



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TEMPORARY HOUSING PRIORITIES EXPLAINED

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PRIORITY FOR THE LIMITED ACCOMMODATION IN URBAN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS IS GIVEN TO PERSONS DISPLACED BY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PERMANENT PUBLIC HOUSING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT.

SPARE CAPACITY OVER AND ABOVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES, IF ANY, MIGHT BE ALLOCATED TO LONGER-TERM RESIDENTS FROM THE EMERGENCY CATEGORIES, HE SAID.

+ONLY RELATIVELY FEW THA'S WILL IN FUTURE BE BUILT IN THE URBAN AREA AND MOST FUTURE THA'S WILL BE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE NEW THA AT KOWLOON BAY WITH CAPACITY FOR ABOUT 7 000 PERSONS, MR LIAO SAID SOME 2 700 PEOPLE HAD ALREADY BEEN ALLOCATED SPACE THERE FROM CLEARANCES IN KOWLOON IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

+THE REMAINING ACCOMMODATION AT THIS THA IS COMMITTED FOR DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

+IT IS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN 12 000 PEOPLE AFFECTED BY PLANNED CLEARANCES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON THIS YEAR WILL REQUIRE TEMPORARY HOUSING IN THE URBAN AREA.+

IN REPLY TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION BY THE REV JOYCE BENNETT, MR LIAO SAID THERE IS NO UNCOMMITTED SPACE IN THE URBAN THA'S.

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, SOME 34 000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN MADE HOMELESS BY FIRES IN SQUATTER AREAS.

OF THESE, ABOUT TWO THIRDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REHOUSED, THE MAJORITY OF THEM IN THA'S IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE SAID.

THE OUTSTANDING REHOUSING COMMITMENT IS ABOUT 11 000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE LIVING IN KOWLOON BAY TRANSIT CENTRE, MR LIAO REPORTED.

+THESE ARE ALL PERSONS WITH LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG AND ARE, THEREFORE, ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING.

+THE ONLY TEMPORARY HOUSING AVAILABLE FOR THIS LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS IS AT SHUEN WAN IN TAI PO, YICK YUEN IN YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN,+ HE POINTED OUT.

IN ANOTHER SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, THE REV JOYCE BENNETT ASKED WHETHER THERE IS ANY REASON WHY THOSE KOWLOON BAY RESIDENTS' REQUEST FOR REHOUSING IN SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN COULD NOT BE MET.

IN REPLY, MR LIAO SAID THAT ALL TEMPORARY HOUSING UNITS IN THESE TWO DISTRICTS ARE EITHER OCCUPIED OR ALREADY COMMITTED FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES.

HK HAS MOST VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN REGION

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HONG KONG NOW HAS THE LARGEST POPULATION OF UNSETTLED VIETNAMESE REFUGEES THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE REGION, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE FIGURE AT THE END OF LAST YEAR WAS 12 631 AS DEPARTURES WERE DROPPING AND NEW REFUGEES KEPT COMING, MR JEAFFRESON REPORTED.

AND THE OUTLOOK FOR THEIR RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE DID NOT SEEM PROMISING, HE SAID. IN RECENT YEARS, HONG KONG HAS ABSORBED AROUND 14 000 PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM WHICH, GIVEN THE SIZE OF HONG KONG, MR JEAFFRESON CONSIDERED A +REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT+ UNPARALLELED ANYWHERE ELSE.

+I DO NOT THINK WE CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO ABSORB ANY MORE,+ HE STRESSED, AND URGED OTHER COUNTRIES TO RESETTLE THESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN, HE SAID THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE APPEAR TO BE THE ONLY MAJOR COUNTRIES WILLING TO RESETTLE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

OF THESE ONLY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED SPECIFIC QUOTAS FOR 1983.

CANADA WILL TAKE 175 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG, 1 700 FROM THAILAND, 900 FROM SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA AND 25 FROM THE PHILIPPINES, WITH 200 PLACES RESERVED FOR SHIP RESCUE AND EMERGENCIES.

IN ADDITION, CANADIAN FAMILIES AND GROUPS ARE EXPECTED TO SPONSOR SOME 500 FROM HONG KONG AND MACAU, GIVING A MAXIMUM OF 675 FROM HONG KONG FOR 1983, AS AGAINST 2 070 IN 1981 AND 1 088 IN 1982, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

THE OTHER COUNTRIES WILL TAKE THOSE WHO QUALIFY UNDER THEIR NATIONAL POLICIES AND IN THE CASE OF THE UNITED STATES, THIS MEANS A MAXIMUM OF 64 000 FROM THE REGION AS A WHOLE, HE REPORTED.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT WHILE THE RATE OF RESETTLEMENT TO THESE COUNTRIES COULD NOT BE PREDICTED WITH ANY ACCURACY, THE OUTLOOK DID NOT APPEAR PROMISING.

THE NUMBERS RESETTLED FROM HONG KONG FELL FROM 34 468 IN 1980, TO 17 818 IN 1981 AND TO 9 247 IN 1982.

+WITHIN 1982 THERE WAS AN EVEN MORE ALARMING TREND WITH THE NUMBERS FALLING STEADILY FROM 1 838 IN JANUARY TO 185 IN NOVEMBER,+ HE POINTED OUT.

SO FAR THIS MONTH, ONLY 54 HAVE LEFT WHILE REFUGEES KEEP COMING, HE SAID.

BECAUSE OF THE STEEPLY-FALLING TREND IN DEPARTURES LAST YEAR, THE REFUGEE POPULATION IN CAMPS IN HONG KONG ROSE TO 12 631 BY THE END OF DECEMBER, AFTER DROPPING TO 9 844 IN APRIL, THE LOWEST FIGURE FOR SOME YEARS, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

+IT IS THUS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO US THAT COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO RESETTLE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG IN APPRECIABLE NUMBERS,+ HE STRESSED.

MEASURES TO HELP NEW ARRIVALS OUTLINED
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TAKING VARIOUS MEASURES TO HELP NEW ARRIVALS FROM CHINA ASSIMILATE THEMSELVES INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, THE SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

POINTING OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD ABSORBED AND ACCOMMODATED VAST NUMBERS OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE PAST 30 YEARS, HE STRESSED THAT THEY WERE TREATED AS EQUAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, ENJOYING ITS BENEFITS AND SHARING ITS BURDENS.

+WE MAKE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN A NEW ARRIVAL AND A LONG-TERM RESIDENT IN THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION, WELFARE, AND MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES; WHILE, IN ADDITION, MUCH HAS BEEN AND IS BEING DONE TO IMPROVE THE SQUATTER AREAS IN WHICH MANY NEW ARRIVALS LIVE.+

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW SO, MR AKERS-JONES SAID THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FACED BY THE NEW ARRIVALS WERE HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND LANGUAGE.

+HOUSING IS A CONTINUING PROBLEM FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND MANY NEW ARRIVALS HAVE FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER RESORTED TO BUILDING SQUATTER HUTS ON THE HILLSIDES, AND IN SO DOING HAVE, TO SOME EXTENT, ALIENATED THEMSELVES FROM THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

+EMPLOYMENT HAS SO FAR NOT BEEN A MAJOR PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE IN THE MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES DURING THE PERIOD 1979 TO MID-1982.

+THE LANGUAGE BARRIER IS OVERCOME BY NEW ARRIVALS THROUGH DAILY ACQUAINTANCE WITH CANTONESE.+

MR AKERS-JONES CONTINUED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD ASSISTED VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH RUN COURSES TO HELP NEW ARRIVALS.

+THE DISTRICT OFFICES THROUGH COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES HAVE HELPED TO ESTABLISH MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND FIRE WATCH TEAMS IN THE AREAS,+ HE SAID.

+THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO SQUATTER AREAS, AND MANY RESIDENTS HAVE MOBILISED THEMSELVES TO CLEAN UP THEIR OWN SURROUNDINGS.

+IN ADDITION, THE WONG TAI SIN AND THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICES HAVE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, STARTED ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES FOR NEW ARRIVALS.

+WONG TAI SIN, KWUN TONG AND OTHER DISTRICT BOARDS ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ASSIMILATION PROCESS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF FUNDS TO ORGANISE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN WHICH NEW ARRIVALS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

ROAD SUBSIDENCE STILL UNDER STUDY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL INVESTIGATING THE SUBSIDENCE OF A SECTION OF HENNESSY ROAD ON NEW YEAR'S DAY AND WILL, IF NECESSARY, MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION TO MODIFY ITS TUNNELLING PROCEDURES TO INCREASE SAFETY AND PREVENT SIMILAR ACCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HOWEVER, MR MCDONALD ADDED, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE MTRC ALREADY KEPT ITS WORKING PROCEDURES AND PRECAUTIONS UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW AND ALTERED THEM AS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO SUIT PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

MR MCDONALD RECALLED THAT PRIOR TO THE SUBSIDENCE A MTRC CONTRACTOR WAS CARRYING OUT TUNNELLING WORKS UNDER HENNESSY ROAD IN HARD ROCK CONDITIONS.

+ALTHOUGH IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE WORKS WERE APPROACHING AN AREA OF SOFT GROUND THE RESULT OF PROBES DRIVEN FOUR METRES INTO THE ROCK FACE TO CONFIRM INFORMATION ON GROUND CONDITIONS OBTAINED FROM EARLIER PROBES AND BOREHOLES INDICATED TO THE ENGINEERS AND CONTRACTORS THAT FURTHER BLASTING COULD BE CARRIED OUT AND STILL MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE ROCK COVER,+ HE SAID.

+ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 31 CHARGES WERE SET TO REMOVE ABOUT 1.3 METRES OF THE ROCK. ABOUT FIVE HOURS AFTER THE BLASTING A SEEPAGE OF WATER OCCURRED THROUGH A SECTION OF MODERATELY DECOMPOSED GRANITE IN THE TUNNEL FACE.+

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT THE FLOW OF WATER AND MATERIAL INCREASED AS TIME PASSED AND BY MIDNIGHT THE FAULT HAD ENLARGED IN AREA AND A CHIMNEY OR VOID HAD DEVELOPED BEHIND THE ROCK FACE.

ATTEMPTS BY THE CONTRACTOR TO STEM THE FLOW OF MATERIAL FROM THE CHIMNEY BY ERECTING BULKHEADS IN THE TUNNEL WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AND THE FLOW CONTINUED.

AT ABOUT 4.15 AM THE INITIAL ROAD COLLAPSE OCCURRED FOLLOWED AT ABOUT 5 AM BY A FURTHER LARGE COLLAPSE AND ONLY GRADUAL ENLARGEMENT OF THE HOLE FROM THEN ON, MR MCDONALD SAID.

TRANSFER OF STATUTORY POWERS

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A MOTION DEALING WITH THE NECESSARY TRANSFER OF STATUTORY POWERS ARISING FROM THE RE-ORGANISATION OF CERTAIN POLICY BRANCHES IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, WAS MOVED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN DOING SO, SIR PHILIP EXPLAINED THAT THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TAKEN ALSO TO CLEAR UP SOME OTHER OUTSTANDING ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES.

+FIRST, THERE ARE SEVERAL ORDINANCES UNDER WHICH BOTH THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND THE EXISTING SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WHO IS TO BE RETITLED THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, EXERCISE STATUTORY AUTHORITY IN RESPECT OF MATTERS AFFECTING THE URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW TERRITORIES RESPECTIVELY.

+NOW THAT BOTH SECRETARIES HAVE TERRITORY-WIDE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SUBJECTS UNDER THEIR PURVIEW, THE MOTION SEEKS TO TRANSFER THE STATUTORY AUTHORITIES TO THE SECRETARIES CONCERNED.

+SECONDLY, CONSEQUENT TO THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS FROM THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS TO THE NEW SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, SOME RELATED STATUTORY POWERS NEED TO BE TRANSFERRED,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

THE MOTION ALSO SOUGHT TO TRANSFER FROM THE SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, CERTAIN STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER THE INCORPORATION ORDINANCE OF THE PO LEUNG KUK, THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND THE POK OI HOSPITAL AND THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL, SIR PHILIP EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THE MOTION AROSE FROM CERTAIN DECISIONS HE HAD ANNOUNCED IN THE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 11 LAST YEAR +TO ACHIEVE MORE APPROPRIATE GROUPS OF POLICY PROGRAMMES AND A BETTER BALANCE OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN POLICY BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.+

SIR PHILIP SAID THE POSTINGS OF VARIOUS SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED, IF NOT ACTUALLY MISUNDERSTOOD, IN SOME CIRCLES.

+AS I SAID AT THE TIME, THERE IS AN OPTIMUM PERIOD OF SERVICE IN ANY SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE POST, IF THE BEST USE IS TO BE MADE OF AVAILABLE TALENT,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

/THERE WERE

THERE WERE ALSO OTHER REASONS FOR THE POSTINGS, +SUCH AS THE APPLICATION OF THE OPEN DIRECTORATE CONCEPT, THE IMMINENT RETIREMENT OF SEVERAL OFFICERS, AND THE ADMINISTRATIVISATION OF THE DIRECTORATE STAFF OF THE FORMER TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS THE RE-ORGANISATION EXERCISE IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,+ HE SAID.

SIR PHILIP SAID SOME COMMENTATORS HAD QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF ANNOUNCING A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF POSTINGS AT THE SAME TIME.

+IT WAS PREFERABLE TO ANNOUNCE COMPREHENSIVE AND CAREFULLY PLANNED POSTINGS OF THIS SORT IN TRANCHES -- ANOTHER TRANCHE WILL BE ANNOUNCED TOMORROW -- RATHER THAN SINGLY AS THEY OCCUR, SO AS TO TRY TO AVOID UNHEALTHY SPECULATION AND TO UNDERSCORE THE POINT THAT OUR CONSTANT ENDEAVOUR IS TO DEPLOY STAFF TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE SO FAR AS THE PUBLIC INTEREST IS CONCERNED AND CONSIDERATIONS OF CAREER PLANNING DICTATE,+ HE SAID.

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FEE FOR LICENSED SHIPPING CREW DEPARTMENTS

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A BILL INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY SEEKS TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL FEE FOR LICENSED CREW DEPARTMENTS OF SHIPPING COMPANIES.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (RECRUITING OF SEAMEN) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 PROPOSES TO RAISE THIS FEE FROM \$500 TO \$5 000, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON P. JACOBS, SAID.

+THE INCREASE IS LARGE IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, BUT THE PROPOSED FEE IS NOT UNREASONABLE IN REAL TERMS,+ MR JACOBS SAID, IN MOVING THE BILL THROUGH A SECOND READING.

THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE STIPULATES THAT TO PROTECT HONG KONG SEAMEN AGAINST EXPLOITATION, THEY MUST BE RECRUITED THROUGH THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITMENT OFFICE OR THROUGH A LICENSED CREW DEPARTMENT OF A SHIPPING COMPANY.

THE LICENCE FEE HAS NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE 1966 WHEN THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED, MR JACOBS POINTED OUT.

IN VIEW OF GENERAL INFLATION AND TO ENSURE THAT APPLICANTS FOR LICENCES ARE SERIOUS IN THEIR INTENTIONS, IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO INCREASE THE FEE, HE EXPLAINED.

TO QUALIFY FOR A LICENCE, A SHIPPING COMPANY MUST EMPLOY AT LEAST 200 SEAMEN -- AND THE LARGEST COMPANY CURRENTLY EMPLOYS 2 350.

+AT THE PROPOSED FEE LEVEL, THE AVERAGE ANNUAL COST ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE LICENCE FOR EACH SEAMAN RECRUITED WOULD BE NOT MORE THAN \$25, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE DEPARTMENT,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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INSURANCE BILL DESCRIBED AS 'A SOUND FRAMEWORK'

SUBJECT TO THE AMENDMENTS WHICH WILL BE MADE TO THE INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL 1982, IT DOES PROVIDE A SOUND FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRUDENT SUPERVISION OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, THE HON T.S. LO SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR LO, CONVENOR OF THE GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO RECOMMENDED THE CHANGES, SAID THE UNOFFICIALS WERE ENCOURAGED FROM THE OUTSET BY THE FACT THAT SO FAR AS THE PRIME OBJECT OF THE BILL WAS CONCERNED, THERE WAS NO DIVERGENCE OF OPINION.

+IT WAS THE AIM OF EVERYONE THAT THE LEGISLATION SHOULD PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT SAFEGUARD TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BUYING INSURANCE, AND ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE STATUTORY FRAMEWORK TO ENHANCE THE REPUTATION OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE CENTRE.

+THE NEED TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC BY REGULATING THE INDUSTRY MUST BE BALANCED BY THE NEED TO AVOID AN OVER-KILL BY EXCESSIVE AND BURDENSOME REGULATIONS.

+I THINK THE AMENDED BILL PROVIDES SUCH A BALANCE AND THE TIME SPENT IN GETTING THERE WAS WELL SPENT,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL WAS FIRST INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN MAY LAST YEAR BUT WAS DEFERRED, AT UMELCO'S REQUEST, TO ENABLE THE UNOFFICIALS TO STUDY THE PROVISIONS OF THE LEGISLATION IN DETAIL.

A MAJOR CRITICISM LEVELLED AT THE BILL WAS THAT THE DETAILED INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SUPERVISORY BODY, THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY, MIGHT CREATE AN EXCESSIVE BURDEN TO INSURANCE FIRMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FOREIGN INSURERS WHO ARE ALREADY SUBJECT TO THE SUPERVISION OF THE JURISDICTIONS OF THEIR COUNTRIES OF DOMICILE.

HOWEVER, MR LO POINTED OUT, IF ANY REPORTING REQUIREMENT PRESENTS GENUINE DIFFICULTIES TO A PARTICULAR INSURER, HE CAN REQUEST THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE THIRD SCHEDULE, WHICH CONTAINS THE DETAILS OF ACCOUNTING AND OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE AUTHORITY.

BUT THE GROUP FELT THAT ANY SUCH MODIFICATIONS SHOULD NOT BE KEPT SECRET AND AN AMENDMENT WAS THEREFORE MADE TO THE BILL TO REQUIRE THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH IN THE GAZETTE THE NAMES OF THE INSURERS TO WHOM MODIFICATIONS OF THIRD SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN GRANTED.

ON THE DISCLOSURE OF THE EMOLUMENTS OF THE HIGHEST PAID DIRECTOR, MR LO SAID ALTHOUGH THE UNOFFICIALS ACCEPT THAT THIS INFORMATION IS RELEVANT TO AN ASSESSMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY, THEY SAW THIS PROVISION AS UNNECESSARILY PERSONAL.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT WOULD BE CONFINED TO THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF EMOLUMENTS FOR THE THREE HIGHEST PAID DIRECTORS.

THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERS THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES TO MAINTAIN ASSETS IN HONG KONG TO MEET THEIR DOMESTIC LIABILITIES.

BUT NO ACCOUNT WAS TO BE GIVEN TO THE REINSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE MADE BY THE INSURANCE COMPANIES CONCERNED, MR LO SAID.

IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED THAT THE AUTHORITY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HAVE REGARD TO THE INSURER'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REINSURANCE OF RISKS WITH OTHER PROPERLY MANAGED REINSURANCE FIRMS.

MR LO ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE BILL DID NOT SEEK TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF INSURANCE BROKERS.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED: +THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION HAS ESTABLISHED A SUB-COMMITTEE TO STUDY THIS QUESTION AND WE EAGERLY AWAIT THE RESULT OF ITS LABOURS.

+WE HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT UNTIL THEN THE WHOLLY INADEQUATE PROVISIONS RELATING TO 'MAIN AGENTS' SHOULD BE DELETED.+

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS FURTHER ADJOURNED.

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MUCH DONE TO PROMOTE MORAL EDUCATION

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MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN PROMOTING MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, SAID TODAY AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THIS HAS COVERED ALL ASPECTS OF THE SUBJECT - GUIDELINES, CURRICULUM, TEACHING MATERIALS, ADVISORY SERVICES, TEACHER PREPARATION, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND THE MONITORING OF BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS,+ MR HAYE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG LAM.

MR HAYE SAID THAT FOLLOWING GROWING CONCERN TWO YEARS AGO FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT AN APPARENT EROSION OF TRADITIONAL SOCIAL VALUES AMONG THE YOUNG, SEMINARS WERE ORGANISED FOR HUNDREDS OF SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADS AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS.

GUIDELINES ON MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS WERE ISSUED TO SCHOOLS ON THE ADVICE OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WITH THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

/+THERE FOLLOWED

+THERE FOLLOWED VARIOUS TEACHING MATERIALS INCLUDING ETV PROGRAMMES PRODUCED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND INTERESTED RELIGIOUS BODIES.

+OTHER SEMINARS AND EXHIBITIONS WERE MOUNTED, CULMINATING IN A 'MORAL EDUCATION WEEK' LAST EASTER WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY OVER 3 000 TEACHERS AND 20 000 STUDENTS.

+CONFERENCES CONTINUE, THE MOST RECENT TOUCHING ON THE TOPIC BEING ATTENDED BY OVER 250 HEADS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS ONE MONTH AGO,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, MR HAYE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED NOT TO BE DOGMATIC BECAUSE IT DID NOT BELIEVE MORAL EDUCATION COULD BE TAUGHT AS A CLASSROOM SUBJECT.

+BUT WE HAVE SUGGESTED POSITIVE ACTION IN THE INCULCATION OF SOCIAL AND MORAL VALUES IN CHILDREN AND IN TAKING EVERY DIRECT AND INDIRECT OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY A DIVERSE CURRICULUM TO POINT TO THE GOOD, THE VIRTUOUS, THE WORTHY AND THE DESIRABLE IN PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS,+ HE SAID.

WHILE STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTS, FAMILIES AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN THE PROMOTION OF MORAL EDUCATION, MR HAYE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD TRIED TO UNDERLINE THE ROLE OF TEACHER AND SCHOOL IN SUPPLEMENTING AND COMPLEMENTING THIS VITAL SOCIAL PROCESS.

TO SUSTAIN THIS EFFORT AND TO PROVIDE MORE ADVISORY SERVICES TO SCHOOLS, A RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL EDUCATION SECTION WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE IN MID-1982.

MR HAYE SAID THE LAST TWO YEARS HAD ALSO SEEN GREATER EMPHASIS PLACED ON MORAL EDUCATION IN TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND COURSES IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, AND IN A SERIES OF TRAINING COURSES FOR HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH BEGAN IN JULY 1982.

IN ADDITION, THERE HAD BEEN THE WORK OF THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS SET UP IN SEPTEMBER 1981 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, WHOSE MAIN TASK WAS TO MONITOR BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS AND TO NIP DELINQUENCY IN THE BUD.

MR HAYE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL TEACHER FOR EACH STANDARD-SIZED SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR FROM NEXT SEPTEMBER FOR THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE, COUNSELLING AND THE ORGANISATION OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

HE ADDED, +FINALLY, LET IT NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT UNDERLYING THESE MEASURES THERE ARE THE STANDING PROGRAMMES OF THE SCHOOLS THEMSELVES.

+RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STRONGLY REINFORCES MORAL EDUCATION AND HAS DONE SINCE OUR FIRST SCHOOLS WERE FOUNDED WELL OVER A CENTURY AGO, WHILE TRADITIONAL CHINESE LEARNING HAS ALWAYS FOUND A RESPECTED PLACE FOR THE ETHICAL TEACHING OF THE SAGES,+ HE SAID.

+ERRORS OF JUDGEMENT+ REPORTED
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THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WAS DESCRIBED BY THE HON S.L. CHEN TODAY AS +A DOCUMENT WHICH NEEDS TO BE READ THOROUGHLY TO BE UNDERSTOOD FULLY+.

HIS REPORT DID NOT SUPPORT ANY GLIB ACCUSATIONS OF NEGLIGENCE, MIS-MANAGEMENT OR WASTAGE OF PUBLIC FUNDS, MR CHEN, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, SAID. BUT THERE HAD BEEN ERRORS OF JUDGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT THE TABLING OF THE COMMITTEE'S FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE COMMITTEE RECOGNISED THE PROBLEMS IN AN ORGANISATION AS COMPLEX AS THE GOVERNMENT, IN ENSURING THAT ALL MATTERS RECEIVED THEIR DUE ATTENTION.

+BUT THAT IS ONE OF THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT,+ HE STRESSED.

+IN PARTICULAR THERE IS, I THINK, STILL A NEED TO INCULCATE A GREATER SENSE OF COST-BENEFIT AWARENESS IN MANAGERS IN THE GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE A CONSCIOUS DESIRE TO SEE THAT HUMAN, FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES ARE USED TO THE BEST POSSIBLE EFFECT.

+IF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE IS HELPING TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE, WHICH I BELIEVE WE ARE, THEN OUR WORK WILL BE WELL JUSTIFIED.+

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PUBLIC FINANCE BILL APPROVED
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THE PUBLIC FINANCE BILL 1982 WILL LEAD TO MORE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE PUBLIC FINANCES, THE HON W.C.L. BROWN SAID DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL WHICH WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

WHILE RETAINING THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE THAT NO EXPENDITURE CAN BE CHARGED ON THE GENERAL REVENUE WITHOUT STATUTORY AUTHORITY, THE BILL PERMITS A +SENSIBLE DEGREE OF DELEGATION UNDER PROPER CONTROL AND REPORTAGE+, MR BROWN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR THOSE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN FAILURE TO MAKE URGENT PAYMENTS WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORITY WOULD CAUSE THE PUBLIC INCONVENIENCE OR GENERALLY BE AGAINST ITS INTEREST.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL, MR BROWN SAID, PROVIDE A STATUTORY BASIS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC FINANCES MORE SUITED TO THE PRESENT THAN THE OLD COLONIAL REGULATIONS IT SUPERSEDES.

THE HON PETER C. WONG DESCRIBED THE BILL AS WELL DRAFTED, PROVIDING A SATISFACTORY LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCES.

THE ONLY SERIOUS RESERVATION ABOUT THE BILL RELATES TO CLAUSE 11, MR WONG SAID.

THIS CLAUSE ENABLES THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO MAKE REGULATIONS AND TO GIVE DIRECTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

HOWEVER, SUB-CLAUSE 2 OF THIS CLAUSE STATES THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO PUBLISH THEM IN THE GAZETTE OR TO TABLE THEM IN THE COUNCIL.

THIS, MR WONG POINTED OUT, IS CONTRARY TO THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT SET OUT IN SECTIONS 20 AND 34 OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXPLAINED THAT SUCH REGULATIONS, DIRECTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS WERE MEANT FOR INTERNAL USE AND NOT INTENDED TO FORM PART OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

IT WAS THEREFORE AGREED TO AMEND CLAUSE 11 (1) TO REFLECT THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE AND TO DELETE CLAUSE 11 (2) WHICH WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY, MR WONG POINTED OUT.

BOTH MR BROWN AND MR WONG SUPPORTED THE MOTION OF THE BILL, SUBJECT TO THE AGREED AMENDMENT.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE THANKED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR THEIR COMMENTS AND CONFIRMED THAT THE AMENDMENT WAS +ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE.+

HE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE +EXPEDITIOUS AND CAREFUL WORK+ WITH WHICH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF UNOFFICIALS HAD EXAMINED THE +TECHNICAL AND HIGHLY COMPLICATED+ BILL.

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CIVIL DEBTORS SUBSIDISED IN PRISON
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THERE ARE CURRENTLY 49 CIVIL DEBTORS IN JAIL UNDER PRISON RULES 188 TO 208, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

FORTY-SIX ARE BEING HELD IN TAI LAM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, AND THREE IN TAI LAM CENTRE FOR WOMEN, MR JEAFFRESON SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER C. WONG.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ESTIMATES THE FULL COST OF SUPPORTING AND MAINTAINING A CIVIL DEBTOR IN PRISON AT \$92 A DAY, HE REPORTED.

+IN CONTRAST, THE PRESENT RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT REQUIRE THE COURTS TO FIX WHATEVER MONTHLY ALLOWANCE THEY THINK SUFFICIENT FOR SUPPORTING AND MAINTAINING A JUDGEMENT DEBTOR, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$50 A DAY.

+THE PERSON AT WHOSE INSTANCE THE JUDGEMENT IS BEING EXECUTED THEN HAS TO PAY THIS AMOUNT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES,+ MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED.

THE GOVERNMENT IS THUS SUBSIDISING EACH DEBTOR WITH AT LEAST \$42 A DAY, HE ADDED.

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PATENT RIGHTS AND COPYRIGHT

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PATENT RIGHTS FOR COMPUTERS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE FOR OTHER INVENTIONS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALEX WU, MR GRIFFITHS SAID THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PATENTS ORDINANCE (CAP 42) PROVIDES THAT THE POWER TO TAKE ACTION IN RESPECT OF INFRINGEMENTS IS VESTED IN THE PATENT HOLDER.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO SPECIAL POWER UNDER THE ORDINANCE, BUT COMMON LAW REMEDIES OF INJUNCTION AND DAMAGES ARE AVAILABLE, HE SAID.

REPLYING TO THE QUESTION CONCERNING COPYRIGHT OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMES, HE SAID SO LONG AS THEY ARE EXPRESSED IN SOME FORM OF NOTATION WHETHER BY HAND, PRINTING OR SIMILAR PROCESSES THEY MAY QUALIFY AS A CATEGORY OF +ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK+, AND HENCE IN WHICH COPYRIGHT UNDER THE 1956 ACT SUBSISTS.

+COPYRIGHTS IN HONG KONG ARE PROTECTED BY THE COPYRIGHT ACT 1956, AS AMENDED BY THE DESIGN COPYRIGHT ACT 1968, AS EXTENDED TO HONG KONG BY THE COPYRIGHT ORDERS 1972 AND 1979 AND THE COPYRIGHT ORDINANCE (CAP 39),+ MR GRIFFITHS SAID.

PENALTIES OF FINES AND IMPRISONMENT ARE PROVIDED BY THE ORDINANCE, AND AUTHORISED OFFICERS ARE GIVEN THE POWER OF SEARCH AND SEIZURE WHEN INVESTIGATING CASES OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, HE EXPLAINED.

IT IS ALSO AN OFFENCE FOR INSTANCE TO SELL, HIRE, EXHIBIT IN PUBLIC OR DISTRIBUTE FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRADE ANY ARTICLE WHICH A PERSON KNOWS TO BE AN INFRINGING COPY OF WORK, HE SAID.

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LIMIT ON NUMBER OF NT TAXIS EXTENDED

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THE PERIOD LIMITING THE NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH MAY BE REGISTERED AS NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JULY 31.

MOVING THE MOTION AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID THE EXTENSION WILL PERMIT NT TAXI LICENCES TO CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED AT THE RATE OF 50 PER MONTH.

MR SCOTT ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAD DIRECTED THAT URBAN TAXI LICENCES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED AT THE CURRENT RATE OF 300 EVERY THREE MONTHS.

THE PRESENT LIMIT OF 12 000, DUE TO EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31, IS NOT THEREFORE RENEWED, AND A NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7E OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE OF A NEW LIMIT OF 15 000 WILL BE GAZETTED TO COME INTO FORCE ON FEBRUARY 1, 1983, MR SCOTT SAID.

+IN GOOD TIME BEFORE THIS NEW LIMIT IS REACHED, IT IS INTENDED THAT A FULL REVIEW OF THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE TAXI IN HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF POLICIES FOR OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORT WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR PRESENTATION TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

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TIME NEEDED TO CHECK GRANTS: HAYE
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PAYMENTS OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO MATRICULATION STUDENTS AND STUDENTS OF POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES AND COLLEGES OF EDUCATION CANNOT BE MADE BEFORE MID-DECEMBER EACH YEAR BECAUSE OF THE TIME AND CARE REQUIRED TO PROCESS AND CHECK THE LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, MR HAYE SAID THERE WERE TWO SETS OF GRANTS - MAINTENANCE GRANTS TO MATRICULATION STUDENTS IN FORM/MIDDLE SIX CLASSES IN SCHOOLS, AND GRANTS UNDER THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES AND COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.

POINTING OUT THERE WAS A SIMILAR TIME CONSTRAINT ON BOTH TYPES OF GRANT, MR HAYE SAID, +PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FROM FORM/MIDDLE SIX STUDENTS CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION RESULTS IN MID-AUGUST, AND FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS NOT UNTIL LATE-SEPTEMBER, WHEN THEY FIRST REGISTER AT THE COLLEGES.+

HE SAID APPLICATIONS FROM OLD AND NEW STUDENTS HAD TO BE CONSIDERED SIMULTANEOUSLY BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO APPLY THE SAME CUT-OFF POINT OF THE INCOME-INDEX, WHICH WAS USED TO DETERMINE THE FINANCIAL NEED OF EACH APPLICANT AND THUS THE LEVEL OF GRANT.

THE SPEED OF PROCESSING WAS FURTHER CONSTRAINED BY THE QUESTION OF LOANS TO STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGES WHICH MUST BE LOOKED AT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS, MR HAYE EXPLAINED.

+GIVEN THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TO BE DEALT WITH, THE TIGHT TIME-TABLE IN WHICH THEY FALL, AND THE CARE WITH WHICH THEY MUST BE ASSESSED TO ENSURE THE PROPER USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS, PAYMENTS CANNOT BE MADE BEFORE MID-DECEMBER,+ HE SAID.

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UNLICENSED COOKED FOOD HAWKERS POSE MAIN PROBLEM
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LICENSED COOKED FOOD HAWKERS ARE INSPECTED REGULARLY AND MAY BE PROSECUTED IF THEY BREACH HYGIENE REGULATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG CONCERNING HYGIENE PROBLEMS CREATED BY ON-STREET COOKED FOOD STALLS AND GOVERNMENT ACTION TAKEN, MR BRAY POINTED OUT THAT 262 PROSECUTIONS FOR THE OFFENCE WERE TAKEN OUT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.

/BUT UNLICENSED

BUT UNLICENSED COOKED FOOD HAWKERS WERE THE MAIN PROBLEM, MR BRAY SAID, AND TO DETER THEIR OPERATIONS, OVER 2 500 PROSECUTIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN IN THE SIMILAR PERIOD LAST YEAR.

MR BRAY EXPLAINED THAT WHILE THE PREPARATION AND SALE OF COOKED FOOD ON THE STREETS CARRIED HYGIENE RISKS THAT WERE WELL UNDERSTOOD, THESE RISKS WERE THOUGHT ACCEPTABLE MANY YEARS AGO. LICENCES WERE THEN ISSUED TO SOME HAWKERS TO PROVIDE COOKED FOOD UNDER CONDITIONS INTENDED TO MINIMISE THE RISKS.

BUT NO NEW LICENCES HAVE BEEN ISSUED SINCE 1956 +WHEN OPINION HAD SWUNG AGAINST THE LICENSING OF COOKED FOOD STALLS,+ HE SAID.

EXISTING OPERATIONS WERE, HOWEVER, ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AND THERE ARE TODAY 818 LICENSED COOKED FOOD HAWKERS.

+THE AIM OF POLICY IS TO MOVE THESE HAWKERS INTO SPECIALLY BUILT PREMISES. ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THESE HAWKERS WILL BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS,+ MR BRAY SAID.

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HK VIGOUR IMPRESSES UK OFFICIAL

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THE U.K. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE ASSURANCE WAS MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT DURING HIS TRANSIT THROUGH HONG KONG EARLIER THIS MONTH, HE SAID IN REPLY TO THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG WHO HAD ASKED ABOUT MR SCOTT'S EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE UK SECRETARY.

THE UK SECRETARY WAS IMPRESSED BY THE VIGOUR WITH WHICH HONG KONG TACKLED ITS TRANSPORT PROBLEMS AND BY THE CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, MR SCOTT REPORTED.

MR SCOTT SAID THAT HE AND TWO OF HIS SENIOR OFFICERS HAD BRIEFED THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN HONG KONG AND ON VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN PROGRESS.

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NT TAXIS INCREASING AT 50 A MONTH
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LICENCES FOR NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS HAVE BEEN ISSUED AT THE RATE OF 50 A MONTH SINCE JULY 1981, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SINCE THAT MONTH, WHEN THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL ORDERED THAT NT TAXI LICENCES BE ISSUED AT THE MONTHLY RATE OF 50, 900 LICENCES HAD BEEN OFFERED AT SIX TENDERS HELD AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS, MR SCOTT SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON T.S. LO.

THE ACTUAL INCREASE IN NT TAXIS ON THE ROAD MAY BE MORE OR LESS THAN 50 PER MONTH, BUT OVER A PERIOD THE FLUCTUATIONS LEVEL OUT, HE SAID.

THE RATE OF ISSUE WAS DECIDED HAVING REGARD TO THE LIKELY INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR TAXIS IN THE NT, HE EXPLAINED.

FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SUCH AS THE EXTENSION OF THE MTR TO TSUEN WAN, THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KCR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAXICAB ROUTES, HE ADDED.

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\$1 BILLION SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION APPROVING SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS AMOUNTING TO \$1 BILLION FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED ALL THE ITEMS IN THE SCHEDULE.

MAJOR ITEMS UNDER THE PROVISION INCLUDE:

- * \$379 MILLION TO MEET PROVISION FOR THE CREATION OF FOUR NEW HEADS OF EXPENDITURE -- CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND TRADE DEPARTMENT ;
- * \$109 MILLION FOR PAYMENT OF HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE TO CIVIL SERVANTS ;
- * \$98 MILLION TO MEET EXPENDITURE FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL WATER FROM CHINA ; AND
- * \$91 MILLION TO MEET PAYMENT OF A GRANT TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR VARIOUS SALARY ADJUSTMENTS.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION COVERED BY THE SCHEDULE RESULTED IN A NET INCREASE OF \$98 MILLION IN EXPENDITURE SINCE APRIL 1, 1982, THE REMAINDER BEING OFFSET UNDER OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE AND BY THE FREEZING OF FUNDS UNDER THE TWO ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS VOTES, MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

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FIVE ECONOMIC SURVEYS APPROVED

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FIVE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDERS, ENABLING SURVEYS TO BE CARRIED OUT AS PART OF THE LONG TERM PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC SURVEYS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR MAKING GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ESTIMATES, WERE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE SURVEYS ALSO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MAIN SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY AND ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR THEIR PERFORMANCE.

ONE OF THE ORDERS IS SPECIFICALLY FOR 1982 AND IS FOR THE FIFTH ANNUAL SURVEY OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF SERVICES.

THE OTHER FOUR ORDERS ARE TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT SURVEYS AND ARE FOR THE:

- * ANNUAL SURVEY OF BANKS, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OFFICES OF FOREIGN BANKS ;
- * ANNUAL SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES ;
- * ANNUAL SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES ; AND
- * QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES.

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TOO EARLY FOR PROMOTIONAL RESULTS TO BE KNOWN

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IT WAS A BIT EARLY TO ATTEMPT TO ASSESS THE ACTIVITIES OF OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICES SET UP IN TOKYO, LONDON, STUTTGART AND SAN FRANCISCO LAST YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR BILL DORWARD TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

EXPLAINING THAT INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION IS A LONG-TERM EFFORT, MR DORWARD SAID THAT DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF THEIR EXISTENCE, THE OFFICES HAVE NECESSARILY BEEN LARGELY OCCUPIED IN ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES BY DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS.

+BUT THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN FUNCTIONING IN PROMOTIONAL TERMS WITH QUITE HEARTENING RESULTS,+ HE ADDED.

+THE TOKYO OFFICE, THOUGH LESS THAN A YEAR OLD, HAS SO FAR BEEN INVOLVED WITH TEN INCOMING INDUSTRIALIST MISSIONS TO HONG KONG, AND HAS ORGANISED OR PARTICIPATED IN SEVEN SEMINARS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF JAPAN TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY. THE LONDON OFFICE HAS PARTICIPATED IN THREE SEMINARS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ONE IN SWEDEN. THE STUTTGART OFFICE HAS ORGANISED THREE SEMINARS AND PARTICIPATED IN THE 1982 HANOVER FAIR,+ MR DORWARD SAID.

/MR DORWARD

MR DORWARD WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FRANCIS TIEN.

ALL THE OFFICES HAVE FED BACK NUMEROUS INVESTMENT ENQUIRIES TO THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, CONTRIBUTING TO A TOTAL OF 890 RECEIVED IN 1982 AS COMPARED WITH 650 ENQUIRIES RECEIVED IN 1981.

HE SAID THE HEADS OF THE FOUR OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICES WILL BE COMING TO HONG KONG IN MARCH FOR A LIAISON MEETING TO REVIEW INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED.

THE OPPORTUNITY WILL THEN BE TAKEN TO GIVE BRIEFING TO LOCAL INDUSTRY AND TRADE ORGANISATIONS ON THE WORK OF THE OFFICES AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY OFFER, HE SAID.

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HOSPITAL RECRUITMENT NOT AFFECTED

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IT WOULD BE IMPROPER AND UNTIMELY FOR HIM TO COMMENT ON THE REASONS FOR DELAYS IN THE COMPLETION OF THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL OR ON THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AS AN ARBITRATION NOTICE HAD ALREADY BEEN SERVED IN RESPECT OF THE GENERAL CONTRACT FOR THE HOSPITAL, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS ANSWERING A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT AS FAR AS THE RECRUITMENT OF HOSPITAL STAFF WAS CONCERNED HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES THAT THERE WERE NO ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS AS THE RECRUITMENT PROGRAMME FOR STAFF HAD BEEN BASED ON PHASING OVER A PERIOD OF TIME TO ENSURE THAT THE HOSPITAL CAN OPERATE SATISFACTORILY WHEN OPENED.

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THREE BILLS PASSED

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THREE BILLS, THE PUBLIC FINANCE BILL 1982, THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1981-82) BILL 1983 AND THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DEBATE ON THE FOLLOWING TWO BILLS WAS ADJOURNED : THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (RECRUITING OF SEAMEN) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 AND THE INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL 1982 WHICH WERE READ A SECOND TIME.

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PAYMENTS OF SALARIES TAX
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TAXPAYERS ARE URGED TO CHECK THEIR DEMAND NOTES TO ENSURE THAT THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF THE TAX DUE IS PAID ON OR BEFORE THE SPECIFIED DUE DATE.

IF THE FIRST INSTALMENT IS NOT SO PAID, THE SECOND INSTALMENT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME DUE IMMEDIATELY. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY APPLIED AND PLEAS FOR OVERSIGHT WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SAID.

IN ADDITION TO BOTH INSTALMENTS BECOMING IMMEDIATELY PAYABLE TOGETHER, WHERE TAX IS NOT PAID BY THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICE, THE COMMISSIONER MAY ORDER A SUM NOT EXCEEDING FIVE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TAX BE ADDED. THIS SURCHARGE WILL ALSO BE IMMEDIATELY DUE FOR PAYMENT, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE GAVE THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE HOW THE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD OPERATE :-

EXAMPLE 1

TOTAL TAX DUE	20.1.83	\$22 000
PAYABLE ON	20.1.83	\$17 000
PAYABLE	20.4.83	\$ 5 000

IF \$17 000 IS PAID ON 20.1.83, THE SECOND INSTALMENT OF \$5 000 IS PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE 20.4.83.

EXAMPLE 2

TOTAL TAX PAYABLE		\$22 000
PAYABLE ON	20.1.83	\$17 000
PAYABLE	20.4.83	\$ 5 000

IF \$17 000 IS NOT PAID ON 20.1.83, THE WHOLE AMOUNT OF \$22 000 PLUS SURCHARGE \$1 100, TOTAL \$23 100 IS IN DEFAULT AND ACTION TO RECOVER THE TOTAL AMOUNT WILL BE TAKEN SHORTLY AFTER 20.1.83.

+IT IS EMPHASISED, THEREFORE, THAT TAXPAYERS WHO WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TWO INSTALMENTS SHOWN ON THE NOTE MUST ENSURE THAT THE FIRST PAYMENT IS MADE ON OR BEFORE THE DUE DATE SHOWN ON THEIR DEMAND NOTES,+ HE ADDED.

/PAYMENT MAY

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE AT THE FOLLOWING COLLECTION OFFICES:

HONG KONG -	WINDSOR HOUSE, 3RD FLOOR, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.
KOWLOON -	PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR, 56 DUNDAS STREET, MONGKOK, KOWLOON.
TSUEN WAN -	FOU WAH CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 210 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, N.T.

PAYMENT MAY ALSO BE MADE BY POST BY SENDING A CROSSED CHEQUE, PAYABLE TO HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND ATTACHED TO THE DEMAND NOTE, TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, G.P.O. BOX 132, HONG KONG.

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NEW TIMETABLE FOR DIESEL-HAULED PASSENGER TRAINS
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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL INTRODUCE A NEW TIMETABLE FOR THE DIESEL-HAULED PASSENGER TRAINS FROM FRIDAY (JANUARY 21) TO TIE IN WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF DOUBLE TRACK AND NEW SIGNALLING SYSTEM FOR THE SECTION BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND TAI PO MARKET.

THIS NEW TIMETABLE WILL BE IN FORCE UNTIL THE ELECTRIFIED SERVICE EXTENDS TO TAI PO MARKET STATION.

THERE WILL BE 32 DIESEL PASSENGER TRAINS RUNNING DAILY FROM KOWLOON TO LO WU, 16 NORTHBOUND AND 16 SOUTHBOUND, THE SAME AS AT PRESENT.

A KCR SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE COMMISSIONING OF DOUBLE TRACK AND NEW SIGNALLING BETWEEN UNIVERSITY AND TAI PO MARKET STATIONS ON FRIDAY SHOULD GREATLY IMPROVE THE PUNCTUALITY OF TRAIN SCHEDULES.

COPIES OF THE NEW TIMETABLE ARE DISPLAYED AT ALL RAILWAY STATIONS.

THE TIMETABLES FOR ELECTRIC TRAINS BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN AND EXPRESS THROUGH TRAINS BETWEEN KOWLOON AND GUANGZHOU WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

+THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY ALSO REMINDED THE PUBLIC NOT TO CROSS OR WALK AROUND ANY RAILWAY TRACKS, PARTICULARLY IN THE SECTION BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI AND LO WU WHERE ENGINEERING WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MODERNISATION/ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT ARE NOW IN FULL SWING,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1983

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JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE OPEN TO ALL ORGANISATIONS
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FACILITIES AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE CAN NOW BE BOOKED BY ANY ORGANISATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE CENTRE, WHICH WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED ON OCTOBER 31 LAST YEAR, WAS DELIBERATELY GIVEN TIME TO EXPERIMENT WITH PROGRAMMES BEFORE OFFERING ITS FACILITIES TO THEIR FULL CAPACITY, MR BRAY SAID IN TABLING THE 1981-82 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRE.

THE CENTRE WAS HOST TO THE FAR EAST AND SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES FOR THE DISABLED LAST NOVEMBER, THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL EVENT HELD IN HONG KONG.

+THE ONUS IS NOW ON SPORTSMEN AND THE SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS IN HONG KONG AND ON THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE TO PROVE THAT WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF FIRST CLASS TRAINING FACILITIES AND EXPERIENCED COACHES, HONG KONG CAN EXCEL IN SPORTS AND SHINE IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ARENA,+ HE SAID.

+WHEN IT TRIES HONG KONG SEEMS TO DO WELL AT ANYTHING. THE FACILITIES ARE NOW HERE. I AM SURE EXCELLENCE WILL NOW EMERGE,+ MR BRAY, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE BOARD, ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR LEAVING FOR UK
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THERE WILL BE A FACILITY FOR PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER THE DEPARTURE OF THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, FOR LONDON ON FLIGHT CX201, E.T.D. 10.40 PM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 21).

PLEASE ADVISE THOSE ASSIGNED BY YOU TO COVER THE EVENT TO ASSEMBLE IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BY 9.45 PM.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1983

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FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN ON OUTLYING ISLANDS
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A FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN LAUNCHED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON OUTLYING ISLANDS BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN, LECTURES AND FILM SHOWS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY OFFICERS OF THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU AND MARINE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON VARIOUS ISLANDS TO SPREAD THE FIRE PREVENTION MESSAGE.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE A FIRE PREVENTION DAY TO BE HELD ON LAMMA ISLAND ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 22) WHEN A SPECTACULAR WATER DISPLAY BY THE FIREBOAT ALEXANDER GRANTHAM AND A FIRE FIGHTING DEMONSTRATION USING SOME UNIQUE EQUIPMENT IN TACKLING FIRES ON HILLY AREAS WILL BE STAGED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL START AT 2.30 PM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 22).

A FIREBOAT TAKING PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO AND FROM LAMMA ISLAND WILL LEAVE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PIER (NEAR THE OUTLYING ISLANDS FERRY PIER) AT 1.30 PM SHARP. AN INFORMATION OFFICER WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE MEDIA.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1983

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DB MEMBERS TO DISCUSS USE OF CROWN LAND
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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE USE OF A PIECE OF VACANT CROWN LAND NEXT TO THE SHEUNG WAN FIRE STATION AT A BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE SITE INCLUDE A METERED CAR PARK FOR EITHER LORRIES OR PRIVATE CARS, A SITTING-OUT AREA OR A PRIVATE CAR PARK.

MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE +MEET THE PUBLIC+ SCHEME AND AN AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ANSWERING SYSTEM FOR COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT.

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BRIEF MEMBERS, BY MEANS OF A SLIDE SHOW, ON THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE PROPOSED BUILDING OF A REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE, AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE SECOND MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 4 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AT WILLIE BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR, 222-224 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

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