



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
<u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:</u>	
BILL TO TACKLE CAR EMISSIONS	1
BILL TO STRENGTHEN SMOKE CONTROL	3
STEPS TO MINIMISE VOLUME OF WASTE	5
USE OF RECYCLED PAPER ENCOURAGED	7
GOVT TACKLING BEDSPACE APARTMENT PROBLEM DILIGENTLY	8
SUCCESSFUL POLICE ACTIONS AGAINST CAR HOLD-UP CASES	10
PROPOSAL TO LICENSE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION	11
QUICK ACTION AGAINST DANGEROUS SIGNS	12
MONITORING OF SUPPLY OF METHADONE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE	13
PERMANENT SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO TACKLE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TRAFFIC ...	14
POLICY ON ENTRY OF VISITORS FROM EASTERN EUROPE, SOVIET UNION BEING REVIEWED	15
GOVT'S OBJECTIVE TO FIND MOST SUITABLE PERSON FOR SECRETARY FOR WORKS POST	16
NOT UNUSUAL FOR POLICE TO ASK FOR IDENTITY PROOF	16
NO INCOME LIMIT FOR HOS GREEN FORM APPLICANTS	17
EXTENDED PHARMACY SERVICE OPERATING SMOOTHLY	18
FUNDS TO BE SOUGHT FOR SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE	18
BILL TO DEFINE DEPUTY JUDGES' STATUS IN LAND TRIBUNAL INTRODUCED	19
FOUR BILLS INTRODUCED INTO LEGCO	20
'PREMIUM BOND' HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AIRPORT PROJECT	21
PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION COURSE FOR TEACHERS	22
1990 STAMP PACK ON SALE FROM MONDAY	22
NEW MONG KOK POST OFFICE TO OPEN ON JAN 21	23
CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT COMPETITION PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY	23
TENDERS FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCIES INVITED	24
SHAM SHUI PO SPORTS CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY	25

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1991

- 1 -

BILL TO TACKLE CAR EMISSIONS

* * * * *

THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AS A MOVE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF EMISSIONS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID EMISSIONS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES WERE ONE OF THE MAJOR FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO AIR POLLUTION IN HONG KONG, AFFECTING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECOGNISED THIS FACT AND, IN THE WHITE PAPER ON POLLUTION, SPELT OUT A FOUR-PART STRATEGY TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM, WHICH INVOLVED:

- ENSURING THAT UNLEADED PETROL IS SUPPLIED AND USED WIDELY;
- INTRODUCING NEW LEGISLATION WHICH WILL ENABLE MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL TO BE EXERCISED OVER SMOKE EMISSIONS FROM VEHICLES IN USE;
- INTRODUCING NEW REGULATIONS WHICH WILL REQUIRE ALL VEHICLES IMPORTED, BOTH DIESEL AND PETROL ENGINED, TO COMPLY WITH THE MOST STRINGENT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS; AND
- EXAMINING AND, IF FEASIBLE, IMPLEMENTING MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING RELIANCE ON DIESEL-ENGINED VEHICLES.

MR BARNES NOTED THAT THE BILL INTRODUCED TODAY CONCERNED THE FIRST TWO PARTS OF THE STRATEGY WITH REGARD TO THE SUPPLY AND USAGE OF UNLEADED PETROL AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTROL OVER SMOKE EMISSIONS.

HE SAID THE DRAFTING OF NEW REGULATIONS TO SPECIFY DESIGN STANDARDS FOR NEW VEHICLES WAS IN HAND AND WOULD SHORTLY BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WHILE THE LAST PART OF THE STRATEGY - WHICH WAS AIMED AT REDUCING RELIANCE ON DIESEL-ENGINED VEHICLES - WAS ALSO BEING PURSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE BILL UNLEADED PETROL WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE ADOPTION OF STRINGENT INTERNATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR NEW VEHICLES.

"ALTHOUGH THERE ARE POWERS IN THE LAW TO SPECIFY THE QUALITY AND COMPOSITION OF FUELS, THERE ARE NO POWERS TO REQUIRE THEIR AVAILABILITY.

"IT IS PROPOSED THAT ALL PETROL RETAILERS BE REQUIRED TO HAVE UNLEADED PETROL AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON AND AFTER A SPECIFIED DATE," HE SAID.

/HE TOLD

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE RECOMMENDED WAS APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, A DATE WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN AGREED WITH THE OIL INDUSTRY.

HE SAID THE EUROPEAN SPECIFICATIONS OF 95 OCTANE FOR UNLEADED PETROL WAS PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION FOR HONG KONG. THIS GRADE IS LIKELY TO BE THE FUTURE GLOBAL STANDARD.

THE UNLEADED PETROL TO BE INTRODUCED WOULD CONTAIN LESS THAN 0.013 GRAMS OF LEAD PER LITRE AND 0.1 PER CENT OF SULPHUR CONTENT BY WEIGHT.

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF UNLEADED PETROL, ONE CLAUSE OF THE BILL WOULD MAKE IT AN OFFENCE:

- FOR A PETROL RETAILER TO REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH A REASONABLE REQUEST TO BE SOLD UNLEADED PETROL, WITH DEFENCES AGAINST PROSECUTION PROVIDED FOR IN A NUMBER OF SITUATIONS.
- TO SELL, OR OFFER TO SELL, AS UNLEADED PETROL ANY PETROL WHICH IS NOT UNLEADED PETROL, OR AS LEADED PETROL ANY PETROL WHICH IS NOT LEADED PETROL.
- FOR A PETROL RETAILER TO FAIL TO PROVIDE PETROL DISPENSING EQUIPMENT OF THE SPECIFIED TYPE, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT ACCIDENTAL MISFUELING.
- EITHER DELIBERATELY TO PLACE PETROL OTHER THAN UNLEADED PETROL IN THE FUEL TANK OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TO OPERATE ON UNLEADED PETROL, OR TO DEMAND THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE.

REGARDING SMOKE EMISSIONS FROM VEHICLES, MR BARNES SAID HONG KONG'S PRESCRIBED EMISSION STANDARDS, AS STIPULATED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, WERE ADEQUATE AS A MINIMUM STANDARD FOR VEHICLES IN USE, BUT WERE QUITE INADEQUATE IN WORLD TERMS AS A STANDARD FOR NEW VEHICLES.

"AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO POWERS TO MAKE REGULATIONS TO IMPOSE DIFFERENT DESIGN STANDARDS ON NEW VEHICLES, OR TO MONITOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF VEHICLES; OR ANY POWERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE NEW CONTROLS," HE ADDED.

TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM, THE BILL WOULD ALLOW CODES OF PRACTICE TO BE ISSUED TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THE OPERATION, MODIFICATION, ADAPTATION, REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REGULATION - MAKING POWERS IN RESPECT OF VEHICLE DESIGN STANDARDS, CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER CONTROLS.

UNDER THE BILL, NEW VEHICLES TO BE REGISTERED AFTER A SPECIFIED DATE WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO MEET NEW VEHICLE DESIGN STANDARDS, WHICH INCLUDE DESIGN STANDARDS FOR EMISSION CONTROL EQUIPMENT, UNDER CERTAIN REGULATIONS.

MR BARNES SAID THE RETAIL PRICE FOR UNLEADED PETROL WOULD NEED TO BE LESS THAN THAT FOR LEADED PETROL IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE USE OF UNLEADED PETROL WHEREVER POSSIBLE AND TO REMOVE ANY INCENTIVE TO MISFUEL NEW VEHICLES.

HE SAID CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE, AS INCLUDED IN A CLAUSE IN THE BILL, WOULD PROVIDE A UNIFIED CLASSIFICATION OF PETROL IN THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE AND THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE. THIS WOULD LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR DETERMINING DIFFERENT DUTIES FOR THE TWO GRADES OF PETROL.

MR BARNES EXPECTED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF UNLEADED PETROL WOULD NOT CAUSE UNDUE INCONVENIENCE TO CAR OWNERS, BECAUSE 70 PER CENT OF EXISTING PETROL VEHICLES NEED NO MODIFICATION TO USE UNLEADED PETROL WHILE 14 PER CENT OF VEHICLES WOULD BE ABLE TO USE UNLEADED PETROL MOST OF THE TIME (SAY, THREE TANKFULS OUT OF FOUR) WITHOUT ILL EFFECTS.

ANOTHER 10 PER CENT COULD SWITCH TO UNLEADED PETROL WITH A MINOR ENGINE ADJUSTMENT COSTING \$200 - \$300 ONLY. HE SAID A LIMITED SUPPLY OF 97 OCTANE LEADED PETROL WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED AS THERE WOULD BE A SMALL NUMBER OF EXISTING VEHICLES, ABOUT SIX PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VEHICLE POPULATION, WHICH WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO USE UNLEADED PETROL FOR TECHNICAL REASONS.

HE ADDED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE UNLEADED PETROL HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AND WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE OIL INDUSTRY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL TO STRENGTHEN SMOKE CONTROL

* * * * *

PROPOSALS IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990 WILL STRENGTHEN THE CURRENT SMOKE CONTROL PROGRAMME BY ALLOWING MORE SMOKY VEHICLES TO BE TESTED.

SUCH SCHEME IS LIKELY TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO SHOW GROWING CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM OF POLLUTING EMISSIONS FROM VEHICLES.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, MADE THESE REMARKS WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THE BILL EFFECTED THE SECOND PART OF THE STRATEGY IN THE WHITE PAPER ON POLLUTION FOR TACKLING THE VEHICLE EMISSION PROBLEM, AND WAS CLOSELY LINKED TO THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WHICH WAS ALSO MOVED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

/HE SAID:

HE SAID: "THE SECOND PART OF THE STRATEGY IS TO INTRODUCE NEW LEGISLATION TO EXERCISE MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER SMOKE EMISSIONS FROM VEHICLES IN USE.

"ONE OF THE SYSTEMS TO ENFORCE THE EMISSION CONTROL PROVISIONS DERIVES FROM THE POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE (RTO) TO ISSUE AN EXAMINATION ORDER.

"THE COMMISSIONER MAY REQUIRE THE OWNER OR DRIVER OF A VEHICLE TO PRESENT IT FOR EXAMINATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER IT COMPLIES WITH THE RTO.

"FOR ENFORCEMENT OF EMISSION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, THESE POWERS HAVE BEEN DELEGATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD)."

MR BARNES NOTED THAT THERE WERE LARGE NUMBERS OF SMOKY VEHICLES ON THE ROADS OF HONG KONG.

EVEN THOUGH THE EPD CURRENTLY EXAMINED ABOUT 1,600 VEHICLES PER MONTH, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE SMOKE EMISSION PROBLEM WAS NOT BEING SOLVED.

THE DEPARTMENT ESTIMATED THAT A TESTING CAPACITY OF ABOUT 5,000 VEHICLES PER MONTH WAS NEEDED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SMOKY VEHICLES ON OUR ROADS SUBSTANTIALLY.

"TO INCREASE TESTING CAPACITY, IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF APPROVED EMISSION TESTING CENTRES TO BE ADMINISTERED BY EPD UNDER PROVISIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH GOVERN THE EXISTING PRIVATE CAR TESTING SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT," MR BARNES SAID.

"THESE CENTRES WOULD GENERALLY BE PRIVATE SERVICE CENTRES, IN MOST CASES THE SAME CENTRES WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN THE PRIVATE CAR TESTING SCHEME.

"EPD'S EMISSION TESTING CENTRE WILL REMAIN AS A DESIGNATED CENTRE FOR TESTING THE LARGER VEHICLES WHICH THE PRIVATE CENTRES WOULD NOT EASILY BE ABLE TO TEST BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS.

"SUCH CENTRES WILL BE DESIGNATED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AND THE DESIGNATION CAN BE RENEWED."

CODES OF PRACTICE COULD BE ISSUED FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES SUCH AS REGULATION OF TESTING PROCEDURES.

FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTION, POWERS WOULD BE PROVIDED TO AUTHORISED OFFICERS TO ENTER A VEHICLE EMISSION TESTING CENTRE TO INSPECT RECORDS, EQUIPMENT AND SO ON, HE SAID.

IF THE VEHICLE OWNER FAILED TO HAVE THE VEHICLE EXAMINED AT A VEHICLE EMISSION TESTING CENTRE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT COULD REFUSE TO RENEW THE LICENCE, OR CANCEL THE LICENCE OF THE VEHICLE CONCERNED, MR BARNES SAID.

TURNING TO THE FEES TO BE CHARGED UNDER THE PROPOSED SCHEME, MR BARNES SAID THE TESTING FEE, WHICH WOULD ALSO BE COLLECTED BY EPD'S TESTING CENTRE, WOULD APPLY TO ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES BECAUSE THE EMISSION TESTING PROCEDURE WAS THE SAME.

THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE CALLED FOR TESTING WOULD HAVE TO PAY A TESTING FEE FOR EACH AND EVERY TEST AND THE COLLECTION OF FEES FOR THE SUPPLY OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE WAS TO COVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE SCHEME.

THE NET REVENUE TO THE PRIVATE CENTRES WOULD COVER THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING COSTS.

MR BARNES ESTIMATED THAT THE REVENUE INCOME GENERATED FROM THE PROPOSED SCHEME WOULD BE ABOUT \$2.7 MILLION PER ANNUM.

"THE LONG-TERM STRATEGY IS TO PRESCRIBE THE VEHICLE DESIGN STANDARDS OF ALL NEW VEHICLES, WHICH WILL BE ACHIEVED BY REGULATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE. THE DRAFTING OF THESE REGULATIONS IS IN HAND," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE PRESENT BILL WOULD REQUIRE NEW VEHICLES TO COMPLY WITH SUCH VEHICLE DESIGN STANDARDS.

"THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT CAN REFUSE REGISTRATION OF NEW VEHICLES NOT COMPLYING WITH THE VEHICLE DESIGN STANDARDS," MR BARNES ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STEPS TO MINIMISE VOLUME OF WASTE

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN VARIOUS STEPS, INCLUDING WASTE SEPARATION AT SOURCE, TO MINIMISE THE VOLUME OF WASTE AND RECYCLE IT.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG HONG-YUEN.

HE SAID THE AVERAGE DAILY WASTE DISPOSED OF AT THE TSEUNG KWAN O LANDFILLS IN 1990 WAS 8,500 TONNES.

"THIS 8,500 TONNES COMPRISES 4,700 TONNES OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE, 2,100 TONNES OF DOMESTIC WASTE, 1,200 TONNES OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE AND 500 TONNES OF ASH AND PULVERISED REJECTS," HAS SAID.

MR BARNES SAID SINCE CONSTRUCTION WASTE PROVIDED THE LARGEST VOLUME OF ALL WASTES AT LANDFILLS, RENEWED EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE IN THIS AREA.

"THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) IS CURRENTLY SELECTING CONSULTANTS FOR A STUDY TO PROPOSE A STRATEGY FOR RECYCLING CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECEIVED AT LANDFILLS.

"THE ADMINISTRATION IS ALSO SEEKING TO CONSERVE LANDFILL SPACE BY THE INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES FOR DISPOSAL OF WASTES AT LANDFILLS.

"THIS CAN BE EFFECTED THROUGH AN AMENDMENT TO THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS PROMOTING THE SEPARATION OF PAPER WASTE FOR RECYCLING BOTH IN HONG KONG AND ABROAD.

"COMPREHENSIVE GUIDES ON HOW TO START A WASTE PAPER RECYCLING SCHEME IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND OFFICES HAVE BEEN PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC.

"A TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT AND ACCOMPANYING POSTERS TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH SCHEMES HAVE ALSO BEEN PREPARED," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID MORE DIRECT INITIATIVES HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WHOSE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR PROMOTED RECYCLING VIA A "REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE" CAMPAIGN.

"OTHER SUCH SCHEMES HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED IN HOUSING ESTATES, AND VARIOUS EXPERIMENTAL SCHEMES HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY SCHOOLS AND INTEREST GROUPS, WITH EPD'S SUPPORT.

"THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN INITIATIVES BY SOME SUPERMARKET CHAINS TO USE BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC BAGS. SOME 30 GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE ALSO ENGAGED IN A WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING SCHEME."

MR BARNES SAID ANY SCHEME OR PROJECT THAT WOULD RESULT IN PROLONGING THE LIFE OF THE LANDFILLS WOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

THEREFORE, HE SAID, THE ADMINISTRATION TOGETHER WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD BE EXAMINING FURTHER POSSIBLE INITIATIVES IN THIS FIELD DURING THE COMING YEAR - AS WELL AS CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM GAINED IN 1990.

USE OF RECYCLED PAPER ENCOURAGED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGING SPECIFIC SCHEMES THAT PROMOTE THE SEPARATION AND COLLECTION OF WASTE PAPER AND GREATER USE OF RECYCLED PAPER, AND THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 30 GOVERNMENT OFFICES PARTICIPATING IN PAPER SEPARATION SCHEMES IN THEIR BUILDINGS.

THE AIM IS BOTH TO CREATE A DEMAND FOR PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED FROM RECYCLED PAPER AND A SOURCE OF RAW MATERIAL FOR THE PAPER RECYCLING INDUSTRY.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER WONG HONG-YUEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO ASSISTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE THE SEPARATION OF PAPER WASTE IN OFFICES AND HOUSEHOLDS TO RECOVER MORE PAPER FOR RECYCLING.

HE SAID GUIDES TO PAPER RECYCLING IN OFFICES AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS HAD RECENTLY BEEN PRODUCED AND WERE NOW BEING ISSUED BY THE COMMITTEE, WHICH HAD MADE RECYCLING ONE OF ITS MAIN FOCUSES OF ATTENTION SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF 1990.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT OFFICIAL PROMOTION OF RECYCLING WAS A COMPLEX BUSINESS, AND INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO RECYCLING WAS PROBABLY THE BEST CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COULD MAKE AT THIS STAGE.

"THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WILL ONLY INVEST IN RECYCLING PLANTS IN HONG KONG IF IT BELIEVES THAT IT WILL GET TANGIBLE PUBLIC SUPPORT," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RECYCLED PAPER, MR BARNES SAID THERE WERE THREE PAPER MILLS OPERATING IN HONG KONG PRODUCING ABOUT 400 TONNES OF LOW GRADE RECYCLED PAPER DAILY, WITH MOST OF WHICH IS USED IN HONG KONG, WHILE A FOURTH MILL WAS DUE TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS SHORTLY.

FROM OVERSEAS SOURCES, IMPORTED RECYCLED PAPER PRODUCTS SUCH AS NEWSPRINT, PRINTING AND WRITING PAPER CAME MAINLY FROM TAIWAN AND JAPAN WHICH ARE ALSO DESTINATIONS OF A GREAT DEAL OF HONG KONG WASTE PAPER - THOUGH MANY OF THESE PRODUCTS CONTAINED ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF RECYCLED PAPER, HE SAID.

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THE PRIMARY USAGE OF LOCALLY PRODUCED RECYCLED PAPER WAS PAPERBOARD FOR PACKAGING, WHEREAS IMPORTED PAPER PRODUCTS INCLUDED PAPER ENVELOPES AND TOILET TISSUE.

HE SAID RECENTLY SOME HONG KONG COMPANIES HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN USING RECYCLED PAPER SHOPPING BAGS AND STATIONERY

MR BARNES SAID A TRIAL USE OF RECYCLED PAPER FOR PRINTING AND CORRESPONDENCE WOULD ALSO START SOON IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH.

/"HOWEVER, AT

"HOWEVER, AT PRESENT, THE COST QUOTED FOR A RECYCLED PRODUCT OF THIS GRADE IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THE PRICE AT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER IS ABLE TO PURCHASE COMPARABLE NON-RECYCLED PAPER," HE SAID.

"AT PRESENT, ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THE MATERIAL PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER IS MATERIAL WITH A RECYCLED CONTENT, SUCH AS ENVELOPES, PACKAGING AND FILE COVERS," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT TACKLING BEDSPACE APARTMENT PROBLEM DILIGENTLY

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT LOST SIGHT OF THE PROBLEM OF BEDSPACE APARTMENTS AND IS IN FACT TACKLING IT DILIGENTLY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, MR TSAO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS CONSIDERING THE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO REGULATE FIRE AND STRUCTURAL SAFETY IN BEDSPACE APARTMENTS.

"THE SCHEME BEING CONTEMPLATED WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE ONE FOR GUESTHOUSES. THE PRIMARY CONCERN WILL AGAIN BE THE FIRE AND STRUCTURAL SAFETY. BEDSPACE APARTMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A LICENCE FOR THEIR OPERATION," HE SAID.

MR TSAO ADDED THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT SOME BEDSPACE APARTMENTS WOULD HAVE TO REDUCE THEIR OCCUPANCY LEVEL BEFORE THEY COULD ATTAIN THE NECESSARY STANDARDS AND SOME LODGERS WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO BE DISPLACED FROM SUCH CONGESTED APARTMENTS.

HE NOTED THAT MANY OF THE LODGERS WERE RELUCTANT TO MOVE TO MORE DECENT HOUSING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR VARIOUS REASONS BUT PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO BE NEAR THEIR PLACE OF WORK.

"THE ADMINISTRATION THEREFORE CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO ADOPT A CAUTIOUS APPROACH AND TO COLLECT, FIRST OF ALL, RELEVANT AND ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON THE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS AND ON THEIR LODGERS WITH A VIEW TO ASSESSING THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM AND FORMULATING APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE IT.

"TO THIS END, A TERRITORY-WIDE SURVEY ON BEDSPACE APARTMENTS IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION," HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID OWING TO STAFF CONSTRAINTS, THE SURVEY HAD HAD TO BE DIVIDED INTO TWO STAGES.

STAGE ONE WAS UNDERTAKEN IN MAY 1990 TO FIND OUT BASICALLY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDSPACE APARTMENTS, BEDSPACES AND LODGERS.

/SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY RESULTS INDICATED THAT THERE WERE 196 BEDSPACE APARTMENTS KNOWN TO THE ADMINISTRATION, 5,879 BEDSPACES AND 4,240 LODGERS.

STAGE TWO OF THE SURVEY COMMENCED IN NOVEMBER 1990 AND WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

IT AIMED AT COLLECTING INFORMATION ON EVERY LODGER, INCLUDING HIS AGE, OCCUPATION, PLACE OF WORK, MONTHLY INCOME, MARITAL STATUS AND REASONS FOR RENTING BEDSPACES, MR TSAO SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS STAGE WAS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AS STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES HAD TO VISIT THE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE DAY AND NIGHT IN ORDER TO INTERVIEW ALL THE TENANTS.

IN THE MEANTIME, MR TSAO SAID THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, AS A SPECIAL SOCIAL PROJECT, TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE SETTING UP OF A SINGLETON HOSTEL TO BE MANAGED BY A VOLUNTARY AGENCY.

"THE PROPOSED HOSTEL WILL BE SITUATED IN AN URBAN AREA AND WILL CATER, IN PARTICULAR, FOR EXISTING BEDSPACE APARTMENT LODGERS.

"SUITABLE PREMISES ARE BEING LOCATED," HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED LODGERS, MR TSAO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS MAKING SPECIAL EFFORTS TO SET UP HOSTELS IN THE URBAN AREAS FOR THEM.

"THESE HOSTELS PROVIDE THEM WITH TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION WHILE SUITABLE LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION IS BEING ARRANGED.

"THE FIRST SUCH URBAN HOSTEL, THE SALVATION ARMY LOK ON HOSTEL IN YAU MA TEI, WAS SET UP IN NOVEMBER 1988. IT HAS PROVED TO BE A SUCCESS. FUNDS HAVE BEEN SECURED TO SET UP A SECOND ONE IN WAN CHAI.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE PREMISES IN LOK FU ESTATE FOR A HOSTEL FOR SINGLE PERSONS UPON THE COMPLETION OF ITS REDEVELOPMENT BY OCTOBER 1993."

MR TSAO EXPLAINED THAT ALL THE EFFORTS WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION WAS MAKING WERE AIMED AT REDUCING THE OCCUPANCY LEVEL IN EXISTING BEDSPACE APARTMENTS BY ABOUT 50 PER CENT.

"IN ACHIEVING THIS POLICY OBJECTIVE, LODGERS ELIGIBLE FOR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING WILL BE MOVED TO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

"SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR OTHER LODGERS WHO NEED TO BE DISPLACED," HE ADDED.

SUCCESSFUL POLICE ACTIONS AGAINST CAR HOLD-UP CASES

* * * * *

POLICE MEASURES AGAINST VEHICLE HOLD-UP CASES HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HONIAN STRACHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SO CHAU YIM-PING, MR STRACHAN SAID THE POLICE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT ABOUT SUCH CRIME AND CRIME PREVENTION MESSAGES WOULD BE PUBLICISED IN THE MASS MEDIA TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS.

HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE ON ROBBERIES AGAINST OCCUPANTS OF VEHICLES AFTER STEADY INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF 1989, RISING TO A PEAK OF 118 CASES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

MR STRACHAN NOTED THAT FOR THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF 1990, THE AVERAGE HAD BEEN IN THE REGION OF 70 CASES, A DECREASE OF 40 PER CENT SINCE THE FIRST QUARTER.

"THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CASES INVOLVED TAXIS," MR STRACHAN SAID, "FOR PRIVATE CARS, THE OFFENCE NORMALLY TAKES PLACE IN MORE SECLUDED AREAS."

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE SIX CASES INVOLVING PRIVATE CARS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990, THREE IN THE SECOND QUARTER, ONE IN THE THIRD QUARTER AND TWO IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1990.

THE DETECTION RATE FOR HOLD-UP CASES AGAINST VEHICLES IN 1990 WAS 23 PER CENT, COMPARED TO 25 PER CENT IN 1989, MR STRACHAN SAID.

AS MANY OF THE INVESTIGATIONS DURING THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS WERE ONGOING, HE BELIEVED THE EVENTUAL DETECTION RATE OF 1990 MIGHT INCREASE.

MR STRACHAN SAID IT WAS MORE DIFFICULT TO DETECT VEHICLE HOLD-UP CASES IN REMOTE AREAS.

"POLICE RESOURCES ARE THINNER ON THE GROUND," HE SAID, "THE MAJORITY OF THE ROBBERIES HAPPENED AT NIGHT WHICH MAKES A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CULPRITS MORE DIFFICULT."

IN RESPONSE, HOWEVER, MR STRACHAN SAID, THE POLICE HAD INCREASED THE NUMBER OF ROAD-BLOCKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, PARTICULARLY AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS WHICH LED TO MORE REMOTE AREAS.

"MORE FREQUENT MOBILE PATROLS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN. OPERATIONAL COMMANDERS HAVE DEPLOYED RESOURCES AT BLACK SPOTS," HE ADDED.

PROPOSAL TO LICENSE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

* * * * *

WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION BILL 1990, ANY PERSON WHO OPERATES A HOTEL OR SIMILAR ACCOMMODATION WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE OR CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION WILL COMMIT AN OFFENCE AND WILL BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$100,000, IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS AND A FINE OF \$10,000 FOR EACH DAY DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID THIS WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID: "HOTELS AND SIMILAR ACCOMMODATION ARE AT PRESENT NOT LICENSED. TO ENSURE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH EXISTING FIRE AND STRUCTURAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES THAT A LICENSING SYSTEM BE INTRODUCED FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPOSING NECESSARY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR THEIR OPERATION AND KEEPING A COMPREHENSIVE REGISTER OF SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

"THIS BILL SEEKS TO CREATE A HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER A LICENSING SCHEME. ANY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH PROVIDES TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR ANY PERSON WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A LICENCE OR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE AUTHORITY."

THE TYPES OF ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH COULD FALL WITHIN THE SCOPE OF CONTROL WERE HOTELS, GUESTHOUSES SITUATED IN HIGH-RISE BUILDING FOR BUDGET TOURISTS OR LOCAL PEOPLE, LOW-RISE MOTELS AND HOLIDAY FLATS MOSTLY ON THE OUTLYING ISLANDS.

MR TSAO SAID THE GOVERNMENT, HAVING CONSIDERED THE DEGREE OF POTENTIAL RISKS TO LIFE AND LIMB ASSOCIATED WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION, INTENDED THAT THE LICENSING SCHEME SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN PHASES.

PHASE I WOULD COVER HOTELS AND GUESTHOUSES FOR TOURISTS. OTHER TYPES OF ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE LICENSED IN SUBSEQUENT PHASES HAVING REGARD TO EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I.

TO MONITOR THOSE NON-PHASE I ESTABLISHMENTS, THE BILL EMPOWERED THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION TO SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS, WHICH WOULD BE BROUGHT WITHIN LICENSING CONTROL, IN WHICH EVENT THEIR CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION WOULD BE REVOKED.

APPLICANTS FOR A LICENCE HAVE TO SATISFY THE AUTHORITY THAT THE PREMISES HAVE COMPLIED WITH REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO STRUCTURAL AND FIRE SAFETY UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE.

LICENCES WERE RENEWABLE ANNUALLY. HOWEVER, THE PREMISES WOULD BE RE-INSPECTED TO ENSURE THAT THE SAFETY STANDARDS WERE MAINTAINED BEFORE A LICENCE WAS RENEWED.

APPEALS WOULD BE DETERMINED BY A SPECIALISED APPEAL BOARD APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

MR TSAO SAID THE BILL EMPOWERED THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS ON THE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE OF THE APPEAL BOARD, AS WELL AS ON THE FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR A LICENCE AND A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION.

"WE INTEND THAT THE TOTAL COSTS OF THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AUTHORITY SHOULD BE RECOVERED FROM THE TRADE THROUGH SUCH FEES," HE SAID.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL WILL GO A LONG WAY IN REGULATING SAFETY STANDARDS IN HOTELS AND SIMILAR ACCOMMODATION.

"IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORMAL CREATION OF THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AUTHORITY, THE FIRST BATCH OF STAFF HAVE BEEN SECONDED FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AND THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TO DRAW UP THE NECESSARY WORKING PROCEDURES," HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

QUICK ACTION AGAINST DANGEROUS SIGNS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS IS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DEATH AND INJURY FROM POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SIGNS BY TAKING QUICK ACTION AGAINST THEM.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PEGGY LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES SAID: "THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1989 WAS ENACTED IN APRIL 1989 TO STRENGTHEN THE CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS AND TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY.

"IT EMPOWERS THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RENDER SAFE OR REMOVE DANGEROUS ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS WHERE THERE IS A REAL AND IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TO DISPOSE OF ANY MATERIALS SO REMOVED.

HE SAID THE AUTHORITY MIGHT RECOVER ANY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE REMOVAL OF SUCH SIGNS AND IN THE DISPOSAL OF THE MATERIALS.

SINCE APRIL 1, 1987, OVER 4,300 DANGEROUS SIGNS HAVE BEEN REMOVED, THE SECRETARY ADDED.

MR BARNES SAID AT THE TIME OF ENACTMENT, IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT A FULL SYSTEM OF CONTROL AND ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE WOULD INVOLVE A GREAT DEAL OF STAFF WITHOUT SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCING THE MEANS NEEDED TO COPE WITH THE RISKS OF THOSE ALREADY ERECTED. THIS WAS STILL CONSIDERED TO BE SO.

"THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING A SURVEY ON DANGEROUS BUILDINGS WHICH WILL ALSO COVER THE INSPECTION OF DANGEROUS SIGNS.

"THIS WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE ACTION ON DANGEROUS SIGNS AND ENSURE THAT THEY WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND REMOVED IN A TIMELY AND EFFICIENT MANNER," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MONITORING OF SUPPLY OF METHADONE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE

* * * * *

THE CURRENT MONITORING OF THE SUPPLY OF METHADONE IS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE, BUT SHOULD THERE BE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT THIS IS NOT SO, ADDITIONAL MONITORING MEASURES WILL BE CONSIDERED, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON IAN STRACHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR STRACHAN SAID ALL WHOLESALERS AND AUTHORISED SELLERS OF DANGEROUS DRUGS WERE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING METHADONE AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

"ON THE BASIS OF THIS INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS ALL PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WHO HAVE BOUGHT QUANTITIES OF METHADONE IN EXCESS OF WHAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED FOR NORMAL MEDICAL PRACTICE TO SUBMIT AN EXPLANATION FOR THEIR PURCHASES," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR ROUTINELY THE PROCUREMENT BY PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS OF METHADONE AND OTHER DRUGS LIABLE TO ABUSE, AND IF ANY MALPRACTICE COMES TO LIGHT, APPROPRIATE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN.

SUCH MEASURES MIGHT INCLUDE REFERRAL TO THE HONG KONG MEDICAL COUNCIL FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION, AND REFERRAL TO THE POLICE FOR INVESTIGATION SHOULD ANY BREACH OF THE LAW BE SUSPECTED, HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN NOTED THAT AT PRESENT, METHADONE WAS INCLUDED IN PART I OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE, WHICH IMPOSED STRINGENT CONTROLS ON THE SUPPLY OF SUCH DRUGS.

"UNDER PART IV OF THE ORDINANCE REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ARE AUTHORISED TO SUPPLY SUCH DANGEROUS DRUGS SO FAR AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE PRACTICE OR EXERCISE OF THEIR PROFESSION.

"METHADONE MAY LEGITIMATELY BE SUPPLIED FOR THE TREATMENT OF ADDICTION TO OPIATE DRUGS SUCH AS HEROIN AND OPIUM," THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED.

/MR STRACHAN

MR STRACHAN ADDED THAT BOTH THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAD GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY TO THE STATUTORY CONTROLS OVER DANGEROUS DRUGS, AND HAD REMINDED THEIR MEMBERS OF THE NEED FOR THEM TO ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRESCRIBING PRACTICE.

"IT SHOULD NOT, THEREFORE, BE EASY FOR PEOPLE TO OBTAIN METHADONE FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, UNLESS THIS IS FOR THE TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTION," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PERMANENT SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO TACKLE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TRAFFIC
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID MORE PERMANENT SOLUTIONS WERE NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH THE TRAFFIC SITUATIONS AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EDWARD HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVES WERE TO EASE CONGESTION AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT PASSENGERS, AND TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES SUCH AS THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR AND THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD PUT FORWARD SOLUTIONS TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ADVICE YESTERDAY.

AFTER FULL AND CAREFUL DELIBERATIONS, THE COMMITTEE ASKED THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE MORE DATA AND INFORMATION TO ENABLE IT TO TENDER ITS ADVICE AT A FURTHER MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE SERIOUS CONGESTION AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND ITS APPROACH ROADS, AND HAD BEEN MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY OVER THE PAST 15 MONTHS.

DESPITE THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING IN SEPTEMBER 1989, THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL HAD GONE UP FROM 118,000 TO 122,000 VEHICLES A DAY IN DECEMBER 1990. THIS WAS WELL IN EXCESS OF THE DESIGN CAPACITY OF 80,000 VEHICLES FOR THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WAS UNDER-UTILISED, CARRYING ONLY 38,000 VEHICLES A DAY, COMPARED WITH ITS DESIGN CAPACITY OF 80,000 VEHICLES.

MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD INTRODUCED VARIOUS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

/THESE INCLUDED

THESE INCLUDED SEGREGATING TUNNEL AND NON-TUNNEL TRAFFIC AT THE APPROACH ROADS, ADJUSTING BUS-ONLY-LANES AT CERTAIN CRITICAL LOCATIONS, ADDING A LANE NEAR THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL AND WIDENING VICTORIA PARK ROAD. PLANS TO RECONSTRUCT AND UPGRADE THE CAUSEWAY BY A FLYOVER WERE ALSO IN HAND.

NOTWITHSTANDING THESE EFFORTS, HE SAID, MORE PERMANENT SOLUTIONS WERE NECESSARY, AND HE LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S ADVICE AT A FURTHER MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POLICY ON ENTRY OF VISITORS FROM EASTERN EUROPE,
SOVIET UNION BEING REVIEWED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING THE POLICY ON THE ENTRY OF VISITORS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION AGAIN TO SEE WHETHER FURTHER RELAXATION OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONALS OF HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES, MAY BE INTRODUCED.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON IAN STRACHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW.

MR STRACHAN NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN INFORMED ON JULY 11 LAST YEAR OF CERTAIN CHANGES TO THE POLICY.

HE SAID SUCH CHANGES, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON JULY 16 LAST YEAR, WERE:

* VISITORS FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (EAST GERMANY) WOULD BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS VISITORS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (WEST GERMANY), THAT IS, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT HONG KONG FOR UP TO 30 DAYS WITHOUT A VISA; AND

* VISAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TOURISM AND SIGHTSEEING WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO VISITORS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY AND POLAND.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1991

- 16 -

GOVT'S OBJECTIVE TO FIND MOST SUITABLE PERSON
FOR SECRETARY FOR WORKS POST

* * * * *

IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE POST OF SECRETARY FOR WORKS SHOULD BE FILLED BY THE MOST SUITABLE PERSON, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN, SIR DAVID SAID THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS POST CARRIED IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS IN THE YEARS AHEAD AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO SELECT THE MOST SUITABLE PERSON FOR THE POST.

"IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE POST IS BEING ADVERTISED BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE IN ORDER THAT A WIDER CHOICE OF CANDIDATES MAY BE CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID CLARIFIED THAT THE POST WAS NOT AN AUTOMATIC PROMOTION POST FOR OFFICERS FROM THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS.

THE POST WOULD BE OPEN TO APPLICATIONS BOTH FROM SERVING OFFICERS AND THE NON-GOVERNMENT SECTORS, AND NOT SOLELY FROM THE LATTER, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NOT UNUSUAL FOR POLICE TO ASK FOR IDENTITY PROOF

* * * * *

IT IS NEITHER UNREASONABLE NOR UNUSUAL FOR THE POLICE TO REQUEST THE ORGANISERS OF PUBLIC GATHERINGS TO PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON IAN STRACHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR STRACHAN SAID SUCH MEASURE WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PERMIT CONDITIONS AND THAT THOSE ORGANISING THE MEETING WERE PRESENT WHEN THE MEETING WAS HELD.

MR STRACHAN ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY RECENT PUBLIC GATHERINGS, OF WHICH THE POLICE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED, WHERE PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO PRODUCE THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1991

- 17 -

NO INCOME LIMIT FOR HOS GREEN FORM APPLICANTS

* * * * *

HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME GREEN FORM APPLICANTS, WHO ARE GENERALLY PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING TENANTS AND OTHERS AFFECTED BY CLEARANCE AND REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO ANY INCOME LIMIT SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE SCHEME.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT.

MR TSAO SAID THE ARRANGEMENT WAS JUDGED DESIRABLE AS IT COULD ENCOURAGE BETTER-OFF FAMILIES TO VACATE PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING SO THAT THEIR FLATS COULD BE RELEASED FOR ALLOCATION TO OTHER FAMILIES IN GREATER NEED.

IT WOULD ALSO FACILITATE THE VARIOUS CLEARANCE AND REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY PROVIDING FAMILIES INVOLVED WITH A REASONABLY WIDE CHOICE OF ALTERNATIVE HOUSING, HE SAID.

"THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME IS ALSO INTENDED TO COVER THAT SECTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHOSE HOUSEHOLD INCOMES ARE TOO HIGH FOR PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING BUT TOO LOW TO AFFORD A PRIVATE SECTOR FLAT," HE ADDED.

AS FOR WHITE FORM APPLICANTS, MR TSAO SAID A HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMIT WAS APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY IN ORDER TO EXCLUDE THOSE WHO MIGHT REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO PURCHASE A PRIVATE FLAT.

"IN THE THREE PREVIOUS HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME SALES PHASES IN 1990, WHITE FORM APPLICANTS WITH INCOMES WITHIN THE EXISTING LIMIT OF \$11,500 PER MONTH, COULD MEET THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AFFORDABILITY CRITERIA FOR 45 PER CENT OF THE FLATS CONCERNED," HE SAID.

"SOME HOUSEHOLDS MAY NATURALLY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DRAW ON SAVINGS AND OTHER RESOURCES TO AFFORD MORE EXPENSIVE FLATS."

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME INCOME LIMIT FOR ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS WAS SUBJECT TO REGULAR REVIEW, THE LAST OF WHICH WAS IN MARCH 1990.

"THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL REVIEW THE INCOME LIMIT AGAIN IN MARCH 1991," HE ADDED.

----- 0 -----

/18

- 18 -

EXTENDED PHARMACY SERVICE OPERATING SMOOTHLY
* * * * *

THE EXTENDED HOURS OF THE PHARMACY SERVICE IN TWO REGIONAL HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN OPERATING SMOOTHLY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON M.D. CARTLAND, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR CARTLAND STATED THAT AT PRESENT, THE PHARMACY SERVICE IN TWO REGIONAL HOSPITALS, VIZ QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, OPERATED EXTENDED HOURS.

"ADDITIONAL POSTS HAVE BEEN CREATED TO CATER FOR THE SERVICE. THESE POSTS HAVE BEEN FILLED SINCE AUGUST 1990 AND THE SERVICE HAS BEEN OPERATING SMOOTHLY," MR CARTLAND SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXTENDED HOURS WERE OPERATED WITH ADDITIONAL STAFF AND IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO REQUEST DISPENSERS TO TAKE UP VOLUNTARY PAID OVERTIME WORK.

"ALL POSTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, INCLUDING PROMOTION POSTS FOR DISPENSERS, ARE CREATED ON THE BASIS OF FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS," HE SAID.

"THE MANPOWER REQUIREMENT IN THE DISPENSER GRADE IS REGULARLY REVIEWED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FUNDS TO BE SOUGHT FOR SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE
* * * * *

THE SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE IS AN IMPORTANT PROJECT IN THE ROAD BUILDING PROGRAMME AND IT IS HOPED THAT ITS CONSTRUCTION COULD START IN EARLY 1993 IF FUNDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SO CHAU YIM-PING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID THE PROJECT WOULD THEN BE COMPLETED BY MID-1995 IF THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS WAS APPROVED.

HE SAID THE BRIDGE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COPE WITH THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN TRAFFIC FLOWS ARISING FROM NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON AP LEI CHAU.

"DUE TO RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, NO FUNDS HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THE PROJECT TO START IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR.

"HOWEVER, I INTEND TO SEEK FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT AGAIN IN THE NEXT RESOURCE ALLOCATION EXERCISE LATER THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL TO DEFINE DEPUTY JUDGES' STATUS IN LAND TRIBUNAL INTRODUCED
* * * * *

THE LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AMENDS THE LANDS TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT BOTH DISTRICT JUDGES AND DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES SHALL BE EX OFFICIO PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT, THE LANDS TRIBUNAL CONSISTED OF A PRESIDENT, PRESIDING OFFICERS AND OTHER APPOINTED MEMBERS.

"SECTION 4(3) OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE STATES THAT 'THE PRESIDING OFFICERS SHALL BE DISTRICT JUDGES AND SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR'.

"BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE IN 1982, THE GOVERNOR APPOINTED 'ALL DISTRICT JUDGES' TO BE PRESIDING OFFICERS WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1, 1982," THE SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS, DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES HAD ALSO SAT AS PRESIDING OFFICERS IN THE LANDS TRIBUNAL SINCE 1982.

"BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 8(1) OF THE DISTRICT COURT ORDINANCE, A DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGE SHALL 'DURING THE PERIOD FOR WHICH HE IS APPOINTED, HAVE ALL THE JURISDICTION, POWERS AND PRIVILEGES, AND PERFORM ALL THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT JUDGE'.

"HOWEVER, DOUBTS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED WITHIN THE JUDICIARY AS TO WHETHER THE WORDING OF SECTION 8 OF THE DISTRICT COURT ORDINANCE TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT OF 'ALL DISTRICT JUDGES' COULD HAVE THE COMBINED EFFECT OF ENTITLING DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES TO SIT AS PRESIDING OFFICERS IN THE LANDS TRIBUNAL," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE BILL THEREFORE AMENDED THE LANDS TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE TO MAKE IT OBVIOUSLY CLEAR THAT DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES COULD SIT AS PRESIDING OFFICERS IN THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

"THE AMENDMENT WOULD HAVE RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT, FROM JULY 30, 1982 WHEN SECTION 4(3) OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE CAME INTO OPERATION SO AS TO PUT BEYOND ANY DOUBT THE VALIDITY OF THEIR PAST ACTIONS IN THAT CAPACITY," HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1991

- 20 -

FOUR BILLS INTRODUCED INTO LEGCO

* * * * *

FOUR BILLS WENT THROUGH FIRST AND SECOND READINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990 AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION BILL 1990.

DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/21

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1991

- 21 -

'PREMIUM BOND' HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AIRPORT PROJECT
* * * * *

THE IDEA OF THE "PREMIUM BOND" HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE AIRPORT PROJECT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL TOYS AND GAMES FAIR 1991, MR MACLEOD POINTED OUT THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE IDEA WAS SIMPLY TO PUT IT OUT FOR A PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

"IF WE GET A FAVOURABLE RESPONSE, THEN, WE WILL LOOK AT IT FURTHER. IF WE DO NOT, WE PROBABLY WILL FORGET IT.

"WE ARE VERY MUCH AT A PRELIMINARY STAGE, JUST AFLOATING THE IDEA AND SEEING WHETHER THERE IS ENOUGH ENTHUSIASM FOR IT TO CARRY IT FORWARD," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD STRESSED THAT THE "PREMIUM BOND" IDEA WAS NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE PROPOSAL.

"I THINK UNLESS THERE WAS ENTHUSIASM, WE PROBABLY WOULD FORGET IT," HE ADDED.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE "PREMIUM BOND", MR MACLEOD SAID : "THE ATTRACTION IS SIMPLY THAT YOU BUY THE BONDS AND YOU CAN THEN FORGET ABOUT THEM ACTUALLY AND IF YOU WIN, THEN, YOU GOT A PRIZE.

"IF AFTER A WHILE, YOU WANT YOUR MONEY BACK, YOU JUST GO AND CASH IT IN AGAIN. SO YOU DO NOT LOSE YOUR MONEY AT ALL.

"WHAT YOU ARE IN EFFECT DOING IS THAT YOU ARE TRADING IN THE INTEREST THAT YOU WOULD HAVE GOT IT IN THE BANK IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CHANCE OF A LARGE PRIZE.

"AND FOR A FAIRLY SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY OF COURSE THE INTEREST IS NOT WORTH VERY MUCH ANY WAY SO IT IS QUITE EXCITING TO HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING A NICE LARGE PRICE.

"THAT IS BASICALLY, FROM ANY GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW, IT IS A FAIRLY CHEAP WAY OF GETTING MONEY.

"IT IS ALSO VOLUNTARY, UNLIKE TAX WHICH TENDS TO BE INVOLUNTARY. THAT THE PREMIUM BONDS IS VOLUNTARY SO IT HAS SOME ATTRACTIONS."

IN REPLY TO WHY THE IDEA WAS PUT FORWARD AT THIS TIME, MR MACLEOD SAID: "IT IS A TIME OF YEAR WHEN WE GOT ALL SORTS OF IDEAS ABOUT TAX MEASURES.

"YOU MAY RECALL THERE HAS BEEN QUITE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS FLOATED IN THE PRESS. SOME OF THEM, I THINK, ARE COMPLETE NON-STARTERS. SOME OF THEM PERHAPS WORTH THINKING ABOUT A BIT MORE AND THIS IS REALLY ONE WHICH IS WORTH THINKING ABOUT A BIT MORE."

- - - - 0 - - - -

- 22 -

PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION COURSE FOR TEACHERS

* * * * *

A ONE AND A HALF DAY COURSE ON DRUG EDUCATION, TO BE CONDUCTED BY DR J.R. DAY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 22 AND 23.

THE COURSE, TO BE HELD AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ANNEX IN KOWLOON, IS TO INTRODUCE TO TEACHERS AN ONGOING PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR SECONDARY 1 TO 5, BASED ON THE DRUG WISE LEARNING PACKAGE PRODUCED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND ITS APPLICATION IN CLASS LEARNING.

ENROLMENT WILL BE LIMITED TO 30 AND SCHOOL NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BY JANUARY 25 AT THE LATEST, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE AT THE SOCIAL STUDIES AND HEALTH EDUCATION SECTION ON TEL. 839 2496.

MEANWHILE, THE SECTION HAS PRODUCED, AND DISTRIBUTED TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS, A CHINESE BOOKLET ON HOW TO TEACH DRUG EDUCATION TOPICS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION SYLLABUS.

THE BOOKLET PROVIDES INFORMATION, GUIDELINES ON TEACHING, AND SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES ON TOPICS RELATED TO DRUG EDUCATION FOR HEALTH EDUCATION TEACHERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

1990 STAMP PACK ON SALE FROM MONDAY

* * * * *

THE ANNUAL STAMP PACK FOR 1990, WHICH CONTAINS ALL THE SPECIAL STAMPS ISSUED LAST YEAR, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM NEXT MONDAY (JANUARY 14), THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SPECIAL STAMPS ARE:

YEAR OF THE HORSE (SOUVENIR SHEET)
HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CUISINE
UNITED NATIONS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
100 YEARS OF ELECTRICITY IN HONG KONG
CHRISTMAS 1990

THE PACK, AT \$65, IS IDEAL BOTH AS A GIFT AND FOR PERSONAL COLLECTION.

/IT WILL

IT WILL BE SOLD AT THE PHILATELIC COUNTERS OF THE FOLLOWING POST OFFICES:

- AIRPORT POST OFFICE
- BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
- GENERAL POST OFFICE
- GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
- PEAK POST OFFICE
- SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
- TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW MONG KOK POST OFFICE TO OPEN ON JAN 21

* * * * *

THE NEW MONG KOK POST OFFICE, LOCATED ON THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS OF UNION PARK CENTRE, 771-775 NATHAN ROAD, WILL OPEN AT 9.30 AM ON MONDAY, JANUARY 21. THE EXISTING POST OFFICE AT 37 BUTE STREET WILL CLOSE FOR BUSINESS FROM 1 PM ON JANUARY 19 (SATURDAY), THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE HOURS OF BUSINESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE NEW POST OFFICE WILL BE THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE EXISTING OFFICE. THERE WILL BE 1,400 P.O. BOXES.

A SPECIAL HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL PHILATELISTS ON JANUARY 21.

UNREGISTERED FULL POSTAGE PREPAID FIRST DAY COVERS PREPARED PRIVATELY, AND BEARING A LOCAL ADDRESS, WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE COUNTER, IMPRESSED WITH THE NORMAL POST OFFICE DATESTAMP AND HANDED BACK TO THE PERSON PRESENTING THEM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT COMPETITION PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, DR DANIEL TSE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY OF THE 1990 INTER-SCHOOL CIVIC EDUCATION RPROJECT COMPETITION TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THE BIENNIAL COMPETITION MADE ITS DEBUT IN 1986 TO PROMOTE STUDENTS' CIVIC AWARENESS AND HELP THEM DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF PRESENTING IDEAS AND FACTS.

THIS YEAR 50 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THE COMPETITION, THE THEME OF WHICH WAS "BUILD HONG KONG FOR THE FUTURE".

AN EXHIBITION OF THE WINNING PROJECTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY FROM FRIDAY TO TUESDAY (JANUARY 11 TO 15), EXCEPT ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY OF THE 1990 INTER-SCHOOL CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT COMPETITION TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 3 PM AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

----- 0 -----

TENDERS FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCIES INVITED

* * * * *

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING SHORT-TERM TENANCY TENDERS FOR THREE SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 10,300 SQUARE METRES, IS LOCATED AT WING SHUN STREET, TSUEN WAN.

IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF NON-OFFENSIVE AND NON-DANGEROUS GOODS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE SECOND SITE AT ON MUK STREET IN SHA TIN, IS FOR PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRAILERS, TRACTORS AND CHASIS) AND MINOR REPAIRS AND/OR MAINTENANCE OF SUCH VEHICLES.

THIS SITE MEASURES ABOUT 2,017 SQUARE METRES.

THE THIRD SITE, ALSO AT ON MUK STREET, MEASURES ABOUT 2,100 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR STORAGE OF PLANT, MACHINERY AND BUILDING MATERIALS.

THE TENANCIES FOR THE SITES IN SHA TIN ARE FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON JANUARY 25.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES IN TSUEN WAN OR SHA TIN; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

----- 0 -----

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1991

- 25 -

SHAM SHUI PO SPORTS CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY

* * * * *

SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO SHARE THE FUN AND GAMES OF A SPORTS CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 13).

IT WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM AT THE SHAM SHUI PO SPORTS GROUND.

THE CARNIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE SHAM SHUI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION AS ONE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS OF THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL.

A TEAM OF MARTIAL ARTS EXPERTS FROM SHENZHEN WILL DEMONSTRATE AT THE CARNIVAL. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO BAND PERFORMANCE, TAIJI BOXING DEMONSTRATION, LION DANCE AND POP SONG SINGING.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A RANGE OF CHILDREN GAMES, TELEMATCHES FOR AREA COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES AND LUCKY DRAWS FOR PARTICIPANTS.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE FOR RECREATION, AMENITIES AND SPORTS AND SHAM SHUI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION OFFICE IN LAI KOK ESTATE.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO SPORTS CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 13) AT THE SHAM SHUI PO SPORTS GROUND, BEGINNING AT 2 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -