



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1984

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
AN HISTORIC OCCASION: PRIME MINISTER	1
+HK PEOPLE WILL RISE TO CHALLENGE+	3
PRESS DETAILS FOR PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT	5
ACCREDITATION FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES	7
CALL FOR ELECTION CANDIDATES	7
BOARD TO HEAR ABOUT CATTLE DEPOT	8
\$5M COMPUTER STUDIES CENTRE PLANNED	8
PUMPING EQUIPMENT CONTRACT SIGNED	9
CHAI WAN LIGHTS UP	10
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC PLAN FOR ABERDEEN	10
WAN CHAI TRAFFIC CHANGE	12
PARKING SITE TO LET	13
<u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:</u>	
PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL INTRODUCED	14
ACTION AGAINST TRIADS STEPPED UP	15
WAGE CEILING RAISED	15
WORKING PEOPLE IN NEW TOWNS	16
TRIBUTE TO MR DENIS BRAY	16
HIGHER FINES APPROVED	17

/HIGHER CHARGES

HIGHER CHARGES FOR OFFENDING MOTORISTS	18
MORAL EDUCATION ON COURSE	18
NO PUTONGHUA DEPARTMENT YET FOR COLLEGES	19
HEAVY DEMAND FOR MTR	20
STEPS TAKEN TO TIGHTEN LAW ON FIRE HAZARDS	21
BILLS CLARIFY MEANS OF ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY	22
BILL ON MONEY CHANGERS INTRODUCED	22
BILL TO RELAX TRADE MARKS CRITERIA	24
POISONS LIST UPDATED	24
COPYRIGHT SIMILAR TO THAT IN UK	25
RULES TO PRESCRIBE NEW FORMS FOR LEGAL PROCEDURE	25
BILL TO CORRECT ARBITRATION ANOMALY	26
DESALTING PLANT KEPT AS STANDBY	26
NOT MANY COMPLAINTS RECEIVED ABOUT FALSE ALARMS	27
LEGCO BILLS	27

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1984

- 1 -

AN HISTORIC OCCASION: PRIME MINISTER
* * * *

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, AT THE CEREMONY OF THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WHICH TOOK PLACE IN PEKING TODAY (DECEMBER 19):

+YOUR EXCELLENCY CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING, YOUR EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT LI XIANNIAN, YOUR EXCELLENCY PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

+THIS IS AN HISTORIC OCCASION, AND I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE THAT CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING IS ABLE TO BE PRESENT. THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, WHICH WE HAVE JUST SIGNED ON BEHALF OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, IS A LANDMARK IN THE LIFE OF THE TERRITORY: IN THE COURSE OF ANGLO-CHINESE RELATIONS: AND IN THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY. THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES A FIRM BASIS FOR CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG UP TO 1997 AND BEYOND, AND FOR ITS CONTINUED STABILITY, PROSPERITY AND GROWTH.

+I REMEMBER WITH PLEASURE MY LAST VISIT TO CHINA IN SEPTEMBER 1982 AND MY DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE LEADERS. AT MY MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING ON THAT OCCASION WE AGREED TO OPEN TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. OUR COMMON AIM WAS TO MAINTAIN THE TERRITORY'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY. IT IS IN A SPIRIT OF PRIDE AND OF OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE THAT I NOW RETURN TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WHICH IS THE RESULT OF THESE TALKS.

+I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOT ALWAYS EASY. AT CERTAIN POINTS THERE WERE DIFFICULT DECISIONS TO BE MADE ON BOTH SIDES. THERE WERE MOMENTS OF TENSION. TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES WE NEEDED TO DRAW ON A SHARED FUND OF GOODWILL: ON FRIENDSHIP: AND ON A COMMON COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE. THIS WAS WHAT MADE SUCCESS POSSIBLE. AND I SHOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE DEDICATION OF THE TWO NEGOTIATING TEAMS AND ALL THEIR SUPPORTING STAFF, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND STATE COUNCILLOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER WU XUEQIAN. IT IS THANKS TO THE IMAGINATION AND RESOURCE WHICH THEY SHOWED THAT WE CAN SIGN THE AGREEMENT TODAY.

+THE AGREEMENT FULLY MEETS THE POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS OF BRITAIN AND CHINA, AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. IT PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH, AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, HONG KONG WILL MAINTAIN ITS ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND WAY OF LIFE FOR 50 YEARS AFTER THE FIRST OF JULY 1997. IT GIVES HONG KONG A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY: HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL ADMINISTER HONG KONG AND THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WILL PASS ITS OWN LEGISLATION. IT ALLOWS HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO DECIDE ITS OWN ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TRADE POLICIES AND TO PARTICIPATE AS APPROPRIATE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND AGREEMENTS. IT PRESERVES HONG KONG'S FAMILIAR LEGAL SYSTEM AND THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ENJOYED THERE. IN SHORT IT PROVIDES THE ASSURANCES FOR THE FUTURE WHICH HONG KONG NEEDS, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS UNIQUE ROLE IN THE WORLD AS A TRADING AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

/+THESE QUALITIES

+THESE QUALITIES IN THE AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED BY THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF CHINA, WHICH HAVE APPROVED THE INTENTION OF OUR GOVERNMENTS TO PROCEED TO SIGNATURE. THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO A THOROUGH PUBLIC DEBATE AMONG THOSE WHOSE FUTURE IT WILL DETERMINE - THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS AND SOUGHT CLARIFICATION ON PARTICULAR POINTS, THEY HAVE CLEARLY JUDGED IT TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM AS A WHOLE. THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN WIDELY PRAISED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS, IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND IN FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCLES. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DESCRIBED IT AS AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WAY IN WHICH DIFFICULT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVED. INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL AND SUPPORT WILL BE VITAL FOR HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

+I SHOULD LIKE TO PAY A TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERS OF CHINA FOR THE VISION AND FAR-SIGHTEDNESS OF THEIR APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE CONCEPT OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS' - PRESERVING TWO DIFFERENT POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS WITHIN ONE NATION HAS NO PRECEDENT. IT OFFERS AN IMAGINATIVE RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG. THE CONCEPT IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW APPARENTLY INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS CAN, AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED.

+THE AGREEMENT IS A BASIS ON WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BUILD. THEY WILL BRING TO THE TASK THE ENERGY, PERSISTENCE AND DETERMINATION FOR WHICH THEY ARE RIGHTLY FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL MAKE HONG KONG AN EVEN MORE FLOURISHING PLACE THAN IT IS TODAY.

+BRITAIN AND CHINA SHARE A CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THE CONDITIONS WITHIN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN REALISE THIS GOAL. WE HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATION IN THIS SOLEMN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. WE HAVE CREATED IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, A FORUM FOR COOPERATION OVER ITS IMPLEMENTATION. WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE STRENGTH OF OUR COMMITMENT TO IT TODAY BY THE SIGNATURES THAT YOU, MR PREMIER, AND I HAVE SET UPON IT. AND I AM HEARTENED BY THE ASSURANCE WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY GIVEN THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG CONTAINED IN THE AGREEMENT ARE NOT MEASURES OF EXPEDIENCY. THEY ARE LONG TERM POLICIES, WHICH WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE BASIC LAW FOR HONG KONG AND PRESERVED INTACT FOR 50 YEARS FROM 1997.

+FOR MY PART I PLEDGE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO MAKE THE AGREEMENT A SUCCESS. IT WILL BE OUR PRIDE AND OUR PLEASURE TO ADMINISTER HONG KONG UP TO THE 30 JUNE 1997 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION. WE SHALL ADMINISTER IT PRUDENTLY WITH FORESIGHT AND IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE.

+IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, WE SHALL BE READY TO CONSULT WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT THIS CONSULTATION WILL EXTEND BEYOND 1997 TO THE YEAR 2000.

+THE NEGOTIATION ITSELF HAS BROUGHT OUR COUNTRIES CLOSER TOGETHER. IT HAS INCREASED OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT AND TRUST. I AM CONVINCED THAT AS WE WORK TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE WE SHALL BE LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR AN EVEN CLOSER AND DEEPER RELATIONSHIP. THAT IS GOOD FOR BRITAIN: GOOD FOR CHINA: AND GOOD FOR THE WORLD. ABOVE ALL IT IS GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+WE ARE PRIVILEGED TODAY TO TAKE PART WITH OUR CHINESE FRIENDS IN A UNIQUE OCCASION. THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE UNIQUE, THE AGREEMENT IS UNIQUE. IT IS RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD FEEL A SENSE OF HISTORY, OF PRIDE AND OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

+HK PEOPLE WILL RISE TO CHALLENGE+
* * *

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, AT THE BANQUET AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE IN PEKING THIS (DECEMBER 19) EVENING:

+YOUR EXCELLENCY, PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. IT IS A PRIVILEGE AND GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE VISITING CHINA FOR THE THIRD TIME IN SEVEN YEARS. EACH VISIT HAS BEEN ALL TOO SHORT. BUT EACH VISIT HERE ALSO MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION ON ME. THIS VISIT HAS A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE BECAUSE IT MARKS AN HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT.

+THAT ACHIEVEMENT WAS OUR SIGNATURE THIS AFTERNOON OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ON HONG KONG. IN MY SPEECH AT THE SIGNATURE CEREMONY I DESCRIBED THE SIGNIFICANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO THE JOINT DECLARATION: OUR DETERMINATION TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF IT; AND THE FIRM BASIS WHICH IT LAYS DOWN FOR THE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG'S UNIQUE SOCIETY INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE 21ST CENTURY. I EXPRESSED MY CONVICTION THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD RISE TO THE CHALLENGE THAT LIES AHEAD OF THEM.

+THE WORLD CAN DRAW A LESSON FROM THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF OUR JOINT ENTERPRISE:

- * DETERMINED NEGOTIATION CAN SUCCEED WHERE CONFRONTATION WOULD SURELY LEAD TO DISASTER:
- * GOOD WILL AND FRIENDSHIP CAN OVERCOME MISUNDERSTANDING:
- * AN INTRACTABLE PROBLEM INHERITED FROM THE PAST CAN BE SOLVED THROUGH AN IMAGINATIVE APPROACH TO THE FUTURE:
- * DIVISIONS IN INTERNATIONAL LIFE CAN BE OVERCOME IN WAYS WHICH PRESERVE THE AUTONOMY AND INDIVIDUALITY OF THE SOCIETIES AFFECTED.

/+BOTH OUR

+BOTH OUR COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED IN THE SEVEN YEARS SINCE MY FIRST VISITS HERE. AND CHANGED FOR THE BETTER. IN CHINA, A NEW ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE AND DYNAMISM HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN STEADY ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS AND INCREASED OPENING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. IN AGRICULTURE, YOU HAVE HAD CONSECUTIVE RECORD HARVESTS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS: CHINA IS NOW THE WORLD'S FOREMOST GRAIN PRODUCER. THESE ARE THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE PROCESS OF REFORMS WHICH YOU HAVE INSTIGATED. YOU ARE NOW EMBARKING ON AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF INDUSTRIAL REFORM. WE WATCH THIS PROCESS OF CHANGE WITH ADMIRATION AND INTENSE INTEREST. IN BRITAIN, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CONTROLLING INFLATION, INCREASING INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY AND OUTPUT AND, MOST IMPORTANT, CHANGING ATTITUDES. WE TOO ARE CREATING A BRIGHTER AND MORE CHALLENGING FUTURE FOR OUR PEOPLE. THE MOST BASIC PRINCIPLE WHICH BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS ARE APPLYING IS COURAGE TO BE OBJECTIVE IN ANALYSING PROBLEMS - AS YOU WOULD PUT IT, TO SEEK THE TRUTH FROM FACTS.

+WHEN I LAST CAME TO CHINA, THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WAS A PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED BETWEEN US. THE NEGOTIATIONS WHOSE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WE MARKED TODAY HAVE NOT ONLY ACHIEVED THIS AND HAVE GIVEN SOLID GROUNDS FOR CONFIDENCE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THEY HAVE ALSO BROUGHT BRITAIN AND CHINA CLOSER TOGETHER. THEY HAVE GIVEN FRESH IMPETUS TO THE EFFORTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP STRONG AND WIDE-RANGING RELATIONS BETWEEN US. EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR STRENGTHENING CULTURAL LINKS ALREADY EXIST. AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IS NOW GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE. IN MANY OF THE AREAS WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO YOUR MODERNISATION PLANS BRITAIN HAS A GREAT DEAL OF EXPERIENCE. I BELIEVE WE IN BRITAIN CAN MAKE AN ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO HELPING YOU BUILD A STRONG AND PROSPEROUS CHINA. WE LOOK FORWARD TO DOING SO.

+STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY AT HOME REQUIRE PEACE AND STABILITY ABROAD. AS CHAIRMAN DENG HAS SAID: 'LIKE THE REST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, WE REALLY NEED A PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT.' HOW TRUE THAT IS. BOTH BRITAIN AND CHINA HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES CAPABLE AND WILLING TO WORK FOR A MORE STABLE WORLD FREE OF THE THREAT POSED BY ARMED MIGHT. WITH OUR SHARED GOOD WILL AND OUR CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, WE SHOULD NOW REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO CONTRIBUTE JOINTLY TO WORLD PEACE AND PROSPERITY. THE SPIRIT SHOULD BE THAT OF TENNYSON'S RINGING CALL: 'TO STRIVE, TO SEEK, TO FIND AND NOT TO YIELD'.

+MR PREMIER, IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO RENEW THE FRIENDLY CONTACT WE HAD ON MY LAST VISIT. WE HAVE HAD EXCELLENT TALKS AGAIN TODAY. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO LONDON NEXT YEAR. FOR NOW, IN THANKING YOU FOR THIS MAGNIFICENT BANQUET, MAY I USE THE WORDS OF A CHINESE PROVERB TO DESCRIBE THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH WE ARE FORGING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES: 'HAVING ADVANCED SO FAR, LET US STRIVE TO MOVE FURTHER STILL.'+

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1984

- 5 -

PRESS DETAILS FOR PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

THE FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, AND LADY HOWE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THEY WILL NEED SPECIAL ACCREDITATION TO COVER ALL PUBLIC FUNCTIONS, AND THAT SPECIFIC LAPEL BADGES FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL FUNCTION MUST BE WORN.

PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAMME

ARRIVAL AT KAI TAK -- 12.20 PM

A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY WILL BE ARRANGED AT THE ARRIVAL HALL +FINGER+. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER PARTY SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM NOT LATER THAN 11.30 AM. THEY SHOULD BRING WITH THEM PROOF OF IDENTITY.

LUNCH WITH UMELCO -- 1.00 PM

THERE WILL BE FIXED POSITIONS AT THE PEDDER STREET ENTRANCE OF SWIRE HOUSE FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE IN POSITION BY 12.45 PM.

VISIT TO AP LEI CHAU -- 2.45 PM TO 3.45 PM

THERE WILL BE FOUR FIXED PRESS POSITIONS AT VARIOUS VANTAGE POINTS TO COVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE AP LEI CHAU HOUSING ESTATE. TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. TWO COACHES WILL LEAVE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CAR PARK FOR AP LEI CHAU AT 1.30 PM SHARP.

RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE -- 5.00 PM TO 6.00 PM

ABOUT 500 PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY WILL ATTEND THE RECEPTION. ONLY TELEVISION CAMERAMEN AND TECHNICIANS WILL BE ALLOWED TO FILM THE RECEPTION INSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. THIS WILL BE DONE FROM A FIXED POSITION AND WILL BE CONFINED TO A FEW MINUTES. THOSE COVERING THE RECEPTION SHOULD REPORT TO THE GUARD ROOM AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE BY 4.30 PM.

POOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS FOR THE PRINT MEDIA.

/EXCO MEETING

EXCO MEETING -- 6.30 PM

THERE WILL BE FIXED POSITIONS AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO BE IN POSITION BY 6.15 PM.

ADDRESS TO EXCO AND LEGCO -- 7.00 PM

ADMISSION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER TO COVER THE ADDRESS WILL BE BY LAPEL BADGE HOLDERS ONLY. ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE CHAMBER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY AND OF THE ORGANISATION WHICH THEY REPRESENT.

ALL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE SEATED BY 6.50 PM. THERE WILL BE A THREE-MINUTE PHOTO-CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ARRIVED AND BEFORE SHE BEGINS HER ADDRESS. ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS MUST LEAVE THE CHAMBER BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER STARTS HER ADDRESS.

ALL RECORDINGS SHOULD BE DONE INSIDE THE BOOTHS AND NO MICROPHONES OR HAND-HELD RECORDERS WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE DAIS. RADIO BROADCASTERS AND COMMENTATORS WILL OPERATE FROM THE RADIO BOOTHS BEHIND THE CHAMBER.

THE WHOLE ADDRESS WILL BE TELEVISED LIVE BY RTHK, WHICH WILL ALSO MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL FEEDS FOR OTHER CREWS.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE ADDRESS, TOGETHER WITH A CHINESE TRANSLATION, WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS.

THERE WILL BE FIXED PRESS POSITIONS AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTURE. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE IN POSITION 15 MINUTES IN ADVANCE.

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE'S PROGRAMME

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE WILL HAVE THE SAME PROGRAMME AS THE PRIME MINISTER EXCEPT THAT AT 2.45 PM. HE WILL ATTEND A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THERE WILL BE FIXED PRESS POSITIONS OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF HIS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE IN POSITION 15 MINUTES IN ADVANCE.

LADY HOWE'S PROGRAMME

LADY HOWE WILL OPEN THE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS ASSOCIATION AT BLOCK F, 1ST FLOOR, VICTORIA BARRACKS, AT 3.00 PM. A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY WILL BE ARRANGED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. THOSE COVERING THE OPENING SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE ASSOCIATION'S PREMISES AT 2.30 PM.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1984

- 7 -

ACCREDITATION FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES
* * * * *

SPECIAL LAPEL BADGES FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER VARIOUS PUBLIC FUNCTIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, AND LADY HOWE, WILL BE READY FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM FROM 3 PM TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

PERSONS COLLECTING THESE LAPEL BADGES MUST PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY AND OF THE ORGANISATIONS THEY REPRESENT.

SPECIFIC LAPEL BADGES FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL FUNCTION MUST BE WORN BY MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THAT FUNCTION. NORMAL MEDIA IDENTIFICATION ALONE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO GAIN ACCESS TO OFFICIAL PRESS POSITIONS.

BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS INSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER NOT ALL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR SEATS TO COVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED SEATS.

THOSE WITHOUT SEATS ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, WHERE TELEVISION MONITORS WILL BE SET UP FOR THEM TO WATCH THE ADDRESS.

TELEVISION CREWS AND RADIO REPORTERS WILL BE ABLE TO GET +FEEDS+ FROM THE BROADCAST VAN OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CALL FOR ELECTION CANDIDATES
* * * * *

THE NEWLY-APPOINTED SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN HO, TODAY CALLED ON ALL CAPABLE PERSONS IN THE DISTRICT TO STAND AS CANDIDATES FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION ON MARCH 7.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD STARTS FROM JANUARY 4 UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.

+I KNOW THAT THERE ARE MANY COMMUNITY LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE WORKED HARD AND MADE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISTRICT, AND NOW IS THE TIME FOR THEM TO COME OUT AND TAKE THE CHALLENGE OF BECOMING REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL RESIDENTS,+ MR HO SAID.

HE SAID THE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF UNOFFICIALS, ELECTED AND APPOINTED, WOULD BE GREATLY INCREASED AS, UNLIKE THE EXISTING PRACTICE, THERE WOULD BE AN UNOFFICIAL DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, WHILE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WOULD ONLY ACT AS OBSERVERS.

/+IN ADDITION,

+IN ADDITION, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WOULD ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SERVING THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS,+ HE SAID.

MR HO MADE THE APPEAL DURING COURTESY CALLS TO THE HANG HAU AND SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEES TODAY.

HE COMMENDED RURAL LEADERS WHO HAD DEVOTED MUCH TIME IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS AND REFLECTED THE WISHES OF FELLOW VILLAGERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BOARD TO HEAR ABOUT CATTLE DEPOT
* * * *

MEMBERS OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE LATEST SITUATION ON THE TSING YI CATTLE QUARANTINE DEPOT PROJECT AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PROJECT WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO REPLACE THE EXISTING CATTLE DEPOTS AT MA TAU KOK ROAD AND KENNEDY TOWN.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN SCOTT WILL ALSO ATTEND THE MEETING TO BRIEF THE BOARD ON THE ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING SCHEME.

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR THE TOWN GAS PLANT IN TO KWA WAN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

\$5M COMPUTER STUDIES CENTRE PLANNED
* * * *

A COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTRE WITH A CAPITAL COST TAG OF \$5 MILLION, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A SUITABLE PROJECT FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TRUST FUND.

THE MACLEHOSE FUND WAS SET UP AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS TO COMMEMORATE THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF LORD MACLEHOSE AS GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG FROM 1971 TO 1982.

THE FUND IS VESTED IN THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS INCORPORATED AS TRUSTEE WHOSE REPORT FOR 1983-84 WAS TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ESTABLISHED UNDER THE SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TRUST FUND ORDINANCE, THE FUND IS TO BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE DAY.

THE GOVERNOR HAS PROPOSED THAT THE FIRST GRANT BE MADE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND ABOUT \$5.5 MILLION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM INCOME BY APRIL 1, 1985.

THE COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTRE, WHICH WOULD RECEIVE THE FIRST GRANT, WOULD PROVIDE COMPUTER AWARENESS COURSES FOR TEACHERS WHO WOULD IN TURN CONDUCT COURSES FOR THEIR PUPILS.

IT WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A REFERENCE CENTRE AND PROVIDE LIBRARY AND SOFTWARE FACILITIES FOR ALL TEACHERS OF COMPUTER STUDIES.

IF THE RECURRENT COSTS OF SUCH A CENTRE, AMOUNTING TO \$460 000 FROM PUBLIC FUNDS WERE ACCEPTED, THEN THE GRANT WOULD BE MADE NEXT YEAR.

DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REPORT, ABOUT \$23 334 000 WAS PLEDGED, OF WHICH NEARLY \$22 709 000 HAD BEEN RECEIVED. THE INCOME ACCUMULATED BY MARCH 31, 1984 AMOUNTED TO \$2 429 500.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PUMPING EQUIPMENT CONTRACT SIGNED

* * * *

A \$11.3-MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PUMPING EQUIPMENT FOR THE JUNK BAY SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS WAS AWARDED TODAY BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR G.J. OSBORNE, AND THE DIRECTOR OF ARNHOLD AND COMPANY LIMITED, MR A.M. FLETCHER.

THE TREATMENT WORKS, OCCUPYING ABOUT 16 500 SQUARE METRES, WILL BE IN THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN. THE CIVIL ENGINEERING WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE CONSULTANT, MOTT, HAY AND ANDERSON FAR EAST UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE TREATMENT WORKS HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO SERVE A POPULATION OF ABOUT 177 000, PLANNED UNDER THE PHASE I DEVELOPMENT OF THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN. PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR FUTURE EXTENSION SHOULD FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN GO AHEAD.

THE PUMPING EQUIPMENT WILL COMPRISE SEVEN CENTRIFUGAL SEWAGE PUMPS IN TWO SEPARATE PUMPING STATIONS INSIDE THE TREATMENT WORKS. COMPLETION IS SCHEDULED FOR LATE 1986.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1984

- 10 -

CHAI WAN LIGHTS UP
* * *

A SWITCH-ON CEREMONY FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTING DECORATIONS IN CHAI WAN WILL BE HELD AT THE ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS WAN TSUI ROAD AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER FOR EASTERN, DR SIMON VICKERS.

- - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE CEREMONY SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE SITTING-OUT AREA OPPOSITE THE CHAI WAN THEATRE BEFORE 7.30 PM.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC PLAN FOR ABERDEEN
* * * * *

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IN FORCE IN ABERDEEN FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 21) FOR WORK ON A COASTAL ROAD.

PART OF THE ROAD HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED AND WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM THE SAME DAY.

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC:

- * ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD FROM ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET TO ABOUT 15 METRES NORTH OF WU PAK STREET.
- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD BETWEEN LOK YEUNG STREET AND CHENGTU ROAD.
- * THE SECTION OF WU NAM STREET EAST OF TUNG SING ROAD.
- * THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD NEAR HOUSE NO. 130, ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD.

A NUMBER OF ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE REROUTED:

- * ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD BETWEEN ABERDEEN PRAYA ROAD AND ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.
- * TUNG SING ROAD BETWEEN ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD AND LOK YEUNG STREET WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

/* WU PAK

- * WU PAK STREET BETWEEN CHENGTU ROAD AND TUNG SING ROAD WILL BECOME ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.
- * WU PAK STREET BETWEEN TUNG SING ROAD AND ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD WILL BECOME A TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC.

WU NAM STREET WILL BE PROHIBITED TO ALL MOTOR VEHICLES BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY.

THE TWO UNNAMED ACCESS ROADS NEAR HOUSE NOS. 162 AND 180, ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD, LEADING TO ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET WILL BE PROHIBITED TO ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES.

THE EXISTING PLB PROHIBITION AT LOK YEUNG STREET WILL BE LIFTED. BUT PLBS WILL BE BANNED FROM SAI ON STREET, WU PAK STREET, WU NAM STREET AND NAM NING STREET.

SEVERAL ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE DESIGNATED 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAYS: THE UNNAMED NEW COASTAL ROAD ALONG THE ABERDEEN RECLAMATION AND ITS NORTHBOUND ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD- THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD BETWEEN ABERDEEN PRAYA ROAD AND FUNG TIN STREET. NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE ROAD SECTIONS.

THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FOR ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES BETWEEN 7 AM AND MIDNIGHT DAILY:

- * CHENGTU ROAD.
- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD BETWEEN FUNG TIN STREET AND CHENGTU ROAD.
- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CHENGTU ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 150 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.
- * THE FIRST 50 METRES OF NAM NING STREET FROM ITS SOUTHERN JUNCTION WITH CHENGTU ROAD.

IN ADDITION, LOK YEUNG STREET BETWEEN TUNG SING ROAD AND CHENGTU ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FOR PLBS BETWEEN 7 AM AND MIDNIGHT DAILY.

THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS WILL MEAN THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

- * EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD NEAR ABERDEEN CENTRE HEADING FOR WONG CHUK HANG OR THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL SHOULD TURN RIGHT INTO CHENGTU ROAD, AND THEN PROCEED VIA THE UNNAMED COASTAL ROAD ALONG THE ABERDEEN RECLAMATION TO REJOIN ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD.

- * WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD EAST OF ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET HEADING FOR TIN WAN OR POK FU LAM SHOULD TRAVEL ALONG THE UNNAMED COASTAL ROAD TO PROCEED TO ABERDEEN PRAYA ROAD.
- * WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD EAST OF ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET HEADING FOR ABERDEEN TOWN CENTRE OR SHEK PAI WAN SHOULD USE THE UNNAMED COASTAL ROAD AND THEN TURN RIGHT TO REJOIN ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD EASTBOUND.
- * SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC FROM ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD SHOULD ENTER LOK YEUNG STREET AND THEN TURN LEFT INTO CHENGTU ROAD. TRAFFIC HEADING FOR WONG CHUK HANG OR ABERDEEN TUNNEL SHOULD TURN LEFT AT THE JUNCTION OF CHENGTU ROAD WITH WU NAM STREET INTO THE UNNAMED COASTAL ROAD, AND TRAFFIC HEADING FOR TIN WAN OR POK FU LAM SHOULD TURN RIGHT AT THE SAME JUNCTION.
- * PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ON ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD HEADING FOR WONG CHUK HANG SHOULD PROCEED VIA ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET.
- * BUSES AND MAXICABS PASSING THROUGH ABERDEEN WILL BE DIVERTED AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ROAD CLOSURES AND REROUTINGS.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WAN CHAI TRAFFIC CHANGE

* * * *

TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN LOCKHART ROAD, JAFFE ROAD BETWEEN O'BRIEN ROAD AND FLEMING ROAD IN WAN CHAI WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 21).

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1984

- 13 -

PARKING SITE TO LET
* * *

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A SITE AT KWAI CHUNG.

THE 2 380 SQUARE-METRE-SITE IS AT TAI PAK TIN STREET, AND IS FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR SIX MONTHS, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 4, 1985.

TENDER FORMS, THE NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND THE RELATED PLAN MAY BE INSPECTED AT:

- * LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN, 10TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14

PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL INTRODUCED
* * * * *

LEGISLATION TO SET UP THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES.

IN MOVING A MOTION FOR THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1984, HE SAID THAT WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION, ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ESTABLISH THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WHICH WOULD COVER AREAS OUTSIDE THE AEGIS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

+THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL INVOLVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES WHICH HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON THEIR DAILY LIVES,+ HE SAID.

+THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS ARM OF GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT THAT IT AFFORDS, HAS BEEN WIDELY WELCOMED BY THOSE LIVING IN THE AREAS CONCERNED.+

THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, EXPECTED TO BE SET UP IN APRIL NEXT YEAR, WOULD ALLOW SOME WORKING EXPERIENCE TO BE GAINED BEFORE THE FULL COUNCIL COMES INTO BEING.

+IT WILL NOT BECOME A FULL STATUTORY EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, BUT WILL GIVE ADVICE ON THE PLANNING, INAUGURAL AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FULL REGIONAL COUNCIL,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

+IT WILL ALSO DEAL WITH MATTERS RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION, HYGIENE AND RECREATION AND CULTURE.+

THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL CONSIST OF 24 MEMBERS — 12 APPOINTED, THREE WITH EX-OFFICIO STATUS COMPRISING THE CHAIRMAN AND TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, AND THE REMAINING NINE WILL BE INDIVIDUALLY ELECTED BY EACH OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+AS THE ELECTIONS OF DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE HELD AFTER THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND DURING APRIL, MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL BE COMPLETE BY MAY 1, 1985,+ HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

ACTION AGAINST TRIADS STEPPED UP

* * * *

REVIEWS SHOWED A REVIVAL IN TRIAD ACTIVITY AND POLICE ACTION AGAINST TRIADS WERE BEING STEPPED UP, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+IT WOULD NOT BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE IN OUR EFFORTS TO STAMP OUT ORGANISED CRIME FOR ME TO PUBLICISE THE DETAILS.

+BETTER FOR THE TRIADS TO FIND OUT AS A RESULT OF INCREASED ACTIVITY AGAINST THEM BY THE POLICE IN PARTICULAR AND BY THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON KEITH LAM.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUP ON GANGS WAS FORMULATING OR WOULD FORMULATE A STRATEGY TO MEET EACH AREA OF SERIOUS TRIAD ACTIVITY IT CAME ACROSS.

THE GROUP HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A NUMBER OF UP-TO-DATE REPORTS FROM THE POLICE ON TRIAD AND GANG ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS REPORTS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WAGE CEILING RAISED

* * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION TO RAISE THE WAGE CEILING FOR NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE FROM \$8 500 TO \$9 500.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID THE WAGE CEILING WAS REVIEWED ANNUALLY BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND REVISED IF THERE WAS A CLEAR NEED TO DO SO.

THE LAST REVISION WAS IN OCTOBER 1983 WHEN THE WAGE CEILING WAS RAISED FROM \$7 500 TO \$8 500.

MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT A REVIEW MADE RECENTLY INDICATED THAT THE PROPOSED WAGE CEILING OF \$9 500 WOULD BE THE CURRENT EQUIVALENT OF \$8 500 AT THE TIME OF THE LAST REVISION.

IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT AFTER THE REVISION, ABOUT 2.3 PER CENT OF ALL EMPLOYEES WOULD REMAIN OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WHICH APPLIED TO ALL MANUAL WORKERS, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WORKING PEOPLE IN NEW TOWNS

* * * *

THE PERCENTAGE OF THE WORKING POPULATION EMPLOYED AND RESIDENT IN NEW TOWNS RANGE FROM ABOUT 20 PER CENT IN SHA TIN TO ABOUT 60 PER CENT IN TSUEN WAN, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM MR CARL TONG ABOUT THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN NEW TOWNS, MR AKERS-JONES SAID THAT THE FIGURES WERE FROM SURVEYS CARRIED OUT IN 1981 AND 1982.

+THE NEW TOWNS ARE PLANNED AS BALANCED AND SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITIES,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

+GIVEN THE RELATIVELY EARLY STAGE OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND THE RATE OF EXPANSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORK FORCE AND THE CHANGING NATURE OF OUR ECONOMY IN RECENT YEARS, I CAN SAY THAT IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THIS CONCEPT OF SELF-CONTAINMENT HAS BEEN REASONABLY SATISFACTORY,+ HE ADDED.

MR AKERS-JONES NOTED THAT THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN PRODUCING AND DISTRIBUTING PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL ON INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN THE NEW TOWN.

+THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT DIRECT WHICH INDUSTRIES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND WHERE THEY SHOULD BE LOCATED,+ HE SAID.

+IT PROVIDES THE LAND AND INFRA-STRUCTURE NEEDED TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT, BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE PROVISION OF JOBS DEPENDS UPON THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE APPLICATION OF MARKET FORCES,+ HE ADDED.

+THE PROBLEM IN ACHIEVING BALANCED DEVELOPMENT WAS RECOGNISED FROM THE OUTSET, AND THIS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR A SUBSTANTIAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN ROADS AND RAIL LINKS BETWEEN THE NEW TOWNS AND THE URBAN AREA, FOR EXAMPLE THE MTR TO TSUEN WAN, THE NT CIRCULAR ROAD, THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY AND THE ELECTRIFIED KCR,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRIBUTE TO MR DENIS BRAY

* * * *

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HON DENIS BRAY, SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, WHO WILL BE RETIRING AT THE END OF THE MONTH.

MR BRAY HAD SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR 10 YEARS, AND WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE HERE FOR 34 YEARS.

SIR PHILIP SAID MR BRAY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNCIL AND TO THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.

/+HE HAS

- 17 -

+HE HAS DEMONSTRATED BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL HIS STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AND THE WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE.

+HIS UNSTINTING EFFORTS IN REFLECTING THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE HAVE EARNED HIM UNIVERSAL RESPECT AND WE SHALL MISS HIS SAGE ADVICE IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS COUNCIL,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

MR BRAY HAD FIRST BEEN APPOINTED TO LEGCO IN 1971 AS DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (NEW TERRITORIES) AND THEN IN 1973 AS SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

HE LEFT HONG KONG IN 1977 TO SERVE AS HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON AND RETURNED TO RESUME HIS POST AS SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS IN 1980.

MR BRAY HAD ALSO PRESIDED OVER THE COUNCIL ON FOUR OCCASIONS AS DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, THE HON ALEX WU SAID MR BRAY WAS ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN CIVIL SERVANTS IN HONG KONG BY VIRTUE OF HIS WIDE ASSOCIATION WITH THE PEOPLE AND HIS BROAD KNOWLEDGE OF CHINESE AFFAIRS, TRADITIONS AND PHILOSOPHY.

+HE IS WELL RESPECTED BY BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

+WE SHALL MISS HIM FOR HIS SENSE OF HUMOUR AND FOR HIS ABILITY TO INJECT A HUMAN TOUCH TO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS COUNCIL,+ MR WU SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HIGHER FINES APPROVED

* * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED INCREASES IN THE MAXIMUM FINES THAT MIGHT BE IMPOSED BY A COURT FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

MAXIMUM FINES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES INVOLVING FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE ORDINANCE WERE INCREASED FROM \$2 000 TO \$5 000 ON SUMMARY CONVICTION.

MAXIMUM FINES WERE ALSO INCREASED FROM \$2 000 TO \$5 000 ON SUMMARY CONVICTION AND FROM \$10 000 TO \$20 000 ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT FOR OFFENCES INVOLVING FRAUD AND THE LIKE, COMMITTED BY PERSONS WITH A WILFUL INTENT TO EVADE TAX.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID THAT THE LEVELS OF PENALTIES FOR THE VARIOUS OFFENCES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS OVER MANY YEARS.

THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF THESE PENALTIES HAD SINCE BEEN ERODED BY INFLATION AND THE PROPOSAL WOULD RESTORE THE EFFECT OF THE PENALTIES AVAILABLE TO THE COURTS, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HIGHER CHARGES FOR OFFENDING MOTORISTS
* * * *

THE HOUSING (TRAFFIC) BY-LAWS WERE AMENDED TO BRING THEM INTO LINE WITH THE NEW PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PARKING) REGULATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING A MOTION ON THE HOUSING (TRAFFIC)(AMENDMENT) BY-LAWS 1984, HE SAID THE AMENDMENTS PROVIDED FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, INCREASED CHARGES FOR THE IMPOUNDING, REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF VEHICLES ILLEGALLY PARKED ON RESTRICTED ROADS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THE NEW CHARGES WERE:

- * FOR IMPOUNDING A VEHICLE - \$140 (FROM \$50);
- * FOR REMOVING A VEHICLE - \$200 (FROM \$110);
- * FOR STORING A VEHICLE - \$50 (FROM \$35) FOR EACH DAY AFTER THE FIRST DAY DURING WHICH THE VEHICLE IS DETAINED.

EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT THE OLD CHARGES WERE TOO LOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO OFFENDING MOTORISTS, HE SAID.

MR LIAO SAID THE MAIN AMENDMENTS INCLUDED THE ABANDONING OF THE CONCEPT OF +NO WAITING+ AND REPLACING IT WITH +NO PARKING+, AS WELL AS THE ADOPTION OF NEW SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS.

ALSO INCLUDED WERE AN INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES FROM \$500 TO \$2 000, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SOME DEFINITIONS, OFFENCES AND OTHER PROVISIONS BASED ON THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PARKING) REGULATIONS, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORAL EDUCATION ON COURSE
* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT HE WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED THAT THE STRATEGY FOR MORAL EDUCATION EXPLAINED THROUGH THE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS BEING SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMMES OF ACTIVITIES NOW BEING PROVIDED FOR SCHOOLS WILL HELP TO STRENGTHEN AND CONSOLIDATE THIS STRATEGY,+ HE ADDED.

MR LEUNG WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS SINCE THE GUIDELINES ON MORAL EDUCATION WERE ISSUED THREE YEARS AGO.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GUIDELINES WAS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN SCHOOLS THROUGH THE FORMAL CURRICULUM AND THE CORPORATE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL.

+I AM SATISFIED THAT THIS PURPOSE IS BEING ACHIEVED, AS IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY, WHICH NOW HAVE MORAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES PURSUED VARIOUSLY THROUGH FORMAL LESSONS, CLASS PERIODS, SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, OR COMBINATIONS OF THESE MODES,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS NOW A HEIGHTENED DEGREE OF MORAL AWARENESS AMONG TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.

DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS ON MORAL EDUCATION IN WHICH OVER 2 600 TEACHERS PARTICIPATED. SOME 1 300 TEACHERS HAD ALSO VISITED THE MORAL EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES SHOWED THE SUPPORT BY SCHOOLS FOR THE PROMOTION OF MORAL EDUCATION, AND THIS IN TURN HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON STUDENT SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE. ONE EXAMPLE WAS THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB SCHEME, FROM 52 000 IN 1980 TO OVER 130 000 AT PRESENT.

THE GUIDELINES POINTED THE WAY, BUT MORE DETAILED DIRECTIONS HAD ALSO BEEN PROVIDED, MR LEUNG SAID.

THESE INCLUDED THE COMPILATION OF TWO COMPREHENSIVE SETS OF REFERENCE MATERIALS, SOCIAL MORALITY PROGRAMMES DEVELOPED BY THE ICAC WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CO-OPERATION, ETV PROGRAMMES, VIDEO-TAPED TEACHING MATERIALS, AND CONFERENCES ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT BOARDS, SCHOOL SPONSORS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO PUTONGHUA DEPARTMENT YET FOR COLLEGES

* * * * *

PUTONGHUA WAS BEING TAUGHT IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AS PART OF THE COMPLEMENTARY STUDIES PROGRAMME, BUT IT WAS PREMATURE TO CONSIDER SETTING UP PUTONGHUA DEPARTMENTS IN THESE COLLEGES, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER REVIEW AND ENSURE THAT THE NEEDS OF SCHOOLS WERE FULLY MET.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON KEITH LAM, CALLING ON THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONSIDER SETTING UP A PUTONGHUA DEPARTMENT IN EACH OF THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.

+BECAUSE SO FAR ONLY A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS HAVE ACTUALLY ADOPTED PUTONGHUA AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, WE HAVE PROVIDED TRAINING TO TEACHERS MAINLY THROUGH IN-SERVICE COURSES.

+SUCH COURSES ARE RUN BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION, THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION. THEY HAVE MET THE NEEDS OF THE TEACHERS IN THE PILOT SCHEME SCHOOLS AND WILL CONTINUE TO CATER FOR OTHER INTERESTED TEACHERS,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE PILOT SCHEME CONDUCTED IN SCHOOLS SINCE 1981, MR LEUNG SAID STAGE I INVOLVING 42 PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAD BEEN COMPLETED THIS SUMMER, AND PUTONGHUA HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM AS AN OPTIONAL SUBJECT.

STAGE II INVOLVING 51 SECONDARY SCHOOLS BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND WOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1987.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HEAVY DEMAND FOR MTR
* * * *

THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, AS WITH ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORT, WAS SUBJECT TO VERY HEAVY DEMAND DURING THE PEAK HOURS, ESPECIALLY IN THE MORNING, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID TODAY.

THE STATIONS ALONG THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR WERE THE BUSIEST, WITH PEAK DEMAND BETWEEN 8.15 AM AND 8.45 AM ON WEEKDAYS, HE SAID.

THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE, AT MAXIMUM, TRAIN SERVICES COMPOSED OF 8-CAR TRAINS RUNNING AT TWO-MINUTES FREQUENCIES. THIS LEVEL OF SERVICE PROVIDED AN HOURLY CAPACITY FOR 75 000 PASSENGERS IN ONE DIRECTION. WITHIN THESE DESIGNED CAPACITY LIMITS, TRAIN SERVICES WERE PROVIDED TO MATCH PASSENGER DEMAND, HE SAID.

MR SCOTT WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE SERIOUS OVERCROWDING WHICH OCCURRED ON MTR TRAINS DURING PEAK HOURS AND WHETHER THE MTRC COULD BE ASKED TO INCREASE THE FREQUENCY AND CARRYING CAPACITY OF TRAINS DURING PEAK PERIODS.

MTR TRAINS WERE CROWDED DURING THE RUSH HOURS, BUT THE NUMBERS ACTUALLY CARRIED WERE WELL WITHIN THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE TRAINS.

FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE TSUEN WAN LINE BETWEEN ARGYLE AND JORDAN STATIONS IN NOVEMBER 1984 THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED BETWEEN 8.15 AM AND 9.15 AM WAS 47 880. 28 728 OF THESE TRAVELLED IN THE +PEAK OF THE PEAK+ HALF AN HOUR FROM 8.15 AM TO 8.45 AM.

THE CORPORATION WAS AWARE OF THE RELUCTANCE OF SOME PASSENGERS TO MOVE INTO THE CENTRE OF CARRIAGES, WHICH WOULD EASE THE SITUATION. BY MAKING ANNOUNCEMENTS, TRAIN DRIVERS REGULARLY REQUESTED PASSENGERS TO CO-OPERATE IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STEPS TAKEN TO TIGHTEN LAW ON FIRE HAZARDS

* * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES HAD PUT FORWARD TWO MAJOR PROPOSALS TO AMEND WEAKNESSES IN THE LAW ON FIRE HAZARDS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+WE ARE ABOUT TO GO TO THE NEXT STAGE, WHICH IS TO CONSULT WITH THE PUBLIC AND THE INDUSTRY THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MINIMISE FIRE HAZARDS IN DOMESTIC AND FACTORY PREMISES INCLUDED FIRE PREVENTION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS.

INSPECTIONS OF BUILDINGS ARE ALSO CARRIED OUT BY FIRE OFFICERS WHO ISSUE FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES AS NECESSARY.

+IF THOSE AGAINST WHOM THE NOTICES ARE ISSUED FAIL TO ABATE THE HAZARDS, THEY ARE PROSECUTED,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

IN THE 12 MONTHS TO OCTOBER 1984, THERE WERE 2 791 FIRES IN DOMESTIC BUILDINGS, INCLUDING 1 364 SMALL KITCHEN FIRES WHICH WOULD PREVIOUSLY HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALSE ALARMS.

IF THESE CASES WERE EXCLUDED, THERE WERE 1 427 FIRES IN DOMESTIC BUILDINGS DURING THE PERIOD, A 23 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE 1 161 FIRES IN THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS.

THE NUMBER OF FIRES IN FACTORY BUILDINGS IN THE 12 MONTHS IS 557, UP 29 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS.

MR JEAFFRESON TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT STATISTICS SHOWED THAT IN GENERAL, THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN FIRES CAUSED BY THE IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF CIGARETTE ENDS AND SUCH LIKE, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, IN FIRES INVOLVING COOKING STOVES.

+ALSO, WHEN WE LOOK AT STATISTICS OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL APPEARS TO HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF FIRES, BOTH IN DOMESTIC AND FACTORY BUILDINGS,+ HE SAID.

THE LAST SUMMER WAS APPRECIABLY DRYER THAN THE SUMMER OF 1983 AND THAT OF 1982, HE ADDED.

BILLS CLARIFY MEANS OF ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY

* * *

THREE BILLS WHICH SEEK TO CLARIFY THAT THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS THE RESPONSIBLE BODY FOR ENSURING THAT BUILDINGS HAVE ADEQUATE MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, WERE GIVEN SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THESE BILLS ARE : THE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

THE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS REGARD IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID.

+BUT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MATTERS CONCERNING FIRE HAZARDS INCLUDING THOSE ARISING FROM THE INADEQUATE PROVISION OF MEANS OF ESCAPE,+ MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED.

TO ELIMINATE THIS OVERLAP OF RESPONSIBILITY, THE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 SEEKS TO DELETE FROM THE DEFINITION OF +FIRE HAZARD+ IN SECTION 2 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, REFERENCES TO MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE MEANS OF ESCAPE.

IT ALSO PROPOSES TO REPEAL SECTION 24 OF THE ORDINANCE WHICH REFERS TO THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CERTAIN TYPES OF BUILDINGS AND FOR WHICH THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS ALSO THE RESPONSIBLE BODY.

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS ARE ALSO BEING SOUGHT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE AND THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE THROUGH THE OTHER TWO BILLS INTRODUCED.

DEBATE ON THE THREE BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL ON MONEY CHANGERS INTRODUCED

* * * *

A BILL PROVIDING +SOME MEASURE OF PROTECTION+ FOR CONSUMERS DEALING WITH MONEY CHANGERS, WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) BILL 1984, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S WISH TO IMPOSE UNNECESSARILY BURDENSOME REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO NORMAL BUSINESS PRACTICES.

AND TO ALLOW MONEY CHANGERS MORE TIME TO ABSORB THE CONTENTS AND PURPOSE OF THE COMPARATIVELY MILD BILL, IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE SECOND READING SHOULD NOT BE RESUMED UNTIL JANUARY 23 NEXT YEAR.

+FURTHERMORE, IF THE BILL IS PASSED, MONEY CHANGERS WILL BE GIVEN A PERIOD OF ABOUT ONE MONTH AFTER THE DATE OF ENACTMENT SO THAT BEFORE THE LEGISLATION BECOMES OPERATIVE, THEY MAY ADJUST THEIR BUSINESS PROCEDURES AND ANY FORMS THEY MAY USE,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, MR JACOBS HAD SAID THAT THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD RECEIVED MANY COMPLAINTS FROM BOTH TOURISTS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS +AGAINST SOME MONEY CHANGERS' INADEQUATE NOTICE OF THEIR INTENTION TO CHARGE A COMMISSION+.

LAST YEAR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THERE MIGHT BE A CASE FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTION TO GIVE CUSTOMERS A FAIR CHANCE OF DECIDING IN ADVANCE WHETHER THEY WISHED TO DO BUSINESS ON THE TERMS OFFERED BY A MONEY CHANGER. THE PRESENT BILL WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS SUGGESTION, HE SAID.

DETAILING THE BILL, HE SAID THAT CLAUSE 4 PROVIDED THAT A MONEY CHANGER MUST FIRST GIVE TO THE CUSTOMER A NOTE SETTING OUT CERTAIN DETAILS OF THE TRANSACTION, INCLUDING THE RATE OF EXCHANGE AND THE AMOUNT OF ANY CHARGE OR COMMISSION. THE MONEY CHANGER WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO DRAW THE CUSTOMERS ATTENTION TO THOSE DETAILS, AND TO OBTAIN THE CUSTOMERS WRITTEN CONCURRENCE.

FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION, CLAUSE 5 PROVIDED THAT A CUSTOMER MIGHT RESCIND THE TRANSACTION +WITHIN THREE DAYS IF, AND ONLY IF, A MONEY CHANGER CONTRAVENED THESE REQUIREMENTS+.

THERE WAS NO AUTOMATIC RIGHT TO RESCIND, HE SAID.

A MONEY CHANGER WHO MAINTAINED A BOARD OR SCREEN SHOWING EXCHANGE RATES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SET OUT CLEARLY PARTICULARS OF ANY CHARGE OR COMMISSION.

CLAUSE THREE, HE SAID, PROVIDED FOR A NUMBER OF EXEMPTIONS.

BECAUSE THE BILL WAS PRIMARILY FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION, THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO INTERVENE IN TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING MORE THAN HK\$100 000 OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

AT THIS LEVEL, IT WAS MORE LIKELY THAN NOT THAT THE TRANSACTION WOULD BE MADE IN THE COURSE OF BUSINESS, AND THE PARTIES COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

FURTHERMORE, BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WERE EXEMPTED, HE SAID.

THESE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, HE SAID, WERE ALREADY GOVERNED BY ORDINANCES, AND IN ANY EVENT, ONLY OFFERED MONEY CHANGING AS AN ANCILLARY SERVICE TO THEIR CLIENTS.

HOTELS SELLING HONG KONG CURRENCY PRIMARILY AS A SERVICE TO THEIR GUESTS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROPOSALS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

BILL TO RELAX TRADE MARKS CRITERIA
* * * *

THE PURPOSE OF THE TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 WAS TO RELAX THE CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION OF A TRADE MARK IN PART B OF THE TRADE MARKS REGISTER, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS SAID TODAY.

THE AMENDMENT, IF ENACTED, WOULD BRING THE TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE IN LINE WITH EXISTING UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION UPON WHICH THE HONG KONG ORDINANCE WAS LARGELY BASED.

THE AMENDED ORDINANCE WOULD THUS BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MODERN PRACTICE, HE SAID.

THE LAW SOCIETY HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POISONS LIST UPDATED
* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ADDING 74 MORE TYPES OR ITEMS OF POTENT SUBSTANCES TO THE POISONS LIST TO PUT THEIR SALE AND USE UNDER STRICT LEGISLATIVE CONTROL.

TO BRING THIS INTO EFFECT, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPROVED A MOTION ON TWO NEW SETS OF REGULATIONS INTRODUCED TODAY BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG.

THE REGULATIONS ARE THE POISONS LIST (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1984 AND THE PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1984.

THE NEW POISONS LIST REGULATIONS WILL ADD 74 ENTRIES TO PART I OF THE POISONS LIST. THIS WILL MEAN THAT THESE SUBSTANCES CAN ONLY BE SOLD ON THE PREMISES OF AN AUTHORISED SELLER OF POISONS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A REGISTERED PHARMACIST.

DR THONG TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE AMENDMENTS TO THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS WERE INTENDED TO UPDATE THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD SCHEDULES IN THE LEGISLATION.

THE NEW AMENDMENTS PROVIDED FOR THE APPLICATION OF ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE DISPENSING, COMPOUNDING AND SALE OF CERTAIN POISONS WHICH WOULD BE ADDED TO PART I OF THE POISONS LIST.

THEY WOULD ALSO MAKE PROVISIONS TO DELETE AN UNNECESSARY EXEMPTION IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES WHICH WERE NO LONGER ALLOWED TO BE SOLD IN HONG KONG.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT PROVIDED THAT CERTAIN OF THE MORE POTENT POISONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE POISONS LIST COULD ONLY BE SOLD BY RETAIL UNDER PRESCRIPTION.

DR THONG SAID THAT THE DECISION TO UPDATE THE POISONS LIST AND THE SCHEDULES IN THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS HAD BEEN MADE BY THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD.

THE BOARD WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESCRIBING A LIST OF SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE TO BE TREATED AS POISONS AND FOR CLASSIFYING THESE POISONS ACCORDING TO SCHEDULES FOR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CONTROL UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COPYRIGHT SIMILAR TO THAT IN UK
* * * * *

COPYRIGHT PROTECTION GIVEN BY THE LAW OF HONG KONG ON THE PLAYING OF MUSICAL RECORDS IN CINEMAS WAS SIMILAR TO THAT GIVEN BY THE LAW OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM COPYRIGHT ACT 1956 HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG BY THE COPYRIGHT (HONG KONG) ORDERS 1972 AND 1979.

+THE PROVISIONS COVER THE PLAYING OF MUSICAL RECORDS IN PUBLIC PLACES, SUCH AS CINEMAS, NIGHT CLUBS, RESTAURANTS, DEPARTMENT STORES AND SO ON,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RULES TO PRESCRIBE NEW FORMS FOR LEGAL PROCEDURE
* * * * *

THE MAGISTRATES (FORMS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) RULES WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE RULES PRESCRIBED NEW FORMS FOR USE WITH THE MINOR OFFENCE PROCEDURE, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JAMES FINDLAY, SAID.

THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1984, ENACTED IN MAY THIS YEAR, INTRODUCED A NEW PROCEDURE TO DEAL SPEEDILY WITH MINOR OFFENCES.

UNDER THIS PROCEDURE, FORMS WERE TO BE PRESCRIBED FOR USE BY THE COURT.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE THUS PRESCRIBED CERTAIN FORMS IN THE MAGISTRATES (FORMS) (AMENDMENT) RULES 1984 WHICH WERE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER.

/+SINCE THEN,

+SINCE THEN, IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT THE FORMS ARE DEFICIENT. SECTION 7G OF THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE CLEARLY CONTEMPLATES TWO DISTICT PROCEDURAL STEPS - FIRST, A NOTICE OF IMPOSITION OF PENALTY, REQUIRING PAYMENT IN 21 DAYS FOLLOWED BY, IF NECESSARY, A NOTICE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE PENALTY, REQUIRING PAYMENT IN 14 DAYS, FAILING WHICH A SUMMONS OR WARRANT WILL BE ISSUED,+ MR FINDLAY EXPLAINED.

THE FORMS ORIGINALLY PRESCRIBED WRONGLY COMBINED THESE TWO STEPS, AND THE CURRENT RULES CORRECTED THE ERROR.

THE OPPORTUNITY HAD ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO AMEND THE FORMS PRESCRIBED IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTION) ORDINANCE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THIS ORDINANCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL TO CORRECT ARBITRATION ANOMALY

* * * *

THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984 WAS TO PUT RIGHT A LEGAL ANOMALY CREATED IN 1982, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JAMES FINDLAY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THE BILL THEN IS A MINOR, BUT USEFUL, IMPROVEMENT IN THE LAW RELATING TO ARBITRATORS,+ MR FINDLAY SAID, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

+APPEALS WHERE A JUDGE IS AN ARBITRATOR OR UMPIRE WILL, UNDER THE BILL, GO TO THE COURT OF APPEAL AND SECTION 23A (OF THE ARBITRATION ORDINANCE) WILL NOT APPLY WHERE THERE IS A JUDGE-ARBITRATOR OR A JUDGE-UMPIRE, SINCE HE IS COMPETENT TO DECIDE QUESTIONS OF LAW.+

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DESALTING PLANT KEPT AS STANDBY

* * * *

THE LOK ON PAI DESALTING PLANT WAS BEING RETAINED AS A STANDBY RESERVE AND THERE WERE NO PLANS TO DISMANTLE IT, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR JOHN TODD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ANSWERING A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO, HE SAID THAT THE DESALTING PLANT WAS LAST IN OPERATION IN MAY 1982, AND IT WAS IN A +MOTHBALLED+ STATE.

THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COST OF THE PLANT WAS ABOUT \$4.5 MILLION, OF WHICH \$1.64 MILLION WAS FOR ELECTRICITY AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND ABOUT \$2.87 MILLION FOR STAFF.

HOWEVER, WITH THE +MOTHBALLING+ COMPLETED, AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES PROPERLY ESTABLISHED, THE STAFFING LEVEL WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NOT MANY COMPLAINTS RECEIVED ABOUT FALSE ALARMS

* * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT RECEIVED FREQUENT OR WIDESPREAD COMPLAINTS ABOUT MALFUNCTIONING BURGLAR ALARMS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE POLICE ONLY KEEP STATISTICS IN RESPECT OF ALARMS WHICH TERMINATE IN A POLICE STATION OR A POLICE REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRE.

IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 7 358 FALSE ALARMS, REPRESENTING 99.3 PER CENT OF THE ALARMS ACTIVATED, MR JEAFFRESON SAID, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN. HE ADDED IT IS NOT AN OFFENCE TO GIVE A FALSE ALARM THROUGH A FAULTY SYSTEM.

+THE ONLY POSSIBLE ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE PREVAILING SITUATION IS TO ENCOURAGE THE INSTALLATION OF BETTER QUALITY ALARMS AND THEIR PROPER MAINTENANCE.

+THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED EITHER THROUGH SELF-REGULATION WITHIN THE SECURITY INDUSTRY WHICH PROVIDES ALARM SYSTEMS, OR THROUGH LEGISLATING FOR SOME MINIMUM STANDARDS,+ HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON TOLD THE COUNCIL HE HAD BEEN EXAMINING THESE OPTIONS WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE FOR SOME TIME AND IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT THE DRAFTING AND ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT.

+WE NOW FAVOUR SELF-REGULATION. THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE IS ALSO AWARE OF THE NEED FOR SOME FORM OF REGULATION WITHIN THE SECURITY INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LEGCO BILLS

* * *

DEBATE ON SEVEN BILLS WAS ADJOURNED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY. THEY ARE: ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1984; PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1984; MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) BILL 1984; TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984; FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984; PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984; AND EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

ONE BILL - THE HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 WAS APPROVED.

- - - - 0 - - - -