMPOSED UNDER THE EXISTING PROVISIONS ON OUTSTANDING SURCHARGES, THE TAX OR RATES IN RESPECT OF WHICH HAD BEEN PAID AT THE TIME THE ADDITIONAL SURCHARGES WERE IMPOSED.

DEBATE ON BOTH BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1984

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CORRIDOR CUTS JOURNEY TIMES
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PEAK HOUR JOURNEY TIMES ALONG KING'S ROAD HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY UP TO 40 PER CENT SINCE THE OPENING OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON PETER C. WONG RELATING TO THE OPENING OF THE NEW ROAD LAST MONTH.

MR SCOTT SAID THAT JOURNEY TIMES ALONG KING'S ROAD FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO CAUSEWAY BAY IN THE PEAK HOURS HAD BEEN REDUCED BY UP TO 40 PER CENT - OR NINE MINUTES OFF A 22-1/2 MINUTE JOURNEY. TRAFFIC FLOW IN ROADS TO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS OFF KING'S ROAD WAS ALSO MUCH IMPROVED, HE SAID.

THE DAILY TRAFFIC VOLUME WAS 20 000 VEHICLES AND THERE HAD BEEN FOUR REPORTED ACCIDENTS. POLICE RADAR DETECTED 496 CASES WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED FOR PROSECUTION BY WAY OF SUMMONS.

THERE ARE THREE INTERCHANGES IN ADDITION TO ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS, SAID MR SCOTT.

ROADS THROUGH TAI KOO SHING HAVE HAD TO BEAR A HEAVIER VOLUME OF TRAFFIC, BUT THIS IS TEMPORARY AND THROUGH TRAFFIC WILL NOT NEED TO PASS THROUGH THE ESTATE WHEN THE CORRIDOR IS EXTENDED TO SHAU KEI WAN IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT FOR THE CORRIDOR OF 40 MPH (OR 70 KM/H) IS REALISTIC, SAID MR SCOTT, BEARING IN MIND SUCH FACTORS AS THE WEAVING REQUIRED AT INTERCHANGES. POLICE REPORT THAT MOST MOTORISTS ARE COMPLYING WITH THE LIMIT.

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TYPHOON SHELTERS FOR FISHING CRAFT
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GOVERNMENT PLANS TO STUDY THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR TYPHOON SHELTERS AND SHELTERED ANCHORAGES FOR FISHING CRAFT AND OTHER VESSELS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AFTER THE STUDY WAS COMPLETED, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DECIDE WHAT PRACTICAL STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE SHORTFALL IN TYPHOON SHELTERS AND SHELTERED ANCHORAGES, MR JACOBS SAID.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, MR JACOBS SAID HONG KONG HAD 8 038 LICENCED MOTORISED FISHING VESSELS. TYPHOON SHELTERS AND SHELTERED ANCHORAGES WERE PROVIDED FOR ALL TYPES OF CRAFT.

/+OVERALL WE

+OVERALL WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY 454 HECTARES OF GAZETTED TYPHOON SHELTER SPACE AND SHELTERED ANCHORAGES TO CATER FOR 25 195 LOCAL CRAFT OF ALL CLASSES,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

+ON THE BASIS OF THE FORMULA ADOPTED FOR CALCULATING THE AREA REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE ALL LOCAL CRAFT, THERE IS A SHORTFALL OF ABOUT 106 HECTARES.+

MR JACOBS SAID TWO FACTORS HAD TO BE CONSIDERED:

FIRST, ALL THE CRAFT THAT MIGHT USE THE TYPHOON SHELTERS AND SHELTERED ANCHORAGES WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE IN HONG KONG WHEN A STORM THREATENED, AND

SECOND, AT LEAST SOME OF THE FAIRWAY SPACE IN THE SHELTERS AND SHELTERED ANCHORAGES WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OCCUPIED BY CRAFT SEEKING SHELTER - ALTHOUGH IT WAS DESIRABLE THAT THE FAIRWAY SPACE BE KEPT OPEN.

+SO, WHILE THERE IS A SHORTFALL, IN PRACTICE THIS SHORTFALL IS NOT AS LARGE AS IT MAY APPEAR,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

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HOW GRANTS ARE GIVEN

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THE PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH APPLICATIONS FOR CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND WERE DESCRIBED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, SAID APPLICATIONS FOR CAPITAL GRANTS FROM THE FUND ARE DEALT WITH BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

SPEAKING IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SELINA CHOW, MR CHING EXPLAINED THAT AN INFORMAL APPROACH IS FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCY CONCERNED TO SEE WHETHER THE PROJECT WILL ATTRACT THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT.

WHEN BROAD AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED, THE AGENCY IS INVITED TO MAKE A FORMAL APPLICATION.

THIS IS EXAMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS WITH FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE APPLICANT, IF NECESSARY.

WHEN THIS STAGE HAS BEEN SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED APPROVAL FOR THE GRANT IS SOUGHT.

/THE SUPPORT

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THE SUPPORT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED BEFORE APPROVAL CAN BE GIVEN TO ANY GRANT OVER \$100 000.

FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVAL IS ALSO REQUIRED WHERE THE ESTIMATED RECURRENT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS EXCEED \$500 000 A YEAR.

SUBJECT TO THESE TWO REQUIREMENTS, THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE A GRANT RESTS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, UNLESS IT IS OVER \$1.5 MILLION WHEN THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IS NECESSARY, SAID MR CHING.

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HIRE CAR PERMIT RULES TIGHTENED * * *

A PROVISION TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE HIRE CAR PERMIT SYSTEM WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SOUGHT MEMBERS' ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROVISION IN SECTION 21(3) OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICES VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 1983.

+THIS SECTION PROVIDES THAT, IN ANY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST A HIRE CAR PERMIT HOLDER FOR AN OFFENCE, THE ONUS IS PLACED UPON THE PERMIT HOLDER TO SATISFY THE COURT OR MAGISTRATE THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE, AND HAD NO REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING, THAT THE HIRE CAR WAS BEING DRIVEN OR USED IN CONTRAVENTION OF PERMIT CONDITIONS.

+THIS PROVISION IS ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE HIRE CAR PERMIT SYSTEM.

+WITHOUT THIS PROVISION, ENFORCEMENT ACTION WOULD IN PRACTICE BE LARGELY LIMITED TO THE DRIVERS OF HIRE CARS AND NOT THE ACTUAL PERMIT HOLDERS,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROVISION WAS NOT NEW, HAVING BEEN MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

HOWEVER, THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS REQUIRED.

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MAI PO MARSH PROJECT DEVELOPING

GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IS BEING GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAI PO MARSH CENTRE, SAID THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG WHO WISHED TO KNOW THE EXTENT OF GOVERNMENT CAPITAL AND RECURRENT EXPENDITURE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRE, THE DATE OF OPENING TO THE PUBLIC AND THE CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION.

+SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE CAPITAL AND RECURRENT EXPENDITURE OF THE MAI PO MARSHES EDUCATION CENTRE.

+THOUGH GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN ITS GENERAL SUPPORT TO THE PROJECT WHICH IS BEING DEVELOPED BY THE WORLD WILD LIFE FUND, HONG KONG,+ SAID MR AKERS-JONES.

HE SAID THE ACQUISITION OF TIDAL PONDS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF PATHS, HIDES AND A SMALL, TEMPORARY, EDUCATION CENTRE HAVE BEEN FINANCED BY DONATIONS FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND PRIVATE DONATIONS.

THE AREA IS A SCHEDULED AREA UNDER THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE AND IS THEREFORE PATROLLED BY RANGERS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PERMITS MAY BE GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR VISITS. STEPS ARE ALSO BEING TAKEN BY THE WORLD WILD LIFE FUND TO BUILD UP A SMALL STAFF OF EXPERTS SO AS TO DEVELOP THE CENTRE AND EXPAND ITS ROLE, HE SAID.

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MOTORCYCLES TO THE RESCUE

MOTORCYCLES HAVE TAKEN AMBULANCEMEN AND EQUIPMENT TO NEARLY 2 000 EMERGENCIES SINCE A PILOT SCHEME WAS SET UP IN DECEMBER 1982, SAID THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON G.L. MORTIMER, TODAY.

HE WAS ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME TO USE MOTORCYCLES TO TRANSPORT AMBULANCEMEN AND EQUIPMENT TO ACCIDENTS. SHE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO MAINTAIN AND POSSIBLY EXPAND THE SYSTEM.

/IN REPLY,

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IN REPLY, MR MORTIMER, SAID THE MOTORCYCLES ALLOWED FOR STABILISING TREATMENT TO BE PROVIDED TO CASUALTIES OR PATIENTS WHERE THE ARRIVAL OF A STANDARD AMBULANCE WAS DELAYED. SINCE DECEMBER 1982, TWO MOTORCYCLES HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED AND THEY HAVE BEEN USED IN NEARLY 2 000 EMERGENCIES.

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS ENDORSED THE CONCEPT AND THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES IS NOW SEEKING FUNDS TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND THE SERVICE ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

+THE IDEA IS THAT INITIALLY SIX AMBULANCE AID MOTORCYCLES WOULD BE DEPLOYED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY,+ HE SAID.

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FERRY BY-LAWS APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED THE STAR FERRY CO LTD BY-LAWS 1984.

THESE BY-LAWS RELATE TO THE CONDUCT OF THE PUBLIC AND PASSENGERS, REGULATIONS ON LUGGAGE, MONTHLY TICKETS, LOST PROPERTY AND PENALTIES FOR THEIR CONTRAVENTION.

SUCH BY-LAWS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL.

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TUNG WAH LOAN REQUEST CONSIDERED
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING A REQUEST FROM THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS FOR AN INTEREST-FREE OR LOW-INTEREST LOAN TO ASSIST THE GROUP TO RE-ORGANISE ITS STAFF RETIREMENT SCHEMES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN.

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THREE BILLS PASSED
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THREE BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY ARE: THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1984.

FOURTEEN BILLS WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE: THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1984, THE RATING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, THE AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1984, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, THE RESERVED COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE FOREIGN MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE LEGITIMACY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND THE TATTOOING OF YOUNG PERSONS BILL 1984.

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MINISTER ARRIVING TOMORROW EVENING

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THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR RICHARD LUCE, WILL VISIT HONG KONG FROM JULY 12 TO 14 AS PART OF THE NORMAL SERIES OF VISITS TO THE TERRITORY BY MINISTERS.

THIS WILL BE MR LUCE'S THIRD VISIT SINCE TAKING UP HIS APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HONG KONG. HE VISITED THE TERRITORY IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR AND SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

MR LUCE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING.

ON FRIDAY (JULY 13) MORNING, HE WILL ATTEND A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

IN THE AFTERNOON, HE WILL MEET MEMBERS OF UMELCO AND ATTEND A RECEPTION IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES. HE WILL HAVE DINNER WITH UMELCO MEMBERS IN THE SAME EVENING.

MR LUCE WILL SPEND SATURDAY HOLDING MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS IN FANLING LODGE. HE WILL RETURN TO THE UK ON SATURDAY EVENING.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW BEING FINALISED FOR MR LUCE TO MEET MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

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GOVERNOR RETURNS TOMORROW

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL RETURN FROM PEKING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTER ATTENDING ANOTHER ROUND OF SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE TRAVELLING ON FLIGHT BA 20, ETA 7.45 PM.

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DEPUTY TO GOVERNOR MEETS OLYMPIC TEAM

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MR DENIS BRAY, THIS EVENING (WEDNESDAY) ATTENDED A RECEPTION FOR THE HONG KONG OLYMPIC TEAM WHICH WILL BE LEAVING FOR LOS ANGELES LATER THIS MONTH.

THE RECEPTION AT THE CLUB LUSITANO WAS HOSTED BY THE AMATEUR SPORTS FEDERATION AND OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

MR BRAY WAS MET BY THE PRESIDENT, MR A. DE O. SALES AND MR RAMON YOUNG, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ASF AND OC (HONG KONG).

ALSO ATTENDING WERE MR IAN MACPHERSON, ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS; MR CLIVE OXLEY, COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, AND MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

MR SALES CONGRATULATED THE TEAM ON ITS SELECTION AND ZEAL IN TRAINING. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE HONG KONG TEAM EVER SENT TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES AND IT REFLECTED THE GROWING INTEREST IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION IN THE TERRITORY.

+THIS IS DUE TO THE WIDESPREAD SPORTS FACILITIES NOW AVAILABLE, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES OF SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS, AND THE NUMEROUS REGIONAL COMPETITIONS HERE AND ABROAD IN WHICH HONG KONG TEAMS NOW TAKE PART,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS THE RESULT OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FEDERATION - FOR SPORT AS A WHOLE - THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

+THIS IS A SURE AND HAPPY FORMULA FOR SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

HONG KONG IS FIELDING 65 SPORTSMEN, SPORTSWOMEN AND OFFICIALS IN THE OLYMPICS WHICH WILL OPEN IN LOS ANGELES ON JULY 28.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE THE PRESIDENT AND THE HONORARY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ASF AND OC AND THREE OTHER SPORTS OFFICIALS CHOSEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS TO OFFICIATE THERE.

THE AQUATIC SQUAD HAS ALREADY LEFT FOR THE U.S. AND THE CYCLING TEAM, NOW COMPETING IN EUROPE, WILL FLY TO THE WEST COAST LATER.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1984

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DEPUTY NEW YORK MAYOR ARRIVING
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THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF NEW YORK, MR KEN LIPPER WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FROM SHANGHAI FOR A SHORT VISIT AND LEAVE ON SUNDAY (JULY 15).

DURING HIS VISIT, MR LIPPER WILL ATTEND A RECEPTION TO BE HOSTED BY SIR S.Y. CHUNG, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE HK-US ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE, AND ATTEND BRIEFINGS BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

MR LIPPER WILL ALSO HAVE LUNCH WITH THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR DOUGLAS BLYE AND VISIT A TYPICAL OLD URBAN RESIDENTIAL AREA IN SHAM SHUI PO AS WELL AS A GOVERNMENT HOUSING ESTATE AND SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

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86 980 GET FREE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES
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ALL 86 980 PUPILS TAKING PART IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SYSTEM HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FORM 1 OR MIDDLE 1 PLACES IN GOVERNMENT, AIDED OR PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+ALL PLACES ALLOCATED ARE THREE-YEAR PLACES FOR WHICH NO TUITION FEES WILL BE CHARGED,+ HE ADDED.

RESULTS OF ALLOCATION WILL BE RELEASED TO ALL PARTICIPATING PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON FRIDAY (JULY 13).

WHEN INQUIRING ABOUT THEIR RESULTS OF ALLOCATION, PUPILS SHOULD FOLLOW THE ARRANGEMENTS SET DOWN BY THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOLS. THEY SHOULD ALSO TAKE ALONG WITH THEM THEIR PRIMARY 6 IDENTIFICATION FORMS SO THAT THEIR ALLOCATION SLIPS MAY BE ATTACHED TO THE FORMS.

+ALL PUPILS SHOULD REPORT DURING THE FIRST REGISTRATION PERIOD TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DATES AND TIMES SPECIFIED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN SUPPLIED TO ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS,+ HE ADDED.

WHEN REPORTING TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR INTERVIEW AND REGISTRATION, PUPILS MUST BRING THE FOLLOWING :

- (A) PRIMARY 6 IDENTIFICATION FORMS, TO WHICH THEIR INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATION SLIPS HAVE BEEN STAPLED OR GLUED,

/(B) THE ADMISSION

- (B) THE ADMISSION SLIPS,
- (C) BIRTH CERTIFICATES OR OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THEIR DATE OF BIRTH AND THEIR STATUS AS PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG,
- (D) LATEST SCHOOL REPORTS, IF ANY, AND
- (E) TWO RECENT PASSPORT-SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS.

PUPILS WHO FAIL TO REPORT TO THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOLS ALLOCATED DURING THE FIRST REGISTRATION PERIOD ON JULY 17 AND 18, 1984 WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO TAKE UP THE PLACES ALLOCATED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PUPILS OR THEIR PARENTS WHO HAVE GENUINE DIFFICULTY IN REPORTING TO THEIR ALLOCATED SECONDARY SCHOOLS DURING THE FIRST REGISTRATION PERIOD SHOULD CONTACT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SECTION BEFORE JULY 17 SO THAT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE.

+THE SECOND REGISTRATION DAY (JULY 25) IS MAINLY FOR PUPILS WHO HAVE TO SEEK TRANSFER DUE TO HOME-MOVING OR REASONS OF ACCESSIBILITY,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

+THEY OR THEIR PARENTS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL SECRETARY OR HIS ASSISTANT, OR THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER OF THE NET/AREA TO WHICH THEY WISH TO TRANSFER.

+THE SECRETARY OR HIS ASSISTANT, UPON BEING SATISFIED WITH THE GENUINE NATURE OF THE CASE, MAY THEN GRANT APPROVAL FOR TRANSFER AND ASSIST THEM IN SECURING PLACES IN THE NETS CONCERNED,+ HE ADDED.

ALTERNATIVELY, THE PUPILS OR THEIR PARENTS MAY CONTACT A SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE IN THE NET TO WHICH THEY WISH TO TRANSFER, AND THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL SHOULD THEN SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL SECRETARY OF HIS NET ON BEHALF OF THE PUPILS BEFORE ADMITTING THE PUPILS.

+IN THE CASES OF A TYPHOON AFFECTING HONG KONG DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIODS, HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE MEDIA FOR ANY NECESSARY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION RESULTS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-8912200.

THE NAMES, OFFICE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL SECRETARIES ARE AS FOLLOWS :

/(A) DISTRICT COUNCIL

(A) DISTRICT COUNCIL SECRETARIES

SCH	NET/AREA	SECRETARY	ADDRESS	TEL NO.	EXT	
HK	1	CWS	MR W.T. WONG	3/F LEE GARDENS,	5-8392356	
	2	WC	MR K.K. TSANG	HYSAN AVENUE, HK	5-8392342	
	3	E	MRS JOYCE LUI		5-8392334	
	4	CWS	MS K.F. LAM		5-8392353	
K	1	YMT	MS Y.C. LAM	KOWLOON GOVT.	3-884111	264
	2	MK	MR T.T. LIU	OFFICES, 405 NATHAN RD, 6/F AND 7/F, KLN	3-884111	263
	3	KC	MRS C.M. KWAN	TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVT. OFFICES, 8/F, 165 MA TAU WAI RD, KLN	3-7140444	
	4	SSP	MR S.K. HO	KOWLOON GOVT.	3-884111	262
5	SSP	MRS K.L. LI	OFFICES, 405 NATHAN RD, 6/F AND 7/F, KLN	3-884111	236	
6	KC	MR P.K. CHIU	TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVT. OFFICES, 8/F, 165 MA TAU WAI RD, KLN	3-7140835		
7	WTS	MR P.W. TAM	KOWLOON GOVT.	3-884111	252	
8	WTS	MS L.F. CHOI ANITA	OFFICES, 405 NATHAN RD, 6/F AND 7/F, KLN	3-884111	256	
9	KT	MRS Y.S. CHOW		3-884111	298	
10	KT	MRS C.Y. YIH		3-884111	297	
11	KT	MS Y.Y. YEUNG ANN		3-884111	253	
NT	1	TW	MRS L.K. CHEUNG	KWAI HING GOVT.	0-215625	
	2	TW	MS F.P. LAM	OFFICES, 7/F, 166-174 HING FONG RD, KWAI CHUNG, NT	0-215617	
	3	TW	MR C.C. TAI		0-213279	
4	TM	MR C.K. TAM	FAR EAST BANK BLDG, 1/F, 135-143	0-4989758		
5	YL	MS W.Y. YEUNG	CASTLE PEAK RD, TSUEN WAN, NT	0-4989294		
6	TP	MR S.L. LEE	ROOM 400-401, 4/F, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN, NT	0-6981817		

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7	ST	MR T.K. AU	3/F, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN, NT	0-6981076
8	SK	MR H.F. LEE	SAN PO KONG GOVT. OFFICES, 6/F, (SOUTH WING) 692 PRINCE EDWARD RD, KLN	3-226320
9	I	MR S.N. LAU	RM 707-709, YU YUET LAI BLDG, 43-55 WYNDHAM ST, HK	5-231719
10	N	MR W.M. CHOI	RM 400-401, 4/F, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN, NT	0-6981774

(B) SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SECTION

LUI KEE EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE
269 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, 5/F, WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG

TEL NO. : 5-8912200

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EPCOM GEARED TO TACKLING POLLUTION PROBLEMS

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MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY RECONSTITUTED ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD AN INAUGURAL SESSION TODAY AT WHICH THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE FOUR MAJOR AREAS OF POLLUTION CONTROL -- WATER QUALITY, WASTE MANAGEMENT, AIR QUALITY AND NOISE POLLUTION.

IN HIS INTRODUCTORY SPEECH, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR HENRY CHING POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NORMALLY TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND SEEK EPCOM'S ADVICE, EPCOM MIGHT AND INDEED WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AS WELL.

+THIS IT CAN DO IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. IT CAN ASK FOR PAPERS TO BE PREPARED ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, IT CAN ASK FOR INFORMATION AND FOR PROGRESS REPORTS, IT CAN BRING MATTERS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION AND IT CAN EXPRESS UNSOLICITED VIEWS, PARTICULARLY WHERE IT PERHAPS IS UNHAPPY WITH WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING OR IS NOT DOING,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE SESSION, MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF EPCOM AS THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITATIVE ADVICE ON POLLUTION MATTERS.

THE COMMITTEE WAS RETITLED, STRENGTHENED AND GIVEN WIDER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ITS NEW TERM OF OFFICE BEGINNING ON JULY 1 TO FUNCTION AS A WELL-BALANCED BODY IN WHICH ALL THE IMPLICATIONS AND ASPECTS OF POLLUTION CONTROL POLICY MAY BE WEIGHED AND CONSIDERED.

PRESENT AT THE BRIEFING WERE THE CHAIRMAN, MR GERALD FORSGATE, WHO MADE THE CLOSING REMARKS, AND MEMBERS DR HENRIETTA IP, PROFESSOR BRIAN MORTON, MR S.L. WAN, DR ALBERT CHEUNG, MR HOWARD YOUNG, MR AUGUSTINE NG, DR D.J. JOHNS, MR S.H. SUNG, DR PHILIP LAI AND MR STAN H.Y. FUNG.

THE BRIEFING SESSION WAS CONDUCTED BY MR CHING; THE COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED; THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR CRISPIN HAIN-COLE; AND THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE/POLLUTION, MR IAN HOWARD, WHO IS THE SECRETARY OF EPCOM.

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RETURNED HOS FLATS ON SALE TOMORROW
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THE SIXTH BATCH OF RETURNED HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS WILL BE PUT ON SALE FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) UNDER THE NEW MONTHLY INCOME LIMIT OF \$7 500 AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE IN HO MAN TIN.

+LOCATED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW TOWNS, THE FLATS ON 10 ESTATES ARE OFFERED TO APPLICANTS FROM BOTH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND TENANTS OF HOUSING AUTHORITY AND HOUSING SOCIETY ESTATES ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS, + A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SAID TODAY.

HE ADDED THAT THE GROSS AREAS OF THE FLATS RANGED BETWEEN 42.7 AND 65.1 SQUARE METRES WITH PRICES VARIED FROM \$151 400 TO \$358 700. SOME OF THEM WERE LAND-VALUE-FREE.

+TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY, APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS, COPIES OF FAMILY MEMBERS' IDENTITY CARDS, HOUSEHOLD INCOME PROOF AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.

+APPLICANTS FROM PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE THEIR TENANCY CARDS AS WELL, + THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FULL DETAILS OF THE FLATS ON SALE, TOGETHER WITH APPLICATION FORMS AND COPIES OF AN HOS GUIDE, ARE NOW OBTAINABLE DURING OFFICE HOURS AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN PERSON FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO THE CENTRE WHEN ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS WOULD BE INVITED TO SELECT THEIR FLATS AND COMPLETE THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES.

THOSE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT SOME NEW FLATS AT SIU SHAN COURT AND SIU HONG COURT ARE ALSO CURRENTLY ON SALE AT THE CENTRE WHERE DETAILS OF THE FLATS ARE AVAILABLE.

+THEY ARE PRICED FROM \$129 700 TO \$190 000 WITH GROSS AREAS RANGING BETWEEN 43.3 AND 62.2 SQUARE METRES.+

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HOUSING MANAGEMENT MEANS MORE THAN RENT COLLECTION
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A SENIOR HOUSING DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID TODAY PUBLIC HOUSING MANAGEMENT MEANT A LOT MORE THAN RENT COLLECTION OR CLEANSING, AND ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO FOSTER HAPPIER HOMES FOR TENANTS.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SHA TIN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ESTATE MANAGEMENT), MR FUNG TUNG, SAID ESTATE MANAGEMENT HAD WIDE-RANGING RESPONSIBILITIES.

+FOR NEW ESTATE PROJECTS, THEY COLLABORATE CLOSELY WITH DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STAFF BY PROVIDING FEEDBACK, WITH A VIEW TO FINE-TUNING ESTATE PROVISIONS.

+ON EXISTING ESTATES, THEY KEEP IMPROVING FACILITIES AND AMENITIES WHERE NECESSARY TO ENABLE TENANTS ENJOY THE BEST POSSIBLE STANDARDS OF LIVING.

+WHEN ESTATES OPEN IN NEW TOWNS, THEY HELP INCOMING TENANTS BETTER UNDERSTAND AND QUICKLY ADJUST TO NEW ENVIRONMENTS AS WELL AS DEVELOP A GREATER SENSE OF BELONGING.+

MR FUNG EMPHASISED THAT ESTATE MANAGEMENT STAFF WERE THERE TO SERVE THE TENANTS, AND NOT TO SUPERVISE THEM.

+THEY FOSTER BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH TENANTS AND PROVIDE READY ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THEY MEDIATE IN FAMILY DISCORDS OR, IF NECESSARY, REFER THE CASES FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

+WHERE PARTICULAR FACILITIES ARE CONSIDERED NECESSARY, SAY A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, THEY TAKE IT UP AND LIAISE WITH THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.+

/MR FUNG

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MR FUNG SAID OTHER ASPECTS OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT INCLUDED CONSULTATION WITH MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT BOARDS ON PUBLIC HOUSING MATTERS.

+AT PRESENT, ESTATE STAFF ARE MANAGING MORE THAN 500 000 PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS, PLUS SOME 23 000 COMMERCIAL UNITS.

+WITH PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ENTERING ITS 30TH YEAR, OVER 45 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION ARE PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS.

+THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAVE BEEN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTRIES OVER THE WORLD HAVE BEEN COMING TO HONG KONG TO VISIT OUR ESTATES AND LOOK INTO OUR ESTATE MANAGEMENT.+

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TEACHER CERTIFICATES FOR 873
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A TOTAL OF 873 GRADUATES OF THE GRANTHAM, NORTHCOTE AND SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGES OF EDUCATION WILL RECEIVE THEIR TEACHER CERTIFICATES THIS YEAR AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MISS MARIA TAM, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, WILL ADDRESS THE GRADUATES AND DISTRIBUTE CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, WILL CHAIR THE CEREMONY.

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SHARE DISCLOSURES
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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TAKEOVERS AND MERGERS UNDER RULE 29 OF THE HONG KONG CODE ON TAKEOVERS AND MERGERS ADVISES THAT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT OFFER BY FIRST PACIFIC HOLDINGS LIMITED TO ACQUIRE THE ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL OF FIRST PACIFIC FINANCE LIMITED THAT THE FOLLOWING DISCLOSURES HAVE BEEN MADE TO HIM:

- * MR MANUEL V. PANGILINAN PURCHASED ON JULY 9, 1984 2 000 SHARES IN FIRST PACIFIC HOLDINGS LIMITED AT \$2.65 PER SHARE.
- * ASEAN ENTERPRISES LTD. PURCHASED ON JULY 9, 1984 5 000 SHARES IN FIRST PACIFIC HOLDINGS LIMITED AT \$2.65 PER SHARE.

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RESCUE STAR FOR 35
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THIRTY-FIVE PERSONS TODAY RECEIVED THE RESCUE STAR FOR HAVING HELPED IN SAVING LIVES AT SEA, IN SWIMMING POOLS AND AT BEACHES LAST YEAR.

MAKING THE PRESENTATION AT THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB IN REPULSE BAY TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THAT IN 1983 MORE THAN 8 500 MEMBERS OF THE CLUB CARRIED OUT LIFE GUARD DUTIES ON 1 611 SEPARATE OCCASIONS.

+DURING THESE DUTIES THEY RESCUED 683 PEOPLE IN DISTRESS, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE SAVED BY MEMBERS OF THE CLUB SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1956 TO OVER 17 212,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AND DEMONSTRATES BEYOND ALL DOUBT THE VALUE OF THE SERVICES THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB PROVIDES TO THE PUBLIC.+

HE SAID THAT SINCE 1962, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE CLUB HAD BEEN WORKING CLOSELY TO PROMOTE THE SAVING OF LIFE ON THE HIGH SEAS.

IT WAS GRATIFYING THAT FISHERMEN FIGURED PROMINENTLY AMONG THE 654 RESCUE STARS AWARDED BY THE CLUB, HE SAID.

RESCUE STAR RECIPIENTS WERE: SEVEN FISHERMEN, SEVEN POLICEMEN, 10 MEMBERS OF THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FIVE MEMBERS OF THE OCEAN PARK, FOUR HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB MEMBERS AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. TOGETHER THEY HAD SAVED 110 PEOPLE IN DANGER AND DISTRESS AT SEA OR WHILE SWIMMING IN POOLS OR PUBLIC BEACHES.

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NEW FISH MARKET
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A NEW TEMPORARY WHOLESALE FISH MARKET AT SHAU KEI WAN OPERATED BY THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION, WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

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