



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

MINIMAL COSTS TO GOVT BUILDING EASTERN CROSSING.	1
SPENT CONVICTION SCHEME A 'MODEST' BEGINNING ...	4
BILL REMOVES UNSATISFACTORY BANKRUPTCY PROVISIONS	7
LOOPHOLES IN NT VILLAGE HOUSING LAW BEING CLOSED	9
KWOK AH-NUI'S CASE FOR UMELCO PANEL	10
POLICE TAKING ACTION TO COUNTER BURGLARIES	10
AIM IS COMPREHENSIVE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL	12
SMOKING OFFENCE PENALTIES STILL ADEQUATE	13
GOOD RESPONSE TO SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SCHEME	15
COURTEOUS MTR PASSENGERS CAN EASE RUSH HOUR DIFFICULTY	15
REMOVAL OF MAINTENANCE LIMITS UNDER STUDY	16
FEASIBILITY OF CABLE TV BEING EXAMINED	17
TAXI COMPLAINTS AVERAGE UNDER ONE A DAY	18
ADVICE ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR MINIBUS OPERATORS ...	19
NEGLIGENT OFFICERS FACE PUNISHMENT	20
RENTAL MARKET DEVELOPMENTS CAREFULLY WATCHED ...	21
CALL TO PUNISH PROFITEERING LANDLORDS	22
EXTENSION OF HOUSING SCHEMES URGED	22
/DISRUPTIVE	

DISRUPTIVE CHANGES SHOULD BE AVOIDED	24
STEP-BY-STEP ADJUSTMENT RECOMMENDED	25
NO REASON TO SLOW DOWN RENT DECONTROL MECHANISM	26
PROPOSED RENTAL ADJUSTMENTS +FAIR AND REASONABLE+	27
THREE BILLS PASSED	28
REVISED SCHOOL FEES FROM SEPTEMBER	29
DETAILS OF SCHOOL FEE REVISION	32
CONTRACT AWARDED FOR REPLACEMENT OF FLYOVER	32
RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS FOR APRIL OUT	33
CENTRE TO TRAIN PRECISION TOOL MAKERS SET UP	38
RENT POLICY CONSULTATION PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED	39
MONG KOK DB TO DISCUSS MEDICAL REPORT	39
RAFFLE DRAW FOR HOSPITAL PROJECT	40
PLANTING STARTS TSUEN WAN YOUTH PROGRAMME	41
CONTAINER PARKING SITE TO LET	41
DEMONSTRATION OF NEW HERBICIDE	42
URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS SET UP	42
KING'S ROAD CLOSURE FOR FOOTBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ..	43
FORUM ON PLANNED COMMUNITY THERAPEUTIC CENTRE	43
CLOSURE OF EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH	44

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 1 -

MINIMAL COSTS TO GOVT BUILDING EASTERN CROSSING
* * * * *

THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROJECT WILL BE BUILT AT MINIMAL COST TO GOVERNMENT AND WHEN IT MADE A PROFIT APPROPRIATE DIVIDENDS WOULD ACCRUE TO PUBLIC REVENUE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON HARNAM GREWAL, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ONLY COSTS TO GOVERNMENT WERE THOSE FOR A SMALL ENGINEERING SUPERVISION TEAM, WHICH HAD BEEN SET UP BY THE REDEPLOYMENT WITHIN THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND THE PROVISION OF LAND ON WHICH THE TUNNEL AND THE APPROACH ROADS REST, FOR WHICH ALL CLEARANCE AND COMPENSATION COSTS WOULD BE BORNE BY THE NEW HONG KONG TUNNEL CONSORTIUM, HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING BILL 1986, MR GREWAL SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY STATUTORY BACKING TO THE CIVIL CONTRACT, COVERING IN PARTICULAR THE REGULATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TUNNELS, THE SETTING, REVIEWING AND COLLECTION OF TOLLS, THE CONTROL OF TRAFFIC AND CERTAIN PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE SETTING UP AND CONTROL OF THE COMPANIES HOLDING THE FRANCHISES, INCLUDING THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION IN RESPECT OF THE RAILWAY.

+AS WAS A CONDITION OF THE CIVIL CONTRACT WITH THE CONSORTIUM, IT IS MODELLED ON THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL ORDINANCE BUT IN THE EVENT IT IS RATHER LONGER AND MORE COMPLEX ESSENTIALLY BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO CATER FOR A RAIL TUNNEL IN ADDITION TO A ROAD TUNNEL,+ HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THAT THE BILL HAD 13 PARTS, MR GREWAL SAID THAT PARTS I TO IV DEALT WITH THE LENGTH OF THE FRANCHISES, THE COMPANY STRUCTURE, CAPITALISATION AND DIRECTORS; PARTS V AND VI COVERED THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE, IN PARTICULAR THE POWERS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS CONCERNING STANDARDS AND METHODS; PART VII COVERED THE CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS OF THE ROAD AND RAIL COMPANIES, IN PARTICULAR IN RESPECT OF DEFECTS AND MAINTENANCE.

+IN ESSENCE THE POSITION IS THAT THE COMPANIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMEDY OF LATENT DEFECTS AND WITH RESPECT TO THE IMMERSSED TUBE PORTION OF THE PROJECT THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN THE TUBE IN SOUND CONDITION,+ HE SAID.

PARTS VIII, IX AND X, HE ADDED, PROVIDED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ROAD TUNNEL, FOR BY-LAWS TO BE DRAFTED, FOR TOLLS TO BE CHARGED AND FOR THE PROCESSING OF SUSPECTED TRAFFIC OFFENCES WITHIN THE TUNNEL.

+AS WITH THE PROCEDURE FOR SETTING TOLLS FOR THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, THE INITIAL TOLLS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND ARE RECORDED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE BILL.

/+THEY CAN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 2 -

+THEY CAN ONLY BE ALTERED WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, OR FAILING AGREEMENT, FOLLOWING ARBITRATION,+ MR GREWAL SAID.

PART XI OF THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE RAIL TUNNEL BY THE MTRC WHILE PART XII PROVIDED FOR THE REVOCATION OF THE FRANCHISES, THE KEY POINTS BEING THAT IN THE EVENT OF DEFAULT CREDITORS OF THE COMPANIES WOULD BE GIVEN FIRST OPTION FOR MAKING SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OVERCOMING DEFAULT AND ONLY IN THE EVENT OF THEIR FAILURE WOULD REVOCATION TAKE PLACE.

MR GREWAL SAID THAT THIS DEPARTURE FROM PROVISIONS IN THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL ORDINANCE WAS SEEN AS NECESSARY TO ASSIST IN THE RAISING OF PROJECT FINANCE AND INCREASING THE CONFIDENCE OF POTENTIAL LENDERS.

IN THE FINAL PART OF THE BILL THERE WAS PROVISION FOR APPEAL TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL AGAINST ANY REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY AUTHORITIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE, AND WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSTRUCTION ELEMENTS IN A DISPUTE WITH THE DIRECTOR WHERE FAILURE OF THE APPEAL WOULD PLACE THE COMPANIES IN DEFAULT, THE GOVERNOR WOULD REFER SUCH A DISPUTE TO ARBITRATION.

EARLIER, MR GREWAL TOLD THE COUNCIL THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT AND THE CIVIL CONTRACTUAL ASPECTS OF THE BILL. HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT RELEVANT TO RECORD THAT COMPETITION FOR THIS VITAL NEW LINK IN THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE WAS INTENSE AND THAT THE NEGOTIATED DEAL WAS SATISFACTORY AND BENEFICIAL FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1984 THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL DECIDED THAT THE NEXT HARBOUR CROSSING SHOULD BE A FOUR-LANE ROAD TUNNEL BETWEEN CHA KWO LING IN EAST KOWLOON AND TAI KOO SHING ON THE ISLAND.

IT WAS TO BE FINANCED, CONSTRUCTED AND OPERATED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE EXISTING CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, AND IT WAS FOR CONSIDERATION BY POTENTIAL DEVELOPERS IF A RAIL TUNNEL COULD BE PROVIDED ON THE SAME ALIGNMENT.

+ON APRIL 1, 1985, NINE CONSORTIA OR INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES SUBMITTED PROPOSALS AND IN JULY 1985, AFTER A VERY DETAILED ANALYSIS, THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH A COMBINED ROAD-MTR TUNNEL AND TO INVITE REVISED PROPOSALS FROM A SHORT LIST OF THREE CONSORTIA.

/+AS A

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 3 -

+AS A BASIS FOR THESE PROPOSALS A MORE PRECISE PROJECT BRIEF WAS ISSUED WHICH, INTER ALIA, COVERED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS, LAID DOWN TARGET TOLLS FOR 1989 -- \$10 FOR A PRIVATE CAR= NOTED THAT THE LENGTH OF THE FRANCHISE AND ROYALTY OR EQUITY FOR GOVERNMENT WERE NEGOTIABLE, OFFERED A FIVE-YEAR EXEMPTION FROM PASSAGE TAX, AND, IN RESPECT OF THE RAIL TUNNEL, STIPULATED THAT THE MTRC LEASE PAYMENTS SHOULD NOT BE GREATER THAN THEIR FORECAST NET INCREMENTAL REVENUE AND THAT THERE BE NO CROSS SUBSIDY FROM THE ROAD TUNNEL,+ HE SAID.

ON OCTOBER 1, 1985, REVISED PROPOSALS BASED ON THE PROJECT BRIEF WERE RECEIVED FROM THE SHORTLISTED CONSORTIA AND WERE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL NOVEMBER 3.

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RELATIVE FINANCIAL AND ENGINEERING MERITS OF THE THREE FINAL, NEGOTIATED PROPOSALS INDICATED THAT THE BEST BID WAS THAT FROM THE NEW HONG KONG TUNNEL CONSORTIUM AND FOLLOWING THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, ON DECEMBER 5, 1985, A CONTRACT WAS SIGNED WITH THE CONSORTIUM, ON THE BASIS OF THEIR FINAL PROPOSAL, SUBJECT ONLY TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

MR GREWAL SAID THAT THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY EACH MEMBER OF THE NEW HONG KONG TUNNEL CONSORTIUM, WHO WERE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT.

THE CONSORTIUM HAD FORMED A ROAD COMPANY, THE NEW HONG KONG TUNNEL CO. LTD., TO HOLD THE ROAD FRANCHISE AND A RAIL COMPANY, THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING CO. LTD., TO HOLD THE RAIL FRANCHISE.

+THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS TO MAXIMISE THE BENEFITS FOR THE ROAD USER THROUGH THE LOWEST POSSIBLE TOLLS AND THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TOLL REVIEW MECHANISM.

+IN THIS RESPECT THE CONSORTIUM HAVE AGREED TO THE TARGET TOLL STRUCTURE AND HAVE AGREED TO A TOLL REVIEW PROCEDURE COMPARABLE TO THAT USED IN THE CASE OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.+

OTHER KEY POINTS IN THE ROAD FRANCHISE WERE THAT IT WOULD RUN FOR 30 YEARS FROM THE START OF CONSTRUCTION, AND THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD RECEIVE A TRANSFER OF 5 PER CENT OF THE EQUITY OF THE ROAD COMPANY, AS IT WAS SUBSCRIBED, AND A FURTHER 2.5 PER CENT ON THE OPENING OF TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL TO GIVE A TOTAL OF 7.5 PER CENT.

+ALTHOUGH NOT INCLUDED IN THE BILL, IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED THERE WILL BE NO PASSAGE TAX FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE START OF OPERATIONS.

/+THE ROAD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 4 -

+THE ROAD COMPANY WILL HAVE A CAPITAL OF \$750 MILLION. THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE RAIL FRANCHISE FOR 18-1/2 YEARS FROM THE OPENING OF THE RAIL TUNNEL, TO BE HELD BY THE RAIL COMPANY WITH A CAPITAL OF \$350 MILLION.

+IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE CONSORTIUM MET THE TARGET FOR THE MTRC'S LEASE PAYMENTS AND THESE WILL BE LESS THAN THE PROJECTED NET INCREMENTAL REVENUE. THE CONSORTIUM IS CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION WITHIN 3-1/2 YEARS,+ MR GREWAL SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - O - - - -

SPENT CONVICTION SCHEME A 'MODEST' BEGINNING
* * * *

THE SCHEME PROPOSED BY THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS BILL 1986 IS A MODEST ONE, AND IT WILL ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE TO EXTEND ITS PROVISIONS AT A LATER DATE IF THE MEASURE IS FOUND TO WORK SATISFACTORILY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, HE SAID ANOTHER FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN CONSIDERING AN EXTENSION WOULD BE IF THE PUBLIC SHOWED BY THEIR SUPPORT THAT THEY ACCEPTED THAT THE MEASURE WAS DESIGNED TO BENEFIT BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY AT LARGE.

MR THOMAS SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO ASSIST IN THE REHABILITATION OF THOSE WHO, YEARS BEFORE, HAD COMMITTED A SINGLE MINOR OFFENCE. AT PRESENT, ANY RECORDED CONVICTION, HOWEVER MINOR, REMAINED PERMANENTLY ON RECORD.

+ALTHOUGH AN OFFENDER MAY HAVE SPENT MANY YEARS ENDEAVOURING TO LIVE DOWN HIS PAST, HE WILL ALWAYS RUN THE RISK THAT HE MAY BE ASKED TO DISCLOSE HIS CONVICTION OR THAT IT MAY BE UNNECESSARILY, EVEN MISCHIEVOUSLY, REVEALED IN LATER YEARS, THUS DESTROYING HIS EFFORTS AT REHABILITATION,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL ALLOWED A MINOR CONVICTION TO BE REGARDED AS SPENT AFTER A PRESCRIBED PERIOD AND PREVENTED REFERENCE TO THAT SPENT CONVICTION UNLESS THERE WAS SOME SPECIFIC NEED FOR DISCLOSURE.

/LEGISLATION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 5 -

LEGISLATION TO ACHIEVE SIMILAR ENDS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED ELSEWHERE, NOTABLY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, RECOGNISING THAT IT WAS IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIETY TO OFFER SOME ENCOURAGEMENT TO A PERSON WHO, HAVING BEEN CONVICTED OF A MINOR OFFENCE, THEREAFTER BEHAVED HIMSELF AS A LAW ABIDING CITIZEN FOR A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF YEARS.

MR THOMAS NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN MANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS CALLING FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF SUCH A LEGISLATIVE SCHEME IN HONG KONG. IN DECEMBER 1984 HIS CHAMBERS HAD PUBLISHED A DISCUSSION PAPER WHICH PUT FORWARD A MUCH SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS ACT.

THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PAPER, AND MOST RESPONDENTS WERE IN FAVOUR OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A SPENT CONVICTION SCHEME THOUGH THERE WAS CRITICISM OF SOME OF THE DETAIL CONTAINED IN THE PROPOSAL. A FEW PEOPLE SPOKE STRONGLY AGAINST THE ADOPTION OF ANY SCHEME WHICH WOULD ALLOW AN OFFENDER TO DISGUISE HIS TRUE BACKGROUND.

THEY ARGUED THAT TRUTH SHOULD NOT BE SACRIFICED TO THE SOCIAL GOAL OF REHABILITATION.

+BUT MEMBERS MAY THINK, LIKE THE SCHEME'S SUPPORTERS, THAT THE BALANCE OF INTEREST OF BOTH SOCIETY AND THE OFFENDER LIES IN ALLOWING THOSE WHO ARE GUILTY OF A SINGLE MINOR BREACH OF THE LAW TO LIVE DOWN THAT CONVICTION AFTER A SUITABLE PERIOD HAS ELAPSED,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID HE ACCEPTED THE POINT THAT LAPSE OF TIME ALONE MIGHT NOT BE AN ENTIRELY CERTAIN INDICATION THAT AN OFFENDER HAD GONE STRAIGHT. BUT IT DID AT LEAST PROVIDE A SIMPLE TEST WITHOUT THE NEED FOR COSTLY AND CUMBERSOME ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.

THE SCHEME NOW PROPOSED HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE BROADLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJORITY OF THOSE COMMENTING ON THE PAPER. +I RECOGNISE THAT IT IS STILL A MODEST SCHEME BUT I BELIEVE IT IS RIGHT TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY AND THIS IS A REAL STEP FORWARD,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THE ESSENCE OF THE SCHEME WAS THAT ANY FIRST OFFENCE FOR WHICH THE OFFENDER WAS SENTENCED TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5 000 SHOULD BECOME SPENT AFTER A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS HAD ELAPSED WITHOUT THE OFFENDER BEING CONVICTED AGAIN IN HONG KONG OF ANY OFFENCE.

+SENTENCES OF IMPRISONMENT FALL OUTSIDE THE SCHEME. SO, OF COURSE, DO DEATH SENTENCES AND I SHALL BE MOVING A MINOR AMENDMENT AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE TO MAKE THAT CLEAR.+

/THE RESULT

THE RESULT WOULD BE THAT ONCE A CONVICTION HAD BECOME SPENT, AND AS LONG AS THE OFFENDER WAS NOT CONVICTED AGAIN FOR ANY OFFENCE, EVIDENCE OF THE CONVICTION WOULD NOT GENERALLY BE ADMISSIBLE IN COURT. THE OFFENDER WOULD NOT NEED TO DISCLOSE IT IN ANSWER TO ANY QUESTION, AND IT WOULD NOT BE A LAWFUL GROUND FOR PREJUDICE IN RELATION TO EMPLOYMENT.

THE SCHEME WOULD BE LIMITED TO A CONVICTION IN HONG KONG, AND CONVICTIONS IN A FOREIGN COURT WERE LEFT OUT OF ACCOUNT ALTOGETHER.

HE SAID: +I SHOULD STRESS THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL WILL NOT, INDEED CANNOT, AFFECT THE REQUIREMENTS OF DISCLOSURE IMPOSED BY FOREIGN LAWS ON HONG KONG CITIZENS WISHING TO EMIGRATE. REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE FULL DISCLOSURE OF ALL CONVICTIONS ARE IMPOSED BY THE COUNTRY OF THE INTENDED DESTINATION, NOT BY HONG KONG. A PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANT WILL, IF ASKED, HAVE TO REVEAL HIS CONVICTION WHETHER OR NOT IT IS CONSIDERED SPENT IN HONG KONG IF THE FOREIGN LAW REQUIRES HIM TO GIVE A TRUTHFUL ANSWER.

+I KNOW THAT SOME WHO RESPONDED TO OUR ORIGINAL DISCUSSION PAPER HOPED WE COULD ASSIST THOSE SEEKING TO EMIGRATE. BUT HONG KONG LEGISLATION CANNOT CHANGE IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY FOREIGN STATES. IT IS TO BE HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THIS BILL, OVERSEAS AUTHORITIES WILL ORDINARILY OVERLOOK A MINOR CONVICTION WHERE IT HAS OCCURRED SOME TIME PREVIOUSLY.+

MR THOMAS SAID THE SCHEME WAS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS. FIRSTLY, IT ALLOWED A COURT TO HEAR ABOUT A SPENT CONVICTION WHERE IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT JUSTICE WAS DONE, AND ALSO WHEN SENTENCING AN OFFENDER.

SECONDLY, THE SCHEME WOULD NOT APPLY TO THOSE IN CERTAIN PROFESSIONS OR PUBLIC OFFICES WHERE THE PUBLIC HAD A RIGHT TO EXPECT THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROBITY. +IN THESE CASES IT IS REASONABLE THAT FULL DISCLOSURE OF ALL PAST MISDEMEANOURS SHOULD BE MADE,+ HE SAID.

NOR WOULD THE SCHEME APPLY TO ANY PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO A PERSON'S SUITABILITY TO BE GRANTED ANY LICENCE, PERMIT OR DISPENSATION OR TO BE REGISTERED UNDER ANY LAW. +THE SCOPE OF THIS EXCLUSION IS WIDE AND WILL, FOR INSTANCE, MAKE FULL DISCLOSURE A REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A TEACHER, AS WELL AS APPLICATION FOR A HAWKER'S LICENCE,+ HE NOTED.

/MR THOMAS

MR THOMAS SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH CONCERN, ESPECIALLY ON THE PART OF THE POLICE, THAT THOSE CONVICTED OF TRIAD RELATED OFFENCES SHOULD NOT BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME. ACCORDINGLY, THE UNUSUAL STEP HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PRESENT A BILL THAT OFFERED TWO OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL.

+THE FIRST OPTION IS TO EXCLUDE TRIAD RELATED OFFENCES UNDER THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE FROM THE REHABILITATION SCHEME ALTOGETHER. THE SECOND OPTION IS TO ALLOW A TRIAD RELATED OFFENCE TO BECOME SPENT ONLY IF THE OFFENDER HAS RENOUNCED HIS CONNECTION WITH TRIAD SOCIETIES...+

THE SECOND OPTION WAS AN IDEA THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL IN THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT DOCUMENT ON THE TRIAD PROBLEM.

FINALLY, MR THOMAS SAID, THE BILL PROPOSED TO AMEND THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE TO REMOVE THE POWER OF A MAGISTRATE NOT TO RECORD A CONVICTION AFTER FINDING A MINOR CHARGE PROVED.

HE SAID: +THE PURPOSE OF NOT RECORDING A CONVICTION WHEN THERE HAS BEEN A CONVICTION IS NOT ALTOGETHER EASY TO FOLLOW, ALTHOUGH IT WAS PROBABLY INTENDED TO HELP AN OFFENDER PUT MINOR CONVICTIONS BEHIND HIM, AS SUCH, THIS BILL OFFERS A MORE RATIONAL APPROACH. THE BILL WILL REQUIRE THE MAGISTRATE TO RECORD A CONVICTION IN SUCH A CASE.

+BY SO DOING, IT WILL ENSURE THAT A COURT IN SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS WILL BE FULLY APPRISED OF THE OFFENDER'S BACKGROUND AND WILL NOT WRONGLY TREAT HIM AS A FIRST OFFENDER. EQUALLY, IT WILL BECOME A SPENT CONVICTION AFTER THREE YEARS IN THE SAME WAY AS ANY OTHER ELIGIBLE CONVICTION. THIS AMENDMENT TO THE LAW HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE JUDICIARY.+

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS AJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL REMOVES UNSATISFACTORY BANKRUPTCY PROVISIONS
* * * * *

THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 SEEKS TO ALTER THOSE PROVISIONS OF THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE WHICH HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE UNSATISFACTORY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE CONTAINED PROVISIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS FROM BEING A FUTILE EXERCISE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE EXISTING SECTIONS 9(3) AND 10(1) OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, THE COURT MIGHT 'DISMISS A BANKRUPTCY PETITION IF IT IS SATISFIED THAT THE ASSETS FOR DIVISION AMONG THE UNSECURED CREDITORS, AFTER PAYMENT OF ALL COSTS, CHARGES, EXPENSES AND PREFERENTIAL DEBTS, ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO PAY A 15 PER CENT DIVIDEND.'

+UNDER THE EXISTING SECTION 33(1), THE COURT MAY, ON THE SAME GROUND AND ON THE APPLICATION OF ANY PERSON INTERESTED, ANNUL AN ADJUDICATION ORDER IN BANKRUPTCY.+

HOWEVER, MR JACOBS SAID THE '15 PER CENT DIVIDEND' PROVISION HAD BEEN UTILISED BY UNSCRUPULOUS DEBTORS TO SEEK TO AVOID THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

HE SAID IN THE PAST TWO YEARS NUMEROUS BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS HAD BEEN OPPOSED AND APPLICATIONS FOR ANNULMENT HAD BEEN MADE BY DEBTORS PLEADING THAT THEIR ASSETS WERE INSUFFICIENT TO PAY A 15 PER CENT DIVIDEND.

+IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT THE CONCEPT OF A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF DIVIDEND IS TOO RIGID,+ HE ADDED.

+FURTHERMORE, IT IGNORES THE BROADER OBJECTIVES OF THE LAW RELATING TO BANKRUPTCY.+

MR JACOBS SAID MUCH OF THE COURT'S TIME COULD BE WASTED IN DETERMINING WHETHER DEBTORS FELL WITHIN THE 15 PER CENT PROVISION, THUS ALLOWING INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF OTHER MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS SUCH AS THE REASONS FOR BANKRUPTCY, THE POSSIBILITY OF FRAUD, AND THE REHABILITATION OF THE BANKRUPT.

IN ORDER TO REMEDY THE UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION, THE BILL PROPOSED TO REMOVE THE 15 PER CENT DIVIDEND PROVISION FROM SECTIONS 9 AND 10 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE SO THAT A PETITION COULD NOT BE DISMISSED ON THIS GROUND ALONE, HE SAID.

+THE COURT'S POWER UNDER SECTION 33 TO ANNUL THE ADJUDICATION SHOULD BE PRESERVED AND EXTENDED TO RESCISION OF A RECEIVING ORDER BUT IN FUTURE THIS POWER MAY BE INVOKED ONLY BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND NOT BY A DEBTOR,+ HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

LOOPHOLES IN NT VILLAGE HOUSING LAW BEING CLOSED

* * * * *

A BILL TO REPEAL LEGISLATION ON VILLAGE HOUSES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, TO RECTIFY DEFECTS AND LOOPHOLES, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE (APPLICATION TO THE NEW TERRITORIES) BILL 1986, SAID THE BILL WAS INTENDED TO REPLACE THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE (APPLICATION TO THE NEW TERRITORIES) ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS WHICH HAD NOT PROVED SATISFACTORY.

THE PRESENT ORDINANCE, HE TOLD THE COUNCIL, DID NOT SPECIFY THAT EXEMPTIONS FROM THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS APPLIED ONLY TO INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS UNDER THE SMALL HOUSE POLICY, WITH THE RESULT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF BUILDINGS ERECTED BY NON-INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS HAD ALSO BEEN EXEMPT.

SECONDLY, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NEVER INTENDED, SITE FORMATION AND DRAINAGE WORKS HAD BEEN AUTOMATICALLY EXEMPT BECAUSE TERMS SUCH AS 'BUILDING WORKS' WERE LOOSELY DEFINED.

+THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS BILL IS TO RECTIFY THE DEFECTS AND LOOPHOLES IDENTIFIED IN THE CURRENT LEGISLATION,+ HE SAID.

CLAUSE FIVE OF THE BILL SPECIFIED THAT AS A PREREQUISITE FOR EXEMPTION, THE BUILDING MUST BE BUILT BY AN INDIGENOUS VILLAGER.

OTHER STRUCTURES WHICH WOULD ALSO BE EXEMPT WOULD BE THOSE ERECTED BY BONA FIDE ORGANISATIONS FOR COMMUNITY USE, STRUCTURES ERECTED ON AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES AND SMALL TEMPORARY DOMESTIC STRUCTURES FOR WHICH PERMISSION TO REBUILD HAD BEEN GIVEN.

MR CHAN SAID THAT TO ENSURE SITE FORMATION AND DRAINAGE WORKS WERE NOT AUTOMATICALLY EXEMPT, THE TERM 'BUILDING WORKS' HAD BEEN MORE PRECISELY DEFINED AND CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION WOULD BE ISSUED SEPARATELY FOR SITE FORMATION AND DRAINAGE WORKS TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF VILLAGERS.

HE SAID THE OPPORTUNITY HAD ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO INCREASE THE PERMITTED HEIGHT OF VILLAGE HOUSES FROM 7.62 METRES (25 FEET) TO 8.23 METRES (27 FEET) TO ENABLE THREE-STOREY HOUSES WITH REASONABLE CEILING HEIGHT AND VENTILATION TO BE BUILT.

+VILLAGE HOUSES ALREADY BUILT TO THE NEW HEIGHT BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THIS NEW ORDINANCE WILL BE DEALT WITH ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS BY THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS,+ MR CHAN SAID.

LETTERS OF TOLERATION WOULD BE ISSUED AND A TOLERATION FEE LEVIED ACCORDING TO THE DEGREE OF CONTRAVENTION, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$10 000.

+IF THE VILLAGER IS ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE BUILDING COMPLIES IN ALL RESPECTS WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW ORDINANCE, NO PENALTIES WILL BE CHARGED,+ HE SAID.

KWOK AH-NUI'S CASE FOR UMELCO PANEL
* * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE'S REVIEW OF THE CASE OF KWOK AH-NUI WOULD BE PUT TO THE UMELCO PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS MAKING STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE OF KWOK AH-NUI, ON WHICH HE ANSWERED A QUESTION IN THE COUNCIL ON MAY 14.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE HON Y.F. HUI HAD PROPOSED THAT WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE'S REVIEW OF THE CASE WAS COMPLETED IT SHOULD BE PUT TO THE UMELCO PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES, WHICH WOULD STUDY THE REPORT IN DETAIL AND IF NECESSARY HAVE A SESSION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE PANEL WOULD THEN MAKE KNOWN ITS VIEWS ON THE CASE, THUS ASSURING THE PUBLIC OF AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE CASE OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, MR HUI HAD PROPOSED.

HAVING SPOKEN TO DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, THE CONVENOR OF THE WELFARE PANEL, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PANEL THE REVIEW BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE AS WELL AS A REVIEW BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES ON THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF THE CASE.

+CERTAIN PARTS OF THESE REVIEWS DEAL WITH ASPECTS OF THE CASE WHICH IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER TO DISCLOSE TO THE PUBLIC, SUCH AS THE MEDICAL REPORTS ON MRS WONG'S CONDITION AND OTHER PERSONAL DETAILS,+ HE SAID.

+WE SHALL BE ASKING THE PANEL TO TREAT THESE MATTERS AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL,+ HE ADDED.

FOLLOWING THE EXAMINATION OF THE REPORTS BY THE UMELCO PANEL, A FULL STATEMENT ON THE CASE WOULD BE MADE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID.

--- 0 ---

POLICE TAKING ACTION TO COUNTER BURGLARIES
* * * *

THE POLICE ARE TAKING ACTIVE STEPS TO COUNTER THE INCREASE IN BURGLARIES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR, MR THOMAS SAID POLICE PATROLS WERE BRIEFED TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO BUILDINGS WITH SCAFFOLDING, WHICH WAS A FAVOURITE METHOD OF ILLEGAL ENTRY.

/CARETAKERS AND

CARETAKERS AND WATCHMEN WERE VISITED BY POLICE PATROLS AND URGED TO REPORT ANY INFORMATION ON SUSPICIOUS PERSONS IMMEDIATELY VIA THE 999 SYSTEM.

+THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IS BEING INTRODUCED IN CENTRAL DISTRICT, AT PRESENT FOUR BUILDINGS ARE TAKING PART AND OTHERS ARE BEING ACTIVELY CANVASSED BY POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS AND CRIME PREVENTION OFFICERS, WHO ARE ALSO ON HAND TO GIVE ADVICE ON SECURITY MEASURES,+ HE SAID.

+THE BEST DEFENCE IS PROPER SECURITY MEASURES BOTH BY OWNERS OF THE BUILDINGS AND BY THE TENANTS+.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GROUND FLOORS OF BUILDINGS MUST BE SECURED WITH REGULAR PATROL OR SURVEILLANCE OF CORRIDORS, LIFTS AND PASSAGeways.

PREMISES SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO PROPER SECURITY MEASURES INCLUDING GOOD QUALITY LOCKS AND ALARM. VALUABLES SHOULD NOT BE LEFT IN INSECURE OFFICES OVERNIGHT.

MR THOMAS SAID: +INCREASING BURGLARIES OF COMMERCIAL PREMISES IS A WORRYING PHENOMENON NOT ONLY IN HONG KONG BUT ALSO IN OTHER PLACES SUCH AS BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.+

HE SAID COMMERCIAL PREMISES WERE A TEMPTING TARGET. AFTER OFFICE HOURS, THEY MIGHT OFFER A LARGE NUMBER OF UNOCCUPIED OFFICES AND A SUITABLY LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME FOR BURGLARS TO OPERATE UNDISTURBED.

OFTEN THE BURGLAR'S LIFE WAS MADE EVEN EASIER BY POOR SECURITY OR EVEN A TOTAL LACK OF SECURITY PROVISIONS, EITHER FOR THE BUILDING IN GENERAL OR FOR PARTICULAR OFFICES.

MR THOMAS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE NUMBER OF REPORTED BURGLARIES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT INCREASED FROM 109 CASES TO 171 CASES IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS THIS YEAR COMPARED TO THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1985, GIVING A RISE OF 57 PER CENT.

+THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE RISE IN BURGLARIES IN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FROM 29 CASES TO 109 CASES,+ HE SAID.

+BURGLARIES OF SHOPS ALSO ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY WITH SEVEN ADDITIONAL CASES, TO A TOTAL OF 18, WHILE CASES INVOLVING RESIDENTIAL PREMISES FELL FROM 56 TO 36 CASES.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RISE IN REPORTED BURGLARIES IN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WAS DISTORTED BY THE INCIDENCE OF MULTIPLE BURGLARIES.

TWENTY SEPARATE COMPANY OFFICES ON A SINGLE FLOOR OF A BUILDING MIGHT BE BROKEN INTO ONE NIGHT BY ONE BURGLAR OR GANG OF BURGLARS AND THEY WOULD BE RECORDED AS 20 SEPARATE BURGLARIES.

IN JANUARY TO APRIL THIS YEAR, THERE WERE THREE CASES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT OF MULTIPLE BURGLARIES IN WHICH FIVE OR MORE PREMISES WERE BROKEN INTO.

THESE THREE CASES ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR 40 OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED BURGLARIES AND THERE WERE NO SUCH MULTIPLE BURGLARIES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1985.

+SO THE RISE, WHILE SERIOUS, IS NOT QUITE AS DRAMATIC AS MIGHT FIRST APPEAR,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AIM IS COMPREHENSIVE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM IS TO MOVE TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL, AND CONSULTATION ON THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN LATER THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHUNG-KWONG, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT KWUN TONG WOULD BE ONE OF THE FIRST TWO AIR CONTROL ZONES TO BE DECLARED.

HE SAID THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT MONITORED THE AIR QUALITY IN THE DISTRICT FROM A STATION INSTALLED ON THE ROOF OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING.

THE RELEVANT AIR QUALITY PARAMETERS WERE MEASURED CONTINUOUSLY, AS WERE WIND SPEED AND DIRECTION. THE RESULTS OF THESE MEASUREMENTS WERE COMPARED WITH THE AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE.

+IN 1985-86, THE AMOUNTS OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE, TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (OR DUST) AND NITROGEN DIOXIDE WERE ALL IN EXCESS OF THE PROPOSED OBJECTIVES ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

THE HIGH LEVEL OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE DETECTED IN THE AIR WAS A RESULT CHIEFLY OF THE COMBUSTION OF SULPHUR-BEARING FUEL OIL BY INDUSTRY IN THE AREA.

/+FOLLOWING

+FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, THE MAJOR OIL SUPPLYING COMPANIES IN HONG KONG HAVE AGREED TO REDUCE THE SULPHUR CONTENT OF FUEL OIL FROM THE PREVIOUS RANGE OF 2.8 TO 3.5 PER CENT BY WEIGHT TO AN AVERAGE OF 2.5 PER CENT, WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1986,+ HE SAID.

+PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR THE INSTALLATION AND ALTERATION OF FURNACES, OVENS AND CHIMNEYS IN FACTORIES, AND IN EXERCISING THESE CONTROLS CARE IS TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE EMISSION OF POLLUTANTS IS KEPT TO A MINIMUM,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT AS HIGH TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATE CONCENTRATIONS OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AND NOT JUST IN KWUN TONG, OTHER PLANS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT INCLUDED REDUCTION OF THE EMISSION OF DUST TO THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGH THE PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE LEASE CONDITIONS TO CONTROL SITE FORMATION WORKS AND THE OPERATION OF CEMENT BATCHING PLANTS.

+CONTROLS ON PARTICULATE EMISSIONS FROM STATIONARY SOURCES, SUCH AS THE CASTLE PEAK AND LAMMA POWER STATIONS, HAVE BEEN AGREED FOLLOWING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT,+ HE SAID.

+MEASURES ARE BEING DEVELOPED TO CONTROL DUST GENERATED BY CONSTRUCTION AND RECLAMATION WORKS, AND A NEW SCHEME FOR TAKING ACTION AGAINST SMOKING VEHICLES HAS RECENTLY BEEN ENDORSED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.+

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE HIGH LEVELS OF NITROGEN DIOXIDE WERE A RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENON IN HONG KONG. THE EXACT CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM WAS UNCLEAR AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WAS STILL INVESTIGATING THE MATTER.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

SMOKING OFFENCE PENALTIES STILL ADEQUATE
* * * * *

IN 1984 AND 1985 THE GOVERNMENT RECEIVED 228 AND 250 REPORTS RESPECTIVELY ABOUT SMOKING IN NO-SMOKING AREAS AND THE FINE IMPOSED IN MOST CASES RANGED FROM \$100 TO \$200, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT UNDER THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) ORDINANCE, SMOKING WAS PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC LIFTS, SINGLE DECK PUBLIC LAND TRANSPORT VEHICLES OTHER THAN TAXIS, TRAINS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES, AND THE LOWER DECKS OF DOUBLE-DECK PUBLIC LAND TRANSPORT VEHICLES.

/+IN ADDITION,

+IN ADDITION, NOT LESS THAN 50 PER CENT OF EACH CLASS OF SEATING ACCOMMODATION IN OTHER TYPES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES SUCH AS FERRIES AND TRAINS AND IN CINEMAS, THEATRES, AND CONCERT HALLS MUST BE SET ASIDE AS NO-SMOKING AREAS,+ HE SAID.

+WHEN THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN 1982, THE EXTENT OF NO-SMOKING AREAS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WAS DETERMINED HAVING REGARD TO THE FACT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION WERE NON-SMOKERS.+

CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO GIVEN TO PUBLIC OPINION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NO-SMOKING AREAS, TO THE PRACTICABILITY OF DIVIDING A PLACE OR VEHICLE INTO SMOKING AND NO SMOKING SECTIONS, AND TO ENFORCEMENT DIFFICULTIES, HE SAID.

+THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARE STILL VALID.+

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR SMOKING IN A NO-SMOKING AREA WAS \$1 000, WHILE THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY OR GIVING A FALSE NAME OR ADDRESS WAS \$3 000.

+THESE PENALTIES APPEAR TO BE ADEQUATE AT PRESENT, BUT THE NEED TO RAISE THEM AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE WILL BE KEPT IN MIND,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE INITIATIVE IN TAKING ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST PEOPLE WHO SMOKED IN NO-SMOKING AREAS RESTED MAINLY WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC PLACE OR TRANSPORT SERVICE CONCERNED.

+THEY WERE GIVEN POWERS UNDER THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER TO CEASE SMOKING, AND IF HE FAILS TO DO SO, TO REQUIRE HIM TO GIVE HIS NAME AND ADDRESS AND TO PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY.+

HE SAID: +ASSISTANCE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR THE POLICE.+

+THE MANagements CONCERNED WERE INFORMED OF THE POWERS VESTED IN THEM BY THE ORDINANCE, THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENFORCEMENT AND THE ASSISTANCE THEY COULD OBTAIN FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BY A CIRCULAR LETTER ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 1983.

+A SIMILAR CIRCULAR LETTER WILL BE ISSUED SHORTLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON ANTI-SMOKING THIS YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

GOOD RESPONSE TO SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SCHEME
* * * * *

THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SCHEME HAS MET WITH A GOOD RESPONSE FROM HEADS OF SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG, MR CHAMBERS SAID ACCORDING TO A NUMBER OF SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN RECENT YEARS, THE SERVICE HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL IN HELPING SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH A VARIETY OF SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS.

+IT HAS ALSO HELPED TO RELIEVE HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS OF SOME OF THE WORK INVOLVED IN DEALING WITH BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS,+ HE ADDED.

THE SURVEYS HAD ALSO INDICATED AREAS IN WHICH THE SERVICE COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED.

+IN THE LIGHT OF COMMENTS MADE BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, A WORKING GROUP WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THE VOLUNTARY WELFARE SECTOR AND SCHOOLS HAS BEEN SET UP TO REVIEW THE SERVICE AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ITS LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

+THE WORKING GROUP HAS MET FOUR TIMES AND IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT A REPORT LATER THIS YEAR.+

HE SAID THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SERVICE WAS DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY AND HELP PUPILS WHO HAD PROBLEMS IN THEIR ACADEMIC, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TO ASSIST PUPILS TO MAKE THE MAXIMUM USE OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL AND TO PREPARE THEM FOR RESPONSIBLE ADULT LIVING.

THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS IN 1978, AND AT PRESENT THE SERVICE COVERED ABOUT 462 000 PUPILS IN 487 SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND 410 000 PUPILS IN 796 PRIMARY SCHOOL SESSIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COURTEOUS MTR PASSENGERS CAN EASE RUSH HOUR DIFFICULTY
* * * * *

MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PASSENGERS CAN HELP EASE THE DIFFICULTY OF GETTING OFF DURING RUSH HOURS BY EXERCISING A LITTLE COURTESY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON HARNAM GREWAL, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR GREWAL SAID AS WITH OTHER MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, THE MTR WAS SUBJECTED TO HEAVY DEMAND DURING PEAK HOURS.

/+THE DIFFICULTY

+THE DIFFICULTY PASSENGERS EXPERIENCE IN ALIGHTING FROM MTR TRAINS DURING RUSH HOURS STEMS PARTLY FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS A MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM CARRYING A LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS IN EACH CAR AND PARTLY FROM CAR EXITS BEING BLOCKED BY PEOPLE ANXIOUS TO GET ON BOARD,+ HE SAID.

+THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND HAS PURSUED VARIOUS MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION,+ HE ADDED.

THE CORPORATION HAD CARRIED OUT, FROM TIME TO TIME, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS TO PROMOTE COURTEOUS BEHAVIOUR THROUGH TELEVISION AND PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS, POSTERS AND NOTICES.

+AT ALL BUSY STATIONS DURING PEAK HOURS, ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE MADE BY STATION STAFF TO REMIND PASSENGERS WAITING ON PLATFORMS TO ALLOW THOSE ON BOARD INCOMING TRAINS TO ALIGHT BEFORE GETTING ON THEMSELVES.

+PASSENGERS ON TRAINS BETWEEN STATIONS ARE ADVISED OVER THE INTERNAL SPEAKER SYSTEM WHAT THE NAME OF THE NEXT STATION IS SO THAT THEY MAY POSITION THEMSELVES NEAR A DOOR IF THEY SHOULD WISH TO ALIGHT.+

MR GREWAL SAID THE CORPORATION WOULD CONTINUE WITH THESE VARIOUS MEASURES AND OTHERS THAT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE.

+BUT PASSENGERS THEMSELVES CAN HELP EASE THE SITUATION BY EXERCISING A LITTLE COURTESY AND ALLOWING THOSE WISHING TO ALIGHT TO DISEMBARK FIRST,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REMOVAL OF MAINTENANCE LIMITS UNDER STUDY
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONSIDERING AMENDMENTS TO THE SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE ORDERS AND THE AFFILIATION PROCEEDINGS ORDINANCE TO REMOVE THE FINANCIAL LIMITS ON THE AMOUNT OF MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS GRANTED UNDER THEM.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+THE WHOLE MATTER IS DUE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS MONTH, WHEN THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THE LIMITS WILL BE CANVASSED FULLY,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

/IN EXPLAINING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 17 -

IN EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THESE LIMITS, MR THOMAS SAID SUCH LIMITS DATED BACK TO A PERIOD IN ENGLAND AND WALES WHEN THE JURISDICTION WAS EXERCISED BY LAY MAGISTRATES.

+THE CONCEPT OF A STRICTLY LIMITED JURISDICTION EXERCISABLE BY MAGISTRATES WITHOUT LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS IS, OF COURSE, NOT RELEVANT TO HONG KONG WHERE MATTERS UNDER BOTH ORDINANCES ARE HANDLED BY THE DISTRICT COURT,+ HE SAID.

HANSARD DID NOT DISCLOSE ANY DISCUSSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE FINANCIAL LIMITS WHEN THE SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE ORDERS AND THE AFFILIATION PROCEEDINGS ORDINANCE WERE ENACTED IN 1935 AND 1971 RESPECTIVELY, HE SAID.

+ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WITH HAVING LIMITS IS THAT IF THEY ARE TO BE SUFFICIENTLY HIGH ENOUGH TO ENABLE JUSTICE TO BE DONE IN ALL CASES, THEY MAY RAISE EXPECTATIONS UNDULY IN THE EVERYDAY CASE,+ HE ADDED.

THERE WAS NO REASON IN LAW WHY THE ASSESSMENT OF MAINTENANCE UNDER BOTH ORDINANCES COULD NOT BE LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT, LIKE APPLICATIONS UNDER THE MATRIMONIAL PROCEEDINGS AND PROPERTY ORDINANCE, MR THOMAS SAID.

+IN ALL CASES THERE WILL BE OF COURSE THE USUAL RIGHTS OF APPEAL,+ HE ADDED.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT MAINTENANCE ORDERS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS ORDINANCE WERE AT PRESENT SUBJECT TO A LIMIT OF \$500 PER WEEK IF MADE IN THE DISTRICT COURT, ALTHOUGH NO LIMIT APPLIED TO PROCEEDINGS TRANSFERRED TO THE HIGH COURT, AS THEY COULD BE AT THE OPTION OF EITHER PARTY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FEASIBILITY OF CABLE TV BEING EXAMINED

THE ADMINISTRATION IS STUDYING IN DETAIL THE OVERALL FEASIBILITY OF CABLE TELEVISION IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF TECHNOLOGY THAT MAY BE USED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, SIR DAVID SAID THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY HAD SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO OPERATE A CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE IN HONG KONG.

+SINCE THEN, OTHER COMPANIES HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN OPERATING A CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 18 -

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID HE HOPED TO SEEK IN THE NEAR FUTURE ADVICE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON WHETHER AND IN WHAT FORM CABLE TELEVISION SHOULD PROCEED.

+ONCE THAT ADVICE IS OBTAINED WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONSIDER ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN GREATER DETAIL.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT HE COULD NOT AT THIS STAGE SAY WHEN CABLE TELEVISION WOULD BEGIN OPERATION BECAUSE +EVEN AFTER POLICY APPROVAL HAS BEEN OBTAINED FOR CABLE TV TO BE ESTABLISHED, LEGISLATION WILL HAVE TO BE INTRODUCED BEFORE AN OPERATOR CAN BE LICENSED TO PROVIDE A CABLE TV SERVICE.+

+IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR THE LICENSEE TO LAY ON THE NETWORK BEFORE ANY PROGRAMME CAN START TRANSMISSION,+ HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID HE UNDERSTOOD ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF A CABLE TELEVISION WAS THAT A WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMMES COULD BE PROVIDED TO CATER FOR MINORITY INTERESTS.

+CERTAINLY, THE POSSIBILITY OF SHOWING PROGRAMMES ON CURRENT AFFAIRS AND HOME EDUCATION COURSES WILL BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE LICENCE CONDITIONS ARE DRAWN UP,+ HE NOTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TAXI COMPLAINTS AVERAGE UNDER ONE A DAY
* * * *

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT TAXI MALPRACTICES MADE TO THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT AVERAGES LESS THAN ONE A DAY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR THOMAS SAID COMPLAINTS WERE GENERALLY MADE EITHER TO THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT OF THE TRANSPORT BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT OR DIRECT TO THE POLICE.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT IN THE THREE YEARS BETWEEN OCTOBER 1982 AND SEPTEMBER 1985 NUMBERED 199, 106 AND 84 RESPECTIVELY.

THESE INVOLVED, IN TOTAL FOR THE THREE YEARS: NON-ADHERENCE TO DIRECT ROUTE, 36; CONDUCT OF DRIVER, 65; FAILURE TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGER, 125; AND OVERCHARGING, 163.

/MR THOMAS

MR THOMAS SAID STATISTICS OF THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS MADE DIRECT TO THE POLICE WERE NOT READILY AVAILABLE. BUT RECORDS WERE AVAILABLE OF THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS RESULTING FROM SUCH COMPLAINTS, AND THESE SHOWED THAT THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 163 PROSECUTIONS IN 1983, 180 IN 1984, AND 272 IN 1985.

THESE INVOLVED, IN THREE YEAR TOTALS: REFUSING HIRE, 218, REFUSING TO DRIVE TO THE REQUIRED DESTINATION, 151= NON-ADHERENCE TO DIRECT ROUTE, 127= AND OVERCHARGING, 71. TAXIMETER OFFENCES ACCOUNTED FOR 48 PROSECUTIONS IN 1985.

+THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS DOES NOT SEEM TO CALL FOR ANY EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES,+ MR THOMAS SAID. +THERE ARE 16 678 LICENSED TAXIS IN HONG KONG OPERATING VIRTUALLY 365 DAYS AND NIGHTS A YEAR.+

NEVERTHELESS, VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT ACTION WOULD CONTINUE, HE SAID.

+AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS ARE ALSO PLANNED. THESE WILL ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO SPECIFY IN GREATER DETAIL THE DESIGN, CONTENT AND POSITIONING OF FARE PLATES IN TAXIS.+

HE SAID THIS PLATE WOULD PROVIDE TAXI PASSENGERS WITH CLEARER INFORMATION ABOUT TAXI FARES AND WOULD ALSO SHOW THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

ADVICE ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR MINIBUS OPERATORS
* * * * *

GREEN MINIBUS OPERATORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FORMALISE THEIR BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR PARTNERS THROUGH THE FORMATION OF PROPERLY INCORPORATED COMPANIES, TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF PARTNERSHIP DISPUTES OCCURRING TO A MINIMUM, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON HARNAM GREWAL, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR GREWAL SAID IN THE EVENT THAT A PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE SHOULD ARISE, LEADING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A PROLONGED DISRUPTION OF SERVICE, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS TO MINIMISE THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO THE PUBLIC.

THIS COULD BE DONE EITHER BY ARRANGING FOR ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES SUCH AS FRANCHISED BUSES TO BE AUGMENTED FOR THE PERIOD REQUIRED OR BY GRANTING A TEMPORARY LICENCE TO ANOTHER GREEN MINIBUS OPERATOR TO PROVIDE AN EMERGENCY SERVICE, OR BY PURSUING BOTH THESE COURSES OF ACTION AS NECESSARY.

AT JUNE 30 THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 1 056 GREEN MINIBUSES IN OPERATION ON 137 APPROVED ROUTES, HE SAID.

+DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY TWO INCIDENTS OF A GREEN MINIBUS SERVICE BEING DISRUPTED AS A RESULT OF EXPIRED VEHICLE OR SERVICE LICENCES,+ HE NOTED.

+THE UNDERLYING CAUSE IN BOTH CASES WAS AN INTERNAL PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE AMONG THE OPERATORS CONCERNED. THE INCIDENTS WERE BOTH SHORT IN DURATION HAVING BEEN RESOLVED WITHIN A DAY EACH AND DISRUPTION IN SERVICE WAS THEREFORE LIMITED.+

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD NORMALLY REMIND A GREEN MINIBUS OPERATOR TO RENEW HIS PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE WELL BEFORE ITS EXPIRY DATE EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OPERATOR TO ENSURE TIMELY RENEWAL OF HIS LICENCE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEGLIGENT OFFICERS FACE PUNISHMENT
* * * * *

A CIVIL SERVANT WHOSE NEGLIGENCE HAD CAUSED FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT EITHER BE SURCHARGED OR SUBJECTED TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AND PUNISHMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU WONG-FAT, SIR DAVID SAID IF THE NEGLIGENCE CONSTITUTED A PRIME FACIE CASE OF MISCONDUCT, DISCIPLINARY ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE OFFICER.

+IF MISCONDUCT IS PROVED, THE OFFICER WILL BE PUNISHED WHICH WILL USUALLY INCLUDE A FINE, A DEFERMENT OF AN INCREMENT OR A STOPPAGE OF INCREMENT TO REFLECT GOVERNMENT'S LOSS,+ HE ADDED.

+IF THE OFFICER'S NEGLIGENCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE MISCONDUCT, HE MAY BE SURCHARGED BY GOVERNMENT TO RECOVER THE VALUE OF THE LOSS TO GOVERNMENT.+

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THAT IN THE PAST THREE FINANCIAL YEARS, THERE WERE NINE DISCIPLINARY CASES OF MISCONDUCT DEALT WITH BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH INVOLVING FINANCIAL LOSSES TO GOVERNMENT.

IN FIVE OF THESE, THE OFFICERS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT AND PUNISHED.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, FIVE OFFICERS WERE SURCHARGED FOR FINANCIAL LOSSES SUFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR NEGLIGENCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 21 -

RENTAL MARKET DEVELOPMENTS CAREFULLY WATCHED

* * * * *

SINCE THE LANDLORD AND TENANT LEGISLATION WAS COMPREHENSIVELY REVIEWED IN 1981, THE GOVERNMENT HAS WATCHED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RENTAL MARKET VERY CAREFULLY AND SINCE 1983 HAS CARRIED OUT A FULL REVIEW ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON JOHN TODD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+THIS PRACTICE WILL CONTINUE AND I CAN ASSURE MEMBERS THAT THE POINTS WHICH THEY HAVE MADE TODAY WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID IN WINDING UP DEBATE ON THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986.

MR TODD SAID LANDLORD AND TENANT LEGISLATION WAS, BY ITS NATURE, COMPLEX AND , IF IT WAS TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES IT MUST BALANCE THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT TENANTS COULD ENJOY A FAIR RENTAL SYSTEM WITH ADEQUATE SECURITY OF TENURE WHILE LANDLORDS COULD ACHIEVE A FAIR RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT.

HE REFERRED TO THE TWO SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY THE HON HO SAI-CHU WHO ASKED WHETHER THE PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE LIMIT IN SECTION 129 OF THE ORDINANCE, WHICH DEALT WITH THE RECOVERY OF PREMISES, WOULD AFFECT SECURITY OF TENURE.

+THE PROVISION WILL ONLY APPLY TO CASES WHERE THE TENANCY HAS BEEN DETERMINED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE AND I CAN CONFIRM THAT THE SECURITY OF TENURE, WHICH TENANTS ENJOY UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE, WILL NOT BE AFFECTED,+ MR TODD SAID.

MR HO HAD ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE LIMIT UNDER SECTION 129 WOULD BE BETTER SET AT \$12 000, BASED ON AN UPDATING OF PROPERTY VALUES.

+THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PREMISES UNDER THIS LIMIT HAVE MONTHLY RENTALS OF ABOUT \$1 000 AND ARE MAINLY NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES SUCH AS CAR PARKING AND STORAGE SPACES, AND IF WE ARE TO TAKE THIS LIMIT ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF DOMESTIC PREMISES, MAINLY TEMPORARY STRUCTURES IN RURAL AREAS, WOULD BE AFFECTED,+ MR TODD NOTED.

HE THOUGHT THAT THE LIMIT OF \$30 000 WAS A REASONABLE ONE WHEN DUE ACCOUNT WAS TAKEN NOT ONLY OF CHANGES IN PROPERTY VALUES SINCE THE LIMIT WAS INTRODUCED, BUT ALSO OF THE CHANGES IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 22 -

CALL TO PUNISH PROFITEERING LANDLORDS
* * * * *

CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PUNISHING THOSE LANDLORDS WHO LEAVE THEIR DOMESTIC PROPERTIES VACANT FOR PERIODS OF MORE THAN SIX MONTHS BY IMPOSING A PROHIBITIVE TAX, THE HON ANDREW WONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, MR WONG SAID HIS SUGGESTION MIGHT SOUND THEORETICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL BUT WAS IN FACT PRACTICAL.

ALTHOUGH THE SOLUTION COULD BE COSTLY, IT WAS PRACTICABLE, HE SAID.

MR WONG OBSERVED THAT PRICES AND RENTALS WERE DETERMINED BY DEMAND AND SUPPLY AND THAT OWNERS OF DOMESTIC PREMISES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PROFITEER THROUGH HOARDING.

THEREFORE, HE SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PUNISHING THOSE LANDLORDS WHO LEFT THEIR DOMESTIC PROPERTIES VACANT FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS BY IMPOSING A PROHIBITIVE TAX SUCH AS DOUBLING THEIR PROPERTY TAX.

MR WONG ALSO SAID THAT THE PROPOSED RENTAL ADJUSTMENTS IN PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES AND POST-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES HAD TO BE VIEWED IN THE WIDER PERSPECTIVE OF THE TOTAL DOMESTIC HOUSING STOCK AND THE RENTALS CHARGED.

HE NOTED THAT NOT ALL PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WERE POOR AND NOT ALL PRIVATE HOUSING TENANTS WERE RICH.

+THINK OF THOSE POOR TENANTS AND SUB-TENANTS IN PRIVATE HOUSING WHO LIVE FROM HAND TO MOUTH,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - O - - - -

EXTENSION OF HOUSING SCHEMES URGED
* * * * *

THE HON LEE YU-TAI SUGGESTED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THE HOME OWNERSHIP AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEMES AND SETTING UP A HOME PURCHASE LOAN FUND TO TAKE CARE OF THE +SANDWICH CLASS+.

PEOPLE IN THE +SANDWICH CLASS+ WERE MAINLY LIVING IN CONTROLLED PREMISES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THEREFORE WERE MOST LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THE RENT DECONTROL POLICY, HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

/SPEAKING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 23 -

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, MR LEE SAID HE SUPPORTED THE BILL BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO INSIST THAT LANDLORDS SHOULD BENEFIT THEIR TENANTS PERMANENTLY BY CHARGING RENTALS SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT TENANTS LIVING IN CONTROLLED PREMISES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR MAINLY BELONGED TO THE +SANDWICH CLASS+ WHO WERE NOT WELL-OFF AND YET WERE NOT QUALIFIED TO APPLY FOR PUBLIC OR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME HOUSING SINCE THEIR INCOME HAD EXCEEDED THE SPECIFIED LIMIT OF \$8 500 PER MONTH.

HE NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED RENT INCREASE WOULD AFFECT 26 000 HOUSEHOLDS OF OVER 100 000 PEOPLE AND THERE WOULD BE A FURTHER INCREASE OF 30 PER CENT EVERY TWO YEARS IN THE SUBSEQUENT FOUR YEARS WHICH WOULD BRING THE RENT TO 100 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT.

MR LEE THEREFORE HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THE HOME OWNERSHIP AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEMES AND RAISE THE MONTHLY INCOME LIMIT OF \$8 500, AND THUS BENEFIT THE +SANDWICH CLASS+.

HE ALSO SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOME PURCHASE LOAN FUND WAS WORTH CONSIDERING.

THROUGH THIS SCHEME, LOANS AT LOW INTEREST RATES COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE IN THE +SANDWICH CLASS+ TO ASSIST THEM IN MAKING DOWN-PAYMENTS FOR BUYING PRIVATE PREMISES, HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE FUND COULD BE ADMINISTERED EITHER BY THE GOVERNMENT OR BY THE BANKING INDUSTRY AND IT COULD BE SPECIFIED THAT ONLY THOSE WITH EARNINGS BELOW A CERTAIN INCOME LIMIT WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.

THERE COULD ALSO BE STIPULATIONS THAT THE PREMISES PURCHASED SHOULD BE USED SOLELY FOR ACCOMMODATION OF THE APPLICANT'S HOUSEHOLD AND THAT EACH HOUSEHOLD COULD APPLY ONLY ONCE, MR LEE ADDED.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/24

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 24 -

DISRUPTIVE CHANGES SHOULD BE AVOIDED

* * * * *

THE HON HO SAI-CHU EMPHASISED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE IS GENERALLY IN FAVOUR OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG TERM OBJECTIVE OF PHASING OUT RENT CONTROL. BUT HE SAID IT SHOULD BE IN A MANNER WHICH WAS NOT SOCIALLY OR POLITICALLY DISRUPTIVE IN HONG KONG'S PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

MR HO COMMENTED ON TWO ASPECTS OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WHEN DEBATE ON THE MEASURE RESUMED.

THE FIRST CONCERNED THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES TO OBTAIN POSSESSION AND THEIR POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON THE SECURITY OF TENURE OF THE AFFECTED TENANTS.

MR HO SAID HE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONDITIONS LISTED IN SECTION 129 OF PART VI OF THE ORDINANCE ONLY APPLIED TO CASES WHERE A TENANCY HAD BEEN +DETERMINED+ AND THAT WHERE A LEASE HAD EXPIRED AND WHERE THE TENANT WAS STILL PROTECTED UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE, THE CONCERNED TENANT WOULD STILL BE CONSIDERED AS THE STATUTORY TENANT OF THE PREMISES SO THAT THE SUMMARY RECOVERY PROVISIONS WOULD NOT APPLY.

HE NOTED THAT THESE CONDITIONS WOULD ONLY BE APPLICABLE IN CASES WHERE ALL CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN A LANDLORD AND HIS TENANT HAD CEASED.

+IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF PREMISES WHICH ARE STILL UNDER RENT CONTROL, I AM RATHER CONCERNED AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF THE PROVISIONS TO PROTECT THE SECURITY OF TENURE OF TENANTS WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED AND WOULD LIKE THE GOVERNMENT TO CONFIRM THE POSITION WHICH I HAVE JUST MENTIONED,+ HE SAID.

MR HO THEN TURNED TO THE PROPOSAL TO LIFT THE VALUE LIMIT OF PREMISES COVERED BY THE SUMMARY RECOVERY PROVISIONS FROM AN ANNUAL RENTAL OF \$900 TO THOSE WITH A CURRENT RATEABLE VALUE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$30 000.

HE NOTED THAT BY SETTING THE RATEABLE VALUE LIMIT AT \$30 000, ABOUT 200 000 UNITS WOULD COME WITHIN THIS LIMIT AND IT WOULD COVER ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF DOMESTIC TENANCIES IN HONG KONG.

+I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER WHETHER THE NET HAD NOT BEEN CAST TOO WIDE,+ HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO RELATE THE VALUE LIMIT OF \$900 IN THE EXISTING PROVISIONS TO THE PRESENT RATEABLE VALUE WHICH WAS ABOUT \$12 200.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 25 -

STEP-BY-STEP ADJUSTMENT RECOMMENDED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TRY TO ADJUST STEP BY STEP THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT TO A LEVEL REASONABLY COMPARABLE TO THE INCOME LEVEL OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, APART FROM EXERCISING PHASED RENT DECONTROL, DR THE HON DANIEL TSE SUGGESTED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, DR TSE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE +SANDWICH CLASS+ WHO HAD NEITHER THE FINANCIAL ABILITY TO BECOME FLAT OWNERS NOR THE QUALIFICATIONS TO MOVE INTO PUBLIC HOUSING.

+IN FACT, THEY ARE FALLING BETWEEN TWO STOOLS AND AS A RESULT, THE RENT THEY ARE PAYING FOR THEIR ACCOMMODATION TAKES UP TOO LARGE A PROPORTION OF THEIR INCOME.

+FROM THE ECONOMIC VIEWPOINT OF A FREE SOCIETY, GRADUAL RENT DECONTROL IS A MEASURE WHICH GIVES NO CAUSE FOR MUCH CRITICISM,+ HE SAID.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY HONG KONG WAS A SMALL TERRITORY WITH A LARGE POPULATION, DR TSE NOTED.

COUPLED WITH THE FACTOR OF SPECULATION, THE SO-CALLED +EQUITABLE MARKET RENTAL VALUE+ WAS ACTUALLY NOT VERY EQUITABLE AS IT WAS QUITE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE INCOME LEVEL OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, HE OBSERVED.

+THE FACT THAT THERE IS RENT CONTROL AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC HOUSING RENTAL AND HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS ON A MASSIVE SCALE AMPLY PROVE THAT ANOMALY OF HIGH RENT DOES EXIST,+ HE SAID.

DR TSE CONSIDERED THAT THE RELAXATION OF RENT CONTROL SHOULD BE IN CO-ORDINATION WITH THE FORMULATION OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME POLICY SO THAT THE +SANDWICH CLASS+ WOULD NOT HAVE TO LIVE UNDER THE PRESSURE OF UNREASONABLE RENT INCREASES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/26

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 26 -

NO REASON TO SLOW DOWN RENT DECONTROL MECHANISM
* * * * *

THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, IF ENACTED, WOULD BE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION IN GRADUALLY PHASING OUT RENT CONTROL AND AS THE SECURITY OF TENURE WAS ADEQUATELY PROTECTED, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR SLOWING DOWN THE RENT DECONTROL MECHANISM WHICH HAD BEEN SET IN MOTION.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON K C CHAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL.

HE SAID THE BILL HAD BEEN STUDIED BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP, OF WHICH HE WAS THE CONVENER, AND MEMBERS HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPORT IT.

HOWEVER, AS RENT INCREASE AND SECURITY OF TENURE WERE SENSITIVE PUBLIC ISSUES, MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT A STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO CLARIFY THE POINTS RAISED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PERIODIC MONITORING OF THE EFFECTS OF THE BILL WOULD CLEAR DOUBTS, IF ANY, IN THE MINDS OF THE PUBLIC.

PERSONALLY, MR CHAN SAID, HE WAS IN SUPPORT OF DECONTROL OF RENT FOR PRIVATE HOUSING AND IN THE SUPPLY OF BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING BY STAGES TO SOLVE HONG KONG'S HOUSING PROBLEMS.

ELABORATING, HE SAID THAT THE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF SO-CALLED +LANDLORDS+ IN HONG KONG WERE ONLY OWNERS OF ONE OR TWO SMALL FLATS.

SOME 30 YEARS AGO, HE SAID, THE PURCHASE OF FLATS BY INSTALMENT PAYMENT WAS AVAILABLE TO MEN OF SMALL MEANS, SUCH AS CLERKS, BLUE COLLARED WORKERS AND DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

+AS MOST OF THEM WOULD RETIRE WITHOUT PENSION OR GRATUITY, BUYING A FLAT OR TWO BY MONTHLY SAVINGS WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH FOOD AND SHELTER FOR THEIR OLD AGE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE SOLUTION OF HOUSING PROBLEM FOR THE +NOT-SO-WELL-TO-DO+ WAS NOT A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE ANSWER WAS MORE PUBLIC HOUSING.

+THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF PROPERTY TAX AT THE STANDARD RATE ON ACTUAL RENT COLLECTED LESS 20 PER CENT OUTGOINGS WOULD PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS IN THE PUBLIC COFFERS TO SUBSIDISE MORE PUBLIC HOUSING SCHEMES THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND,+ HE SAID.

/ON HOUSING

ON HOUSING TRENDS, HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD POINTED OUT IN HIS SPEECH IN 1981 THAT THERE WOULD BE ABOUT ONE MILLION PERSONS ON THE WORKER-OWNER SIDE AND 1.2 MILLION ON THE WORKER-TENANT SIDE AND THE TREND APPEARED TO BE THAT THE NUMBER OF WORKER-OWNERS WOULD GRADUALLY INCREASE.

+THE RATIO IS NOW 1 TO 1.5 IN FAVOUR OF THE WORKER-OWNER,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER INDICATOR WAS THAT MOST FLATS PURCHASED WERE WHOLLY OWNER OCCUPIED, HE ADDED, REFERRING TO FIGURES IN THE PROPERTY REVIEW 1986.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PROPOSED RENTAL ADJUSTMENTS +FAIR AND REASONABLE+
* * * * *

RENTAL ADJUSTMENTS PROPOSED UNDER THE LANDLORD AND TENANT CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 ARE FAIR AND REASONABLE, AND SHOULD NOT CAUSE ANY SOCIAL OR POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC DISRUPTION.

THIS WAS THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHEN SUPPORTING THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HOPED THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL WOULD ENCOURAGE LANDLORDS EVEN FURTHER TO IMPROVE THE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS IN THEIR PREMISES.

MR CHEONG-LEEN OBSERVED THAT THE BILL SOUGHT TO FINELY BALANCE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE LANDLORDS AND TENANTS OF PREMISES WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED.

FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLE OF GRADUAL DECONTROL, THE PERMITTED INCREASES PROPOSED IN THE BILL SHOULD BE FAIR AND REASONABLE, AND BY AND LARGE BE WITHIN THE CAPACITY OF THE TENANT TO PAY, HE SAID.

IN THE CASE OF PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES WHICH CAME UNDER PART I, IT WAS PROPOSED TO RAISE THE PERMITTED RENTS FROM 27 TO 30 TIMES THE STANDARD RENT, WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST 1, 1986.

MR CHEONG-LEEN NOTED THAT SOME 2 200 PRE-WAR DOMESTIC UNITS WERE IN THIS CATEGORY, AND THE AVERAGE INCREASE WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 11 PER CENT OR \$132 PER MONTH.

THE PART II GROUP COVERED POST-WAR PREMISES GIVING DUAL PROTECTION OF RENT CONTROL AND SECURITY OF TENURE TO ABOUT 105 000 TENANCIES OF WHOLLY-LET DOMESTIC UNITS PLUS A NUMBER OF SUB-TENANCIES.

HE NOTED THAT UNDER THE NEW PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD BE EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 19, 1986, THE MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT WOULD BE RAISED TO 60 PER CENT OF PREVAILING MARKET RENT, INSTEAD OF 55 PER CENT AS OF LAST YEAR.

IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT 26 000 TENANCIES OUT OF THE TOTAL OF 105 000 UNITS COULD BE AFFECTED, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 28 -

THREE BILLS PASSED

* * * * *

THREE BILLS -- THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 AND THE COMMUNITY CHEST OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 -- WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOUR OTHER BILLS -- BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS BILL 1986, BUILDING ORDINANCE (APPLICATION TO THE NEW TERRITORIES) BILL 1986 AND THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING BILL 1986 -- WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO JULY 9.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 29 -

REVISED SCHOOL FEES FROM SEPTEMBER
* * * *

FEES FOR FORMS 4-7 IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS AND FOR TEACHER TRAINING AND ADULT EDUCATION COURSES OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE REVISED FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING.

THE REVISION SEEKS TO RESTORE THE REAL VALUE OF THE CURRENT FEES WHICH HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE THE LAST FEE REVISION ANNOUNCED IN THE 1978 WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION.

TO AVOID ANY UNDUE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON PARENTS, THE FEE INCREASES WILL BE PHASED IN OVER THE NEXT FIVE SCHOOL YEARS, BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER.

FOR FORMS 4 AND 5, THE FEE PAYABLE IN TEN MONTHLY INSTALMENTS A YEAR WILL RISE BY \$10 TO \$70 A MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER. IT WILL RISE FURTHER TO \$85 A MONTH IN THE SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER 1987.

FOR FORMS 6-7 AND FULL-TIME DAY COURSES AT THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE (HKTTTC), FEES WILL INCREASE BY \$15 A MONTH TO \$95 WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER, AND RISE TO \$115 FROM SEPTEMBER 1987.

INCREASES FOR THE THREE SUCCEEDING SCHOOL YEARS, 1988-89 TO 1990-91, WILL BE REVIEWED AND ANNOUNCED NEARER THE TIME, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT MORE UP-TO-DATE COST OF LIVING FIGURES.

THE REVISED STANDARD FEES WILL ALSO AFFECT FEE ASSISTANCE FOR FORMS 4-7 BOUGHT PLACES IN NON-PROFIT MAKING PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND LINGNAN COLLEGE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID NEEDY STUDENTS COULD CONTINUE TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME. UNDER THE SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES REMISSION OF FEES UP TO 45 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL FEE INCOME FROM FORMS 4-5 AND 50 PER CENT FROM FORMS 6-7. AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT MAY RECEIVE EITHER HALF, THREE QUARTERS, OR FULL FEE REMISSION.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF INTEREST-FREE LOANS AND MAINTENANCE GRANTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

/FOR ADULT

FOR ADULT EDUCATION COURSES OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE FULL EVENING SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSES AT JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL AND GENERAL BACKGROUND COURSES TO IMPROVE BASIC READING AND WRITING SKILLS OF ADULTS WILL REMAIN FREE.

FEEES FOR FULL EVENING SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSES AT SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL WILL RISE FROM \$31 TO \$37 A MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER AND TO \$45 FROM SEPTEMBER 1987.

FEE ADJUSTMENTS FOR OTHER ADULT EDUCATION COURSES AND SHORT COURSES OPERATED BY THE HKTTTC IN THE NEXT TWO SCHOOL YEARS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ADULT EDUCATION - ENGLISH COURSE

	CURRENT FEE	1986-87	1987-88
PRIMARY LEVEL (PER ANNUM)	\$100	\$120	\$140
SECONDARY LEVEL (PER ANNUM)	\$150	\$180	\$220
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION - 'O' LEVEL (PER ANNUM)	\$200	\$240	\$290

ADULT EDUCATION - GENERAL BACKGROUND COURSES

COOKERY	\$135	\$160	\$190
PRACTICAL BACKGROUND (PER ANNUM)	\$ 70	\$ 80	\$100
EVENING SCHOOL OF HIGHER CHINESE STUDIES	\$100	\$120	\$140
TEACHERS' COURSE (PER ANNUM)	\$210	\$250	\$300

ADULT EDUCATION - HOBBY AND COMPUTER COURSES

HOBBY COURSES	FREE	\$ 70	\$ 80
MICRO-COMPUTER COURSES			
(A) 'LONG EVENING COURSES	FREE	\$280	\$330

/(B) SHORT

(B) SHORT EVENING COURSES	FREE	\$ 70	\$ 80
(C) SHORT DAY TIME COURSES	FREE	\$ 70	\$ 80

TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE - SHORT COURSES

BASIC COURSE IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES

(A) BLOCK RELEASE COURSE	\$100	\$120	\$140
(B) PART-TIME DAY RELEASE COURSE	\$100	\$120	\$140
(C) PART-TIME EVENING COURSE	\$100	\$120	\$140
CERTIFICATE COURSE IN TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	\$100	\$120	\$140
ONE YEAR EVENING COURSE FOR PART-TIME LECTURERS	\$175	\$210	\$250
BASIC TEACHING TECHNIQUES FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PART-TIME LECTURERS	\$100	\$120	\$140

AS IN THE CASE OF FORMS 4-7, THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND HKTTC, FEE INCREASES FOR THE SUCCEEDING YEARS WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE TIME OF THE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT NO CHANGES TO SCHOOL FEES IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF EDUCATION HAD BEEN MADE SINCE THE LAST FEE REVISION ANNOUNCED IN 1978 BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WISHED TO AWAIT A DECISION ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW BY THE OVERSEAS PANEL OF VISITORS AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

+IT IS INTENDED THAT, FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF INCREASES IN 1990-91, FEES WILL BE REVIEWED REGULARLY ON A BASIS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE LIGHT OF ADVICE FROM THE EDUCATION COMMISSION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 32 -

DETAILS OF SCHOOL FEE REVISION
* * * * *

FEEES FOR FORMS 4-7 IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS AND FOR TEACHERS TRAINING AND ADULT EDUCATION COURSES OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE REVISED WITH EFFECT FROM THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, WILL CHAIR THE PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, AT 4 PM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO ANNOUNCE THE FEE REVISION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR REPLACEMENT OF FLYOVER
* * * * *

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SIGNED A \$60 MILLION CONTRACT TO BUILD A REPLACEMENT FOR THE 20-YEAR-OLD PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER IN KOWLOON.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL TAKE JUST UNDER THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE, WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON, AND THE DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER OF NISHIMATSU CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED, MR YUKITOSHI YANAGISAWA.

WORK ON THE PROJECT, WHICH STARTED LAST FRIDAY (JUNE 27), CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A FOUR-LANE FLYOVER TO REPLACE THE EXISTING THREE-LANE ONE.

THE PRESENT FLYOVER WILL BE DEMOLISHED IN STAGES TO SUIT THE CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE OF THE NEW FLYOVER.

FOR TRAFFIC REASONS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN TWO LANES OF THE EXISTING FLYOVER FOR USE BY SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS REQUIREMENT HAD INCREASED THE COMPLEXITY IN THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FLYOVER, BUT WOULD GREATLY MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE TO TRAFFIC.

/THE WORK

THE WORK ALSO INVOLVES CUTTING BACK THE SLOPE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE WATERLOO ROAD-ARGYLE STREET JUNCTION, IMPROVEMENT TO EXISTING GROUND LEVEL ROADS IN WATERLOO ROAD AND PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR JUNCTION WITH ARGYLE STREET, TOGETHER WITH THE DIVERSION OF UTILITY SERVICES.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE NEW FLYOVER WILL BE ABOUT 440 METRES LONG WITH A MINIMUM WIDTH OF 15.83 METRES WHICH WILL ALLOW THE PROVISION OF DUAL, TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAYS SEPARATED BY A CONCRETE CENTRAL BARRIER.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EFFECTS OF CONSTRUCTION WORK ON ROAD USERS, RESIDENTS OF NEARBY BUILDINGS AND CHILDREN ATTENDING NEARBY SCHOOLS HAD BEEN RECOGNISED WHEN PLANNING THE PROJECT.

+NOISE WILL BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM DURING DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING FLYOVER AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE PILES NEEDED FOR THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE NEW ONE,+ HE SAID.

REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER KOWLOON, MR K.C. YEUNG, HAD WRITTEN TO OWNERS AND USERS OF PROPERTIES NEAR THE FLYOVER APPEALING FOR THEIR +TOLERANCE AND CO-OPERATION+ DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

IN HIS LETTER, MR YEUNG SAID: +I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK ON YOUR PROPERTY, BUT I MUST ADVISE YOU THAT SOME TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND DISTURBANCE FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE INEVITABLE, GIVEN THE SCOPE AND INTRICACIES OF THE PROJECT.

+IN CONNECTION WITH THIS I WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE YOU THAT THE CONTRACT REQUIRES THE BUILDER TO USE MODERN AND SILENT TYPES OF MACHINERY AND METHODS, WHICH SHOULD REDUCE NOISE TO A MINIMUM.+

TO MINIMISE TRAFFIC DELAYS CAUSED BY THE PROJECT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS INTRODUCED DIVERSIONS FOR VEHICLES HEADING NORTH FROM THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL TO WEST KOWLOON.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS FOR APRIL OUT
* * * * *

THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN APRIL 1986, ESTIMATED AT \$5 575 MILLION, WAS 3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN APRIL 1985, WHILE THEIR VOLUME WAS 1 PER CENT HIGHER, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH APRIL 1985, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 4 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND VOLUME RESPECTIVELY.

CONSUMER DURABLES AND +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ RECORDED INCREASES OF 5 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASES OF 2 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VOLUME.

FUELS WENT DOWN BY 10 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT RECORDED A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS AND OF DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED MODERATELY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE MODERATELY IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES, OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS, RECORDED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN SALES VALUE BUT A SLIGHT DROP IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD FEBRUARY-APRIL 1986 WITH THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN VALUE BUT FELL BY 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT RECORDED ALMOST NO CHANGE IN VOLUME.

CONSUMER DURABLES ROSE BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 4 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME, WHILE +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ SHOWED DECREASES OF 1 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND VOLUME RESPECTIVELY. FUELS WENT DOWN BY 4 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED.

RETAIL SALES BY SUPERMARKETS SHOWED MODERATE INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE MODERATELY IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN SALES VOLUME.

BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME OF CONSUMER DURABLES, OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS, SHOWED SLIGHT DECREASES, WHILE RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES RECORDED A SLIGHT DROP IN VALUE AND A MODERATE FALL IN VOLUME.

WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1986, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR APRIL 1986 FELL BY 2 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT IN VALUE AND VOLUME RESPECTIVELY. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN VALUE BUT ROSE BY 1 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE THOSE OF +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ DECREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

/CLOTHING,

CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT UP BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT RECORDED ALMOST NO CHANGE IN SALES VOLUME. ON THE OTHER HAND, FUELS HAD A DECREASE OF 7 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT A NEGLIGIBLE CHANGE IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 2 PER CENT IN VALUE AND A DECREASE OF 1 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE CONSIDERABLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. CONSUMER DURABLES, OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS, SHOWED SLIGHT DECREASES IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME, WHILE RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES AND OF SUPERMARKETS DECREASED MODERATELY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

TWO TABLES AND TWO GRAPHS WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE NETWORK AND ALSO BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL SALES FIGURE FOR MARCH 1986 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR APRIL 1986.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF APRIL 1986 RESULTS WITH THOSE OF MARCH 1986 AND APRIL 1985 AND COMPARISONS OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD FEBRUARY 1986-APRIL 1986 WITH THOSE IN THE SAME PERIOD 12-MONTH PREVIOUSLY ARE ALSO GIVEN.

GRAPHS 1 AND 2 DEPICT THE MOVEMENTS OF THE INDEXES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, INCLUDING THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDEXES AND TRENDS, FROM JANUARY 1983 TO MARCH 1986.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE APRIL 1986 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL: 3-7216024.

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for April 1986 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$5 575 million
for March 1986 (Revised Figure) = HK\$5 706 million

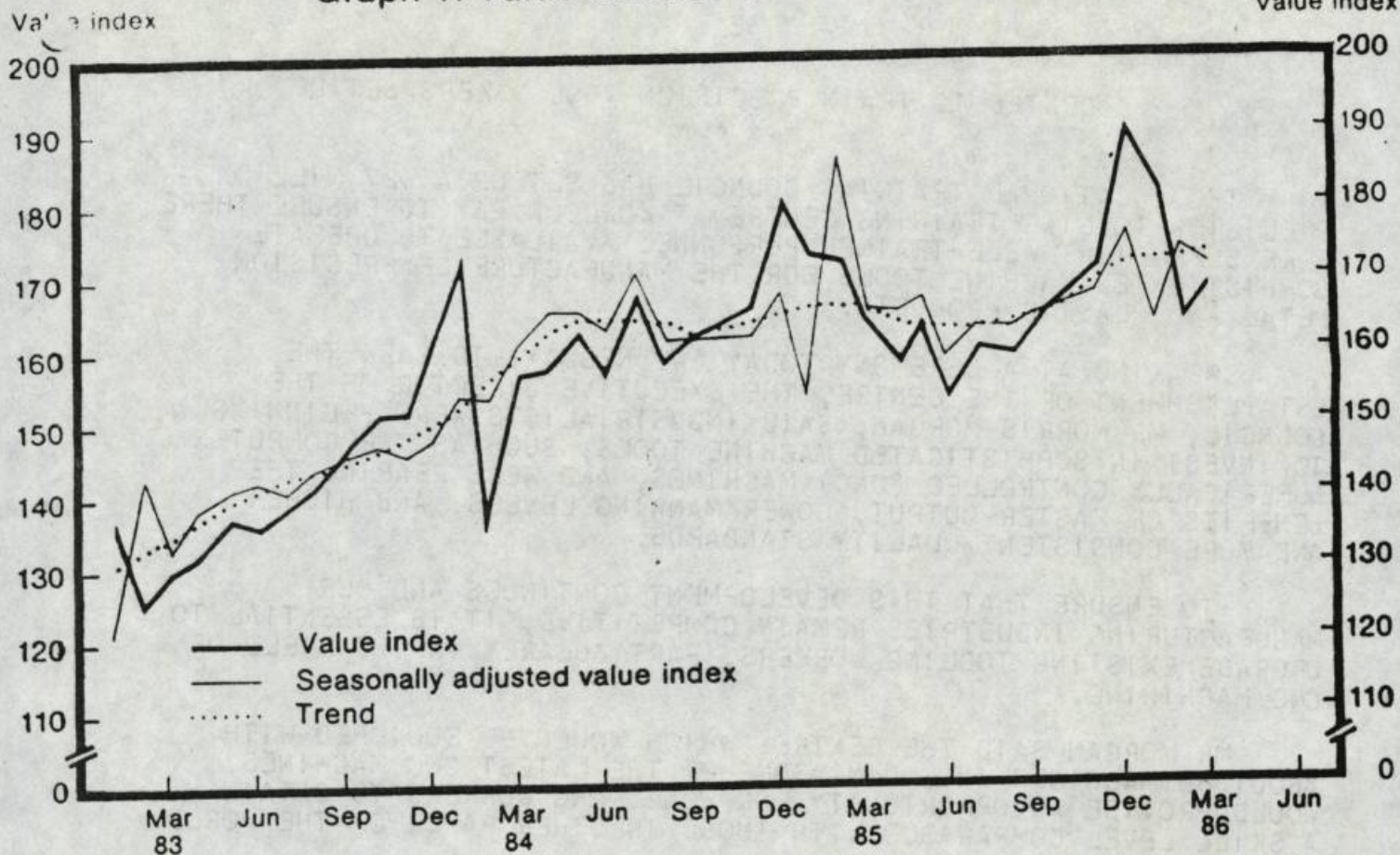
TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES
FOR MARCH AND APRIL 1986

(Monthly average of 1980 = 100)

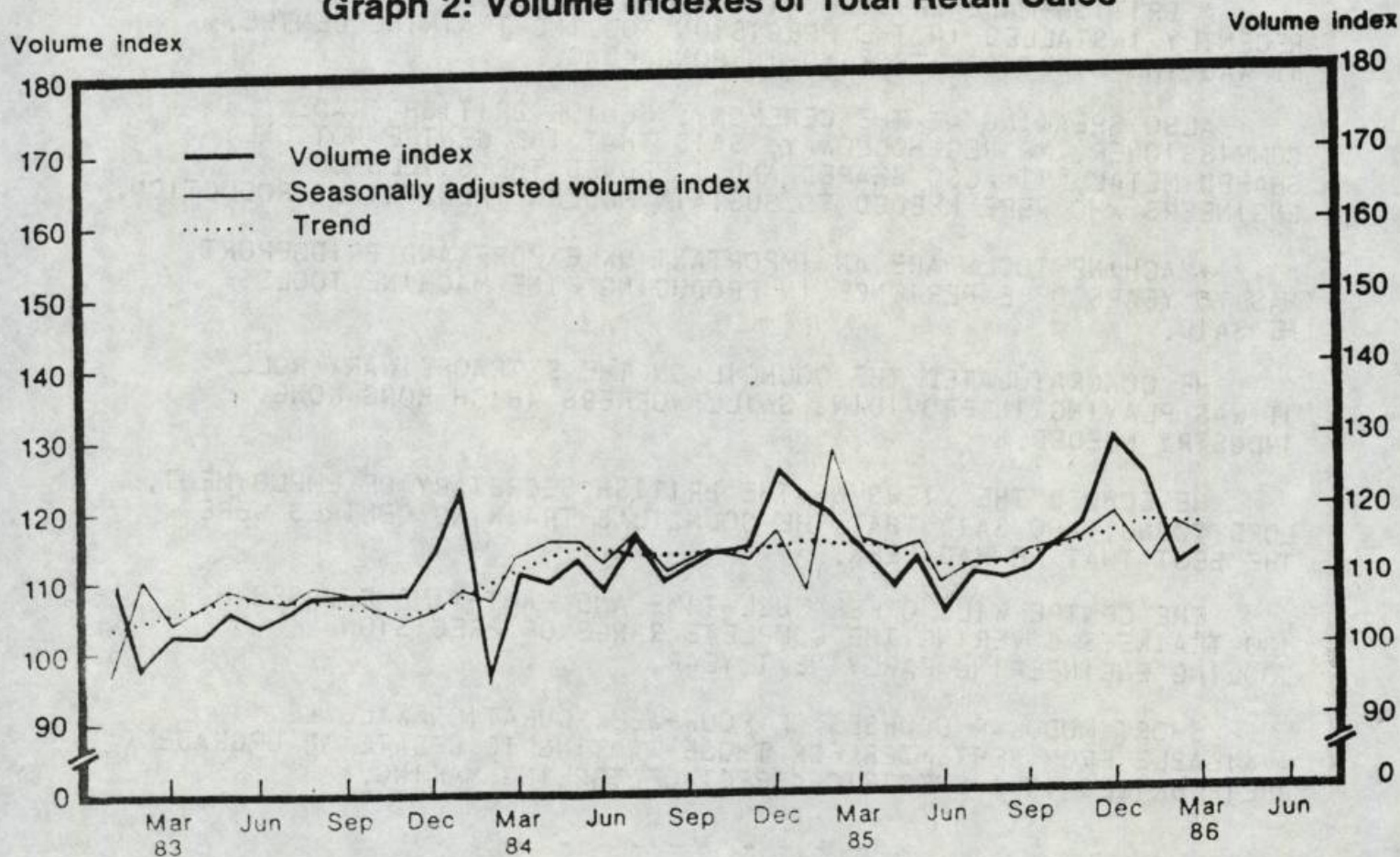
Item	Index of Retail Sales	March 1986	April 1986	April 1986 compared with March 1986		April 1986 compared with April 1985		Feb. 86 - Apr. 86 compared with Feb. 85 - Apr. 85	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
	Value	168	164	- 4	- 2	+ 5	+ 3	*	*
	Volume	113	110	- 3	- 3	+ 1	+ 1	- 3	- 3
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	184	185	+ 1	*	+ 7	+ 4	+ 1	*
	Volume	119	120	+ 1	+ 1	+ 5	+ 5	*	*
Fuels	Value	188	174	-13	- 7	-19	-10	- 8	- 4
	Volume	124	124	- 1	*	+ 1	+ 1	+ 1	+ 1
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	215	225	+10	+ 5	+27	+14	+14	+ 7
	Volume	130	130	*	*	+ 8	+ 6	*	*
Consumer durables	Value	149	152	+ 3	+ 2	+ 8	+ 5	+ 2	+ 1
	Volume	105	104	- 1	- 1	- 2	- 2	- 4	- 4
Other consumer goods	Value	158	147	-11	- 7	+ 3	+ 2	- 2	- 1
	Volume	109	101	- 8	- 7	- 1	- 1	- 5	- 5
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES									
Supermarkets	Value	334	309	-25	- 7	+21	+ 7	+29	+ 9
	Volume	200	185	-15	- 8	+11	+ 6	+14	+ 7
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	86	98	+12	+14	+ 9	+10	+ 6	+ 7
	Volume	46	51	+ 6	+12	- 1	- 2	- 1	- 3
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	192	189	- 3	- 2	+ 7	+ 4	- 1	- 1
	Volume	146	140	- 6	- 4	- 2	- 2	- 6	- 4
Department stores	Value	155	147	- 8	- 5	+11	+ 8	- 6	- 4
	Volume	107	101	- 6	- 6	+ 5	+ 5	- 8	- 7

- Notes :
- "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" includes "supermarkets".
 - "Consumer durables" includes "motor vehicles and parts".
 - "Other consumer goods" includes "department stores".
 - Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.
 - * denotes change of less than 0.5.

Graph 1: Value Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Graph 2: Volume Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Notes (1) Monthly average of 1980 = 100.

(2) The seasonally adjusted value and volume indexes and Henderson trends are compiled using the X-11 variant seasonal adjustment program of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

CENTRE TO TRAIN PRECISION TOOL MAKERS SET UP
* * * *

THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL HAS SET UP A \$27-MILLION PRECISION TOOLING TRAINING CENTRE AT KOWLOON BAY TO ENSURE THERE WERE SUFFICIENT WELL-TRAINED PERSONNEL AVAILABLE TO OPERATE SOPHISTICATED MACHINE TOOLS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF PRECISION METAL AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS.

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO MARK THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRE, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL, MR MORRIS MORGAN, SAID INDUSTRIALISTS WERE BEGINNING TO INVEST IN SOPHISTICATED MACHINE TOOLS, SUCH AS THE COMPUTER NUMERICALLY CONTROLLED (CNC) MACHINES, AND WERE REAPING THE BENEFITS OF FASTER OUTPUT, LOWER MANNING LEVELS, AND HIGHER AND MORE CONSISTENT QUALITY STANDARDS.

+TO ENSURE THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES AND OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES REMAIN COMPETITIVE, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO UPGRADE EXISTING TOOLING WORKERS, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF CNC MACHINING.+

MR MORGAN SAID THE CENTRE, WHICH WOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH ABOUT 80 MACHINES INCLUDING SOME OF THE LATEST CNC MACHINES, WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HONG KONG WORKERS TO OBTAIN A SKILL LEVEL COMPARABLE WITH THOSE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

A BRITISH-MADE BRIDGEPORT CNC MACHINING CENTRE WAS RECENTLY INSTALLED IN THE PRECISION TOOLING TRAINING CENTRE. IT WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR REG HOLLOWAY, SAID THAT THE CENTRE NOT ONLY SHAPED METAL, IT ALSO SHAPED AND IMPROVED THE SKILLS OF ENGINEERS WHO WERE NEEDED TO SUSTAIN MODERN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.

+MACHINE TOOLS ARE AN IMPORTANT UK EXPORT AND BRIDGEPORT HAS 75 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN PRODUCING FINE MACHINE TOOLS,+ HE SAID.

HE CONGRATULATED THE COUNCIL ON THE EXTRAORDINARY ROLE IT WAS PLAYING IN PROVIDING SKILL WORKERS WHICH HONG KONG INDUSTRY NEEDED.

HE ECHOED THE VIEWS OF THE BRITISH SECRETARY OF EMPLOYMENT, LORD YOUNG, WHO SAID THAT THE COUNCIL'S TRAINING CENTRES WERE THE BEST THAT HE HAD SEEN.

THE CENTRE WILL OFFER FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME COURSES FOR 100 TRAINEES COVERING THE COMPLETE RANGE OF PRECISION TOOLING ENGINEERING EARLY NEXT YEAR.

SHORT MODULAR COURSES OF FOUR-WEEK DURATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM SEPTEMBER FOR THOSE WANTING TO UPDATE OR UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS IN A SPECIFIC ASPECT OF TOOLING MAKING.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 39 -

RENT POLICY CONSULTATION PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED

* * * * *

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON FRIDAY (JULY 4) TO DISCUSS THE RENT POLICY CONSULTATION PROCEDURES OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO EXPLAIN THE PRESENT POLICY AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE REPLENISHMENT OF FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR SQUATTER AND TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA; RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MISSION HILL; WATER ACCUMULATION ON CARRIAGEWAYS CAUSED BY BLOCKAGE OF DRAINS; AND STREET LIGHTS IN SQUATTER AREAS.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.15 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, 39 TONKIN STREET, KOWLOON.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING ON FRIDAY.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

MONG KOK DB TO DISCUSS MEDICAL REPORT

* * * * *

THE REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN HOSPITALS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE BOARD WILL LOOK AT VARIOUS OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS IN THE REPORT, INCLUDING OVERCROWDING AND THE IMBALANCE OF STAFF BENEFITS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE LEVEL OF FUTURE GOVERNMENT FUNDING, THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE USE OF RESOURCES, AS WELL AS THE PROVISION OF HIGHER CLASS ACCOMMODATION IN HOSPITALS.

/THE REPORT

THE REPORT ON LAWS IN CHINESE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

IN ADDITION, THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER A JOINT LANDSCAPE PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AT THE JUNCTION OF NATHAN ROAD AND MONG KOK ROAD TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND REDUCE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

----- 0 -----

RAFFLE DRAW FOR HOSPITAL PROJECT

A RAFFLE DRAW FOR THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL FUND-RAISING PROJECT WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE.

TWENTY-FIVE PRIZES, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF \$150 000, WILL BE DRAWN, INCLUDING A \$80 000 SALOON CAR, JEWELLERY, A COMPUTER SET, A WASHING MACHINE AND A SHARK'S FIN BANQUET.

THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR KEVIN MAK, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE DRAW.

THE FUNCTION IS PART OF THE YEAR-LONG FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN FOR THE HOSPITAL CO-ORDINATED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD. A TOTAL OF 1.5 MILLION TICKETS WERE OFFERED FOR SALE TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE \$730 MILLION EXTENSION PROJECT OF THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL EXTENSION FUND-RAISING RAFFLE DRAW TO BE HELD TOMORROW AT 3 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, THIRD FLOOR, 6 TUNG YAN STREET.

----- 0 -----

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 41 -

PLANTING STARTS TSUEN WAN YOUTH PROGRAMME
* * * * *

ABOUT 500 STUDENTS IN TSUEN WAN WILL TAKE PART IN A SEED PLANTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT EXERCISE AT THE TAI MO SHAN ROTARY PARK ON JULY 12 TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE 1986 TSUEN WAN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

AS PART OF THE DAY'S PROGRAMME, A CARNIVAL WITH STALL GAMES, FLOWER EXHIBITION AND MURAL PAINTING BY STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND.

SOME 200 ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CAMPING, EXCURSIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS WILL BE HELD UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER.

BESIDES SUPPORTING THE CENTRAL THEME OF '+CARE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY, GET TO KNOW IT BETTER+', ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO GEAR TO THE DISTRICT'S OBJECTIVES OF TRANSFORMING TSUEN WAN INTO A FLORID CITY AND NURTURING THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 1986 TSUEN WAN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME ORGANISING COMMITTEE, DR FRANK CHEUNG, AND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ANGUS MIU, WILL MEET THE MEDIA TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME ON FRIDAY (JULY 4) AT 12.15 PM AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CONTAINER PARKING SITE TO LET
* * * * *

A PARKING AREA FOR CONTAINER TRACTORS AND UNLOADED TRAILERS IN KWAI CHUNG IS BEING LET BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT TO EASE PARKING PROBLEMS IN THE AREA.

THE SITE, MEASURING 1.08 HECTARES, IS SITUATED AT HING FONG ROAD OPPOSITE THE KWAI FONG MTR STATION.

THE INITIAL TENANCY FOR THE SITE IS SIX MONTHS, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON JULY 18.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 42 -

DEMONSTRATION OF NEW HERBICIDE
* * * *

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY EXPERIMENTED WITH A NEW HERBICIDE FOR SAFER AND MORE EFFECTIVE WEED CONTROL FOR VEGETABLE CULTIVATION.

A FIELD DEMONSTRATION WILL BE CONDUCTED FOR FARMERS TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 10.30 AM AT THE DEPARTMENT'S TAI LUNG EXPERIMENTAL FARM. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A BRIEFING BY HORTICULTURIST, MR K.Y. HO.

- - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FIELD DEMONSTRATION AND THE BRIEFING. TRANSPORT FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE AFD HEADQUARTERS, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON BY 9.30 AM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS SET UP
* * * * *

TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW, THE UNNAMED ROAD SOUTH OF KING'S ROAD LINKING SAI WAN TERRACE AND HOUSE NO. 1094 IN KING'S ROAD, WILL BE MADE A PEAK HOUR (7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 4).

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 5), THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF BELCHER'S STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH SANDS STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL ALSO BE MADE A PEAK-HOUR DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAYS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 43 -

KING'S ROAD CLOSURE FOR FOOTBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

* * * * *

THE SECTION OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH PAN HOI STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES WEST WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY (JULY 5) TO 7 AM THE NEXT MORNING TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED:

- * EASTBOUND VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD OR JAVA ROAD HEADING FOR QUARRY BAY OR AREAS BEYOND WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR NEAR HEALTHY STREET WEST, ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, TAI KOO WAN ROAD, TAI WING AVENUE AND TAI KOO SHING ROAD BEFORE REJOINING SHAU KEI WAN ROAD OR KING'S ROAD.
- * WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD HEADING FOR NORTH POINT AND AREAS BEYOND WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL VIA WESTLANDS ROAD, TAI KOO SHING ROAD, TAI YUE AVENUE, TAI KOO WAN ROAD, ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR AND THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO KING'S ROAD NEAR HEALTHY STREET WEST.
- * TRAM SERVICES BETWEEN NORTH POINT AND SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED AND ALL EASTBOUND TRAMS SCHEDULED TO SHAU KEI WAN WILL TERMINATE AT NORTH POINT.

- - - - O - - - -

FORUM ON PLANNED COMMUNITY THERAPEUTIC CENTRE

* * * * *

AN OPEN FORUM ON THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY THERAPEUTIC CENTRE IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING AT THE KENNEDY TOWN KAI FONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

THE FORUM HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, ASSISTED BY THE KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS AREA COMMITTEE.

GUESTS SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE THE REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (HONG KONG) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR KWOK NAI-SIK; DISTRICT SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (CENTRAL, WESTERN AND ISLANDS), MR KAM YING-TONG; EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, DR MAK KI-YAN; AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF NEW LIFE PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION, MRS DEBORAH CHAN.

/THE SENIOR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986

- 44 -

THE SENIOR LECTURER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, DR NELSON CHOW, HAS BEEN INVITED TO ACT AS MODERATOR.

RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE FORUM, WHICH WILL START AT 8 PM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPEN FORUM TO BE AT 8 PM TOMORROW AT THE KENNEDY TOWN KAI FONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, 14A BELCHER'S STREET, KENNEDY TOWN.

----- 0 -----

CLOSURE OF EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH

IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND HMS TAMAR WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT EMERGENCY VEHICLES BETWEEN 8 AM AND 8 PM ON JULY 5 (SATURDAY) AND ON JULY 26 (SATURDAY).

----- 0 -----