



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION	1
IMPORTANT AND HISTORIC DAY FOR LEGCO	2
COVERAGE OF HISTORY TEXTBOOKS	2
SPEL LEADS DELEGATION TO SEE GUANGDONG DEVELOPMENT	3
OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP FOR DISABLED STUDENTS	4
FILM CENSORSHIP FEES TO RISE IN OCTOBER	5
HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE TO MOVE IN AUGUST	5
UK/HK SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES	6
FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES	7
GOVERNOR TOURS KWAI TSING	8
HO ELECTED TO COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION	9
HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	9

TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AFTER HIS VISIT TO THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON:-

GOVERNOR: I'VE ENJOYED ANOTHER VISIT TO KWAI TSING. THE CHAIRMAN ALWAYS SEEMS TO ALLOW VERY GOOD WEATHER FOR ME. OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS HERE IN KWAI TSING, BOTH THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT. AS WE SAW FROM THE PETITIONS TODAY, THERE ARE CONCERNS ABOUT THE QUALITY AND THE COST OF PUBLIC HOUSING AS WELL. I'VE BEEN SAYING TO THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS THAT WE'LL LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE BOARD IN TACKLING THOSE PROBLEMS, NOT LEAST AFTER THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER FOR WHICH, I THINK, THERE ARE ALREADY QUITE A LARGE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, HOW WOULD YOU SEE TODAY'S DEBATE IN LEGCO? I KNOW THEY ARE NOW... THE ON-GOING DEBATE.

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT YOU EXPECT ME TO COMMENT ON THE DEBATE UNTIL IT'S COMPLETED. I SUSPECT THERE ARE MANY HOURS LEFT FOR THE DEBATE. THERE ARE A LOT OF AMENDMENTS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AND I THINK IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE FOR ME NOT TO COMMENT UNTIL THE DEBATE IS ABSOLUTELY FINISHED THEN WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE WE STAND. BUT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. IT'S A HISTORIC DAY. THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS TAKING DECISIONS THAT WILL HAVE A CONSIDERABLE EFFECT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. THE FACT THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS TAKING THOSE FINAL DECISIONS, IS, IN MY JUDGMENT, EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD BE. THE MATTER IS BEING DISCUSSED OPENLY. THE MATTER IS BEING DISCUSSED PUBLICLY AND THE ISSUES WILL BE RESOLVED OPENLY AND PUBLICLY. AND I REPEAT THAT I WON'T BE COMMENTING ANY MORE ABOUT THE DEBATE UNTIL IT'S OVER. BUT WE ARE PUTTING OUR CASE VERY VIGOROUSLY IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WHY DO PEOPLE SEEM TO THINK YOUR JOB IS OVER IN HONG KONG AFTER TONIGHT'S VOTE?

GOVERNOR: MY JOB GOES ON UNTIL JUNE 30, 1997, GOD WILLING. THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS THAT I'M INVOLVED IN, A LOT OF THINGS I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT TODAY, THE WHOLE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA AND I'LL SAY WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING. I SHOULD THINK ONCE A WEEK FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, THAT IS, THAT I WAS APPOINTED FOR FIVE YEARS AND GOD WILLING, I SHALL BE HERE UNTIL JUNE 30, 1997, ENJOYING THE JOB, CHALLENGING THOUGH IT IS.

QUESTION: LEGISLATORS TODAY REPEATEDLY SAID THAT THEY SHOULD VOTE ON CONSCIENCE AND DURING THE LOBBYING EFFORT, WHAT SORT OF DEAL-MAKING HAS THE GOVERNMENT MADE WITH THOSE LEGISLATORS? IS IT SOMETHING DEALING WITH THEIR VESTED INTERESTS?

GOVERNOR: I AM NOT GOING TO....(INTERRUPTED). OF COURSE, PEOPLE SHOULD VOTE ON CONSCIENCE.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: MAY BE WE PUT THE QUESTION THIS WAY. NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME IS, ARE YOU WELL PREPARED FOR THE OUTCOME NO MATTER WHAT IT WOULD BE?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THE ISSUE IS BEING RESOLVED IN THE RIGHT WAY. IT'S BEING RESOLVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN THE OPEN. IT'S NOT BEING DECIDED IN SECRET BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND I THINK THAT IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR HONG KONG AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE THE RESULT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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IMPORTANT AND HISTORIC DAY FOR LEGCO

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON THAT TODAY WAS AN IMPORTANT AND HISTORIC DAY FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN TAKING DECISIONS THAT WOULD HAVE A CONSIDERABLE EFFECT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

RESPONDING TO MEDIA QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEBATE ON THE POLITICAL REFORM BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AFTER HIS VISIT TO THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT, MR PATTEN SAID: "THE FACT THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS TAKING THOSE FINAL DECISIONS IS, IN MY JUDGMENT, EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD BE."

NOTING THAT THE MATTER WAS BEING DISCUSSED OPENLY AND PUBLICLY, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE ISSUE WAS BEING RESOLVED IN THE RIGHT WAY.

"IT'S BEING RESOLVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN THE OPEN," MR PATTEN SAID.

"IT'S NOT BEING DECIDED IN SECRET BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND I THINK THAT IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR HONG KONG."

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COVERAGE OF HISTORY TEXTBOOKS

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON WHETHER RECENT EVENTS SHOULD BE COVERED IN HISTORY TEXTBOOKS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"FOLLOWING A DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PUBLISHER CONCERNED, THE LATTER HAS AGREED WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THAT, AS FAR AS HISTORY TEXTBOOKS ARE CONCERNED, EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE WITHIN THE LAST 20 YEARS AND WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED BY OBJECTIVE ANALYSES, VERIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT, SHOULD NOT BE COVERED. TWENTY YEARS IS CONSIDERED TO BE A REASONABLE MINIMUM PERIOD.

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE PUBLISHER HAS DECIDED, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH EDUCATIONISTS AND EXPERTS IN THE HISTORY SUBJECT, TO REMOVE THE SECTION IN QUESTION FROM THE FINAL VERSION OF THE HISTORY TEXTBOOK CONCERNED WHILE MAKING OTHER AMENDMENTS.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1994

- 3 -

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL STRENGTHEN ITS TEXTBOOK REVIEWING PROCEDURES AND WILL REITERATE ITS ADVICE TO PUBLISHERS THAT EVENTS WITHIN THE LAST 20 YEARS, OF WHICH THE FULL FACTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED, SHOULD NOT BE COVERED IN HISTORY TEXTBOOKS.

THE PUBLISHER'S DECISION TO REMOVE THE SECTION CONCERNED FROM THE TEXTBOOK IS UNRELATED TO ANY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

IT IS NOTED THAT HISTORY TEXTBOOKS SHOULD ALWAYS BE HANDLED WITH CARE."

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SPEL LEADS DELEGATION TO SEE GUANGDONG DEVELOPMENT

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A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DELEGATION, LED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) LEFT FOR GUANGDONG FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT TO SEE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SHENZHEN AND GUANGZHOU.

THE DELEGATION, COMPRISING OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY MATTERS, WILL EXCHANGE VIEWS AND INFORMATION WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE TWO CITIES.

THEY WILL VISIT YANTIAN PORT AND HUANGGANG IN SHENZHEN, AND THE AIRPORT, HIGHWAYS AND UNDERGROUND RAILWAY PROJECTS IN GUANGZHOU.

THE DELEGATION WILL FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES IN THE TWO CITIES AND THE WORK PROGRESS OF THE GUANG-SHEN-ZHU SUPERHIGHWAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE DELEGATION'S VISIT WOULD ENHANCE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF BOTH HONG KONG AND THE GUANGDONG GOVERNMENTS.

THE DELEGATION WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG BY RAIL ON SATURDAY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE DELEGATION'S RETURN ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE VIP ROOM OF THE HUNG HOM KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY STATION AT 12.30 PM ON SATURDAY.

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OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

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THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND COUNCIL IS OFFERING AN AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP TO HELP ONE OUTSTANDING DISABLED STUDENT IN HONG KONG PURSUE OVERSEAS STUDIES BEGINNING IN THE 1995/96 ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE AIM IS TO ENCOURAGE THE DISABLED STUDENT WHO HAS ATTAINED A REASONABLY HIGH STANDARD OF SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS TO PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION IN A REPUTABLE INSTITUTION OVERSEAS.

THE FELLOWSHIP IS FOR STUDIES LEADING TO A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE EITHER BY RESEARCH OR BY COURSEWORK; THE SCHOLARSHIP IS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES LEADING TO A FIRST DEGREE.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE IS EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATE HIS ABILITY TO MAINTAIN HEALTH OF BODY AND OF MIND, TO ADAPT TO NEW ENVIRONMENT AND TO BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHER DISABLED PERSONS.

HE IS REQUIRED TO SERVE IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS UPON GRADUATION.

THE APPLICANTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FULFILLING ALL APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACADEMIC INSTITUTION OF HIS CHOICE, AND BE OFFERED A PLACE SUBSEQUENTLY.

THE VALUE OF THE FELLOWSHIP IS ABOUT HK\$193,000 A YEAR FOR UP TO TWO YEARS; THE VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP IS ABOUT HK\$176,000 A YEAR FOR UP TO THREE YEARS.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION NOTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:

- * STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY,
NINTH FLOOR, NATIONAL MUTUAL CENTRE,
151 GLOUCESTER ROAD,
WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG;
- * CAREERS AND GUIDANCE SERVICES SECTION,
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
MONGKOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, ROOM 206,
30 LUEN WAN STREET,
MONG KOK,
KOWLOON.

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 802 1638.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30. SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND A SELECTION INTERVIEW TO BE CONDUCTED IN HONG KONG IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

FILM CENSORSHIP FEES TO RISE IN OCTOBER

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FEES FOR CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS BY THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY WILL GO UP FROM OCTOBER 28 THIS YEAR.

UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994 TO BE GAZETTED THIS FRIDAY, CHARGES FOR THE ISSUE OF A REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATE AS WELL AS PACKAGING AND VIEWING OF A VIDEO TAPE OR LASER DISC WILL ALSO BE REVISED FROM THE SAME DATE.

THE NEW FEES WILL BE \$68 PER MINUTE FOR CENSORSHIP OF A FILM AND \$20 FOR CENSORSHIP OF A STILL FILM, COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT LEVELS OF \$62 PER MINUTE AND \$18 RESPECTIVELY.

THE CENSORSHIP FEE FOR A STILL FILM EXEMPTED FROM CLASSIFICATION WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$25 TO \$28, AND THE CENSORSHIP FEE FOR OTHER FILMS EXEMPTED FROM CLASSIFICATION WILL MOVE UP FROM \$20 TO \$22 PER MINUTE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID IT WAS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT FEES SHOULD IN GENERAL BE SET AT LEVELS TO RECOVER THE FULL COSTS OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES.

THE FEES HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE TO MOVE IN AUGUST

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE SITUATED AT 2 MURRAY ROAD WILL BE MOVING TO ITS NEW ACCOMMODATION SOON.

MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUPS (CLG) WERE TOLD OF THE NEWS AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE NEW OFFICE WOULD BE SITUATED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF UNITED CENTRE IN QUEENSWAY.

FITTING-OUT WAS NEAR COMPLETION AND THE LICENSING OFFICE WAS SCHEDULED TO MOVE INTO THE NEW PREMISES AT THE END OF AUGUST.

OFFICES THAT WILL MOVE INTO THE NEW PREMISES ARE:

- * THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE,
- * THE PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION,
- * THE HONG KONG REGION DRIVING TEST APPOINTMENT OFFICE,
- * THE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS OFFICE, AND
- * THE DRIVING-LICENCE RECORDS OFFICE.

THE NEW OFFICE OCCUPIES AN AREA OF 3,800 SQUARE METRES AS COMPARED TO 1,600 SQUARE METRES AT THE PRESENT OFFICE.

THE MEMBERS WERE TAKEN ON A CONDUCTED TOUR OF THE NEW PREMISES TO SEE THE IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT THAT THE NEW ACCOMMODATION OFFERED TO CUSTOMERS.

EARLIER IN THE MEETING, MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE NEW FIRST REGISTRATION TAX SCHEME.

THEY WERE TOLD THAT UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, THE AMOUNT OF FIRST REGISTRATION TAX PAYABLE WOULD BE BASED ON THE RETAIL PRICE (BEFORE TAX) OF THE VEHICLE WHICH DISTRIBUTORS WERE REQUIRED TO PUBLISH.

PREVIOUSLY, THE TAX WAS BASED ON THE COST, INSURANCE AND FREIGHT VALUE OF THE VEHICLE.

THE SPOKESMAN ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE NEW SCHEME WAS BASICALLY REVENUE NEUTRAL. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO PROTECT PUBLIC REVENUE BY PREVENTING TAX AVOIDANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO PRAISED MEMBERS OF THE CLGS THAT THEY HAD BEEN GIVING VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE SERVICES.

"SOME OF THE SUGGESTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED WHILE OTHERS ARE BEING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

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UK/HK SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

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A NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AIMING AT PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTSTANDING LOCAL RESIDENTS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM STARTING IN THE 1995/96 ACADEMIC YEAR ARE OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE OFFERED BY THE UK/HK SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES LEADING TO A HIGHER DEGREE EITHER BY RESEARCH OR BY COURSEWORK.

APPLICANTS MAY CHOOSE ANY SUBJECT OF STUDY OR RESEARCH AT ANY LEADING ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FULFILLING ALL APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF THEIR CHOICE AND SHOULD BE OFFERED A PLACE SUBSEQUENTLY.

THEY ARE EXPECTED TO POSSESS HIGH ACADEMIC PROWESS AND LEADERSHIP QUALITIES. THEY SHOULD ALSO DEMONSTRATE A STRONG SENSE OF COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG AND HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HONG KONG.

/UPON GRAUDATION,

UPON GRADUATION, SCHOLARS ARE REQUIRED TO WORK IN HONG KONG FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS.

THE TENURE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP IS NORMALLY TWO YEARS AND THE AWARD COVERS UNIVERSITY COMPOSITION FEE, MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE, ANNUAL VACATION PASSAGE ALLOWANCE AND A RETURN AIR PASSAGE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND LONDON AT THE COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF STUDIES.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION NOTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:

- * STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY,
NINTH FLOOR, NATIONAL MUTUAL CENTRE,
151 GLOUCESTER ROAD,
WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG;

- * EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
CAREERS AND GUIDANCE SERVICES SECTION,
MONGKOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, ROOM 206,
30 LUEN WAN STREET,
MONG KOK,
KOWLOON.

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 802 1638.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS AUGUST 31. SUITABLE CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND AT LEAST ONE SELECTION INTERVIEW IN HONG KONG TO BE CONDUCTED IN DECEMBER 1994/JANUARY 1995.

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FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES

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STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR A NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO GO ON OVERSEAS STUDIES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1995/96.

ANNOUNCING THE AWARDS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND COUNCIL SAID THE AIM WAS TO ENCOURAGE THE BEST STUDENTS TO PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION IN REPUTABLE INSTITUTIONS OVERSEAS.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG AND BE READY TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE COMMUNITY UPON RETURN FROM THEIR STUDIES.

THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO WORK IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS UPON GRADUATION.

THE FELLOWSHIPS ARE FOR STUDIES LEADING TO POSTGRADUATE DEGREES EITHER BY RESEARCH OR BY COURSEWORK; THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES LEADING TO FIRST DEGREES.

THE APPLICANTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FULFILLING ALL APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS OF THEIR CHOICE.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1994

- 8 -

THE VALUE OF FELLOWSHIP IS ABOUT \$193,000 A YEAR FOR UP TO TWO YEARS; THE VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP IS ABOUT \$176,000 A YEAR FOR UP TO THREE YEARS.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION NOTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:

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KOWLOON.

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 802 1638.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30. SHORT-LISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AT LEAST ONE SELECTION INTERVIEW IN HONG KONG SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY/MARCH NEXT YEAR.

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GOVERNOR TOURS KWAI TSING

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, VISITED KWAI TSING DISTRICT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE FIRST TOURED AN OIL DEPOT ON TSING YI ISLAND BEFORE CALLING ON A FAMILY IN THE NEW ON YAM ESTATE IN KWAI CHUNG.

THE GOVERNOR THEN VISITED A BATTERY COMPANY WHERE HE RODE ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY ELECTRIC CAR.

BEFORE CONCLUDING HIS VISIT, MR PATTEN ATTENDED A RECEPTION TO MEET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, AND KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ANDREW WELLS.

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HO ELECTED TO COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION

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MR HO KWOK-SUEN HAS BEEN ELECTED UNCONTESTED TO THE COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE IS THE VICE-PRINCIPAL OF HENNESSY ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL (PM SESSION). HE FILLS A SEAT FOR THE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS CATEGORY ON THE COUNCIL.

MR HO RECEIVED 10,043 VOTES IN YESTERDAY'S BY-ELECTION, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED AT 683 PRIMARY SCHOOLS. THE VOTER TURNOUT RATE WAS 80.29 PER CENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE VOTER TURNOUT RATE.

THE DEPARTMENT INSPECTED 85 PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON VOTING DAY TO ENSURE THAT THE VOTING SESSIONS WERE PROPERLY CONDUCTED.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,280	0930	+49
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,144	1000	+49
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+1,863
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+1,864	1200	+1,864
LAF TODAY	-2,000	1500	+1,864
		1600	+1,864
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER	TWI 123.1	*-0.3*	29.6.94

/HONG KONG

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.09	17 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.64	6.02
1 MONTH	4.19	23 MONTHS	2605	6.35	99.82	6.55
3 MONTHS	4.34	28 MONTHS	3610	4.20	94.46	6.93
6 MONTHS	4.78	31 MONTHS	3701	4.60	94.47	7.10
12 MONTHS	5.45	34 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.56	7.24

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 24,408 MN

CLOSED 29 JUNE 1994

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1994

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

BILL SETS OUT TO ACHIEVE OPEN AND FAIR ELECTION	1
GOVT NOT INTRODUCING DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS THROUGH FC	2
BILL TO LOCALISE TRADING INTERESTS ORDER	4
PROSECUTOR IN OFFICE WHEN VERDICT RETURNED	4
WAGES NOT RESTRAINED BY IMPORTED WORKERS	5
DEDICATED TEAM SET UP TO PROCESS AIRPORT PLANS	6
NEW LAW ON SAFE GONDOLAS	7
GOVT WILL UPHOLD RIGHT TO PRIVACY	7
PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING STAFF DISPUTES	8
REVIEWING CONTROLS ON USE OF AIR GUNS	9
WORKING GROUP ON ELDERLY MAKES GOOD PROGRESS	9
OUTREACHING TEAMS FOR ELDERLY GET AID	10
TERTIARY STAFF SATISFY REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS	10
INSURANCE COMPLAINTS BOARD FAIR AND INDEPENDENT	11

/PREFERENTIAL DEBTS

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

PREFERENTIAL DEBTS LIMITS UNDER REVIEW	12
BRIDGE DESIGNED TO CATER FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL	13
PUBLICATION ON CHINA/HK ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS TO BE PUBLISHED	13
DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF GOVERNMENT SITES BEST UTILISED	14
SPEEDING IN TUNNELS GIVEN CONCERN	14
HYF PROMOTES HOLIDAY FERRY SERVICES	15
FIGURE ON VIETNAMESE RETURNING HOME	15
REGULATION ON REDEMPTION OF SHARES	16
RULES ADEQUATE ON DERIVATIVE WARRANTS ISSUE	16
YOUNG ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS MIGHT BE DETAINED IN HOMES	17
ELECTORAL BILL PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS	18

BILL SETS OUT TO ACHIEVE OPEN AND FAIR ELECTION

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID OPEN AND FAIR ELECTION WAS WHAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 SET OUT TO ACHIEVE AND WAS THE YARDSTICK AGAINST WHICH ANY ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE MEASURED.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING, SHE SAID THE KEY OBJECTIVE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS TO PRESERVE HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997 AND BEYOND.

FOR HONG KONG'S SUCCESS TO CONTINUE AFTER 1997, IT IS PARAMOUNT THAT THERE IS CONFIDENCE, BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, THAT THE RULE OF LAW WILL CONTINUE AFTER 1997, SHE SAID.

"THAT CAN BEST BE ASSURED BY AN ELECTORAL SYSTEM WHICH IS MANIFESTLY OPEN AND FAIR AND IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY CAN HAVE FAITH."

MRS CHAN SAID THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM MUST EVOLVE TO MEET THE COMMUNITY'S GROWING ASPIRATION FOR A GREATER SAY IN THE PROCESSES OF GOVERNMENT.

SHE ADDED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAIRLY AND OPENLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS BROUGHT PRACTICAL BENEFITS.

IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE THAT IT HOLDS SO DEAR, A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR BUSINESS, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RESOLVE TO TACKLE CORRUPTION AT ALL LEVELS, AND THE IMPARTIAL ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS.

BUT, SHE SAID THE COMMUNITY ALSO ASPIRED FOR ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WERE CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING CONTINUITY AFTER 1997.

THAT IS WHY 17 ROUNDS OF INTENSIVE TALKS WERE CONDUCTED WITH CHINA, SHE SAID, UNFORTUNATELY AN AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED.

WHILE IT WOULD DOUBTLESS HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE TO LEGISLATE ON THE BASIS OF AN AGREEMENT, IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THAT HONG KONG SHOULD GO FOR AN AGREEMENT AT ANY COST, MRS CHAN SAID.

"FOR, CLEARLY, ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE LESS THAN OPEN AND FAIR STRIKE AT THE VERY ROOTS OF THE RULE OF LAW ON WHICH THE WHOLE FABRIC OF THIS VIBRANT, ARTICULATE AND SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY DEPENDS.

"WHETHER CHINA WILL DISMANTLE ALL TIERS OF OUR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT ON JULY 1, 1997 IS A QUESTION WHICH ONLY CHINA ITSELF CAN ANSWER.

"BUT IF IT DOES, AS NO DOUBT IT CAN IF IT REALLY WANTS TO, HOW WILL THAT SIT WITH THE COMMUNITY'S CLEAR AND OFTEN-REPEATED WISH FOR A THROUGH-TRAIN FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," SHE SAID.

/MRS CHAN

MRS CHAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THE BEST CASE FOR A THROUGH-TRAIN WAS FOR THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE DEMONSTRABLY OPEN AND FAIR, RESULTING IN A CREDIBLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH COULD COMMAND THE WIDE RESPECT OF THE COMMUNITY.

"THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDS TODAY ON THE BRINK OF ONE OF THE MOST MOMENTOUS DECISIONS IN ITS ENTIRE HISTORY - A DECISION THAT WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR THE FIRST FULLY ELECTED COUNCIL.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT IN MAKING YOUR DECISION, MEMBERS WILL NOT FALL BELOW THE LEVEL OF EVENTS ON THIS HISTORIC DAY AND WILL NOT FAIL TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOPES AND WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," SHE TOLD COUNCIL MEMBERS.

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GOVT NOT INTRODUCING DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS THROUGH FC

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THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT INTRODUCING MORE DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS BY CREATING THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS)(AMENDMENTS) BILL 1994 DEBATE, MR NG ELABORATED ON THE THREE IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

HE SAID: "THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO MEAN THAT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS.

"IT WOULD NOT INCLUDE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT PART OF THE WORKFORCE, SUCH AS STUDENTS, RETIREES, HOUSEWIVES, ETC," HE SAID.

MR NG EMPHASISED THAT PROPOSALS REGARDING THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WERE NOT RADICAL CHANGES.

"RATHER, THEY ARE ALL FIRMLY BASED ON THE ESTABLISHED CONCEPT OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, INCLUDING THE GUIDELINE, AS SET OUT IN THE 1988 WHITE PAPER, THAT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES ARE TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION FOR THE DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SECTORS WHICH ARE SUBSTANTIAL AND OF IMPORTANCE IN THE COMMUNITY.

"THUS, EACH OF THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES REPRESENTS A MAJOR SECTOR WHICH OVER THE YEARS HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

"THE PROPOSALS ARE, OF COURSE, ALSO ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW."

MR NG SAID IT WAS WRONG TO CHARACTERISE THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AS "LABOUR" CONSTITUENCIES.

HE SAID THE PROPOSAL WOULD ENFRANCHISE NOT ONLY THE AVERAGE BLUE OR WHITE COLLAR WORKERS, BUT PEOPLE WORKING IN MIDDLE AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AS WELL.

"IN TERMS OF OVERALL BALANCE OF INTERESTS, THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, TOGETHER WITH THE 21 EXISTING ONES, WILL ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE PROFESSIONALS ARE ALL ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED."

MR NG NOTED THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL WOULD IMPROVE ON THE EXISTING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SYSTEM.

"FIRSTLY, ALL FORMS OF CORPORATE VOTING WILL BE ABOLISHED.

"BY GIVING THE VOTING RIGHT TO COMPANY DIRECTORS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO SIMULTANEOUSLY PUT AN END TO THE PROBLEM OF 'MULTIPLE VOTING' AND BROADEN THE FRANCHISE OF THE RELEVANT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

"SECONDLY, THE BILL PROPOSES EXPANDING THE FRANCHISE OF CERTAIN EXISTING PROFESSIONAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. AGAIN, THIS HAD THE EFFECT OF THE BROADENING FRANCHISE AND MAKING THE SYSTEM MORE REPRESENTATIVE.

"THIRDLY, THE BILL PROPOSES NINE ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WHICH TOGETHER ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE WORKING POPULATION.

"IN SO DOING, WE WILL ENSURE BROAD REPRESENTATION IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SYSTEM AND, IN TURN, ENHANCEMENT OF THE SYSTEM'S CREDIBILITY."

ON THE FORMATION OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE, MR NG SAID TWO REQUIREMENTS MUST BE SATISFIED.

"THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE SHOULD THEMSELVES BE ELECTED OPENLY AND FAIRLY; AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE 10 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS BY THE ELECTION COMMITTEE SHOULD ALSO BE OPEN AND FAIR."

THERE WERE MORE WAYS THAN ONE TO SATISFY THESE REQUIREMENTS, HE SAID, BUT THE MOST STRAIGHTFORWARD WAY WAS FOR THE ELECTION COMMITTEE TO BE COMPOSED OF DIRECTLY ELECTED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

"IT IS SIMPLE AND CREDIBLE. SIMPLE BECAUSE IT INVOLVES NO NEW ELECTORAL MACHINERY; CREDIBLE BECAUSE THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ARE THEMSELVES ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE," HE SAID.

MR NG SAID ON THE METHOD OF ELECTING THE 10 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, THE BILL PROPOSED THAT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE ADOPT THE SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE SYSTEM.

"THE SYSTEM WILL PRODUCE ELECTION RESULTS PROPORTIONATE TO THE PREFERENCES OF THE VOTERS AND IS APPROPRIATE GIVEN THE SMALL SIZE OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE," MR NG SAID.

MR NG SAID A BLOCK VOTE SYSTEM WAS UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE IT WOULD ENABLE A POLITICAL GROUP CONTROLLING HALF OF THE TOTAL ELECTION COMMITTEE SEATS TO DOMINATE THE ELECTION RESULTS OF THE 10 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SEATS.

MR NG REAFFIRMED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD STAND BY THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL WHICH REPRESENTED THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE OPEN AND FAIR ELECTIONS WHILST MAINTAINING CONSISTENCY WITH THE BASIC LAW, THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND PAST AGREEMENTS WITH CHINA.

BILL TO LOCALISE TRADING INTERESTS ORDER

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A BILL WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), SEEKING TO LOCALISE AN ORDER THAT PROTECTS HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN AND COMPANIES AGAINST EXTRATERRITORIAL DEMANDS BY OVERSEAS GOVERNMENTS OR COURTS WHICH MAY DAMAGE THE TRADING INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

THE SECOND READING OF THE PROTECTION OF TRADING INTERESTS BILL WAS MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU.

THE BILL REPEALS THE UK PROTECTION OF TRADING INTERESTS ACT 1980 (HONG KONG) ORDER 1990 AND REPLICATES ITS PROVISIONS, WITH MINOR CHANGES OF DRAFTING STYLE, TO PROVIDE THE SAME PROTECTION TO HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN AND COMPANIES.

ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO PROHIBIT PERSONS IN HONG KONG FROM COMPLYING WITH EXTRATERRITORIAL MEASURES OF OVERSEAS COUNTRIES OR REQUIREMENTS OF OVERSEAS COURTS IF THOSE MEASURES OR REQUIREMENTS MAY DAMAGE THE TRADING INTERESTS OF HONG KONG OR WOULD INFRINGE THE JURISDICTION OF HONG KONG.

MR CHAU SAID THE BILL ALSO IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF OVERSEAS JUDGMENTS FOR MULTIPLE DAMAGES AND CERTAIN JUDGMENTS IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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PROSECUTOR IN OFFICE WHEN VERDICT RETURNED

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THE PROSECUTOR WHO WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE HIGH COURT WHEN THE VERDICT OF A CASE HE WAS HANDLING WAS RETURNED BY THE JURY WAS IN HIS OFFICE IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON EMILY LAU, MR MATHEWS SAID THE CASE CONCLUDED ON MAY 29 (SUNDAY).

"WHEN THE JURY RETIRED, THE PROSECUTOR RETURNED TO HIS ROOM IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT TO WORK ON SOME URGENT PAPERS LEAVING HIS TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH THE JURY CLERK AND THE POLICE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE CASE.

"DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PROSECUTOR REMAINED IN HIS ROOM, TELEPHONE CALLS MADE TO HIM WERE NOT RECEIVED. IT WAS ONLY AFTER THE PROCEEDINGS HAD BEEN COMPLETED THAT CONTACT WAS MADE WITH HIM," MR MATHEWS SAID.

ON MAY 30, THE PROSECUTOR WAS TELEPHONED ON TWO OCCASIONS BY A NEWSPAPER REPORTER ASKING FOR HIS EXPLANATION FOR HIS NON-APPEARANCE. HE DECLINED AS HE FIRST WISHED TO INFORM THE JUDGE, WHICH HE DID.

/"THE REPORTER

"THE REPORTER TELEPHONED ONCE AGAIN AND ONCE MORE AN EXPLANATION WAS DECLINED. AS THE PROSECUTOR WAS PUTTING DOWN THE TELEPHONE, HE USED AN EXPLETIVE WHICH WAS NOT INTENDED FOR HER EARS BUT WHICH SHE DID HEAR," MR MATHEWS SAID.

"AS A RESULT THE PROSECUTOR APOLOGISED TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWSPAPER IN WRITING AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS SPOKE TO THE EDITOR OFFERING HIS REGRETS AT WHAT HAD OCCURRED," HE ADDED.

MR MATHEWS SAID DISCIPLINARY ACTION HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN BUT THE PROSECUTOR WAS ADVISED AS TO HIS CONDUCT.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC GUIDELINE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS RELATING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES MENTIONED.

"THE GENERAL GUIDELINE IS THAT CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD BE COURTEOUS WHEN IN CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING THE PRESS. THEY SHOULD ALWAYS BE HELPFUL AND POLITE," THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

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WAGES NOT RESTRAINED BY IMPORTED WORKERS

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THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE INCREASE IN LOCAL WORKERS' WAGES HAS BEEN RESTRAINED BECAUSE OF IMPORTED LABOUR, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TIEN, MR LEUNG SAID THE NUMBER OF WORKERS UNDER THE GENERAL IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME WAS RESTRICTED TO 25,000, WHICH REPRESENTED ONLY LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL WORKFORCE.

"IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE SMALL NUMBER OF IMPORTED WORKERS WOULD HAVE ANY NOTICEABLE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL WAGE TREND," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT POLICY THAT IMPORTED WORKERS SHOULD RECEIVE NO LESS FAVOURABLE TREATMENT IN EMPLOYMENT, INCLUDING WAGES, AS THAT ENJOYED BY LOCAL WORKERS.

"THIS SERVES TO PROTECT IMPORTED WORKERS AGAINST EXPLOITATION AND, AT THE SAME TIME, SAFEGUARD THE INTEREST OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THIS POLICY WAS IN LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENT UNDER CONVENTION NO. 97 OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION WHICH HAD BEEN APPLIED IN HONG KONG.

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DEDICATED TEAM SET UP TO PROCESS AIRPORT PLANS

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IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE PROCESSING OF PLANS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND ASSOCIATED PROJECTS, THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT (BD) HAS BEEN GIVEN ADDITIONAL MANPOWER TO SET UP A DEDICATED TASK FORCE COMPRISING A SURVEYING TEAM AND AN ENGINEERING TEAM LED BY A CHIEF STRUCTURAL ENGINEER TOGETHER WITH TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

AS SUCH, THE REQUIREMENT FOR BUILDING PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA) TO GO THROUGH THE USUAL CHECKING PROCEDURES AS REQUIRED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IS UNLIKELY TO CAUSE ANY DELAY OR INCREASE IN COST.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BLAKE SAID THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PAA WOULD WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THIS REQUIREMENT HAD NO IMPACT ON THE PROGRAMME OR COST FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AS BOTH WERE COMMITTED TO MEETING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OBLIGATION THAT THE NEW AIRPORT SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN A COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE BY JUNE 1997.

"DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON BETWEEN THE PAA AND THE BD ON THE STREAMLINING OF THE PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENTING THE AIRPORT PROJECTS ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE," MR BLAKE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE TASK FORCE, MR BLAKE SAID THE BD HAD ESTABLISHED A CENTRALISED PROCESSING CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE TO MONITOR THE EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING OF THE PLANS FOR THE AIRPORT AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS TO FACILITATE THEIR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION.

"THE COMMITTEE COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FIRE SERVICES, LANDS, PLANNING, HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS OTHER DEPARTMENTS WHO WILL BE INVITED TO SIT ON THE COMMITTEE AS AND WHEN REQUIRED," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BD HAD ALSO BEEN CARRIED OUT THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE DESIGN PROCESS FOR THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING AND CONCOURSE.

FOR THOSE PROJECTS WHICH ARE STILL IN MID-DESIGN STAGE OR ONLY JUST AWARDED, CONSULTATION WITH THE BD WILL BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE DETAILED PROPOSALS ARE FINALISED, HE SAID.

"IN FACT, EVEN FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT PROJECTS WHICH ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, IT IS COMMON THAT THE DESIGN WILL BE SUBMITTED TO RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT CHECKING/COMMENTS, AS A PRUDENT PRACTICE TO ENSURE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY," MR BLAKE SAID.

THERE IS NO OVERLAPPING OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PAA STAFF, WHO ARE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN AND OVERSEEING OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORK, AND BD STAFF, WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INDEPENDENT CHECKING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, HE ADDED.

NEW LAW ON SAFE GONDOLAS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A REGULATION PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES ON SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORMS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS GONDOLAS.

MOVING A MOTION ON THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORMS) REGULATION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THERE WERE 18 GONDOLA ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN TWO FATALITIES AND 17 INJURIES.

MR LEUNG SAID IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASING USE OF GONDOLAS FOR CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND EXTERNAL CLEANSING WORK ON HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS.

HOWEVER, THE EXISTING PROVISIONS ARE NEITHER SPECIFIC NOR STRINGENT ENOUGH TO ENSURE THEIR SAFE OPERATION.

UNDER THE NEW REGULATION, THE OWNER OF A SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORM MUST ENSURE ITS GOOD DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION AND PROPER OPERATION.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY ROPES FITTED WITH AUTOMATIC FALL-ARRESTING DEVICE MUST BE PROVIDED.

ALSO, A SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORM MUST BE PERIODICALLY INSPECTED BY A COMPETENT PERSON AND EXAMINED BY A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER.

THE NEW LAW PROHIBITS THE OPERATION OF A GONDOLA IN BAD WEATHER AND REQUIRES EVERY WORKER ON IT TO WEAR A SAFETY BELT AND KEEP IT ATTACHED TO AN INDEPENDENT LIFELINE.

THE NEW REGULATION WILL BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT IN 12 MONTHS IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR OWNERS OF SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORMS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS AND INSTALL ADDITIONAL SAFETY DEVICES.

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GOVT WILL UPHOLD RIGHT TO PRIVACY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO UPHOLDING THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND HAS RIGOROUS SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSE OF TELECOMMUNICATION INTERCEPTION BUILT INTO ITS PROCEDURES.

THIS WAS REITERATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHRISTINE LOH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ON FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS, MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION TO ADDRESS THE WHOLE ISSUE OF PRIVACY, INCLUDING TELEPHONE INTERCEPTION.

"WHEN THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION REPORTS, WE WILL CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND WHETHER CHANGES ARE REQUIRED," HE SAID.

/MR ASPREY

MR ASPREY SAID PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE NUMBER OF INTERCEPTIONS WOULD MAKE THE JOBS OF THE POLICE AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC) IN THE PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF SERIOUS CRIME, INCLUDING CORRUPTION, MORE DIFFICULT.

CRIMINALS AND OTHERS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AT HEART SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ESTIMATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH LAWFUL INTERCEPTION TAKES PLACE, HE SAID.

"MUCH OF THE WORK OF THE POLICE AND ICAC RELIES ON INFORMANTS AND EXTREME CONFIDENTIALITY.

"REVEALING DETAILS OF THE NUMBER OF INTERCEPTIONS WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF MAKING THIS WORK MORE DIFFICULT," HE SAID.

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PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING STAFF DISPUTES

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THE GOVERNING BODIES OF ALL INSTITUTIONS FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT THEIR PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS AND DISMISSAL OF STAFF ARE APPLIED FAIRLY AND REASONABLY.

THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT ALL THE INSTITUTIONS ENDEAVOUR TO ACT CAREFULLY AND RESPONSIBLY TO PREVENT UNJUST TREATMENT OF THEIR STAFF.

IN ADDITION, APPEALS PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE FOR STAFF TO SEEK REDRESS IF NECESSARY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"NEVERTHELESS, DISPUTES ABOUT CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT OR DISMISSAL OF STAFF MAY BE RESOLVED BY THE COURTS IF NECESSARY," MR LEUNG ADDED.

REGARDING THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR LEUNG SAID THERE WERE CLEARLY LAID-DOWN COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT STAFF WERE PROTECTED FROM VICTIMISATION AND THAT THEIR COMPLAINTS WERE DEALT WITH PROMPTLY AND FAIRLY.

"THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CHANNELS, BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL, FOR STAFF TO PUT FORWARD SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS, AS WELL AS VIEWS AND CRITICISMS ON THE INADEQUACIES OF INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANISATIONS," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE MANAGEMENT ALWAYS TREATED THESE CRITICISMS POSITIVELY WITH A VIEW TO MAKING IMPROVEMENTS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

"IF A STAFF MEMBER FEELS UNFAIRLY TREATED FOR REVEALING DEFICIENCIES OF HIS DEPARTMENT, HE HAS THE RIGHT TO LODGE A COMPLAINT WITH HIS HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OR EVEN HIGHER AUTHORITIES, SUCH AS THE CHIEF SECRETARY OR THE GOVERNOR," HE ADDED.

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REVIEWING CONTROLS ON USE OF AIR GUNS

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THE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ORDINANCE IS UNDER REVIEW, AIMING AT STRENGTHENING THE LICENSING REGIME OF ARMS INCLUDING AIR GUNS IN HONG KONG.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF LICENSING CONTROLS TO AIR GUNS WITH A MUZZLE VELOCITY OF LESS THAN TWO JOULES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO CONTROLS OVER AIR GUNS WITH A MUZZLE VELOCITY OF LESS THAN TWO JOULES.

"AIR GUNS FROM WHICH ANY SHOT CAN BE DISCHARGED WITH A MUZZLE ENERGY GREATER THAN TWO JOULES ARE DEFINED AS 'ARMS' AND HENCE SUBJECT TO CONTROL UNDER THE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ORDINANCE," MR ASPREY SAID.

"THE ORDINANCE REQUIRES LICENCES FOR THE POSSESSION OF SUCH ARMS AND CONTAINS CONDITIONS REGARDING THEIR USE, TRANSPORT AND SAFE STORAGE."

THE REVIEW IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

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WORKING GROUP ON ELDERLY MAKES GOOD PROGRESS

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THE WORKING GROUP ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY HAS ALMOST COMPLETED ITS DELIBERATIONS AND A REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR ON TIME IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HER WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG, MRS WONG SAID THE WORKING GROUP WAS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS IN ITS WORK.

SHE ADDED THAT THE REPORT WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED BEFORE IT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR.

THE WORKING GROUP WAS APPOINTED ON NOVEMBER 11, 1993 TO CONDUCT A GENERAL REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND TO ADVISE ON THE FORMULATION OF A STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE POLICIES AND SERVICES.

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OUTREACHING TEAMS FOR ELDERLY GET AID
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TWO OUTREACHING TEAMS FOR ELDERLY PERSONS AT RISK HAVE RECEIVED SUBVENTION SINCE OCTOBER 1, 1993 FOLLOWING AN EVALUATION EXERCISE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HER WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MRS WONG SAID AS OUTREACHING TEAMS WERE A RELATIVELY NEW SERVICE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND THE TWO OPERATING AGENCIES WERE JOINTLY MONITORING THEIR OPERATION AND PERFORMANCE.

THE TWO TEAMS WERE ESTABLISHED ON APRIL 1, 1991 AS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT WITH A GRANT FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND.

"THE MODE OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SERVICE WILL BE REVIEWED AFTER THE SERVICE HAS OPERATED FOR SOME TIME," MRS WONG SAID.

"PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER EXPANSION WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND COMPETING PRIORITIES," SHE ADDED.

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TERTIARY STAFF SATISFY REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS
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ALL THE EXISTING STAFF OF THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE (HKBC) SATISFY THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHING POSTS EITHER AT DEGREE LEVEL OR AT SUB-DEGREE LEVEL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG, MR LEUNG SAID THE TWO POLYTECHNICS WOULD CONTINUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO OFFER SUB-DEGREE LEVEL COURSES IN ORDER TO FULFIL THEIR DISTINCTIVE ROLES AND MISSIONS.

"THOSE OF THEIR STAFF WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE SUITABLY QUALIFIED FOR DEGREE LEVEL WORK MAY, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO TEACH SUB-DEGREE PROGRAMMES," HE SAID.

"REGARDING HKBC, IT HAS BEEN 100 PER CENT DEGREE-AWARDING SINCE THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1993/94 AND ALL THE COLLEGE'S TEACHING STAFF ARE ENGAGED IN TEACHING AT DEGREE LEVEL," HE ADDED.

MR LEUNG POINTED THAT ALL UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE HKBC, WOULD LIKE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THEIR ACADEMIC STAFF AND IN THIS PROCESS THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE STAFF OF SOME DISCIPLINES HAD BEEN RAISED.

THE SECRETARY GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE THREE INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED HAD ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THEIR ACADEMIC STAFF WHEREBY ONLY SUITABLE CANDIDATES WERE OFFERED APPOINTMENT.

REGARDING PERSONNEL DISPUTES, MR LEUNG SAID ALL THE UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS HAD ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE SELECTION, TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS AND DISMISSAL OF THEIR STAFF.

"DISPUTES ABOUT CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT OR DISMISSAL OF STAFF MAY BE RESOLVED BY THE COURTS IF NECESSARY," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT BODY TO DEAL WITH DISPUTES CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF THEIR TEACHING STAFF.

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INSURANCE COMPLAINTS BOARD FAIR AND INDEPENDENT

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THE WORKING OF THE INSURANCE CLAIMS COMPLAINTS BOARD HAS BEEN CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT ITS INTEGRITY, INDEPENDENCE AND FAIRNESS, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CARTLAND SAID AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF SELF-REGULATION BY THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, THE BOARD PROVIDED AN INDEPENDENT AVENUE FOR COMPLAINTS ABOUT PERSONAL INSURANCE POLICIES.

CHAired BY A RETIRED JUSTICE OF APPEAL, THE BOARD IS LARGELY MADE UP OF PERSONS FROM OUTSIDE THE INDUSTRY.

LAST YEAR, IT DEALT WITH 99 CASES. BY THE END OF LAST YEAR, 67 CASES WERE SETTLED, OF WHICH 40 WERE SETTLED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED BEFORE ADJUDICATION BY THE BOARD.

ALTHOUGH AWARDS WERE MADE BY THE BOARD IN FOUR CASES, TWO OUT OF THREE CASES HANDLED BY THE BOARD IN 1993 WERE CLOSED IN FAVOUR OF THE COMPLAINANTS.

HE SAID THIS COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS INDICATING A LOW SUCCESS RATE.

MR CARTLAND ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THE WORDING OF INSURANCE POLICY TERMS PLACED POLICY-HOLDERS AT A DISADVANTAGE.

LAST YEAR, THERE WERE 30 COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE TERMS. THE NUMBER IS VERY SMALL BEARING IN MIND THAT THERE ARE TWO MILLION LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES IN FORCE.

THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN IMPROVING THE INSURANCE PROPOSAL FORMS AND POLICIES TO MAKE THEM EASIER TO UNDERSTAND. A STANDARD CHINESE TRANSLATION OF POLICY TERMS IS BEING DRAFTED.

A BILL SEEKING TO ENHANCE THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF INSURANCE AGENTS AND BROKERS HAS BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CARTLAND SAID.

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PREFERENTIAL DEBTS LIMITS UNDER REVIEW

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING BRINGING THE PREFERENTIAL LIMITS UNDER THE COMPANIES AND BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCES TO A MORE REALISTIC LEVEL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THESE LIMITS RELATE TO ARREARS OF WAGES, WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE AND SEVERANCE, WHICH WERE SET IN 1977.

IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG, MR LEUNG SAID IN REVIEWING THE LIMITS, THE INTEREST OF OTHER DEBTORS WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

HE SAID THE RATE OF RECOVERY BY THE PROTECTION OF WAGES INSOLVENCY FUND FROM INSOLVENT EMPLOYERS' ESTATE HAD BEEN DROPPING, WITH THE ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE AT 17 PER CENT.

THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE PREFERENTIAL LIMITS UNDER THE TWO ORDINANCES HAVE NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE 1977 WHILE THE MAXIMUM PAYMENT LIMITS TO EMPLOYEES OUT OF THE FUND HAVE BEEN REVISED UPWARD FOR SEVERAL TIMES.

CITING STATISTICS, MR LEUNG SAID THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS MADE TO THE FUND HAD BEEN INCREASING DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS FROM 4,460 IN 1989/90 INVOLVING \$60.6 MILLION TO 7,091 IN 1993/94 INVOLVING \$189.6 MILLION.

DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS FROM 1990/91 TO 1993/94, AN AVERAGE OF 6,800 APPLICATIONS FOR THE FUND WERE RECEIVED EACH YEAR.

"CONSIDERING THAT THE TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUND OF \$500 MILLION IS ONLY SUFFICIENT TO COVER 4,237 APPLICANTS AT THE MAXIMUM PAYMENT OF \$118,000 EACH, THE LEVY AT THE CURRENT RATE OF \$250 FOR EACH BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED IS NOT EXCESSIVE," HE SAID.

"BESIDES, THERE IS A NEED FOR THE FUND TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT RESERVE TO COPE WITH ANY SUDDEN DOWNTURN OF THE ECONOMY WHICH WILL GIVE RISE TO MORE INSOLVENCIES," HE ADDED.

ON PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND, MR LEUNG SAID THEY HAD BEEN MADE TO APPLICANTS MUCH FASTER THAN WAS POSSIBLE UNDER THE NORMAL LIQUIDATION AND BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS.

"THE OBJECTIVE OF PROMPTLY RELIEVING HARDSHIP CAUSED TO EMPLOYEES IN THE EVENT OF INSOLVENCY OF EMPLOYERS HAS ON THE WHOLE BEEN ACHIEVED," HE NOTED.

OF THE 1,150 APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVED PAYMENTS IN APRIL AND MAY 1994, 129 WERE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER LIQUIDATION PETITIONS WERE PRESENTED OR UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID WHERE THE PRESENTATION OF SUCH PETITIONS WERE CONSIDERED NOT APPROPRIATE.

ANOTHER 1,015 APPLICANTS WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE PAYMENT IN FOUR TO SIX MONTHS.

BRIDGE DESIGNED TO CATER FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL

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THE DUPLICATE TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO MEET BOTH EXISTING TRAFFIC DEMANDS AND THOSE WHICH WILL ARISE FROM THE OPERATION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 (CT-9).

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"SINCE IT REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM INTENTION THAT CT-9 SHOULD BE BUILT ON TSING YI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO REVISE OUR PLANS OR PROCEED WITH A PROJECT THAT ONLY SEEKS TO ACCOMMODATE LOCAL TRAFFIC DEMANDS," MR BARMA SAID.

DETAILED DESIGN OF THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED A SUM OF \$785 MILLION FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION IN JULY 1992.

MR BARMA SAID THE TRANSPORT JUSTIFICATION AND TIMING FOR THE EXPANDED BRIDGE, WHICH WOULD ADD FOUR LANES TO THE EXISTING TWO-LANE BRIDGE, HINGED ON THE DECISION TO LOCATE CT-9 ON TSING YI.

"WE INTEND TO ENTRUST CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE TO THE DEVELOPERS OF CT-9 AND TO REQUIRE THAT THE FIRST TWO ADDITIONAL LANES ARE COMPLETED BEFORE THE COMMISSIONING OF THE FIRST BERTH OF THE CONTAINER TERMINAL," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE WHOLE PROJECT WAS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE TERMINAL BECOMES FULLY OPERATIONAL.

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PUBLICATION ON CHINA/HK ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS TO BE PUBLISHED

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THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC) AND THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S PROCURATORATE AGREED TO PRODUCE JOINTLY A PUBLICATION ON THE ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS OF CHINA AND HONG KONG FOR THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL BUSINESSMEN INVOLVED IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON JAMES TIEN'S QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID SUCH AGREEMENT WAS MADE WHEN THE ICAC COMMISSIONER VISITED THE PROCURATORATE LAST OCTOBER.

"THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PUBLICATION IS TO EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO SETS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS AND TO OFFER PRACTICAL ADVICE ON HOW TO MAKE COMPLAINTS OF CORRUPTION IN GUANGDONG OR IN HONG KONG.

"THE PUBLICATION IS NOW UNDER PREPARATION AND WILL BE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN THROUGH ICAC REGIONAL OFFICES BY THE END OF 1994," SHE SAID.

HOWEVER, MRS CHAN NOTED THAT THE PUBLICATION WOULD PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE PROFESSIONAL LEGAL ADVICE WHICH LOCAL BUSINESSMEN SHOULD SEEK FROM THEIR OWN LEGAL ADVISERS.

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DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF GOVERNMENT SITES BEST UTILISED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO REALISE THE FULL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF SITES ZONED FOR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY (GIC) USES OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR CANICE MAK, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, MR MAK SAID 12 SUCH GOVERNMENT SITES HAD BEEN SOLD FOR PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1990.

"TO FACILITATE THE REDEVELOPMENT OF SUCH GOVERNMENT SITES, WE ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF INVOLVING THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN REPROVISIONING GOVERNMENT FACILITIES ON SOME OF THEM.

"BUT EACH CASE HAS TO BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS AND SUITABLE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT."

MR MAK SAID A COMMITTEE ON REDEVELOPMENT OF UNDER-DEVELOPED GOVERNMENT SITES HAD BEEN SET UP IN AUGUST 1991 TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE LAND USES AND REDEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF UNDER-UTILISED GOVERNMENT SITES.

HE SAID: "ALSO, THE TASK FORCE ON LAND SUPPLY AND PROPERTY PRICES HAS IN THE COURSE OF ITS DELIBERATIONS EXAMINED THE POSSIBILITY OF REZONING AND RELEASING GOVERNMENT SITES FOR HOUSING PURPOSES AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR MORE SUCH OPPORTUNITIES."

MR MAK POINTED OUT THAT NOT ALL GIC SITES COULD BE DEVELOPED OR REDEVELOPED FOR COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL USES BECAUSE FACTORS SUCH AS LAND USE COMPATIBILITY, INFRASTRUCTURAL CONSTRAINTS AND REPROVISIONING PROBLEMS PREVENT THIS.

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SPEEDING IN TUNNELS GIVEN CONCERN

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THE POLICE, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND PRIVATE TUNNEL OPERATORS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO GIVE HIGHER PRIORITY TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF SPEEDING IN ROAD TUNNELS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA, MR BARMA SAID 85 PER CENT OF THE 2,518 SPEEDING CASES IN ROAD TUNNELS DETECTED LAST YEAR OCCURRED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING WHEN TRAFFIC WAS LIGHT.

DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, 70 ACCIDENTS WERE CAUSED BY VEHICLES SPEEDING IN ROAD TUNNELS.

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HYF PROMOTES HOLIDAY FERRY SERVICES

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THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY (HYF) IS TO STEP UP PUBLICITY TO PROMOTE ITS FERRY SERVICES TO MUI WO AND CHEUNG CHAU FROM THE STAR FERRY PIER IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN.

THE PUBLICITY, MR BARMA SAID, INCLUDES PUTTING UP ATTRACTIVE POSTERS AT PIERS AND VESSELS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF SERVICE SCHEDULES, LOCATION AND OPERATING HOURS OF THE TICKET COUNTER AND THE ENQUIRY TELEPHONE NUMBER.

OWING TO POLICE CONCERNS ON CROWD CONTROL, TICKETS ARE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE ONLY FROM A TICKET BOOTH LOCATED AT THE BASEMENT OF STAR HOUSE, WHICH IS NOT TOO CONVENIENT FOR PUBLIC ACCESS.

HAVING REVIEWED THE SITUATION, THE POLICE NOW SEE NO OBJECTION TO THE SETTING UP OF A TICKET BOOTH AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI FERRY PIER ON A THREE-MONTH TRIAL.

HYF IS NOW CONSULTING STAR FERRY AND THIS WILL BE PROVIDED SUBJECT TO THE LATTER'S AGREEMENT.

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FIGURE ON VIETNAMESE RETURNING HOME

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IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 3,747 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS RETURNED HOME UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME. THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE OVER THE 7,909 WHO RETURNED TO VIETNAM IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993.

THE FIGURE WAS RELEASED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW.

"THE REMEDY TO THE CURRENT SITUATION LIES IN PROMOTING THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME," MR ASPREY SAID, ADDING THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) TOOK THE LEAD IN THIS AREA.

PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS OF UNHCR INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELLING, THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND INFORMATION BULLETINS. VIDEOS, PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER PRINTED INFORMATION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS IN THE DETENTION CENTRES.

THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO EXPLORING WITH UNHCR ON HOW THE INCENTIVES FOR VOLUNTARY RETURN COULD BE IMPROVED, AS SUGGESTED IN THE REPORT OF THE WHITEHEAD INQUIRY.

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REGULATION ON REDEMPTION OF SHARES

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REDEMPTION OR REPURCHASE OF ITS OWN SHARES BY A LISTED COMPANY IS REGULATED BY THE HONG KONG CODE ON SHARE REPURCHASES ADMINISTERED BY THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE LISTING RULES OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LTD (SEHK).

BOTH OF THEM ARE NON-STATUTORY, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THE CODE, A LISTED COMPANY THAT WISHES TO REDEEM OR REPURCHASE ITS OWN SHARES IS REQUIRED TO MAKE A GENERAL OFFER TO ALL OF ITS SHAREHOLDERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES SET OUT IN THE CODE.

HOWEVER, MR CARTLAND NOTED THAT THE COMPANY MIGHT SEEK EXEMPTION FROM THIS REQUIREMENT IF IT DID NOT WISH TO MAKE A GENERAL OFFER.

"THE MOST COMMON EXEMPTION A COMPANY MAY RESORT TO IS FOR ON-MARKET REPURCHASE, THAT IS, THE COMPANY MAY REPURCHASE ITS SHARES THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF SEHK, IN WHICH CASE, THE REPURCHASE WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE LISTING RULES OF SEHK.

"THE PURPOSE OF THE CODE AND THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE LISTING RULES IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL SHAREHOLDERS WILL BE TREATED FAIRLY IN THE EVENT THAT THEIR COMPANY WISHES TO REDEEM OR REPURCHASE ITS SHARES."

MR CARTLAND SAID THE ARRANGEMENT WAS WORKING WELL AND WAS NOT UNDER REVIEW.

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RULES ADEQUATE ON DERIVATIVE WARRANTS ISSUE

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THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE REGULATOR CONSIDER THAT THE LISTING RULES ADEQUATELY DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF VESTED INTERESTS RELATING TO THE ISSUE OF DERIVATIVE WARRANTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG'S QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

THE RULES PROHIBIT SUCH ISSUE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY A CONTROLLING SHAREHOLDER OR A PERSON WHO HAS EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF THE UNDERLYING LISTED COMPANY.

AS A RESULT, DERIVATIVE WARRANTS ISSUED OVER SHARES OF LISTED COMPANIES ARE ISSUED BY ARMS-LENGTH THIRD PARTIES.

/MR CARTLAND

MR CARTLAND SAID THE RULES FURTHER REQUIRED THE ISSUER TO DISCLOSE TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG AND IN THE LISTING DOCUMENT ANY AGREEMENT OR ARRANGEMENT IN PLACE AT THE DATE OF ISSUE BETWEEN THE ISSUER AND ANY SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDER OF THE UNDERLYING LISTED COMPANY.

TO PROMOTE GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN THE ACTIVITY INVOLVING THE UNDERLYING STOCK, HE SAID THE ISSUER WAS ALSO REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE TO THE EXCHANGE AND IN THE LISTING DOCUMENT ANY DEALINGS IN SUCH STOCK BY ITSELF AND A WIDE RANGE OF PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH IT OR THE ISSUE DURING THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE ISSUE.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG VETS AND APPROVES EVERY ISSUER OF LISTED DERIVATIVE WARRANTS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LISTING RULES.

IN RESPECT OF ANY NEW DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS, OR ANY NEW FEATURES OF EXISTING DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS, AS IN THE CASE OF THE RECENT CALL-SPREAD WARRANTS, THE EXCHANGE IS REQUIRED TO CONSULT THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING GOVERNING LISTING MATTERS BEFORE GRANTING LISTING APPROVAL.

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YOUNG ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS MIGHT BE DETAINED IN HOMES

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO AMEND AN IMMIGRATION ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUNG PERSONS AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 18 YEARS TO BE DETAINED IN FUTURE IN BOYS' AND GIRLS' HOMES OPERATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, RATHER THAN IN PRISON.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SIMON IP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

HE SAID BOYS BETWEEN THE AGE OF EIGHT AND 16 PENDING DEPORTATION WERE USUALLY ACCOMMODATED IN THE PUI CHI BOYS' HOME WHILE GIRLS IN THE SAME AGE GROUP IN MA TAU WAI GIRLS' HOME.

THEY CAN ALSO BE DETAINED IN CHUK YUEN CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE; BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME AND PUI YIN JUVENILE HOME.

THE IMMIGRATION (PLACES OF DETENTION) ORDER IS NOT USED FOR THE DETENTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE SEVEN YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER, HE ADDED.

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ELECTORAL BILL PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 WAS PASSED BY 32 TO 24 VOTES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE THE LONGEST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING IN THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG (FROM 9 AM ON WEDNESDAY TO 4.50 AM TODAY), MEMBERS SPENT MORE THAN 17 HOURS ON THIS BILL ALONE AND THROUGHOUT ITS PROCEEDINGS, 15 DIVISIONS OF VOTES WERE TAKEN.

DURING THE RESUMED SECOND READING DEBATE, 42 MEMBERS PLUS THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, AND THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, SPOKE ON THE BILL.

FOURTEEN MEMBERS MOVED A GREAT NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH WERE TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE DIFFERENT PROPOSALS FOR THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1995, INCLUDING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND ELECTION COMMITTEE CONSTITUENCIES.

ON FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THE PROPOSAL BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO RENAME THE HEALTH CARE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY AS HEALTH SERVICES FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY WAS PASSED.

THE AMENDMENT BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW TO INCLUDE AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE TOURISM FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY AND THE HON SIMON IP'S TWO AMENDMENTS ON COMPANY DIRECTORS WERE CARRIED.

OTHER AMENDMENTS ON THIS ISSUE MOVED BY SEVEN MEMBERS WERE VOTED DOWN.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY THE HON MARTIN LEE TO ABOLISH THE NEW ELECTION COMMITTEE CONSTITUENCY WAS DEFEATED BY 17 TO 36 VOTES.

OTHER AMENDMENTS IN RESPECT OF ONE PERSON ONE VOTE, "FIRST PAST THE POST" VOTING SYSTEM FOR ALL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES ELECTIONS, AND TENURE OF OFFICE OF LEGCO MEMBERS TO EXPIRE BY MIDNIGHT JULY 1, 1997, WERE VOTED DOWN.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT RELATING TO POWER TO CHANGE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES/ELECTION COMMITTEE COMPOSITION WAS PASSED BY 46 TO NINE VOTES.

THE PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL MOVED BY THE HON EMILY LAU - THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (NO. 3) BILL 1994 - WAS ALSO READ A SECOND TIME. THE BILL SOUGHT TO RETURN 60 DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1995.

TWELVE MEMBERS SPOKE ON THIS BILL WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DEFEATED BY 20 TO 21 VOTES.

MEANWHILE, THE PROTECTION OF TRADING INTERESTS BILL WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON IT WAS ADJOURNED.

DURING THE SITTING, THE MOTION MOVED BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG ON FERRY FARES FOR HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY WAS VETOED. THE OTHER TWO MOTIONS RELATED TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE WERE PASSED.