



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ARGUMENTS AGAINST GIVING RIGHT OF ABODE FLAWED: CS

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THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE GRANTING RIGHT OF ABODE TO BRITISH NATIONALS IN HONG KONG ARE FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT ON THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, SIR DAVID SAID IT MUST BE RELEVANT TO SEE HOW OTHER SOVEREIGN POWERS IN SIMILAR POSITIONS TO THE UK HAD REGARDED THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO THEIR DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS.

"PORTUGAL, A SMALL COUNTRY WITH A POPULATION OF 10 MILLION HAS, WE ARE TOLD, PROVIDED FOR CITIZENSHIP NOT ONLY FOR 100,000 OF ITS CITIZENS IN MACAU BUT ALSO FOR OVER THREE MILLION OF ITS CITIZENS IN FORMER DEPENDENT TERRITORIES. FRANCE HAS DONE THE SAME WITH ITS OVERSEAS TERRITORIES," THE CHIEF SECRETARY NOTED.

"CLEARLY THESE TWO NATIONS TOOK A VIEW THAT THEIR OBLIGATIONS OUTWEIGHED THE RISK." HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED ITS OBLIGATIONS TO CITIZENS ELSEWHERE. NOT ONLY IN THE FALKLANDS AND GIBRALTAR WHERE THE NUMBERS ARE SMALL BUT ALSO IN THE CASE OF SOUTH AFRICA WHERE THERE WERE ESTIMATED TO BE ONE MILLION PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARGUE, THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS LESS UNSTABLE THAN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT GRANT THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO ALL HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS.

"THIS WOULD DO MUCH TO REASSURE OUR PEOPLE THAT THEY SHOULD REMAIN HERE AND CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A PROSPEROUS AND STABLE HONG KONG," HE SAID.

EXAMINING THE CASE PUT FORWARD BY THE FAC FOR NOT GRANTING THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO HONG KONG CITIZENS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID : "IN A NUTSHELL IT IS THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE RISK OF ALL 3.2 MILLION HONG KONG PEOPLE GOING TO SETTLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM."

"INDEED, THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WENT FURTHER BY SUGGESTING THAT THE NUMBER WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY IN EXCESS OF THE 3.2 MILLION FREQUENTLY MENTIONED," HE SAID.

"OF COURSE A DECISION OF THIS NATURE IS NOT AN EASY ONE FOR ANY POLITICIAN TO TAKE," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS A MATTER OF JUDGEMENT AND OF BALANCING THE OBLIGATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AGAINST THE RISK OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CARRY THROUGH PARLIAMENT THE NECESSARY CHANGES IN LEGISLATION.

/ "I BELIEVE .....

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"I BELIEVE IT IS ACCEPTED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT THE OBLIGATION IS STRONG. BUT THE CONTENTION IS THAT THE RISK IS OVERWHELMINGLY HIGH BECAUSE IT IS ASSUMED TO BE A FACT THAT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES OVER THREE MILLION HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS TO SETTLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM." HE SAID.

"WE HAVE ARGUED FORCEFULLY THAT WE CANNOT ENVISAGE A SITUATION WHERE ANYTHING LIKE THAT NUMBER WOULD EVER WISH TO GO TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS ALONE INVOLVED IN SUCH A MASSIVE NUMBER OF PEOPLE MOVING SEVEN THOUSAND MILES TO SET UP HOME ELSEWHERE MAKE IT A TOTALLY UNREAL PROPOSITION," SIR DAVID POINTED OUT.

THERE WAS THE ASSESSMENT, WIDELY ACCEPTED IN HONG KONG AND SUPPORTED BY RECENT OPINION POLLS, TO INDICATE THAT ONLY SIX PER CENT OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO WERE GIVEN THE RIGHT OF ABODE WOULD MOVE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE CHIEF SECRETARY NOTED.

"SO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVER LIKELY TO SEEK TO SETTLE IN THE UK MUST NOT ONLY BE LESS THAN 3.2 MILLION, IT MUST BE A SMALL FRACTION OF THAT NUMBER," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THERE WAS ONE FURTHER ILLOGICALITY IN THE CASE WHICH WAS BEING MADE AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THE RIGHT OF ABODE.

"IT IS THAT IN A SITUATION IN WHICH IT WOULD BE MORE LIKELY THAT A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WOULD GO TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, THAT IS THE SO-CALLED ARMAGEDDON SCENARIO, THEN OF COURSE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PEOPLE TO GO TO EITHER THE UNITED KINGDOM OR TO SOME OTHER COUNTRIES.

"THE INFERENCE ONE DRAWS FROM THAT IS THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE WE HAVE TO BE IN A POSITION TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HUGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WOULD INDEED WISH TO LEAVE HONG KONG," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THE IRONY AND CONTRADICTION CONTAINED IN THAT PROPOSITION HAS NOT ESCAPED US," HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT THE POLITICAL ARGUMENTS WERE MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH, SIR DAVID SAID BRITAIN WAS A DEMOCRACY AND IN A DEMOCRACY THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE AS EXPRESSED THROUGH THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES MUST PREVAIL.

"IF WE FAIL TO CONVINCe THE PEOPLE OF THE UK AND BRITISH PARLIAMENT OF THE STRENGTH OF OUR CASE WE WILL MAKE LITTLE PROGRESS," SIR DAVID SAID.

"IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THEREFORE THAT WE SHOULD REMEMBER IN ALL OUR CAMPAIGNING THAT OUR AIM MUST BE TO GAIN THE SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY OF BRITISH PEOPLE AND BRITISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT," HE ADDED.

/"HOWEVER STRONGLY .....

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"HOWEVER STRONGLY WE MAY FEEL ON PARTICULAR ISSUES, OUR INTEREST LIES IN KEEPING BRITISH SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG IN THE DIFFICULT YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

"NOTHING WE DO HERE SHOULD RUN COUNTER TO THAT MAIN OBJECTIVE AND CERTAINLY WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO AVOID DAMAGING THE WELL EARNED REPUTATION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE AS HARWORKING, PEACEABLE AND FRIENDLY MEMBERS OF ANY COMMUNITY," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY NOTED THAT SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE FAC REPORT, MINISTERS HAD INDICATED PUBLICLY THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO INTRODUCE A SCHEME WHICH WOULD MAKE SOME PROVISION FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

"ALTHOUGH THE DETAILS ARE NOT CLEAR, WE ASSUME THAT THE SCHEME IS AIMED AT THOSE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE MIGRATE TO OTHER COUNTRIES," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID WHILE THE DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE ARRANGEMENTS WAS ONE FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD PUT FORWARD STRONGLY THREE POINTS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION IN DEVISING ANY SCHEME.

"FIRST, IF IT IS TO BE EFFECTIVE IN STEMMING THE FLOW OF TALENTED PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG IT MUST BE GENEROUS IN TERMS OF NUMBERS.

"SECONDLY, THE DIVISIVENESS WHICH IS INHERENT IN ANY LIMITED SCHEME SHOULD BE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM.

"THIRDLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, ANY SCHEME SHOULD HAVE AS ITS OBJECTIVES THE NEED TO RETAIN PEOPLE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"I THINK IT WOULD BE CHURLISH TO SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD REFUSE TO ACCEPT ANY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD REASSURE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE HERE AND MIGHT INDEED HELP TO STEM THE INCREASED OUTFLOW OF PEOPLE WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE AN INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF RECENT EVENTS IN PEKING," SIR DAVID NOTED.

"BUT, WE HAVE ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR, THAT ALTHOUGH A LIMITED SCHEME MAY HELP US IN PRACTICAL WAYS TO DEAL WITH SOME OF OUR IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES, IT IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE GRANTING OF THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO BRITISH NATIONALS IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID IT WAS NO MEAN ACHIEVEMENT TO HAVE SECURED THE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR HONG KONG'S POLICY ON VBP.

"UNTIL THE MEMBERS OF THE FAC CAME TO HONG KONG IT WAS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO PERSUADE ANY BACKBENCH MP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM OVER THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THEM TO ACCEPT THAT PARLIAMENT SHOULD BE DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT," SIR DAVID SAID.

/HE POINTED .....

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HE POINTED OUT THAT COMMENTS FROM THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE THAT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO MANDATORY REPATRIATION, REPRESENTED A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN GAINING UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCREENING POLICY.

ACCEPTING THE FAC'S VIEW THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE MUST BE ALLOWED TO DECIDE ON THEIR OWN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT BEFORE AND AFTER 1997, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE WILL NOW BE RE-EXAMINING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THE 1988 WHITE PAPER CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1991.

"IN SO DOING WE WILL BE CONSIDERING NOT ONLY THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE DIRECTLY ELECTED AT THAT TIME BUT ALSO THE POSITION OF OFFICIALS, AND THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS AND THOSE ELECTED THROUGH FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID URGED COUNCIL MEMBERS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN BUILDING ON THE CONSENSUS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH A CLEAR VIEW FROM THE PEOPLE ON WHICH TO BASE ITS DECISIONS.

ON THE FAC'S RECOMMENDATION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A BILL OF RIGHTS IN AN APPROPRIATE FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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FAC'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON NATIONALITY UNACCEPTABLE  
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THE BASIS ON WHICH RECOMMENDATIONS ON NATIONALITY WERE MADE IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (FAC) REPORT IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD ARE FALLACIOUS.

THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON ALLEN LEE, SAID THIS IN THE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN LEADING OFF A DEBATE ON THE REPORT.

THE MOTION MOVED BY MR LEE READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF THE FAC REPORT AND URGES STRONGLY THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD URGENTLY TAKE ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE A SAFE AND SECURE FUTURE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG INCLUDING THE RESTORATION OF FULL BRITISH CITIZENSHIP TO BRITISH SUBJECTS IN HONG KONG."

MR LEE CRITICISED THE REPORT FOR FAILING TO TRANSLATE BRITAIN'S "UNIQUE OBLIGATION" TOWARDS ITS SUBJECTS INTO RESPONSIBLE ACTION IN ONE VERY IMPORTANT AREA -- THE RESTORATION OF THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN TO BRITISH SUBJECTS IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT ONE OF THE FALLACIOUS ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD IN THE REPORT WAS THAT THE INSURANCE POLICY CONCEPT WAS "CONFUSING".

/IN FACT .....

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IN FACT, THE FAC'S ARGUMENT ITSELF WAS CONTRADICTORY, ILLOGICAL AND INDEFENSIBLE, HE SAID.

"WHILE THE COMMITTEE REJECTS THE IDEA OF PROVIDING AN INSURANCE POLICY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, IT SEES FIT, ON THE OTHER HAND AND IN ALMOST THE SAME BREATH, TO OFFER THIS POLICY TO CERTAIN GROUPS AS AN INCENTIVE FOR THEM TO STAY," HE SAID.

THE SECOND FALLACIOUS ARGUMENT WAS THAT BRITAIN WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO ABSORB 3.25 MILLION HONG KONG BDTCS INTO ITS SOCIETY.

MR LEE SAW THIS AS APPALLING SCAREMONGERING TACTICS, EMPLOYED TO REJECT THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY'S CALL FOR THE RESTORATION OF RIGHTS TO THE BRITISH SUBJECTS.

"WE HAVE STRESSED TIME AND AGAIN THAT PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE THIS TERRITORY; ALL WE WANT IS THE PROVISION OF AN ESCAPE ROUTE IN CASE OF NEED," HE SAID.

BUT THIS REPEATED MESSAGE SEEMED TO HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS, HE ADDED.

THE THIRD FALLACIOUS ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE GRANTING OF FULL BRITISH CITIZENSHIP TO BRITISH SUBJECTS IN HONG KONG WOULD BE IN CONTRADICTION TO THE JOINT DECLARATION.

MR LEE DISAGREED WITH FAC'S OBSERVATION, SAYING THAT WHEN THE FAC VISITED PEKING, CHINESE OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE MENTIONED TO ITS MEMBERS THAT THE GRANTING OF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP TO PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WAS A MATTER FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

HE ASKED WHY, WHEN IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR PORTUGUESE PASSPORTS TO BE GIVEN TO CHINESE RESIDENTS IN MACAU, THE FAC SHOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUGGEST SOMETHING SIMILAR BE DONE IN HONG KONG.

"WHY CAN'T BRITAIN, LIKE PORTUGAL, TAKE THE HONOURABLE COURSE?" HE ASKED.

MR LEE SAID THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, THERE WOULD INDEED BE A CONTRAVENTION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP WAS NOT GRANTED TO BRITISH SUBJECTS IN HONG KONG.

"IF THE CONFIDENCE CRISIS CONTINUES AND PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE LOOKING AROUND THE WORLD FOR A HOME OF LAST RESORT, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD RECOGNISE THE RISK THAT THIS WOULD CERTAINLY THREATEN THE OBJECTIVE OF MAINTAINING AND PRESERVING THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

"THIS WOULD BE A CONTRAVENTION OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION IF HONG KONG CANNOT ACHIEVE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY," HE SAID.

/IN RESPONSE .....

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IN RESPONSE TO THE FAC'S RECOMMENDATION THAT SOME GROUPS IN HONG KONG SHOULD MERIT SPECIAL TREATMENT, MR LEE SAID SUCH A MOVE WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY.

MOREOVER, HALF-WAY PROPOSALS SHORT OF GRANTING FULL CITIZENSHIP WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE TERRITORY RATHER THAN TO STAY.

TURNING TO OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN IN THE FAC REPORT, MR LEE SAID THE COMMITTEE SEEMED TO HAVE MADE SOME CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS ON THE BASIC LAW AND THE FUTURE POLITICAL STRUCTURE.

HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES, AND URGED THE COMMUNITY TO SPEAK UP.

HOWEVER, MR LEE DREW BRITAIN'S ATTENTION TO A PERCEPTION IN THE COMMUNITY THAT THE BASIC LAW HAD DRIFTED FROM THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD THE RIGHT AS A SIGNATORY OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY AS THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF HONG KONG, TO GET THE BASIC LAW RIGHT, BECAUSE ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION MUST BE TOTALLY ENSHRINED IN THE BASIC LAW.

HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MUST AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL DISCUSS THE BASIC LAW WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN A FORUM SUCH AS THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

MR LEE SHARED THE VIEW OF THE FAC THAT THE QUESTION OF STATIONING THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY IN THE FUTURE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION NEEDED TO BE CAREFULLY RE-EXAMINED IN THE LIGHT OF EVENTS IN CHINA.

"TO ALLAY THE FEARS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, I DO THINK THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE BOLD ENOUGH TO FACE UP TO THE FACT THAT IT WOULD NOT BOOST CONFIDENCE IF THEY INSIST ON STATIONING THE PLA IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997," HE SAID.

HE ALSO PERSONALLY AGREED WITH THE FAC'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

MR LEE WELCOMED THE FAC'S SUPPORT FOR THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF THOSE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE CLASSIFIED AS NON-REFUGEES.

HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S READINESS TO TAKE UP THE PROBLEM WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BOAT PEOPLE WHO HAD ARRIVED IN HONG KONG.

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BRITAIN MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS SUBJECTS

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HONG KONG PEOPLE. IN SEEKING THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN, ARE MERELY ASKING FROM THE SOVEREIGN STATE WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ITS DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT ON HONG KONG, MR CHEONG SAID MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE EXTREMELY PERPLEXED AND DISAPPOINTED WITH THE WHOLE FAC EXERCISE.

HE SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, VISIT TO HONG KONG WAS TO LISTEN AND TO PROBE, YET WITNESS AFTER WITNESS WERE LECTURED PATRONISINGLY ON SUCH ISSUES AS NATIONALITY, BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY, AS WELL AS THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS.

IN RELATION TO THE PROBING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, MR CHEONG SAID ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT NECESSARY, RIGHT AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO REQUIRE FURTHER EVIDENCE FROM WITNESSES AFTER WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN CHINA ON JUNE 4, YET NO SUCH OPPORTUNITY WAS OFFERED.

MR CHEONG CRITICISED THE FAC FOR FAILING TO RECOGNISE BRITAIN'S CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS SUBJECTS, NOW OR IN THE FUTURE.

"THEY REJECTED THE INSURANCE POLICY ARGUMENT ON THE ONE HAND, AND ON THE OTHER THEY READILY OFFER IT TO CERTAIN SECTORS OF HONG KONG AS AN INCENTIVE FOR THEM TO STAY. SUCH A POSITION IS WHOLLY ILLOGICAL AND CONTRADICTORY.

"THE HEIGHT OF INSENSITIVITY IS THE SO-CALLED SHOW OF BRITISH CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG BY RESCUING US FROM THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY AND REPLACING IT WITH THE FUTURE BRITISH CONSULATE IN HMS TAMAR," MR CHEONG SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE FAC REPORT HAD DISCREDITED THE TIME-HONOURED BRITISH TRADITION OF DUTY AND HONOUR.

HE SAID, LIKE IT OR NOT, BRITAIN HAD A COLONY CALLED HONG KONG AND HAD RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE WELL-BEING OF THE PLACE FOR ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS AND 360 DAYS.

MR CHEONG SAID THAT IS LEGISLATORS FACED WITH A MAJOR CONFIDENCE CRISIS, MEMBERS HAD A DUTY TO TRY TO HELP MITIGATE THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF THIS CIRCUMSTANCE.

HE SAID THE CALLS TO BRITAIN FOR URGENT AND EFFECTIVE ACTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO ALLOW HONG KONG A GOOD CHANCE TO REMAIN STABLE AND PROSPEROUS, AND THEY WERE MADE JUSTIFIABLY.

"HONG KONG BRITISH SUBJECTS ARE ENTITLED TO AS MUCH PROTECTION AND GOVERNANCE AS THOSE WHO LIVE IN GIBRALTAR AND THE FALKLANDS.

/"HONG KONG .....

"HONG KONG, AS A BRITISH COLONY, HAD PAID OUR DUES IN THE HOURS OF NEED OF BRITAIN IN HER TWO WORLD WARS AND THE WAR WITH ARGENTINA OVER THE FALKLANDS.

"IN THE INTEREST OF BRITISH HONOUR AND BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY, WE HAD TO FOREGO, ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, OUR TRADING INTEREST WITH VARIOUS TRADING PARTNERS IN THE WORLD LIKE SOUTH RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND ARGENTINA. WHERE IS BRITAIN NOW IN OUR CRITICAL HOUR OF NEED?" MR CHEONG ADDED.

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SINGLE MOST URGENT PROBLEM IN HK IGNORED

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THE MAJOR LETDOWN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT IS BRITAIN'S "UNWAVERING DETERMINATION" TO IGNORE THE SINGLE MOST URGENT PROBLEM THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE FACING. THE HON SELINA CHOW SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PROBLEM WAS SIMPLY ONE OF FEAR -- FEAR OF A TIANANMEN SCENARIO IN HONG KONG, FEAR OF A REGIME WHICH WOULD GO TO ANY LENGTH TO MAINTAIN ITS SUPREMACY, FEAR OF THE LOSS OF FREEDOM TO OUR CHILDREN, FEAR OF THE BREAKDOWN OF THE VALUE SYSTEMS THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FAC REPORT, MRS CHOW ILLUSTRATED THE CRUX OF THE NATIONALITY ISSUE WITH A CHINESE SAYING: 'THE DISEASE OF THE HEART CAN ONLY BE CURED BY THE MEDICINE FOR THE HEART.'

"THAT MEDICINE BADLY NEEDED NOW FOR THE HONG KONG HEART IS THE FEELING OF BEING FREE TO STAY OR GO. ONCE THAT FREEDOM IS AFFIRMED, MANY WILL STAY," SHE SAID.

THE ARGUMENTS SURROUNDING THE INSURANCE POLICY CONCEPT WERE "MEANINGLESS", SHE SAID.

"IT REALLY DOES NOT MATTER WHAT ONE CALLS IT -- LIFE-BOAT, EMERGENCY EXIT, ESCAPE ROUTE -- WE MUST FEEL IT EXISTS, IT IS THERE, IT IS REAL. WITHOUT IT, HONG KONG WILL LOSE ITS WILL TO FIGHT ON.

"WITH IT, HONG KONG WILL GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH TO CREATE MORE RECORDS AND MIRACLES," SHE SAID.

SHE ADDED: "WE ARE ALL PART OF HONG KONG, AND PROUD OF IT. FOR US, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE. WE ARE THE EXPERTS ON HONG KONG, AND WE ARE THE EXPERTS ON CHINA. WE KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO GO INTO THE BASIC LAW. WE ALSO KNOW THE PACE OF DEMOCRACY BEST SUITED TO HONG KONG. WE HAVE ACHIEVED CONSENSUS BEFORE AND WE WILL DO SO AGAIN. PROVIDED WE DON'T LOSE HEART."

/MRS CHOW .....

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MRS CHOW MAINTAINED THAT THERE WERE ONLY TWO OPTIONS FOR BRITAIN UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES : IT COULD CHOOSE THE EASY WAY OUT BY FOLLOWING THE FAC LINE AND RUN THE RISK OF LOSING THE RESPECT OF HONG KONG AND THE WORLD.

OR IT COULD CHOOSE THE HONOURABLE WAY OUT, FACE THE MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG SEPARATELY, AND PROVE ITS METTLE AS THE RESPONSIBLE WORLD AND SOVEREIGN LEADER WHICH WAS PREPARED TO RESCUE HONG KONG FROM THE PIT OF ITS OWN DESPAIR.

"HISTORY UNTIL NOW MAY OFFER ITSELF AS AN ATTRACTIVE EXCUSE FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO WASH ITS HANDS OF HONG KONG, BUT THE IRRESPONSIBILITY OF THAT ACTION WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS A GREAT DISSERVICE, NOT ONLY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BUT ALSO TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE," SHE SAID.

MRS CHOW SAID THE DENIAL OF THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO HONG KONG'S HOLDERS OF BRITISH PASSPORT WAS UNACCEPTABLE ON MORAL GROUNDS.

"NEITHER THE FAC NOR SIR GEOFFREY HOWE SHOULD BE UNDER THE ILLUSION, NOR SHOULD THEY CREATE OR BROADCAST IT, THAT THEIR STAND TO DESERT BRITAIN'S PEOPLE UNDER ITS CARE AND PROTECTION, IS ANY MORE ACCEPTABLE NOW THAN IT HAS BEEN, DESPITE THEIR EFFORTS TO JUSTIFY IT," SHE SAID.

MRS CHOW ADDED THAT THERE WAS HARDLY ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE POSITION OF THE FAC AND THAT OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, WHERE THE FAC FAILED TO MATCH UP TO SIR GEOFFREY WAS THE HONESTY AND STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS WITH WHICH THE LATTER HAD DEALT WITH THE SUBJECT.

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UK, CHINA SHOULD CO-OPERATE ON CONFIDENCE CRISIS

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THE BRITISH AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CO-OPERATE FULLY TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG, THE HON MARTIN LEE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IF THEY DID NOT DO SO, THERE WAS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT BOTH WOULD BE IN BREACH OF CLAUSE FOUR OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, MR LEE SAID.

THIS CLAUSE PROVIDED THAT "DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG WITH THE OBJECT OF MAINTAINING AND PRESERVING ITS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL STABILITY; AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL GIVE ITS CO-OPERATION IN THIS CONNECTION".

/SPEAKING IN .....

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SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, MR LEE SAID IT WAS NAIVE AND UNREALISTIC FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO HAVE BLIND FAITH IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. HE COMMENTED THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, HAD SAID CHINA WOULD STILL HONOUR THE JOINT DECLARATION BECAUSE IT WAS IN ITS INTEREST TO DO SO.

BUT IF THE PRESENT CONFIDENCE CRISIS WERE TO CONTINUE AND HONG KONG LOST ITS PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, THEN CHINA MIGHT NO LONGER THINK IT WAS IN ITS INTEREST TO ADHERE TO THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, MR LEE SAID.

HE SAID THAT IF ONE REALLY WANTED TO DO SOMETHING FOR HONG KONG, ONE MUST NOT START FROM THE PREMISE THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS AS INVOLABLE AS THE BIBLE.

MR LEE SAID HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION MUST BE TORN UP BEFORE A RE-NEGOTIATION HAD TAKEN PLACE. THE JOINT DECLARATION WOULD REMAIN BINDING UNTIL IT WAS SUPERSEDED BY SOME NEW AGREEMENT. AND IF CHINA CHOSE TO BE UNCOMPROMISING, THE JOINT DECLARATION WOULD STILL STAND.

ON THE STATIONING OF CHINESE TROOPS IN HONG KONG, MR LEE SUGGESTED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEEK TO SECURE THE AGREEMENT OF CHINA THAT TROOPS WOULD NOT BE STATIONED HERE. THIS WOULD REQUIRE AMENDING THE JOINT DECLARATION.

TURNING TO THE BASIC LAW, MR LEE SAID SERIOUS ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE FAC'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE SETTING UP OF A JOINT CONSTITUTIONAL COURT TO INTERPRET THE BASIC LAW.

THE BASIC LAW SHOULD PROVIDE THAT ONLY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BE EMPOWERED TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE FUTURE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE FAC'S CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF A BILL OF RIGHTS IN HONG KONG. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL OF RIGHTS MUST BE ENTRENCHED IN THE BASIC LAW AS PARAMOUNT AND NOT BE SUBJECT TO ALL OTHER LAWS OF THE SAR.

ON DEMOCRATIC REFORM, MR LEE AGREED WITH THE FAC'S PROPOSALS OF HAVING 50 PER CENT DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1991, AND 100 PER CENT IN 1995.

BUT HE DISAGREED WITH THE FAC'S PROPOSAL THAT THE FIRST CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE SAR BE ELECTED BY AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE. HE SAID THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE METHOD WAS BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

HE FULLY AGREED WITH THE FAC'S VIEWS ON "ACCOUNTABILITY" AND ITS RECOMMENDATION THAT "WHERE THERE IS AN IRRECONCILABLE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD RESIGN."

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ON THE RIGHT OF ABODE ISSUE, MR LEE SAID THERE WAS NOTHING TO SHOW WHY THE CONFIDENCE CRISIS WOULD ABATE ONCE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD GOT THEIR PASSPORT. AN ENTIRE PACKAGE OF POLICY MUST BE PURSUED TOGETHER.

"THERE MUST BE SOME INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS OR SOME FORM OF MONITORING BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

THERE WERE A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE WAYS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE. ONE OPTION WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH A UNITED NATIONS MONITORING GROUP TO SUPERVISE THE 50 YEARS OF A "HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY," HE SUGGESTED.

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REPORT OVERLOOKS NEW SITUATION IN HK

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THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT ON HONG KONG FAILS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEW SITUATION IN THE TERRITORY FOLLOWING EVENTS IN CHINA, THE HON DAVID LI TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN ADDITION, THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE NATIONALITY ISSUE WOULD DIVIDE THE SOCIETY, MR LI SAID IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE REPORT.

"WITHOUT SYMPATHY, PERCEPTION, UNDERSTANDING, VISION AND EVEN A SENSE OF REALITY, THE FAC'S REPORT IS VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS.

"THERE ARE A FEW CONSTRUCTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS. BUT THESE ARE OVERSHADOWED BY ARROGANCE AND IGNORANCE," HE SAID.

HE REGRETTED THAT DESPITE PLEAS FROM THE GOVERNOR, FROM THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF OMELCO, AND FROM MEMBERS OF LEGCO AND THE COMMUNITY, THE FAC HAD STILL FAILED TO RECOGNISE HONG KONG'S CASE.

"WE MUST NOT ALLOW BRITAIN TO WASH HER HANDS OF HONG KONG. BRITAIN HAS A MORAL, IF NOT LEGAL, OBLIGATION TO THE PEOPLE OF HER CROWN COLONY. THE WORLD IS WATCHING TO SEE THAT BRITAIN HOLDS TO HER DUTY AND KEEPS HER HONOUR.

"BRITAIN MUST RESTORE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THEIR BIRTHRIGHT AS BRITISH SUBJECTS. THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT OF ABODE IS NOT OVER; IT HAS JUST BEGUN," HE SAID.

MR LI SUGGESTED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD USE ITS TALENT AND RESOURCES TO CONVEY TO THE BRITISH PUBLIC THE DEEP CONCERNS AND FEARS OF ITS PEOPLE SO THAT THE BRITISH PEOPLE WOULD IN TURN CONVINCE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG'S CASE.

/"WE ARE .....

"WE ARE NOT A LIABILITY TO BRITAIN. WE ARE NOT A LIABILITY TO THE WORLD. JUST AS HONG KONG HAS A VITAL ECONOMIC ROLE TO PLAY IN CHINA, SO DO WE HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE WORLD," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG MUST ACCELERATE THE PACE OF DEMOCRATISATION, PROTECT CIVIL LIBERTIES WITH A BILL OF RIGHTS AND EXPAND CIVIC EDUCATION SO THAT ITS PEOPLE COULD FULLY UNDERSTAND THE RIGHTS AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP -- BECAUSE WITHOUT THIS, DEMOCRACY HAD NO FOUNDATION.

"HONG KONG IS OUR HOME. WE ARE UNITED. WE MUST REMAIN UNITED TO PROTECT OUR PAST, OUR PRESENT AND OUR FUTURE.

"WE HAVE SEEN BRITAIN AT HER WORST. BUT BRITAIN HAS YET TO SEE HONG KONG AT OUR BEST," MR LI CONCLUDED.

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#### TIME RIPE FOR A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

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HONG KONG PEOPLE MUST NOW SEEK TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, MAINTAIN THEIR INVESTMENT AIMS RELATED TO LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES IN EDUCATION, TRAINING, HEALTH, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AND IMPROVE THEIR OVERALL INFRASTRUCTURE.

THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH SAID THIS IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE RECENT EFFORTS BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND BY THE TWO SENIOR OMELCO MEMBERS TO CHAMPION THE CAUSE OF THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN HAD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED CONVICTION IN MAINTAINING STABILITY.

MR TAI SAID THE CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE AROSE OUT OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, AND WHILE HONG KONG LOOKED TO THE PARTIES TO THIS DECLARATION TO ACT IN RESTORING CONFIDENCE, IT MUST ALSO ADOPT SUITABLE MEASURES ITSELF.

HE SAID THE FAC REPORT WAS DISAPPOINTING IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT RESPECTS, BUT MANY OF THEIR VIEWS WERE WORTHY OF FURTHER AND CAREFUL STUDY, SUCH AS THE RECOMMENDATION GIVEN ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW AND ON HONG KONG'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE LEADING UP TO 1997.

ON THE NATIONALITY ISSUE, HE THOUGHT THAT INSUFFICIENT WEIGHT AND SUPPORT WAS GIVEN TO THE STRENGTH AND JUSTNESS OF THE CONVICTION THAT THE RIGHT OF ABODE SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY CITIZEN PASSPORT HOLDERS.

HE SAID THE MORAL CASE IN SUPPORT OF HONG KONG PEOPLE'S JUST CLAIM WAS INADEQUATELY PRESENTED IN THE REPORT, AS WELL AS THE RELATED ISSUE OF THE CONFIDENCE FACTOR IN HONG KONG.

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NO TRADE-OFF FOR RIGHT OF ABODE

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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE OF SPEEDIER DEMOCRATISATION IN HONG KONG CANNOT BE A TRADE-OFF FOR THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UK FOR THE PEOPLE HERE IN VIEW OF WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN PEKING SINCE JUNE 4, DR THE HON DANIEL TSE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, DR TSE SAID SINCE HONG KONG COULD NEVER BE A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT STATE, THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT WE COULD MAINTAIN AND DEFEND A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AFTER 1997 UNLESS EITHER OUR NEW SOVEREIGN STATE HAD A GOOD RECORD OF KEEPING ITS WORDS AND PROMISES, OR WE OURSELVES POSSESSED THE GUARANTEE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAFETY MEASURES INDEPENDENT OF THE SYSTEM, A GUARANTEE WHICH THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UK COULD PROVIDE.

"IT IS TRUE THAT WE NEED A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO EXERCISE THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY THAT HAS BEEN PROMISED TO US, BUT IT SHOULD BE UP TO US AS A COMMUNITY TO GAUGE HOW QUICKLY WE CAN MOVE IN THAT PROCESS.

"WE APPRECIATE THE GOODWILL, BUT WE SHOULD NOT BE PUSHED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER," DR TSE SAID.

DR TSE SAW THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT OF ABODE FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE AS "A MATTER OF CARDINAL PRINCIPLE AND JUSTICE", A CAUSE THAT ONE SHOULD PURSUE REGARDLESS OF THE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

"THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD, THROUGH A SERIES OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTS, UNILATERALLY AND SYSTEMATICALLY TAKEN AWAY THE RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS IN HONG KONG WHO WERE ENTITLED TO THEM EITHER BY BIRTH OR THROUGH NATURALISATION.

"IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT OMELCO SHOULD TRY ITS BEST TO CLAIM THEM BACK FOR THOSE WHO WANT THEM," HE SAID.

DR TSE ALSO REFUTED PRESS REPORTS THAT OMELCO MEMBERS WERE NOT UNANIMOUSLY BEHIND THE NATIONALITY CAMPAIGN.

"I FOR ONE, AS A MEMBER FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, SIGNED UP FROM THE VERY BEGINNING TO JOIN THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP TO GIVE SUPPORT TO THE TWO SENIOR MEMBERS DURING THEIR LONDON MISSION," HE SAID, ADDING THAT OTHER MEMBERS FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES HAD WORKED SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE APPOINTED MEMBERS AS A TEAM, REGARDLESS WHETHER THEY HAD SIGNED UP BEFORE.

"TO ME, THIS NOBLE SPIRIT OF WORKING TOGETHER WITHOUT GANGING UP, IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF SPIRIT WE MUST ENDEAVOUR TO FOSTER, AND IS ALSO THE SPIRIT OUR OMELCO COLLEAGUES HAVE ENJOYED MOST OF THE TIME.

"I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THIS IMAGE IS PROPERLY REFLECTED BY THE PRESS," HE SAID.

REPORT FAILS TO ADDRESS HK PEOPLE'S CONCERN  
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THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S REPORT CONTAINS USEFUL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, THE PACE FOR DEVELOPING A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND ON A BILL OF RIGHTS, BUT THE GREATEST OBJECTION IS IN ITS RECOMMENDATION ON THE NATIONALITY ISSUE.

THE HON EDWARD HO SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

MR HO SAID DESPITE THE FAC'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE BRITISH OBLIGATION TO THE TERRITORY, AND ITS ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT BRITAIN MUST FIND WAYS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG IN THE SHORTER TERM, IT FAILED TO ADDRESS THE FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE: TO HAVE THE ASSURANCE OF A SAFE ABODE IN CASE THE WORST SHOULD HAPPEN.

HE SAID THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO MOUNT AN INTERNATIONAL RESCUE OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE IN AN "ARMAGEDDON SCENARIO" AFTER 1997 AND TO GRANT RIGHT OF ABODE TO IDENTIFIED KEY PERSONNEL DID NOT FULFIL THE AIM OF RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG IN THE SHORT TERM.

"THE FORMER IS NEITHER PRACTICAL NOR RE-ASSURING; THE LATTER IS DIVISIVE," HE SAID.

MR HO RECALLED THAT THE FAC MEMBERS HAD, DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING STAGE IN APRIL, MET REPRESENTATIVES FROM HONG KONG PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND EXPRESSED TO THEM TIME AND AGAIN THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTY OF ADMITTING 3.5 MILLION PEOPLE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE COMMITTEE'S POSITION IN JUNE AFTER THE EVENTS IN PEKING HAD NOT CHANGED FROM ITS POSITION DURING ITS FIRST PUBLIC HEARING IN HONG KONG IN APRIL.

"THE POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT POLITICAL DIFFICULTY TRANSCENDED ANY REAL CONSIDERATION OF BRITISH OBLIGATIONS," HE SAID.

"WHAT IS EVEN MORE DAMAGING IS THAT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FAILED TO RECOGNISE THE REALITIES OF THE HONG KONG SITUATION AND THE WISHES OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE: WHICH IS THAT HONG KONG IS THEIR HOME; AND IT WAS PLAINLY WRONG, AND GROSSLY MISLEADING TO ASSUME THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG WOULD BE EMIGRATING TO THE UNITED KINGDOM EVEN IF THEY WERE GIVEN THE RIGHT OF ABODE."

MR HO ALSO SAID THAT THE FAC FAILED TO APPRECIATE THE GRAVITY OF THE CONFIDENCE CRISIS IN HONG KONG IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE EVENTS.

"IN SO DOING, IT FAILED TO PROPOSE ANY REAL MEASURE THAT WOULD PROVIDE THE DESIRED IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF RESTORING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE AND STOPPING THE TIDAL OUTFLOW OF OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSETS: OUR PEOPLE," HE SAID.

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REPORT DOES OFFER SUPPORT FOR HK

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HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE BLIND TO THE FACT THAT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S REPORT DOES INDICATE A MEASURE OF GENERAL, ALBEIT VAGUE, SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG. THE HON MARTIN BARROW SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE FOR US TO LET THE RIGHT OF ABODE SO DOMINATE THE THINKING AND ENERGY OF THE COMMUNITY THAT ALL OTHER ISSUES ARE EXCLUDED," MR BARROW SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE REPORT.

HE SAID THAT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE RIGHT OF ABODE QUESTION WOULD BE, HONG KONG WAS GOING TO NEED RESOLUTE UNITED KINGDOM SUPPORT DURING THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE NOTED, THERE WAS REALLY VERY LITTLE TO ADD TO THE FAC'S PROPOSALS ON THE BASIC LAW. THE PROPOSALS ECHOED ALMOST EVERYTHING WHICH HAD BEEN COVERED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS DURING THEIR RECENT DEBATE ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, HE SAID.

MR BARROW SAID THE FAC'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PREAMBLE, THE INTERPRETATION OF THE BASIC LAW, THE POWERS OF AMENDMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAD ALL BEEN COVERED BY COUNCILLORS IN THEIR DEBATE. HE HOPED CHINA WOULD MAKE CONCESSIONS IN THESE AREAS.

HE ADDED THAT AN ELEGANT SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND WHOSE EFFECT WOULD BE THE STATIONING OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY AT SOME DISTANCE FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, PREFERABLY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER.

ON THE RIGHT OF ABODE ISSUE, MR BARROW SAID HE WAS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED BY THE REJECTION BY THE FAC OF THE REQUEST FOR THE RIGHT OF ABODE FOR ALL HONG KONG BRITISH SUBJECTS.

"IN FAILING TO HELP US STEM THE HAEMORRHAGING OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND MANAGERIAL SECTIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY, THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL BE PLACING AN INTOLERABLE BURDEN ON OUR GOVERNMENT IN ITS DUTY OF ADMINISTERING HONG KONG AND SUSTAINING ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT DESPITE THE STRONG FEELINGS HELD LOCALLY, HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE TO ACT IN A RESPONSIBLE AND DIGNIFIED FASHION.

ON THE SUGGESTION THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING HELP FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN THE EVENT OF A FUNDAMENTAL BREACH OF THE JOINT DECLARATION BY CHINA AFTER 1997, MR BARROW SAID THERE WERE GROUNDS FOR CONTINUING TO PURSUE OTHER AVENUES IF UNCONDITIONAL AND IMMEDIATE RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN CONTINUED TO ELUDE HONG KONG'S BEST EFFORTS.

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ON THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ISSUE, MR BARROW SAID NOTHING COULD BE MORE DAMAGING TO HONG KONG'S PRESENT INTERESTS THAN ILL-CONSIDERED ANTI-VIETNAMESE DEMONSTRATIONS OR THE ABANDONMENT OF THE POLICY OF FIRST ASYLUM.

"AT THIS TIME, WE NEED ALL THE SUPPORT WE CAN GET FROM AROUND THE WORLD. FROM ALL THAT I HEAR, SUCH INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT WOULD BE SHARPLY REDUCED WERE WE TO INITIATE A CHANGE OF POLICY: FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WE WOULD BE ACCUSED OF DOUBLE STANDARDS," HE SAID.

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ILLOGICAL AND SELF-CONTRADICTIONARY REPORT  
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THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S REPORT IS FULL OF ILLOGICALITY AND CONTRADICTIONS AND IT SHOWS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS SHIRKING IN ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, BEHIND A CLUSTER OF WORDS, THE HON DAVID CHEUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE REPORT, MR CHEUNG SAID THE COMMITTEE, WHILE RECOGNISING THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG, HAD FAILED TO RECOMMEND THE PROPER KINDS OF ACTION IN ORDER TO HELP.

"THE GIST OF THE REPORT, IN MY VIEW, IS THAT BRITAIN BE SEEN AS HAVING HELPED HONG KONG SOLVE THE PROBLEM WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY ANY SIGNIFICANT PRICES," HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG WARNED AGAINST FORMING CATEGORIES OF HONG KONG PEOPLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN.

"CATEGORISATION IS DIVISIVE AND DEMORALISING TO THOSE WHO DO NOT GET THE INSURANCE. THE LEADERS OF DIFFERENT FIELDS MAY BE INSTRUMENTAL TO THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, SO ARE THE PEOPLE. DON'T DEMORALISE THEM," HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG ADDED THAT IT WAS UNGENTLEMANLY AND DISHONOURABLE FOR BRITAIN TO WANT TO WAIT UNTIL HONG KONG PEOPLE BECAME REFUGEES BEFORE GIVING ITS HELP.

HE CALLED ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ACT NOW TO RESTORE HONG KONG PEOPLE'S RIGHTS, AND SO GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS MORAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, RESPONSIBLE AND HONOURABLE.

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CONFIDENCE CRISIS REQUIRES RAPID SOLUTION

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HONG KONG'S CURRENT CONFIDENCE CRISIS CANNOT WAIT FOR A SOLUTION. EITHER BRITAIN FINDS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO IT IN THE NEAR FUTURE OR ELSE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL FIND WAYS TO HELP THEMSELVES, THE HON MIRIAM LAU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, MRS LAU SAID THE WHOLE PROCESS OF EROSION OF HONG KONG BRITISH SUBJECTS' NATIONALITY RIGHTS WAS CONDUCTED IN TOTAL DISREGARD OF THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE BY A UK PARLIAMENT IN WHICH HONG KONG HAD NO REPRESENTATION, NO INFLUENCE, NO VOTE AND NO SAY.

SHE SAID THAT THE 1981 NATIONALITY ACT FURTHER RELEGATED THE POSITION OF HONG KONG BRITISH SUBJECTS TO THAT OF SECOND CLASS CITIZENS.

"IS IT NOT MONSTROUSLY UNJUST TO TREAT HONG KONG PEOPLE THIS WAY WHEN THEY HAVE SERVED BRITAIN WELL?"

"IN A POLITICAL EMERGENCY SUCH AS THE PRESENT, IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR RESTORATION OF A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT WHICH OUGHT TO BELONG TO THOSE BORN ON BRITISH SOIL NOT TO MENTION THOSE WHO HAVE FORSAKEN THEIR OWN NATIONALITY TO SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN?" SHE ASKED.

MRS LAU SAID IT WAS APPARENT FROM THE FAC REPORT THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE'S CAREFULLY PREPARED AND SOUNDLY BASED SUBMISSIONS ON THE NATIONALITY ISSUE HAD ALL BEEN CAVALIERLY DISMISSED.

"INSTEAD WHAT WE HAVE IS A MERE ACCENTUATION OF THE ALL TOO WELL KNOWN DIE-HARD BRITISH GOVERNMENT LINE," SHE SAID.

MRS LAU SAID THE FAC HAD REPEATEDLY EMPHASISED IN ITS REPORT THAT BRITAIN HAD A SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO HONG KONG BECAUSE HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE NOT ABLE TO EXERCISE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION.

THE FAC HOWEVER WENT NO FURTHER TO EXPOUND ON THIS SPECIAL OBLIGATION OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT IT HAD BEEN MET BY THE JOINT DECLARATION, SHE SAID.

"THE JOINT DECLARATION PURPORTS TO ASSURE HONG KONG PEOPLE THAT HONG KONG WILL BE A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS PLACE TO LIVE IN BEFORE AND AFTER 1997. AFTER THE RECENT HAPPENINGS IN PEKING HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN NO LONGER BE SO SURE," SHE NOTED.

MRS LAU SAID ALL THE MORE DID WE NEEDED ASSURANCE NOW FROM BRITAIN THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION WOULD WORK, ASSURANCE IN THE FORM OF RESTORATION OF PEOPLE'S FULL BRITISH CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS.

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"THIS MUST PROVIDE THE BEST INCENTIVE TO BOTH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION WILL WORK BECAUSE THEY CAN ILL AFFORD THE CONSEQUENCES IF IT DOES NOT," SHE SAID.

MRS LAU ADDED: "IF THIS SINGLE MOST REASONABLE ASSURANCE CANNOT BE GIVEN, HOW CAN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PROFESS TO MEET ITS SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO HONG KONG? HOW CAN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO TALK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE JOINT DECLARATION? HOW CAN BRITAIN PERSUADE ITS EC PARTNERS AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO JOIN IN PROVIDING THE GUARANTEE?"

BRITAIN MUST ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FIRST BY ISSUING THE INSURANCE POLICY AND SEEKING RE-INSURANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

SHE SAID: "INDEED WE ARE NOT UNAPPRECIATIVE THAT THE SOLUTION TO OUR PRESENT PROBLEM WOULD NECESSARILY INVOLVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WHILST BRITAIN'S CONSTITUTIONAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION IS TO RESTORE FULL BRITISH CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS TO HONG KONG BRITISH SUBJECTS, IT REMAINS BRITAIN'S OVERALL OBLIGATION TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

"IF BRITAIN DOES NOT FEEL ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION, ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES MUST BE SOUGHT BUT BRITAIN MUST TAKE THE LEAD AND TAKE IT NOW," SHE ADDED.

MRS LAU SAID THE FAC REPORT HAD EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS CONCERNING THE INSURANCE POLICY WHICH PEOPLE WERE SEEKING.

"APART FROM THE FACT THAT SUCH MISGIVINGS CLEARLY STEM FROM SELF-PROTECTIONISM AND EGOISM THEY ALSO SHOW HOW PATHETICALLY LITTLE THE FAC MEMBERS REALLY KNOW ABOUT HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE.

"EVEN IF IT WERE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE INSURANCE POLICY TO BE CASHED IN, THE UNLIKELY EXODUS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TO BRITAIN, BRINGING WITH THEM HONG KONG'S TALENTS, RESOURCEFULNESS, INDUSTRIOUSNESS AND PERHAPS EVEN WEALTH, WILL PROBABLY DO BRITAIN A LOT OF GOOD," SHE ADDED.

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CATEGORISATION FOR RIGHT OF ABODE "UNACCEPTABLE"

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CATEGORISATION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN WOULD BE UNFAIR, DIVISIVE, IRRESPONSIBLE AND EVEN DANGEROUS. DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"PERHAPS IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT IT HAS NEVER BEEN THE WISH NOR THE STAND OF OMELCO, AND I AM SURE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TOO, TO CONSIDER, LET ALONE TAKE, CATEGORISATION AS OUR FALL BACK POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF RIGHT OF ABODE," DR LEONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT.

HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN PLENTY OF MENTION THAT SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD BE GIVEN THE RIGHT OF ABODE. THE REASON GIVEN WAS THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO GIVE ASSURANCE TO THESE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY WOULD STAY TO SERVE AND RUN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WAS A NEED TO GIVE THEM AN INSURANCE POLICY.

"IT DOES NOT STAND TO REASON THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT COULD FEEL THE NEED FOR INSURANCE BY SOME AND YET NOT BY OTHERS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

HE SAID SUCH A CATEGORISATION WAS ALSO DANGEROUS.

IN A SITUATION WHERE THERE WERE THE "HAVES" AND THE "HAVE NOTS" OR WHEN IT WAS DECLARED THAT "ALL MEN ARE BORN EQUAL, BUT SOME ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS", DR LEONG FAILED TO SEE HOW THE "HAVES" IN THIS CASE -- SENIOR CROWN SERVANTS -- COULD COMMAND THE RESPECT OF AND TO GOVERN THE "HAVE NOTS" IN THE FUTURE.

"THE RIGHT OF ABODE HAS TO BE CONCEIVED AS AN INHERENT HUMAN RIGHT FOR ALL THOSE BORN OR NATURALISED AS BRITISH SUBJECTS IN HONG KONG OR IN BRITAIN. AS SIGNATORY TO THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES, BRITAIN SHOULD RESTORE THESE RIGHTS TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY STATED THAT IN 24 HOURS CHINA HAD DESTROYED ALL THE GOODWILL SHE HAD CREATED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.

"I WOULD SAY THIS TO HIM: THAT WITH A STROKE OF THE PEN TO DENY HONG KONG BRITISH SUBJECTS THE RESTORATION OF THEIR RIGHT AT THIS POINT OF TIME, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE WIPED OFF THE RESPECT THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE ATTACHED TO HER IN THE LAST CENTURY."

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DEMOCRACY NO SUBSTITUTE FOR RIGHT OF ABODE

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HONG KONG PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO TAKE UP ABODE IN BRITAIN CANNOT BE SUBSTITUTED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN THE TERRITORY AT AN EARLIER DATE. THE HON JAMES TIEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, MR TIEN SAID HE EARNESTLY HOPED BRITAIN WOULD NOT ESCAPE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO HONG KONG BY MEANS OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE.

"FOR THEM, IT IS FAR EASIER TO OFFER THE SHADOW OF DEMOCRACY THAN TO GIVE US THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RIGHT OF ABODE. HONG KONG PEOPLE WANT THE SUBSTANCE, NOT THE SHADOW," HE SAID.

HE ENVISAGED THAT IF THE RIGHT OF ABODE WERE GRANTED, THEN BRITAIN WOULD BE FORCED TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF HONG KONG AS THE PRICE OF "FAILURE" HERE WOULD BE THE PROSPECT OF HAVING SOMETHING BETWEEN THREE TO SIX MILLION HONG KONG EMIGRANTS.

IF, HOWEVER, HONG KONG WERE GIVEN THE VOTE, RATHER THAN THE RIGHT OF ABODE, THEN BRITAIN COULD ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF RELAXING, WHETHER THINGS GO WELL OR ILL.

MR TIEN REGRETTED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD APPARENTLY EVADED HONG KONG'S PROBLEMS AND THAT NO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY COULD BE DETECTED IN ITS REPORT.

EMPHASISING THAT BRITAIN WAS HONG KONG'S SOVEREIGN STATE, HE URGED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOT TO ACCEPT THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS, AND ACT INSTEAD TO SOLVE THE URGENT NEED FOR THE RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

IN MR TIEN'S VIEW, THE ARGUMENT AGAINST GRADUAL CHANGE STILL HELD GOOD AND THE NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE LEGCO MEMBERS REPRESENTING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WAS STILL VERY EVIDENT.

"WHAT HAPPENS IN CHINA, OR INDEED, ELSEWHERE IS NOT ALWAYS RELEVANT TO THE PACE OF POLITICAL CHANGE HERE. CHINA'S PROBLEMS ARE, OF COURSE, OUR PROBLEMS BUT THE SPEED AT WHICH WE MOVE FORWARD IS NOT DETERMINED SOLELY BY EXTERNAL EVENTS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE FATAL FLAWS IN THE FAC'S ARGUMENTS.

MOREOVER, HE BELIEVED ONCE EMOTION HAD SUBSIDED OVER RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA, THEN WE MUST RELATE THE REVIVED BASIC LAW TO THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN HONG KONG AND THE CONCEPT OF CONVERGENCE COULD NOT BE RULED OUT.

CONVINCED THAT THE BRAIN DRAIN WOULD HARDLY BE INFLUENCED BY THE EARLY INTRODUCTION OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE ELECTIONS, HE HOPED THE OMELCO POSITION WHICH SUGGESTED EARLIEST FULL DIRECT ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG BY THE YEAR 2003 WOULD NOT BE HASTILY ABANDONED.

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BRITAIN SHOULD NEGOTIATE A NEW LEASE WITH CHINA

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IF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO PROVIDE HONG KONG PEOPLE WITH A SAFETY NET AGAINST FUTURE DANGER, THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS FOR BRITAIN TO NEGOTIATE WITH CHINA A 10 OR 20 YEAR LEASE OF THE TERRITORY, THE HON ELSIE TU, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, MRS TU SAID CHINA NEEDED TIME TO CONSIDER THE RECENT CATASTROPHE, NEEDED TIME TO RECOVER ECONOMICALLY AS WELL AS POLITICALLY FROM THE MESS INTO WHICH SHE HAD BEEN MINDLESSLY PLUNGED.

"AND HONG KONG NEEDS TIME TO RECOVER FROM ITS TRAUMA AND THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

"NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE THE DECISION. WE MUST NOT DELAY," MRS TU SAID.

SHE SAID THE REPORT DID NOT ADDRESS ITSELF, EXCEPT IN A NEGATIVE WAY, TO THE MAIN ISSUE.

"AND THE MAIN ISSUE IS THAT, NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE CONSTITUTION MAY BE, NO MATTER WHETHER IT IS BACKED UP BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WHATEVER, ALL SUCH ASSURANCES MEAN NOTHING SO LONG AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG IS AT THE MERCY OF A SMALL BUREAUCRACY ACROSS THE BORDER WHICH TAKES LEAVE OF ITS SENSES AND MASSACRES INNOCENT, PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS, AND BRUTALLY DISPOSES OF ITS CRITICS."

MRS TU SAID BOTH SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE EXPRESSED SHOCK AT THE RECENT ATROCITIES IN CHINA.

"SO HOW CAN THEY CONTINUE TO UTTER PLATITUDES ABOUT TRUSTING AN AGREEMENT, UNLESS THEY ALSO PROVIDE A WAY OF ESCAPE TO ASSURE OUR PEOPLE'S SAFETY IN CASE THAT AGREEMENT IS BROKEN?" SHE ASKED.

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CALL FOR RE-EVALUATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON RONALD ARCULLI TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CALLED ON BRITAIN AND CHINA TO RE-EVALUATE PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION WHICH HE BELIEVED TO BE THE KEY TO ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS.

PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE JOINT DECLARATION STATES:

/"THE GOVERNMENT .....

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA DECLARE THAT, DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BETWEEN THE DATE OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THIS JOINT DECLARATION AND JUNE 30, 1997, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG WITH THE OBJECT OF MAINTAINING AND PRESERVING ITS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL STABILITY; AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL GIVE ITS CO-OPERATION IN THIS CONNECTION."

SPEAKING ON THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FAC REPORT, MR ARCULLI SAID: "IT IS MOST INTERESTING, AND PERHAPS IRONIC, THAT CHINA CAN ASK AS MUCH OF BRITAIN AS BRITAIN CAN OF CHINA UNDER PARAGRAPH 4, PROVIDED THE OBJECT OF THE EXERCISE IS THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND THE SOCIAL STABILITY OF HONG KONG."

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THIS CONTEXT, PARAGRAPH 3.6 OF THE FAC REPORT, WHICH RECOMMENDS THAT HONG KONG SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE SECOND AIRPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, DESERVED SOME MENTION.

"IF THE DECISION IS TO GO AHEAD, WOULD IT NOT BE A TANGIBLE SHOW OF BRITISH CONFIDENCE IF BRITAIN WERE TO PARTICIPATE AS A PARTNER AND/OR PROVIDER OF FUNDS IN THIS PROJECT?" HE ASKED.

HE ALSO QUERIED: "HOW CAN THE JOINT DECLARATION BE ENFORCED, AND WHAT IS THE REMEDY IN THE EVENT OF A BREACH? OR ARE WE TO ASSUME, CONTRARY TO WHAT HISTORY HAS TAUGHT US, THAT COUNTRIES DO NOT BREAK INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS."

MR ARCULLI SAID HE WAS SEEKING AN "ABSOLUTE" AND "BULLETPROOF" GUARANTEE FROM BRITAIN, AND HE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS NOT AN UNREASONABLE REQUEST.

ASSUMING THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION REMAINED "THE BEST FOUNDATION OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE", HE ASKED HOW THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD PERSUADE CHINA TO PLAY ITS PART.

"WE AT LEAST KNOW ONE EFFECT THE EVENTS OF JUNE 3 TO 4 IN TIANANMEN HAS HAD : IT SHOOK UP THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, BUT HAS IT WOKEN UP THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT?"

MR ARCULLI DID NOT WHOLLY SUBSCRIBE TO THE VIEW EXPRESSED IN THE FAC REPORT THAT CHINA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CLOSE THE DOOR AGAINST THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

"BRITAIN MAY HAVE SHUT THE DOOR ON HONG KONG BEFORE. LET HER NOT FORGET THAT CHINA COULD DO THE SAME IN 1997," HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF NATIONALITY, MR ARCULLI SAID HE COULD NOT PRETEND THAT HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE PACKAGE RECOMMENDED BY THE FAC.

TRIPARTITE APPROACH TO UPHOLD JD URGED

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NOTHING SHORT OF A TRIPARTITE APPROACH TO UPHOLD THE JOINT DECLARATION COULD SAVE HONG KONG FROM ITS PREDICAMENT, THE HON PETER WONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, MR WONG SAID THE TRIPARTITE APPROACH WAS:

\* CHINA MUST LIVE UP TO ITS PROMISES TO ITS OWN CITIZENS IF THERE WAS TO BE ANY TRUST IN "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS".

\* BRITAIN MUST FULFIL ITS ROLE IN THE JOINT DECLARATION BY AGREEING TO SPEED UP DEMOCRATIC REFORMS AND GUARANTEES OF BASIC RIGHTS IN HONG KONG LEGISLATION.

\* HONG KONG ITSELF MUST WORK HARDER THAN EVER TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS FORMULA WOULD BE IN EVERYBODY'S INTEREST TO WORK ON.

MR WONG SAID THAT ON JUNE 12 HE WROTE TO THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO SAY HE HAD DECIDED TO SUSPEND HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE PENDING THE RECEIPT OF CLEAR SIGNALS FROM CHINA THAT IT WOULD TRULY HONOUR ITS OBLIGATIONS IN THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"I SUGGEST THAT THIS CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING SHOULD BE ADOPTED IN VIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT THE LEGAL DOCUMENT HAS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT HE HAD MADE A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY AMONG ALL MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS ON THE OMELCO CONSENSUS ON THE PACE OF DEMOCRATIC REFORM.

THE SURVEY HAD FOUND THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE RESPONDENTS CONCURRED WITH THE OMELCO CONSENSUS.

MR WONG ALSO SAID THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUP OF THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WAS IN THE PROCESS OF INSTRUCTING TWO LEADING CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYERS OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTE TO GIVE EXPERT OPINIONS ON THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

"I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ASK PEKING FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, NOT ONLY TO MAKE UP FOR THE TIME LOST BY THE MAINLANDERS NOT BEING ABLE TO GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER AS A RESULT OF THE TURMOIL, BUT ALSO FOR US TO EXAMINE IN DEPTH THE IMPLICATION RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA WILL HAVE ON OUR OWN RIGHTS AND SAFETY.

"I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE PROMULGATION OF THE BASIC LAW WILL NOW HAVE TO BE DELAYED," HE SAID.

## CHINA MUST APPRECIATE NEED FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

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CHINA MUST BE URGED TO APPRECIATE THE NEED FOR THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF FULL DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS, AND GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY BY HONG KONG PEOPLE, THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, MR CHENG SAID SINCE THE EVENTS IN PEKING, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD BEEN WELL AWARE OF THE NEED FOR DEMOCRATISATION TO PROGRESS AT A GREATER SPEED.

NOTING THAT THE FAC CONCLUDED ITS REPORT WITH A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL THAT FULL DEMOCRACY IN THE FORM OF UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE BE ACHIEVED BEFORE 1997, MR CHENG SAID IT REMAINED TO BE DECIDED WHETHER THE OMELCO PROPOSAL FOR THE MODEL OF THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD BE REVIEWED.

"OBVIOUSLY THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS IN THE LEGCO TO BE APPROPRIATELY INCREASED IN 1991," HE SAID.

MR CHENG POINTED OUT THAT THE FAC'S VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF THE SAR CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE FOLLOWED THE LINES TAKEN BY MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AND SHOULD THEREFORE WARRANT FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN REVIEWING THE DRAFT BASIC LAW.

IN LIGHT OF THE EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM THE EVENTS IN PEKING, MR CHENG SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO CAREFULLY AND CRITICALLY RE-EXAMINE ARTICLE 18 OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW WHICH RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF RELEVANT NATIONAL LAWS BY CHINA ON THE HONG KONG SAR IN CASE OF WAR, TURMOIL OR EMERGENCY.

"THE PEKING EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE THAT MARTIAL LAW MAY BE DECLARED IN ANY PART OF A CITY OR REGION BY THE STATE COUNCIL IN CASE OF SO-CALLED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE, OR ANYTHING FOR THAT MATTER.

"IT IS THEREFORE TRUE TO SAY THE FEAR OF THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG OF THE IRRATIONAL INTERPRETATION OF ANY SITUATION WITHOUT A LEGAL BASIS IS QUITE OBVIOUS.

"I WOULD GO BEYOND WHAT THE COMMITTEE HAS STATED AND SUGGEST THAT IN THE REVISION, THE STATE OF WAR, TURMOIL OR EMERGENCY BE PRECISELY DEFINED AND THE CONDITIONS FOR DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW, IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, BE CLEARLY SPELLED OUT," MR CHENG SAID.

HE SAID THE FAC'S OBSERVATION ABOUT THE STATIONING IN THE HONG KONG SAR OF MILITARY FORCES SENT BY THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT TALLIED WITH THE GENERAL PERCEPTION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO HAD STRONG FEELINGS AGAINST THE APPEARANCE OF THE PLA IN THE URBAN AREA OR ANYWHERE IN THE REGION.

"THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE AS THEY HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE SCENES AT TIANANMEN SQUARE.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SUCH FEAR MUST BE ALLEVIATED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

MR CHENG AGREED WITH THE FAC'S VIEW THAT RENEGING ON THE JOINT DECLARATION AND BREAKING OFF ALL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE WAS SIMPLY NOT AN OPTION.

"I WOULD ALSO ENDORSE THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION SHOULD REMAIN AS THE BEST TREATY BASE FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND WE MUST CONCENTRATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PROVISIONS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE BASIC LAW," HE SAID.

"COUPLED WITH THE OTHER MAJOR ISSUES OF NATIONALITY AND BILL OF RIGHTS, THE JOINT DECLARATION AND INDEED THE BASIC LAW WILL HOPEFULLY SECURE OUR FUTURE AND CONFIDENCE WHICH HAS BEEN GREATLY LOST AND NEEDS TO BE RESTORED.

"WE HAVE TO FACE THE REALITY AND CONTINUE TO MAKE THE BEST OF OUR EFFORT TO MAINTAIN OUR STABILITY AND PROSPERITY. WE MUST KEEP HONG KONG GOING," MR CHENG CONCLUDED.

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#### COUNCILLOR APPEALS FOR UNITY

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HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD REMAIN UNITED IN SPIRIT IN THE PURSUIT OF THE COMMON GOAL OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" AND "HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG", THE HON ANDREW WONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR WONG WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT.

HE SAID THAT EARLIER HE HAD BEEN VERY MUCH HEARTENED BY THE CONSENSUS OMELCO MEMBERS HAD REACHED TOWARDS THE END OF MAY. BUT THERE NOW APPEARED TO BE CRACKS, AND DIVERGENT VIEWS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED.

HE SAID THE SLOW PROGRESS IN THE PAST TOWARDS DEMOCRATISATION COULD PARTLY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY BEING DIVIDED OR EVEN SPLIT ON THE QUESTION OF DEMOCRATISATION. AND THEREFORE THERE WAS A NEED FOR ALL CONCERNED TO MAIN UNITED.

HE ALSO URGED OMELCO MEMBERS TO RE-EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE.

"WE HAD PREVIOUSLY SETTLED FOR WHAT MIGHT BE TERMED A QUASI-MINISTERIAL SYSTEM. IT IS NOW THAT MORE THOUGHT OUGHT TO BE GIVEN TO A FULL MINISTERIAL SYSTEM," HE SUGGESTED.

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TURNING TO THE FAC REPORT, MR WONG SAID HE WELCOMED THE REPORT, BUT NOT WITHOUT MISGIVINGS.

HE SAID THE REPORT PRESENTED A PACKAGE IN WHICH FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, BETTER HUMAN RIGHTS SAFEGUARDS, SPEEDIER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND A SOLUTION TO THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ISSUE WERE OFFERED AS TRADE-OFF FOR THE DENIAL OF THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"WHAT IS THE USE OF TALKING ABOUT FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WHEN THE ISSUE IS: IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE FAITHFUL," HE QUESTIONED.

HE SAID IT WAS ALSO OF NO USE TO SIMPLY BUILD EXTRA FORTIFICATIONS -- LEGAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, MILITARY, POLITICAL -- IN ADDITION TO POLITICAL ONES, IN THE BELIEF THAT HONG KONG COULD BE SHIELDED FROM INTERFERENCE FROM BEIJING.

"HONG KONG IS NOW A CAPTIVE CITY WITH A CAPTIVE POPULATION, SURROUNDED BY FORTIFICATIONS WHICH CANNOT KEEP THE TANKS OUT BUT WHICH IRONICALLY LOCK THE PEOPLE LIKE PRISONERS IN A GOAL," HE SAID.

ON A SUGGESTION THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION BE RE-NEGOTIATED SO AS TO KEEP CHINESE TROOPS OUT OF HONG KONG, MR WONG SAID HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS THAT CHINA HAD THE RIGHT TO STATION TROOPS IN HONG KONG, BUT IT DID NOT HAVE TO DO IT. IT WAS NOT AN OBLIGATION.

"I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT WE WORK OUT AN ARTICLE IN THE BASIC LAW TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY WILL NOT BE STATIONED IN HONG KONG AND MAY ENTER HONG KONG ONLY IN TIMES OF WAR," HE SAID.

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#### RECOMMENDATION ON ELECTION IRRESPONSIBLE

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THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S SUGGESTION THAT HALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOULD BE DIRECTLY ELECTED IN 1991 IS IRRESPONSIBLE, THE HON NELLIE FONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

CITING THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND DISTRICT BOARDS AS EXAMPLES, MRS FONG SAID OF ALL SUCCESSFULLY DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS, 50 TO 80 PER CENT HAD COME FROM THREE BACKGROUNDS, NAMELY SOCIAL WORKERS, ACADEMICS AND LAWYERS.

"THIS IN NO WAY CAN BE SAID TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE CROSS SECTION OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST OF THIS DYNAMIC INDUSTRIAL/FINANCIAL ECONOMY.

/"IT IS .....

"IT IS AN ABERRATION THAT DERIVES FROM THE USE OF THE DIRECT ELECTION PROCESS IN A COMMUNITY WHOSE STAGE OF POLITICAL MATURITY IS STILL EMERGING," SHE SAID IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE REPORT.

MRS FONG SAID IN THE PAST, BRITAIN NEVER TOOK THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EDUCATING THE HONG KONG PEOPLE TO BE POLITICALLY MINDED. IT HAD NEVER ENCOURAGED PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG.

"THIS WAS BY DESIGN. THEN, DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO ASSUME, THAT, PRACTICALLY OVERNIGHT, WITH INADEQUATE PREPARATION AND IN THE THROES OF A MAJOR CRISES, THE HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN VOTE THE RIGHT PEOPLE INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL?" SHE ASKED.

MRS FONG SAID SHE COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FAC MEMBERS COULD BE SO ILL-INFORMED, OR BE SO FAR OFF TARGET IN THE JUDGEMENTS THEY MADE TO COME UP WITH THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS.

"BUT IF THAT WAS NOT THE CASE, THEN THERE MUST BE ANOTHER EXPLANATION," SHE SAID.

"AM I TO ASSUME THAT PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO WASH THEIR HANDS IN THE MANTLE OF DEMOCRACY THAT THEY KNOW WILL NOT FIT OUR CASE? AM I TO ASSUME THAT THIS WILL SALVE THE CONSCIENCES OF THE BRITISH POLITICIANS," SHE ADDED.

MRS FONG SAID THAT BRITISH PEOPLE WERE HONOURABLE. BUT THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PARLIAMENT WERE MAKING THEM DISHONOURABLE BY NOT TELLING THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT BRITAIN'S OBLIGATION TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

SHE SAID: "ITS OBLIGATION CANNOT BE DEEMED TO CEASE BECAUSE ITS LEASE ON 92 PER CENT OF THE LAND IS EXPIRING. IT CANNOT GOVERN A PLACE FOR OVER 150 YEARS AND THEN SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO GIVE IT AWAY, TOGETHER WITH ITS PEOPLE, AND JUST SEEK GUARANTEES FOR THEM IN THE AGREEMENT.

"HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE NOT CONSULTED ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY CONCURRED. HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE GUARANTEES GIVEN AND IN WHAT BRITAIN IS DOING TODAY," SHE ADDED.

MRS FONG SAID BRITAIN SHOULD TALK STRAIGHT TO EUROPE THAT IT HAS TO OFFER THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO HONG KONG PEOPLE. IT SHOULD ALSO STOP CREATING CONFUSION ABOUT THE NUMBERS BY CONTINUALLY PUTTING THEM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UK.

"EVEN IF ALL WHO WERE GIVEN THE RIGHT WERE TO EXERCISE IT, THE NUMBER WOULD BE MUCH SMALLER WHEN LOOKED AT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE POPULATION OF EUROPE AND THAT IS REALLY WHAT THE ISSUE IS ALL ABOUT," SHE NOTED.

BOAT PEOPLE SQUARELY A BRITISH PROBLEM

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THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE IS A MATTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND, AS SUCH, IT RESTS SQUARELY IN THE COURT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THE HON RITA FAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT. MRS FAN SAID HONG KONG HAD BEEN UPHOLDING BRITISH HONOUR OVER THE PAST DECADE BY ABIDING FAITHFULLY TO THE POLICY OF FIRST ASYLUM, EVEN UNDER THE MOST ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

SHE SAID: "HONG KONG TAXPAYERS HAD SPENT OVER \$2.4 BILLION ON THIS. IRRESPONSIBLE AND IGNORANT CRITICISMS HAVE BEEN SHOWERED UPON HONG KONG. THE DAILY LIFE OF MANY RESIDENTS WAS DISRUPTED.

"WITH A POPULATION DENSITY OF 5,200 PER SQUARE KILOMETRE, WE ARE ALREADY ACCOMMODATING OVER 48,000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE, WITH MORE YET TO COME. THIS IS COMPARABLE TO UNITED KINGDOM, WHICH HAS 230 PER SQUARE KILOMETRE, HAVING TO ACCOMMODATE ONE MILLION PEOPLE."

AGAINST ALL ODDS, MRS FAN SAID HONG KONG WAS STILL OFFERING A SAFE HAVEN FOR THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

"HAVE ANY BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES EVER DONE SO MUCH TO UPHOLD BRITISH HONOUR AND PRINCIPLE? WHAT HAS HONG KONG GOT IN RETURN?" SHE ASKED.

MRS FAN SAID THE PROBLEM OF BOAT PEOPLE HAD ESCALATED SINCE THE FAC TOOK EVIDENCE IN HONG KONG IN APRIL, AND DURING MAY AND JUNE THE MONTHLY ARRIVAL EXCEEDED 9,000.

"NO REPRIEVE IS IN SIGHT FOR JULY AND AUGUST, THE POPULAR SEASON FOR BOAT PEOPLE TO COME INTO HONG KONG WATERS.

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE'S FAILURE TO DEAL WITH VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE REALISTICALLY WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNOR, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION LED BY SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, HAD PUT IN TREMENDOUS EFFORT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO HONG KONG'S PREDICAMENT AND SEEK TO PERSUADE THE AMERICANS AND THE VIETNAMESE, HE SAID.

MRS FAN SAID THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WERE WELCOMED IN HONG KONG BECAUSE IT RECOGNISED THE INEVITABILITY OF THE SCREENING POLICY IN THE FACE OF DECLINING LEVEL OF ACCEPTANCE BY RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES COUPLED WITH THE MASSIVE INFLUX OF BOAT PEOPLE, AND IT ACCEPTED THAT THE LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF A SCREENING PROGRAMME WAS THE REPATRIATION OF THOSE SCREENED-OUT.

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ON THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSALS THAT ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALLOW RETURNING BOAT PEOPLE TO SETTLE DOWN IN VIETNAM AND THAT THE VIETNAM AUTHORITIES MUST DEAL WITH THEM IN A HUMANE WAY, MRS FAN SAID "THE LATTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE POSITION OF OMELCO, AND THE FORMER PROPOSAL, WHICH I TAKE TO MEAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO RETURNEES BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR REINTEGRATION PROPOSES, IS REASONABLE AND RESPONSIBLE."

SHE ALSO NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD RIGHTLY POINTED OUT THAT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT HAVE SOLVED THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM, BUT NOT THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM.

ON HONG KONG BRITISH SUBJECTS' RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, MRS FAN SAID THIS RIGHT HAD BEEN REMOVED BY SUCCESSIVE ACTS OF THE PARLIAMENT, IN WHICH HONG KONG HAD NO REPRESENTATIVE.

"WHEN OMELCO REQUESTED THE RESTORATION OF THAT RIGHT, THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM WAS USED TO UNDERMINE HONG KONG'S CASE," SHE NOTED.

SHE SAID SHE WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY THE ISSUE FOR THOSE WHO GENUINELY MISUNDERSTOOD IT, AND REFUTE THOSE BRITISH POLITICIANS WHO USED INSINUATION TO MISLEAD THE UNSUSPECTING BRITISH PUBLIC FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL ENDS.

MRS FAN SAID BRITAIN WAS HONG KONG'S SOVEREIGN STATE, AND THEREBY HAD A CONSTITUTIONAL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"HONG KONG HAS NO TIES WITH VIETNAM; NOR ANY OBLIGATION TOWARDS VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE," SHE NOTED.

SHE ADDED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND VARIOUS MP'S FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE HOUSE HAD SO FAR REJECTED HONG KONG'S LEGITIMATE REQUEST FOR RESTORATION OF A RIGHT WHICH WAS TAKEN AWAY WITHOUT CONSULTATION NOR COMPENSATION FOR THE INJURED PARTY.

MRS FAN SAID: "RIGHT OF ABODE IS NOT RESTORED DUE TO CLAIMS OF PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES, WHICH ARE MORE IMAGINARY THAN REAL AS SHOWN BY THE CORRY REPORT AND SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY INDEPENDENT ORGANISATIONS.

"IN COMPARISON, HONG KONG HAS ACCEPTED AND CONTINUED TO ACCOMMODATE ALL BOAT PEOPLE IN THE FACE OF IMMENSE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES."

MRS FAN SAID THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WERE TREATED AS ECONOMIC MIGRANTS BY THE RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES, AND HAD NO CHANCE OF RESETTLEMENT IN THE WEST.

"THEY DO NOT WANT TO STAY IN HONG KONG. THEY HAVE NO FUTURE EXCEPT BACK IN VIETNAM. HONG KONG IS LEFT WITH THE BURDEN OF LOOKING AFTER THEM UNTIL THEY CAN RETURN TO VIETNAM UNDER HUMANE CONDITIONS," SHE SAID.

/"IN CONTRAST .....

"IN CONTRAST, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT TO STAY IN HONG KONG. THOSE WHO HAVE MIGRATED STAND TO LOSE IN INCOME, IN SOCIAL STATUS, IN CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND IN BREAKING UP FAMILY TIES.

"FAR FROM BEING ECONOMIC MIGRANTS, THEY BRING IN CAPITAL, PROFESSIONAL AND ENTREPRENEUR SKILLS, AND ARE WELCOMED BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

"THEY ARE FORCED TO LEAVE BECAUSE THEY NEED THE INSURANCE POLICY. IF THEY CAN HAVE THE INSURANCE POLICY WITHOUT LEAVING, WHO WOULD WANT TO LEAVE?

"THERE IS A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VBP AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THE STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN HANOI AND HONG KONG SHOWS THAT DIFFERENCE TO SOME EXTENT," MRS FAN NOTED.

SHE SAID IF BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES WERE SINCERE IN THEIR ACCLAIMED WISH TO SEE DEMOCRACY FLOURISH IN HONG KONG, THEN THEY MUST WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL INCENTIVES TO ENABLE HONG KONG PEOPLE TO REMAIN HERE AND BUILD UP THIS SYSTEM.

"THE TALK OF TREATING HONG KONG PEOPLE AS REFUGEES ONLY ADDS FUEL TO OUR BRAIN DRAIN PROBLEM. AFTER ALL, WE HAVE ALL WITNESSED THE DOUBLE STANDARDS AND COMPASSIONATE FATIGUE OF THESE WESTERN COUNTRIES TOWARDS VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE; WHAT GUARANTEES ARE THERE THAT THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT?

"NO, HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL NOT HANG THEIR HOPES ON EMPTY PROMISES," MRS FAN SAID.

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#### SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO APPROVED ESTIMATES

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A SUMMARY OF ALL CHANGES MADE TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINAL QUARTER OF THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK.

MR NENDICK SAID SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$2,731.7 MILLION WAS APPROVED.

"IT WAS FULLY OFFSET EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME HEAD OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS SUBHEADS.

"THIS INCLUDED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$2,135.9 MILLION FOR THE 1988 PAY ADJUSTMENT AND THE REVISED SALARY SCALES FOR THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES IN RESPECT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS," HE SAID.

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APPROVED NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS WERE INCREASED BY \$35.4 MILLION DURING THE PERIOD, AND NEW NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS OF \$513.7 MILLION WERE ALSO APPROVED.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, A NET INCREASE OF 1,189 POSTS WAS APPROVED.

MR NENDICK SAID ITEMS IN THE SUMMARY HAD BEEN APPROVED EITHER BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY, AND THE LATTER HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE.

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ORDERS ON FEE INCREASES APPROVED  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED TWO ORDERS MADE BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON JUNE 6 CONCERNING INCREASES IN FEES RELATING TO BANKRUPTCY AND COMPANIES WINDING UP PROCEEDINGS.

THEY WERE THE BANKRUPTCY (FEES AND PERCENTAGES)(AMENDMENT) ORDER 1989, MADE UNDER THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE, AND THE COMPANIES (FEES AND PERCENTAGES)(AMENDMENT) ORDER 1989 MADE UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

MOVING MOTIONS THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE ORDERS, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID THE FIRST ORDER INCREASED VARIOUS FEES PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF PROCEEDINGS IN BANKRUPTCY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE INCREASE IN COSTS SINCE THE FEES WERE LAST REVISED.

THE ORDER ALSO PRESCRIBED A NEW FEE PAYABLE FOR INSERTION IN THE GAZETTE OF A NOTICE RELATING TO BANKRUPTCY TO ACCORD WITH A SIMILAR PROVISION IN THE COMPANIES (FEES AND PERCENTAGES) ORDER.

HE SAID THE SECOND ORDER INCREASED VARIOUS FEES PAYABLE IN RELATION TO WINDING UP PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF A SIMILAR INCREASE IN THE COST OF SERVICES.

THE ORDER ALSO PRESCRIBED A NEW FEE IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS FOR RELEASE MADE BY A LIQUIDATOR TO ACCORD WITH A SIMILAR PROVISION IN THE BANKRUPTCY (FEES AND PERCENTAGES) ORDER.

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FULL COST RECOVERY INTENDED  
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THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 PROVIDES FOR RECOVERY OF THE FULL COST INCURRED BY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT IN CARRYING OUT STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

IN ORDER TO EFFECT FULL COST RECOVERY, THE BILL SOUGHT TO INCREASE EXISTING FEES COLLECTED BY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY AND TO INTRODUCE NEW FEES.

THE OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO TAKEN TO STREAMLINE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SETTING FEES RELATING TO COMPANY MATTERS, HE SAID.

"ONE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS IS TO PERMIT FEE SETTING BY A GLOBAL COSTING APPROACH. FEES WILL STILL BE COST-RELATED BUT ON A BROADER BASIS," HE SAID.

"INSTEAD OF A SEPARATE COSTING EXERCISE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL FEE, WHICH IS NEITHER PRACTICAL NOR ECONOMICAL, SERVICES CHARGED BY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY WILL BE GROUPED INTO ONE COST CENTRE.

"THE AGGREGATE VALUE OF THESE FEES WILL APPROXIMATELY COVER THE TOTAL COST OF THIS COST CENTRE."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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NEW ROLE FOR GENERAL MANAGER OF HKEIC PLANNED  
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A BILL PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION TO BECOME THE CORPORATION'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN ADDITION, THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 PROVIDES FOR THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, WHO HAS SERVED AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE SINCE 1985, TO CONTINUE TO SERVE ON THE CORPORATION'S BOARD.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, EXPLAINED THAT THE CORPORATION WAS ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE IN 1977, WITH THE ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN, A CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SEVEN MEMBERS TO THE BOARD.

/NOT MORE .....

NOT MORE THAN FOUR OF THE SEVEN MEMBERS WERE TO BE PUBLIC OFFICERS, AND AT PRESENT THE SEVEN MEMBERS COMPRISED THREE PUBLIC OFFICERS AND FOUR OTHERS.

"AS A RESULT OF A RECENT REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE CORPORATION, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CORPORATION SHOULD TAKE UP THE ROLE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AND THAT THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY SHOULD CEASE TO BE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AS FROM JULY 1, 1989," MR NENDICK SAID.

"HOWEVER, IT IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL THAT THE DIRECTOR SHOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE ON THE BOARD IN ORDER TO PROVIDE INPUT TO THE WORK OF THE CORPORATION."

MR NENDICK SAID IT WAS ALSO CONSIDERED THAT THE BOARD WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE ADDITION OF A FURTHER MEMBER.

"IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE BOARD TO APPOINT THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY AS A MEMBER AND ALSO TO APPOINT ANOTHER MEMBER FROM OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM SEVEN TO NINE, EXCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES SOME MINOR CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO SIMPLIFY THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES IN CARRYING OUT SELECTED FUNCTIONS OF THE CORPORATION."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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STREAMLINING PROCEDURES ON CAPITAL MARKET ISSUES  
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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 IS TO AMEND THE RELEVANT ORDINANCE AND TO STREAMLINE THE PROCEDURES REGARDING ADVERTISEMENTS IN RESPECT OF CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT (CD) AND COMMERCIAL PAPER (CP) ISSUES, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR NENDICK SAID CD AND CP ISSUES FELL WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF INVESTMENT ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO PROVIDE A MEASURE OF PROTECTION TO ORDINARY INVESTORS IN SECURITIES AND OTHER PROPERTY BY REQUIRING THE ADEQUATE DISCLOSURE OF RELEVANT INFORMATION.

"AS THE LAW NOW STANDS, ADVERTISEMENTS IN RESPECT OF CAPITAL MARKET ISSUES MUST BE AUTHORISED BY THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION BEFORE SUCH ISSUES CAN BE MARKETED IN HONG KONG.

/"IN RECENT .....

"IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ADVERTISEMENTS REQUIRING AUTHORISATION. THIS HAS CREATED CONSIDERABLE WORK FOR THE COMMISSION AND HAS LED TO SOME DELAYS IN AUTHORISATION," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK NOTED THAT THERE WAS SCOPE FOR SIMPLIFYING THE PRESENT PROCEDURES WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE PROTECTION OF ORDINARY INVESTORS.

"TO THIS END IT IS PROPOSED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE EXCEPTIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 4(2) OF THE ORDINANCE, ADVERTISEMENTS RELATING TO CD AND CP ISSUES SHOULD BE EXEMPTED AUTOMATICALLY FROM AUTHORISATION, PROVIDED THAT CERTAIN MINIMUM DENOMINATION AND CAPITALISATION TESTS ARE MET.

"IT WOULD BE A REQUIREMENT THAT ALL EXEMPT ISSUES ARE REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION ON A POST FACTO BASIS. ADVERTISEMENTS IN RESPECT OF ISSUES THAT DO NOT QUALIFY FOR SUCH EXEMPTION WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE AUTHORISATION FROM THE COMMISSION IN THE NORMAL WAY," MR NENDICK EXPLAINED.

"CLAUSE 3(1) OF THE BILL EXEMPTS ADVERTISEMENTS IN RESPECT OF THREE MAIN CLASSES OF CAPITAL MARKET INSTRUMENT:

\* FIRST, CD ISSUES BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES LICENSED OR REGISTERED UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE WILL BE EXEMPTED AS THEY ARE ALREADY SUBJECT TO PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING.

SUCH CS'S ARE GENERALLY IN A STANDARD FORM AND READILY RECOGNISED BY INVESTORS. THIS EXEMPTION WILL NOT AFFECT THE PRESENT RESTRICTIONS ON THE TAKING OF DEPOSITS BY LICENSED OR REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES UNDER THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

\* SECONDLY, CD ISSUES BY OVERSEAS BANKS NOT LICENSED IN HONG KONG AND BY SPECIFIED MULTILATERAL AGENCIES (FOR EXAMPLE, THE WORLD BANK AND THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK) WILL BE EXEMPTED SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM DENOMINATION OF HK\$1 MILLION OR EQUIVALENT AND, IN THE CASE OF OVERSEAS BANKS, TO THEIR BEING ADEQUATELY SUPERVISED, IN THE OPINION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, IN THEIR PLACE OF INCORPORATION OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS.

\* THIRDLY, CP ISSUES BY SPECIFIED BODIES (INCLUDING MAJOR PUBLIC LISTED COMPANIES, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES, AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE AND MULTILATERAL AGENCIES) WILL ALSO BE EXEMPTED PROVIDED THAT THERE IS A MINIMUM DENOMINATION OF HK\$1 MILLION OR EQUIVALENT AND THAT, IN THE CASE OF A CORPORATION WITH A SHARE CAPITAL, THE ISSUER OR PARENT COMPANY GUARANTEEING THE ISSUE HAS A MINIMUM PAID-UP SHARE CAPITAL OF HK\$75 MILLION OR EQUIVALENT.

MR NENDICK SAID THE PROPOSED MINIMUM DENOMINATION OF HK\$1 MILLION OR EQUIVALENT WAS INTENDED TO KEEP THESE LAST TWO CLASSES OF INSTRUMENT OUT OF THE HANDS OF ORDINARY INVESTORS.

"THESE INSTRUMENTS ARE FOR THE MOST PART DESIGNED FOR, AND TRADED IN, THE WHOLESALE MARKETS AND THIS IS, I BELIEVE, A NECESSARY SAFEGUARD IF WE ARE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE INVESTOR PROTECTION.

"WHERE IN PARTICULAR CASES A SMALLER DENOMINATION IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE IT WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN TO THE ISSUER TO APPROACH THE COMMISSION TO SEEK EXPRESS AUTHORISATION OF AN ADVERTISEMENT TO THIS EFFECT," HE SAID.

"CLAUSE 4 OF THE BILL SETS OUT THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. ALL EXEMPT ISSUES WILL NEED TO BE REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION WITHIN 10 WORKING DAYS OF THE DATE OF ISSUE.

"THIS IS TO ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARKET. FAILURE TO REPORT AN ISSUE WILL BE AN OFFENCE," MR NENDICK SAID.

NOTING THAT THE OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO BEING TAKEN TO REMOVE AN ANOMALY IN THE ORDINANCE, MR NENDICK SAID CLAUSE 3(4) OF THE BILL MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE EXEMPTION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO PROFESSIONAL PERSONS TO MARKET 'SECURITIES' DID NOT EXTEND TO ANY UNITS IN UNIT TRUSTS OR SHARES IN MUTUAL FUNDS THAT HAD NOT BEEN AUTHORISED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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FINAL SURPLUS FOR 1988-89 STANDS AT \$16,828 MILLION  
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THE FINAL SURPLUS FOR THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR STANDS AT \$16,828 MILLION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS FIGURE COMPARED WITH AN ESTIMATED SURPLUS OF \$16,630 MILLION GIVEN IN THE CONCLUDING SPEECH IN THE BUDGET DEBATE IN MAY, MR NENDICK SAID IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1988-89) BILL 1989.

REPORTING THAT THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR ACCOUNTS HAD BEEN FINALISED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, HE SAID ACTUAL REVENUE AMOUNTED TO \$65,781 MILLION, AND TOTAL EXPENDITURE AMOUNTED TO \$48,953 MILLION.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE BILL, MR NENDICK SAID SECTION 9 OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE STATED THAT "IF AT THE CLOSE OF ACCOUNT FOR ANY FINANCIAL YEAR IT IS FOUND THAT EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO ANY HEAD IS IN EXCESS OF THE SUM APPROPRIATED FOR THAT HEAD BY AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, THE EXCESS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN A SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL WHICH SHALL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO WHICH THE EXCESS EXPENDITURE RELATES".

/MR NENDICK .....

MR NENDICK SAID THE EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO 46 HEADS WAS IN EXCESS OF THE SUM APPROPRIATED FOR THOSE HEADS BY THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 1988.

"THIS IS BECAUSE SUFFICIENT OFFSETTING SAVINGS COULD NOT BE FOUND WITHIN THE HEADS CONCERNED.

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 9 OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE, THIS EXCESS HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1988-89) BILL 1989 NOW BEFORE MEMBERS.

"THE BILL SEEKS TO GIVE FINAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR THE AMOUNT OF SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION APPROVED IN RESPECT OF PARTICULAR HEADS OF EXPENDITURE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER POWER DELEGATED BY IT," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID THE TOTAL NET SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION REQUIRED IN RESPECT OF THE 46 HEADS OF EXPENDITURE WAS \$4,255.1 MILLION.

THIS EXCESS WAS LARGELY ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE 1988 PAY ADJUSTMENT AND THE REVISED SALARY SCALES FOR THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES IN RESPECT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,547.8 MILLION AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$588.1 MILLION.

"OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTORS INCLUDE THE PAYMENT OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S CASH CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE COST OF THE GARRISON IN 1988-89 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,407 MILLION, THE VALUE ADDED TAX AND SALARIES TAX ON ALLOWANCES INCURRED UNDER THE 1981 DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$266 MILLION AND THE EXPENSES IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW STUDENT TRAVEL SCHEME IN THE AMOUNT OF \$247.2 MILLION," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID THE COST OF THE 1988 PAY ADJUSTMENT AND THE CASH CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED AND PROVISION MADE IN THE 1988-89 ESTIMATES UNDER THE "ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS" SUBHEAD.

"SAVINGS WERE ALSO MADE IN OTHER SUBHEADS THROUGH CONTINUED TIGHT CONTROL OVER PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONTROLLING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO RESTRAINT.

"BECAUSE OF THESE SAVINGS AND THE PROVISION MADE FOR ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS, TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR IS WITHIN THE SUM APPROPRIATED IN THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 1988," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO IMPROVE TRUST FUND INVESTMENT OPERATIONS

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO IMPROVE THE INVESTMENT OPERATIONS OF FOUR CHARITABLE TRUST FUNDS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CHARITABLE TRUST FUNDS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1989, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID THE BILL MADE MINOR AMENDMENTS TO FOUR ORDINANCES.

THESE WERE THE SIR ROBERT BLACK TRUST FUND ORDINANCE, LI PO CHUN CHARITABLE TRUST FUND ORDINANCE, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TRUST FUND ORDINANCE AND SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND ORDINANCE.

"ITEM ONE AND TWO OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE BILL AMEND THE SIR ROBERT BLACK TRUST FUND ORDINANCE AND THE LI PO CHUN CHARITABLE TRUST FUND ORDINANCE BY REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO APPROVE INVESTMENTS WHICH ARE NOT AUTHORISED BY THE TRUSTEE ORDINANCE," MR LIAO SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS AMENDMENT ENABLED INVESTMENT DECISIONS TO BE MADE QUICKLY IN CHANGING MARKET CONDITIONS, WHEN INVESTMENTS WHICH WERE NOT TRUST INVESTMENTS WERE TO BE MADE.

HE SAID ITEM THREE SOUGHT TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION ON INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG ON THE SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TRUST FUND AND GIVE THE FUND THE FLEXIBILITY TO INVEST OVERSEAS IN ORDER TO OPTIMISE THE RETURN ON INVESTMENTS.

"THIS AMENDMENT ALSO BRINGS THE ORDINANCE IN LINE WITH OTHER ORDINANCES GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF TRUST FUNDS," HE ADDED.

"ITEM THREE ALSO AMENDS THE SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TRUST FUND ORDINANCE BY SPECIFYING THE TRUSTEE'S POWER TO APPOINT A PROFESSIONAL PERSON OR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO MANAGE THE INVESTMENTS OF THE MONIES OF THE FUND SUBJECT TO THE DIRECTIONS OF THE TRUSTEE, RATHER THAN A BROAD POWER FOR THE PERSON OR INSTITUTION TO ADMINISTER AND MANAGE THE FUND."

ON ITEM FOUR, MR LIAO SAID IT PROVIDED MORE FLEXIBILITY TO THE INVESTMENT OPERATIONS OF THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND ORDINANCE BY EMPOWERING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPOINT A PROFESSIONAL PERSON OR A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO MANAGE THE INVESTMENTS, SUBJECT TO THE DIRECTIONS OF THE BOARD.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MORE FLEXIBLE USE OF TRUST FUND INTENDED

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A BILL WHICH WILL ENABLE A TRUST FUND TO OPERATE MORE FLEXIBLY TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE SECOND READING OF THE LI PO CHUN CHARITABLE TRUST FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 WAS MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO.

MR LIAO SAID THAT UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE THE INCOME OF THE FUND WAS TO BE APPLIED GENERALLY ON A 50-50 BASIS BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

"THE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED 25 YEARS AGO AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN HONG KONG HAVE CHANGED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THEN," HE SAID.

"OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THE ORDINANCE IS BECOMING UNNECESSARILY RIGID WITH REGARD TO THE APPLICATION OF THE INCOME OF THE FUND.

"CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL THEREFORE AMENDS THIS PROVISION BY ALLOWING THE FUND COMMITTEE TO APPLY THE INCOME OF THE FUND FLEXIBLY BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS."

MR LIAO ADDED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE MINDFUL OF THE NEED TO GIVE BALANCED CONSIDERATION TO BOTH PURPOSES.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL WOULD ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO APPLY THE CAPITAL OF THE FUND TO SUCH EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AS IT MIGHT DECIDE, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG.

UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE, MR LIAO SAID, THERE WAS NO PROVISION FOR APPLYING THE CAPITAL OF THE FUND.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1963 WITH A CAPITAL OF ABOUT \$2 MILLION, THE FUND HAD GROWN VERY SUBSTANTIALLY AND NOW HAD A CAPITAL ASSET OF OVER \$170 MILLION, HE SAID.

ITS ANNUAL INCOME HAD ALSO EXCEEDED THE AMOUNT ACTUALLY REQUESTED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

MR LIAO EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW PROPOSALS WOULD THEREFORE EXPAND THE SCOPE OF OPERATION OF THE FUND.

OTHER AMENDMENTS IN THE BILL WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, RATHER THAN CHINESE MIDDLE SCHOOLS ONLY, AS SELECTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

/IT WOULD .....

IT WOULD FURTHER ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO APPLY ANY UNUSED BALANCE OF INCOME AFTER MAKING PROVISIONS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULE TO SUCH OTHER EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, RATHER THAN FOR SCHOLARSHIPS ALONE, AS THE COMMITTEE MIGHT DECIDE.

MR LIAO STRESSED THAT THE FUND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO PRESERVE ITS ORIGINAL OBJECTS AND THE BENEFITS IT OFFERED TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AFTER THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED IN THE BILL WERE MADE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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POLICE LEADERSHIP HAS WORKED HARD TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION

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NO-ONE IS MORE AWARE OF THE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT OF CORRUPTION TO THE POLICE FORCE THAN THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND HIS STAFF, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THEY HAVE CO-OPERATED FULLY WITH THE ICAC AND HAVE ALSO WORKED HARD ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT OVER THE YEARS TO HELP ERADICATE AND PREVENT CORRUPTION IN THE FORCE," HE SAID.

"THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF DESERVE THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE, AND ARE DOING, TO ENSURE THAT THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE REMAINS AN EFFECTIVE AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL FORCE WHICH CAN BE TRUSTED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY WELL," HE ADDED.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU, MR BARNES SAID THERE WERE ESTABLISHED AND WELL USED CHANNELS TO THE POLICE, ICAC, OMELCO AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR REPORTING INFORMATION, MAKING COMPLAINTS OR OBTAINING ADVICE OR CLARIFICATION ABOUT SPECIFIC MATTERS RELATED TO CORRUPTION.

MRS TU HAD ASKED HOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COULD SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT PAST CASES WHICH WERE NOT PUBLICLY DEALT WITH IN THE COURTS WERE SATISFACTORILY INVESTIGATED AND THAT IDENTIFIED CORRUPT POLICE OFFICERS WERE REMOVED FROM THE FORCE.

MR BARNES SAID ONLY THE COURTS COULD DETERMINE WHETHER A POLICE OFFICER ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION WAS GUILTY OF THE OFFENCE.

"IN THIS SENSE NO POLICE OFFICER MAY BE IDENTIFIED AS CORRUPT WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE DUE PROCESS OF LAW.

/"HOWEVER, .....

"HOWEVER, ALLEGED CORRUPTION CASES WHICH HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED MAY NOT COME TO COURT FOR SEVERAL REASONS. SOMETIMES, AFTER INVESTIGATION, AN ALLEGATION IS FOUND TO BE UNSUBSTANTIATED, SO NO FURTHER ACTION IS TAKEN," MR BARNES EXPLAINED.

"OCCASIONALLY, AN INVESTIGATION MAY LEAD TO SUSPICION THAT CORRUPTION IS INVOLVED, BUT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ENABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO AUTHORISE A PROSECUTION.

"IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ACTION MAY, HOWEVER, BE TAKEN UNDER COLONIAL REGULATION 59 TO REQUIRE PERSONS TO RETIRE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ON THE GROUNDS OF STRONG SUSPICION OF CORRUPTION.

"SINCE 1975 SOME 20 POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN COMPULSORILY RETIRED IN THIS WAY," HE SAID.

IN CASES WHERE AN INVESTIGATION DID NOT UNCOVER EVIDENCE OF CORRUPTION BUT REVEALED EVIDENCE OF OTHER TYPES OF MALPRACTICE, THEY WERE REFERRED BY THE ICAC OPERATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND CONSIDERATION OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, MR BARNES SAID.

"ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSIONER IN RELATION TO SUCH CASES RANGES FROM WARNINGS AND FORMAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, TO DISMISSAL AND COMPULSORY RETIREMENT.

"SOME 330 CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE COMMISSIONER OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, INVOLVING 630 OFFICERS, AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION WAS TAKEN IN RESPECT OF 476 OFFICERS," HE SAID.

MR BARNES NOTED THAT A VERY THOROUGH SYSTEM HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AND TO REVIEW CASES WHERE IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT INVESTIGATIONS SHOULD NOT PROCEED.

"THIS SYSTEM IS SOMETHING FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC CAN DERIVE CONSIDERABLE ASSURANCE," HE SAID.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT THE ICAC WAS OBLIGED BY LAW TO INVESTIGATE ALL REPORTS IT RECEIVED OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION PROVIDED THAT THE REPORTS CONTAINED ENOUGH BASIC INFORMATION TO ENABLE AN INVESTIGATION TO BE STARTED.

"MOREOVER, EVEN IN THOSE CASES IN WHICH A DECISION IS MADE NOT TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH THE INVESTIGATION, THE COMMISSION STILL REPORTS TO ITS OPERATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE.

"THIS COMMITTEE INCLUDES MEMBERS FROM OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, AND IT ADVISES ON WHAT FURTHER ACTION MAY BE NECESSARY," HE SAID.

MR BARNES POINTED OUT THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE ICAC, AND OF THE POLICE, HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING THE PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS TO THE ICAC DIRECTED AGAINST THE POLICE HAD DECLINED FROM 1,443 IN 1974 (45 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED), TO 702 IN 1984 (30 PER CENT OF TOTAL COMPLAINTS), AND FURTHER DOWN TO 441 COMPLAINTS (20 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL), IN 1988.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY SAID THIS DOWNWARD TREND WAS CONTINUING AND UP TO THE END OF MAY THIS YEAR, CORRUPTION COMPLAINTS INVOLVING POLICE OFFICERS WERE 11 PER CENT LOWER THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

"IN CONTRAST TO THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS IS THE INCREASING PROPORTION OF COMPLAINANTS WHO ARE PREPARED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES," HE SAID.

"THIS IS OF GREAT HELP TO THE ICAC IN CARRYING OUT INVESTIGATIONS AND IS A SIGN OF INCREASED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM," HE ADDED.

"IN SHORT, THE SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO DEAL WITH CORRUPTION IS WORKING WELL AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM IS HIGH," MR BARNES SAID.

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#### LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AMONG STUDENTS TACKLED

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CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO TACKLE MALADJUSTMENT AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AMONG STUDENTS.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, STATED THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

"ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR PROVIDING MORE RESOURCES IN THIS AREA, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IS NOW STUDYING BEHAVIOURAL AND CURRICULAR PROBLEMS, AND I EXPECT THAT RECOMMENDATIONS RELEVANT TO THIS QUESTION WILL BE MADE IN THE COMMISSION'S NEXT REPORT," MR YEUNG SAID.

DR IP HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING ADDITIONAL STAFF TO SCHOOLS WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF MALADJUSTED CHILDREN SO AS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE REMEDIAL TRAINING AND COUNSELLING TO THESE CHILDREN.

MR YEUNG SAID HE ASSUMED DR IP WAS ASKING ABOUT CHILDREN IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS WHO HAD EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIOURAL AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, RATHER THAN THOSE WITH SPECIFIC PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISABILITIES FOR WHOM SPECIAL EDUCATION MIGHT BE PROVIDED.

"CASES OF MILD MALADJUSTMENT ARE USUALLY DEALT WITH BY THE CLASS TEACHER WITH SUPPORT WHERE NECESSARY FROM SCHOOL-BASED STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS IN THE CASE OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND FROM THE SCHOOL'S GUIDANCE TEAM IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS," HE SAID.

"IN 1982 THE STAFFING RATIO IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WAS IMPROVED TO ALLOW REMEDIAL TEACHING, AND A SENIOR TEACHER POST WAS PROVIDED WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE.

"SINCE 1986, FIVE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO EVERY STANDARD GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL TO STRENGTHEN PASTORAL SERVICES AND TO ENABLE MORE REMEDIAL TEACHING.

"WHERE A PROBLEM CANNOT BE DEALT WITH WITHIN THE SCHOOL, IT CAN BE REFERRED TO PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS, EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLORS OR EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS."

MR YEUNG SAID SEVERE MALADJUSTMENT COULD IMPAIR LEARNING, SO THAT INTENSIVE REMEDIAL TEACHING WAS REQUIRED IN ADDITION TO COUNSELLING.

ANY GOVERNMENT OR AIDED SCHOOL HAVING AT LEAST EIGHT CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES WAS PROVIDED WITH ADDITIONAL STAFF TO UNDERTAKE INTENSIVE REMEDIAL TEACHING IN SMALL GROUPS.

UP TO TWO ADDITIONAL TEACHERS MIGHT BE PROVIDED FOR THIS PURPOSE IN ANY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND UP TO THREE IN ANY SECONDARY SCHOOL.

"GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS HAVING FEWER THAN EIGHT SUCH CHILDREN AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS MAY REFER THESE CHILDREN TO TEACHING CENTRES OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT," HE ADDED.

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#### SPACE POSSIBLE FOR GREENERY IN REDEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CERTAINLY LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE MORE PLANTS AND TREES INCLUDED IN REDEVELOPMENT SCHEMES.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, STATED THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PEGGY LAM.

"THIS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE IN LARGER SCHEMES, SUCH AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES DONE BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND OTHERS.

"BUT TREES AND PLANTS DO NOT NORMALLY PAY FINANCIAL DIVIDENDS, AND IT IS SELDOM PRACTICABLE TO INSIST THAT PEOPLE REDEVELOPING SINGLE SITES SHOULD RESERVE SPACE FOR PLANTS AND TREES, BECAUSE THERE ARE FREQUENTLY NO PLANNING OR OTHER POWERS," MR BARNES SAID.

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ACTION TO MINIMISE EFFECTS AT TAI A CHAU

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ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO MINIMISE THE EFFECTS THAT ACCOMMODATING VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ON TAI A CHAU HAS ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, GAVE THIS ASSURANCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAM WAI-KEUNG.

MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT MARICULTURE AT TAI A CHAU HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE RECENT INCREASE IN WATER TRAFFIC IN THE AREA.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN EXAMINING BOTH THE WATER QUALITY AND ALSO THE FISH BEING CULTURED IN THE TAI A CHAU FISH CULTURE ZONE.

"PRELIMINARY RESULTS SHOW THE OCCASIONAL PRESENCE OF OIL SLICKS ON THE SURFACE AND AN INCREASED TURBIDITY OF WATER CAUSED BY INCREASED MARINE TRAFFIC IN THE VICINITY OF THE ZONE.

"FISH REARED IN CAPTIVITY WERE FOUND TO SHOW SIGNS OF ABNORMAL STRESS SUCH AS A HIGH INCIDENCE OF INFECTION CAUSED BY EXTERNAL PARASITES," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE HONG KONG FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION HAD WRITTEN TO THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES ON THE LOSS OF FISH AT THE TAI A CHAU FISH CULTURE ZONE AND THE DEPARTMENT WAS INVESTIGATING THEIR COMPLAINTS.

"ON COMPLETION OF THESE INVESTIGATIONS, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION AND TO RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE FISHERMEN," HE SAID.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WERE HELD ON TAI A CHAU SOLELY BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUS ACCOMMODATION CRISIS CAUSED BY THE MASSIVE INFLUX OF BOAT PEOPLE INTO HONG KONG THIS SUMMER.

"THE SITUATION AT TAI A CHAU IS FAR FROM IDEAL AND ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

"ALTHOUGH OVER 4,000 BOAT PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN MOVED FROM THE ISLAND, AND THERE ARE PLANS TO MOVE ANOTHER 2-3,000 IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE CONTINUING INFLUX FROM VIETNAM UNFORTUNATELY MAKES IT LIKELY THAT THE ISLAND WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO BE USED IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE," HE SAID.

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THREE BILLS PASSED  
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THREE BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE CONSUMER COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989; AND THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

SIX BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1988-89) BILL 1989; THE CHARITABLE TRUST FUNDS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1989; AND THE LI PO CHUN CHARITABLE TRUST FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

DEBATES ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

TWO MOTIONS, MOVED BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AND THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY, WERE ALSO PASSED.

THE COUNCIL DEBATED A MEMBER'S MOTION CONCERNING THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT ON HONG KONG.

THE MOTION, MOVED BY THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON ALLEN LEE, READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT ON HONG KONG AND URGES STRONGLY THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD URGENTLY TAKE ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE A SAFE AND SECURE FUTURE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE RESTORATION OF FULL BRITISH CITIZENSHIP TO BRITISH SUBJECTS IN HONG KONG".

A TOTAL OF 37 MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT. THE MOTION WAS PASSED.

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FASHION JEWELLERY HAS GREAT MARKET POTENTIAL

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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR MICHAEL SZE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT FASHION JEWELLERY AND ACCESSORIES HAD GREAT POTENTIAL IN THE EXPLORATION OF NEW MARKETS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THIRD WORLD FASHION JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES EXPO AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, MR SZE SAID HONG KONG WAS STILL VERY MUCH DEPENDENT ON A FEW INDUSTRIES, OWING LARGELY TO RESOURCE LIMITATIONS.

"IN VIEW OF GROWING PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENTS IN OUR OVERSEAS MARKETS AND TO ACHIEVE A MORE BALANCED ECONOMY, WE ALL RECOGNISE THE NEED FOR HONG KONG TO DIVERSIFY ITS PRODUCTS AND EXPLORE NEW MARKETS.

"I AM SURE THAT FASHION JEWELLERY AND ACCESSORIES PRESENT GREAT POTENTIAL IN THIS RESPECT," HE SAID.

QUOTING FIGURES, MR SZE SAID HONG KONG WAS BOTH AN IMPORTANT MARKET AND SUPPLIER OF FASHION ACCESSORIES AND JEWELLERY.

IN 1988, HONG KONG'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS REACHED \$6 MILLION AND \$11.3 MILLION RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING A GROWTH OF 42 PER CENT AND 9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER 1987.

MR SZE POINTED OUT THAT IN VALUE TERMS, HONG KONG WAS THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE EXPORTER OF IMITATION JEWELLERY IN 1987.

"THIS VERY IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE STERLING EFFORTS ON THE PART OF BOTH LOCAL MANUFACTURERS AND THOSE ENGAGED IN TRADING AND MARKETING OUR PRODUCTS.

"IT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG IN HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTION," HE SAID.

THE WORLD FASHION JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES EXPO THIS YEAR HAS GATHERED ABOUT 200 EXHIBITORS FROM 20 COUNTRIES AND IS EXPECTING AROUND OF 6,800 VISITORS.

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1987 SURVEY REPORT ON BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND  
REAL ESTATE SECTORS PUBLISHED

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A STATISTICAL REPORT ENTITLED "1987 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS" HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND IS NOW ON SALE AT \$22 PER COPY.

IT IS ONE IN A SERIES OF ANNUAL REPORTS PUBLISHED ANNUALLY ON THE SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS.

/THE REPORT .....

THE REPORT CONTAINS A WIDE RANGE OF STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURAL AND OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS IN THE YEAR 1987, BASED ON THE DATA COLLECTED FROM ESTABLISHMENTS IN THESE SECTORS.

BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS REFER TO THE SECTORS OF:

- \* BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION;
- \* REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT, LEASING, BROKERAGE AND MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES; AND
- \* ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES.

EXAMPLES OF THE STATISTICAL ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ARE:

- \* NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES;
- \* GROSS OUTPUT, SERVICE INCOME AND OTHER INCOME;
- \* VALUE ADDED (A MEASURE OF CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT);
- \* PURCHASES OF GOODS AND MATERIALS;
- \* OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES; AND
- \* GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS.

APART FROM STATISTICS RELATING TO THE YEAR 1987, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS SOME SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1985 AND 1986 TO SHOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE SECTORS IN RECENT YEARS.

THE STATISTICS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT ARE USEFUL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR POLICY FORMULATION, DECISION MAKING, ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND MARKET RESEARCH.

PURCHASES OF THE REPORT MAY BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234977.

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COUNTERFEIT MANUALS, DISKETTES DESTROYED

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THE TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DESTROYED AT THE LAI CHI KOK INCINERATOR ABOUT 160,000 COUNTERFEIT COMPUTER MANUALS AND 53,000 COUNTERFEIT DISKETTES.

THESE MANUALS AND DISKETTES WERE SEIZED FROM COMPUTER SHOPS IN THE GOLDEN SHOPPING ARCADE, SHAM SHUI PO, AND RELATED PRINTING AND BINDING FACTORIES IN A SERIES OF MAJOR RAIDS MADE IN JULY LAST YEAR IN AN OPERATION CODE-NAMED "OPERATION JULY".

THEY WERE CONFISCATED FOR DESTRUCTION BY COURT ORDER AFTER SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS WERE TAKEN OUT AGAINST THE OWNERS OF THE SHOPS AND FACTORIES CONCERNED.

"OPERATION JULY" WAS INITIATED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TO ERADICATE COMPUTER SOFTWARE PIRACY IN HONG KONG AS A RESULT OF COMPLAINTS BY SEVERAL COMPUTER COMPANIES BASED IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN THE OPERATION, OVER 20 COMPUTER SHOPS IN THE GOLDEN SHOPPING ARCADE AND FOUR FACTORIES WERE SEARCHED.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS ALSO FORCED OPEN SEVEN SHOPS AND STORAGE PLACES TO SEIZE COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS.

THEY ARRESTED 40 PERSONS AND SEIZED COUNTERFEIT MANUALS AND DISKETTES WORTH \$15 MILLION.

A TOTAL OF 24 SHOP AND FACTORY OWNERS WERE PROSECUTED, AND CONVICTED. FINES TOTALLING \$393,250 WERE IMPOSED, AND ONE SHOP OWNER WAS SENTENCED TO 10 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT. ALL THE MANUALS AND DISKETTES WERE FORFEITED.

THE HEAD OF THE TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU, MR JOHN LAM, SAID THE OPERATION HAD EFFECTIVELY CONTAINED THE ONCE WIDESPREAD UNLAWFUL SALE OF COUNTERFEIT MANUALS AND DISKETTES IN THE SHOPPING ARCADE.

"THERE MIGHT STILL BE SOME ILLEGAL SUPPLY BUT IT HAS BEEN DRIVEN UNDERGROUND, AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT IS TAKING VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT MEASURES TO PREVENT THE ARCADE FROM FALLING BACK INTO AN ILLEGAL COMPUTER SOFTWARE TRADING CENTRE," HE SAID.

MR LAM WARNED THAT PEOPLE ENGAGED IN ANY SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION, AND FACE A HEAVY PENALTY.

/LAST MONTH .....

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LAST MONTH, A SHOP OWNER AND AN EMPLOYEE IN THE GOLDEN SHOPPING ARCADE WERE FINED \$40,000 AND \$14,000 RESPECTIVELY BY A MAGISTRATE IN NORTH KOWLOON COURT AFTER THEY WERE CONVICTED OF SELLING ONE OFFENDING MANUAL AND SEVEN OFFENDING DISKETTES VALUED AT \$650.

INVESTIGATIONS SHOWED THAT THE SHOP OWNER HAD USED HIS EMPLOYEE TO NEGOTIATE AND ARRANGE THE DELIVERY OF THE INFRINGING ITEMS BY MESSENGER TO THE BUYER, TWO DAYS AFTER AN ORDER WAS PLACED WITH THE SHOP WHICH HAD ONLY GENUINE MANUALS AND DISKETTES ON DISPLAY.

THE BUYER WAS TRACED AND THE ITEMS WERE SEIZED.

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GOOD CITIZENS HONOURED FOR THEIR BRAVERY  
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THE EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY AND INITIATIVE DISPLAYED BY TWO PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS HAVE WON THEM PRAISES AND APPRECIATION AT AN AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TWO CITIZENS, MR AU PAK-WING AND MR AU CHI-MING, WERE AWARDED THE COVETED GOOD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD AT THE GOOD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD AND GOOD CITIZEN AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY TODAY.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WERE A FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBER, MR LEUNG SAU-CHI; THE FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR VINCENT LO; AND THE DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES OF THE POLICE FORCE, MR ERIC MCCOSH AS THE OFFICIATING GUESTS.

TOGETHER WITH THE TWO LATEST GOOD CITIZENS OF THE YEAR, ANOTHER 33 CIVIC-MINDED CITIZENS WERE ALSO HONOURED WITH THE GOOD CITIZEN AWARD FOR THEIR POSITIVE ASSISTANCE IN HELPING THE POLICE TO FIGHT CRIME.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBER MR LEUNG SAU-CHI SAID THE PUBLIC SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION WAS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME.

"IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT ARRESTS MADE BY CITIZENS RECORDED 7.5 PER CENT OF ALL ARRESTS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

"IN RECENT YEARS, PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO CREATE A BETTER AND SAFER LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," MR LEUNG SAID.

/HE POINTED .....

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HE POINTED OUT THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY THAT HONG KONG HAD ACHIEVED COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO MANY ELEMENTS, OF WHICH, A GOOD STATE OF LAW AND ORDER WAS MOST IMPORTANT.

"ALL THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE STRENUOUS EFFORTS BY THE PARTIES CONCERNED INCLUDING THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, DISTRICT BOARDS, DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS AND, OF COURSE, THE POLICE."

MR LEUNG SAID IT WAS THEIR UNDAUNTED DEVOTION THAT HAD BROUGHT HOME THE CRIME PREVENTION MESSAGE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND HAD INSTILLED A STRONG SPIRIT OF CIVIC-MINDEDNESS AMONG THEM WHO HAD EXPRESSED AN INCREASING WILLINGNESS TO COMBAT CRIME.

ON PUBLIC EFFORTS, MR LEUNG EXPRESSED THAT IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO COME FORWARD TO REPORT CRIME.

"IN MANY CASES, THEY HAVE EVEN PUT THEMSELVES IN DANGER TRYING TO ASSIST THE POLICE TO APPREHEND CRIMINALS."

OF THE 35 AWARDEES, MANY ARE YOUNG PEOPLE INCLUDING FIVE UNDER THE AGE OF 21, WITH THE YOUNGEST BEING 17 YEARS OLD. THEY HAVE ALL ASSISTED THE POLICE IN ARRESTING CRIMINALS INVOLVED IN WOUNDING, BURGLARY, THEFT, ROBBERY, LOITERING AND OTHER CASES.

THE AWARDEES, WHO WERE EACH PRESENTED WITH A CERTIFICATE AND A CASH AWARD, COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, COMPRISNG WORKERS, DRIVERS, HOUSEWIVES, BUSINESSMEN, CIVIL SERVANTS AS WELL AS TECHNICIANS.

"WHILE SOME OF THEM OFFERED PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE ARREST OF THE CULPRITS, OTHERS USED THEIR WITS AND RESOURCEFULNESS TO FOIL CRIME," MR LEUNG SAID.

SINCE THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1973, A TOTAL OF 1,998 GOOD CITIZENS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WITH THE COVETED AWARD.

WHILE COMMENDING THE AWARDEES' COURAGE, SHARP OBSERVATION, CALMNESS AND DETERMINATION TO PUT THE EVILDOERS TO JUSTICE, MR LEUNG SAID THEIR BRAVE ACTIONS WOULD SET A FINE EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.

"FIGHTING CRIME IS AN ONGOING BATTLE. BUT AS MORE PEOPLE ARE RESPONDING TO OUR APPEAL TO FIGHT CRIME TOGETHER, A GREATER ADVANCEMENT IS IN SIGHT," MR LEUNG ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1989

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BIG GATHERING FOR AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS PLANNED

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ABOUT 1,800 MEMBERS FROM 89 AREA COMMITTEES IN THE 10 HONG KONG AND KOWLOON URBAN DISTRICTS WILL BE ABLE TO MEET IN NOVEMBER TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE IN SERVING RESIDENTS.

THE GATHERING WILL PROVE TO BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST PUBLIC FUNCTIONS EVER ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SOLELY FOR AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TOLD A SEMINAR FOR WONG TAI SIN AREA COMMITTEES TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE FUNCTION WOULD BE A CLIMAX FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF A SERIES OF "A STEP CLOSER" SEMINARS ORGANISED BY THE CNTA TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH ALL AREA COMMITTEES IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.

"PREPARATION WORK IS WELL IN HAND TO MAKE THE GATHERING A SUCCESS," HE SAID.

MR LAN ADDED THAT THE IDEA OF HOLDING THE GATHERING CAME IN RESPONSE TO SUGGESTIONS MADE BY SOME AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DISTRICT OFFICERS THAT "SOMETHING MEMORABLE SHOULD BE DONE" TO MARK THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERIES.

"THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN HAVING A BIG GATHERING FOR ALL AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO MEET EACH OTHER AND TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH DISTRICT PROBLEMS," HE NOTED.

MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE GATHERING WOULD BE A SLIDE SHOW FEATURING THE DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH OF THE SEMINARS.

ALSO, AREA COMMITTEES FROM EACH OF THE 10 URBAN DISTRICTS WILL PRESENT AN ENTERTAINMENT ITEM TO ADD A LIGHTER TOUCH TO THE GATHERING.

TODAY'S SEMINAR WAS THE NINTH OF THE SERIES, WITH "OUTLOOK FOR CIVIC EDUCATION" AS ITS THEME.

SPEAKING ON THE SUBJECT, MR LAN SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIC EDUCATION REQUIRED IN-DEPTH STUDIES IN MANY AREAS.

CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO A NUMBER OF MAJOR ISSUES. THESE INCLUDED WHETHER CIVIC EDUCATION SHOULD BE MADE A COMPULSORY TEACHING SUBJECT FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND HOW TO PROMOTE IT AT THE CENTRAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS TO TIE IN WITH THE 1991 DIRECT ELECTIONS.

"HOW TO EFFECTIVELY AROUSE THE CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION AND WHETHER BETTER CO-ORDINATION IS NEEDED IN THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION AT VARIOUS LEVELS ARE ALSO MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

/MR LAN .....

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MR LAN ADDED THAT THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND DATA WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, AND IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE CNTA HAD EXPANDED ITS CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCES CENTRE.

LOCATED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW OFFICES IN SOUTHERN CENTRE, WAN CHAI, THE NEW CENTRE HAD BEEN COMPUTERISED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

"AT THE CENTRE, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, SUCH AS PUBLIC CONSULTATION PAPERS AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS.

"THE CENTRE ALSO COLLECTS REPORTS ON CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AND AUDIO-VISUAL PROJECTS ON THE SAME SUBJECT," HE ADDED.

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MONG KOK DB TO DISCUSS TRANSPORT POLICY

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MEMBERS OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY IN HONG KONG AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE FIVE-YEAR URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME (1989-90 TO 1993-94), AND THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH CONCERNS MONG KOK.

A PAPER ON THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY FOR THE "CIVIC TRIANGLE" - AN OPEN SPACE AND SITTING OUT AREA IN THE DISTRICT - WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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KWAI TSING DB TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC CONGESTION  
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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE PARTIAL CLOSURE OF TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL PROPOSE MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND TAI LIN PAI ROAD.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE EFFECTS OF THE REHABILITATION SCHEME IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS ORDINANCE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS AND THE EXTENSION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO MARK III TO MARK VI HOUSING ESTATES AFFECTED BY REDEVELOPMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ESTATE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN  
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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT A PLANNING BRIEF AND A LAYOUT PLAN ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PAK TIN ESTATE FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE BRIEF AND PLAN WERE APPROVED BY TWO COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IN JANUARY AND JUNE RESPECTIVELY.

ACCORDING TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN, PART OF PAK TIN ESTATE, COMPRISING SIX FORMER GOVERNMENT LOW COST HOUSING AND THREE MARK IV TYPE BLOCKS, IS SCHEDULED FOR REDEVELOPMENT AS PART OF THE LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY.

BLOCKS 14, 15 AND 16, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION THIS MONTH UNDER THE EXTENDED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, FORM THE FIRST PHASE OF THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PIPE LEAKAGE AND TERMITE PROBLEMS AT THE PAK TIN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, AND THE PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF THE THA SITE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHEK KIP MEI PARK BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

/OTHER DISCUSSION .....

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS ARE THE NOISE NUISANCE AT THE TUNG CHAU STREET SECTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR AND PAVEMENT OBSTRUCTION PROBLEMS AT SHUN NING ROAD.

MEANWHILE, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WILL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE AIR QUALITY IN SHAM SHUI PO.

MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO RAISE QUESTIONS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF ON-STREET COOKED FOOD STALLS IN THE DISTRICT AND THE REPROVISIONING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LEI CHENG UK AND UN CHAU STREET ESTATES.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO FUND TWO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT -- A WALL MURAL AT PO ON ROAD PLAYGROUND AND PLANTERS AT NAM CHEONG STREET. THE TWO PROJECTS, IF APPROVED, WILL COST THE DISTRICT BOARD \$80,000 AND \$110,000 RESPECTIVELY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, NAM CHEONG STREET.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER FINANCING A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS AND SEMINARS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT, TO BE ORGANISED BY A WORKING GROUP FORMED UNDER THE COMMITTEE, IS TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO AFFECTED TENANTS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR ORGANISING A SEMINAR ON MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, TUNG YAN STREET.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1989

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MUSIC CENTRE ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE WILL LOOK FURTHER INTO THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP A PROVISIONAL MUSIC CENTRE IN THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE ISSUE PREPARED BY A WORKING GROUP FORMED UNDER THE COMMITTEE.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS A SET OF DRAFT REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE FUNDS FOR ORGANISING RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE USAGE PATTREN OF MAJOR RECREATIONAL VENUES, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT IN JULY AND AUGUST, AND A REPORT FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

DB COMMITTEE TO STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND THE MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

ALSO, A MEMBER WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO COME UP WITH MEASURES TO TACKLE THE FLOODING AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS CAUSED BY LAND FILLING IN PING SHA AND HA TSUEN AREA.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1989

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FUN DAY FOR THE ELDERLY IN MONG KOK

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MORE THAN 600 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN MONG KOK WILL BE TREATED TO A FUN DAY AT A SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) MORNING.

SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE AS OLD AS 95 YEARS OLD.

THE FUN DAY WILL BE HELD AT THE MONG KOK KAI FONG ASSOCIATION CHAN HING SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE IN TAI KOK TSUI. THERE WILL BE A VARIETY SHOW COMPRISING CHORAL SINGING, DANCING AND DRAMA PRESENTED BY STUDENTS OF SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

IN RETURN, EIGHT ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL PERFORM CANTONESE OPERA SONGS AS PART OF THE DAY'S ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME.

EACH PARTICIPANT WILL RECEIVE A PRESENT AND A LUNCH BOX WHILE THE TWO OLDEST PERSONS WILL BE GIVEN SOUVENIRS.

THE FUN DAY IS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE MONG KOK KAI FONG ASSOCIATION CHAN HING SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE AND SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION. IT IS SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD.

OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE FUN DAY WILL BE THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS LORNA MA; CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI; AND PRINCIPAL OF SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, DR KONG YUN-FUN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FUN DAY FOR THE ELDERLY IN MONG KOK, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE CHAN HING SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE, 45 FUK TSUEN STREET, TAI KOK TSUI.

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SAI KUNG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TO START ON SATURDAY

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THE 1989 SAI KUNG DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WILL START ON SATURDAY (JULY 8) TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL, SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTHS BETWEEN THE AGES OF SIX AND 25.

AN OPENING CEREMONY, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A VARIETY SHOW, WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM IN THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB SAI KUNG TOWN HALL.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR SZETO WAH; SAI KUNG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS BETTY CHING; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI KUNG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR NG SZE-FUK.

/THE VARIETY .....

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THE VARIETY SHOW WILL INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY A POPULAR SINGING GROUP, THE GRASSHOPPERS, AND OTHER SINGERS, DANCES, DRAMA AND A MAGIC SHOW.

TICKETS FOR THE SHOW ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT \$20 EACH. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-7923240.

THE SAI KUNG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME IS ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD.

OVER 75 ACTIVITIES CARRYING THE THEME OF "SHARE THE FUN, SERVE THE COMMUNITY" ARE BEING ORGANISED BY 22 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

THESE INCLUDE PICNICS, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, WATER SPORTS, VISITS, EXHIBITIONS, CARNIVALS, TRAINING COURSES, FUN DAY FOR CHILDREN AND WORK CAMPS, AND WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER VACATION.

PROGRAMME LEAFLETS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, THE TSUI LAM ESTATE COMMUNITY HALL AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH ORGANISED THE EVENTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY AND VARIETY SHOW OF THE SAI KUNG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM ON SATURDAY (JULY 8) AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB SAI KUNG TOWN HALL, PO TUNG ROAD, SAI KUNG.

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PAT HEUNG FIRE STATION OPENS

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IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE PUBLIC TO HAVE A TEAM OF OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL FIREMEN TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY AT ANY MOMENT AND UNDER ALL KINDS OF WEATHER IN THE EVENT OF FIRE, NATURAL DISASTERS, CALAMITIES AND OTHER EMERGENCIES, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, MR TAI KUEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PAT HEUNG FIRE STATION, MR TAI SAID: "THE COMMISSIONING OF THE STATION HAS GREATLY SHORTENED THE TRAVELLING TIME OF FIRE ENGINES IN RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES IN PAT HEUNG AND KAM TIN AREAS."

HE SAID THAT PRIOR TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATION, FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES IN THESE TWO AREAS WERE PROVIDED BY STATIONS IN YUEN LONG, SHEUNG SHUI AND TAI PO.

/"NOW NOT .....

"NOW NOT ONLY FIRE ENGINES DO NOT NEED TO TRAVEL A LONG DISTANCE TO REACH THESE AREAS BUT NEIGHBOURING AREAS ALSO BENEFIT FROM BY THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THIS FIRE STATION," MR TAI SAID.

IF RESIDENTS NEARBY HAD ANY PROBLEMS CONCERNING FIRE PROTECTION, THEY COULD CONTACT OFFICERS AT THE STATION WHO WOULD BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO OFFER THEIR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, HE ADDED.

LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE PAT HEUNG POLICE STATION AT THE JUNCTION OF KAM TIN ROAD AND FAN KAM ROAD, THE FIRE STATION HAS RESPONDED TO MORE THAN 600 CALLS SINCE ITS COMMISSIONING IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

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RESTAURANTEUR FINED \$20,000 FOR SERVING IMITATION SHARK'S FIN  
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A RESTAURANT OWNER TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BECAME THE FIRST PERSON TO BE PROSECUTED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE FOR SERVING IMITATION SHARK'S FIN.

MR WONG KWONG-KEUNG, A 44-YEAR-OLD PROPRIETOR OF A RESTAURANT AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD, WAS FINED \$20,000 AFTER HE PLEADED GUILTY BEFORE MAGISTRATE R.G. WALTERS IN NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY.

THE COURT WAS TOLD THAT ACTING ON A COMPLAINT, OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU VISITED THE DEFENDANT'S RESTAURANT ON MARCH 2 POSING AS CUSTOMERS. THE OFFICERS ORDERED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESTAURANT'S MENU, A BOWL OF "BRAISED SHARK'S FIN" PRICED AT \$220.

WHEN THE SOUP WAS SERVED, THE OFFICERS IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AND SEALED THE SOUP IN THE PRESENCE OF THE DEFENDANT.

WHEN IT WAS LATER ANALYSED BY THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY, IT WAS FOUND THAT ONLY 20 PER CENT OF THE SOLID MATERIAL IN THE SOUP WAS REAL SHARK'S FIN WHILE THE REST WAS IMITATION SHARK'S FIN.

SOME REAL AS WELL AS IMITATION SHARK'S FIN WERE ALSO SEIZED FROM THE KITCHEN OF THE RESTAURANT.

THE DEFENDANT ADMITTED THAT THE MALPRACTICE BEGAN ABOUT HALF A YEAR AGO AS A MOVE TO CUT COSTS, CITING THAT IT WOULD HAVE COST HIM \$290 TO PREPARE A BOWL OF GENUINE SHARK'S FIN, AS COMPARED TO \$170 TO SERVE A SOUP MIXTURE OF REAL AND IMITATION SHARK'S FIN.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN HUNG HOM TO BE DEMOLISHED  
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO SEEK THE CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN HUNG HOM, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR TO THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED AT FLATS 103, 104 AND 105, FIRST FLOOR, HANG SHAN COURT, 9 KO SHAN ROAD.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THESE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON SEPTEMBER 6 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT IS INTENDED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE OBTAINED.

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TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY ON CONDUIT ROAD  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 7), THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONDUIT ROAD IN THE MID-LEVELS, BETWEEN HOUSE NUMBERS 8 AND 28, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO FACILITATE WATERMAIN LAYING WORKS.

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

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/59 .....

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LONG VEHICLE BAN IN TAI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 7), ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING 11 METRES IN LENGTH WILL BE BANNED FROM ENTERING THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO TAI PO TAU.

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PLB BAN IN TSUEN WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 7), PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER A SECTION OF THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO RIVIERA GARDEN IN TSUEN WAN. THE SECTION IS BETWEEN TEXACO ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 80 METRES TO THE SOUTH.

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RE-ROUTEING OF GOOD SHEPHERD STREET

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT GOOD SHEPHERD STREET IN HO MAN TIN, BETWEEN CHUNG HAU STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES TO THE NORTH, WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 7).

THE RE-ROUTEING WILL IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN THE AREA.

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