



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
NATIONALITY BILL PROVIDES CONFIDENCE TO STAY	1
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION BRIEFS MEDIA ON BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) BILL	1
CLEARANCE OF DWELLINGS ON MARICULTURE RAFT	14
BIGGEST FISH CAUGHT OFF NINE PINS	15
AIDS EXHIBITION IN TAI PO	15
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS	16
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS	17
UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN KOWLOON TONG TO BE CLOSED	17
TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSUEN WAN	18
REVISION OF PARKING METER CHARGES IN KWUN TONG AND SHAM SHUI PO	19
CANCELLATION OF ZONE BAN IN SHEUNG WAN.....	19
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN HAPPY VALLEY AND WESTERN	19
URBAN CLEARWAY IN WESTERN	20
URBAN CLEARWAY IN WAN CHAI	20
URBAN CLEARWAY IN KOWLOON BAY	21
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN KWUN TONG	21
FLUSHING WATER CUT IN TUEN MUN	21
<u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING :</u>	
FURTHER INCREASE IN MTR PATRONAGE EXPECTED	22
GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS PRINCIPLES PROPOSED FOR HOSPITAL AUTHORITY	23

/TUNNEL TOLL

TUNNEL TOLL INCREASE EXPLAINED	27
FURTHER STUDY ON DEATHS ON ARRIVAL AT EMERGENCY CENTRES	28
PEOPLE DETAINED OVERSEAS MAY SEEK HELP FROM BRITISH CONSULAR	29
JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL TO BE CLOSED AT END OF THIS MONTH	29
ACTION AGAINST SKATEBOARDING AT EDINBURGH PLACE	31
NO AIM TO HAVE COMPREHENSIVE CONTROL ON ADVERTISING SIGNS	31
POLICE ACTION AGAINST CAR THEFT	32
NEW SCHOOL FEE REMISSION SCHEME TO BE MONITORED CLOSELY	33
FULL RANGE OF FACILITIES PLANNED FOR TIN SHUI WAI	33
POLICY UNIT PRODUCED 36 INDEPTH REPORTS	34
TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS DECLINE	35
CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO ADVANCE CLEARANCE OF SQUATTERS	36
PUBLIC HOUSING DESIGNS FOR LAUNDRY DRYING BEING STUDIED	37
DEPENDANTS OF JLG AND LAND COMMISSION OFFICIALS TO BE GIVEN DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES	37
BILL TO AMEND LAW ON COMPETENCE AND COMPELLABILITY	38
HK COMMITTED TO PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES	40
MOVE TO WIDEN SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY	42
CALL FOR SINO-BRITISH COOPERATION TO PRESERVE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY .	43
CONFLICTS BETWEEN JOINT DECLARATION AND BASIC LAW NEED TO BE ADDRESSED .	44
CALL TO RECONSIDER OMELCO CONSENSUS	45
COUNCILLOR DESCRIBES MEMBER'S MOTION AS "ANAEMIC"	47
CHINA SHOULD KEEP JOINT DECLARATION PROMISE	47
THREE BILLS PASSED IN LEGCO	48

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 1 -

NATIONALITY BILL PROVIDES CONFIDENCE TO STAY

* * * * *

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS EVENING THAT THE NATIONALITY BILL, JUST TABLED IN PARLIAMENT, WOULD GO SOME WAY TO ALLEVIATING HONG KONG'S EMIGRATION PROBLEM BY GIVING KEY PEOPLE CONFIDENCE TO STAY ON IN HONG KONG.

"QUITE A FEW OF THE TALENTED PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROSPERITY AND SMOOTH RUNNING OF HONG KONG HAVE BEEN EMIGRATING. OTHERS WHO ARE ABLE MAY FOLLOW. THIS SCHEME WILL BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY BY ANCHORING THEM IN HONG KONG.

"WITHIN THE CONSTRAINT OF NUMBERS, THE POINTS SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE THE FAIREST AND MOST OBJECTIVE WAY OF DETERMINING WHO SHOULD RECEIVE A PASSPORT," THE SPOKESMAN COMMENTED.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN CAUTIONED THAT THE NATIONALITY BILL HAD NOT YET BEEN PASSED BY PARLIAMENT.

"WE WILL NOT BE CALLING FOR APPLICATIONS UNTIL THE BILL HAS BEEN PASSED. AT THAT TIME FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION BRIEFS MEDIA ON
BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) BILL

* * * * *

THE BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) BILL 1990 HAS JUST BEEN TABLED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN LONDON. TABLED WITH IT IS AN EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT BOTH, BEFORE DESCRIBING HOW THE SCHEME IS TO OPERATE. I WILL GO ON TO OUTLINE THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS THE BILL MUST GO THROUGH OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, AND WILL THEN TAKE QUESTIONS.

THE BILL IS, AS YOU WILL SEE, A RELATIVELY SHORT DOCUMENT. IT HAS BEEN DRAFTED TO DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH HONG KONG. IT IS ENABLING LEGISLATION WHICH SETS OUT THE BROAD POWERS OF THE HOME SECRETARY AND THE GOVERNOR IN GRANTING BRITISH CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE SCHEME. THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM DESCRIBES IN GREAT DETAIL HOW THE ALLOCATION OF PLACES TO 50,000 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS IS TO BE DETERMINED. BOTH DOCUMENTS, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AFTER THIS PRESS CONFERENCE.

WE HOPE THAT THE NEWSPAPERS WILL FEEL ABLE TO PRINT BOTH DOCUMENTS IN FULL, SO THAT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WILL BE ABLE TO EXAMINE THE DOCUMENTS FOR THEMSELVES. THERE ARE FLOPPY DISC COPIES AVAILABLE FOR YOU.

/I HAVE

I HAVE TO STRESS AT THIS POINT THAT WE WILL NOT BE CALLING FOR APPLICATIONS AT THIS STAGE. THE BILL MUST OBVIOUSLY BE PASSED BY PARLIAMENT FIRST. PEOPLE WILL NO DOUBT HAVE MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW THEY SHOULD EVENTUALLY APPLY. I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE THEM THAT ONCE THE BILL IS PASSED, AND BEFORE APPLICATIONS ARE CALLED, WE WILL MAKE AVAILABLE LEAFLETS IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH EXPLAINING ALL THE DETAILS.

NOW TO THE SCHEME ITSELF AND HOW IT WILL OPERATE.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAVE MADE NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE HAD MORE PASSPORTS. THE FEWER THERE ARE, THE HARDER IT IS TO DECIDE HOW TO ALLOCATE THEM. FACED WITH THIS WE HAVE TWO OBJECTIVES. FIRST, WE WANT TO SECURE THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FOR THE COMMUNITY IN TERMS OF STABILITY. THAT MEANS GIVING BRITISH CITIZENSHIP TO AS MANY KEY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO STAY IN HONG KONG INSTEAD OF EMIGRATING ELSEWHERE IN SEARCH OF SECURITY. SECONDLY, WE HAVE TO ALLOCATE THE PASSPORTS AS FAIRLY AND AS OBJECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE AMONGST A POTENTIALLY VERY LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS.

THE STARTING POINT IN DEVISING THE SCHEME WAS TO ASK A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT EMIGRATION:

- WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE ARE ALREADY LEAVING HONG KONG IN ORDER TO GET PASSPORTS?
- WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE ARE MOST DIFFICULT TO REPLACE IF THEY GO?
- WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE CAN HONG KONG LEAST AFFORD TO LOSE?

THE SCHEME UNVEILED TODAY REFLECTS THE ANSWERS WE HAVE ARRIVED AT.

IN A NUTSHELL, THE SCHEME AIMS TO ANCHOR PEOPLE IN KEY POSITIONS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS BY PROVIDING THEM, THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN UNDER 18 WITH PASSPORTS. THE BULK OF THE PASSPORTS WILL BE ALLOCATED THROUGH A POINTS SYSTEM BASED ON OBJECTIVE CRITERIA WEIGHED IN FAVOUR OF THOSE OCCUPATIONS WHERE EMIGRATION HAS BEEN HIGHEST IN RECENT YEARS.

THE SCHEME ITSELF FALLS INTO FOUR PARTS OR SECTIONS: A GENERAL ALLOCATION, DISCIPLINED SERVICES, SENSITIVE SERVICE AND KEY ENTREPRENEURS. PASSPORTS WILL BE ALLOCATED IN TWO PHASES, THE BULK IMMEDIATELY, WITH THE REMAINDER, ABOUT 13 PER CENT, RESERVED FOR LATER.

OVER 70 PER CENT OF THE PASSPORTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE GENERAL ALLOCATION SECTION UNDER A POINTS SYSTEM. IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO COVER A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS. OCCUPATIONS HAVE BEEN DIVIDED FIRST INTO SEVEN BROAD AREAS: BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT, ACCOUNTING, ENGINEERING, INFORMATION SERVICES, MEDICINE AND SCIENCE, LAW, AND EDUCATION.

EACH OF THESE BROAD AREAS HAS THEN BEEN FURTHER SUB-DIVIDED INTO 20 OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES, BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS, WHICH IS USED FOR CENSUS AND MIGRATION DATA COLLECTION PURPOSES IN HONG KONG. THE SHARE OF PASSPORTS MADE AVAILABLE UNDER EACH OF THESE CATEGORIES HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY REFERENCE TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN EACH WHO HAVE EMIGRATED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

THERE WILL BE A RESIDUAL CATEGORY FOR THOSE OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, WHO FALL OUTSIDE THE SEVEN BROAD AREAS I HAVE MENTIONED.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PASSPORTS ALLOCATED UNDER THIS GENERAL ALLOCATION, AND ALSO UNDER THE DISCIPLINED SERVICE SECTION, WILL BE CALCULATED ON A POINTS SYSTEM BASED ON SEVEN FACTORS: AGE, EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH, BRITISH LINKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THE GREATEST WEIGHT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE FIRST FOUR FACTORS.

AGE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION. PEOPLE AGED 30 - 40 HAVE PROVED THE MOST VULNERABLE TO EMIGRATION PRESSURES. AND IT IS THIS GROUP WHICH MUST SEE US THROUGH THE TRANSITION. THEY WILL THUS SCORE MAXIMUM [200 POINTS] POINTS. THOSE ABOVE OR BELOW WILL SCORE LESS.

NEXT COMES EXPERIENCE, AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING, WITH 150 POINTS IN EACH CASE. TEN POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR EACH YEAR OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 150. SEPARATELY, QUALIFICATIONS GAINED DURING GENERAL EDUCATION WILL COUNT FOR UP TO 50 POINTS. BASIC VOCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR UP TO 50 MORE, WITH A MAXIMUM OF 50 MORE FOR POST-QUALIFICATION TRAINING.

HOWEVER, FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS ARE MORE IMPORTANT FOR SOME JOBS THAN OTHERS. IN SOME OCCUPATIONS, THE QUALITY OF ACHIEVEMENT CANNOT BE MEASURED BY QUALIFICATIONS ALONE. AND IN SOME GROUPS THE EMIGRATION RATE MAY BE PARTICULARLY HIGH FOR ONE PARTICULAR OCCUPATION THAN OTHERS IN THE SAME GROUP. TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS SORT, UP TO A FURTHER 150 POINTS MAY BE ALLOTTED.

FINALLY, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 50 POINTS EACH MAY BE AWARDED FOR PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH, BRITISH LINKS AND PUBLIC OR COMMUNITY SERVICE. THE MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE IS THUS 800 POINTS.

THE 7,000 PLACES AVAILABLE UNDER THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES SECTION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH SERVICE IN PROPORTION TO ITS STAFF NUMBERS. ALLOCATION WITHIN EACH SERVICE WILL BE CONDUCTED THROUGH A POINTS SYSTEM SIMILAR TO THAT FOR THE GENERAL ALLOCATION SECTION, WHICH I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED.

ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH HAVE EXISTED FOR SOME TIME, FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED IN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE POSTS, WHETHER CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, WILL BE SUBSUMED IN THE SENSITIVE SERVICE SECTION.

A FURTHER 500 PLACES WILL BE RESERVED FOR KEY ENTREPRENEURS WHO HAVE INVESTED HEAVILY IN HONG KONG, WHO EMPLOY LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AND WHOSE DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE. THEY WILL BE INVITED TO APPLY, OR MAY BE IDENTIFIED FROM APPLICATIONS MADE UNDER THE GENERAL ALLOCATION SECTION.

THE SCHEME WILL BE ADMINISTERED IN HONG KONG BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. RECOMMENDATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS WILL BE PASSED TO THE GOVERNOR, BEFORE BEING SUBMITTED TO THE HOME SECRETARY IN LONDON. A STEERING GROUP, CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND WHOSE MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMMISSIONER OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, WILL ASSIST THE GOVERNOR IN IMPLEMENTING AND SUPERVISING THE OPERATION OF THE SCHEME.

THE SCHEME WILL BE OPEN TO APPLICATION BY ALL HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS, BRITISH NATIONALS (OVERSEAS), BRITISH OVERSEAS CITIZENS, BRITISH PROTECTED PERSONS, BRITISH SUBJECTS WITHOUT CONDITIONS ON THEIR STAY IN HONG KONG, AND OTHERS, INCLUDING HOLDERS OF HONG KONG CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY, WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENSHIP BEFORE THE BILL IS PASSED.

HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD WHO APPLY MUST NORMALLY BE RESIDENT IN HONG KONG. THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE MAY APPLY AT THE SAME TIME. OR IF THEY WISH, THEY MAY APPLY AT ANY TIME BEFORE 30 JUNE 1997.

A FINAL WORD ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE BILL WILL COME UP FOR ITS SECOND READING ON 19 APRIL AND WILL THEN GO TO DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE BEFORE BEING VOTED ON IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. IT MUST THEN BE DEBATED IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MINISTERS INTEND THAT THE BILL WILL RECEIVE THE ROYAL ASSENT BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS IN JULY.

/THE FOLLOWING

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN EXPLANATORY NOTE PUBLISHED TOGETHER WITH THE BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) BILL:

BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) BILL:
SELECTION FOR CITIZENSHIP: EXPLANATORY NOTE

Note:

This document describes the selection scheme which the Government has in mind for the grant of British citizenship under the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill. It is based on principles originally proposed by the Hong Kong Government.

Under the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill the Governor of Hong Kong would, after Royal Assent, submit proposals for a selection scheme to the Secretary of State who would have the power to amend the scheme as he thought necessary, before submitting it to Parliament for approval.

This document is therefore issued for guidance purposes only. It has no legal status.

BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) BILL
SELECTION FOR CITIZENSHIP

Explanatory Note

1. Under the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill the Secretary of State (in effect the Home Secretary) would be empowered to grant registration as a British citizen to up to 50,000 heads of households in Hong Kong. He would do so on the basis of recommendations made by the Governor of Hong Kong in accordance with the provisions laid down by the Bill. The Home Secretary would not register a person whom he had reason to believe was not of good character or who had ceased to be eligible.

2. Once the Bill, which is an enabling measure, had been passed by Parliament, the proposed selection mechanism ("the Scheme") for identifying the 50,000 recipients, would be set out in an Order in Council which would be presented to both Houses for approval. The purpose of this Note is to provide Parliament with an explanation of how it is envisaged that such a Scheme would operate.

THE SCHEME

3. The Scheme would comprise four sections:
- the GENERAL ALLOCATION SECTION (GAS);
 - the KEY ENTREPRENEURS SECTION (KES);
 - the DISCIPLINED SERVICE SECTION (DSS) and
 - the SENSITIVE SERVICE SECTION (SSS)

each of which is described below. In selecting people to be recommended for citizenship within these sections, the Governor would have the assistance of a STEERING GROUP (the advisory committee provided for in the Bill) which would be chaired by the Chief Secretary of the Hong Kong Government, would include independent representatives of the community and which would work closely with the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Commissioner of which would be a member of the Group.

Distribution of Places

4. It is currently envisaged that selection of citizenship recipients would operate in two tranches. The majority of places would be distributed in the first tranche, as quickly as administrative processes in Hong Kong permitted, so that early confidence could be given to key personnel who might otherwise leave. Except in the case of the Key Entrepreneurs Section a second tranche (about 13% of the overall total) would be reserved for allocation nearer to 1997, to cater for those who would by then have moved into key positions, and to give any who had failed to secure a place in the first round a second chance. The figures for the second tranche might be adjusted to take account of any shortfall in the first. People would be able to submit only one application in each tranche. It is expected that the majority of the places would be given to people in the private sector.

5. The distribution by Section could be expected to be as follows :

GENERAL ALLOCATION	36,200
KEY ENTREPRENEURS	500
DISCIPLINED SERVICE	7,000
SENSITIVE SERVICE	6,300
Total:	50,000

Eligibility

6. Those eligible to apply for citizenship under the scheme would be Hong Kong British Dependent Territories citizens (BDTCs), British Nationals (Overseas) (BN(O)s), British Overseas citizens, British protected persons, and British subjects (BOCs, BPPs and BSs) who were settled in Hong Kong (ie ordinarily resident without limitation on their stay); and others settled there (eg holders of Hong Kong certificates of identity) who had applied for BDTC status before the date on which the Bill was passed, (or for the second tranche, by a later date to be announced nearer the time). People who already held the nationality of another country would be eligible to apply but would have 200 points deducted from their score under the points system - see below. (This would not apply in the case of Chinese nationality.)

Assessing applications: The Points System

7. A common feature of selection for the GENERAL ALLOCATION and DISCIPLINED SERVICE sections would be the use of a points system to enable applicants to be objectively assessed.

8. The factors to be taken into account, and the maximum number of points available for each, would be as follows:

Criteria	Maximum Points
- Age	200
- Experience	150
- Education/Training	150
- Special circumstances	150
- Proficiency in English	50
- British links	50
- Community Service	50

TOTAL	800

9. The Age factor would give maximum points to those aged 30-40, the group which is most prone to emigrate. Points would decrease below the age of 30, and after the age of 40, and people aged 51 or more would incur negative points up to a maximum of 200 negative points for those aged 60 and above.

10. The Experience factor would allow 10 points to be given for each year of relevant working experience up to a maximum of 15 years. For businessmen only, the points would also take account of earnings as a measure of success and value to Hong Kong amongst this category.

11. Under Education/Training, up to 50 points would be available for qualifications gained during general education, a further 50 for basic vocational/professional qualifications, and 50 more for post-qualification training.

12. Special Circumstances points would only be allocated after taking into account the advice of the Steering Group. These points would be an important means of identifying and highlighting special qualities (either individually or for particular occupations as a group) amongst the many who might otherwise appear to have an equal claim. Thus, 50 points might be awarded in assessing applicants within a given occupation to take account of the particular circumstances of that occupation in respect of age, experience or education - for example, to increase the weighting given to professional qualifications in occupations where these were seen as particularly important. A further set of 50 points could be used to give a higher profile to particular occupations which were suffering from an exceptionally high emigration rate compared with other occupations within the same group (see paragraph 17 below). And up to 50 points could be used to recognise exceptional merit or outstanding achievement in individual applicants.

13. Applicants who had obtained a specified standard in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination in English would be granted 50 points under the Proficiency in English factor. Those who could not produce proof of having attained such a standard would be invited to take an objective test designed to assess their ability in English and appropriate points awarded.

14. Up to 50 points could be scored for British links on the basis of connections with the UK (residence, education, substantial investments, close relatives settled here, etc), for service with British firms, or for civilian or military service for Her Majesty's Government, the Hong Kong Government or other British organisations (eg British Trade Commission, British Council).

15. Points would also be available under the Public/Community Service category for membership (other than in an official capacity) of a permanent statutory or non-statutory board or committee, or an auxiliary service established by the Hong Kong Government.

The General Allocation Section

16. The points system would provide the selection mechanism for the GAS. Over 70% of the available places would be allocated under this Section, and it would cover people from a wide range of walks of life who had a key role in maintaining the prosperity and successful administration of Hong Kong. They would come from seven broad areas of work:

- Business and management
- Accounting
- Engineering
- Information services
- Medicine and science
- Law
- Education.

17. For the purposes of the detailed administration of the GAS, these seven areas would be sub-divided into 20 occupational groups. These are based on groupings specified by the International Standard Classification of Occupations and are used for certain other statistical purposes in Hong Kong, notably the collection and analysis of emigration and census data. Emigration data are important because of the need to give priority under the citizenship scheme to those occupational groups suffering the greatest proportional losses. The places available under the GAS would therefore be divided among the occupational groups according to a formula based on the number of people in each group and their emigration rate over the past three years.

18. Within the first tranche of the GAS, there would be a residual category of 500 places for people with technical skills and professional qualifications who were performing functions which were essential to the continued successful administration of Hong Kong up to 1997 but who did not fall within the occupational groups specified as being "key" for the purposes of the Scheme.

19. The annex to this note indicates, in broad terms, the likely distribution of places available in the first tranche.

Procedure

20. Applications would be submitted to the Hong Kong Government by a specified date. The Steering Group would recommend for each occupational group and any of its individual occupations the criteria for which special circumstances points would be awarded. The application forms would be examined by members of the Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID) and points awarded for each of the criteria listed in paragraphs 9-15 above. The information on all candidates in each occupational group would be entered into a specially designed computer system which would produce an initial profile showing the candidates in order of points scored. This would be examined by the Steering Group who would recommend any further adjustment which might be needed in the allocation of the special circumstances points to take account of the particular range of applicants and the need to resolve problems of 'bunching'. After the award of these points, a revised ranking of candidates would be produced. If necessary, the process would be repeated. Taking account of the number of places available within the group, HKID would then produce a list of those candidates who appeared to be qualified and those who seemed likely to be rejected. These two lists would be submitted to the Steering Group for examination.

21. Those candidates who appeared prima facie to be qualified would be interviewed by HKID in order to verify the information on their application forms. Checks would also be made to see whether there was any reason to believe that the candidates were not of good character.

22. Subject to satisfactory completion of these checks, details of the qualified candidates would be put forward by the Steering Group to the Governor who, if satisfied, would recommend them to the Secretary of State for registration as British citizens. Where any candidate failed to satisfy these checks, the next candidate in order of points ranking would be interviewed, and similar checks as to character carried out. If successful, he or she would be recommended for registration. Candidates with insufficient points, and those who failed to satisfy the character checks, would be rejected.

23. In the event that a number of candidates scored equal points and all could not be accommodated within the places available for each group, the Governor would have discretion to choose whom to recommend for citizenship.

24. All candidates would be notified of the results of their applications by HKID.

The Key Entrepreneurs Section

25. Hong Kong has a number of well known and respected entrepreneurs, with an established reputation for large-scale investment and employment in the Territory, whose departure would do much to undermine confidence there. The Key Entrepreneurs Section would offer up to 500 places for people in this category.

Procedure

26. The Governor would invite those whom he considered might be qualified under this scheme to submit an application, together with supporting documents, by a specified date. It would be open to others who wished to be considered in this category to indicate their interest on an application form submitted under the GAS. Other potential recipients who did not take that initiative might be identified from information set out on their forms when they applied under the Business and Management groups of the GAS.

27. The Steering Group would evaluate the applications on the basis of the information provided, and would submit a report on each to the Governor, who would decide whether to recommend the person concerned for citizenship. The normal character requirements would apply. HKID would notify the people concerned about the outcome.

Disciplined Service Section

28. This section would provide 7,000 places for the established members of the disciplined services of Hong Kong. These comprise the Correctional Services (Prisons) Department, Customs and Excise Department, Fire Services Department, Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force, Immigration Department, the operations department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, and uniformed members of the Garrison.

- 11 -

29. The available places would be allocated to the services concerned in proportion to their staff numbers. Within each service, places would be allocated to individuals by a points system similar to that used in the GAS described above, although the weighting to be given to each criterion might, on the advice of the Steering Group and with the approval of the Governor, vary to take account of the needs of the particular services. The Steering Group would advise on the allocation of the special circumstances points which would take account of commendations for outstanding service, and documentary evidence of performance, such as staff appraisal reports etc.

Procedure

30. Applications would be submitted to the Hong Kong Government by the specified date. Points would be awarded to each applicant by HKID using the marking schemes previously recommended by the Steering Group and tailored to the needs of each individual service. Additional information about performance, commendations, etc provided by the services themselves would also be incorporated. A list of applicants ranked in order of points scored would then be produced by HKID for examination by the Steering Group who would recommend any necessary adjustments in the special circumstances points for each service. After any necessary further adjustments a list of those candidates who appeared to be qualified and those who seemed likely to be rejected would be submitted to the Steering Group for scrutiny. Thereafter, procedures would be as outlined in paragraphs 21-24 above. The normal good character requirements would apply.

Sensitive Service Section

31. This section would allow up to 6,300 people who had, in the course of serving Hong Kong or United Kingdom interests in either a civilian or military role, been exposed to special considerations and special factors during the course of their duties. Existing arrangements to safeguard the interests of some of these people, which have been in place for some years, would be subsumed by this section of the scheme.

Procedure

32. Many of the individuals concerned would have already been identified by virtue of their rank, position and area of work and would be invited to submit applications to the Hong Kong Government. Once the information had been verified, HKID would scrutinise the applications and, if all was in order, the names would then be submitted to the Governor who, if satisfied, would recommend them to the Home Secretary for registration. The usual good character requirements would apply.

33. Certain people might qualify for inclusion in this scheme on the basis of information coming to the notice of the Governor in other ways. These people would be invited to apply under this section, and their applications processed as described above. HKID would notify candidates of the results of their applications.

OTHER ISSUES

Spouses and children

34. This Note has been focused on the selection of up to 50,000 heads of households. Spouses and children under 18 (at the time of initial application) of successful applicants would be eligible to seek registration as British citizens and, provided they applied in time for their applications to be processed by HKG before 30 June 1997, would normally receive it as a matter of course. There would, however, be discretion to withhold citizenship where the Home Secretary was not satisfied that an applicant was of good character.

35. Unlike heads of households, spouses and children would be eligible regardless of whether they were settled in Hong Kong or of their nationality. However, where a head of household contracted a marriage after ceasing to be settled in Hong Kong the spouse would not be eligible for British citizenship under the Bill; nor would a spouse married after 30 June 1997.

36. Children born after the registration of the head of household, including those born after 30 June 1997, would be British citizens automatically. (This includes children born to couples where the spouse was not a British citizen.)

Responsibility for Registration

37. The registration of successful applicants recommended to the Home Secretary for citizenship, and any subsequent issue of British passports, would be supervised by a small team of UK officials based in Hong Kong and acting on the Home Secretary's behalf. Any necessary support staff would be provided by the Hong Kong Government.

Funding

38. The Scheme would be self-financing from application fees charged by the Hong Kong Government for consideration under the Scheme and from fees charged for the registration of successful applicants. Any costs incurred by the small team of UK officials mentioned above would be reimbursed by the Hong Kong Government to Her Majesty's Government.

/GENERAL ALLOCATION

ANNEX

GENERAL ALLOCATION SECTION

Occupational groups within the seven broad areas and anticipated share of first tranche of 32,300 assurances.

Broad Area	Overall numbers employed (1989)	% Share of 32,300 places
1. Business & Management Managers and administrators Business professionals Business and administration associate professionals	342,800	61%
2. Accounting Accountants and auditors Accounting associate professionals	12,500	5%
3. Engineering Engineers & related professionals Architects, planners & Surveyors Engineering associate professionals (e.g. air traffic controllers)	57,300	10%
4. Information Services Information science professionals (e.g. computer programmers) News editors and journalists	10,300	6%
5. Medical and Science Medical doctors Physical & life science professionals (e.g. chemists, physicists) Nurses and midwives Other medical professionals (e.g. dentists, pharmacists) Health associate professionals (e.g. physiotherapists, radiographers)	44,700	8%

- 14 -

6. Law	3,700	1%
Legal professionals		
Legal associate professionals		
7. Education	82,700	9%
Teaching professionals (post- secondary, e.g. university and polytechnic)		
Educational administrators (secondary school principals etc.)		
Other teaching personnel (secondary and primary)		

- - - - 0 - - - -

CLEARANCE OF DWELLINGS ON MARICULTURE RAFT

* * * * *

MARICULTURISTS IN HONG KONG'S 28 FISH CULTURE ZONES WERE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED TO REMOVE OR RECTIFY THE STRUCTURES ON FISH RAFT TO MEET THE REGULATIONS STIPULATED IN THEIR LICENCES.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) RECENTLY NOTIFIED INDIVIDUAL MARICULTURISTS WHO USE STRUCTURES ON FISH RAFT AS DWELLINGS TO REMOVE OR RECTIFY THEM ON OR BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED IN A LETTER SENT TO THEM.

THE SENIOR FISHERIES OFFICER OF THE AFD'S AQUACULTURE FISHERIES DIVISION, DR PATSY WONG, SAID: "ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY THE AFD AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR, ALL MARICULTURISTS NOTIFIED HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED PUBLIC HOUSING OR HAVE ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION ON LAND.

"THEREFORE, THERE IS NO GROUND FOR THESE MARICULTURISTS TO REMAIN DWELLING ON THE FISH RAFT."

SHE SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD IN THE PAST REPEATEDLY ADVISED MARICULTURISTS THAT DWELLINGS ON FISH RAFT NOT ONLY CREATED RISK TO LIFE, BUT ALSO PRODUCED UNDESIRABLE IMPACT ON THE FISH CULTURE ENVIRONMENT.

"HOWEVER," DR WONG EXPLAINED, "FOR SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT NEED, THE DEPARTMENT HAS PERMITTED STRUCTURES OF SPECIFIED AREA ON FISH RAFT FOR SECURITY WATCH AND EQUIPMENT STORAGE PURPOSES."

/"TO PROVIDE

- 15 -

"TO PROVIDE A GOOD ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARICULTURE INDUSTRY AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MARICULTURISTS THEMSELVES; ALL MARICULTURISTS SHOULD CO-OPERATE AND ABIDE BY THE REGULATIONS REGARDING STRUCTURES ON FISH RAFT AS STIPULATED IN THE MARINE FISH CULTURE LICENCES," SHE SAID.

DR WONG EMPHASISED THAT THE ERECTION OF ANY STRUCTURE ON A FISH RAFT WITHOUT THE PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE MARINE FISH CULTURE REGULATIONS.

"OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$1,000 IN ADDITION TO THE CANCELLATION OF THEIR MARICULTURE LICENCES," SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BIGGEST FISH CAUGHT OFF NINE PINS

* * * * *

THE BIGGEST RECORD OF OCEANIC SUN FISH IN HONG KONG WAS CAUGHT BY A LOCAL FISHERMAN 15 MILES EAST OF THE NINE PINS YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

THE FISH WAS CAUGHT AT A DEPTH OF 34 METRES BY A SHAU KEI WAN FISHERMAN USING HIS TRAWLER AND BROUGHT BACK TO HONG KONG FOR IDENTIFICATION.

EXPERTS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THE SUN FISH, MEASURING 2.52 METRES LONG, 2.2 METRES WIDE AND WEIGHING ABOUT 400 KILOGRAMS, WAS THE BIGGEST EVER ENCOUNTERED IN HONG KONG.

AS THE SUN FISH IS TOO LARGE TO BE RETAINED AS A REFERENCE SPECIMEN, IT WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.

THERE ARE ALTOGETHER FIVE RECORDS OF OCEANIC SUN FISH INCLUDING THIS ONE IN HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AIDS EXHIBITION IN TAI PO

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AIDS WHEN THEY VISIT AN AIDS EXHIBITION IN TUEN MUN WHICH BEGINS ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6).

THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION, THE 8TH IN A SERIES OF MOBILE EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON AIDS EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, WILL BE HELD AT THE TAI HANG COMMUNITY HALL FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM DAILY.

/"THE EXHIBITION

- 16 -

"THE EXHIBITION AIMS AT INCREASING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AIDS, AND FOSTERING A POSITIVE, SYMPATHETIC AND SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD AIDS PATIENTS AND CARRIERS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE FOCUS IS ON YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MAY BE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN RISKY BEHAVIOUR, YET ARE OFTEN LESS LIKELY TO BE AWARE OF THE RISKS OF INFECTION WITH AIDS," HE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION, BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE AIDS COUNSELLING AND HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, COVERS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DISEASE.

APART FROM SHOWING THE WORLDWIDE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, IT ALSO ILLUSTRATES HOW AIDS THREATENS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THIS CAN BE COUNTERED.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS ON AIDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS WHO WILL ALSO HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES BY ANSWERING A QUIZ DESIGNED TO TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON AIDS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL RUN UNTIL SUNDAY (APRIL 8), AND WILL MOVE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL ABERDEEN COMPLEX ON APRIL 20.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
* * * * *

THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR AT ITS MEETING ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO HEAR THE WORK PLAN OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN WEST KOWLOON FOR 1990-91.

MEANWHILE, A VETTING TEAM WILL BE FORMED TO EXAMINE APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

* * * * *

THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6).

THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE THE INTRODUCTION OF TAXI STANDS, DESIGNATION OF URBAN CLEARWAYS AND THE INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 141-143 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, KOWLOON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN KOWLOON TONG TO BE CLOSED

* * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN KOWLOON TONG SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPANTS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

THEY ARE AT THE ROOF OVER FLAT C3, FOURTH FLOOR, 6 EASTBOURNE ROAD.

THE CLOSURE FORMS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE SAID BUILDING WORKS.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT COURT ON MAY 4 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WILL START IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSUEN WAN
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK OF A FLYOVER IN TEXACO ROAD IN TSUEN WAN, SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC THERE WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT TO TSUEN FU STREET WITH EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6).

THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE SAME TIME:

GENERAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT

VEHICULAR TRAFFIC CAN USE TEXACO ROAD NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY TO GAIN ACCESS TO TSUEN FU STREET AREAS.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

(I) GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NOS. 80 AND 85:

TSUEN WAN BOUND JOURNEYS WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA TSUEN KAM INTERCHANGE, WAI TSUEN ROAD, MIU KONG STREET, SHING MUN ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

(II) GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NOS. 81, 81M AND 82M:

TSUEN WAN BOUND JOURNEYS WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA SHEK WAI KOK ROAD, WAI TSUEN ROAD, MIU KONG STREET AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

(III) GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 83:

TSUEN WAN BOUND JOURNEYS WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA KWOK SHUI ROAD, TEXACO ROAD, SHA TSUI ROAD AND CHUNG ON STREET.

(IV) GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 86 WILL BE SPLIT INTO TWO ROUTES NAMELY 86 AND 86M. ROUTE NO. 86 WILL BE OPERATING VIA CHEUNG WING ROAD, ROUNDABOUT, KWOK SHUI ROAD, TEXACO ROAD, SHA TSUI ROAD AND CHUNG ON STREET, ROUTE NO. 86M WILL BE OPERATING VIA CHEUNG WING ROAD, ROUNDABOUT, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, AND CHUNG ON STREET BEFORE RESUMING THEIR NORMAL ROUTINGS. THE SPLIT OF ROUTINGS WILL ALSO BE APPLIED TO ROUTE NO. 86A WHICH IS OPERATING FROM 12 MIDNIGHT TO 2 AM ONLY.

(V) CLEAR NOTICES SHOWING THE ABOVE REROUTINGS AND SPLIT OF ROUTE NO. 86 WILL BE PUT UP BY THE CONCERNED OPERATORS AT VARIOUS TERMINAL POINTS TO INFORM AND GUIDE PASSENGERS.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 19 -

REVISION OF PARKING METER CHARGES IN KWUN TONG AND SHAM SHUI PO
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 6) THE PARKING METER CHARGES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$1 TO \$2, WHICH WILL COVER HANG ON STREET, HORSE SHOE LANE, MING CHI STREET, TING ON STREET, TING YIP STREET, CHONG YIP STREET, HOW MING STREET, HING YIP STREET, HUNG TO ROAD, TSUN YIP STREET, FU YAN STREET, KA LOK STREET, PING SHING LANE, SHUI NING STREET, TING HEUNG STREET, WAN HON STREET, YUET WAH STREET AND SHUI WO STREET IN KWUN TONG.

ALSO, FROM APRIL 17 PARKING METER CHARGES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE INCREASED FROM 50 CENTS TO \$1, WHICH WILL COVER KING LAM STREET, KOM TSUEN STREET, TAI NAN WEST STREET, TUNG CHAU WEST STREET, WING HONG STREET, YEE YUK WEST STREET, YU CHAU WEST STREET, CHEUNG FAT STREET, CHEUNG WAH STREET, FUK WAH STREET, FUK WING STREET, HING WAH STREET, KWONG LEE ROAD, PO ON ROAD, SHUN NING ROAD, TONKIN STREET, TSAP FAI STREET, WAI WAI ROAD, APLIU STREET, HAI TAN STREET, KI LUNG STREET, KIU KIANG STREET, KWEILIN STREET, MAPLE STREET, SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET NORTH, SHEK KIP MEI STREET, TAI NAN STREET, PAK TIN STREET, WAI CHI LANE, WAI CHI STREET, WOH CHAI STREET, TONG YAM STREET AND NAM SHAN CHUEN ROAD IN SHAM SHUI PO.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CANCELLATION OF ZONE BAN IN SHEUNG WAN
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6), THE EXISTING ZONE BAN ON EASTBOUND PARK ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH BONHAM ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CANCELLED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN HAPPY VALLEY AND WESTERN
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6), VEHICLES WITH CERTAIN LENGTHS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN HAPPY VALLEY:

- * VEHICLES OVER SEVEN METRES LONG TO TURN RIGHT FROM NORTHBOUND BROADWOOD ROAD (LOWER) AT ITS JUNCTION WITH LINK ROAD, VEHICLES EXCEEDING SUCH LENGTH HEADING FOR BROADWOOD ROAD (UPPER) WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LINK ROAD;
- * VEHICLES OVER 5.5 METRES LONG TO TURN LEFT FROM THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO LEIGHTON HILL FLATS AT ITS JUNCTION WITH LINK ROAD AND BROADWOOD ROAD;

/* VEHICLES OVER

- 20 -

- * VEHICLES OVER 5.5 METRES LONG TO TURN RIGHT FROM SOUTHBOUND LINK ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH BROADWOOD ROAD; AND
- * VEHICLES OVER 5.5 METRES LONG TO TURN LEFT FROM NORTHBOUND BROADWOOD ROAD (UPPER) AT ITS JUNCTION WITH LINK ROAD, VEHICLES EXCEEDING SUCH LENGTH HEADING FOR BROADWOOD ROAD (LOWER) WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LINK ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, A SECTION OF KWONG FUNG LANE NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH THIRD STREET IN WESTERN WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR TWO WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON THIRD STREET HEADING FOR QUEEN'S ROAD WEST WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WATER STREET.

- - - - 0 - - - -

URBAN CLEARWAY IN WESTERN
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6), THE SECTION OF DES VOEUX ROAD WEST FROM HOUSE NO. 390 TO HOUSE NO. 408 WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE TRAM TRACK WORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

URBAN CLEARWAY IN WAN CHAI
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6), JOHNSTON ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN SPRING GARDEN LANE AND LEE TUNG STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY FOR THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE GAS MAINLAYING WORK.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 21 -

URBAN CLEARWAY IN KOWLOON BAY
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6), THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN KOWLOON BAY WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY:

- * THE SECTION OF THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CHEUNG YIP STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SHEUNG YEE ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 185 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * THE SECTION OF TSUI HING STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG YIP STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN KWUN TONG
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE RECONSTRUCTION WORKS ON TSUI PING ROAD IN KWUN TONG FOLLOWING THE BURSTING OF WATERMANS THERE, THE SECTION OF TSUI PING ROAD BETWEEN THE TWO ROUNDABOUTS OUTSIDE TSUI NAM HOUSE AND KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE HAS BEEN RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

DURING THIS PERIOD, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE HIP WO STREET AND TSUI PING ROAD SOUTHBOUND FOR ACCESS TO TSUI PING ESTATE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FLUSHING WATER CUT IN TUEN MUN
* * * * *

FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9.30 AM TO 5.30 PM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6) TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 22 -

FURTHER INCREASE IN MTR PATRONAGE EXPECTED

* * * * *

FURTHER INCREASES IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC ARE EXPECTED FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE CORPORATION WILL CONTINUE TO ADOPT APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO SPREAD PEAK HOUR DEMAND AS WELL AS TO ENCOURAGE GREATER USE OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR DAVID NENDICK, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT 1989 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MR NENDICK SAID ACCORDING TO THE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1989, THE CORPORATION CONTINUED TO ENJOY A PERIOD OF SUSTAINED GROWTH LAST YEAR CARRYING SOME 688 MILLION PASSENGERS, AN INCREASE OF NINE PER CENT OVER 1988.

"THE OPENING OF THE RAIL SECTION OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING TO PASSENGER SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER 1989 BOTH GENERATED ADDITIONAL RIDERSHIP AND PROVIDED A MUCH WELCOME RELIEF TO THE CONGESTED NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR," MR NENDICK SAID.

FARE REVENUE FOR THE CORPORATION ROSE BY 15 PER CENT TO \$2,381 MILLION; TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONAL REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES SUCH AS PROPERTY RENTALS AND ADVERTISING, THE TOTAL REVENUE FOR LAST YEAR WAS \$2,734 MILLION OR 18.5 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE FIGURE FOR 1988.

TOTAL COSTS WERE UP BY 16 PER CENT MAINLY REFLECTING THE CONTINUED UPWARD PRESSURE OF STAFF COSTS.

THE CORPORATION'S PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST AND FINANCE CHARGES INCREASED TO \$1,049 MILLION, SOME 25 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

INTEREST AND FINANCE CHARGES OF \$1,597 MILLION WERE PAID IN LAST YEAR, GIVING A LOSS OF \$548 MILLION AS AGAINST \$535 MILLION IN 1988.

INCOME FROM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT OF \$579 MILLION ENABLED THE CORPORATION TO SUSTAIN A MODEST OVERALL PROFIT OF \$56 MILLION IN 1989.

"HOWEVER," MR NENDICK SAID, "IN VIEW OF THE NON-RECURRENT NATURE OF PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PROFITS, IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE RAILWAY OPERATING REVENUE WILL REGULARLY PRODUCE A NET PROFIT FOR THE CORPORATION."

WITH THE CORPORATION'S DEBT BEING \$17,390 MILLION AT THE END OF 1989, IT DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR ANY FURTHER CALLS ON THE PARTLY PAID SHARES.

BECAUSE THE CORPORATION WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE A LARGE BURDEN OF DEBT FOR QUITE SOME TIME, MR NENDICK SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE CORPORATION CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN RESPECTABLE CREDIT RATINGS TO ENSURE THAT IT WAS WELL REGARDED IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKETS.

/"I AM

"I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT THE RATINGS AWARDED TO THE CORPORATION BY THE PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL RATING AGENCIES REMAIN IN THE INVESTMENT-GRADE FOR LONGER TERM OBLIGATIONS, AND IN ONE OF THE HIGHEST CATEGORIES FOR SHORT TERM INSTRUMENTS.

"I AM HAPPY TO ADD THAT THE CORPORATION, WHICH IS AN ACTIVE AND INNOVATIVE BORROWER, CAME THIRD IN A RECENT POLL ON THE MOST PROFESSIONAL USERS OF WORLD CAPITAL MARKETS," HE SAID.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS SATISFIED THAT THE CORPORATION'S CAPITAL STRUCTURE WAS SOUND, THAT COSTS WERE CONTAINED AND THAT ITS REVENUE GROWTH WAS SUFFICIENT TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS.

CONSEQUENT UPON THE DECISION TO BUILD A NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, MR NENDICK POINTED OUT THAT THE CORPORATION HAD BEEN INVITED TO GIVE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE TO A GOVERNMENT APPOINTED CONSULTANCY STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING, FINANCING AND OPERATING AN AIRPORT RAILWAY.

"I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF THE CORPORATION THAT THE NEW RAILWAY PROJECT MUST BE CAREFULLY PLANNED TO ENSURE THAT THE CORPORATION'S REPUTATION IS MAINTAINED," HE ADDED.

MR NENDICK ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN AND THE BOARD, AS WELL AS THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION FOR THE VERY RESPONSIBLE AND EFFICIENT WAY IN WHICH THEY HAD MANAGED THE CORPORATION DURING THE PAST YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS PRINCIPLES PROPOSED FOR HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE BROAD PRINCIPLES PROPOSED FOR THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY PARTICULARLY THE DEVOLUTION OF AUTHORITY FROM THE CENTRAL TO THE OPERATIONAL LEVELS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES WHICH SHOULD HELP TO PRODUCE A MORE EFFICIENT HOSPITAL SYSTEM.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, SAID THIS WHEN TABLING THE REPORT OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (PHA) WHICH SHE COMMENDED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"HOWEVER, THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW MANAGEMENT CULTURE, NO MATTER HOW OBVIOUS THE BENEFIT, WOULD REQUIRE FULL UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL CONCERNED SO AS TO DEVELOP AN ESPRIT DE CORPS," MRS WONG SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUAL TRUST AND RESPECT AND THE COMPLEMENTARY, RATHER THAN CONFLICTING, ROLE OF ALL RANKS WOULD HELP TO ATTAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FUTURE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

/"I RECOGNISE

"I RECOGNISE THAT THE REPORT, AND THE MODIFICATIONS THEREOF, MAY NOT TOTALLY PLEASE EVERYONE. HOWEVER, CHANGE PRESENTS NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND ENVISIONS REFORMS WHICH WILL SERVE US WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," SHE SAID.

SHE REAFFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO RAISING THE STANDARD OF PATIENT CARE THROUGH EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES, GREATER FINANCIAL AUTONOMY AND FLEXIBILITY, BETTER MANAGEMENT STATUS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WHICH ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FUTURE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

PRESENTING THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE PHA REPORT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THEM, MRS WONG SAID A HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BILL, SETTING OUT THE ORGANISATION'S LEGAL STATUS, COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS, AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED, AND WOULD BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY (APRIL 6).

ON THE PHA'S PROPOSAL THAT ALL GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TOGETHER WITHIN AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED FOR A GRACE PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AFTER WHICH SEPARATE SUBVENTION OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WOULD CEASE.

"THIS PROPOSAL ENVISAGES THAT A FORMAL AGREEMENT BE SIGNED BETWEEN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EACH SUBVENTED HOSPITAL AND THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, SETTING OUT THE ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT, FUNDING AND OPERATION OF THE HOSPITAL CONCERNED.

"THE TRADITIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALS WOULD BE PRESERVED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE," SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD REMOVE THE PRESENT DIFFERENCES IN REMUNERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED SECTORS.

"AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM WOULD ALSO ALLOW GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF HOSPITAL RESOURCES TO MEET VARIOUS NEEDS, PARTICULARLY BETTER PATIENT CARE.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT MOST SUBVENTED HOSPITALS WOULD WISH TO JOIN THE AUTHORITY FAIRLY SOON. HOWEVER, SOME MAY TAKE A LITTLE MORE TIME TO DECIDE," SHE ADDED.

ON THE PROPOSAL ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR MANAGEMENT REFORMS, MRS WONG SAID A NEW MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE HAD BEEN DEvised TO PROVIDE FOR GREATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAFF INCLUDING DOCTORS, NURSES AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

"HOWEVER, I AM AWARE THAT CERTAIN ASPECT OF THIS PROPOSED STRUCTURE HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO NURSES AND, PERHAPS, SOME OTHER STAFF.

/"THOSE ASPECTS

"THOSE ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE WHICH HAVE CAUSED CONCERN SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED.

"WE MUST AIM TO ACHIEVE A COMMON VISION WHICH WILL GIVE CREDENCE TO A NEW CULTURE OF THE NEW ORGANISATION," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO A NEW REMUNERATION PACKAGE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO FUTURE AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES AS A MEANS TO ATTRACT, RETAIN AND MOTIVATE QUALIFIED STAFF, MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT ENDORSED THE CONCEPT UNDERLYING THE DESIGN OF THE PACKAGE BUT HAD PROPOSED SOME MODIFICATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT TO THE PHA.

SHE EMPHASISED THAT THE COST OF THIS REMUNERATION PACKAGE SHOULD REMAIN COMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE PACKAGE FOR COMPARABLE GRADES.

"AS REGARDS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, GOVERNMENT HAS ASSURED THEM THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN AS CIVIL SERVANTS WITH PROMOTION PROSPECTS RESERVED.

"THE PHA HAS AFFIRMED IN ITS REPORT THAT ALL STAFF IN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, REGARDLESS OF THEIR TERMS OF SERVICE, SHOULD HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PROMOTION.

"TO CATER FOR STAFF WHO WISH TO REMAIN AS CIVIL SERVANTS AND TO MAINTAIN THEIR PROMOTION PROSPECTS, THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL NOT BE DISBANDED, THOUGH ITS FUNCTIONS WILL CHANGE.

"WHILE IT WILL NO LONGER HAVE OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS, IT WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WORKING IN THE AUTHORITY," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT A BRIDGING OVER PACKAGE HAD BEEN DEvised TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF THOSE STAFF WHO OPTED TO TAKE UP THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT.

"SINCE PRACTICALLY ALL THE STAFF AFFECTED WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF REMAINING AS CIVIL SERVANTS WITH PROMOTION PROSPECT PRESERVED INTACT AND THEY WILL NOT BE WORSE OFF, THE QUESTION OF ABOLITION OF OFFICE TERMS DOES NOT ARISE.

"TO PRESERVE THE PENSIONS EARNED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, STAFF WHO OPT TO RECEIVE THE AUTHORITY PACKAGE WOULD HAVE THE CHOICE OF EITHER RESIGNING FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE WITH A DEFERRED PENSION UNDER THE PENSION BENEFITS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS OR TRANSFERRING TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WITH PENSION BENEFITS FROZEN UNTIL THEIR RETIREMENT FROM THE AUTHORITY.

"I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT AN OPTION TO APPLY TO WORK FOR THE AUTHORITY AND TO TRANSFER TO THE AUTHORITY TERMS WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

"HOWEVER, THE TRANSFER OF EVERY SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE REGARD TO THE NEEDS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY.

"IN THE MEANTIME, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH IS EXAMINING WAYS AND MEANS OF ATTRACTING, RETAINING AND MOTIVATING STAFF IN HIS DEPARTMENT," SHE SAID.

REGARDING STAFF WORKING IN SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, MRS WONG SAID THEY COULD ALSO CHOOSE EITHER TO TRANSFER TO THE AUTHORITY'S REMUNERATION PACKAGE OR TO REMAIN AS EMPLOYEES OF THE SUBVENTED HOSPITAL BOARD.

"A CONSULTANT WILL BE ENGAGED BY THE PHA SHORTLY TO ADVISE ON THE CONVERSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME OF THE SUBVENTED HOSPITAL STAFF WHO OPT FOR THE AUTHORITY TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT," SHE SAID.

SHE THEN TURNED TO THE PHA'S RECOMMENDATION THAT FEES AND CHARGES IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS SHOULD BE INCREASED BY PHASES, AIMING AT THE EVENTUAL RECOVERY OF BETWEEN 15 PER CENT AND 20 PER CENT OF THE COST OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS IN CONJUNCTION WITH IMPROVEMENT MADE TO SERVICES.

MRS WONG SAID WHILE THE PRINCIPLE WAS ENDORSED AS THE ULTIMATE AIM, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RETAIN THE POWER TO GIVE DIRECTION TO THE AUTHORITY ON THE LEVEL OF FEES TO BE CHARGED. SHE GAVE AN UNEQUIVOCAL ASSURANCE THAT NOBODY IN HONG KONG WOULD BE PREVENTED, THROUGH LACK OF MEANS, FROM OBTAINING ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

"THUS, ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE FEE LEVEL WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL THE EXISTING WAIVER ARRANGEMENTS ARE THOROUGHLY REVIEWED," SHE STRESSED.

MRS WONG ALSO NOTED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL CONCERNING ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM THROUGH A BOARD CONSISTING PRINCIPALLY OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

AS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION THAT SENIOR DOCTORS IN HOSPITALS BE ALLOWED TO DO LIMITED PRIVATE PRACTICE AND VICE VERSA, SHE SAID THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WHEN FORMED WOULD BE INVITED TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES WITH DUE CARE, HAVING REGARD TO THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEREST OF PATIENTS.

ON THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE SETTING UP OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, SHE SAID ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATED AT \$1,000 MILLION PER ANNUM WOULD BE REQUIRED.

THIS INCLUDES SOME \$150 MILLION FOR ESTABLISHING HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS, SOME \$250 MILLION FOR IMPLEMENTING MANAGEMENT REFORMS AND \$600 MILLION FOR BRINGING STAFF IN SUBVENTED HOSPITALS ONTO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY'S REMUNERATION PACKAGE.

/"FURTHERMORE, THE

"FURTHERMORE, THE MONETISATION OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE FRINGE BENEFITS COULD RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL CASH OUTFLOW OF A FURTHER BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE COST TO THE PUBLIC PURSE WAS HIGH, THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TO HONG KONG'S HOSPITAL SYSTEM WHICH SHOULD FOLLOW AFTER THE SETTING UP OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WOULD BE MONEY WELL INVESTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUNNEL TOLL INCREASE EXPLAINED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THAT CONGESTION AT LION ROCK TUNNEL AND IN THE APPROACH ROADS WILL BE REDUCED, BENEFITTING MOTORISTS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT PASSENGERS, AS A RESULT OF THE TOLL REVISION LATER THIS MONTH, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALBERT LAM CHI-CHIU, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LAM SAID THAT LION ROCK TUNNEL WAS CURRENTLY USED BY ABOUT 104,000 VEHICLES A DAY, 30 PER CENT MORE THAN THE OPTIMUM CAPACITY OF 80,000 VEHICLES A DAY FOR WHICH THE TUNNEL WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED.

AS A RESULT, CONGESTION OCCURRED AT ALL APPROACH ROADS TO THE TUNNEL, RESULTING IN LONG QUEUES OF VEHICLES DURING MUCH OF THE DAY, AND CAUSING DELAYS TO BOTH MOTORISTS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT PASSENGERS, HE SAID.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT TRIED VARIOUS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO RELIEVE CONGESTION AT THE TUNNEL, SUCH AS THE TIDAL FLOW EXPERIMENT, THE CONTROLLED MERGING OF VEHICLES, AND THE LENGTHENING OF BUS-ONLY LANES. HOWEVER, THESE MEASURES RESULTED IN MARGINAL IMPROVEMENTS ONLY, MR LAM EXPLAINED.

MR LAM SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE OPENING OF THE SHING MUN TUNNELS WOULD CERTAINLY IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW BETWEEN SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN, THE NEW TUNNEL WOULD BRING ABOUT ONLY A SMALL REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES USING THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS REDUCTION WOULD SOON BE ABSORBED BY THE NATURAL GROWTH IN TRAFFIC AS A RESULT OF CONTINUING HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AND POPULATION GROWTH IN THE NORTH-EAST NEW TERRITORIES," HE SAID.

"SHOULD THE PRESENT \$3 TOLL REMAIN UNCHANGED, THE TRAFFIC VOLUME AT THE TUNNEL WAS EXPECTED TO GO UP TO 110,000 VEHICLES A DAY BY EARLY 1991," HE ADDED.

MR LAM SAID THAT A REVISION OF THE TOLL WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY NOW TO REGULATE TRAFFIC VOLUME AND REDUCE THE CONGESTION AT THE TUNNEL.

/"HOWEVER, IT

- 28 -

"HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT AFTER THE SHING MUN TUNNELS ARE OPEN TO TRAFFIC, TAI PO ROAD WILL BE GREATLY RELIEVED OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION BY ABOUT 9,000 VEHICLES, THUS PROVIDING AN INCENTIVE FOR MOTORISTS TO USE THAT ROAD WHEN TRAVELLING INTO OR FROM WEST KOWLOON, OR TSUEN WAN," HE SAID.

"WHEN THE SHING MUN TUNNELS OPEN LATER THIS MONTH, MOTORISTS COULD CHOOSE TO PAY \$6 FOR USING LION ROCK TUNNEL, \$3 FOR USING THE SHING MUN TUNNELS, OR NOTHING FOR USING TAI PO ROAD WHICH WAS WIDENED RECENTLY," MR LAM ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FURTHER STUDY ON DEATHS ON ARRIVAL AT EMERGENCY CENTRES

* * * * *

AS THE LAST STUDY ON THE CASES OF DEATHS ON ARRIVAL AT MAJOR ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CENTRES WAS CONDUCTED SOME FIVE YEARS AGO, THE DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES WILL CONDUCT A SIMILAR EXERCISE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO COLLECT MORE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING A QUESTION FROM THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MRS WONG SAID IT WAS NOT A NORMAL PRACTICE TO MAINTAIN STATISTICS ON THE NUMBER OF DEATHS AS A RESULT OF LOSS OF BLOOD IN ACCIDENTS WHILST THE PRIMARY CONDITION WAS SALVABLE.

"AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, WE HAVE SOME CRUDE FIGURES BASED ON A SPECIAL STUDY CONDUCTED IN 1984-85 ON THE CASES OF DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT MAJOR ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CENTRES.

"DURING THE STUDY PERIOD, OF A TOTAL OF 2,193 DEAD ON ARRIVAL CASES REPORTED, THREE CASES WERE SUSPECTED TO HAVE DIED PRIMARILY OF MASSIVE EXTERNAL HAEMORRHAGE BEFORE ARRIVAL AT THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT," SHE SAID.

AS REGARDS TRAINING OF AMBULANCEMEN TO INFUSE BLOOD SUBSTITUTES TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY LOSS OF LIFE, MRS WONG SAID, THIS WAS BEING LOOKED AT BY AN ADVISORY GROUP ON EXTENDED TRAINING FOR AMBULANCEMEN UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY.

"THE STUDY TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE A USEFUL INPUT TO THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS ADVISORY GROUP," SHE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 29 -

PEOPLE DETAINED OVERSEAS MAY SEEK HELP FROM BRITISH CONSULAR
* * * * *

A HONG KONG RESIDENT WHO IS DETAINED OVERSEAS CAN REQUEST THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO INFORM A BRITISH CONSULAR OFFICER OF HIS DETENTION, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG, MR ASPREY SAID THE CONSULAR OFFICER WOULD INFORM THE HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, WHICH WOULD IN TURN NOTIFY THE NEXT-OF-KIN IF THE DETAINEE SO REQUESTED.

"THE CONSULAR OFFICER WILL ALSO GIVE A PERSON DETAINED ADVICE ON HIS RIGHTS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL AID," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE CRITERIA BY WHICH PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE WAS RENDERED TO SUCH PERSONS, MR ASPREY SAID ONLY BRITISH NATIONALS WERE ENTITLED TO BRITISH CONSULAR PROTECTION.

"HOWEVER, GIVEN THE GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT FOR HONG KONG, BRITISH CONSULAR POSTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO AS MUCH AS THEY CAN TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY HOLDERS WHO ARE IN TROUBLE," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL TO BE CLOSED AT END OF THIS MONTH
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES TODAY (WEDNESDAY) INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL WOULD CLOSE BY THE END OF THIS MONTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MRS ELSIE TU, MR BARNES SAID THE CLOSURE OF THE LANDFILL WAS IN VIEW OF THE COMPLETION OF THE KOWLOON BAY REFUSE TRANSFER STATION (KBRTS), WHICH WAS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING COMMISSIONING TRIALS AND WOULD SHORTLY BE FULLY OPERATIONAL.

MR BARNES ALSO NOTED THAT AFTER THE CLOSURE OF THE LANDFILL, IT WOULD REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR IN A CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE OPERATION OF THE KBRTS IN CASE THERE WAS A MAJOR BREAKDOWN OR STOPPAGE OF THE STATION.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THE CONTINGENCY PLAN, WHICH WAS DEvised BY THE GOVERNMENT AND ENDORSED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, WAS IN TWO PARTS.

THE FIRST COVERED THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1990 UNTIL THE END OF 1990, AND THE SECOND FROM THE END OF 1990 UNTIL 1995, WHEN A SECOND REFUSE TRANSFER STATION SHOULD BE COMMISSIONED IN WEST KOWLOON.

/"THE OPTION

"THE OPTION OF RE-OPENING THE JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL IS ONLY INCLUDED IN THE FIRST PERIOD, I.E. UP TO THE END OF 1990, WHEN THE JUNK BAY TUNNEL IS EXPECTED TO OPEN. BY THAT TIME ALSO WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS COMMISSIONING AN EMERGENCY REFUSE BARGING POINT," HE POINTED OUT.

MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS OF THE VIEW THAT A MAJOR BREAKDOWN OR STOPPAGE OF THE KBRTS WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE ANY FORM OF EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR REFUSE DISPOSAL WAS VIRTUALLY INCONCEIVABLE.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE CONTINUING EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE IS A VITAL PART OF THE RUNNING OF THE CITY, AND IT IS SENSIBLE TO HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN THAT ENSURES THE CONTINUITY OF THIS OPERATION IN THE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE KBRTS IS COMPLETELY DISABLED," HE EXPLAINED.

MR BARNES ALSO GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXHAUST ALL OTHER CONTINGENCY MEASURES BEFORE CONSIDERING RE-OPENING THE JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL.

"FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS, WE WOULD REQUIRE EIGHT DAYS NOTICE BEFORE THE LANDFILL COULD BE RE-OPENED, DURING WHICH PERIOD WE WOULD CONSULT THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD ON THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS," HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT BY ITS NATURE, THE CONTINGENCY PLAN HAD TO INCLUDE ALL THE AVAILABLE OPERATIONS FOR WASTE DISPOSAL WHICH WOULD REQUIRE AN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE TO NECESSITATE ITS ACTIVATION, AND SUCH A CIRCUMSTANCE MIGHT WELL RULE OUT THE USE OF OTHER OPTIONS.

"IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE RE-OPENING OF JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL HAS BEEN INCLUDED, AND WHY WE DO NOT INTEND TO DELETE IT FROM THE PLAN.

"THERE IS NO OTHER SITE WE COULD USE," HE ADDED.

ACTION AGAINST SKATEBOARDING AT EDINBURGH PLACE

* * * * *

THE POLICE ARE AWARE OF SKATEBOARDING ACTIVITIES IN EDINBURGH PLACE AND HAVE TAKEN ACTION TO PREVENT NUISANCES OR DANGER FROM OCCURRING, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON ADOLF HSU, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU, MR HSU SAID WARNINGS WERE ISSUED TO 16 INDIVIDUALS LAST MONTH.

THE POLICE COULD TAKE ACTION UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE AGAINST PEOPLE WHO CAUSE A NUISANCE TO THE PUBLIC WHILE USING THE AREA, HE ADDED.

NEVERTHELESS, MR HSU SAID TO DATE, THE POLICE HAD RECEIVED NO COMPLAINT NOR REPORT OF ANY INJURIES CAUSED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AS A RESULT OF SKATEBOARDING ACTIVITIES THERE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO AIM TO HAVE COMPREHENSIVE CONTROL ON ADVERTISING SIGNS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE OR AIM TO HAVE ANY COMPREHENSIVE CONTROL ON ADVERTISING SIGNS AND ITS PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DEATH AND INJURY BY TAKING ACTION AGAINST POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SIGNS, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, MR BARNES SAID WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE IN MARCH 1989, THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS WAS EMPOWERED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RENDER SAFE OR REMOVE DANGEROUS ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS, WITHOUT HAVING FIRST TO SERVE A NOTICE ON THE OWNER, IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS WHERE THERE WAS A REAL AND IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

"FOR THESE PURPOSES IT IS UNNECESSARY TO REQUIRE ALL ADVERTISING SIGNBOARDS TO INCLUDE THE NAMES AND BUSINESS REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF THEIR OWNERS.

"SUCH A REQUIREMENT WOULD MOREOVER BE IMPRACTICABLE IN MANY CASES, PARTICULARLY WHERE LIGHTING WAS INVOLVED," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POLICE ACTION AGAINST CAR THEFT

* * * * *

POLICE ACTION TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM OF VEHICLE THEFT INCLUDED ADVISING VEHICLE OWNERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THEFT, MONITORING OF VEHICLES ON THE STREET AND INVESTIGATION OF ALL REPORTED CASES OF VEHICLE THEFT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, MR ASPREY SAID THAT THE NUMBERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES REPORTED STOLEN IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAR	NO. OF VEHICLES REPORTED STOLEN
----	-----
1985	3,149
1986	2,967
1987	2,954
1988	3,535
1989	4,401

"STATISTICS ON THE NUMBER OF STOLEN VEHICLES SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSPORTED OUT OF HONG KONG ARE NOT AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, POLICE RECORDS SHOW THAT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, MORE THAN 14,000 VEHICLES, REPRESENTING OVER 80 PER CENT OF THE VEHICLES REPORTED STOLEN DURING THE SAME PERIOD, HAVE BEEN RECOVERED IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

A NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS HAD BEEN CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY IN RECENT YEARS, ESPECIALLY AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED IN TRANSPORTING STOLEN VEHICLES OUT OF HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

DURING 1988, INVESTIGATIONS RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF 354 PERSONS, INCLUDING SEVERAL GROUPS RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING STOLEN VEHICLES TO CHINA.

MR ASPREY SAID THERE WERE 411 PERSONS ARRESTED IN 1989, INCLUDING SOME CHARGED WITH STEALING MOTOR VEHICLES AND SHIPPING THEM TO THAILAND AND MALAYSIA.

"THE POLICE HAVE DEVELOPED A SYSTEM OF REGULAR LIAISON WITH THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, POLICE FORCES OVERSEAS, AND VEHICLE RETAILERS AND INSURERS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND TO ENLIST THEIR ASSISTANCE IN COMBATTING THIS FORM OF CRIME," HE SAID.

NEW SCHOOL FEE REMISSION SCHEME TO BE MONITORED CLOSELY

* * * * *

THE IMPACT OF THE NEW FEE REMISSION SCHEME WILL BE MONITORED CLOSELY DURING THE 1990-91 SCHOOL YEAR WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING ANY NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN, MR YEUNG SAID WITH THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, THE APPLICATION OF THE PROPOSED POINTS SYSTEM UNDER THE NEW KINDERGARTEN FEE REMISSION SCHEME TO BE INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR MAY RESULT IN A SMALL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS QUALIFYING FOR A LEVEL OF FEE REMISSION LOWER THAN THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE UNDER THE EXISTING FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

"THE APPROVAL OF THE FC WILL BE SOUGHT FOR THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO BE GIVEN THE DISCRETION IN SUCH CASES TO AWARD A LEVEL OF REMISSION NOT LESS THAN THE AMOUNT UNDER THE EXISTING FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FULL RANGE OF FACILITIES PLANNED FOR TIN SHUI WAI

* * * * *

THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN PLANNED WITH A FULL RANGE OF GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR BARNES SAID: "THE ENTIRE DEVELOPMENT, AS WITH OTHER NEW TOWNS, IS PHASED IN A NUMBER OF PACKAGES WHICH WILL ENSURE A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING AND FACILITIES."

HE NOTED THAT AS IN THE CASE OF OTHER NEW TOWNS, WORKING GROUPS WOULD SET UP TO ENSURE THE BASIC COMMUNITY SERVICES WERE AVAILABLE ON TIME TO SERVE THE INITIAL POPULATION INTAKE.

"THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN MAY 1992 AND ESSENTIAL SOCIAL, MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND COMMUNAL FACILITIES WILL BE IN PLACE WHEN THE ESTATE TAKES IN THEIR FIRST TENANTS," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, AS THE PROGRAMME OF POPULATION INTAKE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING HAS YET TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE DEVELOPER, A FIRM PROGRAMME OF PROVISION OF FACILITIES CAN ONLY BE FINALISED AT A LATER DATE," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 34 -

POLICY UNIT PRODUCED 36 INDEPTH REPORTS

* * * * *

THE CENTRAL POLICY UNIT HAS PRODUCED 36 INDEPTH ANALYSES ON ISSUES OF A LONG-TERM AND STRATEGIC NATURE SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN APRIL LAST YEAR, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, SIR DAVID SAID 13 OF THE ANALYSES CONCERNED PROJECTS OF AN ECONOMIC NATURE, TWO WERE SOCIAL PROJECTS, 14 CONCERNED POLITICAL ISSUES AND SEVEN WERE EXTERNAL ISSUES.

"IN ADDITION, IT HAS PRODUCED, IN RESPONSE TO URGENT REQUESTS, A TOTAL OF 108 PAPERS ON A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN," HE SAID.

"THESE REPORTS ARE PROVIDED ON A PERSONAL BASIS TO THE GOVERNOR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND MYSELF. AS SUCH, THEY MUST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL," SIR DAVID ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CPU WAS KEPT CONSTANTLY UNDER REVIEW THROUGH THE MONTHLY MEETINGS AND OTHER REGULAR CONTACTS THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND HIMSELF HAD WITH IT.

"WE ASSIGN PROJECTS TO THE CPU. AS I INFORMED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 1989, THE CPU HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO NOTED THAT THE OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF ALMOST ONE YEAR HAD SHOWN THAT THE CPU NEEDED SOME SLIGHT STRENGTHENING TO ENABLE IT TO COPE WITH THE GROWING DEMANDS THAT HAD BEEN MADE ON IT.

"PROVISION HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THIS YEAR'S ESTIMATES FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR POSTS IN THE CPU AND THE UPGRADING OF ONE OTHER.

"AUTHORITY FOR THE CREATION OF THESE WILL BE SOUGHT IN THE NEAR FUTURE," SIR DAVID SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 35 -

TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS DECLINE

* * * * *

INDICATIONS ARE THAT TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS HAVE DECREASED IN RECENT YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, MR ASPREY SAID ACCORDING TO TERRITORY-WIDE SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS, FORMED IN 1981 TO MONITOR SUCH BEHAVIOUR, THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED OF SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT IN TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAD DROPPED BY OVER 50 PER CENT IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY OFFENCES HAD ALSO DROPPED OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

"BOTH THE POLICE AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MONITOR CLOSELY THE INCIDENCE OF TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS," MR ASPREY SAID.

THE TWO DEPARTMENTS HAD ALSO TAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES TO COUNTER TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS. THESE INCLUDED:

- * REGULAR SCHOOL VISITS AND LECTURES BY THE 19 DISTRICT POLICE SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS TO EXPLAIN TO STUDENTS THE NATURE OF TRIAD INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS AND TO ADVISE THEM HOW TO RESPOND TO ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES;
- * SEMINARS ORGANISED FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR, INCLUDING TRIAD ACTIVITIES;
- * MATERIAL ON TRIAD ACTIVITIES PRODUCED FOR SCHOOLS TO ENHANCE THE AWARENESS OF BOTH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ABOUT TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS;
- * THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL PROGRAMME DEVELOPED TO INVOLVE STUDENTS IN WORTHWHILE ACTIVITIES; AND
- * WARNINGS AGAINST INVOLVEMENT IN TRIAD ACTIVITIES PUBLICISED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL FILMS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND PAMPHLETS.

"THESE MEASURES WILL BE REGULARLY REVIEWED TO ASSESS THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND MODIFIED AS NECESSARY," MR ASPREY ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 36 -

CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO ADVANCE CLEARANCE OF SQUATTERS
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO ADVANCE THE CLEARANCE OF SQUATTER VILLAGES IN DIAMOND HILL AFFECTED BY TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THESE VILLAGES INCLUDED NEW VILLAGE SOUTH, HA YUEN LENG VILLAGE AND SHEUNG YUEN LONG VILLAGE. "HOWEVER, NO DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN MADE," MR BARNES SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL CHENG, MR BARNES SAID THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING THESE AREAS WHEN VACATED, AS SUPPLEMENTARY HOUSING SITES WAS ALSO BEING EXAMINED.

ONE SUCH SITE, AT TAI KOON NEW VILLAGE NEAR HAMMER HILL ROAD, HAD ALREADY BEEN FOUND SUITABLE, IN PRINCIPLE, FOR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME/PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME DEVELOPMENTS. THE REMAINING SITES WERE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, MR BARNES SAID.

HE ALSO SAID RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY CLEARANCE IN THE URBAN AREA WERE OFFERED REHOUSING IN THE URBAN AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED HOUSING AUTHORITY POLICIES AND EACH HOUSEHOLD'S ELIGIBILITY.

THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL CLEARANCE LAST YEAR REDUCED THE DIAMOND HILL SQUATTER POPULATION FROM ABOUT 34,000 TO 19,000.

"A FURTHER CLEARANCE IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE TO FREE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FUNG TAK ROAD EXTENSION," MR BARNES SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THIS AND ONE OTHER CLEARANCE NEARBY WHICH IS UNDER ACTIVE PLANNING AND WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-1991, WILL FURTHER REDUCE THE SQUATTER POPULATION IN DIAMOND HILL SQUATTER AREA TO ABOUT 13,000.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/37

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 37 -

PUBLIC HOUSING DESIGNS FOR LAUNDRY DRYING BEING STUDIED

* * * * *

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS EXAMINING THE DESIGN OF THE HARMONY RANGE OF PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE ARE ANY POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE DRYING ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET TENANTS' WISHES TO DRY THEIR LAUNDRY IN DIRECT SUN AND WIND, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG ON SAFETY ASPECTS OF LAUNDRY DRYING IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN VIEW OF RECENT MISHAPS INVOLVING THE USE OF METAL DRYING ROD HOLDERS (WHICH ARE GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS THE "THREE JOSS STICKS").

MR BARNES SAID THE HOUSING AUTHORITY DID NOT CONSIDER THE "THREE JOSS STICKS" TO BE INHERENTLY UNSAFE, BUT ACCIDENTS MIGHT OCCUR IF USERS DID NOT EXERCISE DUE CARE WHEN USING THEM.

HE NOTED THAT HOUSING AUTHORITY TENANTS WERE PERMITTED TO INSTALL A NUMBER OF APPROVED DESIGNS OF DRYING ROD HOLDERS AND CORDED DRYING RACKS, AND THE CHOICE OF DESIGN WAS MADE BY THE INDIVIDUAL TENANT CONCERNED.

ON WHETHER RESIDENTS WOULD BE ADVISED OF THE PROPER WAY TO USE LAUNDRY DRYING FACILITIES, MR BARNES SAID ESTATE MANAGEMENT STAFF WERE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO ADVISE TENANTS ON THE USE AND PURCHASE OF SUITABLE RACKS, AND CARRIED OUT ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST THE USE OF UNAUTHORISED DESIGNS.

"HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT ACCIDENTS, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS CARRYING OUT FURTHER PUBLICITY WORK TO ENSURE THAT TENANTS ARE AWARE OF THE NEED TO USE APPROVED DESIGNS AND TO EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN USING THE LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEPENDANTS OF JLG AND LAND COMMISSION OFFICIALS
TO BE GIVEN DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES

* * * * *

THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND LAND COMMISSION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, WILL ENABLE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TO BE GRANTED TO THE DEPENDANTS OF CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF CHINESE OFFICIALS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND THE LAND COMMISSION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR DAVID SAID IT IS STATED IN ANNEX II TO THE JOINT DECLARATION THAT MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP SHALL ENJOY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AS APPROPRIATE WHILE IN PEKING, LONDON AND HONG KONG.

/THE PRIVILEGES

THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP) ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN MAY 1985 TO GRANT DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES IN HONG KONG TO CHINESE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

"FOLLOWING AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS IN JULY OF THE SAME YEAR, THE ORDINANCE WAS AMENDED AND RETITLED SO AS TO EXTEND SIMILAR PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TO EXPERTS AND SUPPORTING STAFF OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AS WELL AS TO CHINESE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTING STAFF OF THE LAND COMMISSION," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

"AT PRESENT, DEPENDANTS OF THESE OFFICIALS ARE NOT COVERED BY THE ORDINANCE AND ARE THEREFORE NOT ENTITLED TO ANY PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES WHILE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"IT IS NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE FOR DEPENDANTS OF DIPLOMATS AND OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF IN A DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO RECEIVE THE SAME PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS THE OFFICIALS CONCERNED," SIR DAVID NOTED.

"THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ALREADY EXTENDS APPROPRIATE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TO DEPENDANTS OF OFFICIALS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WHILE THEY ARE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM; AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DOES THE SAME WHILE THE BRITISH TEAM ARE IN CHINA," HE SAID.

"THE GRANTING OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TO DEPENDANTS OF CHINESE OFFICIALS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND THE LAND COMMISSION WOULD THEREFORE BE CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE; IT WOULD ALSO BRING THE ARRANGEMENTS IN HONG KONG INTO LINE WITH THOSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA," SIR DAVID SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL TO AMEND LAW ON COMPETENCE AND COMPELLABILITY

* * * * *

THE OBJECT OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 IS TO AMEND THE LAW GOVERNING THE COMPETENCE AND COMPELLABILITY OF SPOUSES TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR MATHEWS SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION RECOMMENDED A SERIES OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LAW OF COMPETENCE AND COMPELLABILITY TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE BETWEEN, ON THE ONE HAND, THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE, AND ON THE OTHER, THE AIM OF INTERFERING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE WITH RELATIONS BETWEEN MARRIED COUPLES AND THE FAMILY.

"A WITNESS IS COMPETENT TO GIVE EVIDENCE IF THE LAW PERMITS HIM TO DO SO. SUCH A WITNESS CAN ONLY BE COMPELLED TO GIVE EVIDENCE IF THE LAW REQUIRES HIM TO DO SO," MR MATHEWS SAID.

"THE PRESENT LAW GOVERNING COMPETENCE AND COMPELLABILITY OF SPOUSES TO TESTIFY IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IS GOVERNED BY A MIXTURE OF COMMON LAW RULES AND STATUTE," HE ADDED.

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT A PERSON IS COMPETENT TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF HIS OR HER SPOUSE WHERE THAT SPOUSE IS A DEFENDANT IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL. UNDER THE PRESENT LAW, A PERSON CANNOT BE COMPELLED TO GIVE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIS OR HER SPOUSE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE PRESENT LAW COULD PRODUCE UNJUST AND ARBITRARY RESULTS.

"FOR EXAMPLE, IF A PERSON WITNESSED HIS OR HER SPOUSE MURDERING SOMEBODY OVER THE AGE OF 16, HE OR SHE WOULD NOT BE COMPETENT TO TESTIFY AGAINST THAT SPOUSE. IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER EVIDENCE, NO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS COULD BE BROUGHT AND THE MURDERER WOULD EVADE JUSTICE," HE SAID.

"FURTHER, EVEN THOUGH COMPETENT TO DO SO, A WITNESS MAY REFUSE TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF HIS OR HER SPOUSE WHERE THAT SPOUSE IS A DEFENDANT IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL," HE ADDED.

"IT MATTERS NOT WHETHER THAT REFUSAL IS FOR GOOD OR FOR WHOLLY ARBITRARY REASONS; THE RULE APPLIES REGARDLESS OF HOW IMPORTANT THAT TESTIMONY MIGHT BE TO THE DEFENCE OF THE ACCUSED SPOUSE. AN INJUSTICE TO THE ACCUSED MAY RESULT," THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION MADE THREE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS:

- * FIRST, THAT A PERSON SHOULD, IN LIMITED TYPES OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, BE COMPELLABLE TO GIVE EVIDENCE FOR THE PROSECUTION;
- * SECOND, THAT A PERSON SHOULD BE COMPELLABLE TO GIVE EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENCE OF HIS OR HER SPOUSE IN ALL CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS; AND
- * THIRD, THAT A PERSON SHOULD BE COMPETENT TO GIVE EVIDENCE FOR THE PROSECUTION IN ALL CRIMINAL CASES AGAINST HIS OR HER SPOUSE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS, CLAUSE 3 OF THE BILL PROVIDES THAT A PERSON WHO IS COMPETENT TO GIVE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIS OR HER ACCUSED SPOUSE MAY ALSO BE COMPELLED TO DO SO WHERE THAT SPOUSE IS CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING, INJURING OR THREATENING INJURY TO THAT PERSON OR A CHILD OF THE FAMILY UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE. THE SAME RULE APPLIES TO SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST SUCH A CHILD.

- 40 -

"SUCH A WITNESS WOULD ALSO BE COMPELLABLE IF THE ACCUSED WAS CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING, CONSPIRING TO COMMIT, AIDING, ABETTING, COUNSELLING OR PROCURING OR INCITING THE COMMISSION OF ANY OF THESE OFFENCES," MR MATHEWS SAID.

CLASUE 3 OF THE BILL ALSO IMPLEMENTS THE OTHER MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

MR MATHEWS POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL PROVIDED THAT CHANGES CONCERNING THE COMPETENCE OR COMPELLABILITY OF SPOUSES WOULD NOT AFFECT THE RIGHT OF AN ACCUSED TO GIVE EVIDENCE, OR HIS OR HER PRIVILEGE AGAINST SELF INCRIMINATION, WHEN SUCH A PERSON WAS JOINTLY CHARGED FOR AN OFFENCE WITH HIS OR HER SPOUSE.

THE BILL PRESERVES THE STATUTORY PRIVILEGE AGAINST INCRIMINATION BY ONE SPOUSE OF ANOTHER EXCEPT WHERE THE WITNESS IS COMPELLABLE TO GIVE EVIDENCE FOR THE PROSECUTION.

"THE BILL ALSO SUBSTANTIALLY PRESERVES THE COMMON LAW RIGHT OF A PERSON TO RESIST DISCLOSURE OF ANY COMMUNICATION MADE BY HIS OR HER SPOUSE DURING THE MARRIAGE, ALTHOUGH AN EXCEPTION TO THAT RIGHT IS MADE WHERE THE PERSON IS LAWFULLY COMPELLED TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIS OR HER SPOUSE," MR MATHEWS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HK COMMITTED TO PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

* * * * *

THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION AND ENDANGERED SPECIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, WHICH HAS BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DEMONSTRATES HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MRS CHAN SAID IT PROVIDED FOR THE STRICT CONTROL OF COMMERCIAL TRADE IN HIGHLY ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA BY IMPOSING A REQUIREMENT ON THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES NOT TO ISSUE A LICENCE FOR THEIR IMPORT OR EXPORT.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT FOLLOWING WIDESPREAD CONCERN INTERNATIONALLY OVER THE CONTINUED DECLINE OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT, PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES), HAD DECLARED THAT SPECIES TO BE HIGHLY ENDANGERED.

"A BAN ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN IVORY CAME INTO EFFECT IN JANUARY THIS YEAR. THIS BAN DID NOT IMMEDIATELY APPLY TO HONG KONG BECAUSE THE UK GOVERNMENT HAD, AT OUR REQUEST, ENTERED A RESERVATION WITH CITES THE EFFECT OF WHICH WAS TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAN UNTIL JULY 17, 1990," SHE SAID.

/"THIS 'BREATHING'

"THIS 'BREATHING' SPACE HAS GIVEN HONG KONG TRADERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISPOSE OF THEIR IVORY IN A MORE ORDERLY WAY.

"IT HAS ALSO ALLOWED WORKERS IN THE TRADE TO FIND ALTERNATIVE JOBS, AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE AVAILABLE RETRAINING COURSES TO THOSE WORKERS NEEDING TO ACQUIRE NEW SKILLS," MRS CHAN SAID.

"CONTROLS TO IMPLEMENT THE BAN ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN IVORY MUST, HOWEVER, BE IN PLACE BY MID-JULY," SHE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT CONTROLS OVER TRADE IN HIGHLY ENDANGERED SPECIES HAD BEEN EFFECTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES WHO WOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION OR REJECT APPLICATIONS, ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, FOR A LICENCE TO IMPORT OR EXPORT.

"THIS HAS PROVED UNSATISFACTORY," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE BILL INTRODUCES, IN CLAUSE THREE, A PROVISION REQUIRING THE DIRECTOR NOT TO ISSUE IMPORT OR EXPORT LICENCES IN RESPECT OF HIGHLY ENDANGERED SPECIES SAVE IN SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES. THE SPECIES CONCERNED ARE LISTED IN A NEW SIXTH SCHEDULE, INTRODUCED UNDER CLAUSE FOUR OF THE BILL.

"OF THESE SPECIES, THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT IS THE ONE WHICH WILL ATTRACT MOST ATTENTION," MRS CHAN SAID.

"THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS LEGISLATION WILL ENSURE THAT, FROM JULY 17, 1990, NO COMMERCIAL IMPORT OR EXPORT OF RAW OR WORKED IVORY WILL BE PERMITTED," SHE ADDED.

"HOWEVER, IN LINE WITH CITES RULES, THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF PERSONAL POSSESSIONS, OF PRECONVENTION STOCK, OF SCIENTIFIC SPECIMENS, EXHIBITS AND FOR OTHER NON-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE," THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED.

"HONG KONG IS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND MUST BE SEEN TO BE PLAYING ITS ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS," MRS CHAN SAID.

"WE TAKE OUR CITES OBLIGATIONS SERIOUSLY AND WE ALREADY HAVE TIGHTER CONTROLS OVER THE IVORY TRADE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN ONCE IT COMES INTO FORCE," SHE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL BIL WAS ADJOURNED.

MOVE TO WIDEN SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

* * * * *

A BILL TO WIDEN THE ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED UNDER THE GRANTHAM SCHOLARSHIPS FUND WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE GRANTHAM SCHOLARSHIPS FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON ADOLF HSU, SAID THE BILL WOULD ENABLE THE FUND TO BE APPLIED MORE FLEXIBLY FOR ITS DECLARED PURPOSES.

THE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1955 FOR THE PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

"TO THIS END, THE INCOME OF THE FUND IS APPLIED FOR THE PROVISION OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND MAINTENANCE GRANTS FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS, AND FINANCIAL NEED HAS BEEN THE MAIN CRITERION FOR MAKING SUCH AWARDS," MR HSU SAID.

HE NOTED THAT IN RECENT YEARS WHILE THE RECURRENT INCOME OF THE FUND ARISING FROM INVESTMENTS HAD INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN DECLINING STEADILY, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF A MORE AFFLUENT COMMUNITY, THUS RESULTING IN A GROWING ANNUAL SURPLUS.

"IN ORDER TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE FUND AND THEREBY FURTHER THE OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING LOCAL EDUCATION, IT IS PROPOSED THAT SCHOLARSHIPS MAY BE GRANTED ON THE BASIS OF ACADEMIC AND OTHER RELEVANT ACHIEVEMENTS, IN ADDITION TO THOSE GRANTED ON THE BASIS OF FINANCIAL NEED," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE GRANTHAM SCHOLARSHIPS FUND COMMITTEE, MR HSU SAID: "CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL AMENDS SECTION 5 OF THE ORDINANCE BY REMOVING A PROVISION WHICH LIMITS THE RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO THOSE IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 43 -

CALL FOR SINO-BRITISH COOPERATION TO PRESERVE
PROSPERITY AND STABILITY

* * * * *

THE SINCERE COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS WERE NEEDED FOR HONG KONG TO PRESERVE ITS PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, THE HON MARTIN LEE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEE WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN MOVING A MOTION ON THE BASIC LAW.

THE MOTION READ: "IN LIGHT OF THE PROMULGATION OF THE HKSAR BASIC LAW BY THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, THIS COUNCIL URGES THE CHINESE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG; TO HELP HONG KONG, THROUGH MUTUAL AND SINCERE CO-OPERATION, TO SURMOUNT ITS PROBLEMS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997; AND TO AMEND, AT A SUITABLE TIME, THE RELEVANT CLAUSES OF THE BASIC LAW ACCORDING TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE OMELCO 'COMMENTS ON THE BASIC LAW (DRAFT)' SO AS TO FURTHER MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY."

MR LEE SAID THAT HONG KONG MUST SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THE BASIC POLICIES OF CHINA, AS SET OUT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, WOULD BE FAITHFULLY TRANSLATED IN THE BASIC LAW.

HE SAID THAT THE THREE PARAMOUNT OBJECTIVES OF THE BASIC LAW WERE THAT IT MUST REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF AND BE FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO HONG KONG PEOPLE; THAT IT MUST ACCORD WITH THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION; AND THAT IT MUST PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH AN EFFECTIVE AND WORKABLE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

ON THE FIRST OBJECTIVE OF ACCEPTANCE BY HONG KONG PEOPLE, MR LEE SAID IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT UNTIL THE BASIC LAW WAS AMENDED SUBSTANTIALLY ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN THE OMELCO REPORT, IT WOULD NOT BE FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"IF THE CONSTITUTION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO PEOPLE HERE, THEN, AS IS ALREADY HAPPENING NOW, GREAT NUMBERS OF OUR PEOPLE WILL LEAVE," HE SAID.

ON THE SECOND OBJECTIVE OF FULL ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION, MR LEE SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DEVIATIONS FROM THE JOINT DECLARATION WHICH WOULD DO GRAVE DAMAGE TO HONG KONG.

FIRST, THE IMPOSITION OF A NEW RESTRICTION THAT HOLDERS OF CERTAIN HIGH POSITIONS IN THE HKSAR COULD NOT HAVE A RIGHT OF ABODE IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY, AND THE PUTTING OF A CEILING OF 20 PER CENT ON LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS WHO WERE NON-CHINESE NATIONALS OR WITH A RIGHT OF ABODE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES WERE NEW PROVISIONS WHICH WERE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION.

/SECONDLY, HE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 44 -

SECONDLY, HE NOTED THAT THE PROVISION IN ARTICLE 106 OF THE BASIC LAW SET OUT BINDING GUIDELINES AS TO THE HKSAR'S FUTURE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE POLICIES.

"AGAIN, THERE IS NOTHING IN THE JOINT DECLARATION WHICH PROVIDES FOR SUCH A LIMIT ON THE HKSAR GOVERNMENT."

TURNING TO THE THIRD OBJECTIVE OF THE BASIC LAW, WHICH WAS TO ESTABLISH A WORKABLE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, MR LEE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO KEEP THE CURRENTLY THRIVING SYSTEM IN HONG KONG GOING BEYOND 1997, THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL SYSTEMS WERE AN INSEPARABLE WHOLE.

"IT FOLLOWS THAT IF HONG KONG'S LAWS ARE DECREED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT OR INTERPRETED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, THEN HONG KONG'S INDEPENDENT CAPITALIST SYSTEM MAY NOT SURVIVE, WITH THE RESULT THAT IT MAY LOSE ITS IMPORTANT PLACE IN THE TRADING WORLD OF CAPITALIST NATIONS," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IN RESERVING THE FULL POWERS OF INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND ITS STANDING COMMITTEE, THE BASIC LAW HAD DEALT A GRAVE BLOW TO THE INTEGRITY AND INDEED THE VERY VIABILITY OF THE POST-1997 HONG KONG.

MR LEE EXPECTED THAT HONG KONG WOULD GO THROUGH A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES AND UNCERTAINTIES BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997.

IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO PRESERVE THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG, THE SINCERE CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS WERE NEEDED, HE CONCLUDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CONFLICTS BETWEEN JOINT DECLARATION AND BASIC LAW
NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

* * * * *

THE HON RONALD ARCULLI QUERIED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO INCONSISTENCIES OR OUTRIGHT CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW AND HOW THEY WOULD BE RESOLVED, DURING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE BASIC LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN SUPPORTING THE MOTION BY THE HON MARTIN LEE, MR ARCULLI ALSO RAISED A NUMBER OF DOUBTS CONCERNING THE LINK BETWEEN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW.

ONE OF THE DOUBTS WAS THAT THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL OF THE HKSAR WAS NEITHER AS FINAL NOR AS INDEPENDENT AS IT APPEARED.

/*I SAY

"I SAY THIS BECAUSE IF THE COURTS OF THE HKSAR NEED TO INTERPRET THE BASIC LAW CONCERNING AFFAIRS WHICH ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OR THE VAGUE CONCEPT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES AND THE HKSAR, AN INTERPRETATION OF THE RELEVANT PROVISION FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS BECOMES NECESSARY AND THE HKSAR COURTS ARE BOUND BY SUCH INTERPRETATION.

"IS THIS THE BASIS OF AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY WITH POWERS OF FINAL ADJUDICATION?" HE SAID.

MR ARCULLI NOTED THAT THE ARTICLES IN THE BASIC LAW THAT INTRODUCED THE GREATEST CONCERN AND UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE LAW APPLICABLE TO THE HKSAR WERE ARTICLES 159 AND 160.

ARTICLE 159 STATED THAT THE POWER TO AMEND THE BASIC LAW VESTED IN THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND ARTICLE 160 ATTEMPTED TO ADOPT ALL THE LAWS PREVIOUSLY IN FORCE IN HONG KONG EXCEPT THOSE DECLARED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS TO BE INCONSISTENT TO THE BASIC LAW.

MR ARCULLI ASKED: "WITH THE POWER OF INTERPRETATION AND THE POWER OF AMENDMENT VESTED IN THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS CAN WE SAY WITHOUT A REASONABLE DOUBT THAT THE LAWS PREVIOUSLY IN FORCE IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY AFTER 1997? DID THE JOINT DECLARATION ENVISAGE THIS TO BE THE SITUATION?"

HE SAID THERE MIGHT BE NO SATISFACTORY ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS BUT IF THE CONCEPT OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" WAS TO SUCCEED, THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS WOULD NEED TO FIND APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CALL TO RECONSIDER OMELCO CONSENSUS

* * * * *

CHINA SHOULD RESCIND THE UNREASONABLE CLAUSES IN THE BASIC LAW AND RECONSIDER THE OMELCO RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM FOR HONG KONG, DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SUPPORTING THE MOTION ON THE BASIC LAW DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR LEONG POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE THREE CONTROVERSIAL AREAS IN THE BASIC LAW : THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEGISLATURE AND THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES, THE NATIONALITY ISSUE AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

DR LEONG WAS CONCERNED THAT THE ENDORSED BASIC LAW WOULD TURN THE LEGISLATURE INTO A MERE CONSULTATIVE BODY AND WOULD CREATE CLASHES BETWEEN THE LEGISLATURE AND THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES.

/HE ENVISAGED

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

- 46 -

HE ENVISAGED THAT FUTURE LEGISLATORS WOULD FIND THEMSELVES POWERLESS TO CONFRONT THE FORMIDABLE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND WOULD FEEL DEFEATED AS THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR BEING "A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PEOPLE" WOULD BE SUBDUED.

"LEGISLATORS WILL NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO INTRODUCE BILLS ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, THE STRUCTURE AND THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

"FURTHER, PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IS NEEDED BEFORE A BILL ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES CAN BE INTRODUCED," DR LEONG SAID.

DR LEONG ALSO SAID THAT THE LEGISLATURE HAD VIRTUALLY NO POWER TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR IMPEACH THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

ALSO, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HIMSELF NOT ELECTED THROUGH UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, HAD THE POWER TO DISSOLVE THE LEGISLATURE THAT DOES NOT PASS ANY IMPORTANT BILLS INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED.

ON NATIONALITY, DR LEONG SAID THAT THE BASIC LAW HAD SUCCESSFULLY CAST A NET OF RESTRICTIONS OVER FOREIGN PASSPORT HOLDERS.

"THIS WIDE NET OF NATIONALITY RESTRICTION IS OBVIOUSLY CONTRADICTING THE JOINT DECLARATION AS THE LATTER ONLY IMPOSE RESTRICTION ON THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND A HANDFUL OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS," HE SAID.

ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS, DR LEONG NOTED THAT CHINA THUMBED DOWN ON ITS LIKELY SUPREMACY OVER ALL LOCAL LAWS, INCLUDING THE BASIC LAW.

HE NOTED THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS SHOULD HAVE OVERRIDING POWER OVER ALL OTHER HONG KONG LAWS, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY OVER THE BASIC LAW.

AS MATTERS STAND, DR LEONG HOPED THAT OMELCO MEMBERS WOULD CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO LOBBY FOR A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND TO CONVINCE CHINA THEIR GOOD-WILL INTENTION.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT BRITAIN WOULD HONOUR HER PROMISES TO HONG KONG BY MAKING IT THRIVE AND PROSPER IN THE LAST YEARS OF HER RULE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COUNCILLOR DESCRIBES MEMBER'S MOTION AS "ANAEMIC"

* * * * *

HON JIMMY MCGREGOR TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DESCRIBED HON MARTIN LEE'S MOTION ON THE BASIC LAW AS "ANAEMIC".

"MR LEE, WHOM I GREATLY RESPECT, HAS CHOSEN A STRANGELY UNTYPICAL APPROACH, A QUIET, RESERVED AND ALMOST DESPAIRING APPEAL TO THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS TO LISTEN TO THE FRAGMENTED VOICE OF THIS COUNCIL," MR MCGREGOR SAID.

"WHY SHOULD THEY, MR LEE? THEY HAVE NOT LISTENED BEFORE OR, IF THEY HAVE, THEY HAVE NOT HEARD WHAT WE WERE SAYING."

MR MCGREGOR SAID HONG KONG WAS NOW IN A SITUATION WHERE CHINA, WITH BRITAIN APPARENTLY IN AGREEMENT, HAD DETERMINED THE PACE OF FURTHER CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN HONG KONG AND SET THIS OUT IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL IN THE BASIC LAW.

HE SAID HE COULD NOT IMAGINE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ANYTHING MORE TO BRING ABOUT MEANINGFUL CHANGES IN THE BASIC LAW.

NOR WOULD BRITAIN MODIFY ITS OWN POSITION IN THE YEARS UNTIL 1997 UNLESS THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE POLICIES OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT BETWEEN NOW AND THEN, HE ADDED.

"IT SO HAPPENS THAT I BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT SUCH CHANGES WILL COME ABOUT AND THAT WE SHALL SEE A MORE LIBERAL CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD, LESS SENSITIVE AND MUCH LESS WORRIED ABOUT HONG KONG," HE SAID.

SO HE THOUGHT THERE WAS MERIT IN SUPPORTING MR MARTIN LEE'S MOTION, HE CONCLUDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHINA SHOULD KEEP JOINT DECLARATION PROMISE

* * * * *

CHINA SHOULD BE PRESSED TO KEEP RELIGIOUSLY TO THEIR PROMISE AS SET OUT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND ALLOW HONG KONG AN EVEN HIGHER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, THE HON JAMES TIEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE HON MARTIN LEE'S MOTION ON THE BASIC LAW, MR TIEN SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT A RADICAL OVERTURNING OF THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE WHICH DISTURBED THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND DIRECT ELECTIONS WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT CHINA'S RIGHTS OVER HONG KONG WERE EXPLICIT IN REGARD ONLY TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE, AND ALL OTHER MATTERS MUST BE SO CONSTRUCTED TO ALLOW THE TERRITORY A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

HE SAID THAT LIBERAL COUNCILLORS SHOULD STOP SQUABBLING ABOUT DIRECT AND INDIRECT ELECTIONS, BUT SHOULD RATHER CALL FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION OF POWER BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG.

"OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS TO DRAW MORE POWER FROM CHINA. THUS, OUR WISH TO AMEND THE BASIC LAW SHOULD DERIVE FROM A DESIRE TO ENHANCE OUR AUTONOMY. THAT IS THE FIRST REQUIREMENT," MR TIEN SAID.

"THE SECOND STEP THEN, WOULD BE TO ATTEND TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWER, INVOLVED IN THIS HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, AND TO DISCUSS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMPOSITION OF THIS COUNCIL"

NOTING THAT CHINA HAD PROMISED THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD RULE HONG KONG, MR TIEN SAID THAT WITHOUT THE HONG KONG SAR ENJOYING COMPLETE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL POWER, WE COULD NOT MAKE A REALITY OF OUR FUTURE.

HE SAID THAT IN THAT RESPECT, THERE WAS STILL A GREAT DEAL OF ROOM FOR AMENDMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT AND THE SAR AND THE VALIDITY AND INTERPRETATION OF THE LAWS OF THE HONG KONG SAR.

"IF ANY AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE MADE, THOSE SHOULD REFER TO THE POWER OF OUR COURTS," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THREE BILLS PASSED IN LEGCO

* * * * *

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BILL 1990 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOUR BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND LAND COMMISSION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND GRANTHAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

DEBATES ON THE FOUR BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

IN ADDITION, A MOTION BY THE HON MARTIN LEE ON THE BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WAS PASSED.

A TOTAL OF 14 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE TODAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -