



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTS RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1989

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SOLUTION THROUGH PLAN OF ACTION BEING SOUGHT

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REITERATED THAT THE POLICY OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE TERRITORY'S VIETNAMESE PROBLEM THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (CPA).

"BUT THIS WILL ONLY BE ATTAINABLE IF THE CPA IS IMPLEMENTED IN FULL," MR BARNES SAID IN THE DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON A MOTION CALLING FOR URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF NON-REFUGEE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

MR BARNES COMMENDED THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON ALLEN LEE, FOR THE RESTRAINED AND MODERATE TONE OF HIS MOTION AT A TIME WHEN THE FRUSTRATION OF MEMBERS, AND THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF THIS EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT PROBLEM, MIGHT WELL HAVE RESULTED IN HARSHER WORDS AND CALLS FOR MORE EXTREME MEASURES.

"THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN RIGHT," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE MOTION BEFORE THE COUNCIL EMBODIED THE PRESENT AIMS AND POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND WAS THEREFORE ONE TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT FULLY SUBSCRIBED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CPA AGREED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN GENEVA THIS YEAR WAS AN INTER-DEPENDENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF MEASURES WHICH SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY AND PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF THE GENUINE REFUGEES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ADDRESSING ITSELF TO THE OVERALL PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE OUTFLOW FROM VIETNAM.

"IF THE CPA CANNOT PROVIDE THE COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM WITH THE RELIEF THEY SO BADLY NEED, THE CPA ITSELF WILL BE IN JEOPARDY.

"MANDATORY REPATRIATION SHOULD BE SEEN FOR WHAT IT IS, AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN PRESERVING THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST ASYLUM," MR BARNES SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS, EXASPERATED WITH THE LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARDS FULL IMPLEMENTATION HAD, INDEED, ALREADY RETREATED FROM THEIR FIRST ASYLUM COMMITMENTS.

"THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE HUMANE TREATMENT FOR ALL ASYLUM SEEKERS IS TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENTS WITH AN INTERNATIONALLY ESTABLISHED MECHANISM FOR BRINGING THE PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL.

"THAT MEANS ADEQUATE AND HUMANE METHODS OF DEALING WITH GENUINE REFUGEES, AND WITH THOSE WHO ARE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES.

"THOSE WHO ARGUE AGAINST THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CPA ARE PUTTING FIRST ASYLUM ITSELF AT RISK," MR BARNES SAID.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES IN THEIR SIMPLEST FORMS WERE TWO-FOLD: FIRST TO MAKE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF ALL GENUINE REFUGEES AND THE DEPARTURE OF ALL NON-REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG; AND SECONDLY, TO PREVENT MORE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE FROM ARRIVING IN HONG KONG.

"THESE ARE OUR AIMS. AND EVERYTHING ELSE, HOWEVER IMPORTANT OR HOWEVER COMPLICATED, RELATES TO THESE TWO CENTRAL ISSUES," HE SAID.

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT WITH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LONG STAYERS, THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEES WOULD BE ACHIEVED UNDER THE CPA, AND THERE HAD BEEN SUFFICIENT PLEDGES FROM RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES FOR THAT PURPOSE.

"WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THESE OFFERS AND FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF GENUINE REFUGEES.

"IF THE PROPORTION OF VIETNAMESE FOUND BY THE SCREENING PROCESS TO BE REFUGEES CONTINUES AT ROUGHLY ITS PRESENT RATE, WE CAN EXPECT SOME 17,000 OF OUR PRESENT VIETNAMESE POPULATION TO QUALIFY FOR RESETTLEMENT.

"OF THESE WE MIGHT EXPECT SOME 4,000 TO BE RESETTLED BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 1990," HE SAID.

"FOR THOSE WHO ARE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES BY WHAT, I MUST STRESS, IS A VERY THOROUGH AND CAREFUL SCREENING AND APPEAL PROCESS, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. AS NON-REFUGEES."

MR BARNES REAFFIRMED THAT RESETTLEMENT WAS NOT OPEN TO NON-REFUGEES, AND THE NON-REFUGEES COULD NOT REMAIN FOR EVER IN DETENTION IN HONG KONG.

"THAT WOULD BE THE ULTIMATE INHUMANITY. THEIR OPTIONS ARE TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY, OR TO BE RETURNED INVOLUNTARILY," HE SAID.

MR BARNES NOTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES AND SOME PEOPLE DISLIKED THE IDEA OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF NON-REFUGEES AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS OPTION DELAYED OR ABANDONED ALTOGETHER.

"BUT THOSE WHO OPPOSE MANDATORY REPATRIATION CAN SELDOM SUGGEST ANY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION. CERTAINLY NONE THAT WOULD MEET HONG KONG'S URGENT PRACTICAL NEEDS." HE ADDED.

OVER 500 BOAT PEOPLE HAD RETURNED UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME WHICH HAD BEEN IN PLACE FOR A YEAR AND FURTHER GROUPS WERE EXPECTED TO RETURN SHORTLY.

"WE WELCOME, AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT, THIS PROGRAMME WHICH, INDEED, WE HELPED TO ENGINEER," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR BARNES SAID, ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS HAD RECENTLY SPEEDED UP, IT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO CATER ON ITS OWN FOR ALL 39,000 NON-REFUGEES.

/"IT WOULD .....

"IT WOULD BE A DELUSION TO EXPECT ALL THESE PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER TO RETURN AND ALSO A DELUSION TO BELIEVE THAT IF THE ONLY ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE FOR RETURNING NON-REFUGEES TO VIETNAM WERE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, PEOPLE IN VIETNAM WOULD STOP SETTING OUT IN A FRUITLESS ATTEMPT TO SEEK NEW LIVES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

"INDEED, SINCE THE AGREEMENT ON VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE UNHCR AND THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IN DECEMBER 1988, OVER 34,000 BOAT PEOPLE HAVE ARRIVED IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS THEREFORE LEFT WITH INVOLUNTARY, OR MANDATORY, REPATRIATION AND SAW THIS AS BEING ENCOMPASSED BY THE CPA AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, HE SAID.

"IT IS THE LOGICAL OUTCOME OF THE SCREENING PROCESS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS NON-REFUGEES AND WHO DO NOT VOLUNTEER TO RETURN.

"IN THIS VIEW WE ARE FULLY SUPPORTED BY HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WHO SEE THE RETURN OF NON-REFUGEES TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AS BEING IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THE DEPORTATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD," HE SAID.

"THE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH THEY WILL BE RETURNED WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS BEING THAT WE SHALL ENSURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RE-INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE, MONITORING AFTER THEIR RETURN AND ASSURANCES OF NON-PERSECUTION OF RETURNEES FROM THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES.

"WE SEE MANDATORY REPATRIATION AS BEING COMPLEMENTARY TO VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, AND FOR BOTH MODES CONTINUING IN PARALLEL WITH EACH OTHER.

"WE BELIEVE THAT MANDATORY REPATRIATION WILL NOT ONLY ACT TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT GENUINE POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM SETTING OUT FROM VIETNAM BUT WILL ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY HERE INTO VOLUNTEERING TO GO BACK TO VIETNAM," HE SAID.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS NOW WORKING, WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, TOWARDS ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO ESTABLISH A REPATRIATION PROGRAMME, MR BARNES SAID, ADDING THAT DETAILED ARRANGMENTS HAD NOT YET BEEN CONCLUDED.

IN THE LONGER TERM, MR BARNES SAID, THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS INVOLVED MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES, SUCH AS INTERNAL CHANGES IN VIETNAM AND THE CREATION OF LIVING CONDITIONS THERE WHICH WOULD REMOVE THE INCENTIVE FOR DEPARTURES.

"IN SHORT AN ECONOMIC REVIVAL IS REQUIRED. THE QUICKER THIS IS ACHIEVED THE QUICKER WE SHALL SEE THE CREATION OF LIVING CONDITIONS WHICH WILL NOT PROPEL VIETNAMESE OUTWARDS FROM THEIR OWN COUNTRY," MR BARNES SAID.

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MANDATORY REPATRIATION IS THE BEST OPTION

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MANDATORY REPATRIATION IS THE BEST ARRANGEMENT FOR EVERYONE CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES, THE HON ALLEN LEE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WAS LEADING OFF DEBATE ON HIS MOTION CALLING FOR URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF BOAT PEOPLE CLASSIFIED AS NON-REFUGEES.

HIS MOTION READS: "THAT THIS COUNCIL URGES HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO SECURE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WHETHER THROUGH THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION AGREED AT GENEVA IN JUNE THIS YEAR OR THROUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, THE URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION FROM HONG KONG TO VIETNAM OF ALL VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE CLASSIFIED AS NON-REFUGEES".

REVIEWING THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG OVER THE PAST 14 YEARS, MR LEE SAID THE PROSPECT SEEMED BLEAK UNLESS A SOLUTION WAS FOUND QUICKLY.

HE SAID MANDATORY REPATRIATION WAS THE BEST ARRANGEMENT NOT ONLY FOR HONG KONG BUT FOR THE NON-REFUGEES THEMSELVES AS WELL, BECAUSE THEY SIMPLY HAD NO HOPE OF GOING WHERE THEY WANTED TO.

THEY WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND MANDATORY REPATRIATION WAS AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED METHOD FOR DEALING WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"IF AN ARRANGEMENT IS MADE WHEREBY THEY CAN RETURN TO VIETNAM WITH PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPERVISION IN A HUMANE AND DIGNIFIED MANNER, AND WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE UNFAIRLY TREATED, THEY CAN END THEIR UNCERTAIN CONFINEMENT IN THE DETENTION CENTRES IN HONG KONG AND RESUME A NORMAL LIFE AT HOME," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS, IN FACT, AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE SCREENING POLICY.

MR LEE SAID THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION DRAWN UP IN GENEVA AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN JUNE THIS YEAR HELD OUT HOPE FOR A MORE REALISTIC SOLUTION FOR DEALING WITH THE NON-REFUGEES.

THE CONFERENCE HAD AGREED THAT NON-REFUGEES SHOULD BE REPATRIATED TO VIETNAM. IT HAD SET UP A STEERING COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE ADOPTION OF MEASURES WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT NON-REFUGEES WOULD RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

"THIS, IN MY VIEW, MUST BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT DELAY. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE URGENTLY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE STRANDED IN HONG KONG. WE ARE STRETCHED TO OUR LIMITS," HE SAID.

/MR LEE .....

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MR LEE ADDED THAT PRIME MINISTER MRS THATCHER'S STRONG STAND IN FAVOUR OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WAS WELCOME INDEED.

"WE WANT TO SEE ACTION TO RESOLVE THIS LONG STANDING PROBLEM. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY WILL NOT TOLERATE ANOTHER YEAR SUCH AS THIS YEAR," MR LEE SAID.

HE DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD WRITTEN TO ABOUT 60 UNITED STATES SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN TO EXPLAIN TO THEM HONG KONG'S BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM.

"THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHEN THEY ARE PRACTICING THIS EVERY DAY AT THE U.S./MEXICAN BORDER," HE SAID.

"IF THE UNITED STATES CANNOT ACCEPT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, WHY ARE THEY FORCING US TO DO SO?" HE ASKED.

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TIME FOR HK TO DEFEND ITS STANCE ON VBP

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THE TIME HAS COME FOR HONG KONG TO STAND UP AND DEFEND ITS STAND ON THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ISSUE ROBUSTLY AND RESOLUTELY, THE HON RITA FAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS FAN WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION CALLING FOR THE URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF NON-REFUGEE BOAT PEOPLE.

SHE SAID SHE MADE NO APOLOGY FOR SUPPORTING MANDATORY REPATRIATION. SHE SAID SHE HAD NO DOUBT THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE VIGOROUSLY CRITICISED BY THOSE WHO CLAIMED TO BE HUMANE. THOSE WHO WERE NOT WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS HONG KONG WOULD USE THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO UNDERMINE THE TERRITORY.

"SO BE IT, WE HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE," MRS FAN SAID.

SHE ADDED THAT WHILE DEFENDING HONG KONG'S POSITION, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO EXERCISE PATIENCE, UNDERSTANDING AND FIRMNESS IN DEALING WITH THE BOAT PEOPLE.

"THEY ARE, AFTER ALL, VICTIMS OF FALSE HOPE AND CIRCUMSTANCES, AND WE ARE NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO THEIR PLIGHT."

SHE SAID THE BOAT PEOPLE ISSUE HAD AROUSED A LOT OF EMOTION, BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. MUCH OF THE EMOTION WAS CAUSED BY OVER-SIMPLIFICATION OF THE ISSUE, LACK OF INFORMATION AND MISUNDERSTANDING, AND GUILTY CONSCIENCE OVER PAST EVENTS.

/SUCH EMOTION .....

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SUCH EMOTION WAS FUELLED AND USED BY LOBBYING GROUPS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN AIMS. EVEN IN HONG KONG, A SPECTRUM OF VIEWS COULD BE FOUND ON THIS ISSUE, AND THE TWO EXTREME ENDS OF THAT SPECTRUM COULD DIVIDE THE COMMUNITY IF NOT HANDLED CAREFULLY, SHE SAID.

SHE ADDED THAT SHORT OF ABOLISHING THE FIRST ASYLUM POLICY, THE ONLY REALISTIC OPTION AVAILABLE TO HONG KONG AT PRESENT WAS TO REPATRIATE ALL NON-REFUGEES, VOLUNTARILY OR INVOLUNTARILY.

SHE SAID SHE WAS PLEASED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS NOW ACTIVELY PURSUING ARRANGEMENTS FOR INVOLUNTARY RETURN WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

MANDATORY REPATRIATION WAS A MUST, AND IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED EARLIER IF THE MESSAGE WAS TO REACH HOME IN VIETNAM BEFORE THE NEXT SAILING SEASON, SHE ADDED.

SHE SAID ANYONE GIVING FALSE HOPE TO THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WAS DOING THEM A GRAVE DISSERVICE. ANYONE PERSUADING THEM TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION, SUCH AS CAUSING DISTURBANCE IN THE CENTRES, WAS MAKING LIFE EVEN MORE MISERABLE FOR THEM.

"NO ONE WHO REALLY CARES FOR THESE POOR BOAT PEOPLE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO TURN THEM INTO MARTYRS WHEN THEIR FATE HAD ALREADY BEEN SIGNED AND SEALED IN JUNE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE, IN GENEVA," SHE SAID.

MRS FAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MANDATORY REPATRIATION FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WAS AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED PRACTICE.

"THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING MORE THAN SOME GOVERNMENTS IN THE WORLD BY MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ASSURE THE SAFE RETURN OF THESE VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BY EXTRACTING ASSURANCES FROM THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT NOT TO TREAT THE RETURNEES INHUMANELY," SHE SAID.

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CALL FOR VIETNAMESE II HOLDING CENTRE IN SE ASIA

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A HOLDING CENTRE SHOULD BE SET UP IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO ACCOMMODATE ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM VIETNAM AS A SOLUTION TO THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM, THE HON MARTIN LEE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AGAINST THE MOTION IN THE DEBATE ON VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, MR LEE PROPOSED THAT A BIG ISLAND BE FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES OR THAILAND, OR ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION, FOR SUCH A PURPOSE.

/MONEY FOR .....

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MONEY FOR PROVIDING CERTAIN BASIC FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND SHOULD BE CONTRIBUTED BY ALL THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH FACED THIS PROBLEM EITHER AS A COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM OR AS A RESETTLEMENT COUNTRY.

"AND THE USA WHICH HAS BEEN THE LOUDEST IN HER CONDEMNATION OF THE POLICY OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION WOULD BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE HANDSOMELY," HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID THAT WITH SUCH A HOLDING CENTRE IN OPERATION, ALL FUTURE VIETNAMESE ARRIVALS IN HONG KONG AND OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE DIRECTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE CENTRE WHERE SCREENING WOULD TAKE PLACE.

THOSE WHO WERE SCREENED AS REFUGEES WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES, AND THOSE SCREENED OUT AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LIVE AND WORK ON THE ISLAND, UNTIL VIETNAM, WITH FOREIGN AID, COULD RESTORE ITS ECONOMY.

AND WHEN THAT HAPPENED, THOSE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WOULD ALL RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

THE BIG ADVANTAGE TO HONG KONG IN ADOPTING THIS PROPOSAL WAS THAT IT WOULD GET RID OF A VERY GRAVE PROBLEM WITHOUT HAVING TO ATTRACT ANY BAD INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY.

HE URGED MEMBERS, AS LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY, TO "SOW THE SEEDS OF UNDERSTANDING, OF SYMPATHY, AND OF LOVE".

"LET US DO UNTO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AS WE WOULD HAVE THE FREE WORLD DO UNTO US. FOR WE RELY ON THE HONOUR AND INTEGRITY OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE WHEN WE PUSH FOR THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. LET IT NOT BE SAID AGAINST US THAT WE, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, LACK HONOUR OR INTEGRITY IN OUR HANDLING OF THIS PROBLEM," HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID MANY SUPPORTERS OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION HAD NOT THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED THE IMPLICATIONS SUCH A MOVE WOULD HAVE ON HONG KONG.

THE FIRST PROBLEM WAS THE ADVERSE EFFECT THIS MOVE WOULD HAVE ON HONG KONG'S IMAGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

HE ASKED: "WHAT IF SOME OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY WOMEN AND VERY YOUNG CHILDREN, WERE TO MAKE A SCENE WHEN THEY ARE BEING FORCIBLY TAKEN INTO A PLANE OR SHIP, IN FULL VIEW OF OVERSEAS TELEVISION CAMERAS AND JOURNALISTS?"

"INDEED, SOME MAY EVEN THROW THEMSELVES INTO THE SEA AND DROWN. ARE WE PREPARED TO LET THEM SCREAM OR DROWN, BEFORE THE EYES OF THE WORLD?"

MR LEE CAUTIONED THAT OPEN SUPPORT FOR ADOPTION OF THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION POLICY MIGHT UNDO ALL THE EFFORTS THAT OMELCO HAD MADE TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

/HIS SECOND .....

HIS SECOND CONCERN WAS THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS MOVE FOR THE TERRITORY. HE WAS ADAMANT THAT HONG KONG SHOULD NOT BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE ANY MONETARY CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION SCHEME.

HE SAID: "WE WOULD HAVE PAID MORE THAN HK\$4 BILLION BY THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, AS OPPOSED TO AN UP-TO-DATE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF 49.33 MILLION POUNDS OR HK\$600 MILLION TO THE UNHCR PROGRAMME, OF WHICH A MERE 11.63 MILLION POUNDS OR HK\$142 MILLION WAS SPECIFICALLY PAID FOR HONG KONG. THIS REPRESENTS 15 PER CENT AND 3.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF OUR CONTRIBUTION."

HE REITERATED THAT THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ISSUE WAS RELATED TO FOREIGN POLICY AND THUS ENTIRELY A MATTER FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

"SO MY ADVICE TO THIS COUNCIL WAS TO LET THEM DECIDE AND LET THEM PAY," HE SAID.

HE URGED MEMBERS AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG NOT TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THE MISTAKE OF TRYING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM THEMSELVES, THEREBY PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

"OTHERWISE, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL GET RID OF A PROBLEM, BUT WE WILL GET ALL THE BLAME FOR IT," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN PASSING THE BLAME TO HONG KONG BOTH IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE USA BY GIVING PEOPLE THERE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS BEING FORCED TO ADOPT THE VERY UNPOPULAR POLICY OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR IT NOT TO DO SO.

"INDEED, IF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WERE TO ADOPT THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION POLICY DESPITE OBJECTIONS FROM THE UNHCR AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THEN IT SHOULD TAKE ALL THE BLAME. AND WE MUST NOT SHARE IT," HE SAID.

MR LEE DOUBTED IF THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION POLICY WOULD EFFECTIVELY DETER VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FROM COMING TO HONG KONG.

"IF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WERE STILL TO COME, DO WE CONTINUE TO PAY CONTRIBUTION IN RESPECT OF FUTURE ARRIVALS? AND IF WE DO, WILL IT TURN INTO A VICIOUS CYCLE?" HE ASKED.

HE WAS ALSO WORRIED ABOUT THE LACK OF ASSURANCE THAT THE INVOLUNTARY RETURNEES WOULD NOT BE PERSECUTED BY THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN "ADEQUATE MONITORING SYSTEM", FOR OTHERWISE HONG KONG WOULD BE IN BREACH OF THE PRINCIPLE OF "NON-REFOULEMENT" UNDER CUSTOMARY AND GENERAL INTERNATIONAL LAW.

MR LEE ALSO WARNED AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF THE U.S. CONGRESS FORCING ITS GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST HONG KONG, OR BE EVEN LESS GENEROUS TO HONG KONG IN TRADE QUOTAS.

/FINALLY, HE .....

FINALLY, HE DREW MEMBERS' ATTENTION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION POLICY MIGHT HAVE ON THE CAMPS AS A RESULT OF GROWING TENSION AND ANXIETY.

COMMENTING ON CALLS FOR ABOLISHING THE PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY, MR LEE DESCRIBED AS A "FALLACY" THE BELIEF OF MANY PEOPLE THAT ONCE HONG KONG STOPPED BEING A PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM, ITS WORRIES WOULD BE OVER.

FIRST OF ALL, HE SAID, HONG KONG COULD NOT DECIDE ON THE POLICY BECAUSE IT PERTAINED TO FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND IT WOULD BE WRONG TO PRESS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON THE POLICY FOR HONG KONG AS IT WOULD BE A BREACH OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION AS WELL AS THE 1979 GENEVA ACCORD ON THE RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

FURTHERMORE, EVEN IF THE POLICY WERE TO BE SCRAPPED, HONG KONG WOULD STILL BE BOUND BY THE CUSTOMARY AND GENERAL INTERNATIONAL LAW, HE ADDED.

"FOR IF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE STILL COME TO HONG KONG, THEN WHETHER HONG KONG IS A PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM OR NOT, UNDER CUSTOMARY OR GENERAL INTERNATIONAL LAW, WE STILL CANNOT REJECT THEM.

"FOR SO LONG AS THESE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE CROSS OUR FRONTIERS AND ASK FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, WE MUST PROVIDE THEM WITH TEMPORARY SHELTER, AT LEAST TO ENABLE US TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN REFUGEE STATUS OR NOT," HE SAID.

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SCRAPPING OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY NOT RULED OUT

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS WHO CALL FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY MAY BE BRANDED AS MURDERERS, BUT IT IS AN OPTION WHICH HONG KONG CANNOT COMPLETELY NEGATE AS A LAST RESORT, THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR TAI WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE DEBATE ON URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

HE ABSTAINED FROM VOTING.

MR TAI SAID THAT HAVING WITNESSED THE PRICE HONG KONG HAD PAID IN ADOPTING THE SCREENING POLICY FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, HE WOULD NOT VOTE ON THE CALL FOR MANDATORY REPATRIATION.

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS TO HONG KONG AND TO THE OTHER NATIONS IN ADOPTING MANDATORY REPATRIATION, AND ALSO WHETHER SUCH A POLICY WOULD EFFECTIVELY HALT THE INFUX OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO CAME HERE FOR ECONOMIC REASONS.

MR TAI SAID HE NEEDED TO KNOW THE TIME SPAN FOR THE RETURN OF ALL THE BOAT PEOPLE REMAINING IN HONG KONG, AND THE TIME SPAN FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES NOW STRANDED IN HONG KONG.

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COMMUNITY ASKED TO BE PATIENT

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THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY SHOULD BE PATIENT AND SENSITIVE TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION WHILE THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO BRING ABOUT REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

THE HON MARTIN BARROW SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

SAYING HE WOULD ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON THE MOTION, MR BARROW SAID PRECIPITATE ACTION OR EXCESSIVE HASTE IN HANDLING THE BOAT PEOPLE ISSUE WOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN AROUND THE WORLD.

HE SAID: "WE ARE ALL COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS HONG KONG AND IT IS NOW MORE THAN EVER IMPORTANT THAT HONG KONG HAS INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

"HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING TRADING ENTITIES. MORE THAN ANY OTHER ECONOMY, WE ARE DEPENDENT ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

"WE CAN NEVER TURN INWARDS."

MR BARROW SAID THAT FURTHER DEBATE AT THIS TIME COULD GENERATE INCREASED DISQUIET AMONG HONG KONG PEOPLE, AS WELL AS EXACERBATE THE ALREADY COMPLICATED SITUATION INTERNATIONALLY.

A BETTER COURSE WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE PATIENCE AMONGST THE COMMUNITY AND ELIMINATE THE RHETORIC HEARD IN RECENT MONTHS, HE SUGGESTED.

MR BARROW ALSO URGED EVERYONE TO DISCOURAGE THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN AN EARLY DECISION TO ABOLISH THE FIRST ASYLUM POLICY, ADDING THAT "NOTHING COULD BE MORE DAMAGING TO HONG KONG'S SHORT AND LONG-TERM INTERESTS."

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MANDATORY REPATRIATION SENSIBLE, HUMANE

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MANDATORY REPATRIATION IS THE ONLY SENSIBLE, HUMANE AND RESPONSIBLE WAY OF DEALING WITH THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM, THE HON MIRIAM LAU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE SAID WE MUST IMPRESS ON THE BOAT PEOPLE, IN CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS, THAT ONCE THEY WERE SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES, THEIR ONLY DESTINY WAS TO RETURN HOME.

/SPEAKING IN .....

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, MRS LAU SAID CONCRETE MEASURES HAD TO BE IN PLACE WELL BEFOREHAND TO DETER A FURTHER EXODUS OF BOAT PEOPLE TO HONG KONG AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD TO PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH THE NECESSARY BACKING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION.

SHE SAID BRITAIN HAD TO REMAIN FIRM AND RESOLUTE IN CARRYING OUT WHAT IT BELIEVED TO BE RIGHT AND HELP HONG KONG TO SECURE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

"I ACCEPT THAT MANDATORY REPATRIATION IS NOT PALATABLE TO MANY, BUT IN LIFE, SOMETIMES WE NEED TO BE CRUEL IN ORDER TO BE KIND," SHE SAID.

BY ADOPTING MANDATORY REPATRIATION, MRS LAU SAID HONG KONG MIGHT RUN THE RISK OF INCURRING THE WRATH OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND INVITE RETALIATION AND ECONOMIC SANCTION.

BUT SHE BELIEVED THE CHANCE FOR SUCH RETALIATION AND ECONOMIC SANCTION WAS SLIM BECAUSE NATIONS WHICH DID NOT ENDORSE SUCH ACTION WOULD NOT ACT UNREASONABLY, PARTICULARLY SO WHEN THEY DID NOT HAVE MUCH GROUND FOR THIS.

MRS LAU SAID THAT HONG KONG HAD LIVED WITH THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM FOR A LONG TIME AND THE STRAIN ON THE TERRITORY WAS FAST BECOMING INTOLERABLE.

"UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE QUICKLY TO AMELIORATE THE PROBLEM, GOVERNMENT MAY FIND IT HARD TO CONTAIN THE DISSATISFACTION AND EMOTIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

"IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO AFFORD SOME ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE A FORESEEABLE END TO THIS PROTRACTED NIGHTMARE," SHE SAID.

APART FROM REPATRIATING NON-REFUGEES, MRS LAU REMINDED BRITAIN OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE THE LEAD IN RESETTLING REFUGEES STRANDED IN HONG KONG IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO ASK THE OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW SUIT.

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FIRST ASYLUM POLICY GIVES ONLY FALSE HOPES

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THE HON ELSIE TU EXPRESSED SUPPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR THE URGENT REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND ALSO CALLED FOR THE SCRAPPING OF THE PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY.

THE ONE-SIDED PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY WAS AT THE ROOT OF THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM AND HAD PROVED TO BE ONLY A POLITICAL CHARADE HOLDING OUT FALSE HOPES TO THEM, MRS TU SAID WHEN SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION CALLING FOR URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION.

"THE DECISION TO MAKE HONG KONG A PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM WAS THRUST UPON THE HONG KONG PUBLIC 10 YEARS AGO WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT. THE HONG KONG PUBLIC SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT THAT ROLE, AND I BELIEVE THAT THE VAST MAJORITY DO REJECT IT," SHE SAID.

THE COUNTRIES WHICH MADE THAT DECISION, MAINLY THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, CANADA AND FRANCE, HAD GRADUALLY BACKED DOWN FROM THEIR OWN CHOSEN ROLE AS RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES FOR THE BOAT PEOPLE.

"IN EFFECT, THESE COUNTRIES HAVE TURNED HONG KONG INTO A HUMAN STOREROOM FROM WHICH THEY CAN CHOOSE ONLY THE HUMAN GOODS THEY WANT.

"THE REST ARE LEFT TO ROT IN THE HONG KONG STOREROOM. YET THEY REFUSE TO HAVE THIS UNWANTED HUMAN CARGO RETURNED TO VIETNAM," MRS TU SAID.

"IT IS COMMON FOR PEOPLE WITH A CHIP ON THEIR SHOULDER OR WHO HAVE FAILED IN THEIR DUTY, TO PUT THE BLAME ON OTHERS.

"SO HONG KONG HAS BECOME THE BUTT OF CRITICISM OF THE USA, FRANCE, SOME BRITISH POLITICIANS, VIETNAM AND THE UNHCR. MEANWHILE, THE BOAT PEOPLE ARE WORKING OUT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ON THE STAFF AT THE CAMPS, WHO IN TURN ARE BECOMING FRUSTRATED AND DEMORALISED.

"THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS CANNOT CONTINUE, AND MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE," MRS TU SAID.

SHE SAID HONG KONG WAS, IN FACT, NO LONGER A PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM BUT ONLY A DEAD-END FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

TO CONTINUE TO CALL THIS A PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM AND NOT REPATRIATE THOSE REFUSED REFUGEE STATUS, WAS A "FUNDAMENTAL ILLOGICALITY" AND WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE HONG KONG PUBLIC, SHE SAID.

"I CANNOT IN ALL CONSCIENCE AGREE TO PLACE ANY FURTHER BURDEN ON THE HONG KONG PUBLIC. OR ON THOSE PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO HAVE TO FACE DANGER BECAUSE OF THE BOAT PEOPLE. NOR CAN I CHEAT THE BOAT PEOPLE WITH FALSE HOPES THAT THEY WILL FIND THE NEW HOMES THEY ARE SEEKING," SHE ADDED.

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PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY SHOULD STAY

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THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY CHANGE IN THE PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY NOR SHOULD THERE BE ANY OTHER ACTION WHICH WOULD PLACE THE LIVES OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AT SERIOUS RISK, THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID HE WAS ALSO AGAINST ANY PROPOSAL TO DENY FUNDS TO THE GOVERNMENT WHICH MIGHT BE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THE VIETNAMESE CAMPS AND TO PROVIDE AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF SECURITY AND OF LIFE IN THEM.

HOWEVER, HE WOULD FULLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSALS FOR MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION IN THE DEBATE ON BOAT PEOPLE, MR MCGREGOR EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH THE VIETNAMESE WHO WERE SEEKING A BETTER LIFE OVERSEAS BUT SAID HE WAS UNHAPPY THAT ANTI-VIETNAMESE SENTIMENT HAD DEVELOPED IN THE TERRITORY.

"I HAVE BEEN UNHAPPY OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME TO SEE THE GRADUAL SWING OF PUBLIC OPINION, ENCOURAGED BY SOME LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE.

"IT IS PROBABLY TRUE TO SAY THAT MOST HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE NEVER SEEN A VIETNAMESE OTHER THAN ON TELEVISION, YET A GREAT MANY SEEM TO HAVE DEVELOPED A POWERFUL ANTI-VIETNAMESE FEELING WHICH SOMETIMES TRANSLATES INTO A DESIRE TO GET RID OF THEM AT ALL COSTS INCLUDING, IF NECESSARY, PUSHING THE BOATS BACK OUT TO SEA," HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM AND HONG KONG PEOPLE'S REQUEST FOR RIGHT OF ABODE ASSURANCES WERE TWO SEPARATE ISSUES, MR MCGREGOR SAID THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLE WAS THE SAME.

MR MCGREGOR BELIEVED THAT BRITAIN, AS THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SHOULD PAY THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE VIETNAMESE AT PRESENT FALLING TO THE HONG KONG AUTHORITIES, AS THAT WOULD BE THE LEAST THAT BRITAIN COULD DO.

HE ALSO SAID HONG KONG MUST DO ITS BEST TO SECURE A CHANGE OF POLICY BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT NO PUNITIVE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST HONG KONG WHEN MANDATORY REPATRIATION BEGAN.

IN CONCLUSION, MR MCGREGOR SAID: "I HOPE THAT MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AND HONG KONG PEOPLE GENERALLY WILL FIND IT IN THEIR HEARTS TO RECOGNISE THE VIETNAMESE PROBLEM FOR WHAT IT IS, A MASSIVE HUMAN TRAGEDY WHICH NEEDS OUR SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING."

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MANDATORY REPATRIATION THE ONLY SANE ANSWER

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URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WOULD BE THE ONLY SANE ANSWER TO THE INTRACTABLE PROBLEM, THE HON JAMES TIEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SHOULD MANDATORY REPATRIATION NOT SUCCEED FOR WHATEVER REASONS WITHIN THE NEXT MONTHS, HE WOULD SUPPORT A MOVE TO INTRODUCE A MOTION TERMINATING HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT TO THE PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM POLICY.

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, MR TIEN SAID THERE WERE OBSTACLES TO THE INTRODUCTION OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION, ONE BEING THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAD DOUBLE STANDARDS ON THE BOAT PEOPLE ISSUE.

HE SAID THE AMERICANS HAD DEVELOPED A CURIOUS BLINDNESS ABOUT REFUGEES AND Poured SCORN ON THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN GENUINE POLITICAL REFUGEES AND ECONOMIC MIGRANTS.

THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES WERE IN FACT CARRYING OUT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF BOAT PEOPLE FROM HAITI AS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ONLY SIX OUT OF 21,000 BOAT PEOPLE FROM HAITI WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES WHILE THE REST WERE FORCED TO RETURN, MR TIEN SAID.

THE AMERICANS WERE NOT HELPFUL IN TAKING REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG EITHER, HE ADDED.

APART FROM THIS, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD HELP VIETNAM IN A POSITIVE WAY -- BY DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY THROUGH FINANCIAL AID.

"SO THE MESSAGE SHOULD GO FORWARD TO OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS THAT THIS COUNCIL IS DECIDEDLY NOT IMPRESSED WITH CONGRESSIONAL THINKING ON THE SUBJECT OF OUR TREATMENT OF UNINVITED ECONOMIC ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM VIETNAM, JUST AS USA DOES NOT WELCOME UNINVITED ECONOMIC ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM HAITI," HE SAID.

AS FOR FOOTING THE BILL FOR MANDATORY REPATRIATION, MR TIEN SAID HONG KONG SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BEAR THE COST OF SUCH ACTION, AS THE BOAT PEOPLE CAME UNINVITED.

"LET SOMEBODY ELSE ACCEPT THE COST OF GETTING THEM OUT AGAIN. LET THOSE COUNTRIES EXPRESSING CONCERN....PAY," HE SAID.

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MORE FLEXIBILITY IN PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES PROPOSED

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GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IS PROVIDED BY TWO AMENDMENT BILLS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READINGS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT SECTION 39(3)(B) OF THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE AND SECTION 41(3)(B) OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINANCE RESTRICTED THE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO MEET ONLY EXPENSES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISCHARGE OF A MEMBER'S OFFICE.

THE PROVISIONS, AT THEY NOW STOOD, DID NOT COVER MEMBERS' LOSS OF SALARY OR WAGES AS A RESULT OF THEIR ATTENDANCE TO COUNCIL DUTIES.

"LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS ARE THEREFORE REQUIRED TO REMOVE THIS RESTRICTION," HE SAID.

FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION, THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WOULD BE BROUGHT IN LINE WITH THE PRACTICES OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND OMELCO.

THE PROPOSAL WAS, HOWEVER, NOT CONNECTED WITH THE LEVEL OF ALLOWANCES, THE MAXIMUM OF WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCILS THEMSELVES.

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS INITIATED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

DEBATES ON THE TWO BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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PRIVATE BILL ON BANK MERGER PROPOSAL

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HONG KONG HAS AN INTEREST IN AFFORDING CERTAINTY AND SECURITY OF BUSINESS TO INTERNATIONAL BANKS OPERATING HERE, THE HON DAVID LI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN HE WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF A PRIVATE BILL, THE FIRST PACIFIC BANK BILL.

THE BILL SEEKS TO GIVE LEGAL EFFECT TO THE MERGER PROPOSAL OF THE FAR EAST BANK AND FIRST PACIFIC BANK.

/MR LI .....

MR LI SAID THE BILL WAS THE BEST MANNER IN WHICH TO AFFORD CERTAINTY TO BOTH BANKS, THEIR CUSTOMERS AND EMPLOYEES.

HE SAID THE BILL WAS NOT UNPRECEDENTED AND, INDEED, IT WAS MODELLED ON THE DEUTSCHE BANK MERGER BILL AND THE DAIWA BANK BILL WHICH HE INTRODUCED IN 1988.

HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT NO STAMP DUTY WOULD BE SAVED BY THE BILL AND THAT THE STAMP DUTY POSITION SHOULD BE PRECISELY THE SAME AS IF NO LEGISLATION HAD BEEN PASSED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENT TO BILL

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CLAUSE 12 OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 WAS AMENDED BEFORE THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE AMENDMENTS IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF THE BILL'S PASSAGE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID: "THE AMENDMENTS SEEK TO REMOVE ANY DOUBT THAT GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IS LIABLE TO THE PROVISIONS OF CLAUSE 12, AND TO CLARIFY THAT THE VALUE OF UNRETURNED OR DAMAGED GOVERNMENT PROPERTY SHALL BE RECOVERABLE AS A CIVIL DEBT."

THE CLAUSE CONCERNS THE RETURN OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY BY A PERSON WHO CEASES TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SERVICE.

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OVERSEAS OFFICES STRENGTHENED WHEN NECESSARY

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WHERE DEVELOPMENT OR CHANGE IS WARRANTED, THE GOVERNMENT TAKES WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN OR EXPAND THE ROLE OF ITS OVERSEAS ECONOMIC OFFICES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW, SIR PIERS SAID THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY HAD OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OVERSEAS OFFICES AND REGULARLY REVIEWED THEIR WORK.

"WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A NUMBER OF OVERSEAS ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES IN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS," HE SAID.

/"THEIR PRIMARY .....

"THEIR PRIMARY ROLE IS TO FACILITATE THE CONDUCT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AND TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.

"INEVITABLY THE OVERSEAS OFFICES ARE INVOLVED IN SOME ASPECTS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PROMOTIONAL WORK," HE ADDED.

SIR PIERS NOTED MR BARROW HAD ALLUDED TO THE WORK OF OTHER QUASI GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS IN RELATION TO THE PROMOTION OF HONG KONG.

"THE WORK CARRIED ON BY THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES FORMS ONLY PART OF THE OVERALL EFFORT OF PROJECTING THE IMAGE OF HONG KONG OVERSEAS," HE POINTED OUT.

SIR PIERS MENTIONED THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION IN THIS REGARD.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ALL THE AGENCIES WAS ESSENTIAL, AND WELL ESTABLISHED CONTACTS HAD BEEN MADE BY THE STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERSEAS OFFICES WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS FROM THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND BRANCHES OF HONG KONG FIRMS, HE SAID.

"SO FAR THIS CLOSE CO-OPERATION HAS WORKED WELL, AND WHERE NECESSARY WE WILL OF COURSE STRENGTHEN IT IN THE INTERESTS OF PROMOTING HONG KONG'S STATUS," SIR PIERS ADDED.

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NO EVIDENCE TO SHOW MOBILE PHONES CAUSE ACCIDENTS  
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THERE IS NO STATISTICAL EVIDENCE TO SHOW THE USE OF MOBILE TELEPHONES BY VEHICLE DRIVERS HAS BEEN A CONTRIBUTORY CAUSE OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG, MR LEUNG SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO RELATE THE USE OF HAND-HELD TELEPHONES TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS DIRECTLY UNLESS A POLICE OFFICER HAD OBSERVED THE DRIVER OF A VEHICLE USING SUCH A TELEPHONE AT THE TIME OF AN ACCIDENT, OR THE DRIVERS THEMSELVES ADMITTED USING TELEPHONES WHILE DRIVING.

FROM A ROAD SAFETY POINT OF VIEW, THE USE OF CAR OR MOBILE TELEPHONES WHILE DRIVING WAS NOT DESIRABLE AND SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED, MR LEUNG SAID.

SUCH ADVICE WAS CONTAINED IN THE ROAD USERS' CODE PUBLISHED IN 1987.

THE SAME SAFETY MESSAGE WOULD BE PUBLICISED AGAIN SHORTLY, HE ADDED.

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ELDERLY BEING ASSISTED TO LEAD PRODUCTIVE LIFE

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IN PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY, THE GOVERNMENT AIMS TO ASSIST THEM TO LEAD A PRODUCTIVE LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SO CHAU YIM-PING, MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALREADY HAD A LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR THE ELDERLY.

ITS GENERAL APPROACH OF FOSTERING "CARE IN THE COMMUNITY AND BY THE COMMUNITY" HAD BEEN WELL TESTED IN BOTH WESTERN AND ASIAN COMMUNITIES AND WAS IN LINE WITH THE TRADITIONS OF A CHINESE SOCIETY.

MR CHAU ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AS THE GOVERNOR HAD ANNOUNCED IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL LAST MONTH, A REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES WOULD BE LAUNCHED SHORTLY.

"THIS WILL PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF ALL SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME AREAS, INCLUDING THE ELDERLY SERVICES, AND WILL LEAD TO THE PUBLICATION OF A WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE.

"FULL ACCOUNT WILL BE TAKEN IN THIS REVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN OUR SOCIETY, INCLUDING THE PROJECTED INCREASE IN THE PROPORTION OF ELDERLY IN HONG KONG'S POPULATION," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THAT, FURTHERMORE, THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, WHICH WAS TASKED WITH CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, WOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE EDLERLY.

"MOREOVER, FOLLOWING ADVICE BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, RESIDENTIAL NURSING CARE FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF AN INTERNAL REVIEW, WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING BETTER CO-ORDINATION IN THE PROVISION OF SUCH SERVICES," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING WHAT WAS AT PRESENT BEING DONE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP THE ELDERLY, MR CHAU SAID IN ADDITION TO DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, WHICH INCLUDED THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES WERE PROVIDED TO ENABLE SENIOR CITIZENS TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, AS WELL AS TO HELP FAMILIES LOOK AFTER THEIR ELDERLY MEMBERS.

SUCH SERVICES INCLUDED SOCIAL AND MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES, DAY CARE CENTRES AND HOME HELP.

MR CHAU SAID "CARE IN THE COMMUNITY" WAS ALSO THE CONCEPT ADOPTED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S HEALTH PROGRAMME FOR THE ELDERLY.

"THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT PUBLICISES, AND EDUCATES THE ELDERLY ON, THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AND PREVENTING DISEASES.

"THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICE PROVIDES MEDICAL TREATMENT AND THERE ARE ARRANGEMENTS AT MANY OF THESE CLINICS FOR PRIORITY CONSULTATION FOR THE ELDERLY.

"FOR ELDERLY PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITALS AND INFIRMARIES, THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE PROVIDES NURSING CARE TO ASSIST THEIR RECOVERY IN THE HOME ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THAT FOR THOSE WHO WERE UNABLE TO CONTINUE LIVING INDEPENDENTLY IN THE COMMUNITY, THERE WAS A RANGE OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING HOSTELS, HOMES AND CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES, TOGETHER WITH INFIRMARIES FOR THOSE REQUIRING CONSTANT NURSING CARE.

"THE PROJECTED DEMAND FOR, AND PLANNING OF, THESE AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY IS BASED ON POPULATION RATIOS WHICH ARE PERIODICALLY REVIEWED," HE ADDED.

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REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADJUSTING PENSIONS  
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IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM STAFF AND PENSIONERS, THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAINTAINING THE ORIGINAL PURCHASING POWER OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING WHETHER ANY CHANGES WERE WARRANTED TO MEET PRESENT DAY CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IT HAD BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY SINCE 1975 TO MAINTAIN THE ORIGINAL PURCHASING POWER OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS, INCLUDING WIDOWS' PENSIONS PAYABLE UNDER THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION SCHEME AND THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME.

THIS WAS ACHIEVED BY PERIODIC PENSION ADJUSTMENTS BY REFERENCE TO CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID IN THE REVIEW, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE APPROPRIATENESS OF USING THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AS THE STATISTICAL BASIS FOR ADJUSTING PENSIONS WOULD BE EXAMINED, AND THE MERITS OF USING OTHER INDICES WOULD BE ASSESSED.

"IT IS HOWEVER PREMATURE TO SAY AT THIS STAGE WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS," SIR DAVID SAID.

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VALEDICTORY TRIBUTE TO DONALD LIAO

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THE GOVERNOR, HIS EXCELLENCY SIR DAVID WILSON, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DONALD LIAO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A VALEDICTORY SPEECH, SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THREE IMPORTANT FACETS OF MR LIAO'S CAREER OF SOME 29 YEARS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

REFERRING TO MR LIAO'S LENGTHY SERVICE AS HEAD OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, OF WHICH HE WAS APPOINTED COMMISSIONER IN 1968 AT THE AGE OF 38, HE SAID MR LIAO HAD DEVELOPED IMAGINATIVE HOUSING POLICIES WHICH HAD GREATLY BENEFITTED THE GROWING POPULATION OF HONG KONG.

MR LIAO WAS ONE OF THOSE LUCKY PEOPLE WHO COULD LOOK AROUND AND SEE THE MONUMENT TO WHAT HE HAD ACHIEVED, HE SAID.

"SECONDLY, AS SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SINCE 1985, HE HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG.

"HIS VIGOROUS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION HAVE CERTAINLY BORNE FRUIT. AS A RESULT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN THEIR SURROUNDINGS, IN THEIR GOVERNMENT AND IN THEIR FUTURE," SIR DAVID SAID.

FINALLY, MR LIAO HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH TEAM OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP SINCE MARCH OF 1987, AND THE TEAM HAD BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM HIS PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE OF HONG KONG AND HIS FEEL FOR THE CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ITS PEOPLE.

"I AM SURE THAT MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WILL WISH TO JOIN ME IN THANKING MR LIAO MOST WARMLY FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL AND TO HONG KONG AND TO WISH HIM AND MRS LIAO A VERY HAPPY, PROSPEROUS AND PRODUCTIVE RETIREMENT," SIR DAVID ADDED.

THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, THE HON ALLEN LEE, ALSO MADE A VALEDICTORY SPEECH ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS, AND SAID OF MR LIAO:

"MANY OF US HAVE KNOWN HIM FOR A LONG LONG TIME, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN PART IN FACILITATING THE TREMENDOUS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.

"WE HAVE WITNESSED HIS DEDICATION, HIS COMMITMENT AND HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS IN IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG.

"HIS DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY HAS WON HIM WIDE RESPECT.

"FURTHERMORE, WE WILL REMEMBER HIM AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND WILL MISS HIS SENSE OF HUMOUR AND PATIENCE IN THE OFTEN PROTRACTED PROCEEDINGS OF THIS COUNCIL."

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HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TABLED

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ACCORDING TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE AUTHORITY'S ESTATE WORKING ACCOUNT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1989 SHOWS AN OVERALL DEFICIT OF \$310.6 MILLION. THIS IS MADE UP OF A DEFICIT OF \$431.5 MILLION FOR DOMESTIC PROPERTIES, A DEFICIT OF \$176.7 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AND A SURPLUS OF \$297.6 MILLION FROM NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES.

A HOUSING AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE DEFICIT WAS CALCULATED AFTER ALLOWING FOR DEPRECIATION OF \$517.5 MILLION AND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$1,131.8 MILLION FOR PAYMENT OF INTEREST AT 5 PER CENT ON GOVERNMENT'S PERMANENT CAPITAL AND DIVIDENDS AT 50 PER CENT ON NON-DOMESTIC SUPPLUS.

THE TOTAL INCOME, WHICH MAINLY FROM RENTS, AMOUNTED TO NEARLY \$4,875 MILLION DURING THE YEAR.

AS FOR EXPENDITURE, WHICH WAS MORE THAN \$4,053.8 MILLION, \$845.5 MILLION WAS ON MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS, OF WHICH MORE THAN \$833.4 MILLION WAS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OTHER MAIN EXPENDITURES INCLUDED RATES AND PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

AS REGARDS THE AUTHORITY'S OPERATIONS UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (DOMESTIC), PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME AND HOME PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME, THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT SHOWS AN OVERALL DEFICIT OF \$90.3 MILLION, AFTER TAKING ACCOUNT OF \$1,640.7 MILLION FOR LAND AT FULL MARKET VALUE FOR FLATS COMPLETED AND SOLD IN 1988/89.

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MOTION ON URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VBP PASSED

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A MOTION CALLING FOR THE URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE CLASSIFIED AS NON-REFUGEES WAS PASSED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MOTION, MOVED BY THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON ALLEN LEE, READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL URGES HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO SECURE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WHETHER THROUGH THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION AGREED AT GENEVA IN JUNE THIS YEAR OR THROUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, THE URGENT MANDATORY REPATRIATION FROM HONG KONG TO VIETNAM OF ALL VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE CLASSIFIED AS NON-REFUGEES".

THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

/OF THE .....

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OF THE 25 MEMBERS WHO SPOKE ON THE MOTION, 20 SPOKE IN FAVOUR, THREE AGAINST AND TWO SAID THEY WOULD ABSTAIN FROM VOTING.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SPOKE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND ALSO SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, TWO BILLS WERE PASSED.

THEY WERE THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 AND THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

TWO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

IN ADDITION, A PRIVATE BILL, FIRST PACIFIC BANK LIMITED BILL 1989, WAS INTRODUCED BY THE HON DAVID LI FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

VALEDICTORY SPEECHES PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DONALD LIAO, WERE MADE BY THE GOVERNOR, HIS EXCELLENCY SIR DAVID WILSON, AND THE HON ALLEN LEE.

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14TH JLG MEETING TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH

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THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE 14TH MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON HONG KONG WILL TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG FROM DECEMBER 5 TO 8.

THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE LED BY THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, MR ANTHONY GALSWORTHY.

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE MR BARRIE WIGGHAM (SECRETARY, GENERAL DUTIES, HONG KONG), MR ALAN PAUL (HEAD OF HONG KONG DEPARTMENT, FCO), MR WILLIAM EHRMAN (POLITICAL ADVISER, HONG KONG) AND MR DOUG MARTIN (COUNSELLOR, OFFICE OF THE BRITISH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, HONG KONG).

THE FCO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FOLLOWING THE RETIREMENT OF MR DONALD LIAO, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, HIS POSITION AS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL BE TAKEN BY MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, THE SECRETARY FOR GENERAL DUTIES.

MR WIGGHAM WILL HOLD THIS POSITION UNTIL HE TAKES UP THE POST OF SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AT THE END OF MARCH 1990, WHEN MR MICHAEL SUEN WILL SUCCEED HIM.

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GOVT COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING RULE OF LAW

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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A LUNCHEON ADDRESS TO THE HONG KONG LIFE INSURANCE COUNCIL, MR MATHEWS SAID THAT TO THIS END IT WAS PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE INTO THE LAWS OF HONG KONG A BILL OF RIGHTS.

"THIS WILL FURTHER ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RULE OF LAW AND FURTHER PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS.

"THE RULE OF LAW HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH OUR PROSPERITY AND STABILITY HAS BEEN GUARANTEED.

"WE ARE JEALOUS OF OUR FREEDOMS AND ESPECIALLY VIGILANT TO PREVENT ANY RESTRICTIONS UPON THEM.

"THE RULE OF LAW PROVIDES US WITH A POWERFUL WEAPON TO PROTECT OUR LIBERTIES; WE MUST NOT WAVER IN OUR COMMITMENT TO IT," MR MATHEWS SAID.

/THE ATTORNEY .....

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THAT THE RULE OF LAW EMBODIED A NUMBER OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.

THESE INCLUDED SUCH PRINCIPLES AS THE UNIVERSAL NATURE OF THE LAW, THE SUPREMACY OF THE LAW, EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW AND THE PRINCIPLE OF LEGALITY.

ON THE PRINCIPLE OF LEGALITY, MR MATHEWS SAID IT WAS FROM THIS PRINCIPLE THAT THE POWERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ALL ITS SERVANTS WERE DERIVED FROM AND LIMITED BY LEGISLATION OR JUDICIAL DECISIONS MADE BY INDEPENDENT COURTS.

"THIS MEANS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST ACT WITHIN THE LAW, SO THAT IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE POLICE NEED TO DETAIN A CITIZEN, OR IF TAXES ARE TO BE LEVIED, THE OFFICIALS CONCERNED MUST BE ABLE TO SHOW LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

"IF THEY CANNOT POINT TO A LEGAL PROVISION WHICH JUSTIFIES THEIR ACTIONS THEN THEY CAN BE SUED IN THE COURTS AND CAN BE COMPELLED TO PUT RIGHT WHAT THEY HAVE DONE, OR TO PAY COMPENSATION.

"WHAT IS DONE OFFICIALLY MUST BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW," HE SAID.

OTHER FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES EMBODIED BY THE CONCEPT OF THE RULE OF LAW INCLUDED THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY, INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS, THE PUBLIC CHARACTER OF THE LAW AND THE PREDICTABILITY AND CERTAINTY OF THE LAW.

ON THIS FINAL PRINCIPLE, MR MATHEWS SAID THE LEGAL SYSTEM WORKED TOWARDS PRODUCING LAW THAT WAS CERTAIN AND PREDICTABLE.

"THIS CERTAINTY ENABLES MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO ARRANGE THEIR AFFAIRS ON THE BASIS OF LEGAL CONTINUITY.

"CERTAINTY IN THE LAW CAN BE ILLUSTRATED BY PRESUMPTIONS IN THE LAW SUCH AS THE PRESUMPTION THAT A PERSON IS INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY.

"THERE ARE OTHER PRECEPTS THAT PROTECT THE CITIZEN, FOR EXAMPLE THE RULE THAT A PERSON WILL NOT BE DEPRIVED OF HIS LIBERTY WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW, AND THAT OFFICIALS WHEN REACHING DECISIONS ON ISSUES AFFECTING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS WILL DO SO WITHOUT BIAS TOWARDS ONE OF THE PARTIES, AND WILL GIVE BOTH SIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW THE CASE AGAINST THEM AND TO STATE THEIR OWN CASE," THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

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NEED FOR SAFETY-CONSCIOUS WORKFORCE STRESSED  
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MORE THAN ONE IN THREE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS SUFFERED INJURY LAST YEAR, WHICH IS A SHAMEFUL RECORD, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR HAMMOND WAS ADDRESSING SOME 900 GRADUATES OF THE BASIC CRAFT COURSES AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR TRAINEE COURSE AT THE ANNUAL SPEECH DAY OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY.

HE TOLD THE GRADUATES THAT WHILE THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS BEING CONTAINED, THE SITUATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY STILL REQUIRED SPECIAL ATTENTION.

"THE ACCIDENT RATE PER THOUSAND WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ROSE FROM 333 IN 1987 TO 370 IN 1988," HE NOTED.

MR HAMMOND BELIEVED THAT THE SITUATION COULD BE GREATLY IMPROVED BY A WELL-TRAINED AND DISCIPLINED WORKFORCE WITH ADEQUATE SAFETY AWARENESS AND SAFETY KNOWLEDGE, AS MANY OF THESE ACCIDENTS WERE DUE TO UNSAFE PRACTICES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

"IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY HAS ALWAYS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY AT WORK AND HAS INCORPORATED SAFETY TRAINING INTO THE PROGRAMMES FOR CONSTRUCTION CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS," HE SAID.

MR HAMMOND PRAISED THE AUTHORITY FOR ITS PLANS TO INCREASE ITS TRAINING CAPACITY, NOTING THAT THE AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEXT DECADE WOULD EXERT HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE ALREADY TIGHT LABOUR MARKET.

"IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CONTINUED STRONG DEMAND FOR SKILLED WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, THE AUTHORITY OPENED A THIRD TRAINING CENTRE IN ABERDEEN IN SEPTEMBER, WHICH PROVIDES EXCELLENT FACILITIES TO MEET THIS DEMAND," HE SAID.

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FEWER ACCIDENTS IN CONTAINER HANDLING INDUSTRY  
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INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN THE CONTAINER HANDLING TRADE HAVE DECREASED, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THE MANAGEMENT HAVE LAID EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY WHILE THE STAFF HAVE GIVEN WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR YIP YUK-LUN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE CONTAINER HANDLING COMPANY SAFETY AWARD 88/89 COMPETITION.

/MR YIP .....

MR YIP SAID WHILE HONG KONG HAD BECOME THE BUSIEST CONTAINER HANDLING PORT IN THE WORLD, THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN THE CONTAINER INDUSTRY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

DURING THE PERIOD, ONLY 85 ACCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN THE INDUSTRY, COMPARED WITH 98 ACCIDENTS IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

MR YIP ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE GOOD WORK DONE BY THE CENTRAL CONTAINER HANDLING SAFETY COMMITTEE IN THE PAST YEARS, INCLUDING THE ORGANISATION OF SAFETY PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE AWARD COMPETITION.

HE ALSO COMMENDED THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES OF THE WINNING CONTAINER TERMINAL AND DEPOT IN THE COMPETITION -- WHAMPOA MARINE TERMINALS LTD AND LEGO CONSOLIDATORS & WAREHOUSE CO. LTD RESPECTIVELY.

"THEY NOT ONLY HELPED REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN THEIR OWN WORKPLACES, BUT ALSO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS IN THE TRADE TO FOLLOW," MR YIP SAID.

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'IN TOUCH WITH REHABILITATION' CAMPAIGN TO START ON SATURDAY  
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A TERRITORY-WIDE CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG, ENTITLED "IN TOUCH WITH REHABILITATION", WILL START WITH A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 2).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR KWOK KA-CHI, SAID THE PROGRAMME OF THE CAMPAIGN, TO BE HELD BETWEEN DECEMBER 2 AND 17, WAS WIDE-RANGING.

IN ADDITION TO THE EXHIBITION ON REHABILITATION SERVICES, THERE WILL BE A DESIGN AWARD FOR THE MOST ACCESSIBLE BUILDING FOR THE DISABLED AND A YOUTH PROJECT CONTEST.

A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO BE HELD AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL. THESE INCLUDE SPORTS DAY FOR THE DISABLED, FAMILY CAMPS, TALENT QUESTS, SEMINARS AND DESIGN COMPETITIONS.

THE EXHIBITION, TO BE HELD IN THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL INTRODUCE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED PEOPLE.

APART FROM PANEL DISPLAYS AND SUCH EXHIBITS AS REHABILITATION APPLIANCES AND FACILITIES, A VIDEO WALL WILL BE MOUNTED FOR SCREENING THE TV SERIES "REHAB MAGAZINE".

THE TV SERIES ILLUSTRATES DIFFERENT TYPES OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG AND DEPICTS THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE DISABLED.

STAFF FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL BE ON DUTY AT THE EXHIBITION VENUE TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING REHABILITATION.

"THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES, PROMOTIONAL EVENTS AND PUBLICITY, WE HOPE THAT OUR GOAL OF KEEPING THE PUBLIC IN TOUCH WITH REHABILITATION CAN BE ATTAINED," MR KWOK SAID.

HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF THE FEATURES OF THE EXHIBITION, THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE CAMPAIGN, MISS MARION FANG, SAID MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE HOW A BLIND PERSON FEELS IN HIS DAILY LIFE BY WALKING THROUGH A "TUNNEL OF CARE".

BESIDES, VISITORS COULD TRY TO MANOEUVRE UP AND DOWN A RAMP SET UP AT THE EXHIBITION VENUE BY USING A WHEELCHAIR, AND HAVE FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF DISABLED PERSONS IN A WHEELCHAIR, SHE SAID.

MISS FANG SAID A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE EXHIBITION WOULD BE A COLOURFUL MURAL.

"THE MURAL IS ABOUT PLANTS AND INSECTS. HOWEVER, IT HAS A HIDDEN MESSAGE -- PLANTS NEED SUNLIGHT AND RAIN, AND THE HELP OF BUTTERFLIES AND BEES TO SPREAD THE POLLEN BEFORE THEY CAN GROW AND BLOSSOM.

"IN THE SAME WAY, DISABLED PERSONS NEED APPROPRIATE EDUCATION, TRAINING, JOB OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMUNITY TO GROW AND TO CONTRIBUTE AS USEFUL MEMBERS AMONG US," SHE SAID.

THE CAMPAIGN IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

IT AIMS TO:

- \* ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE AND UNDERSTANDING THAT DISABLED PEOPLE ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COMMUNITY;
- \* AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE POTENTIAL ABILITIES OF DISABLED PEOPLE;
- \* HELP DISABLED PEOPLE REALISE THEIR OWN DISABILITIES AND POTENTIAL; AND
- \* PUBLICISE REHABILITATION SERVICES AND THE AGENCIES WHICH RUN THEM.

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MOU FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY DEPT AND CERVAC

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THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND CERVAC, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE FRENCH UNIVERSITY OF AIX-MARSEILLES III, HAVE AGREED TO CO-OPERATE WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING THE CAPABILITIES OF HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS IN PRODUCING GOODS TO RELEVANT FRENCH AND EEC STANDARDS.

IN A CEREMONY THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET, UNIVERSITY OF MARSEILLES, MR R. GHEVONTIAN, SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR MUTUAL CO-OPERATION IN THIS RESPECT.

NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO THE SIGNING HAD BEEN CONDUCTED BY MR ERNEST EVANS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (QUALITY SERVICES) OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

CERVAC OR CENTRE DE RESEARCH ET DE VALORISATION DES PRODUITS DE CONSOMMATION HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN FIELDS OF TECHNICAL INSPECTION, TESTING, CERTIFICATION AND ADVISORY SERVICES.

THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WILL FACILITATE MUTUAL CO-OPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCTS LEADING TO THEIR SUBSEQUENT CERTIFICATION WHERE APPROPRIATE.

THE MOU WILL ALLOW FOR ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED BY CERVAC TO HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS THROUGH PRE-ARRANGED PROGRAMMES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WHEREBY FRENCH QUALITY CONFORMITY MARKS, CERTIFICATES ON PRODUCT QUALITY, CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH EEC STANDARDS CAN BE OBTAINED.

CERVAC ALSO HAS A NUMBER OF SHOWROOMS WHERE HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS WILL BE ABLE TO DISPLAY QUALITY PRODUCTS TO EUROPEAN BUYERS.

AREAS WHERE CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES WOULD BE BENEFICIAL INCLUDE INFORMATION SERVICES, INSPECTION SERVICES, TECHNIQUES FOR IMPROVING PRODUCT QUALITY, AWARDING OF CONFORMITY MARKS AND PROMOTIONAL SERVICES.

THE MOU IS THE SECOND OF ITS KIND HONG KONG HAS SIGNED WITH A FOREIGN ORGANISATION IN THE FIELD OF PRODUCT CERTIFICATION. THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS EARLIER SIGNED A SIMILAR MOU WITH TUV ESSEN, A WEST GERMAN AGENCY.

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FIRE PREVENTION ADVICE

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO EXERCISE EXTRA CARE TO PREVENT FIRES IN VIEW OF THE DRY WEATHER.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 131 FIRE CALLS YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) AND 60 OF THEM WERE VEGETATION FIRES WHICH OCCURRED MOSTLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

"THE EXCEPTIONALLY DRY WEATHER IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF VEGETATION FIRES. HOWEVER, CARELESSNESS ON THE PART OF SOME RESIDENTS, INCLUDING PICNICKERS, SHOULD ALSO BE BLAMED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THEY SHOULD NOT BURN RUBBISH IN OPEN SPACE OR LEAVE ANY FIRE UNATTENDED, BE IT IN A STOVE OR CONTAINER.

"THEY SHOULD HABITUALLY EXTINGUISH ALL FIRES AND REPORT IT IF THEY SEE ANY."

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BLANKETS FOR STREET SLEEPERS

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FIELD STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL MOUNT AN OPERATION TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) TO DISTRIBUTE BLANKETS TO STREET SLEEPERS AND OTHERS IN NEED DUE TO THE COLD SPELL.

THE DISTRIBUTION WILL START AROUND 7.30 PM THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN FILMING THE DISTRIBUTION SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE HENRY G. LEONG YAUMATEI COMMUNITY CENTRE, 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET, YAU MA TEI AT 7.15 PM.

STAFF OF THE SWD INFORMATION UNIT WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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ANTI-DRUG SYMBOL DESIGN CONTEST RESULTS ANNOUNCED

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A SIMPLE BUT ARTISTIC DESIGN SUBMITTED BY MR ALEX HO WAS CHOSEN THE WINNING ENTRY IN THE ANTI-DRUG SYMBOL DESIGN COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) TO LOOK FOR A LOGO TO COMMEMORATE ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY NEXT YEAR.

WINNING OVER SOME 850 OTHER ENTRIES, MR HO'S DESIGN FEATURES A PAIR OF HOLDING HANDS WITHIN A HEART-SHAPE AND AN ARABIC FIGURE "25" IN SILVER AND RED COLOURS.

EXPLAINING THE CONCEPT OF THE DESIGN, MR HO, A 28-YEAR-OLD GRAPHIC DESIGNER, SAID THE PAIR OF HOLDING HANDS SIGNIFIED THE DETERMINATION AND CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE ACAN IN THE WAR AGAINST NARCOTICS WHILE THE FIGURE "25" DENOTED THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE COMMITTEE IN 1990.

ONE OF THE JUDGES, DESIGNER MR NICHOLAS TSUI, COMMENTED: "THIS DESIGN NOT ONLY CLEARLY INDICATES ACAN'S SILVER JUBILEE BUT ALSO PROJECTS A POSITIVE APPROACH TOWARDS LIFE."

THE COMPETITION, ORGANISED WITH THE SUPPORT AND A CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000 FROM THE ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS, WAS THE FIRST ANTI-DRUG PUBLICITY EVENT RECEIVING PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP.

A SELECTION EXERCISE WAS HELD LAST WEEK TO DECIDE THE TOP THREE WINNERS AND 10 OTHER OUTSTANDING ENTRIES.

THE PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS COMPRISED DESIGNER MR NICHOLAS TSUI; THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR PETER MOSS; COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR DAVID WEEKS; AND DEPUTY MANAGER OF THE ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS, MR DANNY SIU.

IN ADDITION TO A TROPHY, THE WINNER OF THE COMPETITION WILL RECEIVE A CASH COUPON OF \$5,000. THE FIRST RUNNER-UP, MR CHU KA-WING, AND THE SECOND RUNNER-UP, MR SIU KAM-FONG, WILL EACH RECEIVE CASH COUPONS OF \$3,000 AND \$2,000 RESPECTIVELY.

DESIGNERS OF THE 10 OTHER OUTSTANDING ENTRIES WILL EACH RECEIVE A SOUVENIR. THEY ARE MISS KWONG LAI-CHU, MISS LAM PIK-KWAN AND MESSRS YAN WAI-LUNG, LEUNG CHI-KEI, IP KAM-SHING, LAM MO-WAH, LEUNG SHEUNG-CHI, CHAN HO-YIN, NGAI YIU-KAM AND CHOW HAU-CHEONG.

ALL THE AWARDEES WILL BE INFORMED BY POST SHORTLY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WINNING DESIGN AND ANOTHER OF THE PANEL OF JUDGES SELECTING THE WINNING ENTRY WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE AND BOXED.

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LADY WILSON PRAISES WORK OF FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY

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LADY WILSON TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HONG KONG FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION IN THE PAST 40 YEARS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP.

ADDRESSING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION OF THE SOCIETY, LADY WILSON SAID THE ORGANISATION HAD COME A VERY LONG WAY SINCE IT BEGAN IN 1938 AS THE SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE OF THE CHURCHES TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY IN 1949 KNOWN AS THE FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY.

REFERRING TO THE DIFFERENT SERVICES OFFERED BY THE SOCIETY, LADY WILSON NOTED THAT IN THE COUNSELLING SERVICE MORE THAN 60 PER CENT OF NEW CASES WERE SELF-REFERRED.

"THIS MEANS THAT THIS SERVICE HAS BECOME BETTER KNOWN, AND IS CLEARLY GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE MANY FAMILIES WHO USE IT.

"I SINCERELY HOPE THAT BEFORE LONG, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR ONE SOCIAL WORKER TO HAVE A WORKLOAD OF LESS THAN 77 FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS, AS THIS IS VERY HEAVY.

"WE MUST TRY TO AIM AT THE STANDARD SET IN 1981, OF 50 CASES FOR ONE WORKER, MAXIMUM." SHE SAID.

THE SOCIETY'S PROPOSAL FOR A SENIOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTITIONER MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN PROMOTING HIGH MORALE AND RETAINING MORE EXPERIENCED STAFF IN DIRECT PRACTICE, SHE SAID.

ON FOSTER CARE, LADY WILSON HOPED THE SERVICE, WHICH HAD RUN FOR FIVE YEARS, WOULD RECEIVE MUCH SUPPORT AND THAT IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE COULD ACCOMMODATE MANY CHILDREN NEEDING RESIDENTIAL CARE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER ONES.

SHE SAID THE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE, WHICH WOULD SOON CELEBRATE ITS 10TH YEAR, HAD DONE MUCH TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF MANY INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

THE HOME HELP SERVICE, WHICH STARTED IN 1971, HAD PIONEERED CARE FOR CHILDREN IN THEIR OWN FAMILY HOMES, AND THIS VALUABLE SERVICE WAS STILL MUCH NEEDED, LADY WILSON NOTED.

"THE SERVICE ALSO OFFERS A VERY WIDE RANGE OF HELP TO MANY ELDERLY PEOPLE, AND OTHERS WHO ARE DISABLED OR LIVING ALONE, TO SHOP, TO GET MEALS, TO HAVE THEIR HOME CLEANED, SHOPPING DONE, TO GET ESCORTS, LAUNDRY SERVICE, OR BE VISITED," SHE SAID.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, LADY WILSON SAID, WAS ANOTHER SERVICE THAT WAS FLOURISHING WITH ALMOST 300 PROGRAMMES ORGANISED LAST YEAR, MOST OF THEM EDUCATIONAL.

"THIS IS A MOST IMPORTANT SERVICE WHICH SEEKS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE AND AIMS TO HELP PREVENT FAMILY BREAKDOWN," LADY WILSON SAID.

ON THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME, WHICH WAS SERVING 83 SECONDARY SCHOOLS, LADY WILSON SAID IT HAD DONE MUCH TO HELP STUDENTS OVERCOME EMOTIONAL, ACADEMIC OR HUMAN RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS.

SHE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE NEW PROJECTS OF THE SOCIETY WAS TO OFFER A MOST ECONOMICAL AND VALUABLE GROUP THERAPY SERVICE - TO HELP PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 45 WITH MILD MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS.

"IN PARTICULAR, THIS PROGRAMME AIMS TO HELP FAMILIES TO FUNCTION BETTER TOGETHER," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON ALSO MENTIONED THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE, WHICH SHE OPENED IN TUEN MUN IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

"THIS CENTRE SEEMS TO HAVE HAD AN ATTENDANCE OF MORE THAN 7,500 ADULTS AND OVER 13,500 CHILDREN IN THE FIRST YEAR OF ITS EXISTENCE.

"I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT MORE PROJECTS OF THIS SORT WILL BE SUPPORTED ALL OVER HONG KONG, BUT PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TOWNS, WHERE THEY ARE INVALUABLE," SHE SAID.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH OF LADY WILSON TAKEN AT THE RECEPTION WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE.

SYMPOSIUM FOR CLANSMEN, DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

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MORE THAN 200 LEADERS OF ABOUT 70 CLANSMEN AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS WILL GATHER AT THE HENRY G. LEONG YAUMATEI COMMUNITY CENTRE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY.

THEY ARE PARTICIPANTS OF A SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLANSMEN AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS IN HONG KONG.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THE SYMPOSIUM WAS PART OF THE CNTA'S CONTINUING EFFORT IN REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO KEEP UP THEIR GOOD WORK IN SERVING RESIDENTS.

DURING THE PAST NINE MONTHS, CNTA HAD ORGANISED A SERIES OF "A STEP CLOSER" SEMINARS FOR AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS. IN AUGUST ABOUT 300 KAIFONG ASSOCIATION LEADERS WERE INVITED TO A SYMPOSIUM TO DISCUSS THEIR ROLE IN THE OVERALL COMMUNITY BUILDING EFFORT.

AS A GRAND FINALE TO THE AREA COMMITTEE SEMINARS, ALL 89 AREA COMMITTEES IN THE URBAN AREA JOINTLY ORGANISED A PRESENTATION AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM ON NOVEMBER 18 WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD.

"ALL THESE ACTIVITIES ARE PART OF CNTA'S INITIATIVE TO ENHANCE RESIDENTS' COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND TO MAKE HONG KONG A MORE HARMONIOUS AND GENERALLY BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN," MR LAN SAID.

SPEAKERS AT TOMORROW'S SYMPOSIUM WILL INCLUDE CLANSMEN AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION LEADERS MR H.C. FUNG, MR LIU LIT-FOR, MR LEO LEE AND MR M.T. YIP.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE "CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLANSMEN AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS IN HONG KONG SYMPOSIUM WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 5.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE HENRY G. LEONG YAUMATEI COMMUNITY CENTRE, 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET, YAU MA TEI.

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DB COMMITTEE TO VET 32 FUNDING REQUESTS

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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WILL VET 32 APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR ORGANISING ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING MONTHS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED BY LOCAL BODIES SUCH AS AREA COMMITTEES, AND ARE VARIED IN NATURE.

THEY INCLUDE SEMINARS ON CIVIC EDUCATION AND HOUSING, FEASTS FOR THE ELDERLY, VARIETY SHOWS, FILM SHOWS, CANTONESE OPERA AND SPRING GATHERINGS.

IN TOTAL, ABOUT \$300,000 IN DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS IS BEING SOUGHT.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM A PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP, WORKING GROUP ON THE PREFERENTIAL SCHEMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN SHAM SHUI PO, AND A ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN WORKING GROUP.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, NAM CHEONG ESTATE.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER SOCCER PITCH SITE  
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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE SUITABILITY OF A SITE AT TUI MIN HOI FOR BUILDING A SOCCER PITCH AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PROPOSAL TO BUILD A SOCCER PITCH AT TUI MIN HOI WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF LOCAL RESIDENTS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN SAI KUNG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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APPLICATION FOR DB SUBSIDIES TO CLOSE SOON  
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RESIDENTS' ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL BODIES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WISHING TO SEEK DISTRICT BOARD SUBSIDIES FOR HOLDING FESTIVE ACTIVITIES DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR ARE REMINDED TO SEND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE DEADLINE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5.

LATE APPLICATIONS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, A SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

APPLICATIONS COULD BE MADE TO THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WHICH HAD SET ASIDE ABOUT \$66,000 FOR SPONSORING SUCH ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREAS, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR SUBSIDIES FOR OTHER COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS.

"THESE CAN BE DISTRICT-BASED CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL OR SPORTS EVENTS, SEMINARS, SURVEYS AND EXHIBITIONS, ALL OF WHICH SHOULD AIM AT PROMOTING COMMUNITY SPIRIT, SOCIAL COHESION AND A GREATER SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG LOCAL PEOPLE," HE SAID.

/FOR MORE .....

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES, INTERESTED PARTIES MAY REFER TO THE GUIDELINES ON APPLICATIONS FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT FUNDS.

COPIES OF THE GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE, MISS LEONIE MONG, AT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN CENTRE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET IN EARLY JANUARY TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS. APPLICANTS WOULD BE NOTIFIED OF THE RESULTS IN WRITING.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL PUT FORWARD A PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING A SOUTHERN ACCESS ROAD TO THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN TAI PO TSAI AT THE MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 1).

MEMBERS' VIEWS WILL BE SOUGHT ON THE ALIGNMENT AND CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE.

THE COMMITTEE WILL SUGGEST THAT A NEW BUS ROUTE SHOULD BE INTRODUCED BETWEEN HONG SHING GARDEN IN TSEUNG KWAN O AND CLEAR WATER BAY TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE GROWING POPULATION IN THE NEW TOWN.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO LOOK INTO THE ILLEGAL PARKING PROBLEM ON A SITE IN WAI MAN ROAD WHICH HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 1) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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SUPPLY OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT PARTICULARS TO  
PRIVATE SECTOR

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE AND UP-TO-DATE COMPUTERISED CENTRAL REGISTER OF AROUND 350,000 ESTABLISHMENTS IN HONG KONG TO SERVE MAINLY AS THE SAMPLING FRAME FOR VARIOUS ECONOMIC SURVEYS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

MANY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ALSO MAKE USE OF THE REGISTER FOR PUBLICITY, SURVEY AND RESEARCH WORK.

STARTING FROM DECEMBER 1, A SAMPLE LISTING CONTAINING 20 PER CENT OF THE RECORDS RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THE CENTRAL REGISTER WILL BE CREATED FOR USE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THEIR MARKET RESEARCH, STATISTICAL SURVEYS AND BUSINESS OR PRODUCT PROMOTION.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF A PHOTOCOPY OR A MAGNETIC TAPE OF THE LISTING OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL PARTICULARS SUCH AS THE NAME, ADDRESS, MAJOR TYPE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT SIZE CLASS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THIS 20 PER CENT SAMPLE LISTING CAN BE MADE TO THE CENTRAL REGISTER SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

A CHARGE WILL BE LEVIED FOR THIS SERVICE, AND THE RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) \$2.50 PER PAGE OF PHOTOCOPY; AND
- (B) A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$340 FOR A JOB REQUIRING UP TO 20 CRU'S (COMPUTER RESOURCES UNITS) PLUS \$17 FOR EACH CRU IN EXCESS OF 20 CRU'S, IF THE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED ON MAGNETIC TAPES. THE MAGNETIC TAPES ARE TO BE PROVIDED BY APPLICANTS.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE SERVICE CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE CENTRAL REGISTER SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8234760.

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TWO GOVT LOTS ON TSING YI TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF TWO LAND LOTS ON TSING YI ISLAND.

THE FIRST LOT, A 7,250-SQUARE-METRE SITE IN AREA 8, IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF GOODS, EXCLUDING CONTAINERS AND CONTAINER VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

/THE SECOND .....

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THE SECOND LOT, LOCATED IN AREA 22 MEASURES ABOUT 32,370 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE AND/OR LOADING, UNLOADING AND STORAGE OF CONTAINERS FROM SEA OR LAND (EXCLUDING STUFFING AND RE-STUFFING).

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS FOR BOTH LOTS IS NOON ON DECEMBER 15.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, CASTLE PEAK ROAD; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET.

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RIGHT-TURN BAN IN CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 1), ALL VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM GILMAN STREET ONTO WESTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

AFFECTED VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA EASTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND THE U-TURN LOOP ROAD NEAR PEDDER STREET TO JOIN WESTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

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