



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1993

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SPEECH BY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN,
AT MOTION DEBATE ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

THIS DEBATE FOLLOWS HOT ON THE HEELS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM. I AM GRATIFIED BY THE EXTENT OF THE PUBLIC RESPONSE. WE HAVE RECEIVED, BY CLOSE OF PLAY YESTERDAY, 119 DIRECT WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS, AND SOME MORE ARE PROBABLY STILL ON THE WAY. I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RESPONDED TO THE CONSULTATION PAPER, AS WELL AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WHO HAVE SPOKEN IN THIS DEBATE, FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. I WISH ALSO TO ASSURE THEM THAT THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS WILL BE FULLY CONSIDERED.

THE WORKING GROUP ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION WILL SHORTLY RECONVENE TO STUDY ALL THE COMMENTS RECEIVED AND CONSIDER WHAT MODIFICATIONS, IF ANY, SHOULD BE MADE TO ITS PROPOSALS. THE GROUP WILL WORK WITH ALL DUE DESPATCH, WHILE TAKING CARE NOT TO RUSH TO CONCLUSIONS ON WHAT ARE CLEARLY MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND COMPLEXITY. IT WILL THEN SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOR DECISION.

SINCE NO DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN, I BELIEVE MEMBERS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT I AM NOT IN A POSITION NOW TO RESPOND DEFINITELY, OR EVEN COMPREHENSIVELY, TO ALL THE POINTS THEY HAVE MADE. NEVERTHELESS, AND WITHOUT WISHING TO PRE-EMPT FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN ANY WAY, I SHOULD LIKE TO OFFER A FEW COMMENTS ON SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES.

COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY

SOME MEMBERS HAVE CRITICISED THE PROPOSALS IN THE CONSULTATION PAPER FOR FAILING TO PROTECT THOSE WHO HAVE RETIRED OR WHO ARE APPROACHING RETIREMENT. IT IS TRUE THAT SOME MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WOULD GET LITTLE PROTECTION, IF AT ALL, FROM THE PROPOSED SYSTEM. BUT WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE. IT IS IN THE NATURE OF RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEMES THAT BENEFITS ARE PROPORTIONATE TO THE SIZE AND DURATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS. THERE IS, IN ANY CASE, ALREADY AN ALTERNATIVE FOR THOSE NEARING RETIREMENT, TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR LONG SERVICE PAYMENTS. WE ENVISAGE THE LSP SCHEME TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME.

SOME MEMBERS HAVE CALLED SPECIFICALLY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION, OR A UNIVERSAL OLD AGE PENSION. THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THIS WAS EXPLAINED TO THIS COUNCIL IN SOME DETAIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM MR MCGREGOR ON 2 DECEMBER LAST YEAR. RATHER THAN WASTE THE COUNCIL'S TIME BY REPEATING THE EXPLANATION HERE, I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE JUST TWO POINTS:

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- FIRST, IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT TO ASSUME THAT ALL THOSE WHO ARE AGED ARE ON THE EDGE OF POVERTY. THE FACTS INDICATE OTHERWISE. LESS THAN 10% OF OUR TOTAL POPULATION AGED 65 OR ABOVE ARE IN NEED OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE;
- SECONDLY, WE DO HAVE A SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND A NON-CONTRIBUTORY ONE AT THAT, PROVIDING BENEFITS FOR THE ELDERLY, THE DISABLED AND THE DISADVANTAGED. THAT SYSTEM WILL REMAIN IN PLACE, OPERATING IN PARALLEL WITH ANY RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM WE MAY DECIDE TO INTRODUCE.

FINANCIAL GUARANTEE

I TURN NOW TO THE QUESTION OF A FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, WHICH HAS BEEN A FOCUS OF DISCUSSION SINCE THE CONSULTATION PAPER WAS PUBLISHED. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CALLS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ACT AS THE FINAL GUARANTOR FOR BENEFITS ACCRUED UNDER RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEMES, BEARING EITHER ALL THE FINANCIAL RISKS OR, AT LEAST, THE RISKS OF SCHEMES FAILING AS A RESULT OF FRAUD. ON THIS QUESTION I CAN ONLY REPEAT WHAT I SAID ON 18 NOVEMBER 1992 WHEN THE COUNCIL LAST DEBATED ON A MOTION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM. I SAID ON THAT OCCASION, AND IF I MAY QUOTE MYSELF: "IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO PROVIDE A GUARANTEE FOR ALL RETIREMENT SCHEMES, THE TAXPAYER WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT AN IMMENSE CONTINGENT LIABILITY. THE COMMITMENT WOULD BE PERMANENT AND EVER INCREASING AND IT COULD WELL BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IF IT WERE TO ENCOURAGE SOME FUND MANAGERS TO TAKE GREATER THAN NORMAL RISKS, IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY WOULD BE BAILED OUT BY THE TAXPAYER IF THEIR JUDGEMENT PROVED TO BE WRONG." THIS STATEMENT CONTINUES TO REFLECT THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN.

WE ARE, OF COURSE, NOT OBLIVIOUS TO THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY MANY PEOPLE THAT THEIR LIFELONG SAVINGS MIGHT BE LOST, AND THE RETIREMENT PROTECTION TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN LOOKING MIGHT DISAPPEAR, AS A RESULT OF A SCHEME FAILING. THIS CONCERN IS UNDERSTANDABLE AND LEGITIMATE, AND WE WILL NEED TO FIND AN APPROPRIATE WAY OF ADDRESSING IT. BUT EVEN IF A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE WERE PRACTICABLE, AND THIS MUST BE A MATTER OF VERY CONSIDERABLE DOUBT, IT WOULD AT BEST BE A NEGATIVE SOLUTION, A PREPARATION FOR FAILURE. IT WOULD BE FAR MORE POSITIVE TO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE SYSTEM WILL OPERATE PROPERLY AND SUCCESSFULLY. WE ARE PROPOSING TO DO JUST THAT. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVERNMENT WISHING TO ABROGATE ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING THE OPERATION OF RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEMES. THE RECENTLY ENACTED OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ORDINANCE PROVIDES A FIRM BASIS FOR AN EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND SUPERVISORY SYSTEM AND WE HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF BUILDING ON IT.

I BELIEVE THERE IS SOME ACCEPTANCE OF THE VIEW THAT A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE FOR ALL RETIREMENT BENEFITS IS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE. SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE PROPOSED THAT WE SHOULD ADOPT A PARTIAL GUARANTEE, OR SET UP AN INSURANCE FUND. MY INITIAL REACTION TO THE CONCEPT OF A PARTIAL GUARANTEE IS TO ASK HOW WE DEFINE PARTIAL. IT WOULD NOT BE AN EASY TASK. AS FOR SETTING UP AN INSURANCE FUND, I WOULD ONLY OBSERVE AT THIS STAGE THAT ANY INSURANCE SCHEME INVOLVES A COST WHICH MUST, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, EVENTUALLY FALL TO BE BORNE BY THE BENEFICIARY.

CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND

LET ME RETURN BRIEFLY TO THE CONCEPT OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND, WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN THIS COUNCIL ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN THE PAST. MEMBERS WILL BE AWARE THAT THE CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND CONCEPT WAS NOT DISCUSSED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION. INDEED, IT WAS NOT EVEN IN THE WORKING GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE. THE REASONS FOR THIS EXCLUSION LIE MAINLY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT PUTTING A VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF FUNDS UNDER CENTRALISED CONTROL FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES. WE CONTINUE TO SEE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE ARGUMENTS.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION, I REALISE THAT MY RESPONSE TODAY IS AT BEST TENTATIVE, BUT I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR THIS. TODAY'S DEBATE MARKS THE END OF ONE STAGE IN OUR CONSIDERATION OF A COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SYSTEM AND THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT. MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE ON A WHOLE RANGE OF IMPORTANT AND COMPLEX ISSUES. THEY REQUIRE DETAILED EXAMINATION AND ARE NOT FOR INSTANT REACTIONS OR HASTY DECISIONS. WE SHALL CONSIDER CAREFULLY ALL THE VIEWS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL, AND ENDEAVOUR TO COME UP WITH THE RIGHT ANSWERS. IN THE MEANTIME, GIVEN THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS, THE EX OFFICIO MEMBERS WILL ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON THE MOTION AND THE AMENDMENTS TO IT.

THANK YOU, MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

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SPEECH BY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN,
AT MOTION DEBATE ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

THIS DEBATE UNDERLINES YET AGAIN THE IMMENSE IMPORTANCE WHICH HONOURABLE MEMBERS ATTACH TO EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS. IT ALSO DEMONSTRATES VIVIDLY THAT, IN THIS VITAL AREA, THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS FOR MORE AND BETTER TO BE DONE, AND ABSOLUTELY NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY ON THE PART OF THOSE TRYING TO DO IT. THE GOVERNMENT FULLY RECOGNISES THESE FACTS OF LIFE. I HOPE THAT, FOR THEIR PART, HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE WILL ACCEPT THAT, WHILE WE SHOULD RIGHTLY STRIVE INCESSANTLY FOR MORE AND BETTER, OUR RESOURCES ARE NEVER AS UNLIMITED AS OUR ASPIRATIONS; AND THAT THERE OFTEN ARE DIFFERENT WAYS OF ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES.

POLICY BACKGROUND

IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ENABLE ALL CHILDREN OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP TO HAVE ACCESS TO KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WITHIN A NON-COMPULSORY PRIVATE SECTOR SYSTEM. CONTRARY TO THE PERCEPTION OF SOME COMMENTATORS, THIS POLICY POSITIVELY RECOGNISES THE VALUE OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF OUR CHILDREN. AND IT HAS ENABLED 85% OF OUR CHILDREN IN THE AGE GROUP TO ATTEND KINDERGARTENS.

AS PART OF THIS POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS, SINCE 1982, PROVIDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE KINDERGARTEN SECTOR BY REFUNDING THE RENT AND RATES OF NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS. IN 1989, FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT NO. 2, WE DECIDED TO TAKE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION:

- WE INTRODUCED A NEW FEE REMISSION SCHEME TO HELP NEEDY PARENTS PAY THE FEES WHICH PRIVATE SECTOR KINDERGARTENS NEEDED TO CHARGE IN ORDER TO PAY THE SALARIES OF TRAINED TEACHERS;
- WE ORGANISED FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME TEACHER TRAINING COURSES TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS;
- WE ISSUED CURRICULUM GUIDELINES TO HELP KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS PREPARE THEIR TUITION SCHEDULES;
- AND WE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION FOR A MINIMUM TEACHER:PUPIL RATIO, AS WELL AS NORMATIVE SALARY SCALES TO ENSURE THAT PROPERLY TRAINED TEACHERS WOULD BE ATTRACTED INTO THE PROFESSION AND ENCOURAGED TO STAY IN IT.

OUR AIM WAS TO ENCOURAGE KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS TO ACHIEVE, OVER TIME, SUCCESSIVE TRAINED-TEACHER TARGETS OF 40%, 60% AND EVENTUALLY 85%. THE BROADER AIM WAS TO RAISE KINDERGARTEN STAFFING STANDARDS TO THOSE OF CHILD CARE CENTRES, SO AS TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE EVENTUAL UNIFICATION OF PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES. A WORKING PARTY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WAS FORMED TO MONITOR PROGRESS AND ADVISE ON ANY FURTHER MEASURES NEEDED.

PROGRESS SO FAR

WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED ENCOURAGING RESULTS. IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, THE NEW PACKAGE BOOSTED AVERAGE TEACHER SALARIES, IN REAL TERMS, BY 19.5% FOR QUALIFIED KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS (QKTS) AND 14% FOR QUALIFIED ASSISTANT KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS (QAKTS). THE WASTAGE RATE OF TRAINED TEACHERS DROPPED FROM 19.4% IN 1988-89 TO 12% IN 1990-91. ENROLMENT IN QAKT COURSES HAS ALSO RISEN SHARPLY, BY 30% IN THE FIRST YEAR AND BY ANOTHER 28% IN THE SECOND. UNFORTUNATELY, QKT COURSES HAVE DONE LESS WELL, WITH A 30% DROP IN ENROLMENT IN 1991-92 AS COMPARED TO THE YEAR BEFORE. NEVERTHELESS, AS OF SEPTEMBER 1992, 61% OF KINDERGARTENS WERE EMPLOYING 40% OR MORE TRAINED TEACHERS, THUS ACHIEVING THE FIRST OF THE SUCCESSIVE TARGETS I MENTIONED EARLIER.

EXPENDITURE ON KGS

ALL THIS HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE. TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON KINDERGARTENS FOR THE 1992-93 SCHOOL YEAR WILL REACH \$165 MILLION. THIS INCLUDES DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS THROUGH REFUNDS OF RENT AND RATES, AND TO NEEDY PARENTS THROUGH FEE REMISSIONS, AS WELL AS FUNDS TO RUN FULLY SUBSIDISED TEACHER TRAINING COURSES FOR ALMOST 700 TRAINEES.

THE PROVISION FOR FREE REMISSIONS, AT \$41 MILLION, INCLUDES A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF \$15 MILLION APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL ONLY LAST MONTH. THIS REPRESENTED A 37% INCREASE OVER THE ORIGINAL PROVISION, AND HAS INCREASED THE PROPORTION OF KINDERGARTEN PUPILS WHO ARE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME FROM 5% TO 8%. WHEN OUR PRESENT PLANS TO BRING THE POINTS SYSTEM FOR KINDERGARTEN FEE REMISSIONS IN LINE WITH THAT FOR SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED IN FIVE YEARS' TIME, THE PROVISION WILL HAVE INCREASED TO OVER \$100 MILLION AT TODAY'S PRICES. THIS WILL FURTHER INCREASE THE PROPORTION OF KINDERGARTEN PUPILS BENEFITING FROM FEE REMISSIONS TO A SUBSTANTIAL 16%.

FURTHER PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

I BELIEVE THAT EVEN OUR STAUCHEST CRITICS WILL AGREE THAT THESE ARE REAL AND SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT, IN SEEKING TO DO MORE AND BETTER, THEY SHARE WITH US A COMMON OBJECTIVE, NAMELY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION.

AS MANY MEMBERS HAVE RIGHTLY OBSERVED, THE KEY TO HIGHER QUALITY LIES IN INCREASING THE PROPORTION OF TRAINED TEACHERS IN KINDERGARTENS. THIS IN TURN DEPENDS ON THE ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS OF KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS TO PAY THE APPROPRIATE SALARIES. OUR PRESENT POLICY SEEKS TO BRING THIS ABOUT. BOTH THE WORKING PARTY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAVE RECOMMENDED A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH, NAMELY THAT WE SHOULD INTRODUCE STATUTORY STAFFING REQUIREMENTS TO REACH THE 40%, 60% AND 85% TRAINED TEACHER TARGETS PROGRESSIVELY, BUT ONLY IF FUNDING FOR THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME IS IMPROVED FIRST, SO AS TO ENSURE THAT PARENTS WILL BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE RESULTING INCREASE IN FEES. HAVING MADE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME, WE ARE NOW ABLE TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE INTRODUCTION OF STATUTORY TRAINED TEACHER MANNING LEVELS IN KINDERGARTENS. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO STIPULATE A MINIMUM PROPORTION OF 40% TRAINED TEACHERS IN EACH KINDERGARTEN IN 1995-96, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE TIME NEEDED BY KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THIS.

FURTHER OPTIONS

THE MOTION BEFORE US SUGGESTS CERTAIN FURTHER MEANS OF ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVE, INCLUDING A SCHEME TO SUPPLEMENT KINDERGARTEN TEACHER SALARIES AND EVENTUALLY BRINGING KINDERGARTENS INTO THE SCOPE OF SUBSIDISED EDUCATION. THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO STUDY THESE SUGGESTIONS WITH AN OPEN MIND. I HOPE OTHERS WILL DO LIKEWISE. AS OF NOW, WE HAVE YET TO BE CONVINCED THAT THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO SHIFT FUNDING RESPONSIBILITY ENTIRELY TO THE PUBLIC PURSE. THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE FROM EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD THAT PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES CAN BRING SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION, AND THAT TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND INTERVENTION COULD STIFLE SUCH INITIATIVES. THERE MUST ALSO BE COGENT REASONS FOR WHICH, WHEREAS PRIMARY AND, INCREASINGLY, SECONDARY EDUCATION IS FREE AND COMPULSORY IN MANY PLACES, ONLY ONE OR TWO COUNTRIES ARE SUBSIDISING KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION FULLY.

PHILOSOPHY APART, THERE ARE ALSO THE INEVITABLE QUESTIONS OF WHETHER WE CAN AFFORD TO SUBSIDISE KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION FULLY, AND WHETHER THIS WILL BE A COST-EFFECTIVE THING TO DO. OUR ROUGH ESTIMATE IS THAT FULL SUBSIDISATION OF KINDERGARTENS WOULD COST SOME \$1.3 BILLION A YEAR AT TODAY'S PRICES. BEARING IN MIND NUMEROUS OTHER COMPETING DEMANDS FOR RESOURCES WITHIN THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME AREA, WE MUST CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY AND CRITICALLY WHETHER SUCH LEVELS OF EXPENDITURE ARE BOTH FULLY JUSTIFIED AND AFFORDABLE.

THE WAY AHEAD

PRIOR TO TODAY'S DEBATE, I HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FROM A GROUP OF EDUCATIONAL BODIES, THROUGH MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, ON HOW THE IDEAS EMBODIED IN HIS MOTION MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED. I HAVE ASKED THE WORKING PARTY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION TO EXAMINE THOSE PROPOSALS IN DETAIL. MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS DECIDED AT ITS LAST MEETING TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE AREA OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION. THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY COULD USEFULLY BE FED INTO THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION COULD ALSO USEFULLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OUTCOME OF THE RESEARCH INTO PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION WHICH IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EVALUATION OF EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT.

CONCLUSION

TO CONCLUDE, MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, THE ADMINISTRATION IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO MAKING FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE KINDERGARTEN SECTOR AND WE ARE PREPARED TO LOOK AT OTHER PROPOSALS WITH AN OPEN MIND.

THANK YOU.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1993

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BILL TO PROTECT OZONE LAYER INTRODUCED

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A BILL WHICH ENABLES HONG KONG TO MEET ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE 1987 MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER IS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL AT ITS COPENHAGEN MEETING IN NOVEMBER 1992 DECIDED THAT THE PHASING OUT OF HALON CONSUMPTION SHOULD BE ACCELERATED TO JANUARY 1, 1994 WHILE THAT FOR CFCs (CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS), CARBON TETRACHLORIDE AND METHYL CHLOROFORM SHOULD BE PHASED OUT BY JANUARY 1, 1996.

THE BILL WILL EXTEND THE REGULATION-MAKING POWER OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO DECLARE A SCHEDULED SUBSTANCE TO BE A CONTROLLED REFRIGERANT, TO DETERMINE IF A TERRITORY COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL.

IT ALSO EMPOWERS THE DIRECTOR TO APPROVE THE TYPE OF EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR RECOVERING OR RECYCLING A SCHEDULED SUBSTANCE, AND TO SPECIFY THE MANNER IN WHICH SUCH EQUIPMENT IS TO BE USED.

MR EASON SAID TWO REGULATIONS WOULD NEED TO BE MADE UNDER THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (CONTROLLED REFRIGERANTS) REGULATION WILL PROHIBIT THE RELEASE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF CONTROLLED REFRIGERANTS USED IN LARGE-SCALE INSTALLATIONS AND IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

"TO CONSERVE THESE SCHEDULED SUBSTANCES, THE REGULATION WILL REQUIRE THAT IN RECOVERY AND RECYCLING, APPROVED EQUIPMENT MUST BE USED. IT WILL ALSO REQUIRE THAT DURING THE SERVICING, REPAIR OR DECOMMISSIONING OF REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT, RECORDS OF THE CONTROLLED REFRIGERANTS BE KEPT," HE SAID.

THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (PRODUCTS CONTAINING SCHEDULED SUBSTANCES) (IMPORT BANNING) REGULATION WILL FURTHER HELP HONG KONG TO MEET ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PROTOCOL BY PROHIBITING THE IMPORT OF CONTROLLED PRODUCTS FROM A TERRITORY WHICH IS NOT A PARTY TO THE PROTOCOL.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1993

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BETTER WAGE PROTECTION PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM LIMIT ON THE AMOUNT OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENT FROM THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND IN RESPECT OF ARREARS OF WAGES AND WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE AIM WAS TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEIR EMPLOYERS HAVE BECOME INSOLVENT.

THE PRESENT MAXIMUM LIMITS HAVE NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE 1985 AND 1987 RESPECTIVELY.

"WE PROPOSE TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM EX-GRATIA PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF ARREARS OF WAGES FROM \$8,000 TO \$18,000 PER APPLICANT; AND THAT IN RESPECT OF WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE FROM SEVEN DAYS' WAGES UP TO \$2,000 TO ONE MONTH'S WAGES UP TO \$6,000," MR CHAN SAID.

WITH THESE AMENDMENTS, OVER 90 PER CENT OF APPLICANTS FOR ARREARS OF WAGES WOULD BE ABLE TO RECOVER THEIR FULL ENTITLEMENTS.

"AS REGARDS WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE, THE REVISION WOULD INCREASE THE COVERAGE SUBSTANTIALLY ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT ASCERTAIN THE EXTENT OF THE INCREASE AT THIS STAGE."

MR CHAN SAID THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT INVOLVE ANY INCREASE IN LEVY AS THE EXISTING LEVEL OF LEVY, WHICH IS \$250 A YEAR ON EACH BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE, WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE INCREASED PAYMENT FROM THE FUND.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCEDURE FOR ADJUSTING THE PAYMENT CEILING ON ARREARS OF WAGES BY PROVIDING FOR FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS TO BE MADE BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BRITAIN WILL ENSURE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT DECLARATION

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BRITAIN'S PRINCIPAL OBLIGATION WITH RESPECT TO HONG KONG AFTER 1997 WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION IS FULLY AND FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENTED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/MR SZE

MR SZE SAID AS A PARTY TO THE JOINT DECLARATION THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ENTITLED TO TAKE UP WITH CHINA ANY QUESTION IT MIGHT HAVE IN RELATION TO THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS CONTAINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"MOREOVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 8 OF ANNEX II OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP SHALL CONTINUE ITS WORK UNTIL 1 JANUARY 2000," HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR'S TAX POSITION SET FOR REVIEW

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THE GOVERNOR HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT ONCE THE FORTHCOMING MEMORANDUM ON THE QUEEN'S TAX POSITION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW IT CAREFULLY TO SEE IF IT HAS ANY IMPLICATIONS FOR HIS OWN TAX POSITION UNDER HONG KONG LAW.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR MACLEOD SAID THE GOVERNOR WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE. HE WAS APPOINTED BY THE QUEEN UNDER THE LETTERS PATENT AS HER MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN HONG KONG.

"LIKE HIS PREDECESSORS, THE PRESENT GOVERNOR RECEIVES A SALARY, WHICH IS FIXED AT 125% OF THAT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, AND A NON-ACCOUNTABLE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWANCE," MR MACLEOD SAID.

THE SALARY ALSO ATTRACTS THE NORMAL CONTRACT GRATUITY, HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNOR WAS ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR A VARIETY OF BENEFITS NORMALLY AVAILABLE TO CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES ON SIMILAR TERMS, INCLUDING ANNUAL LEAVE PASSAGES, EDUCATION ALLOWANCES AND SO FORTH, PAYABLE IN CASH OR KIND.

THE GOVERNOR IS EXEMPT FROM SALARIES TAX BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 8(2)(A) OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE, ENACTED IN 1947.

HIS TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT HIS EMOLUMENTS ARE TAX-FREE, ARE ALSO SET OUT IN HIS FORMAL LETTER OF APPOINTMENT.

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NO PLAN TO REQUIRE POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS DISCLOSE SPONSORS

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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE ANY PLAN TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS GENERALLY TO DISCLOSE THE SOURCE OF THEIR FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP AND THE PARTICULARS OF THEIR EXPENDITURES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU WAI-HING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"OTHER THAN TWO EXCEPTIONS, THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO REQUIREMENT FOR POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS TO DISCLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT DETAILS OF DONATIONS RECEIVED," MR SZE SAID.

THESE EXCEPTIONS ARE:

- * ANY POLITICAL ORGANISATION REGISTERED UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AS A PUBLIC COMPANY IS UNDER A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT TO FILE WITH THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES EACH YEAR AUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS. THESE ARE OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE COMPANIES REGISTRY.
- * ANY POLITICAL ORGANISATION WHICH IS PERMITTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR NON-CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN PUBLIC PLACES, IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ITS AUDITED ACCOUNTS, WHICH ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

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LEGISLATIONS NEEDED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

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THE VARIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE POLICY ADDRESS LAST YEAR ALL REQUIRE LEGISLATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HOWARD YOUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR SZE SAID AMENDMENTS TO SUCH LEGISLATION INCLUDED:

- * ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE (CAP 367) -- FOR THE PROPOSALS OF LOWERING OF VOTING AGE AND THE ADOPTION OF A SINGLE-VOTE SINGLE-SEAT SYSTEM FOR GEOGRAPHIC CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS;
- * LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE (CAP 381) -- FOR THE PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SYSTEM;

- * URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE (CAP 101), REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINANCE (CAP 385), DISTRICT BOARDS ORDINANCE (CAP 366) AND THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE -- FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARDS;
- * ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE -- FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION COMMITTEE.

MR SZE ADDED THAT NEW LEGISLATION AS WELL AS CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINANCE, THE DISTRICT BOARDS ORDINANCE, THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE (CAP 201), AND THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE (CAP 288) WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION.

"IT WILL ALSO REQUIRE NEW SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION SETTING OUT DETAILED REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH THE COMMISSION WILL OPERATE, AND WILL ENTAIL AMENDMENTS TO FIVE ITEMS OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION," HE SAID.

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NO MAJOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN COUNTRY PARKS

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NO MAJOR PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS ARE AT PRESENT UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE COUNTRY PARK AREAS, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EASON SAID PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN COUNTRY PARKS WERE FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS INVOLVING UTILITIES OR ROADS.

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS MAINLY INVOLVED SMALL VILLAGE HOUSES ON LEASED LAND, HE SAID.

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RTHK PRODUCTION SUITABLY SUPERVISED

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PROGRAMME PRODUCTION IN RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG (RTHK) IS SUITABLY SUPERVISED UNDER EXISTING WORKING PROCEDURES, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG, MR SO SAID CONTENTS OF RTHK PROGRAMMES WERE ADEQUATELY MONITORED AND REVIEWED IN EDITORIAL MEETINGS TO GUARD AGAINST THEIR BEING BIASED AND USED FOR POLITICAL PROPAGANDA OR SLANDER.

MR SO SAID A CODE OF PRACTICE GOVERNING RTHK'S EDITORIAL POLICY WOULD BE TOO RIGID AND WOULD NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO MEET WITH RAPIDLY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT A SYSTEM OF EDITORIAL CONTROL EXISTED WHICH RESULTED IN FAIR, BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND NEWS PROGRAMMES BEING PRODUCED BY RTHK.

BUT HE CONCEDED THAT THERE WAS NO ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE THAT THE LINE MIGHT NOT BE CROSSED, ESPECIALLY WITH "LIVE" PROGRAMMES WHERE LISTENERS' PHONE-IN SEGMENTS WERE INVOLVED.

"IN THESE PROGRAMMES THERE IS A NEED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN LETTING THE CALLER SPEAK HIS MIND, CHALLENGING UNFAIR COMMENTS AND STOPPING ALTOGETHER ANY SLANDEROUS STATEMENTS," MR SO SAID.

"THE HANDLING OF SUCH PROGRAMMES IS A SUBJECT WHICH IS CLOSELY WATCHED BY, AND REGULARLY DISCUSSED AMONG, EDITORIAL STAFF IN RTHK," HE ADDED.

MR SO ALSO TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT RTHK HAD RECEIVED 14 COMPLAINTS AGAINST ITS PROGRAMMES IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, FOUR ON TV AND 10 ON RADIO.

THESE COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY EXAMINED BY THE HEADS IN THE PROGRAMME PRODUCTION DIVISIONS AND, WHERE NECESSARY, DIRECTIVES WERE ISSUED TO PREVENT SIMILAR OCCURRENCES IN FUTURE.

"WRITTEN REPLIES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO COMPLAINANTS WHERE POSSIBLE," MR SO ADDED.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THERE WERE TWO CASES WHERE COMPLAINANTS, THROUGH THEIR SOLICITORS, CLAIMED THAT STATEMENTS MADE IN RTHK RADIO PROGRAMMES HAD CAUSED THEM EMBARRASSMENT AND HAD DAMAGED THEIR REPUTATION.

"BOTH CASES WERE SETTLED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, WITHOUT RESORTING TO LITIGATION," MR SO SAID.

"IN ONE CASE, THE GOVERNMENT PAID THE COMPLAINANT'S LEGAL FEES OF \$15,000 AND NO OTHER EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS HAS BEEN INCURRED," HE ADDED.

MEASURES TO DEAL WITH JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP IS WORKING ON GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL DISCIPLINE MASTERS ON WAYS OF DEALING WITH STUDENTS WITH TRIAD PROBLEMS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE WORKING GROUP, CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE, HAS BEEN SET UP TO CONSIDER HOW TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS WITH TRIAD PROBLEMS.

TO OVERCOME THE RELUCTANCE AMONG STUDENTS TO REPORT CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, MR ASPREY SAID THE POLICE WOULD SOON LAUNCH A PILOT SCHEME IN WONG TAI SIN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS INVOLVING A NEW, SPECIAL STUDENT CRIME REPORT FORM.

"STUDENTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO USE THE FORM TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON CRIME OR TRIAD ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS ON AN ANONYMOUS BASIS; INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE FORMS WILL BE USED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE," HE SAID.

TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, THE POLICE MAINTAIN GOOD LIAISON WITH AND RECEIVE GOOD CO-OPERATION FROM SCHOOLS, THE SECRETARY SAID.

INFORMATION ON TRIAD AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS IS OBTAINED FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES, INCLUDING CRIME REPORTS, SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND PARENTS.

"POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS VISIT SCHOOLS REGULARLY TO GIVE TALKS TO STUDENTS ON THE NATURE AND CONSEQUENCES OF TRIAD AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

"THEY ALSO LIAISE CLOSELY WITH HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS, AND ADVISE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS," HE SAID.

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NORMAL SCHOOLING FOR HIV-POSITIVE STUDENTS

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THE RISK OF TRANSMITTING THE AIDS VIRUS IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IS CONSIDERED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION TO BE VERY LOW PROVIDED THAT PROPER PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN AGAINST BLOOD-BORNE DISEASES, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS PEGGY LAM, MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY REGARDING HIV-POSITIVE STUDENTS WAS THAT THEY SHOULD BE EDUCATED IN THE NORMAL SCHOOL SETTING AS LONG AS THEY WERE MEDICALLY FIT TO DO SO.

"IF A SCHOOL EXPELS OR REFUSES TO TAKE BACK AN HIV-POSITIVE STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR NORMAL SCHOOLING, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION HAS AVAILABLE, UNDER THE CODE OF AID, THE ULTIMATE SANCTION OF REDUCING OR WITHDRAWING ANY SUBSIDY TO THAT SCHOOL," HE SAID.

ON A RECENT CASE IN WHICH THE SCHOOL HAD BEEN UNWILLING TO TAKE BACK AN HIV-INFECTED STUDENT BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM PARENTS OF OTHER CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL, MR CHAN SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD, WITH THE FULL AGREEMENT OF THE PARENTS CONCERNED, ADOPTED A PRAGMATIC ATTITUDE AND MADE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STUDENT TO CONTINUE HIS EDUCATION IN A SMALL GROUP SETTING.

THE AIM IS TO PLACE HIM IN AN ORDINARY SCHOOL AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

"IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE TO CONTEMPLATE ANY ACTION AGAINST THE SCHOOL IN QUESTION," MR CHAN SAID.

APART FROM THIS CASE, MR CHAN SAID NO STUDENT AGED BELOW 16 HAD BEEN FORMALLY EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL AFTER HAVING CONTRACTED AIDS DURING TREATMENT FOR HAEMOPHILIA.

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ALL BEDSPACE APARTMENTS TO BE LICENSED BY 1995

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ALL BEDSPACE APARTMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO OPERATE UNDER LICENCE BY THE END OF 1995 AND ALL THE DISPLACED LODGERS WILL BE ACCOMMODATED IN ALTERNATIVE HOUSING.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR ALBERT LAM CHI-CHIU, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MAN SAI-CHEONG, MR LAM SAID A BILL ON THIS WAS BEING DRAFTED AND SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, IT WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION.

/THE GOVERNMENT,

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD UNDERTAKEN TWO YEARS AGO TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO LICENSE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS WITH A VIEW TO REGULATING THEIR FIRE AND STRUCTURAL SAFETY.

AS THE NEW SAFETY STANDARDS MAY RESULT IN LOWERING THE OCCUPANCY RATE OF SOME BEDSPACE APARTMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED THAT NO LODGERS WOULD BE RENDERED HOMELESS DUE TO LICENSING.

HOWEVER, MR LAM SAID THERE WAS NO PROMISE TO REHOUSE ALL LODGERS, WHO NUMBERED ABOUT 4,100 AT PRESENT.

ON SINGLETON HOSTELS, MR LAM SAID THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN BUILDING UP A STOCK WITH A COMBINED CAPACITY FOR ABOUT 160 PEOPLE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

HE SAID THE PRESENT CAPACITY WAS ABLE TO MEET ALL THE CURRENT DEMAND AND THAT THERE WERE NO BEDSPACE APARTMENT LODGERS ON THE WAITING LIST FOR THESE HOSTELS.

DESPITE THIS, HE ASSURED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE SUITABLE FLATS AS SINGLETON HOSTELS TO MEET DEMAND.

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PROFITS TAX ON HK DOLLAR DEPOSIT INTEREST REMAINED
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF ELIMINATING PROFITS TAX CURRENTLY PAYABLE BY HONG KONG COMPANIES ON HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSIT INTEREST.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K Y YEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI KWOK-PO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR YEUNG SAID HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSIT INTEREST RECEIVED BY COMPANIES CARRYING ON A TRADE, PROFESSION OR BUSINESS IN HONG KONG, WAS CHARGEABLE TO PROFITS TAX BECAUSE IT WAS DERIVED FROM HONG KONG.

HE SAID: "IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF OUR TAXATION SYSTEM THAT INCOME WHICH HAS A SOURCE IN HONG KONG IS TAXABLE, AND THAT EXEMPTIONS ARE ONLY PROVIDED IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, WHERE THERE ARE OVER-RIDING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.

"THIS APPROACH ALLOWS US TO COLLECT TAX EFFICIENTLY AND AT A RELATIVELY LOW COST WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER TAX JURISDICTIONS."

HE ADDED THAT TO EXEMPT PROFITS TAX ON THIS INTEREST WOULD NOT ONLY BREACH THIS IMPORTANT POLICY PRINCIPLE BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE SIGNIFICANT REVENUE IMPLICATIONS.

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HOSPITAL PROPOSAL FOR NORTH DISTRICT UNDER CONSIDERATION

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THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAS CONDUCTED A REVIEW ON THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF HOSPITAL BEDS IN HONG KONG UP TO THE YEAR 2000, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY REV THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG NOTED THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING GENERAL HOSPITAL BEDS, THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS CONSIDERED AS A REGION.

INFIRMARY AND PSYCHIATRIC BEDS, HOWEVER, ARE PLANNED ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS.

"TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE, THERE WILL BE AN ESTIMATED SHORTFALL OF GENERAL BEDS IN THE REGION," SHE SAID.

"ON THIS BASIS, THE AUTHORITY HAS PROPOSED THAT NORTH DISTRICT HOSPITAL WITH 600 GENERAL BEDS SHOULD BE BUILT.

"THIS PROPOSAL IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

MRS WONG ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE 51,279 ATTENDANCES AT THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FANLING HOSPITAL LAST YEAR. THIS COMPARED WITH 47,222 IN 1991 AND 43,683 IN 1990.

OF THE ATTENDANCES IN 1992, 6,653 CASES WERE REFERRED TO OTHER HOSPITALS, MAINLY TO THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

"THE TRAVELLING TIME FROM FANLING HOSPITAL TO PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL BY AMBULANCE IS ABOUT 20 MINUTES, WHICH IS COMPARABLE TO WORLDWIDE STANDARDS FOR SIMILAR TRANSFERS," MRS WONG STATED.

STATISTICS SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN FANLING HOSPITAL AND THOSE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER HOSPITALS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAR	PATIENTS TREATED	PATIENTS TRANSFERRED
1990	1,441	268
1991	1,253	322
1992	1,404	513

MORE ANTI-SMOKING PLANS UNDER STUDY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS EXAMINING PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES AS A RESULT OF RECENT EXTENSIVE PUBLIC CONSULTATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG SAID LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS NOT THE ONLY FOCUS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO DISCOURAGE SMOKING, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE YOUNG.

"EMPHASIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON PUBLIC EDUCATION TO INFORM PEOPLE OF THE HEALTH RISKS OF SMOKING AND TO DISCOURAGE THEM FROM SMOKING OR TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO QUIT," SHE SAID.

NOTING THAT SMOKING IS ALREADY PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC AREAS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MRS WONG SAID WHETHER TO EXTEND SUCH PROHIBITION TO ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ENCLOSED PLACES WAS CURRENTLY BEING EXAMINED.

CITING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS, MRS WONG SAID DURING THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER 1992, ONLY ONE CASE HAD HAD TO BE REFERRED TO THE POLICE FOR PROSECUTION UNDER THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE.

"THE LAW EMPOWERS MANAGERMENTS TO ENFORCE SMOKING PROHIBITION IN THEIR PREMISES AND VEHICLES," SHE SAID.

"SO FAR, ONLY ONE PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATOR HAS INFORMED ME OF DIFFICULTIES IN ENFORCING THE NEW PROVISIONS, LARGELY BECAUSE OF HOSTILE RESPONSE FROM SOME UNCO-OPERATIVE SMOKERS," SHE SAID.

"OTHER OPERATORS HAVE REPORTED NO MAJOR PROBLEMS, AS MOST PASSENGERS ARE WELL AWARE OF, AND RESPECT, THE PROHIBITION ON SMOKING IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT," MRS WONG ADDED.

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CHARGING SCHEME FOR CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT

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A CHARGING SCHEME TO RECOVER THE CAPITAL COST AND OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY (CWTF) ON TSING YI WILL BE ESTABLISHED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR EASON SAID A CONSULTANCY STUDY TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF VARIOUS CHARGING METHODS WAS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

/"THEREAFTER RECOMMENDATIONS

"THEREAFTER RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD WILL BE MADE TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND ANY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED WILL BE CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE CAPITAL COST OF THE CWTF WOULD BE REPAID BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 60 EQUAL MONTHLY INSTALMENTS OVER THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF THE FACTORY'S OPERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONTRACTOR.

MR EASON SAID THE ANNUAL OPERATING COST IN THE FIRST FOUR YEARS, FROM 1993/94 TO 1996/97, WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$242 MILLION.

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FUTURE HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS UNDER REVIEW

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING HONG KONG'S HOLIDAYS WITH A VIEW TO CONSIDERING WHICH OF THE PRESENT HOLIDAYS SHOULD BE RETAINED AND WHETHER THERE IS A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT HOLIDAYS AFTER 1997.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THAT SOME CHANGES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN FUTURE TO THE PRESENT HOLIDAYS TO REFLECT THE CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY.

"SINCE THE HOLIDAYS FOR ANY YEAR NEED TO BE DECIDED AT LEAST EIGHT MONTHS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THAT YEAR SO AS TO FACILITATE THE PREPARATION OF DIARIES, TIMETABLES AND SO ON, SOME ADVANCE PLANNING AND DISCUSSION WILL BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION IN 1997," HE EXPLAINED.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE TWO SETS OF HOLIDAYS IN HONG KONG - GENERAL HOLIDAYS PROVIDED UNDER THE HOLIDAY ORDINANCE, WHICH CONSIST OF ALL SUNDAYS AND 17 WEEKDAYS A YEAR, AND 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS PROVIDED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

MR CHAN TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE REVIEW WOULD INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER MAY 1, BEING INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY, SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS A HOLIDAY IN HONG KONG AND, IF SO, FROM WHICH YEAR ONWARDS.

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OVER 1,200 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST TAXI DRIVERS IN 1992

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A TOTAL OF 1,295 PROSECUTIONS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED AGAINST TAXI DRIVERS FOR MALPRACTICES IN 1992.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MIRIAM LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOR 1991 AND 1990, THE NUMBERS OF PROSECUTIONS BY WAY OF FIXED PENALTY TICKETS ISSUED WERE 188 AND 196 AND THAT BY SUMMONS AND ARRESTS WERE 678 AND 585 RESPECTIVELY.

MR LEUNG SAID ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR 1992, THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS BY FIXED PENALTY TICKETS WAS 426 AND THAT BY SUMMONS AND ARRESTS TOTALLED 869.

THE AVERAGE CONVICTION RATE WAS 66.7 PER CENT AND THE AVERAGE FINE WAS \$450.

THE MAIN OFFENCES WERE REFUSING HIRE, TAXIMETER OFFENCES, STOPPING ELSEWHERE THAN AT TAXI STAND AND FAILING TO DRIVE TO DESTINATION BY THE MOST DIRECT ROUTE.

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CARE FOR PATIENTS NOT JUST A MATTER OF LAW

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THE QUESTION OF TREATMENT OF A PATIENT IS A MATTER FOR CLINICAL JUDGEMENT, INVOLVING MEDICAL ETHICS, AND NOT JUST LAW.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WERE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND MUST SATISFY HIM AS TO THE FITNESS OF STAFF, ACCOMMODATION, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES APPROPRIATE TO THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THEY WERE SET UP UNDER THE HOSPITAL, NURSING HOMES AND MATERNITY HOMES REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

"THE TYPE OF SERVICES OFFERED BY PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND CLINICS MUST THEREFORE BE IN KEEPING WITH THEIR REGISTRATION," SHE SAID.

APART FROM THE LAW, MRS WONG CONTINUED, DOCTORS WERE THEMSELVES GOVERNED BY THE PROFESSIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE ISSUED BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG.

THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF MEDICAL ETHICS ALSO REQUIRES EVERY MEDICAL PRACTITIONER TO ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND THE OBLIGATION OF PRESERVING HUMAN LIFE AND CALLS UPON HIM TO GIVE EMERGENCY CARE AS A HUMANITARIAN DUTY UNLESS HE IS ASSURED THAT OTHERS ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO GIVE SUCH CARE, SHE ADDED.

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NO COMPLAINTS AGAINST SCHOOLS USING UNSUITABLE TEXTBOOKS
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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INSPECTORS VISIT SCHOOLS REGULARLY TO INSPECT TEACHERS' WORK AND OBSERVE LESSONS AND OFFER ADVICE ON CURRICULUM AND TEACHING, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID.

THROUGH THESE VISITS, HE NOTED, SCHOOLS USING UNSUITABLE TEXTBOOKS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR CHAN SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS AGAINST SCHOOLS REQUIRING PUPILS TO USE TEXTBOOKS COMPILED FOR A DIFFERENT LEVEL.

"IF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ANY SUCH COMPLAINTS, IT WILL CHECK THE TEXTBOOK LIST OF THE SCHOOL CONCERNED TO FIND OUT WHETHER BOOKS OF AN UNSUITABLE LEVEL HAVE BEEN FORMALLY ADOPTED BY THE SCHOOL," HE SAID.

"EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INSPECTORS WILL ALSO VISIT THE SCHOOL TO CHECK WHETHER UNSUITABLE BOOKS HAVE BEEN USED BY TEACHERS IN PRACTICE, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN INCLUDED FORMALLY IN THE SCHOOL'S TEXTBOOK LIST."

MR CHAN SAID IF THE COMPLAINT WAS SUBSTANTIATED, THE SCHOOL WOULD BE ASKED TO STOP USING THE UNSUITABLE BOOKS, FAILING WHICH THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT WOULD BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE UNDER REGULATION 92(8) OF THE EDUCATION REGULATIONS AND BE LIABLE UPON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR.

MR CHAN ALSO NOTED THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REGULARLY ISSUED RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK LISTS WHICH PROVIDED A RANGE OF CHOICES OF TEXTBOOKS SUITABLE FOR EACH LEVEL OF EDUCATION.

SCHOOLS ARE ADVISED TO SELECT TEXTBOOKS FROM THESE LISTS AND THOSE WHICH CHOOSE BOOKS OUTSIDE THEM ARE NORMALLY REQUIRED TO JUSTIFY THEIR CHOICE, HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1993

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ACCIDENTS STATISTICS COMPILED BY CAUSE

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THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID INFORMATION ON CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCIDENTS WAS COMPILED BY CAUSE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTION.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR CHAN EXPLAINED THAT STATISTICS ON SUCH ACCIDENTS BY REFERENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES WOULD NOT PROVIDE RELIABLE INDICATORS OF THE SAFETY PERFORMANCE OF INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES.

THIS IS BECAUSE:

- * THEY WOULD BE BIASED AGAINST CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF SITES AND EMPLOYEES;
- * THEY WOULD NOT BE COMPREHENSIVE SINCE, UNDER THE EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYER IS NOT REQUIRED TO REPORT AN OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENT IF THE INJURY RESULTS IN TEMPORARY INCAPACITY OF LESS THAN FOUR DAYS; AND
- * AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT OCCURRING ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE MAY BE REPORTED BY THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR OR ONE OF ITS SUBCONTRACTORS ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT AGREEMENTS OR CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

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STATISTICS ON GRADUATE AND NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS

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OF THE 11,229 GRADUATE TEACHERS SERVING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OCTOBER 1991 AND HOLDING A COMMONWEALTH DEGREE, 434 SERVED AS NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS IN OCTOBER 1989 OR OCTOBER 1990, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIK CHI-YUEN, MR CHAN SAID THERE WERE 303, 321, AND 399 HOLDERS OF COMMONWEALTH DEGREES AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN 1989, 1990 AND 1991 RESPECTIVELY.

STATISTICS ON TEACHERS FOR THE SCHOOL YEARS BEGINNING 1992 OR BEFORE 1989 ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

/THE NUMBERS

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THE NUMBERS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH NON-STANDARD QUALIFICATIONS OVER THE SAME THREE YEARS WERE:

	1989	1990	1991
PRIMARY	1,431	1,604	1,334
SECONDARY	875	1,483	988

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CHANGE OF STREET NAMES A MATTER FOR SAR GOVT
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ANY CHANGE OF STREET NAMES AFTER 1997 WILL BE A MATTER FOR THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TO KUN-SUN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE PLANS TO CHANGE STREET NAMES WHICH HAVE COLONIAL IMPLICATIONS BEFORE 1997," HE ADDED.

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REVISION OF FEES AND PENALTIES
UNDER BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO REVISE VARIOUS FEES AND PENALTIES PAYABLE UNDER THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

MOVING THE MOTION TO TAKE EFFECT THE REVISIONS ON MARCH 1, 1993, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K Y YEUNG SAID THE REGISTRATION FEE IN RESPECT OF A BRANCH OF BUSINESS AND THE MAIN BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEE WOULD BE REVISED IN LINE WITH THE INCREASES IN COSTS SINCE THEY WERE LAST INTRODUCED OR REVIEWED.

/HE ALSO

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HE ALSO SAID THE PENALTIES FOR NON-PAYMENT OF BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEES AND BRANCH REGISTRATION FEES HAD BEEN KEPT AT THEIR PRESENT LEVEL SINCE 1975 AND 1984 RESPECTIVELY.

TO PRESERVE THE DETERRENT EFFECT, MR YEUNG SAID THE PENALTIES SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM \$50 AND \$15 TO \$150 AND \$60 RESPECTIVELY.

HE ADDED THAT THE REVISIONS WOULD BRING ABOUT AN ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$68 MILLION A YEAR.

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AMENDMENT MOTION ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION PASSED

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AN AMENDMENT MOTION ON RETIREMENT PROTECTION MOVED BY THE HON TIK CHI-YUEN WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY).

A TOTAL OF 26 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE WHICH LASTED FOR THREE HOURS. THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE ORIGINAL MOTION MOVED BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT AND ANOTHER AMENDMENT MOTION BY THE HON J D MCGREGOR WERE DEFEATED.

A MOTION ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION MOVED BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG WAS PASSED AFTER A TWO-HOUR DEBATE.

A TOTAL OF 15 MEMBERS SPOKE. THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

TWO MOTIONS MOVED BY THE HON ELSIE TU UNDER HONG KONG ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS 1917 TO 1991 AND BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT UNDER INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY WERE PASSED.

ANOTHER MOTION MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY MR K Y YEUNG UNDER THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE WAS ALSO PASSED.

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OUTCOME OF GOVERNOR'S TREATMENT VERY SATISFACTORY

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A GOVERNMENT HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, ENTERED THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL THIS MORNING FOR TREATMENT FOR A CORONARY DISORDER.

THE TREATMENT, KNOWN AS PERCUTANEOUS TRANSLUMINAL CORONARY ANGIOPLASTY (PTCA), WAS CARRIED OUT AT THE LEWIS CATHETERISATION LABORATORY AND WENT VERY SMOOTHLY.

BOTH OF THE OCCLUDED ARTERIES HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND THE TEAM OF DOCTORS PERFORMING THE TREATMENT DESCRIBED THE IMMEDIATE OUTCOME AS VERY SATISFACTORY.

MR PATTEN CAN NOW BE EXPECTED TO MAKE A RAPID RECOVERY.

MR PATTEN WILL REMAIN IN HOSPITAL FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AND HE WILL REST AT HOME FOR A FURTHER WEEK. THE TREATMENT TOOK ABOUT TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS UNDER LOCAL ANAESTHETIC.

MRS PATTEN WAS WITH THE GOVERNOR THROUGHOUT.

MR PATTEN IS IN GOOD SPIRITS AND HAS THANKED THE MANY WELL-WISHERS WHO HAVE SENT FLOWERS AND MESSAGES.

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RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE CEILING TO STAY: FS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING THAT THE GUIDELINE OF 70 PER CENT MORTGAGE CEILING FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES HAS HELPED TO COOL THE PROPERTY MARKET AND TO CURB EXCESSIVE SPECULATION.

THE GUIDELINE WAS INTRODUCED IN NOVEMBER 1991 BY THE BANKING SECTOR WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

HOWEVER, MR MACLEOD CAUTIONED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE GAINS FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS GUIDELINE WERE NOT THROWN AWAY BY PREMATURE RELAXATION.

HE MADE THESE REMARKS DURING A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG WHO ASKED FOR RELAXATION OF THE CEILING.

/THE FINANCIAL

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TOLD REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE EASING OF PROPERTY PRICES BY FIVE TO 15 PER CENT FROM THEIR PEAK LAST SUMMER WERE HEALTHY CORRECTIONS.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRICE LEVELS WERE STILL ALMOST DOUBLE WHAT THEY WERE AT THE BEGINNING OF 1991.

HE ALSO WARNED THAT ANOTHER OUTBURST OF SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES AND RISING PROPERTY PRICES COULD NOT BE RULED OUT IF THE CEILING WAS RELAXED TOO EARLY.

THERE WAS ALSO THE FACT THAT INTEREST RATES WERE STILL AT LOW LEVELS IN COMPARISON WITH CURRENT INFLATION.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FURTHER NOTED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE BACKING IN THE BANKING SECTOR FOR MAINTAINING THE CEILING AS THEY THEMSELVES WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR EXPOSURE TO THE PROPERTY MARKET.

"THERE WAS ALSO A WIDE MEASURE OF SUPPORT AMONG THE COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS," HE ADDED.

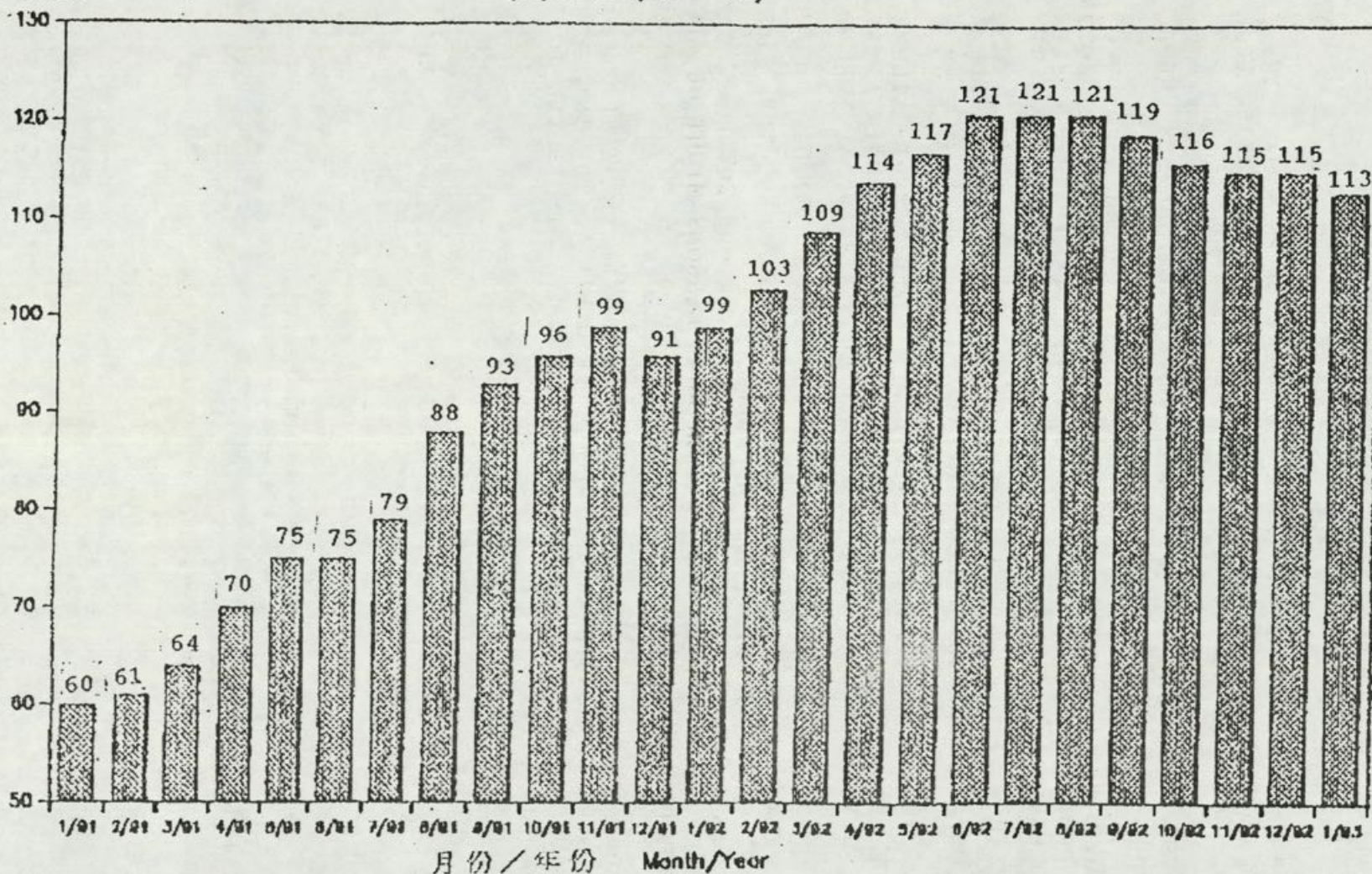
HOWEVER, HE ASSURED THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SITUATION WOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW.

HE ADDED THAT IF AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE THE CEILING WAS TO BE RELAXED, SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE INTERESTS OF GENUINE END-USERS AND FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS, IF THIS PROVED TO BE A PRACTICAL POSSIBILITY.

選定作調查對象的中、小型住宅單位的價格變動(實用面積不超過 99.9 平方米)

Price Movements in Selected Residential Developments - Small/Medium Units (saleable area not exceeding 99.9 m²)
(10/91 to 3/92 = 100)

指數 Index



The indices are based on an analysis of prices paid for completed flats as recorded in Sale and Purchase agreements.
Due to the time lag of recording the transactions, the indices for the last two to three months are based on adjusted asking prices in those months.

上列指數是根據落成樓宇買賣合約所紀錄的價錢作分析。由於需要一段時間才能獲得有關的交易紀錄，上列最後兩至三個月的指數乃當時樓宇的叫價調整後作為依據。

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EXCO ENDORSES GOVT'S APPROACH TO CATHAY PACIFIC DISPUTE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD ENDORSED THE GOVERNMENT'S EVEN-HANDED APPROACH TO THE CATHAY PACIFIC DISPUTE AND COMMENDED THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AND HER LABOUR RELATIONS TEAM FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND PROFESSIONALISM.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED THAT THE STRIKE IS OVER AND THAT THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS ARE NOW BACK TO NORMAL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THE TWO SIDES CAN RESOLVE THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES THROUGH AMICABLE NEGOTIATIONS.

"THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IF REQUIRED."

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF STRICT NEUTRALITY IN SUCH PRIVATE DISPUTES IS CORRECT.

NONETHELESS, THE GOVERNOR HAS ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, TO CONSIDER WHAT LESSONS MIGHT BE LEARNED FROM THE DISPUTE.

"THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT IT IS IN THE COMMUNITY'S INTEREST THAT WE AVOID HASTY DECISIONS ON SUCH COMPLEX ISSUES AFFECTING LABOUR RELATIONS.

"HONG KONG'S LABOUR RELATIONS RECORD IS VERY GOOD BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED THAT PRACTICE ELSEWHERE WOULD NECESSARILY SUIT HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES," HE ADDED.

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GOVT FETCHES \$3,694 MILLION IN LAND SALE

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TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$3,694 MILLION IN A PUBLIC AUCTION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIRST LOT, LOCATED LUNG POON STREET, DIAMOND HILL, KOWLOON, WAS SOLD TO MULLEIN COMPANY LTD, BRIGHT SMART LTD, EXCELLENT BASE LTD, WETTERSLEY COMPANY LTD AND CHARRIS COMPANY LTD AT \$3,530 MILLION, BIDDING OPENED AT \$2,400 MILLION.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT \$26,060 SQUARE METRES, THE LOT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL AND PETROL FILLING STATION) PURPOSES INCLUDING A PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS AND A PUBLIC TOILET.

/THE BUILDING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1993

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THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 95,000 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE OTHER LOT, LOCATED IN AREA 30A, SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES, WAS BOUGHT BY STRATHGEATH INVESTMENT LTD AT \$164 MILLION WITH BIDDING OPENED AT \$90 MILLION.

THE LOT, ABOUT 12,020 SQUARE METRES, IS EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING GODOWN FOR DANGEROUS GOODS).

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 18,030 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE LAND AUCTION WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR JOHN CORRIGALL, IN THE JADE BALLROOM OF HOTEL FURAMA.

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RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REPORT RECEIVED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED THE CONSULTANTS' DRAFT FINAL REPORT ON THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY.

THIS STUDY RECOMMENDS A STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY'S RAIL SYSTEM UP TO 2011.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT BRANCH SAID: "WE ARE STUDYING THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTEND TO CONSULT THE PUBLIC STARTING IN MARCH."

"A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE, AND THE PUBLIC WILL BE INVITED TO COMMENT ON THE MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY, INCLUDING RAILWAY PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION, THEIR ALIGNMENTS, AND THE PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME."

"BRIEFINGS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TRANSPORT PANEL AND DISTRICT BOARDS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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HK-BASED FORGED CREDIT CARD SYNDICATE SHATTERED

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GLOBAL CO-OPERATION AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAS LED TO THE SHATTERING OF AN ALLEGED HONG KONG-BASED CREDIT CARD COUNTERFEITING SYNDICATE IN A SERIES OF RAIDS MOUNTED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN HONG KONG, THE UNITED STATES, THAILAND AND MACAU SINCE TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 2 LOCAL TIME) EVENING.

POLICE OFFICERS HAVE SO FAR ARRESTED MORE THAN 20 SUSPECTS IN THE WORLDWIDE HUNT AND SEIZED OVER 600 FORGED CREDIT CARDS WHICH COULD RESULT IN A POTENTIAL LOSS OF AT LEAST U.S.\$6 MILLION.

POLICE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE REVEALED THAT THE ALLEGED SYNDICATE, WHICH WAS KNOWN TO HAVE ITS MAIN OPERATION AREAS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BETWEEN 1990 AND 1992, HAS MOVED TO THE U.S. SINCE MID-1992.

GIVEN THE SPRAWLING OPERATING AREAS OF THE ALLEGED SYNDICATE, THE COMMERCIAL CRIME BUREAU (CCB) OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE HAD CALLED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BETWEEN JANUARY 28 AND 29.

THE CONFERENCE WAS PARTICIPATED BY POLICE OFFICERS FROM ALL AFFECTED COUNTRIES INCLUDING THAILAND, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, HOLLAND AS WELL AS THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE. INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC) REPRESENTATIVES ALSO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE.

THE WORLDWIDE CONCERTED EFFORTS AGAINST THE ALLEGED SYNDICATE ORIGINATED FROM A CCB INVESTIGATION SINCE MAY 1992.

CCB INVESTIGATIONS REVEALED THAT THE ALLEGED SYNDICATE WAS EXTREMELY ACTIVE AND ACCOUNTED FOR A SIZABLE PORTION OF TOTAL WORLDWIDE LOSSES DUE TO THE USE OF COUNTERFEIT CREDIT CARDS.

BY NOVEMBER 1992, MOST OF THE ALLEGED SYNDICATE MEMBERS WERE IDENTIFIED BY CCB. TWO CCB AND TWO ICAC OFFICERS WERE THEN DISPATCHED TO LOS ANGELES TO ASSIST IN THE US OPERATION.

FLORIDA POLICE ARRESTED THE ALLEGED SYNDICATE HEAD, A CHINESE MAN IN HIS 30'S, IN A SHOPPING MALL IN FLORIDA ON JANUARY 29 AND A SEARCH OF THEIR HIRED CAR UNCOVERED 60 CREDIT CARDS ACCOUNTS INFORMATION. THESE ACCOUNTS WERE FOUND TO HAVE LOST U.S.\$416,000 IN FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS IN THE EAST COAST IN THE PRECEDING NINE DAYS.

CLUES LED TO FURTHER SEARCHES OF THREE HOTEL ROOMS AND ONE HOTEL SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN FLORIDA. OVER 250 COUNTERFEIT CARDS, 15 FORGED PASSPORTS AND A NUMBER OF FALSE US DRIVING LICENCES AS WELL AS A QUANTITY OF ACCOUNT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS WERE SEIZED.

CO-ORDINATED, WORLDWIDE RAIDS AGAINST THE SYNDICATE WERE THEN FIXED FOR TUESDAY DURING WHICH FURTHER ARRESTS WERE MADE IN LOS ANGELES AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF MERCHANDISE PLUS U.S.\$20,000 IN CASH WERE SEIZED.

IN HONG KONG, CCB OFFICERS RAIDED 63 LOCATIONS WHILE ICAC OFFICERS ALSO STORMED ANOTHER THREE ADDRESSES. ABOUT 10 SUSPECTS WERE ARRESTED SUBSEQUENTLY, INCLUDING TWO WANTED PERSONS.

/DURING THE

DURING THE HONG KONG OPERATION, POLICE SEIZED 50 TELEPHONE CARDS, ONE OF WHICH HAD BEEN ENCODED WITH CREDIT CARD DETAILS AND LOCATED TWO UNDERGROUND BANKS.

WHILE THE THAI POLICE REPORTED NO CONCRETE RESULTS SO FAR, MACAU POLICE HAD REPORTED TWO SUCCESSFUL RAIDS IN WHICH 200 BASE CARDS AND MATERIAL FOR MAKING HOLOGRAMS WERE SEIZED. TWO PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AS A RESULT.

INVESTIGATIONS BY POLICE IN ALL NATIONS CONCERNED ARE STILL CONTINUING.

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MINIMUM GOVT INTERFERENCE IN BUSINESS

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THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC APPROACH TO BUSINESS, ONE OF MINIMUM INTERFERENCE AND MAXIMUM SUPPORT, HAS SERVED HONG KONG WELL, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T H BARMA, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR BARMA SAID:

"IT HAS GENERALLY PROVIDED A VERY FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH BUSINESS CAN PROSPER; IT HAS ENSURED THAT OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES ARE NOT LAGGING BEHIND OPPORTUNITIES; AND IT HAS PREVENTED AMBITIOUS AND ZEALOUS BUREAUCRATS FROM MEDDLING IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES INSTEAD OF LETTING THEM BE BUSINESS DRIVEN."

MR BARMA SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES BASED ON THIS APPROACH WERE EFFECTIVE.

"HONG KONG WORKS. THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES."

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS UNDISPUTEDLY A LEADING MANUFACTURING, FINANCIAL AND TRADING CENTRE FOR GOODS AND SERVICES OF THE WORLD.

"WE ENJOY A VERY SATISFACTORY ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE AND HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA GDP IN ASIA.

"WE ARE THE 10TH LARGEST TRADING ENTITY IN THE WORLD.

"ABOUT 500 FOREIGN BANKS FROM OVER 40 COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED HERE. AND WE ALSO HAVE NEARLY 1,300 REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES.

"HONG KONG IS THE LEADING DESTINATION OF U.S. AND JAPANESE INVESTMENTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

"WITH NEARLY U.S.\$30 BILLION IN FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES, WE ARE THE 12TH HIGHEST IN THE WORLD AND THE SECOND HIGHEST ON A PER CAPITA BASIS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THESE POLICIES WERE NOT STATIC.

/"ON THE

"ON THE CONTRARY, THEY ARE CONSTANTLY UNDER REVIEW SO THAT CONSTRAINTS TO GROWTH CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND REMOVED IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY GENERALLY REMAINS HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND COMPETITIVE," HE SAID.

MR BARMA HIGHLIGHTED TWO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS SPECIFIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.

"FIRST, THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPLE ADVISORY BODY ON INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGY MATTERS, WILL BE HAVING ITS FIRST NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMAN.

"THIS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT VALUES AND IS BRINGING IN THE EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE FORMULATION OF ITS POLICIES ON INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.

"SECONDLY A GOVERNMENT-FUNDED APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME WILL BE LAUNCHED SHORTLY TO ENCOURAGE APPLIED R AND D IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR," HE SAID.

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POLITICAL ROW WILL SETTLE

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THE SINO-BRITISH ROW OVER THE GOVERNOR'S POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSALS WILL EVENTUALLY BE RESOLVED, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE'S SPRING RECEPTION, MR WONG ALLAYED FEARS OF SOME RESIDENTS THAT THE DISPUTE MIGHT HAMPER THE TERRITORY'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

HE SAID: "HONG KONG IS FAMOUS FOR ITS ABILITY TO TACKLE PROBLEMS AND WE HAVE OVERCOME ALL KINDS OF CRISIS.

"PARTICULARLY NOW THAT WE HAVE AN EVEN MORE MATURE SOCIETY AND A SOUNDER SYSTEM THAN IN THE PAST."

MR WONG GAVE HIS ASSURANCE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD COME UP WITH A DECISION WHICH WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY.

"AND IT WILL BE A PACKAGE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

LATER, MR WONG ALSO OFFICIATED AT A SPRING RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.

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YOUTH URGED TO TALK ABOUT AIDS FRANKLY

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THE BEST PREVENTION AGAINST AIDS IS FOR EVERYONE TO DISCUSS THE DISEASE OPENLY AND FRANKLY INSTEAD OF SHUNNING THE ISSUE.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY MS CARLYE TSUI, URBAN COUNCILLOR AND MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS (CEPAIDS) AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE AIDS ROVING EXHIBITION FOR TERTIARY STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

MS TSUI SAID SHE HOPED THAT YOUNG PEOPLE AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COULD PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF AIDS WITH AN OPEN AND CARING ATTITUDE.

"THE COMMUNITY CAN BE MORE ALERT ABOUT THE THREAT OF AIDS IF WE CAN ALL ADDRESS THE AIDS PROBLEM WITH AN OPEN MIND. AND THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO HALT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE," SHE SAID.

MS TSUI SAID CEPAIDS' PUBLICITY STRATEGY FOR THIS YEAR WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS MORE ABOUT AIDS AS THE PROBLEM REALLY CONCERNED EVERYBODY.

NOTING THAT HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONS WERE THE PREVALENT MODE OF TRANSMITTING AIDS IN HONG KONG, MS TSUI URGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE AWARE OF THE THREAT OF AIDS AND TO TAKE PROPER MEASURES TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

MS TSUI SAID: "IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION WILL HAVE A MORE THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISEASE. FOR THIS REASON, WE ARE ORGANISING THE ROVING EXHIBITION TO BE MOUNTED IN EIGHT TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THIS ACADEMIC YEAR."

OTHER THAN THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE EXHIBITION WILL BE STAGED AT LINGNAN COLLEGE, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, CITY POLYTECHNIC, SHUE YAN COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE AND HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY INCLUDED THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, PROFESSOR WANG GUNGWU AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY'S HEALTH SERVICE, DR IAN MARSHALL.

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GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN KOWLOON.

THE LOT IS LOCATED IN LOK WAH STREET, KWUN TONG. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,560 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARKING AREA FOR MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR TRAILERS/CHASSIS ATTACHED).

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

/CLOSING DATE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1993

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CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON FEBRUARY 19.

TENDER FORM, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS AS WELL AS THE TENDER PLAN ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY

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OUTLINE OF WORK DONE ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 3) UP TO 4.30 PM:

1. STUDYING NOTES OF MEETING BETWEEN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ON JANUARY 21;
2. STUDYING MTR OPERATIONAL ORDERS FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD;
3. FINALISING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW, COMMENCING 10.00 AM AT COURT NO. 10, SUPREME COURT;
4. CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTICE OF HEARING IN OPEN SESSION AT COURT NO. 10, SUPREME COURT, 38 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG:

THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 4)

10 AM DR K K LAI, SENIOR EXECUTIVE MANAGER (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES),
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

MR K Y TSANG, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HEADQUARTERS) AND MR C C
CHEUNG, CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
 MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 115.00 **0.0*	3.2.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.20 PCT	12 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.48	4.07
1 MONTH	3.33 PCT	15 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.48	4.35
3 MONTHS	3.20 PCT	18 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.63	4.68
6 MONTHS	3.44 PCT	21 MONTHS	2411	4.625	99.63	4.90
12 MONTHS	4.09 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 19,093 MN

CLOSED 3 FEBRUARY 1993

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