



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
MORE FUNDS FOR NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS	1
TAX EXEMPTION ON INTEREST RATE	2
SHORT-TERM TENANCY TENDER	2
SMALL PERCENTAGE OF PRIMARY ONE POPULATION HAVE HEARING PROBLEMS	3
INTEGRATION -- ULTIMATE GOAL OF REHABILITATION	4
SPECIAL BRIEFING FOR DEVELOPERS ON SHA TIN KCR DEPOT COMPLEX	6
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OPERATOR FINED FOR OVER CHARGING	7
FOUR OFFICIAL LEGCO MEMBERS TO SPEAK AT RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE TOMORROW	8
ONLY 38 HOURS OF SUNSHINE IN MARCH	8
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT NEEDS MORE STAFF	10
EASTER TRAVELLERS ADVISED TO CHECK IN EARLY AT AIRPORT	11
TEMPORARY MUI WO TRAFFIC AND BUS ARRANGEMENTS	11

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979

- 1 -

MORE FUNDS FOR NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE SEVEN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TO \$4.5 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE 20 PER CENT INCREASE ON LAST YEAR'S FIGURE OF \$3.7 MILLION REFLECTS THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE IN THE WORK OF THE BOARDS WHICH LAST YEAR ORGANISED LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES.

HE SAID THIS YEAR'S FUNDS HAD BEEN DIVIDED AMONG THE SEVEN DISTRICTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR PLANS FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

TSUEN WAN, WHICH HAS THE BIGGEST SHARE, RECEIVES \$1.75 MILLION, FOLLOWED BY YUEN LONG WITH \$750,000, TAI PO WITH \$550,000, TUEN MUN AND ISLANDS WITH \$400,000 EACH, SAI KUNG WITH \$350,000 AND SHA TIN WITH \$300,000.

+THE FUNDS PROVIDED TO THE BOARDS HAVE GIVEN A TREMENDOUS BOOST TO THE NUMBER AND SCOPE OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES, MOST OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ORGANISED THROUGH LOCAL BODIES WHICH HAS WIDENED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND HELPED TO LINK TO BOARDS WITH LOCAL GROUPS,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

+THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE ATTRACTED LARGE CROWDS AND INNOVATIONS SUCH AS THE TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL AND THE TUEN MUN AND SAI KUNG FESTIVALS HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE BOARDS HAD BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, THE GOVERNOR HAD RE-APPOINTED 90 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND SIX NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARDS FOR A FURTHER YEAR WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1979.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE BOARDS, HE SAID, HAD ENABLED THE PEOPLE OF EACH DISTRICT TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND BETTERMENT OF THEIR OWN DISTRICT.

+THEY ARE INFORMED OF DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMMES AND SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICE ARE IN TURN GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION BY DEPARTMENTS,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

+DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE BOARDS, IN THEIR ADVISORY ROLE, HAD SHOWN INTEREST IN AND GIVEN ADVICE ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT PROGRAMMES AND THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES IN DISTRICTS HAS BEEN THEIR MAIN CONCERN.

+THE BOARDS HAVE MADE A GOOD START AND IT IS HOPED THAT MEMBERS OF THE BOARDS WILL CONTINUE THEIR GOOD WORK THIS YEAR WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON DISTRICT MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENT SO AS TO DEVELOP THEMSELVES INTO A REAL FOCUS OF REPRESENTATION AND LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY,+ HE ADDED.

/THE DISTRICT

THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS WERE ESTABLISHED IN THE SEVEN DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IN NOVEMBER 1977 TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE WELL-BEING OF THE INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE PROVISION AND USE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICTS, AND TO UNDERTAKE THE PROMOTION OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROJECTS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS.

THE CHAIRMEN OF THE RURAL COMMITTEES FORM THE NUCLEUS OF THE BOARDS WHILE OTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ARE DRAWN FROM A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES COMMUNITY, INCLUDING DOCTORS, LAWYERS, HEADMASTERS, VOLUNTARY WORKERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF CULTURAL, SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL GROUPS AND LOCAL DIGNITARIES PROMINENT IN NEW TERRITORIES COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS INCLUDE EITHER THE TOWN MANAGERS OR DISTRICT OFFICERS AS CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARDS, THE PROJECT MANAGER, THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER, THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER AND THE DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER.

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TAX EXEMPTION ON INTEREST RATE

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INTEREST PAYABLE BY LICENSED BANKS, CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITIES AND BY THE GOVERNMENT AT RATES OF UP TO 6-1/4 PER CENT PER ANNUM WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM INTEREST TAX FROM TODAY (TUESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED.

HE SAID THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 1/2 PER CENT IN THE EXEMPTION LIMIT AND FOLLOWS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION LAST (APRIL 7) SATURDAY THAT THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS WOULD BE SIMILARLY RAISED TO 6-1/4 PER CENT ALSO WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY.

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SHORT-TERM TENANCY TENDER

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THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS BY WAY OF ANNUAL RENTAL FOR A SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF CROWN LAND AT NING FOO STREET, CHAI WAN.

THE SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 430 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR STORAGE PURPOSES, INCLUDING VEHICLES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE TENANCY WAS FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF ONE YEAR, AND THEREAFTER MONTHLY.

TENDER FORMS, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE IN MURRAY BUILDING, 19TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD OR IN KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR.

THE TENDER PLAN MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE TWO OFFICES.

CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 27, 1979.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979

- 3 -

SMALL PERCENTAGE OF PRIMARY ONE POPULATION
HAVE HEARING PROBLEMS
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SIX TO SEVEN PER CENT OF THE PRIMARY ONE SCHOOL POPULATION HAVE HEARING IMPAIRMENT OF VARYING DEGREES, ACCORDING TO MRS. EVA KWAN, SENIOR INSPECTOR (SPECIAL EDUCATION) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

MRS. KWAN SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON EAST WHERE SHE GAVE A TALK ON +HELPING THE HEARING IMPAIRED CHILD -- A UNITED EFFORT.+

SPEAKING OF THE DEPARTMENT'S AUDIOMETRIC SCREENING PROGRAMMES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH STARTED IN 1968 AND WHERE OVER 140,000 PRIMARY ONE PUPILS HAD BEEN SCREENED SINCE, MRS. KWAN SAID:

+BY 1981-82 WE AIM TO PROVIDE 100 PER CENT AUDIOMETRIC SCREENING FOR ALL PRIMARY ONE PUPILS, WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO NUMBER 90,000 EACH YEAR.

+FAILURES FROM THE SCREENING TESTS ARE GIVEN A DETAILED AUDIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AT THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. FOLLOW-UP TESTS ARE ALSO GIVEN, INCLUDING REFERRALS TO THE GOVERNMENT EAR, NOSE AND THROAT UNIT.

+FOR HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN FROM SIX MONTHS TO 20 YEARS, FREE REMEDIAL SERVICES ARE ALSO PROVIDED.

+THESE INCLUDE THE ISSUE OF AND GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF HEARING AIDS, SPEECH AND AUDITORY TRAINING, PARENT GUIDANCE AND EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT, AS WELL AS PERIPATETIC TEACHING SERVICE.

+HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN, MAINLY OF PRE-SCHOOL AGE, ALSO RECEIVE REGULAR TRAINING IN COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND SPEECH AND AUDITORY TRAINING SESSIONS, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN SMALL GROUPS, AT THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRES,+ MRS. KWAN SAID.

SOME HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN, AGED SIX TO 14, ARE PLACED IN SPECIAL CLASSES FOR PARTIALLY HEARING CHILDREN IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS. THERE ARE 24 OF THESE SPECIAL CLASSES IN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND FOUR IN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS. EACH CLASS ACCOMMODATES 10 PUPILS AND IS TAUGHT BY SPECIALLY TRAINED TEACHERS.

+THE CURRICULUM OF THE ORDINARY PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IS CLOSELY FOLLOWED SO AS TO ENCOURAGE THESE CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE EDUCATIONALLY AND SOCIALLY IN A HEARING ENVIRONMENT.

+THE SUCCESS OF THESE CLASSES AND THE INTEGRATION OF HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN, HOWEVER, DEPENDS MUCH ON THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THESE CHILDREN BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC, HENCE THE CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION OF EFFORT AND SERVICES BETWEEN THE HEARING AND THE HEARING IMPAIRED IN AND OUT OF SCHOOLS,+ SHE SAID.

/THE MORE

THE MORE SEVERELY IMPAIRED ARE PLACED IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF OF WHICH THERE ARE FOUR IN HONG KONG, ACCOMMODATING 750 CHILDREN RANGING FROM FOUR TO 20 YEARS OF AGE WITH CLASSES FOR PREPARATORY, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY.

THEY ARE THE HONG KONG SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, VICTORIA PARK SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, MONGKOK LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND CANOSSA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

MRS. KWAN EMPHASISED THAT TO ADEQUATELY PREPARE A DEAF CHILD FOR FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY, EVERY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS SHOULD BE LOOKED INTO AND MADE USE OF IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A COMBINED METHOD OF COMMUNICATION.

+A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED TO LOOK INTO COMMUNICATION METHODS USED, HAVING REGARD TO THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF DEAF CHILDREN AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CANTONESE DIALECT, AND TO DEVELOP A COMBINED METHOD OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE DEAF IN HONG KONG.

+THIS IS A LONG-TERM PROJECT WHICH INVOLVES TIME, MANPOWER AND OTHER RESOURCES, AND ABOVE ALL, A UNITED EFFORT AMONG ALL WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE HEARING IMPAIRED,+ MRS. KWAN SAID.

IN CONCLUSION, SHE URGED: +LET US COMMEMORATE 'THE YEAR OF THE CHILD' BY RENDERING OUR PERSONAL EFFORTS AND UNITED EFFORT IN HELPING THE HEARING IMPAIRED CHILD.+

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INTEGRATION -- ULTIMATE GOAL OF REHABILITATION
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LADY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF REHABILITATION IS THE INTEGRATION OF THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG PHAB ASSOCIATION, SHE SAID THE WORD +DISABLED+ WAS OFTEN TAKEN TO MEAN +IMPOSSIBLE,+ BUT AT THE NEW CENTRE, WITH THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF THE ABLE-BODIED, IT WILL MEAN +POSSIBLE+.

LADY MACLEHOSE, WHO IS THE ASSOCIATION'S PATRON, NOTED THAT THE OBJECT OF THE CENTRE IS TO INTEGRATE THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY AND WAS DELIGHTED TO OPEN THE NEW PREMISES.

SHE PRAISED THE FACILITIES OF THE CENTRE, WHICH, SHE SAID, +ARE EQUAL TO ANY MAJOR PHAB PROJECT AND IN THE FAR EAST MUST BE CONSIDERED OUTSTANDING.+

+WHERE ELSE CAN THE DISABLED HAVE A RIDE FOLLOWED BY A SWIM OR OTHER SPORT IN ONE CENTRE,+ SHE ASKED.

/+ALL THESE

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979

- 5 -

+ALL THESE FACILITIES,+ LADY MACLEHOSE CONTINUED, +HAVE BEEN PLANNED WITH THE AIM OF ORGANISING ACTIVITIES FOR THE ABLE-BODIED AS WELL AS THE DISABLED.

+THROUGH JOINT PARTICIPATION -- THE DISABLED WILL THINK LESS ABOUT THEIR PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS, GAIN CONFIDENCE AND ENJOY A MUCH FULLER LIFE- THE ABLE-BODIED WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNISE THAT CERTAIN ABILITIES IN A DISABLED PERSON OFTEN OUTWEIGH THE DISABILITY.+

SHE ALSO COMMENDED THE DESIGNERS, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS FOR PRODUCING +A VERY ATTRACTIVE AND REMARKABLE CENTRE+.

LADY MACLEHOSE THANKED MR. LI KWAN-HUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION, AND THE PHAB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND ENDORSED MR. LI'S THANKS TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRE AND TOWARDS THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES DURING ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION.

AFTER UNVEILING THE COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE OF THE CENTRE, LADY MACLEHOSE, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. LI AND OTHER GUESTS, TOURED THE CENTRE AND WATCHED VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE DISABLED RIDING HORSES, PLAYING BASKETBALL, SWIMMING AND CANOEING WITH THE ABLE-BODIED, SINGING AND PLAYING ARCHERY.

THE LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE AT 75 POKFULAM RESERVOIR ROAD, WAS BUILT ON LAND GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB. IT IS SET IN RURAL SURROUNDINGS, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 100,000 SQUARE FEET AND IS CUSTOM-BUILT FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND THE ABLE-BODIED TO PURSUE JOINT ACTIVITIES.

IT IS COMPLETE WITH A SWIMMING POOL, DORMITORIES, RIDING FACILITIES, A CLUB HOUSE AND MANY OTHER FACILITIES.

FOLLOWING THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE CENTRE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO EASTER MONDAY (APRIL 16) FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. DAILY.

VISITORS TO THE CENTRE MAY TAKE BUSES NO. 4, 7, 70, 71, OR 40.

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/6

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979

- 6 -

SPECIAL BRIEFING FOR DEVELOPERS ON
SHA TIN KCR DEPOT COMPLEX

SEVERAL LARGE DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR A PRIVATE HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL COMPLEX OVER THE PROPOSED KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY DEPOT AT SHA TIN.

REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SEEKING FURTHER DETAILS OF THE SCHEME - AND HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND A SPECIAL BRIEFING FOR DEVELOPERS ON THURSDAY MORNING AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SHA TIN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

THE SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, MR. ROGER THOMPSON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE BRIEFING HAD BEEN ARRANGED TO ENABLE COMPANIES INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT TO GO OVER THE PLANS AND SALE CONDITIONS BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR TENDERS ON THE PROJECT ON MAY 4.

+BECAUSE IT WILL BE A RELATIVELY SHORT TENDER PERIOD, THIS BRIEFING WILL ENABLE DEVELOPERS TO DISCUSS THE OVERALL CONCEPT WITH THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED AND ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE BASIC DETAILS OF THE SALE CONDITIONS,+ MR. THOMPSON SAID.

THE PLANS CALL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION BY GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS OF A 2.7 HECTARE PODIUM FINANCED BY THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER WHO WILL THEN BUILD A HOUSING COMPLEX OF SEVEN TOWER BLOCKS OF FLATS AND ANOTHER 16-STOREY BUILDING FOR COMMERCIAL OR HOTEL PURPOSES.

MR. THOMPSON POINTED OUT THAT THE SALE CONDITIONS WOULD RUN TO MORE THAN 50 PAGES AND URGED DEVELOPERS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING COPIES TO WRITE TO THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, ENCLOSING A CROSSED CHEQUE FOR \$100 PAYABLE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

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/7

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979

- 7 -

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OPERATOR FINED FOR OVER CHARGING
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AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LICENSEE WAS TODAY (TUESDAY) FINED \$500 AT WESTERN MAGISTRACY FOR CHARGING A JOB-SEEKER IN EXCESS OF THE MAXIMUM FEE PRESCRIBED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THE LICENSEE WAS FOUND GUILTY OF CHARGING THE JOB-SEEKER \$5 REGISTRATION FEE FOR EMPLOYMENT REGISTRATION IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MRS. SOO MOK SAU-HA, TODAY REMINDED THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR JOB-SEEKERS, OF THE MAXIMUM FEE CHARGEABLE BY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

+FOR JOB-SEEKERS THE PRESCRIBED REGISTRATION FEE IS \$3, AND THE AMOUNT OF MAXIMUM COMMISSION IS TEN PER CENT OF THE FIRST MONTH'S SALARY RECEIVED AFTER PLACEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT.

+REGISTRATION FEE CHARGEABLE IS \$10 FOR EACH CLASS OF VACANCY REGISTERED, AND \$5 FOR RE-REGISTRATION.

+THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO CEILING ON THE AMOUNT OF COMMISSION WHICH COULD BE MUTUALLY AGREED ON BETWEEN THE AGENCY AND THE EMPLOYER,+ MRS. SOO SAID.

MRS. SOO STRESSED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT ANY MALPRACTICE OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

SHE APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO FEEL SO AGGRIEVED TO REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

+ALL COMPLAINTS WILL BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND ANY LICENSEE FOUND TO HAVE OVERCHARGED EITHER JOB-SEEKERS OR EMPLOYERS WILL BE PROSECUTED WITHOUT WARNING,+ MRS. SOO ADDED.

REPORT ON MALPRACTICES OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES SHOULD BE MADE IN PERSON OR IN WRITING TO THE DEPARTMENT AT NEW RODNEY BLOCK, 99 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

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/8

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979

- 8 -

FOUR OFFICIAL LEGCO MEMBERS TO SPEAK AT
RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE TOMORROW

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NINE OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY THEIR UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES AT THE RESUMED DEBATE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND ON THURSDAY.

TOMORROW'S SPEAKERS ARE THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO- SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MACDONALD AND DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KEN TOPLEY.

AT THE SAME TIME, NINE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED --- EXCHANGE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1979, BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, AUXILIARY FORCES PAY AND ALLOWANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 AND EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1979.

FOUR BILLS --- INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1979, LEGAL OFFICERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 --- WILL GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING.

THE TWO-DAY DEBATE WILL CONTINUE ON THURSDAY WHEN FIVE MORE OFFICIALS WILL SPEAK --- THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER- FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE- SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES- SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICES, THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS AND SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON.

RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG WILL BROADCAST THE DEBATE LIVE ON RADIO 4 TOMORROW AND ON THURSDAY.

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ONLY 38 HOURS OF SUNSHINE IN MARCH

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MARCH 1979 WAS GENERALLY CLOUDY, WET AND HUMID WITH ONLY SIX DAYS WITHOUT RAIN AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

THE MONTH'S TOTAL RAINFALL WAS 71.9 MM OR 22.6 MM ABOVE NORMAL.

SOME SUNSHINE WAS RECORDED ON 14 DAYS BUT THE TOTAL SUNSHINE DURATION OF 38 HOURS WAS THE EIGHTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR MARCH.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SEVERAL VERY WARM AFTERNOONS WITH TEMPERATURES EXCEEDING 25 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE MONTH'S MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 19.3 DEGREES WAS ONLY 0.9 DEGREE HIGHER THAN NORMAL.

THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH WERE CLOUDY AND COOL WITH RAIN AT TIMES. THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF THE MONTH, 12.6 DEGREES, WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 1.

ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING THERE WERE STRONG EASTERLY WINDS OFF SHORE AND THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED FROM 6.20 A.M. UNTIL 2.50 P.M. THE NEXT THREE DAYS WERE MAINLY FINE APART FROM A FEW PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN DURING THE EVENING OF MARCH 4.

CLOUDY CONDITIONS RETURNED ON MARCH 6 AND PERIODS OF RAIN WERE EXPERIENCED UNTIL MARCH 8. TEMPERATURES STARTED TO RISE GRADUALLY FROM MARCH 4 ONWARDS AS A SOUTHEASTERLY AIRSTREAM BROUGHT WARM AND MOIST AIR FROM THE PACIFIC.

MIST AND FOG DEVELOPED ON MARCH 7 AND PERSISTED UNTIL THE EVENING OF MARCH 13. DURING THIS PERIOD VISIBILITY WAS AT TIMES REDUCED TO 700 METRES AT WAGLAN ISLAND, 1,000 METRES AT CHEUNG CHAU AND 2,800 METRES AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RESPECTIVELY.

AIR TRAFFIC WAS AFFECTED AND 14 AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM THE AIRPORT ON MARCH 13.

A COLD FRONT SLOWLY APPROACHED HONG KONG FROM THE NORTH ON MARCH 12 AND THE WEATHER BECAME UNSETTLED WITH MORE RAIN. THERE WERE STRONG EASTERLY WINDS EARLY NEXT MORNING AND THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED FROM 8.30 A.M. TO 3.40 P.M.

NORTHERLY WINDS BEHIND THE COLD FRONT REACHED HONG KONG ON MARCH 14 AND CONDITIONS BECAME SLIGHTLY COOLER DURING THE FOLLOWING 14 DAYS. THE WEATHER DID NOT IMPROVE AFTER THE FRONTAL PASSAGE.

RAIN PERSISTED UNTIL MARCH 28 WITH SOME THUNDERSTORMS ON MARCH 22 AND 26. VISIBILITY WAS POOR MOST OF THE TIME.

WIDESPREAD FOG OCCURRED EARLY ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 29 WHEN VISIBILITY WAS REDUCED TO 100 METRES AT WAGLAN ISLAND, 200 METRES AT CHEUNG CHAU, 300 METRES AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND 800 METRES AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY RESPECTIVELY.

ANOTHER SHORT PERIOD OF STRONG EASTERLY WINDS WAS EXPERIENCED OVERNIGHT ON MARCH 21 AND THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED FROM 3 A.M. TO 9.45 A.M. ON MARCH 22.

THE WEATHER IMPROVED ON MARCH 29 AND THE LAST THREE DAYS OF THE MONTH WERE VERY WARM. ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 31 TEMPERATURES ROSE TO A MAXIMUM OF 27.8 DEGREES WHICH WAS THE HIGHEST RECORDED IN THE MONTH.

DURING THE MONTH 16 AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

TYPHOON BESS DEVELOPED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC ON MARCH 19 AND DISSIPATED ON MARCH 25. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MARCH 20, 22, 23, 24 AND 26.

THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS ISSUED ON MARCH 4 AND 11.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979

- 10 -

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT NEEDS MORE STAFF

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AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON. ANDREW SO KWOK-WING, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT ADDITIONAL STAFF WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT TO MEET THE HEAVY DEMANDS PLACED ON THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

ADDRESSING A PASSING-OUT PARADE OF 18 RECRUITS, MR. SO NOTED THAT AT NO TIME IN ITS 18-YEAR HISTORY DID THE DEPARTMENT HAVE TO COPE WITH SUCH DIFFICULT PROBLEMS AS THOSE NOW CONFRONTING IT.

APART FROM DEALING WITH INCREASING NUMBERS OF TRAVELLERS BOTH TO AND FROM HONG KONG, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO HAD TO DEAL WITH REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM AS WELL AS WITH LARGE INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING TO HONG KONG FROM CHINA.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEPARTMENT'S LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION HAD BECOME MORE IMPORTANT AND GREAT EFFORTS HAD TO BE MADE TO COMBAT FORGERY AND FRAUD IN THE IMMIGRATION FIELD.

+IT IS VERY GRATIFYING TO SEE HOW SUCCESSFULLY YOUR SERVICE HAS, SO FAR, COPEDED WITH ALL THESE PROBLEMS,+ SAID MR. SO.

+UNFORTUNATELY,+ HE ADDED, +THE OVERWHELMING DEMANDS MADE ON THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAVE MEANT THAT THE SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC HAS NOT BEEN AS PROMPT AND CONVENIENT AS THE DEPARTMENT WOULD WISH.

+IT IS INEVITABLE IN THE LONG RUN THAT ADDITIONAL STAFF HAVE TO BE SOUGHT AND IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE RECRUITMENT OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL BE ACCELERATED,+ MR. SO SAID.

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/11

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979

- 11 -

EASTER TRAVELLERS ADVISED TO CHECK IN EARLY AT AIRPORT

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PEOPLE GOING ABROAD FOR THEIR EASTER HOLIDAYS ARE ADVISED TO CHECK IN EARLY AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO AVOID DELAY AND INCONVENIENCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID ABOUT 20,000 TO 22,000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE OR ARRIVE IN HONG KONG DAILY DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD FROM GOOD FRIDAY TO EASTER MONDAY (APRIL 16).

+IT WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP TO THE AIRPORT AND AIRLINES' STAFF IF PASSENGERS WOULD CHECK IN EARLY AND PROCEED TO IMMIGRATION AND SECURITY CONTROLS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO AS TO AVOID CONGESTION,+ HE STRESSED.

HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME DELAYS WOULD BE UNAVOIDABLE BECAUSE EASTER IS ALWAYS A TIME WHEN THOUSANDS OF HOLIDAY-MAKERS SWELL THE NORMAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FREQUENT BROADCAST WOULD BE MADE AT THE AIRPORT TO REMIND PASSENGERS TO CHECK IN EARLY.

ADDITIONAL STAFF, HE ADDED, WILL ALSO BE POSTED TO HELP MAINTAIN ORDER AND IMPROVE PASSENGER MOVEMENT.

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TEMPORARY MUI WO TRAFFIC AND BUS ARRANGEMENTS

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC AND NEW BUS ROUTING ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN MUI WO, LANTAU ISLAND, FROM 8 A.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 12, TO FACILITATE ENGINEERING WORKS.

DUE TO ROCK REMOVAL ON THE STEEP SLOPES BELOW MUI WO POLICE STATION NEAR THE END OF SOUTH LANTAU ROAD, THE AREA BELOW THE SLOPES -- THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE ROUNDABOUT TO THE WEST OF THE TEMPORARY CAR PARK -- WILL BE CORDONED OFF.

A NEW ROUTING ARRANGEMENT FOR BUSES WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED IN WHICH FRANCHISED BUSES ENTERING THE TEMPORARY BUS TERMINUS WILL USE THE NEW ROAD TO THE NORTH OF THE TEMPORARY CAR PARK.

ALL OTHER MOTOR VEHICLES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THIS SECTION OF THE NEW ROAD.

AS THE NEW BUS TERMINUS WILL NOT BE OPEN UNTIL THE NEW FERRY PIER BEGINS OPERATION, HALF OF THE TERMINUS WILL BE USED BY THE BUS COMPANY AS A QUEUING AREA, AND THE OTHER HALF BY THE FERRY COMPANY FOR SPEEDY PASSENGER EXIT OR AS AN ASSEMBLY POINT FOR STUDENT GROUPS AND TOURISTS.

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