



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1986

COMMENTS

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FURTHER SANCTIONS IMPOSED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

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ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS TO BE TAKEN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WILL PLACE HONG KONG AMONG THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE THE TERRITORY'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS AND WHICH HAVE STEPPED UP ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IN PROTEST AGAINST APARTHEID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN OUTLINING THE ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS THAT WILL BE IMPOSED.

THE MEASURES WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT WHEN THE IMPORT PROHIBITION (SOUTH AFRICA) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1986 ARE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY, HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THE ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS SHOULD BE IMPOSED FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

+THESE INCLUDE A BAN ON THE IMPORT OF IRON AND STEEL FROM SOUTH AFRICA, AND A VOLUNTARY BAN ON NEW INVESTMENT AND BANK LOANS AND PROMOTION OF TOURISM TO SOUTH AFRICA,+ HE SAID.

+THE IMPORT BAN WILL NOT APPLY TO THOSE GOODS WHICH ARE COVERED BY EXISTING CONTRACTS OR WHICH DO NOT ORIGINATE FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD REACHED THIS DECISION AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL RELEVANT FACTORS APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG, INCLUDING HONG KONG'S MORAL POSITION AGAINST APARTHEID, THE GROWING CONSENSUS INTERNATIONALLY ON SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND SIMILAR ACTION RECENTLY TAKEN BY THE TERRITORY'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, CANADA AND JAPAN.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT IN 1985 10.5 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL CAME FROM SOUTH AFRICA. IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THE PROPORTION WAS 14 PER CENT.

OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY WERE READILY AVAILABLE, HE NOTED.

REFERRING TO THE VOLUNTARY BANS ON NEW DIRECT INVESTMENT IN AND BANK LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA, HE SAID THESE WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF AN ADVISORY LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO THE MAJOR FINANCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS.

THE LETTER WOULD INFORM THEM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS AND ADVISE THEM TO REFRAIN FROM EXTENDING NEW LOANS TO ENTITIES OR MAKING NEW DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

/+SIMILARLY,

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+SIMILARLY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO ISSUE A CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL REGISTERED TRAVEL AGENTS ADVISING THEM TO REFRAIN FROM ORGANISING TOURS AND PROMOTING TOURISM TO SOUTH AFRICA,+ HE SAID.

+THESE MEASURES ARE NOT STATUTORY SINCE HONG KONG DOES NOT HAVE LEGISLATION TO ALLOW RESTRICTIONS IN THESE AREAS.+

MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S STANCE AGAINST APARTHEID WAS NOT NEW. VARIOUS ACTIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN PREVIOUSLY, INCLUDING THE BANNING IN AUGUST THIS YEAR OF IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA OF GOLD COINS MINTED THERE.

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GUIDELINES SET ON 'VALUE FOR MONEY' STUDIES
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A SET OF GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE CONDUCT OF VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES MADE BY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE GUIDELINES IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, THE HON ALLEN LEE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED IN ITS EIGHTH REPORT ISSUED IN JANUARY THAT EARLY ACTION BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE A GREY AREA CONCERNING THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S POWERS.

THE COMMITTEE HAD NOTED THAT WHILE THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT DID HAVE A REMIT TO EXAMINE AND REPORT ON POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, THE BOUNDARIES OF THAT REMIT, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES, HAD NOT BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED.

THE GUIDELINES WERE THEREFORE DRAWN UP AFTER CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE, THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT, HE SAID.

OUTLINING THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE GUIDELINES, MR LEE SAID THAT, FIRSTLY, THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT, WHILE HAVING GREAT FREEDOM IN PRESENTING HIS REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WOULD NOT COMMENT ON POLICY DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, SAVE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THEIR EFFECT ON THE PUBLIC PURSE.

SECONDLY, THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT MIGHT CARRY OUT AN INVESTIGATION IN THE EVENT THAT HE REASONABLY BELIEVED THAT AT THE TIME POLICY OBJECTIVES WERE SET AND DECISIONS MADE THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LACK OF SUFFICIENT, RELEVANT AND RELIABLE FINANCIAL AND OTHER DATA AVAILABLE.

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AT THE SAME TIME, HE SHOULD REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH A VIEW TO FURTHER INQUIRY BY THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

+AS SUCH AN INVESTIGATION MAY INVOLVE CONSIDERATION OF THE METHODS BY WHICH POLICY OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN SOUGHT, THE DIRECTOR SHOULD, IN HIS REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE MATTER IN QUESTION, NOT MAKE ANY JUDGMENT ON THE ISSUE, BUT RATHER PRESENT FACTS UPON WHICH THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MAY MAKE INQUIRY,+ HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID THAT, THIRDLY, THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT MIGHT CONSIDER WHETHER POLICY OBJECTIVES AND DECISIONS HAD BEEN DETERMINED AND TAKEN WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY.

FOURTHLY, HE MIGHT CONSIDER WHETHER THERE WERE SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY.

MR LEE SAID THE FIFTH FEATURE WAS THAT THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT MIGHT CONSIDER WHETHER ESTABLISHED POLICY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN CLEARLY SET OUT; WHETHER SUBSEQUENT DECISIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE APPROVED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES, AND HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH PROPER AUTHORITY AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL; AND WHETHER THE RESULTANT INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF ACCORDED WITH THE APPROVED POLICY AIMS AND DECISIONS AND WERE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THOSE CONCERNED.

UNDER THE SIXTH FEATURE, THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT MIGHT CONSIDER WHETHER THERE WAS CONFLICT OR POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN DIFFERENT POLICY AIMS OR OBJECTIVES, OR BETWEEN THE MEANS CHOSEN TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

THE SEVENTH FEATURE WOULD ALLOW THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO CONSIDER HOW FAR, AND HOW EFFECTIVELY, POLICY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN TRANSLATED INTO OPERATIONAL TARGETS AND MEASURES OF PERFORMANCE.

+FINALLY, HE MAY ALSO BE ENTITLED TO EXERCISE THE POWERS GIVEN TO HIM UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AUDIT ORDINANCE,+ MR LEE ADDED.

SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY OF ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT CONSIDERED THAT THE BOUNDARIES OF HIS REMIT IN RELATION TO VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES WERE NOW ADEQUATELY DEFINED, HE ADDED.

EXTENSION IN IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE PROVISIONS NEEDED
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AS VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WERE STILL COMING TO HONG KONG AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA REMAINED A PROBLEM, THERE WAS A NEED TO RETAIN PROVISIONS IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN CONTROLLING THE ENTRY OF UNAUTHORISED IMMIGRANTS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS MOVING A MOTION WHICH SOUGHT TO EXTEND SECTION 18 (3) AND PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE FOR ONE YEAR UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1987. THE PROVISIONS, IF NOT EXTENDED, WERE DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR.

MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED THAT SECTION 18(3) OF THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN JANUARY 1979 TO REMOVE THE LIMIT OF TWO MONTHS DURING WHICH AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER MIGHT REMOVE A PERSON REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND IN HONG KONG, IF IT APPEARED TO THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION THAT THE PERSON WAS PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT IN VIETNAM.

PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE ORDINANCE WERE ENACTED IN AUGUST 1979 TO PROVIDE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF TRAFFICKING IN UNLAWFUL IMMIGRATION.

UNDER THESE PROVISIONS, ANY PERSON WHO AIDED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO ENTER HONG KONG COMMITTED AN OFFENCE AND WERE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO \$5 MILLION AND IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE, WHILE THE SHIPS AND OTHER PROPERTY INVOLVED WERE LIABLE TO FORFEITURE.

MR JEAFFRESON NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM THIS YEAR. IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1986, A TOTAL OF 1 920 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRIVED, COMPARED WITH 952 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

+THE REFUGEES RESETTLED IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS NUMBERED 3 258. THE REFUGEE POPULATION AT 8 356 AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER WAS AT ITS LOWEST FOR THIS DECADE.

+BUT THE PROSPECTS FOR NEXT YEAR AS FAR AS RESETTLEMENT IS CONCERNED ARE NOT GOOD, SO THE RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES ARE TELLING US,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA, HE ADDED, ALSO REMAINED A PROBLEM.

FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 11 843 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE ARRESTED WHEN ATTEMPTING TO ENTER HONG KONG, AND A FURTHER 2 623 WHO HAD EVADED SECURITY FORCES AT THE BORDER WERE ARRESTED SUBSEQUENTLY. THE FIGURES FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR WERE 7 841 AND 2 331 RESPECTIVELY.

HE SAID NO PARTICULAR REASON HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR THE INCREASED LEVEL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION THIS YEAR.

+IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT NEITHER THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE NOR THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS WILL BE WITH US PERMANENTLY. ACCORDINGLY THE MOTION BEFORE THE COUNCIL SEEKS TO EXTEND THESE PROVISIONS AGAIN FOR ONE MORE YEAR UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1987 WHEN WE SHALL AGAIN REVIEW THE POSITION,+ HE SAID.

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DISTRICT COURT MAY DECIDE LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE

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PROPOSALS CONCERNING MAINTENANCE OF A SPOUSE OR CHILDREN OF A BROKEN MARRIAGE AND OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK WERE SUPPORTED BY THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP WHICH STUDIED THE DRAFT LEGISLATION, THE HON MARIA TAM TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN PARTICULAR, THE GROUP, WHICH SHE CONVENED, SUPPORTED A PROPOSAL TO GIVE THE JUDICIARY POWER TO DECIDE ON THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT.

THE PROPOSALS WERE CONTAINED IN THREE BILLS -- THE SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, AFFILIATION PROCEEDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

MISS TAM SAID THE GROUP EXAMINED THE HISTORY OF THE LIMITS IMPOSED ON MAINTENANCE AND ON THE METHOD OF PAYMENT IN THE PROVISIONS OF ALL THREE RELEVANT ORDINANCES.

IT FOUND NO VALID REASON FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO RETAIN THE POWER TO FIX AN ARBITRARY LIMIT ON AWARDS MADE BY THE DISTRICT COURT WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEEDS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN BROKEN FAMILIES AND THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO PAY FOR A CHILD'S MAINTENANCE.

+WE BELIEVE THAT THE JUDGE WHO HAS HEARD THE EVIDENCE AND SEEN THE PARTIES AND THEIR CHILD OR CHILDREN MUST BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DEVISE A FORMULA WHEREBY THE CHILD WILL BE BEST PROTECTED, EDUCATED AND MAINTAINED,+ MISS TAM SAID.

SHE SAID MEMBERS THEREFORE DECIDED THAT THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD RELINQUISH ITS POWER TO REVISE THE LIMITS ON MAINTENANCE AND THE DISTRICT COURT SHOULD BE GIVEN THE FLEXIBILITY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE AWARDS EITHER BY LUMP SUM PAYMENTS OR BY INSTALMENTS.

UNDER THE AFFILIATION PROCEEDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL MAINTENANCE FOR AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD WOULD NO LONGER BE RESTRICTED TO \$500 PER WEEK AND THE DISTRICT COURT MIGHT ALSO AWARD LUMP SUM OR PERIODICAL PAYMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE AND EDUCATION AS HE THOUGHT REASONABLE.

THE AD HOC GROUP SHARED THE VIEWS OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION THAT THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD WAS AN INNOCENT PARTY TO THE DISPUTE BETWEEN PARENTS, SHE SAID.

+IN MANY WAYS AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD SUFFERS DISADVANTAGES FOR LACK OF SOCIAL STATUS AND THE CARE OF ONE OF HIS PARENTS, AND HE MUST NOT BE DEPRIVED OF JUST AND FAIR TREATMENT WHEN HE COMES BEFORE THE COURTS ASKING FOR PROTECTION OF HIS INTEREST.+

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AS TO THE GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS (AMENDMENT) BILL, MISS TAM SAID THE GROUP, APART FROM SUPPORTING THE PROPOSAL ON THE LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE, ALSO AGREED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE BE ALLOWED TO INITIATE PROCEEDINGS TO APPLY FOR AN ORDER REGARDING THE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR AND FOR HIS MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE.

+THIS AMENDMENT WILL ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO COME TO THE RESCUE OF THE CHILD IF BOTH HIS PARENTS SHOULD NEGLECT THEIR PARENTAL DUTIES,+ SHE EXPLAINED.

IN SHORT, MISS TAM SAID, THE GROUP BELIEVED THE BILLS WOULD BRING CONSISTENCY TO THE PRACTICE OF THE COURTS IN DEALING WITH MATRIMONIAL DISPUTES AND THE WELFARE OF MINORS.

THEY WOULD GIVE FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED TO ALLEVIATE THE HARDSHIP EXPERIENCED BY MEMBERS OF A BROKEN FAMILY AND DO JUSTICE TO THE PROTECTION OF THE CHILD'S INTEREST WHETHER HE WAS LEGITIMATE OR NOT.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, THANKED MISS TAM AND MEMBERS OF HER AD HOC GROUP FOR THEIR SYMPATHY WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE BILLS AND FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE DETAILED PROVISIONS.

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BILL REMOVES 'DIFFICULTIES' IN PRESENTING EVIDENCE
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IT IS LOGICAL AND SENSIBLE THAT ALL RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE LOST OR UNAVAILABLE BECAUSE OF LEGAL TECHNICALITIES SHOULD BE BEFORE A COURT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, WHICH HE CALLED +AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COMMERCIAL CRIME+.

+DIFFICULTIES ARE PRESENTLY BEING ENCOUNTERED IN GATHERING EVIDENCE FROM OVERSEAS JURISDICTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF FRAUDS PERPETRATED IN HONG KONG,+ MR THOMAS SAID IN EXPLAINING THAT TWO AREAS GOVERNED BY THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 8) WERE CAUSING CONCERN.

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THE FIRST RELATED TO THE ADMISSION INTO EVIDENCE OF THE RECORDS OF BANKS THAT WERE EITHER DEFUNCT OR IN THE PROCESS OF LIQUIDATION.

THE SECOND CONCERNED THE REQUIREMENT THAT ORIGINALS OF DOCUMENTS MUST BE ANNEXED TO DEPOSITIONS OBTAINED AS A RESULT OF A LETTER OF REQUEST TO AN OVERSEAS JURISDICTION TO OBTAIN EVIDENCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF HONG KONG PROCEEDINGS.

REFERRING TO THE USE OF BANKERS RECORDS IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, MR THOMAS SAID REFERENCES IN CERTAIN SECTIONS TO PROVING OF RECORDS BY WAY OF AFFIDAVIT, AFFIRMATION OR DEPOSITION APPEARED TO APPLY ONLY TO OPERATING INSTITUTIONS.

THE BILL PROPOSED TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE SO AS TO ALLOW THESE SECTIONS TO OPERATE IN CONNECTION WITH CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS NOT ONLY IN RESPECT OF BANKS THAT CARRIED ON BUSINESS, BUT ALSO IN RESPECT OF DEFUNCT BANKS OR BANKS THAT WERE IN THE PROCESS OF LIQUIDATION, WHETHER IN HONG KONG OR OVERSEAS.

THE SECOND AREA OF CONCERN RELATED TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE ANNEXURE TO DEPOSITIONS TAKEN OVERSEAS OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS RATHER THAN COPIES. THIS REQUIREMENT WAS IN CONTRAST TO THE PROVISIONS THAT ENABLED COPIES OF +LOCAL+ DOCUMENTS TO BE ADMITTED UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

+WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, DOCUMENTS SUCH AS CHEQUES OR CREDIT ADVICES ARE NOT RETAINED AS ORIGINALS BY MANY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BUT ARE DESTROYED AFTER MICROFILMING,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

VARIOUS FACTORS ARISING FROM THIS MADE THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ORIGINALS UNDER THE RELEVANT SECTION DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO MEET, MR THOMAS SAID.

+RECENT COURT DECISIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM SUPPORT THE MODERN VIEW THAT THE FACT THAT DOCUMENTS ARE MERELY COPIES AFFECTS THE QUESTION OF THEIR CREDIBILITY, NOT THEIR ADMISSIBILITY.+

THE BILL PROPOSED TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE TO DISPENSE WITH THE REQUIREMENT THAT DOCUMENTS ANNEXED TO DEPOSITIONS TENDERED IN EVIDENCE UNDER THE RELEVANT SECTION MUST BE THE ORIGINALS.

THE JUDICIARY, THE LAW SOCIETY AND BAR ASSOCIATION AND INTERESTED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAD BEEN FULLY CONSULTED, AND THE PROPOSALS HAD THEIR SUPPORT, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TIGHTER TRADE DESCRIPTIONS LEGISLATION PROPOSED
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THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 RESULTS FROM A REVIEW BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON ERIC HO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR HO EXPLAINED THAT THE ORDINANCE, WHICH REPLACED THE MERCHANDISE MARKS ORDINANCE, WAS ENACTED IN 1980 TO UPDATE AND STRENGTHEN THE LAW RELATING TO FALSE AND MISLEADING DESCRIPTIONS OF GOODS.

HE SAID THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTS OF THE BILL WERE TO STREAMLINE PROCEDURES FOR DETENTION AND FORFEITURE OF GOODS, TO GIVE AUTHORISED OFFICERS POWERS OF ARREST AND TO PERMIT THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION ON SEIZED GOODS TO TRADE MARK OWNERS.

THE BILL WOULD ALSO FACILITATE THE ACCEPTANCE IN COURT OF EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOR IMPORTED GOODS BEARING FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS.

MR HO SAID THE POWER TO DETAIN SEIZED GOODS BY LOCKING OR SEALING PREMISES WAS PROPOSED AS A REMEDY FOR THOSE INFREQUENT OCCASIONS WHEN IT WAS NOT PRACTICABLE TO MOVE THE GOODS TO GOVERNMENT STORAGE.

+PERISHABLE GOODS UNDER REFRIGERATION, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD RISK DETERIORATION, WHILST HEAVY OR BULKY GOODS WOULD REQUIRE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT OR TRANSPORT TO REMOVE THEM,+ HE SAID.

ON THE PROPOSAL TO GIVE POWERS OF ARREST TO AUTHORISED OFFICERS, MR HO SAID OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE SUGGESTED THAT SUCH POWERS WERE ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT.

+ALTHOUGH THE INDUSTRY OFFICERS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THE ORDINANCE DO NOT HAVE A GENERAL POWER OF ARREST, IN PRACTICE, WHEN THERE IS AN EXPECTATION THAT AN ARREST IS LIKELY, ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE FOR THEM TO OPERATE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THEIR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE COLLEAGUES WHO DO HAVE A GENERAL POWER OF ARREST,+ HE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH WORKABLE, THIS ARRANGEMENT IS WASTEFUL OF MANPOWER AND INHIBITS EFFICIENCY. THE INDUSTRY OFFICER GRADE HAS FOR MANY YEARS EXERCISED POWERS OF ARREST UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE.

/+THE EXPENSION

+THE EXTENSION OF SUCH POWERS TO THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT LEADING TO MORE EFFECTIVE AND COST EFFICIENT ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE.+

AS TO THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION PROVISION, MR HO SAID IT WAS INTENDED TO ALLOW THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TO CO-OPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH TRADE MARK OWNERS, WHO MIGHT REQUIRE THE INFORMATION TO TAKE CIVIL ACTION AGAINST INFRINGEMENTS THROUGH THE COURTS.

HE ADDED THAT THE PROVISION RELATING TO THE FORFEITURE AND DISPOSAL OF GOODS REPLACED PROCEDURES UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE THAT HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE CUMBERSOME AND TIME CONSUMING FOR ALL CONCERNED.

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ACTION TAKEN TO STOP 'INERTIA SELLING'

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THE PRACTICE KNOWN AS +INERTIA SELLING+ WOULD BE MADE ILLEGAL UNDER THE POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON ERIC HO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, HE SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD ALSO GIVE THE POSTMASTER GENERAL DISCRETION IN RELATION TO THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF POSTAL CHARGES, AND IT WOULD UPDATE THE PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

IN ADDITION, THE BILL WOULD REMOVE THE PROHIBITION ON THE IMPORTING OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR BY POST.

MR HO DESCRIBED INERTIA SELLING AS A DECEPTIVE PRACTICE WHEREBY A PERSON, OFTEN A DIRECTORY PUBLISHING CONCERN, SENT A DOCUMENT THROUGH THE POST WHICH GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE RECIPIENT COMPANY OWED MONEY FOR THE INSERTION OF ITS NAME IN A TRADE DIRECTORY.

WHEN STUDIED CAREFULLY, THE DOCUMENT NORMALLY CONTAINED SMALL PRINT TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WAS ONLY ON PAYMENT BEING MADE THAT THE ENTRY WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE DIRECTORY.

THE DECEPTION WORKED BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEES CONCERNED MIGHT ERRONEOUSLY BELIEVE THIS WAS A DEBT OWED BY THEIR COMPANY AND MAKE THE PAYMENT ACCORDINGLY.

/MR HO

MR HO SAID SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF COMPLAINTS FROM BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS COMPANIES HAD BEEN RECEIVED OVER THE YEARS.

HE SAID: +IT IS INTENDED TO CURTAIL THIS AND SIMILAR PRACTICES BY MAKING IT AN OFFENCE TO POST ANY BILL, INVOICE OR STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT DUE FOR UNSOLICITED GOODS OR SERVICES UNLESS THE DOCUMENT HAS ON ITS FACE A CLEAR NOTICE IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE THAT IT IS NOT A BILL AND NEED NOT BE PAID.

+A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A \$100 000 FINE AND IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO THREE YEARS IS PROPOSED FOR OFFENDERS.+

TO IMPROVE THE SERVICE OFFERED BY THE POST OFFICE AND TO ENHANCE ITS COMPETITIVENESS, MR HO SAID THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE POSTMASTER GENERAL BE GIVEN DISCRETION REGARDING PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, ALLOWING HIM TO OFFER CREDIT FACILITIES TO REGULAR USERS OF THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE AND TO BULK PARCEL CUSTOMERS.

HE SAID THE REVISED MAXIMUM FINES PROPOSED IN THE BILL WERE INTENDED TO RESTORE THE DETERRENT EFFECT WHICH HAD BEEN ERODED BY INFLATION SINCE THE LEVELS WERE SET IN 1926.

THE PROPOSAL REGARDING THE IMPORTATION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR WOULD BRING THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, HE ADDED.

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DUTIABLE COMMODITIES DEFINITIONS BEING UPDATED
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A BILL INTENDED TO UPDATE SOMEWHAT ARCHAIC PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE, AS WELL AS TO ADAPT TO MODERN BUSINESS PRACTICES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID COMMENTS FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, IN PARTICULAR TRADERS IN DUTIABLE COMMODITIES, ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE BILL WHERE APPROPRIATE.

THE PROPOSALS HAD ALSO BEEN ENDORSED BY THE TRADE ADVISORY BOARD, HE ADDED.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT NO CHANGES IN DUTY RATES WERE PROPOSED.

THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE, LAST SUBSTANTIALLY REVISED IN 1963, CONCERNS TAXATION AND CONTROL OF LIQUOR, TOBACCO, HYDROCARBON OIL, METHYL ALCOHOL AND OTHER SUBSTANCES.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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EXTRA PROVISION OF \$195.7 MILLION FOR SECOND QUARTER
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A SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$195.7 MILLION WAS APPROVED FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE 1986-87 FINANCIAL YEAR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+IT WAS FULLY OFFSET EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT VOTES,+ HE SAID.

TABLING A SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE IN THE SECOND QUARTER, MR JACOBS SAID THAT THESE INCLUDED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$132.4 MILLION FOR GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNICS AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE.

THIS WOULD ENABLE THE INSTITUTIONS TO AWARD SALARY INCREASES TO STAFF FOLLOWING THE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CIVIL SERVICE NON-DIRECTORATE PAY SCALES.

HE ADDED THAT APPROVED COMMITMENTS WERE INCREASED BY \$151.8 MILLION DURING THE PERIOD, AND NEW COMMITMENTS OF \$288.5 MILLION WERE ALSO APPROVED.

ITEMS IN THE SUMMARY HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY
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THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, GAVE AN ASSURANCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IS +A MATTER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DOES TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY INDEED+.

WINDING UP THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, MR BRIDGE SAID HE WAS VERY READY AT ANY TIME TO EXAMINE ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS WHICH MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EFFORT.

MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT THE PUBLISHED INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT STATISTICS MADE NO DISTINCTION AT PRESENT BETWEEN SERIOUS AND MINOR ACCIDENTS AND HE THOUGHT THERE WAS ROOM FOR AN IMPROVED PRESENTATION OF THOSE STATISTICS.

/THERE WERE

THERE WERE PROBLEMS OF DEFINITION, BUT FROM NEXT YEAR SERIOUS ACCIDENTS -- DEFINED BY REFERENCE TO LENGTH OF ABSENCE FROM WORK OR DEGREE OF INCAPACITY SUFFERED -- WOULD BE SEPARATELY RECORDED.

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT OVER THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS WHICH HITHERTO WENT UNREPORTED.

THE REASONS WERE, FIRSTLY, A SIMPLIFICATION IN 1983 OF THE PROCEDURE FOR CLAIMING COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF MINOR ACCIDENTS AND, SECONDLY, THE INTRODUCTION IN 1984 OF COMPULSORY COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

+TAKING THESE FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, THE MARKED DECLINE IN FATAL ACCIDENTS OVER THE PERIOD 1981 TO 1985 AND THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO APPRECIABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PERMANENT DISABILITY PERHAPS PROVIDE, I BELIEVE, A BETTER INDICATOR OF THE REAL OVERALL TREND,+ MR BRIDGE SAID.

REFERRING TO SOME MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON INADEQUACY OF PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS, MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS A MATTER FOR THE JUDICIARY TO DECIDE WHAT LEVEL OF FINE WAS APPROPRIATE IN A PARTICULAR CASE.

+WHILE THE AVERAGE FINE IN ALL TYPES OF PROSECUTION HAS INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS FROM \$1 290 IN 1981 TO \$2 871 LAST YEAR, IT REMAINS VERY LOW IN RELATION TO THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES PROVIDED FOR IN THE LAW IN 1985,+ HE SAID.

+I APPRECIATE THAT A MAGISTRATE MUST TAKE MANY DIFFERENT FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT IN ASSESSING PENALTIES, BUT FROM MY LIMITED VIEWPOINT AS AN OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY I DO FEEL THAT THE PRESENT AVERAGE PENALTIES ARE NOT REALLY ADEQUATE TO DETER DANGEROUS PRACTICES.

+HEAVIER FINES WOULD, I BELIEVE, MAKE EMPLOYERS TAKE SAFETY MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY. UNLESS THERE IS A WILLINGNESS TO IMPOSE SUCH FINES, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POINT IN INCREASING FURTHER THE MAXIMUM FINES ALREADY PROVIDED FOR.+

ON SUGGESTIONS THE NUMBER OF FACTORY INSPECTORS BE INCREASED, MR BRIDGE NOTED THAT THE NUMBER HAD INCREASED FROM 120 IN 1977 TO 205 NOW. THIS INCLUDED SIX POSTS CREATED SINCE OCTOBER 29. A FURTHER THREE POSTS WERE TO BE CREATED SHORTLY AND MORE WOULD BE CREATED NEXT YEAR.

/+THE SITUATION

+THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG DOES NOT IN FACT COMPARE UNFAVOURABLY WITH THAT IN OTHER PLACES. THE RATIO OF INSPECTORS TO WORKERS IS SLIGHTLY BETTER IN HONG KONG THAN, FOR EXAMPLE, SINGAPORE OR THE UK, BOTH OF WHICH TAKE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY,+ HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE ADDED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD PLANS IN HAND TO INCREASE THE TRAINING STAFF OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE AND THIS WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRAINING COURSES BEING PROVIDED.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO PLANNING TO INSTAL A NEW HOT LINE SPECIFICALLY TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS AND TO PROVIDE ADVICE.

THE AVAILABILITY OF THIS NEW SERVICE WOULD BE GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY AND THIS WOULD EMPHASISE THAT THE COMPLAINANT'S IDENTITY WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THIS HOT LINE AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE SERVICE, WOULD GO SOME WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE HON HUI YIN-FAT'S CONCERN THAT EMPLOYEES MIGHT BE VICTIMISED FOR REPORTING UNSAFE PRACTICES ON THE PART OF THEIR EMPLOYERS.

MR BRIDGE SAID AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING PROVISION OF SAFETY DATA SHEETS BY IMPORTERS OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS CHEMICALS.

SUCH A MEASURE WOULD USEFULLY COMPLEMENT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSALS, NOW IN PREPARATION, TO REQUIRE THE PROPER LABELLING OF SUCH CHEMICALS IN USE IN THE WORKPLACE AND WOULD ASSIST PROPRIETORS IN COMPLYING WITH THESE REGULATIONS, HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE ALSO SAID THERE MUST BE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO FOSTER AN ATTITUDE OF MIND FAVOURABLE TO SAFE PRACTICE IN THE WORKPLACE.

WHILE ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATION BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS FUNDAMENTAL, EMPLOYERS SHOULD PROVIDE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND ADEQUATE TRAINING IN SAFETY MATTERS FOR THEIR WORKERS.

EMPLOYEES HAD A DUTY TO CO-OPERATE WITH EMPLOYERS IN IMPLEMENTING SAFETY MEASURES SUCH AS OBSERVING NO-SMOKING SIGNS AND WEARING PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND NOT REMOVING GUARDS FROM MACHINERY, HE ADDED.

MR BRIDGE AGREED WITH A PROPOSAL THAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO FORM SAFETY COMMITTEES INVOLVING BOTH MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS.

HE SAID THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE TASKS FOR A SPECIAL PROMOTION UNIT WHICH THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE WAS PLANNING TO FORM.

MR BRIDGE WELCOMED THE IDEA OF SETTING UP A SAFETY COUNCIL AND HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SOON BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING IT.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE STRESSED

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PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE AND THE BASIC PREVENTIVE MEASURES OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY ARE ENGINEERING, ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION, THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS LEADING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN HIS CAPACITY AS CONVENER OF A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP TO PREPARE FOR THE DEBATE.

+ENGINEERING+ MEANT THE DESIGN, LAYOUT, CONSTRUCTION AND PRODUCTION PROCESS WHICH ALL HAD A BEARING ON THE CREATION OF A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, HE EXPLAINED.

+ENFORCEMENT+ MEANT NOT ONLY THE ENFORCEMENT OF SAFETY LAWS BY LABOUR INSPECTORS ON SPOT CHECKS BUT ALSO THE INTERNAL SAFETY ENFORCEMENT BY THE MANAGEMENT, HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE NUMBER OF FACTORY INSPECTORS WOULD OBVIOUSLY NEVER MATCH THE NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS OR ACCIDENTS, MR CHAN SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE INCREASED INSPECTION ON CONSTANT OFFENDERS, WHICH WOULD PREVENT THEM FROM TURNING MINOR FAULTS INTO DISASTERS.

+EDUCATION+ MEANT THE METHODS OF TEACHING THE EMPLOYEES TO AVOID ACCIDENTS, THROUGH ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, PARTICIPATION IN SAFETY SEMINARS AND CAMPAIGNS USING THE MASS PUBLICITY MEDIA, HE ADDED.

MR CHAN ALSO PROPOSED THAT FIRST AID SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES. HE SAID THE SUCCESSFUL PILOT SCHEME OF USING MOTORCYCLES TO CARRY FIRST AID PERSONNEL TO OVERCOME TRAFFIC DELAYS SHOULD BE GIVEN FULL IMPLEMENTATION.

IN ADDITION, HE SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEEK THE COOPERATION OF THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE TO ORGANISE FIRST AID SEMINARS FOR EMPLOYEES.

AS FOR EMPLOYEES, HE ADVISED THEM NOT TO TAKE A PASSIVE OR FATALISTIC APPROACH TO INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

+ACCIDENTS CAN BE PREVENTED WITH A LITTLE MORE CARE AND FOR THOSE WHO WORK FAST MACHINES SHOULD NOT TRY TO REMOVE THE SAFEGUARDS FOR MORE PRODUCTION NOR SHOULD THEY SPEND THE WHOLE NIGHT PLAYING MAHJONG AND WORK WITH SLEEPY EYES.

+SMOKING WHILE WORKING WITH SOLVENTS AND THE LIKE IS SUICIDAL,+ MR CHAN SAID.

FINALLY, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CLEARCUT DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WAS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW UP WITH REMEDIES, SO THAT A RECURRENCE OF ACCIDENTS OF A SIMILAR NATURE COULD BE PREVENTED.

MR CHAN ALSO EMPHASISED THAT THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REQUIRED THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

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ANSWER LIES IN LOGICAL APPROACH
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THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ENSURE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IS THROUGH TAKING A LOGICAL AND ANALYTICAL APPROACH TOWARDS THE CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, DR IP POINTED OUT THAT HAND INJURIES CONSTITUTED SOME 21 PER CENT OF ALL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE TACKLED FROM CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM A STUDY ON THE SUBJECT CARRIED OUT BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG IN 1982.

THIS RESEARCH SHOWED THAT IN 383 CASES OF SEVERE HAND INJURY, 17 PER CENT OF THE WORKERS HAD ARRIVED FROM CHINA LESS THAN TWO YEARS PREVIOUSLY, AND 87 PER CENT OF THIS GROUP COULD NOT ADEQUATELY EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN CANTONESE. IN ADDITION, 58 PER CENT OF THE MACHINES INVOLVED DID NOT HAVE A SAFETY DEVICE.

REFERRING TO THE INCIDENCE OF INDUSTRIAL FIRES, DR IP SAID FIRE RELATED OFFENCES WERE A MAJOR PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE TACKLED URGENTLY.

IT SEEMED OBVIOUS THAT MALPRACTICE ABOUNDED AND LEGISLATION, PROSECUTIONS AND FINES DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE A DETERRENT EFFECT.

SHE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN STRONG CALLS FOR DANGEROUS CHEMICALS TO BE PROPERLY LABELLED, THEIR EFFECTS ON HUMANS CLEARLY STATED AND MEASURES IN CASE OF SPILLAGE DISTINCTLY PRESCRIBED.

ADOPTING SUCH MEASURES WOULD BRING HONG KONG IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE.

TURNING TO THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT RATE, DR IP SAID THE FIGURES WORRIED HER BECAUSE ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN THE DEATH RATE, THERE WAS NO CONCURRENT DROP IN THE OVERALL RATE.

+IT SPELLS OUT TO ME QUITE CLEARLY THAT WE ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS,+ SHE SAID.

DR IP SAID SHE WAS CONCERNED THAT INSPECTION OF SMALL FACTORIES HAD LOW PRIORITY IN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTION LIST.

/QUOTING

QUOTING FIGURES SUPPLIED BY THE FACTORY INSPECTORS UNION IN 1985, SHE SAID SOME OF THESE FACTORIES WOULD NOT EVEN BE INSPECTED ONCE IN FIVE OR SIX YEARS AND SHE CONSIDERED SUCH FREQUENCY TO BE +RIDICULOUSLY LOW+.

DR IP URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL TO PROMOTE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY IN BOTH THE INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

SHE SAID IF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD GAVE ITS SUPPORT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING NEXT MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TREAT THE MATTER WITH URGENCY.

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OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL ADVOCATED
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS URGED BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL (OSHC) BY 1987.

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OSHC WOULD BE PUT TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD NEXT MONTH AND HE HOPED THEY WOULD BE FAVOURABLY CONSIDERED.

HE SAID THE IDEA FOR SUCH A COUNCIL WAS ENDORSED BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION IN 1984 AND A WORKING PARTY FORMED THEREAFTER RECOMMENDED IN JULY 1985 THAT THE OSHC BE ESTABLISHED AS A STATUTORY BODY BY 1987.

+I HOPE THE ADMINISTRATION CAN STICK TO THIS TIME-TABLE,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID OSHC MEMBERS SHOULD COMPRISE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

+ITS OVERALL OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE THE PROMOTION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, AND IT SHOULD DEVELOP A FULL RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING TRAINING AND EDUCATION, PROMOTION IN RESEARCH IN MATTERS RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH.

+IN DUE COURSE, PERHAPS ANNUAL AWARDS COULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE INDUSTRIAL FIRMS THAT CONTRIBUTED MOST TO THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MOVEMENT IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

/IN ADDITION,

IN ADDITION, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE SETTING UP OF AN OSHC WOULD BENEFIT SMALL FACTORIES, BECAUSE +DUE TO THE SMALL NUMBER OF WORKERS IN EACH FACTORY, THERE IS INADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF BOTH MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS, AND POOR QUALITY TOOLS AND MACHINERY.+

ON THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NON-FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS OVER THE YEARS, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID IT MIGHT BE DUE TO THE REDUCED NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS OR TO THE REDUCED PROVISION FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES.

HE SAID THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF SAFETY OFFICERS SHOULD RAISE THE STANDARD OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE RELEVANT REGULATIONS WHICH INITIALLY APPLIED ONLY TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COULD AND SHOULD BE APPLIED TO OTHER INDUSTRIES WHEN THERE WAS CLEAR AND FULL JUSTIFICATION TO DO SO.

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OSHC, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MONITOR THE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH TO ENSURE GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY EXPENDED, AND THAT AS THE OSHC'S ANNUAL BUDGET INCREASED, THERE SHOULD BE AT LEAST CORRESPONDING SAVINGS WITHIN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

STRESSING THE NEED FOR GREATER INTERACTION IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND SAFETY PROMOTION, MR CHEONG-LEEN URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK INTO THE DESIRABILITY OF CLOSER COORDINATION IN THE CARRYING OUT OF RESEARCH, AND IN EDUCATIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS AS REGARDS THE MORE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF HOME SAFETY AND LEISURE SAFETY.

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CALL FOR TOUGHER SAFETY LAW ENFORCEMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN URGED TO ENFORCE MORE VIGOROUSLY THE SAFETY LAWS IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE CALL WAS MADE BY THE HON HO SAI-CHU DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THOSE WHO BLATANTLY BREACHED SAFETY REGULATIONS, PURPOSELY DISREGARDED THE LIVES OF THEIR EMPLOYEES AND CONSTANTLY FAILED TO MEET THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH MORE SEVERELY, HE SAID.

THE COURTS, HE ADDED, SHOULD TAKE A MORE SERIOUS VIEW OF THOSE WHO HELD INDUSTRIAL SAFETY LAWS IN CONTEMPT.

MR HO NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS HAD SOARED FROM 45 800 IN 1981 TO 50 793 IN 1985 BUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FACTORY INSPECTORATE HAD REMAINED STAGNANT AT ABOUT 200 SINCE 1982.

HOWEVER, THE WORKLOAD OF FACTORY INSPECTORATE HAD INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY DURING THE SAME PERIOD, HE SAID.

HE THEREFORE URGED GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE WITH THE NECESSARY STAFF TO ENABLE THEM TO DO THEIR JOBS PROPERLY.

MR HO SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT A FAIR PROPORTION OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS OCCURRED IN CONSTRUCTION SITES, ALTHOUGH THE INDUSTRY DID PLACE GREAT EMPHASIS ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION.

TO SOME EXTENT, HE SAID, THE FAULT LAY WITH EMPLOYEES WHO DID NOT USE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYER AND DISOBEYED INSTRUCTIONS IN REGARD TO SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION.

MR HO CALLED ON THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES TO LOOK INTO THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRINCIPAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY OFFICER COURSES WHICH HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND POSITIVELY SUPPORTED BY CONTRACTORS.

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STRONGER PUBLICITY DRIVE REQUIRED
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MORE FUNDS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, THE HON HUI YIN-FAT SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE, MR HUI SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE PARSIMONIOUS IN ITS EXPENDITURE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WHICH WAS CONCERNED WITH HUMAN LIVES.

HE FELT THAT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGNS HAD NEVER BEEN GIVEN SUFFICIENT EMPHASIS, JUDGING FROM A CUT IN ITS PUBLICITY BUDGET FROM \$1.3 MILLION IN 1983-84 TO \$0.75 MILLION IN 1986-87.

ON THE MANPOWER SITUATION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE, MR HUI SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS SO AS TO INCREASE ITS STRENGTH TO 250.

HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT, THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN 250 FACTORY INSPECTORS BY 1984. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF FACTORY INSPECTORS HAD BEEN FROZEN AT 200 SINCE 1982.

FURTHERMORE, ONLY 150 OF THEM WERE ENGAGED IN FACTORY INSPECTION WORK, HE SAID.

TURNING TO PENALTIES, MR HUI SAID HONG KONG SHOULD KEEP ABREAST OF ADVANCED COUNTRIES IN HAVING OFFENDERS BEAR THE +CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY+, EVEN SENTENCING THEM TO JAIL, INSTEAD OF IMPOSING A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50 000, IN APPROPRIATE CASES.

HE SAID A MINIMUM FINE SHOULD ALSO BE SET SO THAT EMPLOYERS WOULD REALISE THAT IGNORING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MIGHT LEAD TO GREATER EXPENDITURE.

MR HUI REBUTTED SUGGESTIONS THAT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WORKERS.

HE NOTED THAT AS THERE WAS NO EXISTING LEGISLATION SAFEGUARDING WORKERS FROM UNFAIR DISMISSAL OR OFFERING THEM ANY PENSION SCHEME, WORKERS OFTEN HAD TO THINK TWICE BEFORE ACCUSING THE EMPLOYERS OF VIOLATING REGULATIONS.

+I HOPE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL NOT JUST STAY IN THE STAGE OF DISCUSSING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, BUT GO FURTHER TO MONITOR CLOSELY THE WORK OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO SEE WHETHER ENOUGH EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE ENACTMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATION, AS WELL AS PUBLIC EDUCATION,+ MR HUI SAID.

+SINCE WORKERS ARE THE MAINSTAY FOR CREATING HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY ATTACHING IMPORTANCE TO THE SAFETY OF WORKERS MEANS VALUING THE SOLE RESOURCE OF HONG KONG -- THE WORKFORCE,+ HE ADDED.

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LONG-TERM INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN URGED
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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL TO CO-ORDINATE ACTIVITIES AND TO PROMOTE POSITIVELY A LONG-TERM CAMPAIGN ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WAS ADVOCATED BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, MR NGAI RECALLED THAT IN 1976 THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION HAD URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH SUCH A SAFETY COUNCIL WITH MEMBERSHIP COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TO TACKLE THE +OVERWHELMING+ NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

/+AS REGARDS

+AS REGARDS THE INITIAL AND OPERATIONAL EXPENSES OF THE COUNCIL, THE LARGER PART SHOULD BE SUBSIDISED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SAME WAY AS THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL WHILE THE REMAINING PART SHOULD COME FROM A TAX LEVIED ON EACH REPORTED CASE UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND FROM FEES FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

NOTING THAT SAFETY WAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, MR NGAI SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT DELAY IN ORDER TO FACILITATE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND TO KEEP UP WITH INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION AND MODERNISATION.

+WE CANNOT ALLOW ANY INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT IN WHICH 10 OR MORE PEOPLE ARE KILLED OR INJURED EVER TO OCCUR AGAIN,+ HE STRESSED.

MR NGAI SAID THAT TO LAUNCH A SUCCESSFUL INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE EVERYONE INVOLVED IN AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING REALISE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CAMPAIGN AND TO GET THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN IT.

HE CONSIDERED THAT THE CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE ON GOING AND LONG TERM AS THERE WERE ALWAYS HIGHER AND DIFFERENT GOALS TO ACHIEVE.

POINTING OUT THAT OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH WERE THE JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT, THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE, MR NGAI SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN RECENT YEARS TAKEN AN ACTIVE AND PROGRESSIVE ROLE IN ENACTING AND IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION CONCERNING OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THE ENACTMENT AND AMENDMENT OF ANY RELEVANT LEGISLATION SHOULD ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRACTICAL STANDARDS AND AFTER WIDE CONSULTATION.

+MORE IMPORTANT, THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND PENALTIES APPLICABLE TO BOTH THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE CLEARLY DEFINED, OTHERWISE IT WILL MERELY CREATE MORE FINANCIAL BURDENS ON THE ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT ACHIEVING ITS PURPOSE,+ MR NGAI SAID.

ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, MR NGAI NOTED THAT ALL TRAINING COURSES AND SEMINARS AT PRESENT WERE ORGANISED ONLY FOR MID-LEVEL MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL.

HE SAID THAT HIGHER DIPLOMA OR DEGREE COURSES IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SHOULD BE ORGANISED FOR HIGH-LEVEL MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL TO IMPROVE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PROFESSIONAL STATUS. THIS COULD FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY MEASURES IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS IN A PROFESSIONAL WAY.

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ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYERS, MR NGAI SAID THEY SHOULD PROVIDE A SAFE WORK PLACE, DESIGN SAFE WORKING PROCEDURES AND EMPLOY COMPETENT AND RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYEES WHO COMPLIED WITH SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.

NOTING THAT ONLY A FEW EMPLOYERS COULD REALLY ACHIEVE THESE RESPONSIBILITIES, HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN ITS LEGISLATION SO THAT EMPLOYERS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD AND FOLLOWED THEM.

ON THE ROLE OF EMPLOYEES, MR NGAI SAID IT WAS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO OBSERVE SAFETY RULES WHILE AT WORK, TO OBEY THE LAWFUL INSTRUCTIONS OF THEIR EMPLOYERS AND TO USE THE SAFETY FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR THEM.

MR NGAI SAID HE BELIEVED THAT UNLESS EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES HAD A HIGH SENSE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND MADE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT THEIR OWN DUTIES, ALL PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN VAIN.

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JOINT EFFORTS NEEDED TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

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THERE IS NO SIMPLE WAY TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, WHICH CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY SIMULTANEOUS EFFORTS OF VARIOUS SECTORS, THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, MR TAM MADE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL.

HE SAID: +PUBLICITY AND EDUCATIONAL WORK WITH SPECIAL AIMS AND REACHING THE GRASSROOT LEVEL SHOULD BE CONDUCTED FOR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES=

+LEGISLATION SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED ON INDUSTRIES CONCERNED=

+THE NUMBER OF FACTORY INSPECTORS HAVE TO BE INCREASED=

+THE FREQUENCY AND THOROUGHNESS OF FACTORY INSPECTION SHOULD BE ENHANCED= AND

+AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL SHOULD BE SET UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.+

/MR TAM

MR TAM SAID THAT THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WAS THE JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

+BUT OWING TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN HONG KONG, FOR EXAMPLE, THE LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL FACTORIES AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OF FACTORY PROPRIETORS TO MAKE LONG-TERM INVESTMENT, THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WOULD EASILY BE OVERLOOKED.

+THEREFORE, THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT.+

HE SAID: +THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN THIS ASPECT, HOWEVER, IS STILL FAR FROM SATISFACTORY.+

FIRST, IN THE AREA OF PUBLICITY, HE SAID HE FELT THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE ADMINISTRATION WERE NOT TARGET-ORIENTED AND WERE UNABLE TO REACH THOSE AT THE GRASSROOT LEVEL.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER A DIRECTIONAL ADJUSTMENT IN ITS PUBLICITY WORK ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, SO AS TO MAKE UP FOR THE INADEQUACIES IN MEETING IMMEDIATELY THE REQUIREMENTS OF WORKERS AT THE GRASSROOT LEVEL.

HE PROPOSED THAT DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE WORKERS SHOULD BE REINFORCED. BESIDES, HE SAID A FULL-TIME ADVISORY AND COMPLAINTS UNIT ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE LONGER HOT LINE SERVICES AND FACT-TO-FACT ADVISORY SERVICE FOR EMPLOYEES.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES TO SET UP A FUNDAMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO MONITOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SO AS TO CREATE A MUTUALLY REMINDING, SUPERVISING AND MONITORING EFFECT, HE SAID.

SECONDLY, MR TAM POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING REGULATIONS COULD NOT COVER ALL THE INDUSTRIES.

+THE EXISTING FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE DOES NOT COVER THOSE NON-INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS, BUT THE CASUALTY RATE OF THESE SO-CALLED NON-INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS AMOUNTED TO 36 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL,+ HE SAID.

+THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD IMMEDIATELY STUDY HOW TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF EMPLOYEES OF NON-INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS AS WELL,+ HE ADDED.

MR TAM ALSO CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR BEING TOO SLOW IN ITS LEGISLATION PROCESS, WHICH WAS LAGGING FAR BEHIND THE RAPID CHANGES IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES.

/HE SAID THE

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REINFORCE ITS WORK IN THIS RESPECT SO AS TO SECURE MORE INFORMATION ON THE HAZARDOUS LEVEL OF DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF A PROTOTYPE NATURE.

HE SUGGESTED THAT A CENTRAL REGISTRY BE SET UP AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH WORK.

TURNING TO THE DRAFT REGULATIONS ON THE CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS, MR TAM SAID THE MOST IDEAL METHOD WAS TO REQUIRE MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TO LABEL IN CHINESE ON EACH CONTAINER THE COMPONENTS OF THE CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, THE CORRECT WAY TO USE IT AND THE APPROPRIATE SAFETY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN.

HE STRESSED THAT THIS REQUIREMENT WAS NOT OVER-DEMANDING BECAUSE SUCH REGULATIONS DID EXIST IN MOST WESTERN COUNTRIES, AND SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE AUTHORITIES.

THIRDLY, MR TAM TOUCHED ON ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS. HE SAID THE SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER HAD MADE THE PERFORMANCE OF FACTORY INSPECTORS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT IF THE NUMBER OF FACTORY INSPECTORS WERE INCREASED, THE FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION COULD BE INCREASED ACCORDINGLY.

HE SAID INSPECTORS SHOULD CARRY OUT SOME SURPRISE CHECKS, MORE THOROUGH INSPECTIONS, AND AT THE SAME TIME, TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE WORKERS ON SAFETY OPERATIONS.

HE RECOMMENDED THAT EACH FACTORY SHOULD ON THE AVERAGE, BE INSPECTED AT LEAST THRICE A YEAR.

POINTING OUT THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND FACTORY INSPECTORS, HE SAID THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD TAKE RAPID ACTION IN INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FACTORY INSPECTORS AS WELL AS TO ENHANCE THE THOROUGHNESS AND FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS.

ON REMEDIAL WORK, MR TAM SUPPORTED HEAVIER PENALTIES BE IMPOSED ON THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO VIOLATED THE LAW. HE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT A SYSTEM OF CUMULATIVE PENALTIES BE ADOPTED SO THAT RECIDIVISTIC EMPLOYERS WOULD LEARN A DEEPER LESSON.

AS FOR EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION, MR TAM POINTED OUT THAT THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES USUALLY HAD TO WAIT A LONG TIME BEFORE RECEIVING COMPENSATION, THUS LOSING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COMPENSATION WHICH WAS MEANT FOR URGENT NEED.

/HE SAID HE

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HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE AUTHORITIES WOULD ALSO CONDUCT A REVIEW IN THIS RESPECT.

ON THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL, MR TAM SAID THE SETTING UP OF SUCH A COUNCIL SHOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EMPLOYERS.

HE EMPHASISED THAT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WAS BENEFICIAL NOT ONLY TO THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR BUT TO THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

IN ADDITION, THE INSURANCE SECTOR WOULD ALSO GAIN ATTRACTIVE PROFITS DUE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPULSORY LABOUR INSURANCE.

IF THE RATE OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WAS LOWERED, THEIR PROFIT WOULD CORRESPONDINGLY BE INCREASED, HE EXPLAINED.

+THEREFORE, THE INSURANCE SECTOR SHOULD INDEED LEND A HELPING HAND TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE OPERATION OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

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PARENTS URGED NOT TO SMUGGLE CHILDREN
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THE GOVERNMENT IS MOST CONCERNED AT THE RESURGENCE OF THE DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL SMUGGLING OF CHILDREN FROM CHINA, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE APPEALED TO PARENTS NOT TO USE THIS ILLEGAL, DANGEROUS WAY TO GET THEIR CHILDREN TO HONG KONG.

+THERE IS A SAFE AND LEGAL ROUTE BY MEANS OF THE ONE-WAY PERMIT SYSTEM+, HE SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE SECURITY FORCES ON THE BORDER WERE KEEPING A SHARP LOOKOUT TO DEAL WITH THE RESURGENCE.

+ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CHILDREN THEY CATCH WILL BE RETURNED TO CHINA,+ HE SAID.

+ANY SNAKEHEADS CAUGHT WILL BE PROSECUTED.+

CITING FIGURES, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT 60 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CHILDREN HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON ENTRY IN THE FIRST 18 DAYS OF THIS MONTH.

THIS COMPARED WITH A TOTAL OF 70 IN THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS: SEVEN IN MAY, FOUR IN JUNE, FOUR IN JULY, 20 IN AUGUST, 12 IN SEPTEMBER, AND 23 IN OCTOBER.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1986

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IMMIGRATION EXTENSION OF STAY PROCEDURES STREAMLINED
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE LOOKING FOR WAYS OF IMPROVING THE SERVICE PROVIDED TO CHINESE TEMPORARY RESIDENTS APPLYING FOR AN EXTENSION OF STAY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THERE WAS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEM WAS A TEMPORARY ONE AND THAT NEXT YEAR THE QUEUES WOULD START TO SHORTEN.

+TO MINIMISE THE INCONVENIENCE TO THOSE APPLICANTS WHO CANNOT BE DEALT WITH ON THE SAME DAY THEY ATTEND, THE DEPARTMENT GIVES THEM AN APPOINTMENT TO RETURN ON A LATER DAY,+ HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT SINCE APRIL THE DEPARTMENT HAD DEPLOYED 30 ADDITIONAL OFFICERS TO REINFORCE THE STAFF AT THE OFFICE IN NEW RODNEY BLOCK.

THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO MANAGED TO STREAMLINE PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH APPLICATIONS, QUEUES WERE BETTER CONTROLLED, AND AIR CONDITIONING HAD BEEN IMPROVED TO MAKE THE MORE CROWDED CONDITIONS LESS UNCOMFORTABLE.

+THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS HANDLED BY THE CHINESE EXTENSION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AT THE NEW RODNEY BLOCK WAS 2 500 PER DAY THIS YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

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OFFENDERS GIVEN HELP TO CUT TRIAD LINKS
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YOUNG OFFENDERS WITH TRIAD OR GANG AFFILIATIONS ARE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY, ASSISTANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN ALL THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES TO HELP THEM SEVER THEIR TRIAD LINKS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+TO THIS END, YOUNG OFFENDERS IN CUSTODY ARE GIVEN COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING, WHICH SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN BOTH THEIR SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THEIR VOCATIONAL SKILLS,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

HE STRESSED THAT UPON RELEASE, YOUNG OFFENDERS WOULD HAVE AFTER-CARE SUPERVISION, WHERE COUNSELLING, ADVICE AND JOB PLACEMENT WAS GIVEN TO HELP THEM OVERCOME PERSONAL PROBLEMS AFTER RELEASE.

/MR JEAFFRESON

MR JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT THAT WHEN INMATES WERE ADMITTED TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS, THEY WERE ASKED WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAD TRIAD AFFILIATIONS. THEIR CLAIMS OR ADMISSIONS WERE USED IN DECIDING WHERE TO PUT THEM IN THE INSTITUTIONS.

+AS DIFFERENT PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT REASONS FOR ADMITTING OR NOT ADMITTING TO HAVING TRIAD AFFILIATIONS IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE STATISTICS DERIVED FROM THEIR ANSWERS MUST BE VIEWED WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF CAUTION,+ HE ADDED.

ACCORDING TO A CENSUS CONDUCTED ON THE PENAL POPULATION AS A WHOLE TOWARDS THE END OF DECEMBER 1985, 777 INMATES UNDER THE AGE OF 21 CLAIMED TO HAVE TRIAD OR GANG AFFILIATIONS, SOME 65 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF 1 202 YOUNG INMATES AT THAT TIME.

BUT FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1986, ONLY 51 PER CENT OF THE YOUNG OFFENDERS ADMITTED INTO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS CLAIMED TO HAVE TRIAD OR GANG AFFILIATIONS.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID HE WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THE FIGURES FOR 1986 WERE LIKELY TO BE LOWER THAN THOSE FOR 1984 AND 1985.

HE SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE DETENTION TRAINING CENTRE PROGRAMMES WERE REFLECTIONS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MEASURES.

FOR DETENTION CENTRES, WHERE ONE YEAR OF STATUTORY SUPERVISION WAS REQUIRED, THE SUCCESS RATE WAS 94 PER CENT - AFTER ONE YEAR.

FOR TRAINING CENTRES, WHERE THREE YEARS OF STATUTORY SUPERVISION WAS REQUIRED, THE SUCCESS RATE WAS 66 PER CENT - AFTER THREE YEARS.

+BUT, I MUST POINT OUT THAT WHETHER A YOUNG OFFENDER WHO HAS TRIAD OR GANG AFFILIATION WANTS TO SEVER SUCH LINKS MUST ULTIMATELY DEPEND ON HIS OWN DETERMINATION,+ ME JEAFFRESON EMPHASISED.

+AND THE ACCEPTANCE AND HELP OFFERED BY HIS FAMILY AND THE SOCIETY AT LARGE WILL CLEARLY HAVE A CRUCIAL BEARING ON HIS DECISION.+

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH REHABILITATION AND A NUMBER OF SCHEMES WERE CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION GENERALLY.

THESE INCLUDED A RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION SCHEME, A PRE-RELEASE EMPLOYMENT SCHEME AND A PARTIALLY SUSPENDED SENTENCE SCHEME.

MR JEAFFRESON ALSO NOTED THAT THE PUBLIC HAD WARMLY WELCOMED THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE'S SUGGESTION FOR A TRIAD RENOUNCIATION SCHEME AND DETAILS OF HOW THAT SCHEME WOULD WORK WERE CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED.

DEFINITION OF REPLICA FIREARM POSES PROBLEM

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THE PROBLEM REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ORDINANCE WAS TO FIND A FULLY SATISFACTORY DEFINITION OF A REPLICA FIREARM, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE AIMED AT BANNING, EXCEPT FOR EXPORT, REPLICA FIREARMS WHICH CLOSELY RESEMBLED GENUINE FIREARMS. THIS WOULD DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THEIR AVAILABILITY FOR USE IN CRIMES IN HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WAS CONCERNED OVER THE DIFFICULTIES THE PUBLIC MIGHT HAVE IN DECIDING WHAT WAS A REPLICA AND WHAT WAS NOT.

THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE PROPOSALS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIME AND DRAFT LEGISLATION EARLIER THIS YEAR AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE SOUGHT ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL AND DIFFICULT MATTER, HE SAID.

+FOLLOWING THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S ADVICE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT NO FURTHER ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN ON THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE LEGISLATION UNTIL A TEST CASE COULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURTS USING THE EXISTING LEGISLATION,+ HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED THAT UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION IT WAS AN OFFENCE TO BE IN POSSESSION OF AN IMITATION FIREARM. HOWEVER, IN THE OPINION OF THOSE INVOLVED, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BRING ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION UNLESS AN IMITATION FIREARM WAS UNQUESTIONABLY BEING USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING A CRIME.

+THE TEST CASE TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURTS WILL TACKLE THE POINT,+ HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON ALSO POINTED OUT THAT +THE EXISTING LAW DOES NOTHING TO REDUCE THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH IMITATIONS FOR CRIMINALS IN HONG KONG.+

AS REGARDS THIS POINT, HE SAID THAT THE WORKING GROUP WOULD LOOK AGAIN AT THE JAPANESE SYSTEM, WHICH DISTINGUISHED IMITATION FIREARMS FROM REAL ONES BY PRESCRIBING THAT THEY SHOULD BE COLOURED WHITE OR YELLOW.

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ANTI-CHOLERA STRATEGY CARRIED OUT REGULARLY
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MEASURE TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CHOLERA ARE BEING CARRIED OUT ON A REGULAR BASIS BY THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS AND THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 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, HE SAID THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION HAD ADVISED THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CHOLERA WAS THE MAINTENANCE OF A HIGH STANDARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND SANITATION, AN EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, AND THE DIAGNOSIS, ISOLATION AND TREATMENT OF CASES.

+OUR SUCCESS IN CONTAINING THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA IN HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS IS IN ITSELF A TESTIMONY TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE MEASURES,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS POINTED OUT THE CHOLERA CASES ENCOUNTERED IN HONG KONG RECENTLY WERE OF A TYPE KNOWN AS CHOLERA EL TOR WHICH DIFFERED FROM CLASSICAL CHOLERA. HE SAID THAT IN THE CHOLERA EL TOR TYPE THERE WAS THE PRESENCE OF A CARRIER STATE, WHICH MEANT THAT INDIVIDUALS MIGHT BE HARBOURING THE BACTERIA WITHOUT SHOWING ANY SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS.

+EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT DUE TO ITS ENDEMIC NATURE AND THE EXISTENCE OF A CARRIER STATE OF THE DISEASE, THE INTRODUCTION OF CHOLERA INTO A COUNTRY CANNOT BE PREVENTED BY MEASURES SUCH AS HEALTH SCREENING OF TRAVELLERS AT POINTS OF ENTRY,+ HE SAID.

+THUS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S PRACTICE AND ADVICE, HONG KONG, LIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, DOES NOT REQUIRE HEALTH SCREENING OF PERSONS COMING IN FROM OTHER PLACES,+ HE ADDED.

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TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION POLICY TO CONTINUE
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NATURAL DISASTER VICTIMS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ALLOWED TEMPORARY STAY IN COMMUNITY CENTRES ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICY LAST MONTH, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR LIAO STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT FAMILIES RENDERED HOMELESS BY NATURAL DISASTER WERE PERMANENTLY REHOUSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR ELIGIBILITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MINIMISE ANY DISRUPTION CAUSED TO THE OPERATION OF COMMUNITY CENTRES.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE POLICY IMPLEMENTED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1982 WHEREBY VICTIMS OF SQUATTER AREA FIRES WERE REHOUSED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN UNCHANGED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AGAINST DELIBERATE FIRES IN URBAN SQUATTER AREAS.

+FOLLOWING A REVIEW IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR UNDERTAKEN BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EMERGENCY REHOUSING OF NATURAL DISASTER VICTIMS,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO REITERATED THAT ACCOMMODATION IN HOUSING DEPARTMENT TRANSIT CENTRES WAS ALWAYS OFFERED TO VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS.

+IN THE CASE OF FIRE VICTIMS, SUCH ACCOMMODATION IS MADE AVAILABLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT POLICY, THEY ARE TO BE PERMANENTLY REHOUSED.

+EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION IS USUALLY ALSO PROVIDED IN NEARBY COMMUNITY CENTRES ON TEMPORARY BASIS,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO SAID THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, THERE HAD BEEN 33 FIRES INCLUDING THREE MAJOR ONES (TWO IN DIAMOND HILL AND ONE IN SAU MAU PING) IN URBAN AREAS.

+IN THE CASE OF THE TWO DIAMOND HILL FIRES, PART OF BOTH FIRE SITES HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SCREENED FOR CLEARANCE AND MANY SQUATTERS LIVING IN THE AFFECTED AREAS WERE, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ELIGIBLE FOR URBAN REHOUSING.

+THEY WERE THEREFORE OFFERED ACCOMMODATION IN URBAN TRANSIT CENTRES,+ HE SAID.

AS REGARDS OTHER FIRE VICTIMS, INCLUDING THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE THE CLEARANCE AREA, MR LIAO SAID THEY WERE ELIGIBLE FOR NEW TERRITORIES REHOUSING ONLY.

HE SAID AS MANY OF THIS CATEGORY OF FIRE VICTIMS HAD DECLINED TRANSIT CENTRE ACCOMMODATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, SPACE IN A COMMUNITY CENTRE HAD TO BE USED FOR TEMPORARY SHELTER.

POLICY REVIEW ON DOMESTIC HELPERS COMPLETED

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THE REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICY ON OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS HAS PROVED TO BE A MUCH MORE COMPLICATED AND CONTENTIOUS ISSUE THAN EXPECTED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN, HE SAID THE REVIEW HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THE RESULTS PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR ADVICE.

+THAT PROVISION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO MAKE IT OBLIGATORY FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TERMINATION OF EACH CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED IN THIS REVIEW,+ HE ADDED.

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LINKED CONTRACTS FOR GOVERNMENT STAFF EXPLAINED

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A LINKED CONTRACT FOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACT STAFF IS OFFERED ONLY WHEN IT IS JUSTIFIED BY THE STAFFING POSITION OF THE GRADE CONCERNED. FOR OVERSEAS OFFICERS, IT MUST ALSO BE ESTABLISHED THAT A LOCAL REPLACEMENT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE LINKED CONTRACT, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR JACOBS SAID THAT LINKED CONTRACTS WERE VERY RARELY OFFERED ON FIRST APPOINTMENT, AND EVEN ON RENEWAL OF CONTRACT, SUCH TERMS HAD BECOME THE EXCEPTION RATHER THAN THE RULE.

DURING THE PERIOD 1983-84 TO 1985-86, A TOTAL OF 5 135 CONTRACTS WERE RENEWED. OF THIS NUMBER, THE DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF LINKED-CONTRACT AGREEMENTS OFFERED WERE:

YEAR -----	OVERSEAS OFFICERS -----		LOCAL OFFICERS -----	
	NUMBER -----	PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICERS -----	NUMBER -----	PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LOCAL AGREEMENT OFFICERS -----
1983-84	111	9.1	12	4.9
1984-85	106	8.3	6	2.0
1985-86	53	4.7	17	9.4
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	270		35	

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OF THE 270 OVERSEAS OFFICERS, 180 WERE POLICE OFFICERS, 26 IN THE LEGAL GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS AND JUDICIARY AND 44 IN THE PROFESSIONAL GRADES IN THE HOUSING AND LANDS AND WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS. THE REMAINING 20 WERE IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT THE ADVANTAGE OF LINKED CONTRACTS WAS THAT THIS FACILITATED FORWARD PLANNING AND PROVIDED AN ELEMENT OF CONTINUITY.

+IT IS DESIGNED TO MEET SERVICE NEEDS, AND, AS SUCH, THERE ARE NO APPARENT DISADVANTAGES,+ HE ADDED.

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SICK LEAVE EXTENSION UNDER STUDY

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CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE QUESTION WHETHER THE INITIAL PERIOD OF 91 DAYS OF SICK LEAVE WITH FULL PAY FOR CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO 120 DAYS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SZETO WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WITH MORE THAN FOUR YEARS' SERVICE WERE ENTITLED TO MORE DAYS OF SICK LEAVE THAN THE MINIMUM STIPULATED IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

CIVIL SERVANTS WITH LESS THAN FOUR YEARS' SERVICE WERE ENTITLED TO 91 DAYS OF SICK LEAVE WITH FULL PAY, FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER 91 DAYS WITH HALF PAY.

+COMPARED WITH THE MINIMUM OF 120 DAYS WITH TWO-THIRDS PAY, STIPULATED IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES, THE TOTAL PAY RECEIVED BY THIS GROUP OF CIVIL SERVANTS DURING THE PERIOD OF SICKNESS IS STILL FAVOURABLE,+ MR JACOBS ADDED.

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THREE BILLS PASSED

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THE SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE AFFILIATION PROCEEDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 AND THE GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOUR OTHER BILLS - THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 AND THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO NOVEMBER 26.

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INTERPRETATION FACILITIES, TRAINING TO BE REVIEWED
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THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION WILL SOON EMBARK ON A REVIEW OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND THE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR INTERPRETERS SO THAT INTERPRETATION TRAINING CAN BE FURTHER EXPANDED AND IMPROVED, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE, MR PATRICK LAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST, MR LAU SAID THE CHIEF CONFERENCE INTERPRETER, WHO WAS NOW ON ATTACHMENT OVERSEAS TO STUDY THE LATEST METHODS OF TRAINING IN INTERPRETATION, WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ABOVE ON HIS RETURN.

HE SAID THIS WAS ONE OF THE IMMEDIATE TASKS RELATED TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE WHICH CALLED FOR THE SERVICES OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION.

+FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, THE DETAILS OF A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS IN ENSURING A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT AND CONTACTS BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF HONG KONG AND CHINA HAVE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY.

+TO SERVICE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS, VISITS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY OFFICIALS FROM CHINA, IN NOVEMBER 1985 THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION ESTABLISHED THE PUTONGHUA INTERPRETERS POOL,+ HE SAID.

+CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS WHO HAVE GOOD PROFICIENCY IN PUTONGHUA AND SKILFUL IN INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION WORK WERE DRAFTED INTO THE POOL TO PERFORM PUTONGHUA INTERPRETATION,+ HE ADDED.

MR LAU SAID TO COPE WITH THE GROWING DEMAND FOR QUALITY PUTONGHUA INTERPRETATION SERVICES, THE DIVISION INTENDED TO RECRUIT EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS WHO WERE PROFICIENT IN PUTONGHUA, ENGLISH AND CANTONESE, WHILE TRAINING OF SERVING MEMBERS OF THE PUTONGHUA INTERPRETERS POOL WAS INTENSIFIED.

HE ADDED THAT THE DIVISION ALSO HAD CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS WHO WERE PROFICIENT IN OTHER DIALECTS INCLUDING SHANGHAI, CHIU CHOW, TOISHAN, HAKKA, AMOY, HAINAN AND HOKLO TO SERVE CLIENT DEPARTMENTS FROM TIME TO TIME IN INTERVIEWS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO DID NOT SPEAK CANTONESE.

MR LAU NOTED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME IN 1982 HAD MARKED A NOTABLE IMPETUS ON THE DEMAND FOR TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES IN GOVERNMENT.

/MR LAU

MR LAU POINTED OUT THAT THE INTERPRETER (SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION) GRADE, ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED IN 1972 TO SERVICE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HAD GROWN FROM FOUR POSTS TO 15 POSTS AND HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS, DISTRICT BOARDS, ALL MAJOR GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, AND PRESS CONFERENCES AS WELL.

+THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS SERVED BY OUR SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS HAS RISEN DRAMATICALLY FROM 283 IN 1981-82 TO 861 IN 1985-86, AND IT IS LIKELY TO REACH 1 000 BY THE END OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR,+ HE SAID.

MR LAU POINTED OUT THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF MORE ADJOURNMENT DEBATES IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD ALSO CREATED ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON THE MANPOWER OF THE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SECTION AS MORE INTERPRETERS WERE REQUIRED TO TACKLE THE LONG DEBATES WHICH BY NOW HAD BECOME A FEATURE OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL SCENE.

+THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE AND MORE OPEN GOVERNMENT HAS ENTAILED MORE FREQUENT CONSULTATION WITH THE PUBLIC ON MORE ISSUES,+ HE SAID.

+PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS, DISTRICT BOARDS, AND OTHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES ARE NOW PROVIDED IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

+MY STAFF ARE CONSTANTLY RACING AGAINST TIME TO TRANSLATE URGENT DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE OF WIDE PUBLIC INTEREST TO ENSURE THAT THE CHINESE VERSION CAN BE PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE ENGLISH VERSION WHENEVER POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

APART FROM PROVIDING TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES, MR LAU SAID THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION ALSO PLAYED THE ROLE OF A WATCHDOG ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS COMPLIED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE USE OF CHINESE IN ITS BUSINESS, TO ACHIEVE WIDER USE OF CHINESE OF A HIGH STANDARD WHICH SHOULD ALSO BE WELL PRESENTED AND READILY UNDERSTOOD BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

REGARDING SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE LEAD IN PROMOTING THE USE OF CHINESE IN AREAS BEYOND OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC, MR LAU SAID THESE WERE BEING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE POLICY BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION, THE PUBLICATION IN LARGE NUMBER OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS BILINGUALLY AND CONCURRENTLY, TOGETHER WITH THE VARIOUS MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION, WERE AMPLE PROOF OF THE EARNESTNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PURSUING ITS CHINESE LANGUAGE POLICY.

ON THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROJECT, MR LAU SAID IT WAS UNDER THE AMBIT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BUT HE NOTED THAT THE EXISTING NON-LAWYER MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING TEAM IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WORKING ON THIS PROJECT WERE DRAWN FROM THE RANKS OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS.

+IT IS LIKELY THAT IT WILL TAKE QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT CAN TURN ITS ATTENTION TO PRODUCING AUTHENTIC CHINESE TEXTS OF LEGISLATION ALREADY ENACTED,+ HE SAID.

+THE LAW TRANSLATION WORK OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE, AND, AS THERE IS STILL A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ORDINANCES OF PUBLIC INTEREST WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE, THIS ASPECT OF WORK OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR QUITE SOME TIME,+ HE ADDED.

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NORTH POINT SITE SOLD FOR \$645 MILLION
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A NORTH POINT PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD AND BRAEMAR HILL ROAD WAS SOLD FOR \$645 MILLION AT AN AUCTION TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

BIDDING OPENED AT \$450 MILLION.

THE SITE, MEASURING 15 380 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO BOATSWAIN ENTERPRISES LIMITED.

UNDER THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER MUST COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 46 200 SQUARE METRES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1992.

A SITE AT 20 NAM ON STREET, SHAU KEI WAN, WAS BOUGHT BY YEE SHUN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED FOR \$16.1 MILLION.

BIDDING STARTED AT \$9 MILLION.

/THE 322.1 SQUARE

THE 322.1 SQUARE METRES SITE IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE. A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 1 760 SQUARE METRES MUST BE DEVELOPED BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1989.

A SITE AT 34 NEW MARKET STREET, SHEUNG WAN, WAS SOLD TO DONBRIDGE ENTERPRISES LIMITED FOR \$3.1 MILLION AFTER BIDDING OPENED AT \$2 MILLION.

THE SITE IS ALSO FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE.

UNDER SALE CONDITIONS, NOT LESS THAN 220 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA MUST BE BUILT ON THE 132.9 SQUARE METRES SITE BEFORE THE END OF 1989.

THE AUCTION WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR BOB POPE, WHO SAID AFTERWARDS: +IT WAS A VERY GOOD SALE WHICH SHOWED THE CONTINUING BUOYANCY OF THE VERY STRONG PROPERTY MARKET.+

THE CITY HALL THEATRE WAS PACKED FOR THE AUCTION WHICH LASTED FOR JUST UNDER 45 MINUTES.

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TRADE SECTOR INFORMED OF IMPORT BAN
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SENT OUT A CIRCULAR LETTER TO THE TRADE SECTOR CONCERNING THE LICENSING CONDITIONS FOR IMPORT OF PROHIBITED GOODS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS FOLLOWED THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT IN ADDITION TO GOLD COINS, PRODUCTS OF IRON AND STEEL WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE IMPORTED FROM SOUTH AFRICA WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 21, 1986.

+A LICENCE TO IMPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA ANY ARTICLE SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE IMPORT PROHIBITION (SOUTH AFRICA) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1986 SHALL NOT BE ISSUED UNLESS THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE IS SATISFIED THAT THE IMPORTATION OF THE ARTICLE IS PURSUANT TO OR IN FURTHERANCE OF A CONTRACT MADE BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THESE REGULATIONS, THAT IS BEFORE NOVEMBER 21, 1986; THE ARTICLE DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA; OR IN THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE A LICENCE SHOULD BE ISSUED,+ HE SAID.

THE IMPORT PROHIBITION (SOUTH AFRICA) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1986 WERE APPLICABLE TO GOODS EXPORTED FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND TRANSHIPPED VIA HONG KONG TO OTHER DESTINATIONS.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ISSUE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE TRADE LICENSING (NON-TEXTILES) SECTION OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT IN ROOM 1322, 13TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, OR ON TELEPHONE NOS. 3-7222508, 3-7222520 AND 3-7222521.

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SECOND QUARTER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX PUBLISHED

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THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1986, AT 144.3, WAS 19.7 POINTS OR 15.8 PER CENT ABOVE THAT IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, THE INDEX SHOWED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF 27.5 POINTS OR 23.5 PER CENT. THIS WAS PARTLY DUE TO SEASONAL EFFECTS AS THE FIRST QUARTER HAD FEWER WORKING DAYS BECAUSE OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

MANY INDUSTRIES REPORTED AN INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OVER THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1985, NOTABLY TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+43.0 PER CENT); WEARING APPAREL (+25.1 PER CENT); PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+23.8 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (+23.1 PER CENT).

SHIP RENOVATION AND REPAIRING; WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' BLOUSES; MEN'S AND BOYS' SHIRTS AND T-SHIRTS; KNITWEAR- MECHANICAL AND ELECTRONIC WATCHES AND CLOCKS WERE AMONG THOSE PRODUCTS OR INDUSTRIAL SERVICES WITH A SIGNIFICANT RISE IN OUTPUT.

INDUSTRIES WITH A DECREASE IN PRODUCTION COMPARED WITH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1985 WERE RUBBER PRODUCTS (-20.1 PER CENT); TOBACCO (-16.1 PER CENT); AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PARTS, ACCESSORIES AND MACHINERY (-2.4 PER CENT).

COMPARING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1986 WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, ALMOST ALL INDUSTRIES RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT RISE IN THE VOLUME OF PRODUCTION. THE MOST MARKED INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS (+51.2 PER CENT), TEXTILES (+45.9 PER CENT), PLASTIC PRODUCTS (+41.6 PER CENT), PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS (+40.3 PER CENT), BEVERAGES (+28.1 PER CENT) AND NON-ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+27.2 PER CENT).

ONLY THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT DROP OF 21.0 PER CENT IN PRODUCTION OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. ACCORDING TO SOME MANUFACTURERS, THIS WAS PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOWER DEMAND FROM CHINA.

/IN RELEASING

IN RELEASING THESE FIGURES, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO REFLECT THE LEVELS AND TRENDS OF OUTPUT IN REAL TERMS, THAT IS TO SAY THAT THE VOLUME OF PRODUCTION IS MEASURED AFTER REMOVING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

TWO TABLES ON THE QUARTERLY INDEXES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1986 ARE INCLUDED. ONE IS A SUMMARY TABLE FOR BROAD INDUSTRY GROUPS, WHILE THE OTHER GIVES MORE DETAILED INDUSTRY BREAKDOWNS.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE +REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, SECOND QUARTER 1986+.

THE PUBLICATION IS ON SALE AT \$3 A COPY AND CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION SALES COUNTER, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 3-7224504.

/Table 1

Table 1 Summary table of quarterly indexes of industrial production
by broad industry group, 2nd quarter 1983 to 2nd quarter 1986
(1981 = 100)

Broad industry group	Weight	1983			1984			1985			1986						
		1983	1984	1985	1983			1984			1985		1986				
		2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q			
1. Food, beverages and tobacco	34.8	110.9	119.0	138.5	105.0	121.5	122.6	102.9	122.8	126.6	123.6	125.6	133.6	145.1	149.7	136.7	144.4
2. Wearing apparel, except knitwear and footwear	251.3	106.0	113.8	105.0	109.8	108.8	115.6	104.3	114.1	115.9	120.7	95.3	97.1	104.6	122.8	102.5	121.5
3. Textiles (including knitting)	127.4	103.5	115.0	119.6	109.3	117.1	110.8	99.6	119.5	120.7	120.1	85.9	119.6	132.3	140.7	100.9	147.2
4. Paper products and printing	61.3	133.1	157.1	156.8	132.3	148.0	141.7	121.4	160.2	177.4	169.3	139.2	157.9	163.5	166.5	141.0	178.4
5. Chemical, rubber, plastic and non-metallic mineral products	110.0	120.8	160.3	160.5	129.5	138.3	122.6	113.2	153.0	199.9	175.1	134.6	163.9	183.0	160.5	134.8	182.8
6. Basic metals, fabricated metal products and non-electrical machinery	104.1	105.1	132.2	130.8	106.6	112.1	111.2	113.1	139.1	151.9	124.8	108.1	140.5	136.2	138.2	107.4	154.2
7. Electrical and electronic products, professional equipment and optical goods	216.2	123.2	133.5	128.9	123.5	133.5	142.2	109.3	126.7	143.0	155.1	118.8	129.1	129.7	138.1	126.1	143.2
8. Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	94.9	117.6	154.6	114.1	112.4	118.4	141.6	119.1	145.1	168.3	185.8	104.5	105.7	121.8	124.5	121.1	125.7
All manufacturing industries	1000.0	113.9	132.0	126.0	116.0	122.5	125.4	109.1	130.5	144.5	143.7	109.5	124.6	132.1	137.9	116.8	144.3

/Table 2

Table 2 Quarterly indexes of industrial production by industry group,
2nd quarter 1983 to 2nd quarter 1986

(1981 = 100)

Industry group	Weight	1983			1984			1985			1986						
		1983	1984	1985	1983			1984			1985		1986				
		2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q			
1.1 Food	20.5	120.5	119.1	135.4	110.3	126.3	139.2	108.3	123.5	121.9	122.6	128.9	129.9	135.1	147.8	143.4	154.4
1.2 Beverage	9.6	98.0	109.5	107.6	106.6	128.3	95.1	74.7	124.4	140.2	98.5	80.7	112.8	134.6	102.2	89.6	114.8
1.3 Tobacco	4.7	95.3	137.9	215.1	78.9	86.5	106.4	137.1	116.3	119.2	178.9	203.2	191.9	209.8	255.3	203.8	161.1
2 Wearing apparel, except knitwear and footwear	251.3	106.0	113.8	105.0	109.8	108.8	115.6	104.3	114.1	115.9	120.7	95.3	97.1	104.6	122.8	102.5	121.5
3 Textiles (including knitting)	127.4	103.5	115.0	119.6	109.3	117.1	110.8	99.6	119.5	120.7	120.1	85.9	119.6	132.3	140.7	100.9	147.2
4.1 Paper and paper products	11.9	182.5	240.2	223.8	187.7	191.0	207.6	190.9	255.7	270.9	243.4	187.6	232.4	263.2	212.1	187.8	263.5
4.2 Newspaper printing, job printing and other printing	49.4	121.2	137.1	140.7	118.9	137.7	125.8	104.7	137.2	154.9	151.5	127.6	140.0	139.5	155.5	129.7	157.9
5.1 Chemicals and chemical products	15.1	125.3	133.2	160.5	132.2	131.0	132.7	124.8	116.3	147.9	143.6	148.5	153.9	164.5	175.1	152.1	179.6
5.2 Rubber products	3.2	134.6	150.4	122.4	121.6	140.1	173.3	108.5	141.1	158.3	193.7	99.6	144.1	116.5	129.4	87.5	115.1
5.3 Plastic products	81.1	121.1	174.0	169.7	132.0	143.3	119.3	114.0	168.0	225.0	189.1	139.0	174.0	199.6	166.0	137.6	194.8
5.4 Non-metallic mineral products	10.6	108.5	97.0	102.2	108.4	109.8	117.7	91.8	93.7	94.9	107.4	91.6	107.2	102.9	107.2	102.7	115.5
6.1 Basic metals	9.0	109.7	98.1	89.9	112.6	119.5	109.1	94.4	99.8	97.7	100.4	70.3	89.8	95.7	103.7	79.3	90.9
6.2 Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	77.0	95.9	138.1	133.2	94.8	104.2	103.0	114.1	146.9	165.9	125.6	110.0	142.8	139.0	140.9	104.3	157.7
6.3 Machinery, except electrical	18.1	141.9	124.2	140.7	154.1	142.3	147.1	118.4	125.2	119.5	133.6	118.8	155.7	144.3	144.0	134.4	170.9
7.1 Consumer electrical and electronic products	103.2	113.1	150.0	134.9	107.9	123.1	128.0	116.0	134.3	164.6	185.2	128.9	138.2	124.7	147.6	135.2	151.8
7.2 Electrical and electronic parts, accessories and machinery	60.3	114.3	105.0	99.8	118.5	123.1	137.0	87.5	105.8	110.8	115.9	95.6	101.6	107.7	94.4	83.0	99.2
7.3 Professional and scientific equipment, photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks	52.7	153.2	133.8	150.6	159.6	165.9	176.1	121.1	135.8	137.5	140.9	125.5	142.7	164.8	169.4	157.6	176.6
8.1 Leather products and footwear (except rubber, plastic and wooden footwear)	12.2	72.8	67.9	66.4	70.8	74.5	94.4	60.7	74.3	65.2	71.3	50.3	69.8	74.5	70.8	74.2	80.9
8.2 Wood and cork products, and furniture and fixtures (except primarily of metal)	18.5	83.1	83.7	86.9	87.5	85.4	89.7	85.1	81.8	85.0	83.0	87.9	83.3	83.6	92.8	86.0	94.9
8.3 Transport equipment	27.0	98.5	133.2	113.0	95.0	98.0	117.2	111.7	118.4	155.3	147.5	109.2	112.6	118.4	111.6	150.5	161.0
8.4 Miscellaneous manufacturing industries, n.e.c.	37.2	163.3	233.8	144.3	151.0	164.1	200.5	160.6	219.2	252.9	302.3	127.2	123.7	158.8	167.3	132.7	130.1
All manufacturing industries	1000.0	113.9	132.0	126.0	116.0	122.5	125.4	109.1	130.5	144.5	143.7	109.5	124.6	132.1	137.9	116.8	144.3

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1986

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TO MEET ON TUESDAY
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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS FIRST OPEN MEETING OF THE NEW SESSION ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 25).

THE MEETING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER WILL START AT 2.15 PM.

TWO FURTHER MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 26 AND 28, BOTH STARTING AT 8.30 AM.

THE MEETINGS FOLLOW THE TABLING OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S ANNUAL REPORT IN THE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY). CONTROLLING OFFICERS WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE RAISED ON POINTS MADE IN THE REPORT.

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WHOLESOME RECREATION ORGANISED FOR MONG KOK RESIDENTS
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A TWO-WEEK RECREATION AND SPORTS FESTIVAL FOR MONG KOK RESIDENTS WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

CALLED THE MONG KOK DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS FORTNIGHT, IT IS AIMED AT PROVIDING WHOLESOME ENTERTAINMENT AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC.

EVENTS INCLUDE A FOLK DANCE RALLY, VARIETY SHOW, MODERN DANCE PERFORMANCE, SPORTS COMPETITIONS AND VARIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL, A SHUTTLECOCK TEAM FROM CHINA WILL COMPETE AGAINST A TEAM FROM THE HONG KONG AMATEUR SHUTTLECOCK ASSOCIATION AT THE MACPHERSON INDOOR STADIUM.

THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT THE STADIUM.

THE FESTIVAL HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE MONG KOK DISTRICT CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS FORTNIGHT TO BE HELD AT 7 PM TOMORROW AT MACPHERSON INDOOR STADIUM, 10 YIM PO FONG STREET.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1986

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DISABLED STUDENTS TO GET SCHOLARSHIPS
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TEN STUDENTS WILL BE AWARDED THE 1986 SHELL-ISLAND JAYCEES SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE DISABLED TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE SCHOLARSHIP WHICH WAS SET UP IN 1981 IS AIMED AT SELECTING 10 OUTSTANDING HANDICAPPED STUDENTS WITH OVERALL GOOD ACADEMIC RESULTS AND CONDUCT, AND WHO HAD DEMONSTRATED ENTHUSIASM IN RENDERING SERVICES TO SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE SHELL COMPANY OF HONG KONG LIMITED, MR H.G. WEBB-PEPLOE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AT SHELL HOUSE, 10TH FLOOR, 24 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT AT 3 PM TOMORROW.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS EDUCATION REPORT
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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE SECOND REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THE REVIEW OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (JSEAS) AT THE MEETING.

REPORTS ON THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ON THE PLANNED WELFARE FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE COMMITTEE'S YEAR PLAN FOR 1986-88 AND THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS IN 1986-87.

THIS IS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SERVICES COMMITTEE FOLLOWING A MERGER OF THE BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEES.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE IS MR LAI KWOK-HUNG.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1986

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TAI PO HOLDING QUIZ FOR STUDENTS
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PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DAY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TAI PO ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A QUIZ COMPETITION ON THE DISTRICT.

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE, THE CONTEST IS AIMED AT ENHANCING STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE OLD AND NEW TAI PO.

THE QUIZ CONSISTS OF 45 QUESTIONS ON HISTORY, RELICS, SCENIC SPOTS, HOUSING ESTATES, NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND OTHER ASPECTS.

BOOK COUPONS OF \$200 TO \$500 WILL BE AWARDED TO THREE PRIZE WINNERS AND 10 OUTSTANDING ENTRANTS WILL EACH RECEIVE A \$100 BOOK COUPON.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT SCHOOLS IN TAI PO AND AT DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY CENTRES.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS NOVEMBER 30.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 0-6586520.

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JOINT EXERCISE
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A JOINT GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 20, 25 AND 26. THIS IS ONE OF A SERIES OF ROUTINE EXERCISES DESIGNED TO TEST THE USE OF GOVERNMENT, POLICE AND MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS.

THERE WILL BE NO DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE OR MILITARY UNITS ON THE GROUND DURING THE EXERCISE, AND THERE WILL BE NO INTERFERENCE WITH TRAFFIC OR INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC.

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PROHIBITED ZONE IN WAN CHAI
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NO VEHICLE EXCEEDING FOUR TONNES GROSS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE SECTION OF SPRING GARDEN LANE BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND CROSS STREET FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 21).

THE MEASURE, TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS, IS TO FACILITATE THE CONNECTION OF DRAINS.

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