



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1979

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
BILL ON IMPROVING GOVT'S CAPACITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION PASSED .....	1
NO NEED FOR MORE MANDATORY ENERGY SAVING MEASURES .....	2
NEED FOR PERMANENT TRADE EXHIBITION CENTRE TO BE STUDIED .....	3
ALL TV PROGRAMMES MONITORED -- SHA .....	4
AMENDMENT BILL PROPOSES NO REFUND OF RATES FOR VACANT CAR PARKS IN NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES .....	5
QUARRY OPERATORS REQUIRED TO TAKE ANTI-LANDSLIP PRECAUTIONS .....	7
LIABILITY INSURANCE COVER ADEQUATE .....	7
NT LAND SALE PROGRAMME .....	8
MICROFILMING TO SPEED UP PRODUCTION OF LAND OFFICE RECORDS .....	8
CLEANLINESS OF BUSES AND TRAMS .....	9
THUNDERSTORM ALERT EXPLAINED .....	9
UP-TO-DATE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA STANDARDS .....	10
FOUR BILLS PASSED .....	10
SPEEDPOST EXTENDED TO MACAU, SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTH KOREA .....	11
EMPLOYMENT SURVEYS .....	11
NEW ACCESS ROAD TO SERVE SHA TIN VILLAGES .....	12
NEW EXTENSION TO TUEN MUN PUMPING STATION .....	13
AUCTION OF +SPECIAL+ NUMBERS .....	13
WATER CUT .....	13

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1979

- 1 -

BILL ON IMPROVING GOVT'S CAPACITY  
TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION PASSED

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THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1979 AIMED AT IMPROVING THE GOVERNMENT'S CAPACITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA AND VIETNAM WAS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL BEFORE IT WAS PASSED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE ADDITIONAL POWERS INCLUDED IN THE BILL WERE ESSENTIAL TO COUNTER ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

MR. DAVIES POINTED OUT THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA WAS CONTINUING AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL.

+UP TO THE MORNING OF JUNE 18, 43,770 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED THIS YEAR ENTERING HONG KONG COMPARED WITH 8,205 IN 1978,+ HE SAID.

MR. DAVIES ADDED THAT OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENTS BY THE SECURITY FORCES HAD BEEN MADE TO SECURE A HIGH RATE OF ARRESTS. THE DAILY AVERAGE OF ARRESTS IN JUNE IS 570.

EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION, MR. DAVIES SAID THAT UNDER THE EXISTING LAW, ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS COULD ONLY PROPERLY BE DETAINED FOR SUCH MINIMUM TIME AS WAS NECESSARY TO EFFECT THEIR REMOVAL TO CHINA OR ELSEWHERE.

+THIS USUALLY MEANS THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO SECURE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PROSECUTE THOSE WHO MAY HAVE ASSISTED IN THEIR ENTRY TO HONG KONG,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

+AND I SHOULD ADD THERE IS INCREASING INFORMATION THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED IN AIDING AND ABETTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION,+ HE ADDED.

THE LEGISLATION WOULD ALLOW ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO BE DETAINED FOR SUFFICIENT TIME TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN THE PROSECUTION OF AIDERS AND ABETTERS IN APPROPRIATE CASES, MR. DAVIES SAID.

ANOTHER CLAUSE OF THE BILL WILL PROVIDE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE WITH THE POWERS OF ARREST WHICH THEY NEED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN ASSISTING THE REGULAR SECURITY FORCES IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATIONS AND DUTIES.

ON OTHER AMENDMENTS OF THE BILL, MR. DAVIES SAID THAT SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE +HUEY FONG+ IN DECEMBER 1978, TWO MORE OCEAN-GOING VESSELS, THE +SKYLARK+ AND THE +SEN ON+ HAD ENTERED HONG KONG CARRYING BETWEEN THEM NEARLY 4,100 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

/MR. DAVIES .....

MR. DAVIES SAID: +THERE IS A NEED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETERRENT POWERS TO DISCOURAGE SIMILAR VESSELS ARRIVING IN THE FUTURE AND CLAUSE 4 OF THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE FORFEITURE OF ANY VESSEL, REGARDLESS OF SIZE (AND NOT ONE OF UP TO 250 GROSS TONS), CARRYING PERSONS WHO ARE SEEKING TO LAND UNLAWFULLY IN HONG KONG.

+IN ADDITION, OFFICERS IN COMMAND OF HER MAJESTY'S WARSHIPS DO NOT HAVE POWER TO BOARD, SEARCH AND, IF NECESSARY, DETAIN A VESSEL OF MORE THAN 500 GROSS TONS IN HONG KONG WATERS, AND THE OFFICERS OF HM AUXILIARY SHIPS HAVE NO POWERS OF THIS SORT.

+IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES THIS IS OBVIOUSLY UNDESIRABLE AND CLAUSE 7 PROVIDES THE NECESSARY POWERS,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

IN EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR THE MEASURES PROPOSED IN THE BILL, THE HON. R.H. LOBO SAID IT WAS NOTED SOME MEASURES WERE SPECIAL POWERS TO MEET THE CURRENT EMERGENCY ALONG OUR SEA AND LAND BORDERS.

+I WOULD LIKE THEREFORE TO ASK FOR AN ASSURANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL CONDUCT A REVIEW IN DUE COURSE TO DECIDE WHETHER SUCH POWERS SHOULD BE REPEALED OR RETAINED AS A PERMANENT FEATURE OF OUR LAWS,+ HE ADDED.

IN REPLY, MR. DAVIES SAID SOME OF THE AMENDMENTS IN THE BILL, ESPECIALLY THE ONE ON AIDERS AND ABETTERS, ARE PERMANENT REQUIREMENTS AND MUST BE REGARDED AS SUCH.

+FOR THE REMAINDER I GLADLY GIVE THE ASSURANCE SOUGHT,+ HE ADDED.

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NO NEED FOR MORE MANDATORY ENERGY SAVING MEASURES  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL HOPING THAT WITH GREATER VOLUNTARY EFFORT BY THE PUBLIC, THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR IT TO INTRODUCE FURTHER MANDATORY ENERGY SAVING MEASURES, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON SAID THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTED THE SUPPLY POSITION IN THE THIRD QUARTER THIS YEAR TO BE MORE TIGHT THAN IT HAD BEEN IN THE SECOND.

+TO SURVIVE THE NEXT QUARTER, WE MUST GET OUR SAVINGS IN CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY AND THUS OF FUEL OIL ABOVE THE FIVE PER CENT TARGET WE HAD SET OURSELVES IN LINE WITH THOSE ADOPTED ELSEWHERE,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

+THIS WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT WITH A LITTLE BIT MORE APPLICATION,+ HE ADDED.

MR. JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT THAT THE SAVING IN FUEL OIL IN MAY, REPORTED TO BE A 4.75 PER CENT SAVING, HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE PUBLIC RESPONDING WELL TO THE GOVERNMENT'S EXHORTATION TO ECONOMISE ON THE USE OF ELECTRICITY, BY THE BAN ON THE USE OF ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR DISPLAY, ADVERTISING AND FLOODLIGHTING EXCEPT BETWEEN 8 P.M. AND 11.30 P.M., BY THE POWER COMPANIES REDUCING THEIR SPINNING RESERVES, AND BY THE INTRODUCTION OF +DAYLIGHT SAVING.+

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE 4.75 PER CENT IN ENERGY SAVING HAD BEEN DERIVED FROM THE ESTIMATES OF SAVINGS SUBMITTED BY THE TWO POWER COMPANIES.

+WHAT THEY HAVE DONE IS TO COMPARE ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION ON DAYS OF LIKE MEAN TEMPERATURE IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE AND THE TWO WEEKS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PACKAGE OF ECONOMY MEASURES ON MAY 13.

+TO THE RESULTS, THEY HAVE ADDED THE SAVINGS FROM THE REDUCTION IN THEIR SPINNING RESERVES, A REDUCTION WHICH WAS ALREADY BEING ACHIEVED WELL BEFORE THE ECONOMY MEASURES WERE INTRODUCED ON MAY 13.

+THE RESULTS FROM THE TWO COMPANIES, WEIGHED APPROPRIATELY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THEIR RELATIVE SIZES, GIVE AN OVERALL FIGURE OF A 4.75 PER CENT SAVING IN FUEL OIL,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID, ADDING THAT THE FIGURE WAS SUPPORTED BY THE AMOUNT OF FUEL OIL CONSUMED FOR THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE AND AFTER MAY 13, AFTER ALLOWING FOR SEASONAL VARIATIONS.

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NEED FOR PERMANENT TRADE EXHIBITION CENTRE TO BE STUDIED  
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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE DEMAND FOR AND VIABILITY OF A PERMANENT TRADE EXHIBITION CENTRE IN HONG KONG IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE SHORTLY.

MEANWHILE, CONSULTANTS WILL BE APPOINTED NEXT WEEK TO LOOK INTO THIS FEASIBILITY AND TO REPORT ON THEIR FINDINGS IN A FEW MONTHS' TIME.

THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

MR. TIEN ASKED: +IN VIEW OF THE CANCELLATION OF NEXT YEAR'S READY-TO-WEAR FESTIVAL FOR LACK OF A SUITABLE LOCAL VENUE, WHAT MEASURES CAN THE GOVERNMENT TAKE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO ENSURE RESUMPTION LOCALLY OF THIS MAJOR PROMOTION EVENT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING?+

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1979

- 4 -

EXPRESSING HIS REGRET THAT THE 1980 FESTIVAL HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED FOR LACK OF A SUITABLE LOCAL VENUE, MR. JORDAN ASSURED MR. TIEN THAT, AS A MEMBER OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO FIND A PLACE WHERE THE FESTIVAL COULD BE HELD.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, NONE COULD BE FOUND IN WHICH IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS THE FESTIVAL HAS ACHIEVED OVER THE YEARS. THE COUNCIL THEN DECIDED IT WAS PREFERABLE NOT TO MOUNT THE 1980 FESTIVAL AT ALL.

MR. JORDAN SAID THE COUNCIL IS CONTINUING ITS SEARCH FOR A SUITABLE SITE AND THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT IS READY TO HELP IN ANY WAY IT CAN.

+IN ORDER TO COMPENSATE TO SOME EXTENT FOR THE CANCELLATION OF THE READY-TO-WEAR FESTIVAL, THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WILL BE MOUNTING A SUBSTANTIAL PROMOTION OF FASHION GARMENTS ALONG THE LINES OF THE READY-TO-WEAR FESTIVAL AT THE IGEDO TRADE FAIR IN DUSSELDORF IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.+

THIS FAIR, WHICH IS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL APPAREL PROMOTION, IS LIKELY TO ATTRACT SOME 35,000 BUYERS FROM 30 GARMENT IMPORTING COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, THIS WILL NOT MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF THE FESTIVAL HERE IN HONG KONG, AND ITS CANCELLATION HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR US TO PRESS ON QUICKLY WITH CONSIDERATION OF OUR OWN TRADE EXHIBITION FACILITY IN HONG KONG,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+I EXPECT CONSULTANTS TO BE APPOINTED NEXT WEEK AND TO REPORT IN A FEW MONTHS WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF THE DEMAND FOR AND VIABILITY OF A PERMANENT EXHIBITION CENTRE,+ MR. JORDAN ADDED.

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ALL TV PROGRAMMES MONITORED — SHA  
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DURING THE LAST FIVE MONTHS, THE TWO TELEVISION STATIONS HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY TO TAKE REMEDIAL ACTION ON 21 OCCASIONS IN THEIR LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMMES — FIVE RELATE TO SEX GENERALLY AND 16 ON VIOLENCE OR THE USE OF TRIAD LANGUAGE.

ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THE FILMS SUBMITTED FOR CENSORSHIP WERE SUBJECT TO CUTS BEFORE BROADCASTING WHILE ANOTHER 2.5 PER CENT WERE BANNED.

THESE FIGURES WERE REVEALED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S INFLUENCE OVER TV PROGRAMMES WHICH UNDULY EMPHASISE SEX AND VIOLENCE.

/+THE TELEVISION.....

+THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR ALL TELEVISION PROGRAMMES AND WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD FREQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF THE TWO STATIONS CONCERNED, WITH A VIEW TO ENSURE THAT THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON PROGRAMME STANDARDS WOULD BE STRICTLY OBSERVED,+ MR. LI STRESSED.

HE ADDED THAT SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF THE TWO STATIONS WERE TAKING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN REGARD TO PROGRAMME STANDARDS SERIOUSLY AND THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING RECEIVED FULL CO-OPERATION FROM THEM.

MR. LI ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, AS OBSERVED BY THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD, WHAT SEEMED TO BE LACKING WAS AN EFFECTIVE INTERNAL MONITORING SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT THEIR PRODUCERS DO NOT FALL TOO MUCH OUT OF LINE.

+THE TWO STATIONS HAVE RESPONDED TO THIS CRITICISM POSITIVELY AND THE COMMISSIONER WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE AND TO URGE THEM TO IMPROVE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR SYSTEMS,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE LAST REPORT OF THE BOARD, MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION WAS AT A LESS OBJECTIONABLE LEVEL AND THE PORTRAYAL OF SEX IN PROGRAMMES WAS NOT EXCESSIVE IN QUANTITY BUT GENERALLY PRESENTED WITH SUITABLE DISCRETION.

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AMENDMENT BILL PROPOSES NO REFUND OF RATES  
FOR VACANT CAR PARKS IN NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES  
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REFUND OF RATES WILL NOT BE GRANTED IN RESPECT OF VACANT CAR PARKS OF NON-DOMESTIC TENEMENTS.

THIS IS ONE OF FIVE PROPOSALS MADE IN THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. HENRY CHING.

THE BILL FOLLOWS A RECENT REVIEW OF THE RATING ORDINANCE AND CERTAIN AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WHERE CHANGES ARE NECESSARY.

UNDER A SECTION OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, REFUND OF RATES IN RESPECT OF UNOCCUPIED NON-DOMESTIC TENEMENTS IS ALLOWED.

BY VIRTUE OF THIS SECTION, SEPARATELY ASSESSED VACANT CAR PARKING SPACES COULD QUALIFY FOR A REFUND OF RATES.

+THIS IS UNSATISFACTORY,+ MR. CHING SAID, +BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT, IN PRACTICE, TO ESTABLISH WHETHER OR NOT SUCH SPACES ARE GENUINELY VACANT.+

A CLAUSE IN THE PROPOSED BILL ACCORDINGLY SPECIFIES THAT A REFUND OF RATES WILL NOT BE GRANTED IN RESPECT OF SUCH SPACES WHICH ARE INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR THE PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO +PUT BEYOND DOUBT+ THAT RETURNED REQUISITIONS FROM THE OWNER, OR OCCUPIER, OF ANY TENEMENT ARE ADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE IN PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE LANDS TRIBUNAL OR THE COURT OF APPEAL.

UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE, THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SERVE ON THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER OF ANY TENEMENT A REQUISITION REQUIRING HIM TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AS SPECIFIED IN THE REQUISITION.

THE STATUS OF THE COMPLETED REQUISITION RETURNED TO THE COMMISSIONER HAS, ON OCCASION, BEEN QUESTIONED.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO REMOVE DOUBTS ON TWO SECTIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE EFFECTIVE DATES FOR INTERIM VALUATIONS AND FOR THE DELETION OF A TENEMENT FROM THE VALUATION LIST.

MR. CHING SAID THE INTENTION BEHIND THE TWO SECTIONS IS THAT THE EFFECTIVE DATE SHOULD BE THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE EVENT GIVING RISE TO THE INTERIM VALUATION OR DELETION.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES, IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN SMALL HOUSES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH ARE EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENT FOR AN OCCUPATION PERMIT, FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AN INTERIM VALUATION TO BE RELATED TO THE DATE OF ISSUE BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES OF A CERTIFICATE OF +COMPLIANCE+ OR +SUITABILITY FOR OCCUPATION.+

THESE CERTIFICATES OPERATE IN A SIMILAR WAY TO OCCUPATION PERMITS.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO REMOVE CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES CONCERNING THE SERVING OF A REQUISITION, NOTICE OR OTHER DOCUMENT ON THE OWNER OF A TENEMENT.

UNDER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, THE BILL WILL ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER TO SERVE A REQUISITION, NOTICE OR OTHER DOCUMENT ON AN OWNER EITHER AT THE TENEMENT, OR AT HIS LAST KNOWN ADDRESS, OR BY SENDING IT THROUGH THE POST TO EITHER OF THESE ADDRESSES.

IT ALSO ENABLES THE COMMISSIONER TO SERVE A NOTICE ON AN OCCUPIER BY EITHER LEAVING IT AT THE TENEMENT, OR AT THE OCCUPIER'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS, OR BY SENDING IT THROUGH THE POST TO EITHER OF THESE ADDRESSES.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1979

- 7 -

QUARRY OPERATORS REQUIRED TO  
TAKE ANTI-LANDSLIP PRECAUTIONS  
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OPERATORS OF QUARRIES RUN UNDER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT LANDSLIPS, SILTING OF ROADS AND DRAINS AND OTHER INCIDENTS WHICH MAY POSE A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. WILLIAM BELL, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

+REGULAR INSPECTIONS ARE MADE BY THE PWD AS FREQUENTLY AS STAFFING LEVELS PERMIT AND ARE STEPPED UP IN TIMES OF HEAVY RAIN,+ SAID MR. BELL.

+IN THE CASE OF THE WASHOUT BELOW THE QUARRY AT ANDERSON ROAD ON JUNE 11, THE OFFENDING CONTRACTOR HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CEASE ALL NORMAL OPERATIONS AND HAS HAD HIS SUPPLY OF EXPLOSIVES TERMINATED UNTIL HE HAS SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED REMEDIAL AND PREVENTIVE WORKS. PROGRESS ON THIS WORK HAS BEEN GOOD AND THERE IS NO THREAT OF A RECURRENCE,+ HE ADDED.

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LIABILITY INSURANCE COVER ADEQUATE  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED THAT ITS AIRPORT OWNERS AND OPERATORS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVER IS ADEQUATE BOTH AS TO THE LIMIT OF LIABILITY AND THE EXTENT OF THE COVER.

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. DAVID NEWBIGGING.

MR. JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE RECENT TROUBLES WITH DC-10'S, IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY LIABILITY DEVOLVING ON THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1979

- 8 -

NT LAND SALE PROGRAMME  
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THE FIRST OF THE LAND SALES, ABOUT A WEEK OR SO AGO, IN THE BORROW AREA PLATFORMS FORMED AS PART OF THE RACE COURSE DEVELOPMENT AT SHA TIN REPRESENTS THE START OF A PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMME OF SALES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. WILLIAM BELL, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. D.K. NEWBIGGING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT (MID-LEVELS) BILL 1979 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THIS PROGRAMME, MR. BELL SAID, WAS EXPECTED TO YIELD A FURTHER 3,800 UNITS OF HIGH QUALITY HOUSING IN SHA TIN, TSUEN WAN AND SAI KUNG.

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MICROFILMING TO SPEED UP PRODUCTION  
OF LAND OFFICE RECORDS  
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MICROFILMING OF ALL LAND OFFICE RECORDS WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1980 SHOULD HELP TO SPEED UP THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. G. BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT DELAYS IN THE PRODUCTION OF LAND OFFICE RECORDS, MR. BARNES SAID THAT FOLLOWING A VISIT TO THE COMPUTER FACILITIES OF THE LAND CHARGES REGISTRY IN LONDON RECENTLY, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL HAS ASKED FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO BE DONE TO SEE WHETHER COMPUTERISATION WOULD BE WORTH INTRODUCING IN HONG KONG ALSO.

THE GOVERNMENT, MR. BARNES ADDED, WAS AWARE THAT THERE WERE STILL SOME DELAYS IN THE PRODUCTION OF LAND OFFICE RECORDS, ESPECIALLY AT THE PEAK TIME OF THE DAY, WHEN THE AVERAGE TIME OF PRODUCTION FOR MEMORIAL RISES FROM 10 TO 20 MINUTES.

THERE WERE ALSO LONGER DELAYS WHEN MORE THAN ONE CUSTOMER WISHED TO SEARCH FOR THE SAME DOCUMENT.

+THE REGISTRY IS PRESENTLY WELL BELOW ITS STAFF ESTABLISHMENT, BUT THE REGISTRAR GENERAL IS DOING ALL HE CAN TO GIVE THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE,+ MR. BARNES ASSURED.

COMPUTERISATION OF LAND OFFICE RECORDS HAD BEEN EXAMINED IN THE PAST, BUT IT HAD NOT BEEN CONSIDERED WORTH THE EXPENSE. THERE WERE OTHER MAJOR DRAWBACKS ALSO.

MR. BARNES SAID THE DEMANDS ON THE LAND OFFICE HAD MADE IT NECESSARY TO THINK ABOUT IT AGAIN.

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CLEANLINESS OF BUSES AND TRAMS

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CLEANLINESS, THE CONDITION OF THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENTS AND THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE OF BUSES AND TRAMS ARE SOME OF THE MANY ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WHICH THE INSPECTORS OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL ALWAYS CHECK IN A FORMAL VEHICLE INSPECTION.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. G. BARNES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG.

+THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT BUSES AND TRAMS ARE CLEAN ENOUGH AS THE NIGHTLY DEPOT CLEANING IS OFTEN NOT SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THAT THE VEHICLE REMAINS CLEAN THROUGHOUT THE DAY,+ HE SAID.

MR. BARNES POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES.

IN ORDER TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR TRANSPORT SERVICES, HE EXPLAINED, A BUS IS IN USE FOR AT LEAST 18 HOURS A DAY AND MAY BE CARRYING MORE THAN 1,300 PASSENGERS IN THAT TIME.

THE COMPANIES COULD NOT SPEND MORE TIME CLEANING VEHICLES DURING THE WORKING DAY WITHOUT AFFECTING THE LEVEL OF SERVICE.

+SIMILARLY UNLESS THE DEFECTS WERE VERY MARKED OR INVOLVED SAFETY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT CALL IN A BUS OFF THE ROAD SIMPLY TO HAVE IT CLEANED OR A SEAT REPAIRED,+ HE SAID.

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THUNDERSTORM ALERT EXPLAINED

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STAFF OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ARE IMMEDIATELY ALERTED AND PUT ON 24 HOURS STAND-BY DUTY ON RECEIPT OF HEAVY RAIN OR THUNDERSTORM WARNING AND THE RAISING OF STORM WARNING SIGNALS, THE HON. WILLIAM BELL, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THIS STAFF, SUPPORTED BY CONTRACTORS' WORKMEN AS NECESSARY, ARE EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH MOST EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, INCLUDING FLOODING, AND CLEARANCES IN MOST CASES CAN BE DEALT WITH WITHIN AN HOUR OR SO,+ MR. BELL SAID.

HE ADDED THAT PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATED THAT FLOODING AT THE LOCATIONS OF THE 25 BLACKSPOTS SUSCEPTIBLE TO FLOODING HAD NOT BEEN SO SEVERE AS TO WARRANT EVACUATION.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1979

- 10 -

UP-TO-DATE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA STANDARDS  
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THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, WHICH WILL ENABLE HONG KONG TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE REVISED 1974 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WHEN PASSED, THE BILL WOULD PLACE HONG KONG IN A POSITION TO SEEK TO HAVE THE CONVENTION, WHICH HAS BEEN RECENTLY RATIFIED BY MANY COUNTRIES, EXTENDED TO HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON SAID IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

THE CONVENTION WILL COME INTO FORCE ON MAY 25, 1980.

+TO AVOID POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SHIPS REGISTERED IN HONG KONG, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL COUNTRIES RECOGNISE THAT THE SHIPS CONFORM TO UP-TO-DATE STANDARDS, SO IT IS IN HONG KONG'S INTERESTS TO ENSURE THAT IT BECOMES A PARTY TO THE LATEST CONVENTION AS SOON AS IT COMES INTO FORCE,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA PROVIDES FOR UNIFORM SAFETY STANDARDS FOR OCEAN-GOING SHIPS.

THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE CONVENTION, DRAWN UP IN 1960, HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG AND GIVEN LEGISLATIVE EFFECT BY THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE AND CERTAIN UNITED KINGDOM MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS APPLIED TO HONG KONG.

THE CONVENTION WAS FURTHER REVISED IN 1974.

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FOUR BILLS PASSED  
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FOUR BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY ARE THE LAW AMENDMENT AND REFORM (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1979 AND THE TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT (MID-LEVELS) BILL 1979.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1979

- 11 -

SPEEDPOST EXTENDED TO MACAU,  
SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTH KOREA  
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE SPEEDPOST NETWORK WILL BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE MACAU, SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTH KOREA FROM JULY 3.

+THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR SPEEDPOST WHICH IS A FAST AND RELIABLE POSTAL SERVICE FOR SENDING BUSINESS DOCUMENTS, SAMPLES OR MERCHANDISE OVERSEAS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID.

PRE-DETERMINED FLIGHTS OUT OF HONG KONG ARE USED AND PACKAGES ARE SPECIALLY DELIVERED TO OVERSEAS ADDRESSES DOOR-TO-DOOR.

CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, MR. J.P. LEE WELCOMED THE EXPANSION OF THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE.

+IT WILL BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL TO THE TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THESE PLACES, ESPECIALLY SOUTH KOREA, WHICH IS A CLOSE TRADE PARTNER TO HONG KONG,+ MR. LEE SAID.

SPEEDPOST SERVICES TO SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTH KOREA ARE AVAILABLE ON A CONTRACT BASIS AND +ON DEMAND.+ BUT THE SERVICE TO MACAU IS +ON DEMAND+ ONLY.

SPEEDPOST MAILS POSTED TO SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA, WILL BE DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING DAY, AND THOSE TO MACAU THE SAME AFTERNOON OR THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU ON 5-2671222 OR THE POSTAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES ON 5-2671108.

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EMPLOYMENT SURVEYS  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING A FULL-SCALE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY COVERING ALL WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT ESTABLISHMENTS, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS.

THIS WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT LEVELS AND TRENDS IN THESE TRADES AND, AT THE SAME TIME, AN UP-TO-DATE AND COMPREHENSIVE DIRECTORY AS THE BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT SAMPLE SURVEYS.

SURVEY CARDS HAVE BEEN SENT TO SOME 68,000 ESTABLISHMENTS SEEKING INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENGAGED AND VACANCIES AS AT JUNE 15.

+MANAGEMENTS ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SURVEY CARDS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, USING THE POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPES PROVIDED, BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/CONCURRENTLY, .....

- 12 -

CONCURRENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CONDUCTING A SAMPLE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR. SURVEY ENQUIRY CARDS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ABOUT 19,000 ESTABLISHMENTS ALSO ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENGAGED AND VACANCIES.

THE SPOKESMAN APPEALED FOR CO-OPERATION ON THE TWO EMPLOYMENT SURVEYS, STRESSING THAT INFORMATION FURNISHED BY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE USED SOLELY FOR COMPILING STATISTICAL TABLES.

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#### NEW ACCESS ROAD TO SERVE SHA TIN VILLAGES

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TRAFFIC FLOW TO SAN TIN WAI AND KAK TIN VILLAGES WEST OF THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD IN SHA TIN WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW ACCESS ROAD IS COMPLETED IN ABOUT 15 MONTHS' TIME.

AT PRESENT, ACCESS TO THESE TWO VILLAGES HAS BEEN DISRUPTED BY SITE FORMATION WORKS TAKING PLACE IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS.

UNDER THE SCHEME WHICH FORMS PART OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT, A SINGLE-LANE TWO-WAY CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AND THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVED.

ENGINEERING WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. GERRY HIGGINSON SAID THE WORK WOULD REQUIRE THE RESUMPTION OF ABOUT 4,870 SQUARE METRES OF PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE TWO VILLAGES AND OWNERS AFFECTED WILL BE OFFERED THE ALTERNATIVE OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS OR CASH COMPENSATION.

THREE MONTHS' NOTICE OF THE LAND RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE LAST WEEK.

+TWELVE TEMPORARY DOMESTIC STRUCTURES AND 48 TEMPORARY ANCILLARY STRUCTURES USED AS WORKSHOPS, KITCHENS, LATRINES, PIGEON SHEDS, CHICKEN SHEDS AND STORAGE AREAS WILL BE CLEARED,+ MR. HIGGINSON SAID.

+FAMILIES AFFECTED WILL BE OFFERED EITHER PUBLIC HOUSING IN SHA TIN OR SPACE IN LOCAL TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, DEPENDING ON THEIR ELIGIBILITY.

+GENUINE CULTIVATOR-FAMILIES WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING BUT OPT FOR A RESITE OUTSIDE THE LAYOUT TO CONTINUE FARMING WILL BE OFFERED AN EX-GRATIA REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE OF \$5,000 PER FAMILY BUT WILL FORFEIT THEIR PRIORITY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING,+ MR. HIGGINSON SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1979

- 13 -

NEW EXTENSION TO TUEN MUN PUMPING STATION

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CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH ON A NEW EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING PUMPING STATION AT TUEN MUN WATER TREATMENT WORKS TO INCREASE ITS PUMPING CAPACITY.

A CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED AT THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AT LEIGHTON CENTRE, CAUSEWAY BAY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE NEW PUMPING STATION LOCATED NEAR THE 21-1/2 - MILESTONE, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, WILL BE BUILT TO HOUSE NEW PUMPS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO COPE WITH FUTURE DEMANDS FOR WATER FROM BOTH TUEN MUN NEW TOWN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT.

WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW EXTENSION WILL TAKE 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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AUCTION OF +SPECIAL+ NUMBERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL AUCTION 25 +SPECIAL+ CAR NUMBERS ON SATURDAY IN THE LECTURE HALL OF THE CITY HALL AT 10 A.M.

THE NUMBERS ARE: BN 2992, BY 78, BZ 1, BZ 9, BZ 13, AA 786, BG 5658, BY 7351, BY 7366, BY 8123, BY 8263, BY 8589, BY 9110, BY 9833, BZ 108, BZ 125, BZ 218, BZ 280, BZ 308, BZ 338, BZ 387, BZ 619, BZ 628, BZ 709, BZ 911.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE CAR NUMBER WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL GO TO THE LOTTERIES FUND.

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WATER CUT

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON FRIDAY TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY LAN FONG ROAD, LEE GARDEN ROAD, FOO MING STREET AND THE SECTION OF PERCIVAL STREET BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND LEIGHTON ROAD.

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