



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1978

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WHITE PAPER BOOSTS EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT TARGETS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PREPARED FAR-REACHING PLANS TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS BEYOND FORM THREE.

THE PROPOSALS ARE OUTLINED IN A WHITE PAPER, ENTITLED +THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION,+ TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE WHITE PAPER, WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS EXPRESSED BY EDUCATION GROUPS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION LAST NOVEMBER OF A GREEN PAPER ON THE SAME SUBJECT, PROVIDES FOR HIGHER GROWTH RATES THAN THOSE ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED AND INCLUDES ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION.

IT PROPOSES TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE EVERY ASPECT OF EDUCATION FROM SENIOR SECONDARY FORMS THROUGH TO TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, THE POLYTECHNIC, THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND ADULT EDUCATION.

SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBSIDISED PLACES IN SENIOR SECONDARY FORMS, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES WILL BE EXPANDED TO MEET THE FULL EXTENT OF DEMAND FROM SUITABLE STUDENTS BY THE EARLY 1980S.

THE NUMBER OF SUBSIDISED SCHOOL PLACES FOR FORM 3-LEAVERS, WHICH TOTALLED LESS THAN 21,000 IN THE 1977-78 ACADEMIC YEAR, WILL BE INCREASED TO MORE THAN 57,000 BY SEPTEMBER 1981. THESE EXTRA PLACES WILL PROVIDE FOR ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE 15-YEAR-OLD AGE GROUP IN 1981 AND, DUE TO DECLINING NUMBERS IN THAT AGE GROUP, FOR ABOUT 74 PER CENT BY 1986.

THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME PLACES FOR FORM 3-LEAVERS TAKING CRAFT-LEVEL COURSES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND THE NUMBER OF EVENING PLACES IN SENIOR SECONDARY COURSES PROVIDED AT ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES WILL ALSO BE INCREASED. TAKING ALL FORMS OF PROVISION TOGETHER, SOME 75 PER CENT OF THE AGE-GROUP WILL THUS BE PROVIDED FOR BY 1981 AND SOME 97 PER CENT BY 1986.

THE ADDITIONAL PLACES WILL CALL FOR BUILDING MORE THAN 100 NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ADDING EXTENSIONS TO SOME EXISTING SCHOOLS. STEPS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN TO BUY SENIOR SECONDARY PLACES IN PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS= TO ALTER THE CLASS STRUCTURE OF SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE MORE SENIOR SECONDARY PLACES INVOLVING A FULLY SYMMETRICAL STRUCTURE IN CERTAIN SELECTED SCHOOLS= TO RUN SENIOR SECONDARY CLASSES IN PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS= AND TO INTRODUCE SENIOR SECONDARY COURSES IN ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES IN LINE WITH DEMAND. IN ADDITION, A NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WILL BE BUILT AT TUEN MUN BY 1984, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTES TO SIX.

/FLOTATION.....

FLOTATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED TO ACHIEVE A MORE INTENSIVE USE OF TEACHING FACILITIES BUT SCHOOLS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO CONTINUE WITH EXTENDED DAY, AN ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH CLASSES ARE STAGGERED THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION WILL ALSO BE IMPROVED. THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED BY PROVIDING BETTER EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR SCHOOLS= BY BRINGING PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS ON TO THE FULL CODE OF AID AND BY LOWERING THE SIZE OF CLASSES IN THESE SCHOOLS FROM 45 TO 40= BY BROADENING THE CURRICULUM TO PUT GREATER EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS= BY IMPROVING SUPPORTING SERVICES= AND BY MAKING AVAILABLE A GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN EACH MAIN DISTRICT SO AS TO WIDEN THE CHOICE OF SCHOOLS.

THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY WILL REVIEW EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS AT FORM 5-LEVEL.

AN IMPROVED SCHEME OF TEACHER TRAINING WILL BE INTRODUCED AT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF TEACHING. CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION-HOLDERS WILL UNDERGO A THREE-YEAR TRAINING COURSE, ALTHOUGH SOME STUDENTS WITH HIGHER ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS MAY BE ADMITTED DIRECT TO AN EQUIVALENT TWO-YEAR COLLEGE COURSE. THE SCHEME PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE IMPROVED.

REGULAR REFRESHER COURSES WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR SERVING TEACHERS. PRE-SERVICE AND IN-SERVICE COURSES WILL PUT GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR TEACHERS TO DEVELOP LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS.

FORM 6 AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

UP TO A THIRD OF STUDENTS WHO TAKE UP A SUBSIDISED FORM 4 PLACE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A SUBSIDISED FORM 6 PLACE IF DEMAND FROM SUITABLE STUDENTS WARRANTS IT.

IN TERTIARY EDUCATION, THE MAIN PROPOSALS CALL FOR:

- * A THREE PER CENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN THE COMBINED UNDER-GRADUATE POPULATION OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES TO BRING THE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UP TO MORE THAN 12,000 BY THE MID-1980S=
- * THE INTRODUCTION AT BOTH UNIVERSITIES OF PART-TIME DEGREE COURSES DESIGNED MAINLY FOR MATURE STUDENTS=
- * CONSIDERATION OF A LIMITED DEGREE PROGRAMME FOR THE POLYTECHNIC=
- * STABILISING THE POLYTECHNIC'S TOTAL STUDENT BODY OF NEARLY 30,000 ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT STUDENT MIX= AND
- * EXPANDING THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES TO TAKE OVER AND DEVELOP SOME OF THE ORDINARY DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE COURSES RUN BY THE POLYTECHNIC AND FOR THE POLYTECHNIC TO CONCENTRATE MORE ON HIGHER DIPLOMA AND HIGHER CERTIFICATE COURSES.

/APPROVED.....

APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MEETING THE APPROVED DEVELOPMENT TARGETS FOR FORM 6 AND TERTIARY EDUCATION.

THE COLLEGES WILL BE ASKED TO OFFER TWO-YEAR COURSES AT FORM 6-LEVEL, FOLLOWED BY FURTHER TWO-YEAR COURSES LEADING TO PROFESSIONAL OR OTHER VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS. COLLEGES PROVIDING THESE COURSES WILL RECEIVE SUITABLE FINANCIAL AID. ASSISTANCE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS TAKING TWO-YEAR POST-FORM 6 COURSES ON THE SAME BASIS AS THAT GIVEN TO STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.

THE POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES MAY ALSO RUN ONE-YEAR COURSES FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE TWO-YEAR POST-FORM 6 COURSES AND WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR ABILITY TO PROCEED TO A HIGHER AWARD. A LOAN SCHEME WILL BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS TAKING THESE COURSES AND FROM SEPTEMBER, 1979 TO EXISTING STUDENTS AT THESE COLLEGES.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS WILL BE MADE OF THE STANDARD OF COLLEGE AWARDS AND APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION GIVEN TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION

SECONDARY EDUCATION COURSES RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION SECTION WILL BE IMPROVED AND THE CURRICULUM WILL BE BROADENED THROUGH THE USE OF LABORATORIES AND SPECIAL ROOMS. ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURSES WILL ALSO BE STRENGTHENED.

THE MAIN THRUST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY FOR DEVELOPING ADULT EDUCATION COURSES WILL BE DIRECTED AT HELPING VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPLEMENT THE COURSES RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. A SUBVENTION SCHEME WILL BE INTRODUCED TO HELP, ON A PROJECT BASIS, VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS OFFERING SUITABLE COURSES.

COST

THE COST OF EXPANDING AND IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION WILL CALL FOR SPENDING AN ADDITIONAL \$644 MILLION A YEAR BY 1985-86. ALMOST ALL OF THIS COST WILL BE MET BY GENERAL REVENUE, BUT FROM SEPTEMBER, 1979, FORM 4 TO 5 FEES WILL BE RAISED IN STAGES TO \$600 A YEAR AND FORM 6 FEES TO \$800 A YEAR.

NON-STANDARD FEES CHARGED BY RURAL SCHOOLS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH STANDARD FEES. THE FEES REMISSION SCHEME WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT NO STUDENTS FROM POOR FAMILIES ARE DEPRIVED OF SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL REASONS.

HONG KONG'S SUCCESS ATTRIBUTED TO THE RULE OF TRADE LAW
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HONG KONG OFFERS POSSIBLY A HIGHER DEGREE OF FREEDOM TO TRADE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR. LAWRENCE MILLS SAID TODAY.

IN A TALK TO THE CANADIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, MR. MILLS SAID THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN TRADE MATTERS +IS KEPT TO THE MINIMUM COMMENSURATE WITH THE DISCHARGE OF OUR INTERNATIONAL TRADE OBLIGATIONS AND THE PROTECTION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL TRADING RIGHTS.+

DESCRIBING THE RULES THAT GOVERN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MR. MILLS SAID THE MAIN ONES FOR HONG KONG ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) AND THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES -- BETTER KNOWN AS THE MFA.

+THE GATT IS THE ONLY MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENT THAT LAYS DOWN AGREED RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE,+ MR. MILLS EXPLAINED. THE BASIC AIM OF THE GATT IS TO LIBERALISE WORLD TRADE AND PLACE IT ON A SECURE BASIS, WHEREAS THE MFA'S PURPOSE IS BASCIALLY TO RECONCILE THE INTERESTS OF IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES IN THE TRADITIONALLY SENSITIVE AND DIFFICULT FIELD OF TEXTILES BY PERMITTING THE EXPANSION OF TEXTILE TRADE WHILE AVOIDING DISRUPTION OF MARKETS.

MR. MILLS SAID THAT UNDER THE GATT OUR PRINCIPAL OBLIGATION IS DERIVED FROM ARTICLE 1 WHICH REQUIRES HONG KONG TO APPLY THE +MOST FAVOURED NATION+ RULE. +CUTTING THROUGH THE JARGON, THIS MEANS THAT TRADE MUST BE CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF NON-DISCRIMINATION,+ HE SAID.

+THUS HONG KONG IS OBLIGED TO TREAT IMPORTS FROM ALL SOURCES IN AN IDENTICAL FASHION. BUT, BY THE SAME TOKEN, HONG KONG'S RIGHT IS TO HAVE ITS EXPORTS TO OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES TREATED IN AN IDENTICAL WAY TO THE MANNER IN WHICH EXPORTS FROM OTHER SUPPLIERS TO THOSE CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE TREATED.+

BUT DESPITE THESE RIGHTS THERE IS STILL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG AND RESTRICTIONS ON OUR TRADE, WHICH MR. MILLS ATTRIBUTED TO THE SMALL PRINT OF THE GATT, +WHICH ALLOWS EXCEPTIONS TO THE BASIC MOST FAVOURED NATION RULE IN CERTAIN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE NOT SO SMALL PRINT OF THE MFA WHICH ALLOWS DISCRIMINATORY RESTRAINT ACTION WHEN A DOMESTIC MARKET IS BEING DISRUPTED OR THREATENED WITH MARKET DISRUPTION.+

THESE RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE NOTWITHSTANDING, MR. MILLS POINTED TO THE EIGHTFOLD GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS.

+THIS INCREASE CAN, I THINK, BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE GATT, TO THE RULE OF LAW IN TRADE MATTERS AND TO THE PROPER DISCHARGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE JEALOUS GUARDING OF RIGHTS+.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT HONG KONG'S EXPORTS HAD INCREASED 15 TIMES IN THE PAST TWO DECADES. +THIS SUGGESTS THAT PLAYING THE GAME BY THE RULES HAS PAID HANDSOME DIVIDENDS FOR HONG KONG.+

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EFFECTIVE CONTROL EXERCISED OVER SMUT PUBLICATIONS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS GENERALLY SATISFIED THAT EFFECTIVE CONTROL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED OVER THE PUBLICATION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES STATED THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. DAVIES SAID THERE HAVE BEEN SEIZURES OF 2,529 BOOKS AND MAGAZINES, 1,495 PHOTOGRAPHS AND SLIDES AND 431 FILMS BY THE POLICE SO FAR THIS YEAR.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, 93 CHARGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UNDER THE ORDINANCE THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 86 AND 92 IN 1976 AND 1977 RESPECTIVELY.

+THE POLICE ARE KEEPING THE SITUATION UNDER REVIEW. THE ASSESSMENT IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DETERIORATION GENERALLY OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

HOWEVER, MR. DAVIES STRESSED THAT THERE IS NO GROUND FOR COMPLACENCY OR ANY REDUCTION IN THE COUNTER ACTION.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S TASK CONTINUES TO BE TO MONITOR AND RESPOND TO THE CONSTANTLY CHANGING ACTIVITIES AND TACTICS OF THOSE PUBLISHING MATERIAL WHICH MAY BE OBJECTIONABLE,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

HE SAID THAT CONTROL OPERATIONS HAVE CONTINUED TO CONCENTRATE PARTICULARLY ON PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING hardcore PORNOGRAPHY AND DEPICTING ACTS OF EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE AND CRUELTY.

+THE PUBLICITY RESULTING FROM THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION APPEARS TO HAVE HAD A DETERRENT EFFECT ON PUBLISHERS AND ALSO IMPORTERS,+ HE SAID.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS FOR LAST QUARTER OF 1977-78
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THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1977-78 AMOUNTED TO \$917 MILLION.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WHEN HE INTRODUCED A MOTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO SEEK THE COUNCIL'S COVERING AUTHORITY FOR SUCH EXPENDITURE WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID OF THIS SUM, \$485 MILLION WAS REQUIRED FOR PAYMENT TO THE HOME OWNERSHIP FUND FOR FINANCING PHASE I OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME; \$100 MILLION FOR PAYMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND FOR FINANCING PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS; \$151 MILLION FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS; AND \$88 MILLION TO AUGMENT PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS SUBHEADS ON ACCOUNTS OF THE 1977 SALARIES REVISION.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS COVERED BY THE SCHEDULE RESULTED IN A NET INCREASE OF \$655 MILLION IN THE EXPENDITURE APPROVED FOR THE YEAR, THE REMAINDER BEING OFFSET BY SAVINGS UNDER OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE AND BY FREEZING OF FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS OF MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

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PROGRESS REPORT OF HK INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION
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THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION HAS PARTLY, IF NOT WHOLLY, NEGOTIATED THE INITIAL HURDLE OF ATTRACTING THE FIRST FEW FIRMS AND CREATING CONFIDENCE, CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATION, THE HON. LI FOOK-WO TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE TABLING OF THE CORPORATION'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1977-78 IN THE COUNCIL, MR. LI SAID THIS HURDLE HAS BEEN SHOWN BY EXPERIENCE IN MOST OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD TO BE THE GREATEST PROBLEM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES.

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THE CORPORATION RECOGNISED THAT CONFIDENCE COULD BE INSPIRED BY SECURING WELL-KNOWN COMPANIES WITH GOOD FINANCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND STAFF WELFARE RECORDS AND HAD ACCORDINGLY DIRECTED ITS EFFORTS THERE. IT ALSO REALISED THAT ONCE THE FIRST FEW FACTORIES WERE OPERATING SUCCESSFULLY THE PROBLEM OF ATTRACTION WOULD BE DIMINISHED.

MR. LI WAS HAPPY TO REPORT THAT, IN CONTRAST TO HIS REMARKS IN THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY CONCERNING THE LEVEL AND QUALITY OF APPLICANTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM OVERSEAS, THE PRESENT LEVEL WAS +INDEED MOST ENCOURAGING+.

WITH ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE LAND FORMED AT PRESENT ALREADY COMMITTED OR ALLOCATED TO APPROVED APPLICANTS, THE PRESSURE ON THE CORPORATION TO EXPEDITE PRODUCTION OF LAND WAS VERY REAL. IT WOULD SEEK TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR FUTURE ESTATES AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY.

+IT IS HOPED THAT DURING THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD TO 1981, WORK WILL HAVE STARTED ON THE THIRD STAGE AT TAI PO AND ON NEW ESTATES AS YET UNIDENTIFIED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE TERRITORY TO ENSURE A CONTINUING FLOW OF FORMED LAND FOR THE GROWING NUMBER OF INDUSTRIALISTS WHO ARE SHOWING AN INCREASING INTEREST IN INVESTING IN THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

HE ESTIMATED THAT IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE CURRENT PROGRAMME OF LAND FORMATION WILL PROVIDE 102 HECTARES (10.98 MILLION SQ. FT.) OF NETT ACTUAL SITES WHICH, ALONG WITH THE SITES ALREADY FORMED AT TAI PO, WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL AVAILABLE NETT AREA OF 117 HECTARES (12.59 MILLION SQ. FT.).

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FACTORY SITES TO BE AVAILABLE WILL LIKELY BE BETWEEN 250 AND 300, WITH TOTAL INVESTMENT ESTIMATED AT \$4 BILLION AND AN ANNUAL PRODUCTION VALUE IN EXCESS OF \$6 BILLION.

AT TAI PO THE CORPORATION HAD FORMED AN AREA OF 21 HECTARES (2.26 MILLION SQ. FT.) PROVIDING 15 HECTARES (1.61 MILLION SQ. FT.) OF INDUSTRIAL SITES.

RECLAMATION WORK IS PROCEEDING WITH THE SECOND STAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL BECOME PROGRESSIVELY AVAILABLE THROUGH TO COMPLETION IN NOVEMBER 1980.

ON COMPLETION THE ESTATE WILL COVER A GROSS AREA OF 69 HECTARES (7.43 MILLION SQ. FT.) OF WHICH, AFTER PROVISION FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE, SOME 45 HECTARES (4.84 MILLION SQ. FT.) WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FACTORY SITES.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START AT THE SITE OF THE SECOND ESTATE IN YUEN LONG AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, AND FORMED LAND WILL BECOME AVAILABLE PROGRESSIVELY FROM THE SECOND HALF OF 1979 THROUGH TO COMPLETION IN NOVEMBER 1981.

THIS SECOND ESTATE WILL COVER A TOTAL AREA OF 98 HECTARES (10.55 MILLION SQ. FT.) WITH ABOUT 72 HECTARES (7.75 MILLION SQ. FT.) FOR FACTORY DEVELOPMENT.

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REPORTS OF CLOTHING AND CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITIES Tabled

THE YEAR-OLD CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE HAS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOME 3,000 OPERATIVE TRAINEES WHO, ON COMPLETION OF TRAINING, WERE ALL SUITABLY PLACED IN THE INDUSTRY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE WHICH WAS OPENED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR HAS ALSO PRODUCED SOME 550 CRAFT TRAINEES, MOST OF WHOM WERE PLACED IN THE SECOND YEAR IN PROPER APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES TO OBTAIN FURTHER ON-THE-JOB TRAINING BEFORE BECOMING FULLY-FLEDGED CRAFTSMEN.

THE 1977 ANNUAL REPORTS BY THE TRAINING AUTHORITIES FOR THE TWO INDUSTRIES WERE Tabled IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

IN HIS STATEMENT ON THE REPORTS, CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE INCREASING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND COMPETITION, THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY LAST YEAR CONTINUED TO BE THE LARGEST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG IN TERMS OF TOTAL EXPORT VALUE AND NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED.

AT \$13,908 MILLION, OR ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS, THE INDUSTRY'S ACHIEVEMENT LAST YEAR HAS MADE HONG KONG THE WORLD'S PREMIER EXPORTER OF CLOTHING.

+TO MAINTAIN OUR COMPETITIVENESS, WE MUST UP-GRADE OUR PRODUCTS, IMPROVE OUR PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY STANDARDS. THIS IN TURN WILL DEPEND ON OUR ABILITY TO MAKE FULL USE OF MODERN PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, AND TO ENSURE A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF WELL-TRAINED AND EFFICIENT WORKERS,+ HE SAID.

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ALSO HAD A BUSY YEAR, WITH THE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS COMPLETED WELL EXCEEDING \$5,250 MILLION, RESULTING IN A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR ALL LEVELS OF MANPOWER, PARTICULARLY FOR SKILLED CRAFTSMEN.

MR. TIEN WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE TWO TRAINING CENTRES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONTINUING SUCCESS OF THE TWO INDUSTRIES.

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SWD STAFF REDEPLOYED TO HANDLE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT REDEPLOYED ITS STAFF IN OTHER GRADES TO MAKE IMMEDIATE PAYMENTS TO THOSE IN URGENT NEED OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DURING THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION OF SOME OF ITS WELFARE STAFF LAST WEEK.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN THAT THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION TAKEN BY TWO GROUPS OF WELFARE STAFF LAST WEEK - ONE GROUP FOR ONE DAY AND THE OTHER GROUP FOR TWO DAYS - HAD INEVITABLY AFFECTED SOME OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY THOSE SERVICES EXCLUSIVELY MANNED BY THESE TWO GRADES OF STAFF.

HE SAID APPOINTMENTS FOR INTERVIEW IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCES PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED FOR THE DAYS IN QUESTION HAD TO BE POSTPONED AT SOME INCONVENIENCE TO THE APPLICANTS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR THESE CASES TO BE PROCESSED.

+AS OLD AGE ALLOWANCES ARE NOT MEANS-TESTED, THIS DELAY IN PROCESSING APPLICATIONS NEED NOT CAUSE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. ANY OLD PERSON IN URGENT NEED WILL BE OFFERED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE,+ HE SAID.

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QUERY ON BRITISH AIRWAYS SERVICES BETWEEN H.K. AND LONDON
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THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE ADEQUACY OF BRITISH AIRWAYS SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND LONDON IS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY BUT THE PUNCTUALITY AND DEPENDABILITY OF ITS SERVICES NEED TO BE IMPROVED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID BRITISH AIRWAYS OPERATE 10 FLIGHTS A WEEK, PROVIDING ABOUT 3,800 SEATS, FROM HONG KONG TO LONDON AND VICE VERSA.

CONCERNING COMPLAINTS ABOUT INAVAILABILITY OF SEATS OVER THE BUSY CHRISTMAS PERIOD, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THIS WAS A WORLD-WIDE PROBLEM FOR NEARLY ALL AIRLINES. +EVEN IN RESPECT OF THIS DEFICIENCY, BRITISH AIRWAYS TELL ME THEY ARE INCREASING CAPACITY OVER THE HOLIDAY.+

ON PUNCTUALITY OF THE SERVICES, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE BRITISH AIRWAYS' TIME-KEEPING GREATLY IMPROVED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH THE LAST HALF OF 1977 AND PARTICULARLY COMPARED TO THE FIRST HALF OF 1977.

HOWEVER LONGER DELAYS WERE EXPERIENCED DURING JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR DUE TO MARKET DETERIORATION, HE SAID. DURING THESE THREE MONTHS, 63 PER CENT OF THE FLIGHTS ACTUALLY OPERATED WERE DELAYED FOR OVER 15 MINUTES, THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARD, AND THE AVERAGE DELAY WAS FOUR HOURS NINE MINUTES.

ON DEPENDABILITY OF THE SERVICES, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID SO FAR THIS YEAR, 36 BA FLIGHTS OUT OF TOTAL OF 1,273 SCHEDULED FLIGHTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND LONDON WERE CANCELLED.

OF THESE CANCELLATIONS, HE SAID, 16 OCCURRED IN THE THREE MONTHS FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER WHICH IS FOUR PER CENT OF THE TOTAL SCHEDULED FLIGHTS DURING THE PERIOD.

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HK AIRPORT (CONTROL OF OBSTRUCTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL
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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO UP-DATE THE HONG KONG AIRPORT (CONTROL OF OBSTRUCTIONS) ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG AIRPORT (CONTROL OF OBSTRUCTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID THE BILL SEEKS TO RECTIFY CERTAIN UNSATISFACTORY FEATURES IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

MR. JONES SAID IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN DETERMINING BUILDING HEIGHTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRPORT AND ITS APPROACHES TO SAFEGUARD AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS AND PREVENT OBSTRUCTION TO RADIO-NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, ONE OF THE CLAUSES IN THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE DELETION OF THE REFERENCE TO PRINCIPAL DATUM IN ORDER TO ALLOW OTHER MEASUREMENTS TO BE USED AS APPROPRIATE.

THESE MEASUREMENTS INCLUDE THE FORMED LEVEL OF A SITE, THE HEIGHT OF THE HIGHEST NATURAL FEATURE OR BY THE SO CALLED +CONICAL SURFACE+ FORMULA LAID DOWN BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION.

ANOTHER CLAUSE OF THE BILL SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION TO GIVE EXEMPTIONS TO TEMPORARY OBSTRUCTIONS EXCEEDING THE BUILDING HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS PROPER MARKING AND LIGHTING.

MR. JONES SAID IT CAN HAPPEN IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE THAT CERTAIN EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS SCAFFOLDING, HOISTS OR CRANES, EXCEED THE BUILDING HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS WHILE THE WORK IS GOING ON BUT WILL LATER BE REMOVED.

+THESE TEMPORARY OBSTRUCTIONS CAN BE TOLERATED FOR LIMITED PERIODS IF ADVANCE WARNING OF THEIR PRESENCE IS GIVEN TO PILOTS AND THEY ARE PROPERLY MARKED OR LIGHTED.+

THE BILL ALSO CONTAINS A CLAUSE WHICH PROVIDES THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION THE AUTHORITY TO ORDER THE REMOVAL OR FELLING OF OBSTRUCTIONS SUCH AS THE TREES OR OTHER VEGETATION.

MR. JONES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN PROVISION OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, IN SECTION 3, ENABLES THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BY ORDER, TO PRESCRIBE AREAS WITHIN WHICH BUILDINGS SHALL NOT EXCEED SPECIFIED HEIGHTS ABOVE PRINCIPAL DATUM.

+SO FAR THREE SUCH ORDERS HAVE BEEN MADE IN 1957, 1966 AND 1967 RESPECTIVELY. SINCE THEN CONSIDERABLE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, AS WELL AS IN VARIOUS TECHNICAL AIDS TO AIRCRAFT MOVEMENT, HAVE MADE THESE ORDERS OUT OF DATE AND A REVISION IN BUILDING HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THEM IS NOW OVERDUE,+ MR. JONES SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

FILIPINO WOMEN'S ALLEGATIONS REFUTED

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, TODAY EXPLAINED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND THE REFUSAL OF ENTRY TO HONG KONG OF TWO FILIPINO WOMEN BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT RECENTLY.

MR. DAVIES SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN, THE TWO WOMEN WERE ONLY IN POSSESSION OF A VERY LIMITED AMOUNT OF MONEY WHEN ENTERING HONG KONG, ENTIRELY INSUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN THEMSELVES IN HONG KONG FOR THE INTENDED STAY.

CONCERNING THE ALLEGATIONS BY THE TWO WOMEN, MR. DAVIES SAID THEY WERE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED.

HE SAID THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT STAFF HAVE BEEN VERY POLITE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE COURSE OF IMMIGRATION EXAMINATIONS. THEY WERE EACH GIVEN A PROPERLY FURNISHED BEDROOM TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT, IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL FACILITIES NORMALLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS REFUSED ENTRY AT THE AIRPORT, INCLUDING DISTILLED WATER AND BATHING FACILITIES. THEY HAD BREAKFAST IN THE MORNING SUPPLIED FROM THE AIRPORT RESTAURANT- AND THEY MADE THREE TELEPHONE CALLS AND RECEIVED ONE RETURN CALL.

MR. DAVIES ADDED A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL FOR THE PHILIPPINES HAS EXAMINED THE FACILITIES AT KAI TAK AND +THE CONSUL GENERAL HAS BEEN INVITED TO CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION IF HE FEELS A DISCUSSION OF THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE USEFUL.+

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QUERY ON EXPERIENCE OF CHILD CARE WORKERS

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, TODAY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT UNDER THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE, HE COULD WAIVE THE WORKING EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS IN APPROPRIATE CASES.

MR. LEE SAID THIS WOULD ENABLE A CHILD CARE WORKER, WHO HAD NOT HAD SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE, TO CONTINUE HER SERVICE UNTIL SHE HAD ACCUMULATED THE REQUIRED EXPERIENCE TO QUALIFY FOR REGISTRATION.

HE WAS REPLYING TO DR. THE HON. HO KAM-FAI WHO ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER DEFERRING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES REGULATIONS FROM 1979 TO 1981 SO AS TO ENABLE MORE WORKERS TO ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY WORKING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED UNDER THE REGULATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS CHILD CARE WORKERS.

MR. LEE SAID: +AS THE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE WORKERS WITHOUT THE REQUIRED WORKING EXPERIENCE BY JUNE 1979 WILL BE VERY SMALL, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATIONS.+

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SPECIAL REPORT ON SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME

A SPECIAL WORKING PARTY REPORT ON THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME HAS JUST BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

DR. THONG SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED BY DR. THE HON. HO KAM-FAI, THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD IS A STATUTORY AND INDEPENDENT BODY ADMINISTERING THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME.

HE ADDED THAT THE MAIN FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PARTICIPATION RATE OF THE SCHEME WERE THAT IT IS A SCHOOL-BASED VOLUNTARY AND CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME AND IT IS THEREFORE UP TO THE SCHOOLS CONCERNED TO ENCOURAGE MORE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE AND THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES TO ACCEPT.

ALSO, THERE ARE OTHER ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF MEDICAL CARE IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS WHICH ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE STUDENTS CONCERNED, HE SAID.

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LINGNAN COLLEGE REGISTERED AS APPROVED POST SECONDARY COLLEGE

LINGNAN COLLEGE AT STUBBS ROAD HAS BEEN REGISTERED AS THE THIRD APPROVED POST SECONDARY COLLEGE UNDER THE POST SECONDARY COLLEGES ORDINANCE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY, ANNOUNCED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE COLLEGE APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION IN JANUARY LAST YEAR. IT WAS OFFICIALLY REGISTERED YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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POLICY ON PRESERVATION OF
ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES EXPLAINED
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THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE PRESERVATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IS TO ENSURE THAT ITEMS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST ARE PRESERVED FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF THE COMMUNITY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT, MR. LI SAID SUITABLE CLAUSES ARE INCLUDED IN ALL CROWN LEASES AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ON CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS REQUIRING THE LESSEE OR THE CONTRACTOR TO REPORT ANY ARCHEOLOGICAL FINDS AND TO AVOID ANY ACTION WHICH MAY DAMAGE SUCH FINDS.

+FURTHERMORE,+ MR. LI SAID, +THROUGH THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD, A SYSTEM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR DECLARING SUITABLE PLACES AS SPECIAL SITES OF ARCHEOLOGICAL INTEREST AND FOR MARKING THEM ON OFFICIAL LAND USE PLANS SO AS TO ENSURE THAT NOTHING IS DONE WHICH MIGHT INJURE THE SITES.+

MR. LI ADDED, ALL ARCHEOLOGICAL RELICS FOUND IN HONG KONG BELONG TO THE GOVERNMENT AND ARE PRESERVED FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY BY THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY.

HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON EXCAVATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IS THAT NONE CAN TAKE PLACE WITHOUT A LICENCE.

+HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT IS ALSO ANXIOUS THAT EXCAVATIONS SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE ON A PIECEMEAL BASIS BUT SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY A PROPER SURVEY OF THE WHOLE TERRITORY, TO ASCERTAIN LIKELY SITES AND TO ASSESS THE SCOPE AND DEPTH OF PROPOSED EXCAVATIONS,+ MR. LI SAID.

+SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND OTHER SOCIETIES, THE ADVICE OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD AND THE APPROVAL OF THE NECESSARY FUNDS IN THE CONTEXT OF NEXT YEAR'S ESTIMATES, IT IS INTENDED THAT SUCH A SYSTEMATIC SURVEY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED NEXT YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

MR. LI SAID EXPERT STAFF CARRYING OUT WORK IN THIS FIELD, ARE EMPLOYED BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THEY FREQUENTLY DRAW ON THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD.

MR. LI STRESSED THAT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON PRESERVATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL FINDS IS A SUFFICIENT ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL NOT DESTROY RELICS WHICH MAY PROVIDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE CULTURE AND HISTORY.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYING MORE DISABLED PERSONS

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THE NUMBER OF PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AS ON APRIL 1 THIS YEAR WAS 451, AN INCREASE OF 49 COMPARED WITH 402 EMPLOYED LAST YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. ROWLANDS SAID THAT THE FIGURES REFERRED TO THE NUMBER OF PERSONS RECORDED AS PHYSICALLY DISABLED ON FIRST APPOINTMENT. +THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE IS CERTAINLY HIGHER IF ONE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE MANY OFFICERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED IMPAIRMENT SINCE FIRST APPOINTMENT,+ MR. ROWLANDS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE ALSO EMPLOYS AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM MINOR MENTAL OR EDUCATIONAL IMPAIRMENT.

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MATERNITY PROTECTION FOR PREGNANT WORKERS ADEQUATE

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THE IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF SERVICE CONFERRING MATERNITY BENEFITS TO PREGNANT WORKERS, AS OPPOSED TO PROTECTION, SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A MATTER OF NEGOTIATION AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ANDREW SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. HENDERSON SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN GENERAL SATISFIED THAT THE MATERNITY PROTECTION PROVISIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WERE ADEQUATE.

THE PROVISIONS INCLUDE LEAVE BEFORE AND AFTER EACH CONFINEMENT; AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF LEAVE IF ILLNESS OR DISABILITY ARISES; CONTINUITY OF SERVICE; AND PROHIBITING TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT DURING MATERNITY LEAVE, HE SAID.

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CONDITIONS FOR MOBILE RADIO LICENCE
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THE MAIN CRITERION ADOPTED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL FOR THE APPROVAL OF MOBILE RADIO LICENCES IN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PLEASURE BOATS IS THAT SUCH A SERVICE SHOULD BE AN ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR THE LEGITIMATE BUSINESS THE COMPANY IS UNDERTAKING.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IF A COMPANY SHOULD REQUIRE LESS THAN 40 MOBILE STATIONS, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL MAY THEN REQUIRE IT TO SHARE A FREQUENCY WITH OTHER COMPANIES, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

HOWEVER, IF THE APPLICANT IS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF A TAXI OR PLEASURE BOAT, HE MUST BE A MEMBER OF AN AUTHORISED TAXI ASSOCIATION OR CLUB WHICH PROVIDES OR OPERATES THE RADIO BASE STATION.

THE CRITERIA FOR A LICENCE TO OPERATE A FULLY FLEDGED SHIPS RADIO WHICH CAN CONTACT BOTH SHORE STATIONS AND OTHER VESSELS ARE THAT THE VESSELS SHALL BE PROPERLY REGISTERED AND THAT THE SHIPS RADIO BE OPERATED BY A QUALIFIED OPERATOR.

IN ADDITION, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL HAS TO BE SATISFIED ON A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL POINTS BEFORE A LICENCE IS APPROVED.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 11,070 VALID MOBILE LICENCES AND 1,065 FIXED STATION LICENCES ISSUED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, HE ADDED.

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CLEANLINESS OF KCR TRACK IS GOOD

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THE GENERAL STANDARD OF CLEANLINESS ON THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY TRACK IS GOOD, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JOHN BREMRIDGE, MR. JONES SAID K.C.R. ALREADY HAD STAFF EMPLOYED FULL TIME IN CLEANING THE TRACK AND ITS SURROUNDS ON EACH SIDE AND THEIR PROGRAMME OF WORK ENSURED THAT THE ENTIRE TRACK WAS DEALT WITH ONCE A MONTH.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, ALL RAILWAY STATIONS AND THEIR SURROUNDS WERE CLEANSSED DAILY AND THERE WAS A SEPARATE CLEANING CONTRACT FOR THE HUNG HOM STATION.

+BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE TASK OF THE STAFF INVOLVED IS MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF CERTAIN PASSENGERS WHO THROW LITTER OUT OF TRAINS AND ON STATIONS, PARTICULARLY DURING BUSY PUBLIC HOLIDAYS,+ MR. JONES POINTED OUT.

+TO DEAL WITH THIS,+ HE ADDED, +THE REGULAR CLEANING STAFF WORK OVERTIME AFTER PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND EXTRA STAFF ARE ALSO PUT ON CLEANING WORK AT THOSE TIMES.+

AN ADDITIONAL MEASURE WILL BE MADE TO EMPLOY MORE LABOURERS FOR A PERIOD ON A CASUAL BASIS FURTHER TO CLEAN UP PARTICULAR TROUBLE SPOTS, INCLUDING LO WU, MR. JONES SAID.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE MEASURES, HE ADDED, WOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW BY THE RAILWAY MANAGEMENT AND FURTHER STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN IF NECESSARY.

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ADEQUATE LEGAL POWER TO CONTROL USE OF COUNTRY PARKS
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THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY HAS ADEQUATE LEGAL POWER TO CONTROL THE USE OF COUNTRY PARKS IN THE EVENT OF A HIGH RISK FIRE INCIDENCE, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON. TED NICHOLS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING, MR. NICHOLS SAID THAT UNDER THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE, IT IS AN OFFENCE AT ANY TIME TO USE ANYTHING LIKELY TO CAUSE FIRE EXCEPT IN DESIGNATED BARBECUE OR CAMPING SITES WITHIN A COUNTRY PARK.

THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES THE AUTHORITY WITH POWERS TO PROHIBIT THE LIGHTING OR USE OF FIRE IN ANY COUNTRY PARK, INCLUDING ANY DESIGNATED BARBECUE OR CAMPING SITE, SHOULD HE CONSIDER NECESSARY, MR. NICHOLS SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE AUTHORITY HAS THE POWER TO CLOSE A COUNTRY PARK OR SPECIAL AREA IN PART OR COMPLETELY SHOULD IT BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY IN THE INTERESTS OF GOOD MANAGEMENT, HE SAID.

MR. NICHOLS ADDED THAT UNDER THE FORESTS AND COUNTRYSIDE ORDINANCE, THE LAW PROVIDES FOR AN OFFENCE BEING COMMITTED ELSEWHERE IN ANY AREAS OF OPEN COUNTRYSIDE UNLESS IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE IN THAT AREA WAS REASONABLE IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT ALL REASONABLE STEPS WERE TAKEN TO PREVENT THE FIRE FROM DAMAGING OR ENDANGERING THAT AREA.

HOWEVER, MR. NICHOLS SAID HE WAS RELUCTANT TO USE SUCH POWERS UNNECESSARILY ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY SHOULD THERE BE DANGER OF THE FIRE PROBLEM GETTING OUT OF HAND IN WHICH CASE THE POWER WILL BE EXERCISED.

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FACILITIES TO REPORT EMERGENCIES IN COUNTRY PARKS
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FACILITIES FOR REPORTING EMERGENCIES RAPIDLY INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON. TED NICHOLS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, MR. NICHOLS SAID THE 21 COUNTRY PARKS MANAGEMENT CENTRES HAVE TELEPHONE, AND IN MOST CASES, RADIO LINKS WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS. THE SYSTEM IS BACKED BY PATROLLING RANGERS USING 56 MOBILE RADIO SETS.

MR. NICHOLS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT TWO OF 16 PUBLIC TELEPHONES INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED, IN ADDITION TO THOSE AVAILABLE IN VILLAGE AREAS.

HE ADDED THAT THESE FACILITIES, TOGETHER WITH ALL 999 CALLS FROM PUBLIC CALL BOXES ARE FREE OF CHARGE.

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ALLOWANCES FOR COURT WITNESSES TO BE INCREASED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED RULES MADE BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM RATES OF ALLOWANCE FOR BOTH ORDINARY WITNESSES GIVING EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL TRIALS OR ATTENDING CORONERS' ENQUIRIES FROM \$36 TO \$50 A DAY, AND FROM \$18 TO \$25 FOR ATTENDANCE OF LESS THAN FOUR HOURS.

INTRODUCING THE TWO RESOLUTIONS TO SEEK THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL FOR THE INCREASES, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. GARTH THORNTON SAID THE AMENDED RULES ALSO REVOKE RULE 6 UNDER THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AN ALLOWANCE AT A SPECIAL RATE FOR SEAMEN.

+THIS IS NOT NOW FELT TO BE NECESSARY AND HENCEFORTH SEAMEN WILL BE TREATED THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE,+ MR. THORNTON SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE ALLOWANCES AT THE EXISTING RATES HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE 1971 AND THE INCREASES SOUGHT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

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RESULTS OF EMPLOYMENT SURVEY
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ABOUT 385,000 PEOPLE WERE ENGAGED IN WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS IN JUNE THIS YEAR, SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THE EMPLOYMENT LEVEL IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO A RECENT EMPLOYMENT SURVEY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A BREAKDOWN OF THE EMPLOYMENT LEVEL OF INDIVIDUAL TRADES SHOWS THAT SLIGHT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, AND HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES IN JUNE THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH FIGURES FOR MARCH.

COMPARED WITH JUNE LAST YEAR THE EMPLOYMENT FIGURE IN RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS WENT UP BY THREE PER CENT TO ABOUT 118,000 IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

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THE COMPARATIVE EMPLOYMENT FIGURES IN WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS IN JUNE AND MARCH THIS YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	PERSON ENGAGED IN JUNE 1978	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1978	CHANGE OF JUNE 1978 OVER MARCH 1978	
			PERSONS	%
WHOLESALE	39,890	39,430	+ 450	+ 1.1
RETAIL	133,950	133,750	+ 200	+ 0.1
IMPORT/ EXPORT	92,860	96,360	-3,510	- 3.8
RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS	99,940	100,830	- 900	- 0.9
HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES	18,070	17,740	+ 330	+ 1.8
TOTAL	384,700	388,120	-3,420	- 0.9

NOTE: COMPONENTS MAY NOT ADD UP TO TOTAL DUE TO ROUNDING.

THERE WERE ALTOGETHER 56,920 WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT ESTABLISHMENTS, 3,960 RESTAURANTS, AND 700 HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES IN OPERATION IN THE MIDDLE OF JUNE THIS YEAR.

MEANWHILE, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS.

QUESTIONNAIRES WERE SENT IN APRIL THIS YEAR TO ABOUT 16,000 ESTABLISHMENTS SEEKING INFORMATION ON LABOUR COST, OTHER OPERATING COSTS, PURCHASES, SALES AND CAPITAL STOCK.

MORE THAN 10,000 ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY AND REMINDER LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED AND RETURNED THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY APPEALED TO MANAGERMENTS OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION IN THE SURVEY.

HE SAID THOSE ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTY WITH THE QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT AT TEL: 5-444402 OR 5-444364.

CENSUS OFFICERS, CARRYING GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARDS WHILE ON DUTY, ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING QUESTIONNAIRES, HE ADDED.

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POSTAL SERVICES TO CANADA AND IRAN DISRUPTED
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT POSTAL SERVICES TO CANADA AND IRAN WILL BE TEMPORARILY DISRUPTED, DUE TO POSTAL STRIKES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID ALL POSTAL SERVICES TO CANADA WOULD BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED, AND NO MAIL FOR CANADA WOULD BE ACCEPTED AT POST OFFICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

IN THE CASE OF IRAN, LETTER AND PARCEL MAILES FOR DESPATCH BY SEA TO IRAN WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ACCEPTED AT THIS STAGE, BUT AIR LETTERS AND PARCELS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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WATER CUT
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WAN CHAI AND KWUN TONG WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 20) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA IN WAN CHAI, BOUNDED BY 87-147 HENNESSY ROAD, 2A-34 O'BRIEN ROAD, 64-82 GLOUCESTER ROAD, 18-20 LUARD ROAD, 95-115 AND 94-118 JAFFE ROAD, AND 87-147 AND 88-148 LOCKHART ROAD, WILL HAVE NO WATER FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON FRIDAY.

IN KWUN TONG, THE AREA BOUNDED BY CHUN WAH ROAD, KUNG LOK ROAD AND FUK WA TSUEN WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT FRIDAY TO 6 A.M. ON SATURDAY.

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