



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CHINESE CHILDREN'S RIGHT OF ABODE IN HK  
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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS ELSIE TU AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :

- (A) HOW MANY JUVENILES ARE ESTIMATED TO BECOME ELIGIBLE TO ENTER HONG KONG FROM CHINA UNDER ARTICLE 24(3) OF THE BASIC LAW AFTER 1 JULY 1997?
- (B) HOW MANY OF THEM, AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, ALREADY HAVE BOTH PARENTS LIVING IN HONG KONG LEGALLY?
- (C) HOW MANY OF THEM ARE AT PRESENT UNDER 10 YEARS OF AGE?
- (D) COULD THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATE A FURTHER INCREASE IN THE DAILY QUOTA TO CLEAR THE BACKLOG OF JUVENILES ELIGIBLE IN THE NEXT 3 - 4 YEARS?

REPLY : MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THE MOST RECENT ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN NOW IN CHINA AND UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE WHO WILL, UNDER BASIC LAW ARTICLE 24(3), HAVE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG AFTER 30 JUNE 1997 IS 64 000.

THIS ESTIMATE IS BASED ON THE DATA AVAILABLE, INCLUDING RECORDS OF APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF ABSENCE OF MARRIAGE, LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATISTICS, DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS, AND A SURVEY OF THE NUMBER OF HONG KONG MEN MARRIED TO WOMEN IN CHINA. WE HAVE ALSO MADE SOME ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT FUTURE FAMILY SIZE.

- (B) WE DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY DATA TO ENABLE US TO ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF SUCH CHILDREN HAVING BOTH PARENTS LIVING LEGALLY IN HONG KONG.
- (C) WE ESTIMATE THAT ABOUT 51 200 OF THESE CHILDREN ARE BELOW 10 YEARS OF AGE.
- (D) WE ARE NOW REVIEWING THE ONE-WAY PERMIT IMMIGRATION QUOTA FROM CHINA. THIS REVIEW WILL INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON HONG KONG'S SOCIAL SERVICES, OF A FURTHER POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THE QUOTA TO ENABLE MORE CHILDREN IN THIS CATEGORY TO COME TO HONG KONG BEFORE 1 JULY 1997.

PRICES OF GOODS AT AIRPORT SHOPS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IS THE GOVERNMENT AWARE THAT THE RENTS OF THE SHOPS AT KAI TAK AIRPORT AND THE PRICES OF THE GOODS SOLD THERE ARE FAR HIGHER THAN THOSE IN OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE TERRITORY. WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL :

- (A) WHETHER IT HAS CARRIED OUT ANY IN-DEPTH STUDY TO FIND OUT IF THE SALE OF SUCH HIGH-PRICED GOODS AT THE AIRPORT WILL TARNISH HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS A SHOPPING PARADISE;
- (B) WHETHER IT HAS ANY PLANS TO PREVENT SIMILAR SITUATIONS OCCURRING AT THE NEW AIRPORT; AND
- (C) WHETHER IT WILL CONSIDER SETTING RULES TO REGULATE THE GROSS PROFITS OF GOODS SOLD IN THE SHOPS AT THE AIRPORT?

ANSWER :

IT IS THE AIM OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT (CAD) TO PROVIDE AIRPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES AT KAI TAK OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD. THIS INCLUDES ENSURING THAT CONCESSIONAIRES PROVIDING RETAIL SERVICES IN THE TERMINAL BUILDING OFFER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC QUALITY OF SERVICE AT A FAIR PRICE.

RETAIL CONCESSIONAIRES OPERATING AT THE AIRPORT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PAY RENT TO THE GOVERNMENT. CONCESSIONS ARE AWARDED BY OPEN TENDER AND EVALUATED ON THE BASIS OF THE PROSPECTIVE TENDERER'S SUBMISSION, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED LICENCE FEE TO BE PAYABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

CAD ALSO REQUIRES ALL PROSPECTIVE TENDERERS INTERESTED IN BIDDING FOR A RETAIL CONCESSION TO SUBMIT A BUSINESS PLAN, INCLUDING DETAILS OF OPERATING COSTS AND PROPOSED PROFIT MARGINS, WHICH IS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN ASSESSING THE TENDER. UNDER THE TERMS OF THEIR CONCESSION AGREEMENTS WITH CAD, CONCESSIONAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THE PRICE OF THEIR GOODS DOES NOT EXCEED THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICE. FOR ITEMS WHERE THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICE IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE REQUIREMENT IS THAT GOODS SHALL NOT BE SOLD AT A PRICE HIGHER THAN THAT NORMALLY CHARGED AT THE OPERATOR'S OTHER OUTLETS OR COMPARABLE SHOPS IN OTHER DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG.

THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONTRACT TERMS AND MONITORING OF SERVICE STANDARDS PROVIDED BY CONCESSIONAIRES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CAD. STAFF OF CAD'S AIRPORT MANAGEMENT DIVISION UNDERTAKE REGULAR INSPECTIONS OF RETAIL CONCESSIONS, INCLUDING PRICE CHECKS WHICH ARE CARRIED OUT ON A WEEKLY BASIS. IF ANY DISCREPANCIES ARE FOUND, THE MATTER WILL BE RAISED WITH THE CONCESSIONAIRE CONCERNED AND A WARNING LETTER WILL BE ISSUED TO ENSURE IMMEDIATE RECTIFICATION. IN THE EVENT OF FURTHER BREACHES, CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO SERVING NOTICE TO THE CONCESSIONAIRE FOR TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION CONDUCTS STUDIES TO OBTAIN OVERSEAS VISITORS' OVERALL IMPRESSIONS OF HONG KONG, INCLUDING THEIR OPINIONS ON THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE TERRITORY'S SHOPPING. THE VAST MAJORITY OF VISITORS SURVEYED ARE GENERALLY VERY POSITIVE ABOUT THEIR VISIT EXPERIENCE AND THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS A SHOPPING CAPITAL IS IN JEOPARDY.

AS REGARDS RETAIL CONCESSIONS AT THE NEW AIRPORT, THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA) INTENDS TO PROMOTE FAIR AND REASONABLE PRICES BY INTRODUCING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY COMPETITION AMONG RETAILERS AND CHARGING THEM REASONABLE LICENCE FEES. THERE WILL BE OVER 150 RETAIL AND FOOD AND BEVERAGE OUTLETS IN THE PASSENGER TERMINAL AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE AUTHORITY IS ALSO CONSIDERING INCLUDING IN ITS LICENCE AGREEMENTS WITH RETAILERS, PROVISIONS REQUIRING THAT PRICES EITHER NOT EXCEED MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED OR SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICES WHERE AVAILABLE, OR BE COMPARABLE TO THOSE AT THE LICENSEE'S OTHER RETAIL OUTLETS IN HONG KONG OR SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE AUTHORITY WILL MONITOR PRICES TO ENSURE THAT ITS POLICY OBJECTIVES ARE MET. IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE MEASURES, WE DO NOT ENVISAGE THAT THERE WILL BE A NEED TO REGULATE THE GROSS PROFITS OF RETAIL OUTLETS AT THE NEW AIRPORT.

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#### CHARITY CONCERTS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS KATHERINE FOK, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN REGARD TO CONCERTS ORGANIZED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHETHER IT HAS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY MONITORING MECHANISM TO ENSURE THAT RECEIPTS FROM CHARITY CONCERTS ARE PROPERLY CHANNELLED TO THE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED OF:

(A) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CHARITY CONCERTS HELD IN THE LAST TWO YEARS;

/(B) IN RESPECT .....

- (B) IN RESPECT OF (A) ABOVE, THE AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF THE PRODUCTION COST AS COMPARED TO THE GROSS RECEIPT PER CONCERT, AND THE TOTAL FINAL AMOUNT RECEIVED BY THE CHARITIES;
- (C) THE BREAKDOWN BY ACTUAL GROSS RECEIPT, PRODUCTION COST AND ACTUAL AMOUNT RECEIVED BY THE CHARITIES IN RESPECT OF EACH OF THE LAST FIVE CONCERTS ORGANIZED BY-
  - (I) EACH OF THE RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS; AND
  - (II) OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?

REPLY :

AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO LEGISLATION ENACTED SPECIFICALLY TO CONTROL CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, UNDER SECTION 4(17) (I) OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE (CAP.228), FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES WHICH TAKE CERTAIN FORMS, SUCH AS, THE COLLECTION OF MONEY OR THE SALE OR EXCHANGE FOR DONATIONS OF BADGES, TOKENS OR SIMILAR ARTICLES, AND WHICH ARE CARRIED OUT IN A PUBLIC PLACE ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION PERMIT ISSUED BY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE. THE ORGANIZER OF A CHARITY CONCERT IS NOT REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR AS A CHARITY CONCERT IS NOT ONE OF THE FORMS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 4. THE ORGANIZER HAS, HOWEVER, TO APPLY FOR A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ORDINANCE (CAP. 172) IF THE CONCERT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PROGRAMME CONTENTS AND PUBLIC ORDER ARE THE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS IN GRANTING A PERMIT. WHETHER THE CONCERT IS FOR A CHARITABLE PURPOSE IS NOT A FACTOR. THE ORGANIZER OF THE CONCERT DOES NOT HAVE TO STATE WHETHER THE CONCERT IS FOR A CHARITABLE PURPOSE WHEN HE APPLIES FOR A PERMIT. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN PARTS (A), (B) AND (C) ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

WITH REGARD TO THE MONITORING OF FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, PEOPLE ORGANIZING FRAUDULENT CHARITY CONCERTS ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE THEFT ORDINANCE (CAP.210) FOR "OBTAINING PROPERTY BY DECEPTION". TO STRENGTHEN CONTROL OVER FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, THE ADMINISTRATION FORMED A WORKING GROUP IN JULY 1992 TO REVIEW THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING LEGISLATION AND MEASURES TO CONTROL FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG. THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE CONTROL OF FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES WAS PUBLISHED IN MAY 1994. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THE INTRODUCTION OF SEPARATE LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE ORGANIZERS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES TO BE HELD IN ANY PLACE AND IN ANY FORM TO APPLY FOR A PERMIT. THE ADMINISTRATION IS IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTING INTERESTED PARTIES, SUCH AS THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER MAJOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ON THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT. DRAFT LEGISLATION WILL THEN BE PREPARED FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CONTROL OF DIPYRONE PRODUCTS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS KATHERINE FOK, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : DESPITE THE POTENTIAL SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES WHICH LED TO ITS BAN IN MANY COUNTRIES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO BAN THE USE OF DRUGS CONTAINING DIPYRONE (METAMIZOLE) IN HONG KONG. WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :

(A) WHAT IS THE TOTAL QUANTITY OF THESE DRUGS SOLD IN HONG KONG FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS?

(B) WHAT PROPORTION OF THE QUANTITY IS SOLD TO (I) HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HOSPITALS AND GOVERNMENT CLINICS, (II) PRIVATE HOSPITALS, (III) PRIVATE CLINICS AND (IV) PHARMACIES; AND

(C) IN VIEW OF THE EASE WITH WHICH THE PUBLIC HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUY THESE DRUGS WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION, WHAT NEW MEASURES HAS THE GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTED SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR TO ENSURE THAT PHARMACIES ARE SELLING THESE DRUGS ONLY ON PRESCRIPTION?

REPLY :

(A) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DOES NOT ROUTINELY COMPILE SUPPLY STATISTICS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT FOR THOSE DRUGS WHICH ARE COMMONLY ABUSED. THE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SUPPLY OF DIPYRONE PRODUCTS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS IS NOT AVAILABLE.

(B) OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HOSPITALS PURCHASED 750 BARALGIN TABLETS, 6 BARALGIN INJECTIONS AND 200 METILON INJECTIONS. DIPYRONE PRODUCTS ARE NOT USED IN GOVERNMENT CLINICS. THE DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF DIPYRONE PRODUCTS IN PHARMACIES, PRIVATE CLINICS AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS IS NOT AVAILABLE.

(C) THE LICENSING AUTHORITY FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS RESTS WITH THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTRATION COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD. THE SUBJECT OF THE REGISTRATION OF DIPYRONE PRODUCTS WAS ONCE AGAIN CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE IN JUNE THIS YEAR AND THE DECISION WAS THAT DIPYRONE PRODUCTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ALLOWED IN HONG KONG.

NEVERTHELESS, SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES IN RESPECT OF ILLEGAL SALES OF PRESCRIPTION-ONLY DRUGS, INCLUDING DIPYRONE PRODUCTS, HAVE BEEN STEPPED UP CONSIDERABLY. THE NUMBER OF TEST PURCHASES CONDUCTED IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1994 IS 5947 AS COMPARED TO AN ANNUAL FIGURE OF 1389 FOR 1993.

FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER CONTRACTS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU WAI-HING AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WHOSE CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT HAVE BEEN PREMATURELY TERMINATED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WORK IN HONG KONG UNTIL THEY ENTER INTO NEW CONTRACTS WITH OTHER LOCAL EMPLOYERS. WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :

- (A) WHAT IS THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME THAT A FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER HAS TO WAIT BEFORE THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL ADJUDICATES HIS OR HER CASE;
- (B) WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS IN HONG KONG WHOSE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED PREMATURELY BY THEIR EMPLOYERS AND WHO HAVE TO AWAIT THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL'S ADJUDICATION OF THEIR CASES; OF THIS, HOW MANY FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS ARE BEING STRANDED IN HONG KONG AWAITING ADJUDICATION DUE TO THEIR INABILITY TO AFFORD THE RETURN PASSAGE TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN;
- (C) IN RESPECT OF THE FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WHO ARE STRANDED IN HONG KONG AS DESCRIBED IN (B) ABOVE, WHAT MEASURES DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR LIVING DURING THEIR STAY HERE; AND
- (D) IF THE FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER CONCERNED CHOOSES TO RETURN TO HIS OR HER HOME COUNTRY FIRST, WILL THE EMPLOYER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF THE PASSAGE TO HONG KONG WHEN HE OR SHE IS CALLED UPON TO APPEAR BEFORE THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL; HAS THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT A SITUATION MAY ARISE WHERE THE FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER IS FORCED TO DROP THE CASE ON ACCOUNT OF HIS OR HER INABILITY TO PAY FOR THE PASSAGE TO HONG KONG?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE CASES AS TO WHETHER THE CLAIMANTS ARE FOREIGNERS OR LOCALS. AT PRESENT, THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL APPROACH BY A CLAIMANT TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL AND ADJUDICATION IS AROUND SEVEN MONTHS. HOWEVER, THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL MAY ARRANGE AN EARLY APPOINTMENT FOR A PERSON WHO NEEDS TO LEAVE HONG KONG URGENTLY. THE WAITING TIME FOR ADJUDICATION IS EXPECTED TO BE REDUCED WHEN THE MINOR EMPLOYMENT CLAIMS ADJUDICATION BOARD SET UP IN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT COMMENCES OPERATION LATER THIS YEAR.

/(B) WE DO .....

- (B) WE DO NOT HAVE STATISTICS ON THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WHOSE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED PREMATURELY BY THEIR EMPLOYERS AND WHO HAVE TO AWAIT THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL'S ADJUDICATION OF THEIR CASES. HOWEVER, AS AN INDICATION, IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1994, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT REFERRED 679 FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL TO FURTHER PURSUE THEIR CLAIMS. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE FIGURE AS FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS MAY FILE CLAIMS WITH THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL WITHOUT FIRST APPROACHING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS STRANDED IN HONG KONG AWAITING ADJUDICATION DUE TO THEIR INABILITY TO AFFORD THE RETURN PASSAGE TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN BECAUSE, BY VIRTUE OF THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT, AN EMPLOYER IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE HIS FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER WITH A FREE RETURN PASSAGE ON TERMINATION OR EXPIRY OF CONTRACT, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THE FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER NEEDS TO AWAIT ADJUDICATION OF CLAIM AT THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL.

- (C) FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WHO HAVE TO STAY BEHIND TO AWAIT ADJUDICATION USUALLY MANAGE TO FIND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF CONSULATES, CHURCH, WORKER ORGANIZATIONS AND FRIENDS. THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT CAN ARRANGE ACCOMMODATION IN ONE OF THE TWO SHELTERS FOR BATTERED WOMEN FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WHO ARE GENUINELY ILL-TREATED. IN ADDITION, COUNSELLING SERVICE CAN BE PROVIDED AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CAN ALSO BE ARRANGED FOR GENUINE HARDSHIP CASES;

- (D) IN THE CASE OF A FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER AWAITING ADJUDICATION OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NORMALLY ALLOW THE HELPER TO CONTINUE TO STAY IN HONG KONG PENDING THE CONCLUSION OF HIS OR HER CLAIM. IF THE FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER CHOOSES TO RETURN TO HIS OR HER HOME COUNTRY FIRST, THERE IS NO OBLIGATION FOR HIS OR HER EMPLOYER TO SUPPLY THE HELPER WITH PASSAGE TO RETURN TO HONG KONG TO ATTEND A LABOUR TRIBUNAL HEARING. HOWEVER, IN SERIOUS CASES INVOLVING ALLEGATIONS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER PAYING FOR PASSAGES TO BRING THE FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER BACK TO FACILITATE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

IMPROVEMENT OF WATER QUALITY AT BEACHES

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON MISS EMILY LAU WAI-HING AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : OWING TO THE LONG DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING THE SEWAGE DISPOAL SCHEME, A NUMBER OF BEACHES HAVE BECOME BADLY POLLUTED AND ARE THUS UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING, AND THIS HAS RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL PLACES FOR THE PUBLIC ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHETHER CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO OPENING UP AND DEVELOPING OUTING SITES IN RURAL AREAS AS WELL AS OUTLYING ISLANDS, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS TO THE BATHING BEACHES ALONG TAI LONG SAI WAN IN SAI KUNG, SO THAT MORE PEOPLE CAN ENJOY THESE BEAUTIFUL BEACHES AND BATHE IN CLEANER WATER?

REPLY:

MR PRESIDENT,

AT PRESENT, THE WATER QUALITY OF 13 OF THE 42 GAZETTED BEACHES IS STILL GRADED POOR OR VERY POOR. THE HON MS EMILY LAU'S CONCERN ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL GAZETTED BEACHES IS THEREFORE WELL APPRECIATED.

THE WATER QUALITY AT GAZETTED BEACHES CAN HOWEVER BE IMPROVED BY THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE SEWERAGE FOR DOMESTIC SEWAGE AND THE PROPER CONTROL OF LIVESTOCK WASTES DISCHARGES. TO THIS END, THE GOVERNMENT HAS A COMPREHENSIVE PRIORITIZED PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SEWERAGE NEAR GAZETTED BEACHES TO ENSURE THAT SEWAGE IS COLLECTED, REMOVED AND PROPERLY DISPOSED OF. THE FIRST PART OF THIS PLAN COVERING THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF HONG KONG ISLAND WOULD BE COMPLETED TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR. AT THE END OF THE DECADE, THERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF SEWERAGE AT ALL THOSE GAZETTED BEACHES WHERE THE WATER QUALITY HAS BEEN GRADED POOR OR VERY POOR.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WILL ALSO CONSIDER DEVELOPING NEW GAZETTED BEACHES IF SUITABLE VENUES WITH EASY ACCESSIBILITY, A SAFE SEA-BED AND WATER CURRENT, ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT AND GOOD WATER QUALITY CAN BE FOUND. IN THIS REGARD, A NEW BEACH AT TUEN MUN, GOLDEN BEACH, WOULD BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC USE AT THE NEXT SWIMMING SEASON.

SEPARATELY, AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE WILL SOON BE FORMED TO LOOK INTO WATER SPORTS FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE EXISTING BEACHES AND THE NEED FOR AND POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING NEW ONES.

/AS REGARDS .....

AS REGARDS THE BEACHES IN TAI LONG SAI WAN, THEY ARE PARTIALLY LOCATED WITHIN THE SAI KUNG EAST COUNTRY PARK. THERE IS NO PLAN TO PROVIDE VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THIS AREA. WHILE SUCH A PROVISION WOULD ADMITTEDLY ATTRACT MORE VISITORS TO THE AREA, IT WILL, ON THE OTHER HAND, BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE TRANQUILLITY, NATURAL BEAUTY AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE COUNTRY PARK. IN ANY EVENT, THE BEACHES IN THIS AREA HAVE A STRONG UNDERCURRENT MAKING IT UNSAFE FOR THE CASUAL SWIMMERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THESE BEACHES.

I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT ABOUT 13,000,000 SWIMMERS ON AVERAGE USE OUR GAZETTED BEACHES EVERY YEAR. THIS COMPARES WITH ABOUT 6,500,000 SWIMMERS GOING TO PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS. IT IS CLEAR FROM THESE FIGURES THAT THERE IS NO LACK OF FACILITIES FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO GO SWIMMING AT BEACHES.

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MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : REGARDING THE ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE GROUPING OF THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :

- (A) HOW MANY SECONDARY SCHOOLS OPENED IN THE NEW SCHOOL TERM HAVE CHOSEN CHINESE, ENGLISH, CHINESE OR ENGLISH ON A SUBJECT-TO-SUBJECT BASIS, OR CHINESE OR ENGLISH ON A CLASS-TO-CLASS BASIS RESPECTIVELY AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION; AND IN RESPECT OF THESE SCHOOLS, HOW DOES THE AUTHORITY CONCERNED ASSESS THE STANDARD FOR STUDENT INTAKE AND HOW DOES IT MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN THESE SCHOOLS;
- (B) WHAT IS THE BREAKDOWN BY THE CATEGORIES AS LISTED IN (A) ABOVE IN RESPECT OF PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, AND WHAT MEASURES WILL THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TAKE TO ENCOURAGE THOSE SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE TAKEN IN MORE STUDENTS OF LOWER ACADEMIC STANDARDS TO ADOPT THE MOTHER-TONGUE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN A POSITIVE MANNER; AND
- (C) OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, HOW MANY HAVE CHOSEN THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUTHORITY CONCERNED AND HOW MANY HAVE NOT; WHAT IS THE BREAKDOWN BY THE CATEGORIES LISTED IN (A) ABOVE; AND

/(D) WHETHER IT .....

- (D) WHETHER IT WILL CONSIDER DISCLOSING THE INFORMATION IN (C) ABOVE IN RESPECT OF EACH SECONDARY SCHOOL SO AS TO ENABLE PARENTS TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE DECISION WHEN THEY ARE CHOOSING SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN, AND TO ENSURE THAT THE PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW WILL NOT BE INFRINGED AND THAT THE CHILDREN'S STUDYING NEEDS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE WITHHOLDING OF SUCH INFORMATION?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) SIX NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING TWO PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS) COMMENCED OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER 1994. FOUR OF THEM HAVE CHOSEN ENGLISH AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR THEIR SECONDARY 1 CLASSES, WHILE THE OTHER TWO HAVE CHOSEN CHINESE OR ENGLISH ON A SUBJECT BASIS AS APPROPRIATE. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL SOON COMPILE THE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PROFILES OF THESE SCHOOLS' SECONDARY 1 INTAKES AND BASED ON SUCH PROFILES, ADVISE THE SCHOOLS ON THE APPROPRIATE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION TO ADOPT IN SEPTEMBER 1995.
- (B) OF THE 25 PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG, 17 HAVE CHOSEN CHINESE AND ONE HAS CHOSEN ENGLISH AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM. THE REMAINING SEVEN SCHOOLS HAVE CHOSEN CHINESE OR ENGLISH ON A SUBJECT BASIS. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE A RELATIVELY HIGHER PROPORTION OF STUDENTS WITH LOWER ACADEMIC STANDARDS TO ADOPT MOTHER-TONGUE AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM THROUGH -
- (I) THE ORGANIZATION OF SEMINARS FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ON THE BENEFITS OF MOTHER TONGUE TEACHING;
- (II) DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS TO PARENTS, PUBLICISING THE BENEFITS OF MOTHER-TONGUE TEACHING;
- (III) CHECKING THROUGH SCHOOL INSPECTIONS ON THE MEDIUM OF TEACHING ACTUALLY ADOPTED AS COMPARED WITH THAT RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND
- (IV) THE MAKING OF REGULAR VISITS TO SCHOOLS TO PERSUADE THEM TO USE THE APPROPRIATE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMENCING AN EVALUATION STUDY TO MONITOR THE LEARNING PROCESS OF STUDENTS OVER THE THREE SCHOOL YEARS FROM 1994-95 TO 1996-97. THE STUDY WILL BE COMPLETED BY EARLY 1997 AND THE EVALUATION RESULTS WILL ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE FIRM GUIDANCE TO ALL SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 1997 ON THE APPROPRIATE TEACHING MEDIUM TO ADOPT AS FROM SEPTEMBER 1998.

- (C) IN THE 1994/95 SCHOOL YEAR, 139 OUT OF A TOTAL OF 386 SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE CHOSEN THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. DETAILS ARE GIVEN AT APPENDIX 1.
- (D) ALL SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO SPECIFY THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION THEY INTEND TO ADOPT IN JANUARY EACH YEAR. PARENTS OF PRIMARY 6 PUPILS ARE GIVEN THIS INFORMATION IN APRIL TO ENABLE THEM TO MAKE A CHOICE OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER TO DISCLOSE TO THE PUBLIC ITS ADVICE TO EACH SCHOOL BASED ON THE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF ITS PAST INTAKES, AND WILL CONSULT SCHOOL COUNCILS BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS NOTED THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP REPORT ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISH THE OUTCOME OF THE 1994 SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE ALLOCATION AND MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION GROUPING ASSESSMENT EXERCISE TO SHOW HOW FAR EACH SECONDARY SCHOOL HAS TAKEN ACCOUNT OF THE LANGUAGE PROFILE OF ITS STUDENTS IN DECIDING ITS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

APPENDIX 1

SCHOOL'S INTENTION TO FOLLOW ED'S ADVICE  
ON MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION  
(BASED ON A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN MAY/JUNE 1994)

ED'S ADVICE	IN CONFORMITY WITH ED'S ADVICE	NOT IN TOTAL CONFORMITY WITH ED'S ADVICE
GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS		
C - SCHOOL	6	4
E - SCHOOL	9	-
CE - SCHOOL	2	17
SUB-TOTAL	17	21
AIDED SCHOOLS		
C - SCHOOL	42	94
E - SCHOOL	47	-
CE - SCHOOL	33*	132
SUB-TOTAL	122	226
TOTAL	139	247

/REMARKS: .....

REMARKS :

1) ED'S ADVICE

C : ALL S1 CLASSES TO ADOPT CHINESE AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM EXCEPT FOR THE SUBJECT OF ENGLISH

E : ALL S1 CLASSES TO ADOPT ENGLISH AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM EXCEPT THE SUBJECTS OF CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CHINESE HISTORY

CE : TWO-MEDIUM SCHOOLS, I.E. SOME S1 CLASSES TO ADOPT ENGLISH AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM (EXCEPT THE SUBJECTS OF CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CHINESE HISTORY) AND THE OTHER S1 CLASSES TO ADOPT CHINESE AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM (EXCEPT THE SUBJECT OF ENGLISH)

2) SIX (6) NEW SCHOOLS WHICH COMMENCED OPERATION IN 1994/95 ARE NOT INCLUDED BECAUSE NO ED'S ADVICE WAS GIVEN.

3) \* SOME CE-SCHOOLS HAVE OPTED TO USE CHINESE AS TEACHING MEDIUM FOR ALL THEIR SECONDARY 1 CLASSES IN 1994-95.

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REHOUSING FOR SQUATTERS AND THA RESIDENTS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN THE "PROGRESS REPORT OF THE 1994 POLICY ADDRESS" RELEASED BY THE GOVERNMENT, MENTION WAS MADE OF THE PROGRESS IN REHOUSING URBAN SQUATTERS AND TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS (THAS) RESIDENTS. WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :

(A) AMONG THE 21,200 OF THE 33,000 URBAN SQUATTERS ON GOVERNMENT LAND WHO HAVE BEEN REHOUSED, HOW MANY (BROKEN DOWN IN TABULAR FORM) HAVE BEEN REHOUSED IN THAS AND THE PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING ESTATES IN URBAN AREAS, EXTENDED URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW TERRITORIES RESPECTIVELY;

(B) WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO SQUATTERS ON NON-GOVERNMENT LAND IN CASE OF A CLEARANCE, AND WHETHER THERE IS A TIMETABLE FOR SUCH CLEARANCES;

(C) OF THE ONE THIRD OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THAS IN 1993 (20,900 OUT OF 62,800) WHO HAVE BEEN OFFERED REHOUSING, HAVE ALL OF THEM BEEN REHOUSED IN PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING; IF NOT, WHAT ARE THE REASONS;

/(D) WHAT IS .....

- (D) WHAT IS THE BREAKDOWN OF THA RESIDENT WHO HAVE BEEN REHOUSED IN NEWLY BUILT HARMONY BLOCKS, TRIDENT BLOCKS AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES OF OTHER DESIGNS RESPECTIVELY; AND
- (E) WHETHER THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAS OFFERED RENTAL FLATS IN NEWLY BUILT HARMONY BLOCKS TO ALL AFFECTED THA RESIDENTS; IF NOT, WHY NOT?

ANSWER:

MR PRESIDENT,

ON REHOUSING FOR SQUATTERS AND THA RESIDENTS, WE CAN REPORT THE FOLLOWING PROGRESS:-

- (A) THE BREAKDOWN OF THE 21,200 URBAN SQUATTERS ON GOVERNMENT LAND WHO HAVE BEEN REHOUSED SINCE OCTOBER 1992 IS AS FOLLOWS:-

HOUSING DISTRICT	PERMANENT TYPE	TEMPORARY HOUSING	TOTAL HOUSING
URBAN		5,810	5,150
EXTENDED URBAN		4,200	230
NEW TERRITORIES		170	5,640
TOTAL		10,180	11,020
			21,200

(NOTE: FIGURES ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST TEN.)

- (B) THE GOVERNMENT WILL CLEAR SQUATTERS FROM PRIVATE LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES AFTER LAND ACQUISITION HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND ON GEOTECHNICAL GROUNDS. CLEAREES WILL BE TREATED THE SAME WAY AS SQUATTERS CLEARED FROM GOVERNMENT LAND. THE TIMING OF CLEARANCE WILL DEPEND ON PROGRESS ON PROJECTS REQUIRING IT.
- (C) SINCE OCTOBER 1993, A TOTAL OF 20,900 PEOPLE LIVING IN THAS WERE OFFERED REHOUSING IN PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING. OF THESE, 13,500 HAVE BEEN REHOUSED IN PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING. THE OTHER THA RESIDENTS WHO WERE OFFERED PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING DID NOT TAKE IT UP BECAUSE OF THEIR PREFERENCE FOR REHOUSING IN NEW FLATS IN DISTRICTS OF THEIR CHOICE WHERE FLATS WERE NOT AVAILABLE, OR IN FLATS WITH A SPECIFIC ORIENTATION AND ON A SPECIFIC FLOOR ETC. WHICH COULD ALSO NOT BE PROVIDED.

/(D) WE DO .....

- (D) WE DO NOT HAVE READILY AVAILABLE STATISTICS ON THE TYPE OF RENTAL FLATS IN WHICH EX-THA RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN REHOUSED.
- (E) THE TYPE OF RENTAL FLATS THAT ARE OFFERED TO THA RESIDENTS DEPENDS ON THEIR AVAILABILITY WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF REHOUSING PREFERENCE OF THA RESIDENTS. SOME HARMONY FLATS HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO THA RESIDENTS.

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MEASURES TO RECOVER OUTSTANDING PENALTY FINES

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS MIRIAM LAU KIN-YEE AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL LOSS OF REVENUE TO THE GOVERNMENT ARISING FROM THE LARGE NUMBER OF UNPAID FIXED PENALTY TICKETS (APPROXIMATELY 660,000 UP TO AUGUST THIS YEAR), WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :-

- (A) WHAT MEASURES ARE BEING ADOPTED TO RECOVER THESE OUTSTANDING FIXED PENALTY FINES;
- (B) WHETHER SUCH MEASURES ARE EFFECTIVE; AND
- (C) WHETHER A REVIEW OF SUCH MEASURES WILL BE CONDUCTED?

REPLY:

MR PRESIDENT,

THE FIGURE OF 660,000 RELATES TO THE NUMBER OF DEMAND NOTICES ISSUED IN RESPECT OF FIXED PENALTY TICKETS, FROM JANUARY TO AUGUST THIS YEAR. SUCH DEMAND NOTICES ARE ISSUED IF FIXED PENALTIES REMAIN UNPAID AFTER ONE MONTH. THE LATEST FIGURES SHOW THAT, OF THESE 660,000 CASES, PAYMENT HAS SINCE BEEN EFFECTED IN RESPECT OF SOME 590,000.

/THE ANSWERS .....

THE ANSWERS TO THE THREE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ARE:-

(A) MEASURES TO RECOVER OUTSTANDING FIXED PENALTIES  
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IF THE RECIPIENT OF A DEMAND NOTICE FAILS TO PAY THE FIXED PENALTY WITHIN 10 DAYS, AN APPLICATION IS MADE TO A MAGISTRATE FOR THE ISSUE OF A COURT ORDER. THE PERSON MAY THEN BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE FIXED PENALTY, TOGETHER WITH AN ADDITIONAL SUM EQUIVALENT TO THE AMOUNT OF THE FIXED PENALTY, AS WELL AS COSTS. ON ISSUE OF THE COURT ORDER, THE MAGISTRATE MAY AT THE SAME TIME MAKE AN ORDER DIRECTING THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO REFUSE TO ISSUE OR RENEW THE PERSON'S DRIVING LICENCE, TO REFUSE TO ISSUE OR RENEW HIS VEHICLE LICENCE, AND TO REFUSE TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER OF ANY VEHICLES REGISTERED UNDER HIS NAME. THE LATTER ORDER REMAINS IN FORCE UNTIL ALL OUTSTANDING SUMS ARE PAID.

IF PAYMENT IS NOT MADE WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THE COURT ORDER BEING ISSUED, A MAGISTRATE MAY ISSUE A DISTRESS WARRANT DIRECTING COURT BAILIFFS TO ENFORCE PAYMENT.

(B) WHETHER SUCH MEASURES ARE EFFECTIVE  
-----

WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THESE MEASURES ARE EFFECTIVE.

(C) WHETHER A REVIEW OF SUCH MEASURES WILL BE CONDUCTED  
-----

THE MEASURES HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND THIS RESULTED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS GIVING EFFECT TO THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN ANSWER (A) ABOVE. WE DO NOT CONSIDER A FURTHER REVIEW NECESSARY AT THIS STAGE, BUT THE SITUATION WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW.

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USE OF GOVT CARS

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : WITH REGARD TO THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE USE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF :

/(A) THE .....

- (A) THE PARTICULARS OF THE TEN OFFICIALS IN THE RANK OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND ABOVE HAVING THE HEAVIEST USE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER 1994, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TIMES AND HOURS OF USE IN RESPECT OF EACH OFFICIAL DURING THIS PERIOD; AND
- (B) HOW IT CAN ENSURE THAT THE OFFICIALS CONCERNED WILL NOT ABUSE THE USE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES PARTICULARLY IN ATTENDING UNNECESSARY SOCIAL FUNCTIONS AND USING GOVERNMENT VEHICLES FOR LONG PERIODS UNNECESSARILY, SO THAT PUBLIC MONEY WILL NOT BE WASTED?

## ANSWER :

- (A) TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, WE HAVE HAD TO UNDERTAKE A SURVEY OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. SO AS TO PROVIDE A TIMELY ANSWER - AND TO AVOID USING A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES IN PREPARING IT - WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT A COMPREHENSIVE EXERCISE. THIS ANSWER HAS THEREFORE NOT INCLUDED THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES, WHICH DO NOT WORK TO FIXED OFFICE HOURS, NOR THE LANDS AND WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD SHOW VERY LOW USE OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS EXCEPT ON SPECIFIC DUTY TRIPS.

BASED ON THE INFORMATION RECEIVED, THE TEN SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO HAVE MADE THE HEAVIEST USE OF GOVERNMENT CARS OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS (EXCLUDING HOME TO OFFICE JOURNEYS) IN THE PERIOD APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 1994 ARE -

POSITION/RANK	NO. OF TIMES	HRS OF USAGE
SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS	176	1206
SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE	153	840
SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE	130	702
SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE	121	694
CHIEF SECRETARY	102	687
SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS	139	575
REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG & KOWLOON/NEW TERRITORIES)	169	570
SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY	97	381
A HIGH COURT JUDGE	63	371
DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES	78	321

/(B) ACCORDING TO .....

(B) ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS -

- ALL DIRECTORATE OFFICERS MAY USE A GOVERNMENT CAR, IF AVAILABLE, TO ATTEND FUNCTIONS ARISING FROM THEIR OFFICIAL POSITION, IN OR OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS.
- SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS COMPRISING THE JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATOR, BRANCH SECRETARIES, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT AND JUSTICES OF APPEAL MAY USE A DEPARTMENTAL CAR, IF AVAILABLE, FOR ALL PURPOSES.
- THE CHIEF JUSTICE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ARE PROVIDED WITH OFFICIAL CARS ON A PERSONAL BASIS AND MAY USE THEM FOR ALL PURPOSES.
- ANY JOURNEY THAT IS NOT MADE IN THE COURSE OF THE OFFICIAL DUTIES OF A GOVERNMENT OFFICER, OR AS OTHERWISE PERMITTED IN THE EXCEPTIONS QUOTED ABOVE, WOULD BE REGARDED AS MIS-USE OF GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE OFFICER CONCERNED WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REIMBURSE THE TOTAL ACTUAL COST OF THE MISUSE OF THE VEHICLE AND MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS.

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COMPLAINTS OF INDECENT AND OBSCENE ARTICLES RECEIVED BY TELA  
\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :

1. WHAT IS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT INDECENT AND OBSCENE ARTICLES RECEIVED BY THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) THIS YEAR; WHAT IS THE BREAKDOWN OF THE NATURE OF SUCH COMPLAINTS;
2. WHAT ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY TELA IN HANDLING THESE COMPLAINTS; HOW MANY OF THESE COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL AND WHAT IS THEIR OUTCOME; AND
3. WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER INTRODUCING SPECIAL MEASURES TO CONTROL THE DISPLAY AND SALE OF PORNOGRAPHIC COMIC BOOKS WHICH ARE MORE EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO TEENAGERS, AS OPPOSED TO THE EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES APPLYING TO AUDIT PUBLICATIONS IN GENERAL?

/REPLY: .....

REPLY:

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS OF INDECENT AND OBSCENE ARTICLES RECEIVED BY THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AMOUNTS TO 120, OF WHICH 17 CASES WERE IN WRITING AND 103 THROUGH THE COMPLAINT HOTLINE. A BREAKDOWN OF THESE COMPLAINTS IS AS FOLLOWS :

- A) 66 CASES ALLEGED THAT PARTICULAR ARTICLES SOLD OR HIRED IN THE MARKET WERE OBJECTIONABLE;
- B) 24 CASES ALLEGED THAT PARTICULAR ARTICLES ON PUBLIC DISPLAY WERE INDECENT;
- C) 20 CASES ALLEGED THAT PARTICULAR SHOPS OR NEWSVENDORS HAD SOLD OR HIRED INDECENT ARTICLES TO JUVENILES; AND
- D) 10 CASES OFFERED THE VIEW THAT MORE VIGOROUS ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES.

ALL ARTICLES WHICH HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF THE ABOVE COMPLAINTS, I.E. THOSE COVERED BY (A) AND (B) IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE, WERE REFERRED TO THE OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL (OAT). SINCE TELA SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE OAT BOTH AS A RESULT OF COMPLAINTS AND ON THE BASIS OF ITS OWN SURVEILLANCE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY THOSE SUBMITTED AS A RESULT OF COMPLAINTS AND ASCERTAIN THE OAT'S DECISIONS IN THESE CASES. IT IS ESTIMATED, HOWEVER, THAT ABOUT 15% OF THE ARTICLES UNDER COMPLAINTS WERE CLASSIFIED BY THE OAT AS CLASS I (NEITHER OBSCENE OR INDECENT), ABOUT 80% CLASS II (INDECENT) AND ABOUT 5% CLASS III (OBSCENE).

APART FROM SUBMITTING ARTICLES UNDER COMPLAINT TO THE OAT, TELA TOOK ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS EITHER BY ITSELF OR IN JOINT OPERATIONS WITH THE POLICE. AS A RESULT OF SUCH ACTIONS ON THE COMPLAINTS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE, TELA ISSUED SUMMONSES TO 30 PERSONS, OF WHOM 23 WERE CONVICTED WITH FINES RANGING FROM \$500 TO \$30,000 WHILE 7 CASES ARE STILL PENDING A COURT RULING.

SELLING INDECENT COMIC BOOKS TO YOUNGSTERS BELOW 18, AS WITH THE SALE OF OTHER INDECENT PUBLICATIONS TO SUCH YOUNGSTERS, CONSTITUTES AN OFFENCE UNDER THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE. OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$200,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS. THEREFORE, THE ADMINISTRATION SEES NO NEED TO DRAW UP DIFFERENT CONTROL MEASURES IN THE SALE AND DISPLAY OF COMIC BOOKS. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION SEES THE NEED TO MAKE ALL INDECENT ARTICLES LESS ACCESSIBLE TO YOUNG PEOPLE BELOW 18. TO HELP TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL PROPOSE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO SPELL OUT CLEARLY THE MINIMUM SIZE OF THE WARNING NOTICE ON THE COVER OF INDECENT ARTICLES AND TO REQUIRE THESE ARTICLES TO BE PROPERLY ENCLOSED IN OPAQUE WRAPPERS.

EXHIBITS FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS PROPERLY HANDLED

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :

- (A) THE NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH EXHIBITS OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS OR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS BEING CLAIMED BY IMPERSONATION IN THE PAST THREE YEARS; AND THE BREAKDOWN OF THE NATURE OF SUCH CASES; AND
- (B) WHAT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT EXHIBITS FROM BEING CLAIMED BY SUCH MEANS?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THERE HAS ONLY BEEN ONE SUCH CASE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. THIS OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER 1993 WHEN 191 GRAMS OF HEROIN WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE SHEUNG SHUI POLICE STATION BY A POLICE CONSTABLE WHO CLAIMED FALSELY THAT HE WAS THE ARRESTING OFFICER IN THE CASE. THE DRUGS WERE EXHIBITS IN A CASE OF "TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS", AND THE TRIAL IN WHICH THEY WERE TO BE AN EXHIBIT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ABORTED. AN OFFICER HAS SINCE BEEN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH THEFT AND CONSPIRACY TO PERVERT THE COURSE OF JUSTICE.
- (B) THERE ARE STRINGENT SAFEGUARDS IN PLACES WHERE EXHIBITS, IN PARTICULAR VALUABLE PROPERTY AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, ARE HANDLED AND STORED. THE EXHIBITS ARE LOCKED UP SECURELY, AND ENTRY TO THE PLACES OF STORAGE IS RESTRICTED. POLICE OFFICERS HANDLING THE EXHIBITS ARE REQUIRED TO OBSERVE STRICT PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE STORAGE, TRANSPORT AND USE OF THESE EXHIBITS. ONLY THE OFFICER WHO SEIZED THE PROPERTY OR THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF A CASE IS ALLOWED TO WITHDRAW THE EXHIBITS FROM THE PROPERTY STORE. THERE ARE REGULAR INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS TO ENSURE THAT PROCEDURES ARE BEING ADHERED TO AND PROPER RECORDS MAINTAINED. THESE PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION DEPARTMENT OF THE ICAC AND HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE ADEQUATE. THE FORCE ALSO PROVIDES TRAINING TO OFFICERS TO ENSURE THAT EXHIBITS ARE PROPERLY HANDLED. OFFICERS NOT COMPLYING WITH THE PROCEDURES MAY BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

POPULATION TREND UNDER STUDY  
\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN VIEW OF THE RECENT DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE TERRITORY'S POPULATION (SOME 142,000 PEOPLE LAST YEAR), WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHETHER IT WILL:

- (A) CONSIDER MAKING A THOROUGH STUDY OF THE INCREASE, INCLUDING WHETHER IT IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE; THE MAKEUP OF THE INFLUX AND THE DEMANDS THESE ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WILL MAKE UPON THE TERRITORY'S SCARCE RESOURCES; AND
- (B) PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF SUCH A STUDY?

ANSWER:

THE POPULATION AS AT MID-1994 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 6.061 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 142,400 PERSONS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 5.919 MILLION AS AT MID-1993. OF THIS INCREASE, 42,400 WAS DUE TO NATURAL INCREASE, I.E. BIRTHS LESS DEATHS, WHILE THE REMAINING 100,000 WAS DUE TO NET BALANCE OF ARRIVALS OVER DEPARTURES DURING THE PERIOD.

THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS FOR THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NET BALANCE OF ARRIVALS OVER DEPARTURES BETWEEN MID-1993 AND MID-1994 WERE REDUCED EMIGRATION OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS AND INCREASED INFLOW OF RETURNED EMIGRANTS.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT POPULATION TRENDS AND SPECIFICALLY, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE INCREASES RECORDED HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN PREVIOUSLY PROJECTED, THE GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY STUDYING THE SITUATION IN DETAIL LEADING TO AN UPDATE OF THE POPULATION PROJECTIONS. THE UPDATED POPULATION PROJECTIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AS SOON AS THE UPDATED POPULATION PROJECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE, THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMMES IN THE VARIOUS POLICY AREAS WILL BE EXAMINED BY THE BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS WILL ALSO BE EXAMINED AT THE SAME TIME.

RE-EMPLOYED CIVIL SERVANTS

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO MUN-KA AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR MICHAEL SZE, IN THE LEGISLATION COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : ACCORDING TO APPENDIX 9 OF THE REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 1993, THE NUMBER OF RE-EMPLOYED CIVIL SERVANTS STANDS AT 11. WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING IN RESPECT OF THESE 11 PERSONS :

- (A) THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED PENSION GRATUITIES ONLY AND THE NUMBER WHO ARE PAID THE MONTHLY PENSION IN ADDITION TO PENSION GRATUITIES;
- (B) WHY ARRANGEMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE FOR EXTENSION OF SERVICE; AND
- (C) WHAT ARE THE POSTS HELD BY THE RE-EMPLOYED CIVIL SERVANTS?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS :

- (A) ALL ELEVEN OFFICERS WERE GRANTED COMMUTED PENSION GRATUITIES ON THEIR DATE OF RETIREMENT BUT HAD THEIR MONTHLY PENSION SUSPENDED DURING THEIR RE-EMPLOYMENT.
- (B) ALL ELEVEN OFFICERS WERE ON THE OLD PENSION SCHEME AND HAD TO RETIRE ON REACHING THE NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE OF 55. SINCE 1.7.87, OFFICERS ON THE OPS MAY ONLY BE GRANTED A FINAL EXTENTION OF SERVICE FOR A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF 90 DAYS. THE ELEVEN OFFICERS WERE RE-EMPLOYED, INSTEAD OF BEING GRANTED AN EXTENSION, BECAUSE THEIR SERVICES WERE RETAINED BEYOND 90 DAYS AND THEY FULFILLED THE CRITERIA FOR RE-EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT A BREAK IN SERVICE.

RE-EMPLOYMENT AT THE SAME RANK AFTER RETIREMENT UNDER THE OLD PENSION SCHEME WITHOUT A BREAK IN SERVICE MAY BE GRANTED TO AN OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN REQUIRED TO RETIRE ON REACHING AGE 55. RE-EMPLOYMENT IS SUBJECT TO SERVICE NEED AND TO THE OFFICER BEING REQUIRED TO REMAIN IN THE SERVICE ON ACCOUNT OF HIS ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE, AND TO HIS BEING PHYSICALLY FIT.

/(C) A BREAKDOWN .....

- (C) A BREAKDOWN OF THE POSTS HELD BY THE RE-EMPLOYED CIVIL SERVANTS IS AS FOLLOWS -

POST -----	NUMBER -----
ASSISTANT MISTRESS	5
PRINCIPAL I	2
MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER	2
ASSISTANT SUPPLIES OFFICER	1
MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINER II	1

THE SEVEN OFFICERS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WERE RE-EMPLOYED ON ATTAINING AGE 55 UP TO THE END OF THE 1993/94 SCHOOL YEAR FOR CONTINUITY REASONS. THE REMAINING OFFICERS WERE RE-EMPLOYED BECAUSE OF SERVICE NEED.

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#### ENROLMENT AND WASTAGE FIGURES IN NURSING SCHOOLS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS KATHERINE FOK, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL:

- A) WHAT ARE THE ENROLMENT AND WASTAGE FIGURES IN NURSING SCHOOLS UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BETWEEN MAY AND AUGUST OF THIS YEAR; AND, COMPARING THIS YEAR'S WASTAGE FIGURE WITH THAT OF THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WHICH YEAR HAS THE HIGHER WASTAGE;
- B) REGARDING THE WASTAGE OF STUDENT NURSES, WHAT ARE THE EXPLANATIONS GIVEN BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION;
- C) WHETHER THE WASTAGE OF STUDENT NURSES WILL RESULT IN A WORSENING OF THE SHORTAGE OF NURSING STAFF IN HOSPITALS?

REPLY :

THE ENROLMENT AND WASTAGE FIGURES IN NURSING SCHOOLS UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BETWEEN MAY AND AUGUST 1994 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR ARE SUMMARISED BELOW :

YEAR -----	ENROLMENT -----	WASTAGE(%) -----	NET INTAKE -----
1993	319	142 (44.5%)	177
1994	400	190 (47.5%)	210

/THE REASONS .....

THE REASONS FOR A RELATIVELY HIGH WASTAGE AMONG STUDENT NURSES ARE MANY AND VARIED. ALTHOUGH THIS IS A COMMON PHENOMENON FOR ALMOST ANY TRAINING GRADES, SOME KEY FACTORS INCLUDE THE GROWING COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION, THE INCREASING VOLUME AND COMPLEXITY OF DUTIES BORNE BY FRONTLINE NURSING STAFF, THE PRESENT APPRENTICESHIP MODE OF TRAINING, AND THE GENERAL COMPETITIVENESS OF OUR LABOUR MARKET.

TO TACKLE THE ABOVE PROBLEMS, GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THROUGH THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO IMPROVE THE TEACHER TO STUDENT RATIO IN NURSING SCHOOLS, TO ENHANCE THE LEARNING COMPONENT OF STUDENT NURSES, TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF POST-BASIC EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVING STAFF, AND TO RECRUIT SUPPORTING PERSONNEL SUCH AS HEALTH CARE ASSISTANTS TO RELIEVE FRONTLINE NURSES FROM NON-PROFESSIONAL DUTIES. FURTHERMORE, THE AUTHORITY IS EXAMINING OTHER MEASURES TO RECTIFY THE SEASONAL PATTERN OF WASTAGE. WE ARE ALSO PURSUING SEPARATELY WITH THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER THE PROVISION OF MORE FIRST YEAR FIRST DEGREE PLACES FOR MATRICULANTS ASPIRING TO JOIN THE NURSING PROFESSION AS A LONG-TERM CAREER.

FINALLY, MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL MAY WISH TO BE ASSURED THAT THE PREVAILING WASTAGE RATE HAS NOT CAUSED ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON SERVICE DELIVERY, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE NET INCREASE OF 3.8% IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NURSES WORKING IN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FROM 16,637 AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993 TO 17,262 AS AT 31 JULY 1994.

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#### SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : SINCE THE POLICE HAVE SET UP "SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS" IN CERTAIN POLICE DISTRICTS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL :

- (A) IN WHICH POLICE DISTRICTS HAVE THE POLICE SET UP "SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS", WHAT TYPES OF WORK HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY SUCH TEAMS, AND WHETHER THE PRACTICAL RESULTS OF THEIR WORK ARE CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY;
- (B) WHETHER THE REASON FOR THE POLICE NOT SETTING UP "SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS" IN ALL POLICE DISTRICTS IS BECAUSE IT IS CONSIDERED UNNECESSARY TO DO SO OR WHETHER IT IS BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT MANPOWER RESOURCES; AND
- (C) WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAS LAUNCHED OTHER PROGRAMMES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SETTING UP OF "SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS" TO SUPPRESS TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL?

/REPLY: .....

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) THE POLICE HAVE SET UP SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS IN ALL POLICE DISTRICTS, EXCEPT WESTERN, MARINE ISLANDS, AIRPORT AND MTR. A LIST OF THE POLICE DISTRICTS WITH SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS IS AT THE APPENDIX.

THE SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS CONDUCT REGULAR VISITS TO SCHOOLS TO DISSEMINATE THE ANTI-TRIAD MESSAGE AND TO PLACES FREQUENTED BY STUDENTS TO IDENTIFY TRIAD STUDENTS AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS; INVESTIGATE REPORTS RELATING TO TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS; IDENTIFY AND ARREST TRIAD RECRUITERS; INTERVIEW ARRESTED PERSONS, VICTIMS AND WITNESSES; AND ASSIST IN THE FORMULATION OF STRATEGIES TO COMBAT VIOLENT AND TRIAD-RELATED CRIME INVOLVING STUDENTS.

THE POLICE ASSESS THAT SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS ARE EFFECTIVE IN TACKLING TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL.

- (B) THE POLICE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP A SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM IN WESTERN DISTRICT; THE TEAM WILL COME INTO OPERATION SOON.

AS REGARDS THE MARINE ISLANDS DISTRICT, THE POLICE ASSESS THAT, AT PRESENT, TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS IN THIS DISTRICT ARE NOT A MAJOR CAUSE OF CONCERN, EXISTING LIAISON BETWEEN THE POLICE SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER AND SCHOOL HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE, AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SET UP SUCH A TEAM AT THIS STAGE. NEVERTHELESS, THE POLICE WILL MONITOR THE SITUATION.

THERE ARE NO SCHOOLS IN THE AIRPORT AND THE MTR POLICE DISTRICTS, IT IS THEREFORE NOT NECESSARY TO SET UP SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS IN THESE TWO DISTRICTS.

- (C) THE POLICE HAVE IN ADDITION DEPLOYED MORE OFFICERS TO THE VICINITY OF SCHOOLS AND TO PLACES FREQUENTED BY STUDENTS, AND HAVE SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO REPORT CRIMES AND TRIAD ACTIVITIES. THEY ARE ALSO LIAISING CLOSELY WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS TO TACKLE TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

/THE EDUCATION .....

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED A GUIDANCE CIRCULAR TO SCHOOLS, AND PROVIDED IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES AND TEACHING KITS ON ANTI-TRIAD ACTIVITIES TO SCHOOL DISCIPLINE TEACHERS, TO HELP THEM DEAL WITH DELINQUENT STUDENTS AND STUDENTS SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS. THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES AFTER SCHOOL HOURS; TO ENCOURAGE STUDENT GUIDANCE TEACHERS AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS TO TALK TO PARENTS ON THE ROLE PARENTS CAN PLAY IN PREVENTING THEIR CHILDREN FROM BECOMING ASSOCIATED WITH TRIADS; AND TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME THEIR DIFFICULTIES.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, PROVIDES SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK. IN 1994/95, THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED 39 ADDITIONAL SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO HELP THEM DEAL WITH STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AND WHO ARE SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

APPENDIX  
-----

POLICE DISTRICTS WITH SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS  
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CENTRAL  
WANCHAI  
EASTERN  
WONG TAI SIN  
SAU MAU PING  
KWUN TONG  
YAU TSIM  
MONG KOK  
SHAM SHUI PO  
KOWLOON CITY  
TAI PO  
FRONTIER/BORDER  
YUEN LONG  
TSUEN WAN  
SHATIN  
KWAI TSING  
TUEN MUN

-----  
TOTAL : 17

ROAD WORKS SLIPPAGE

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS IMPLEMENTED A SERIES OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL SITUATION OF ROAD EXCAVATION WORKS FOR SOME TIME, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF THE FOLLOWING :

- (A) HOW THE SLIPPAGE IN ROAD WORKS HAS BEEN IMPROVED SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH MEASURES; AND
- (B) WHETHER IT WILL CONSIDER IMPOSING FINES ON CONTRACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SLIPPAGE; IF SO, WHEN SUCH MEASURE WILL BE INTRODUCED; IF NOT, WHAT THE REASONS ARE?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO MEASURE IN EXACT TERMS THE IMPROVEMENT IN SLIPPAGE ON ALL THE ROAD WORKS, BECAUSE THERE IS NO SIMPLE METHOD TO DETERMINE HOW LONG INDIVIDUAL JOBS SHOULD TAKE HAD THERE BEEN NO SLIPPAGE DUE TO THE FAULT OF THE CONTRACTORS, BEARING IN MIND THE VARYING NATURE OF VARIOUS FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROGRESS OF WORKS.

HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR CAUSES FOR SLIPPAGE IN ROAD WORKS IS THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT RESOURCES ON SITE. IN FACT, IN THE PAST, VERY OFTEN A NUMBER OF THE SITES WERE FOUND UNATTENDED AFTER THE ROAD SURFACE WAS OPENED.

THIS SITUATION HAS IMPROVED SINCE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAS TIGHTENED UP THE CONTROL ON ROAD OPENINGS BY CARRYING OUT MORE FREQUENT INSPECTIONS. THE OVERALL UNATTENDED SITES FOR UTILITY OPENINGS HAS NOW BEEN REDUCED FROM OVER 30% IN MARCH 92 DOWN TO AROUND 10% IN JULY 94. MORE THAN 90% OF THESE SITES HAVE RESUMED ACTIVITY WHEN WARNINGS WERE ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT.

UTILITY COMPANIES ARE NOW REINSTATING ROAD PAVEMENTS TO ORIGINAL SPECIFICATION ON COMPLETION OF THEIR WORK. THIS IS BRINGING ABOUT REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBER OF CASES OF RE-ENTRY AND THE NEED FOR RE-EXCAVATION FOR PAVEMENT REINSTATEMENT, A SIGNIFICANT CAUSE OF COMPLAINT IN THE PAST.

OTHER MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT BY WAY OF REDUCING THE IMPACT OF ROAD OPENINGS ON TRAFFIC FLOW HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, WITH THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE MAJOR UTILITY COMPANIES. A DETAILED PAPER ON THESE PROPOSED MEASURES WILL BE SUBMITTED TO LEGCO MEMBERS, IN NOVEMBER.

THE SLIPPAGE SITUATION WILL BE FURTHER REVIEWED AFTER THE ADOPTED PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

(B) CHARGING FOR DELAY HAS BEEN EXAMINED UNDER A LANE RENTAL TRIAL, BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT A CHARGING SCHEME IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS :

- I) AS MENTIONED ABOVE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO HAVE A SIMPLE AND UNIQUE METHOD OR FORMULA, WHICH CAN SUIT ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF WORKS AND SITE CONDITIONS, TO DETERMINE THE WORKING PERIOD REQUIRED FOR EACH JOB ;
- II) THERE IS HIGH ADMINISTRATION COST ASSOCIATED WITH CHARGING SCHEMES;
- III) THE TRANSFER OF RENTAL CHARGES AND OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS TO UTILITIES CONSUMERS IS UNAVOIDABLE, THUS NEGATING THE USEFULNESS OF SUCH A SCHEME.

MEMBERS CAN BE ASSURED HOWEVER THAT IT IS A CONTINUING COMMITMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER AND DURATION OF ROAD OPENINGS. A ROAD OPENING WORKING PARTY, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS AND WITH THE PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, HAS BEEN SET UP. THE WORKING PARTY HAS ALREADY IDENTIFIED THE MEANS AND IS NOW IMPLEMENTING THE RELEVANT OPTIONS. BESIDES CO-ORDINATING INVESTIGATIONS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE WORKING PARTY ALSO WORKS CLOSELY SENIOR WITH MANAGEMENT OF MAJOR UTILITIES, TO CONSULT THEIR VIEWS AND TO SEEK THEIR CO-OPERATION ON ISSUES RELATING TO ROAD OPENING WORKS.

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MEASURES TO MONITOR MANAGEMENT OF TSEUNG KWAN O LANDFILL

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FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION BY REV THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD AND A WRITTEN REPLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

QUESTION : IN VIEW OF THE COMPLAINTS BY RESIDENTS OF TSEUNG KWAN O ABOUT THE RENEWED PROLIFERATION OF FLIES IN THAT DISTRICT SINCE THE END OF SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, WILL THE GOVERNMENT INFORM THIS COUNCIL:

/(A) WHAT MEASURES .....

- (A) WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS TO MONITOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LANDFILL AT TSEUNG KWAN O SO AS TO ENSURE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENIC STANDARDS ARE COMPLIED WITH AND THAT THE DAILY LIFE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS IS NOT IN ANY WAY AFFECTED; AND
- (B) WHETHER EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CLEAR THE REFUSE DUMPED ILLEGALLY ALONG WAN PO ROAD?

REPLY :

MR PRESIDENT,

- (A) AT PRESENT, THE TSEUNG KWAN O LANDFILL IS BEING USED MAINLY TO RECEIVE CONSTRUCTION WASTE WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO GIVE RISE TO ANY NOTICEABLE FLY PROBLEM. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT FLIES AT THE TSEUNG KWAN O LANDFILL SINCE AUGUST 1994. SINCE SEPTEMBER 1994, PUTRESCIBLE WASTE HAS BEEN DIVERTED FROM THIS LANDFILL TO THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL AND THE SOUTH-EAST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL.

NEVERTHELESS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING MONITORING AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES:

- (I) DAILY INSPECTION OF THE LANDFILL TIPPING FACE TO IDENTIFY ANY ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS;
  - (II) DAILY SPRAYING OF INSECTICIDES IN THE TIPPING AREA; AND
  - (III) PROMPT RESPONSE TO FLY-TIPPING.
- (B) THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS STEPPED UP EFFORTS TO CLEAR REFUSE DUMPED ILLEGALLY ALONG WAN PO ROAD. SINCE SEPTEMBER 1994, 15 CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN MOUNTED AND 246 TONNES OF REFUSE HAVE BEEN CLEARED. MIDNIGHT OPERATIONS AGAINST FLY-TIPPING HAVE ALSO BEEN MOUNTED AND THE OWNERS OF 5 LORRIES HAVE BEEN SUMMONSED. TO FURTHER DISCOURAGE FLY-TIPPING, WE WILL ERECT BOLLARDS TO PREVENT VEHICULAR ACCESS TO FLY-TIPPING BLACKSPOTS ON WAN PO ROAD.

CHIEF SECRETARY TELLS NEW YORK BUSINESSMEN  
OF HK'S CONTINUED SUCCESS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, HAS ASSURED NEW YORK BUSINESS LEADERS THAT IT WILL BE "BUSINESS AS USUAL AFTER 1997 IN HONG KONG".

DELIVERING A KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO MORE THAN 500 DELEGATES ATTENDING THE HONG KONG-USA BUSINESS SEMINAR IN THE PLAZA HOTEL, NEW YORK, MRS CHAN SAID HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT WAS TO MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE WHICH HAD EARNED IT DUE RECOGNITION AS THE PREMIER BUSINESS CENTRE IN ASIA.

"MOST OF OUR PROGRAMMES AND MANY OF OUR PROJECTS HAVE A LIFE WELL BEYOND 1997. WE WILL NOT LET OUR STANDARDS SLIP.

"OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES - MY HIGHEST PRIORITIES AS CHIEF SECRETARY AND THE PRIORITIES OF ALL OF US WHO WANT OUR FUTURE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997 TO BE EVERY BIT AS BRIGHT AS OUR PRESENT - ARE TO MAINTAIN THE RULE OF LAW; TO MAINTAIN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST CORRUPTION; TO MAINTAIN INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, CLEAN, OPEN AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT; AND TO UPHOLD THE IMPARTIALITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE," MRS CHAN SAID.

REFERRING TO THE CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 9 PROJECT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FIERCELY PROTECTIVE OF ITS WELL-EARNED REPUTATION FOR OPERATING ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD AND FOR RUNNING A SOUND, CLEAN ADMINISTRATION FREE OF CORRUPTION AND POLITICAL INTERFERENCE.

"IT IS VITAL THAT WE MAINTAIN IT. IT IS VITAL ALSO THAT WE HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN HELPING TO PRESERVE THE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH ARE SO FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR SUCCESS AND ONE OF THOSE SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS IS THE RULE OF LAW.

"ONCE THAT BECOMES ERODED OR UNDERMINED, BUSINESS, LIKE THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY, WILL FIND ITSELF PLAYING ON A FIELD THAT IS ANYTHING BUT LEVEL, FAMILIAR OR FRIENDLY. THIS IS ONE PLAYING FIELD WHERE THE GOAL POSTS CANNOT BE SHIFTED, AND I HOPE OUR FRIENDS IN BUSINESS MAKE THAT CLEAR AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO SECURE HONG KONG'S FUTURE."

MRS CHAN WAS INTRODUCED AT THE LUNCHEON BY FORMER USA TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, MRS CARLA HILLS. LATER DURING A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, MRS CHAN, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, SAID: "WE BELIEVE PRESS FREEDOM TO BE FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR WHOLE WAY OF LIFE AND FUNDAMENTAL TO THE VERY VITALITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, BOTH NOW AND AFTER 1997."

SHE SAID FOR ITS PART THE HONG KONG ADMINISTRATION WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD TO ENSURE THE TERRITORY CONTINUED TO HAVE A VIBRANT PRESS.

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S SPEECH CONCLUDED THE WELL-RECEIVED BUSINESS SEMINAR ENTITLED "HONG KONG - BUSINESS PARTNER FOR THE PACIFIC CENTURY" ORGANISED BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES-CHINA RELATIONS.

THE SEMINAR COMPRISED A PLENARY SESSION FEATURING FOUR SPEAKERS FROM HONG KONG - MR C H TUNG, CHAIRMAN, ORIENT OVERSEAS (INTERNATIONAL LTD); MR PAUL CHENG, CHAIRMAN, INCHCAPE PACIFIC; MR RONNIE CHAN, CHAIRMAN, HANG LUNG DEVELOPMENT; AND MR MICHAEL CLANCY, CHAIRMAN, EXXON ENERGY.

THERE WERE ALSO FOUR INDIVIDUAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS COVERING TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CAPITAL MARKETS, AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AND CHINA'S CONSUMER MARKET.

THE DELEGATION IS NOW IN CHICAGO, THE SECOND-LEG OF THE WEEK-LONG PROMOTION, THE BIGGEST HONG KONG HAS EVER HELD IN THE USA.

ONE OF MRS CHAN'S FIRST TASKS IN CHICAGO WAS TO OPEN THE HONG KONG FILM EXHIBITION AND TOMORROW SHE WILL OPEN AN ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION FEATURING MODELS AND DESIGN PLANS OF SOME OF HONG KONG'S MOST OUTSTANDING BUILDINGS.

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CLOSURE ORDERS POSTED ON TSUEN WAN  
UNAUTHORISED ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) POSTED CLOSURE ORDERS IN RESPECT OF THE UNAUTHORISED ROOFTOP STRUCTURES AT CHEUK MING BUILDING AND TAK YAN BUILDING IN TSUEN WAN.

DEMOLITION ACTION, HOWEVER, WILL BE DEFERRED FOR TWO MONTHS AS ANNOUNCED TO THE ROOFTOP OCCUPANTS ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 17).

MEANWHILE, THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT IS ARRANGING FOR THE OCCUPANTS TO OBTAIN RE-ENTRY PERMITS TO HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR STRUCTURES.

THIS IS TO GIVE MORE TIME FOR THOSE OCCUPANTS NOT YET REGISTERED WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT FOR REHOUSING TO DO SO.

THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO AGAIN ARRANGED A SPECIAL MEETING FOR SUCH OCCUPANTS TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1994

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ADVANTAGES OF OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME

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THE OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME IS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP TO PROVIDE A FINANCIALLY SECURE OLD AGE FOR THE CITIZENS OF HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR STRACHAN SAID THIS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG-MACAO CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS SIU SAI WAN SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY.

"WE CHERISH THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE RESPECT FOR THE AGED. WE ALSO FULLY RECOGNISE THE CONTRIBUTION OF OUR OLDER GENERATION TOWARDS THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG TODAY.

"THE PROPOSED SCHEME HAS MANY ADVANTAGES. CONTRIBUTION IS LOW, COVERAGE IS WIDE, BENEFIT IS IMMEDIATE, AND AMOUNT IS GUARANTEED," HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLEDGED MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SCHEME, MR STRACHAN SAID IT REQUIRED ONLY A LOW CONTRIBUTION RATE FROM EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO JUST 1.5 PER CENT OF ASSESSABLE INCOME.

"ONCE THE SCHEME IS IMPLEMENTED, ALL ELIGIBLE CITIZENS AGED 65 AND OVER WOULD HAVE THE IMMEDIATE BENEFIT OF A MONTHLY ALLOWANCE OF \$2,300.

"THE SCHEME OFFERS FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL ELIGIBLE CITIZENS DURING THEIR OLD AGE, INCLUDING LOW-INCOME EMPLOYEES, HOUSEWIVES AND RETIRED PERSONS.

"I HOPE YOU WILL TAKE THE TIME TO READ THE CONSULTATION PAPERS OR THE SIMPLIFIED EXPLANATORY LEAFLET AND LET YOUR VIEWS BE KNOWN OR HEARD BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL VIEWS RECEIVED.

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/32 .....

FEEES FOR ISSUANCE OF FIRE REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES REVISED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT FEES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF FIRE REPORTS AND FIRE CERTIFICATES SPECIFIED IN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES) REGULATION MADE PURSUANT TO THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE WOULD BE REVISED ON NOVEMBER 24.

DETAILS OF THE FEE REVISIONS ARE:

ITEM -----	EXISTING FEE -----	REVISED FEE -----
* REPORT ON FIRE OR OTHER CALAMITY ATTENDED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT	\$165	\$180
* CERTIFICATE REQUIRED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE	\$257	\$280
* CERTIFICATE REQUIRED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER ENACTMENT	\$257	\$280

THE FEE REVISION IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994 WHICH WILL BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 21).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE FEES HAD BEEN REVISED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INCREASE IN COSTS SINCE THEIR LAST REVIEW IN 1993.

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SEWERAGE SYSTEMS FOR TAI PO VILLAGES

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL START WORKS TO BUILD A NETWORK OF SEWERAGE SYSTEMS IN 10 UNSEWERED VILLAGES IN TAI PO NEXT WEEK TO IMPROVE THEIR SANITARY CONDITION.

THE VILLAGES ARE HA HANG, TIN SAM, YUE KOK, SHUI WAI, KAM SHAN, PAN CHUNG SAN TSUEN, NAM HANG, YING PUN HA, SHEUNG WUN YIU AND SAN UK HA.

/THE CONTRACT .....

THE CONTRACT FOR THE \$47.29 MILLION WORKS WAS SIGNED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES (PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT), MR CLEMENT LAU, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR, HOI SING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED.

GRAVITY SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, PUMPING STATIONS, AN INTERCEPTOR CHAMBER AND HYDRO-BRAKE CHAMBERS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED.

THE WORKS WILL BEGIN NEXT WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 26) FOR COMPLETION IN APRIL 1996.

MR LAU SAID THE CONTRACT FORMED PART OF THE TOLO HARBOUR SEWERAGE OF UNSEWERED AREAS SCHEME.

"WHEN THE SCHEME IS COMPLETED, ALL SEWAGE FROM UNSEWERED DEVELOPMENT AT 165 LOCATIONS WITHIN THE TOLO HARBOUR CATCHMENT WILL BE COLLECTED AND TREATED BEFORE DISPOSAL.

"THIS WILL FURTHER IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY IN TOLO HARBOUR AND THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE EXISTING UNSEWERED AREAS IN TAI PO," HE ADDED.

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#### NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD ELECTION

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS INVITING NOMINATIONS FROM EMPLOYEE UNIONS FOR REPRESENTATIVES TO SIT ON THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR A NEW TERM OF OFFICE.

"LETTERS WERE SENT TO ALL REGISTERED EMPLOYEE UNIONS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) INVITING THEM TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD IN ITS NEXT TENURE FROM JANUARY 1, 1995 TO DECEMBER 31, 1996," THE SECRETARY FOR THE BOARD, MISS BERTHA CHENG, SAID.

"THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1994 IN THE HALL OF HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, 702 LAI CHI KOK ROAD, CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON," SHE SAID.

MISS CHENG POINTED OUT THAT ALL EMPLOYEE UNIONS REGISTERED UNDER THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 19 WERE ELIGIBLE TO MAKE NOMINATIONS. EACH UNION MAY NOMINATE UP TO FIVE CANDIDATES.

ALL REGISTERED EMPLOYEE UNIONS, INCLUDING THOSE REGISTERED BETWEEN OCTOBER 20 TO NOVEMBER 12, ARE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER AS ELECTORS AND APPOINT AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE ELECTION.

NOMINATIONS OF EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE MADE IN A SPECIFIED FORM TO REACH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BY NOON ON NOVEMBER 12.

THE BOARD IS A TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIVE BODY WHICH ADVISES THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON LABOUR MATTERS INCLUDING LEGISLATION AND THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

IT COMPRISES 12 MEMBERS, SIX EACH ON EMPLOYEES' AND EMPLOYERS' SIDES, WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR OR HIS DEPUTY AS THE EX-OFFICIO CHAIRMAN.

ON THE EMPLOYERS' SIDE, FIVE SEATS WILL BE FILLED BY A NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION OF HONG KONG, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE REMAINING EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE APPOINTED DIRECTLY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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#### PRINCESS ALEXANDRA VISITS POLICE SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE POLICE SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB IN BOUNDARY STREET AND MET REPRESENTATIVES OF JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS AND POLICE CIVILIAN STAFF.

THE HONORARY COMMANDANT-GENERAL OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR EDDIE HUI KI-ON, AND THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (PERSONNEL), MR ANGUS STEVENSON HAMILTON.

ESCORTED BY THE CLUB'S GENERAL MANAGER, MRS HANNY C H YEUNG, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND HER HUSBAND, SIR ANGUS OGILVY, FIRST TOURED THE 10,000-SQUARE-METRE COMPOUND WHICH PROVIDES WIDE-RANGING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR ALL POLICE OFFICERS. THESE INCLUDE A FOOTBALL PITCH, A SWIMMING POOL AND AN INDOOR GAMES HALL.

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA ALSO ATTENDED A MUSICAL DISPLAY BY THE POLICE SILVER BAND AND WATCHED AN INVITATION VOLLEYBALL MATCH BETWEEN TWO POLICE WOMEN TEAMS AT THE SPORTS HALL.

DURING THE TOUR, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WAS INVITED TO SIGN A COLLECTION OF SOUVENIR ITEMS PRODUCED ESPECIALLY FOR THE FORCE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY, WHICH WOULD BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION, WITH THE PROCEEDS GOING TO THE POLICE WELFARE FUND.

BEFORE CONCLUDING HER VISIT, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA ATTENDED A TEA RECEPTION AT THE CLUB IN CELEBRATION OF THE FORCE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY. SHE MET AND CHATTED TO OVER 300 GUESTS, JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS, CIVILIAN STAFF, THEIR FAMILIES AND LONG-SERVING STAFF OF THE POLICE SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB.

TO COMMEMORATE THE SPECIAL OCCASION, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA WAS PRESENTED WITH A MEMENTO - A 150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PLATE - BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR HUI.

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NEW SHAM SHUI PO DB CHAIRMAN ELECTED

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MR WONG CHUNG-KI WAS ELECTED UNOPPOSED AS THE NEW SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN AT A MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MEANWHILE, MR LEUNG KAM-TAO WAS ALSO ELECTED UNOPPOSED AS THE BOARD'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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JOINT OPERATION TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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A TERRITORY-WIDE OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, THE LABOUR AND THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 179 PEOPLE.

THE OPERATION IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

THE 177 SUSPECTED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

THE OTHER TWO PERSONS WERE ARRESTED BY IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING ONESELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) AND ENDED AT 5 AM TODAY, THE POLICE STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 2,265 CARS AND 379 VESSELS WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,372 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING THERE, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

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A TOTAL OF 7,325 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED.

EIGHTEEN ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES FOR INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$250,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO THREE YEARS IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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## 46 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME

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A GROUP OF 46 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT.

COMPRISING 24 MEN, 12 WOMEN, EIGHT BOYS AND TWO GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 217TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 4,331 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAD RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 42,944 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,479	0930	+101
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,082	1000	+151
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+98
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+98	1200	+98
LAF TODAY	-495	1500	+98
		1600	+98
LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER	TWI 120.9	*-0.1*	19.10.94

/HONG KONG .....

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.72	19 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.14	6.35
1 MONTH	4.71	22 MONTHS	2608	6.15	99.50	6.54
3 MONTHS	4.98	30 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.17	7.07
6 MONTHS	5.23	33 MONTHS	3707	6.95	99.57	7.24
12 MONTHS	5.81	59 MONTHS	5909	7.45	98.10	8.08

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 22,488 MN

CLOSED 19 OCTOBER 1994

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