



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1981

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WHITE PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION: PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP
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THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE ADVICE OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS PROPOSED TO BE SET UP WILL BE IGNORED OR NOT ACCEPTED WITHOUT VERY GOOD REASON BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER SAID IN AMPLIFICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TODAY.

HE SAID: +IF THIS WERE NOT THE CASE, IF WE - AS A GOVERNMENT - WERE NOT SEEN TO BE MOST GENUINE AND KEEN TO INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS; IF WE WERE SEEN TO BE LESS THAN SINCERE IN OUR DESIRE, OUR DETERMINATION, TO BE A CONSULTING AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT, THEN BOARD MEMBERS - AND OTHERS - WOULD LOSE HEART AND BECOME DISPIRITED AND FRUSTRATED AND OUR GRAND DESIGN TO IMPROVE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, TO INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY MORE, MUCH MORE, IN THEIR DAY TO DAY AFFAIR WILL HAVE FAILED.+

+BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED THAT THERE WILL BE NO FAILURE; THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL; THAT WE SHALL PLAY OUR PART TO THE FULL,+ SIR JACK SAID.

IN A SPEECH MOVING DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR JACK SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WAS A SATISFYING LIFE IN A SATISFYING, CONTENTED COMMUNITY.

+BUT THIS AIM, SURELY, CAN ONLY BE MET BY THE CREATION OF A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP. SUCH A PARTNERSHIP WOULD BE DIFFICULT, PERHAPS IMPOSSIBLE TO CULTIVATE UNLESS THE PEOPLE USE, WITH ENERGY AND RESPONSIBILITY, THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES DIRECTLY IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP OF THE DISTRICTS IN WHICH THEY LIVE.+

THE WHITE PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID, SETS OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS TO PROVIDE SUCH OPPORTUNITIES:

+IT IS A CHALLENGE TO US ALL, TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING - PERHAPS IN PARTICULAR - MEMBERS OF THIS GOVERNMENT.+

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD, AS THEY HAD DONE SO OFTEN IN THE PAST, USE SUCH OPPORTUNITIES WELL AND TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

ON THE MAIN PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER, SIR JACK STRESSED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS, ALTHOUGH MAINLY ADVISORY IN NATURE, WOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL POWER OF INFLUENCE OVER DISTRICT LEVELS.

+THIS IS BECAUSE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, AND BECAUSE THEY ARE ABLE, AND WILL BE ENCOURAGED, TO DISCUSS A VERY WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS WHICH AFFECT THE WELL-BEING OF RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE WORKING IN THE DISTRICTS.+

/DISTRICT BOARDS

DISTRICT BOARDS WILL ALSO ADVISE HOW FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR DISTRICT PROJECTS ARE TO BE USED AND, WHERE FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE PURPOSE, BE ABLE TO USE THEM FOR MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS AND FOR PROMOTION OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICTS.

SOME \$3.5 MILLION ARE EXPECTED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH USE IN THE URBAN AREA AND \$12.2 MILLION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR.

THESE SUMS ARE SUBSTANTIAL COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT ALLOCATION OF \$0.5 MILLION IN THE URBAN AREA (FOR KWUN TONG ONLY) AND \$6 MILLION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, SIR JACK SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ALL THE VIEWS AND COMMENTS IN THE MEDIA AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ON THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS. NATURALLY NOT ALL THE VIEWS WERE COMPATIBLE AND NOT ALL OF THEM COULD BE ACCOMMODATED.

+FOR EXAMPLE THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSED THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES BOTH FOR THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL. THERE WAS BOTH SUPPORT FOR AND ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL. BUT THE ENTIRE THRUST OF THE GREEN PAPER, CONFIRMED IN THE WHITE PAPER, IS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL. THIS BEING SO IT MAKES OBVIOUS SENSE TO HAVE ELECTIONS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL BASED ON CONSTITUENCIES LINKED TO THE DISTRICTS THEMSELVES.

+THE PUBLIC RESPONSE ON THIS POINT OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTS THIS VIEW. THE GOVERNMENT AGREES AND WILL PROCEED WITH CONSTITUENCY BASED ELECTIONS RATHER THAN WITH TERRITORY-WIDE ELECTIONS OR A TWO-TIER SYSTEM INVOLVING BOTH METHODS,+ SIR JACK SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER WERE FOR IMPROVING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND WERE NOT AN EXERCISE IN CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE.

+THE CENTRAL ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT, THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, HAVE EVOLVED AND WILL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE AND THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG DICTATE,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER WAS ADJOURNED.

SNAGS IN KING'S ROAD TRAFFIC SCHEME

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THE SEVERE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE MORNING PEAK THROUGH SHAU KEI WAN AND QUARRY BAY IS PARTLY DUE TO THE ROAD THROUGH SHAU KEI WAN BEING TOO NARROW TO ACCOMMODATE AN EFFECTIVE BUS LANE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THIS BOTTLENECK AFFECTS ALL TRAFFIC AND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT HAS PREVENTED BUSES FROM GAINING ACCESS TO THE BUS-ONLY LANES AT THE BEGINNING OF KING'S ROAD BECAUSE OF THE BLOCKAGE OF OTHER TRAFFIC,+ HE SAID IN HIS REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN.

THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN MADE MUCH WORSE BY CONGESTION IN THE QUARRY BAY AREA DUE TO TWO OTHER FACTORS:

+THE FIRST IS THE VERY CONSIDERABLE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC LEAVING TAI KOO SHING AND TURNING RIGHT, THE MOVEMENT OF WHICH HAS AGAIN PREVENTED BUSES FROM ENTERING THE BUS-ONLY LANE AT THAT JUNCTION.

+THE SECOND, AND MORE IMPORTANT, HAS RESULTED FROM THE BUS-ONLY LANES BEING CUT BACK BEFORE JUNCTIONS TO ALLOW FOR LEFT TURNING TRAFFIC,+ MR JONES SAID.

HOWEVER DRIVERS OF VEHICLES NOT TURNING LEFT HAD ALSO BEEN CUTTING INTO THOSE SECTIONS TO TRY TO JUMP THE QUEUE. BY FORCING THEIR WAY BACK INTO THE THROUGH LANES AFTER THE JUNCTIONS, THEY HAVE THEN INEVITABLY LED TO THE TRAFFIC STREAM BECOMING MORE SEVERELY BLOCKED.

THIS AGAIN, IN ITS TURN, HAS RESULTED IN LONG TAIL BACKS OF TRAFFIC THROUGH PREVIOUS JUNCTIONS, THUS BRINGING ALL TRAFFIC, INCLUDING BUSES, TO AN ALMOST COMPLETE HALT, MR JONES SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SETTING BACK THE BUS LANES AT JUNCTIONS TO FACILITATE LEFT TURNING TRAFFIC HAD BEEN PROVED TO WORK WELL WITH SIMILAR SCHEMES IN EUROPE, WHERE DRIVER DISCIPLINE WAS GENERALLY HIGH, BUT NOT IN HONG KONG.

IT IS NOW PLANNED TO EXTEND THE BUS LANES MUCH CLOSER TO THE JUNCTIONS TO PREVENT ABUSES OF THE SCHEME, HE SAID.

OTHER CHANGES TO THE SCHEME NOW BEING WORKED OUT MAINLY INVOLVE DETAILED ADJUSTMENTS IN, FOR EXAMPLE, TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS AND THE EXTENSION OF BUS-ONLY LANES FURTHER UP CHAI WAN HILL.

THE MAIN PROBLEM WHICH REMAINS IS THE VERY RESTRICTED WIDTH OF CARRIAGEWAY AVAILABLE IN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, WHICH IS COMPOUNDED BY THE PRESENCE OF BOTTLENECKS WHERE, FOR INSTANCE, SOME OLD BUILDINGS JUT OUT AND NARROW DOWN THE ROAD SPACE STILL FURTHER.

+THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING CERTAIN PRIVATE LOTS IN ORDER TO REMOVE SOME OF THESE BOTTLENECKS IS NOW BEING INVESTIGATED,+ HE SAID.

/MR JONES

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MR JONES POINTED OUT THAT THE WHOLE OF THE DIFFICULT SECTION THROUGH SHAU KEI WAN AND QUARRY BAY WAS BEING EXAMINED IN DETAIL TO SEEK ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.

+THE BUS-ONLY LANES IN THIS SECTION WILL ONLY BE RESTORED WHEN SUCH SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN FOUND AND ARE THOROUGHLY TESTED,+ HE SAID.

MR JONES THOUGHT IT WAS AN EXAGGERATION TO LABEL THE WHOLE OF THE KING'S ROAD PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEME A FAILURE.

SOME OF THE MEASURES IN THE SCHEME HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL, HE SAID.

AMONG THE SUCCESSES WERE

- * A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE SPEED OF TRAMS, SO THAT THEY CARRY 40 000 TO 50 000 MORE PASSENGERS PER DAY THAN BEFORE,
- * AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUS SPEEDS EASTBOUND ALONG VIRTUALLY THE WHOLE KING'S ROAD AND ALSO WESTBOUND FROM NORTH POINT TO CENTRAL.

MR JONES EMPHASISED THAT WHAT WAS INVOLVED WAS A COMPLEX TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME AND THAT THERE WERE OVER 100 ROAD JUNCTIONS ALONG THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE SYSTEM.

EACH OF THE ROAD JUNCTIONS HAS DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS AND INVOLVES A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF VARIABLES IN TERMS OF TRAFFIC BEHAVIOUR.

+IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FULLY TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL THESE VARIABLES IN ADVANCE AND SO IT WAS NOT UNEXPECTED THAT MODIFICATIONS WOULD NEED TO BE MADE TO THE SCHEME IN THE LIGHT OF ACTUAL EXPERIENCE WITH ITS WORKING,+ HE SAID.

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POLICY ON PUBLIC STANDPIPES EXPLAINED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE APPROVED POLICY OF INSTALLING WATER STANDPIPES TO PROVIDE FREE WATER SUPPLIES TO ALL SQUATTER AREAS, ON CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS BY CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS AND NT DISTRICT OFFICERS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON JACK STEAN IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR STEAN EXPLAINED THAT THE PROVISION OF STANDPIPES WAS ON THE BASIS OF ONE FOR EVERY 500 PERSONS WITHOUT METERED SUPPLY.

/HOWEVER, THE

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REQUIRED FOR A STANDPIPE TO BE INSTALLED MIGHT BE VARIED DOWNWARDS +WHERE THE AREA SERVED EXCEEDS A RADIUS OF 500 FEET OR A DIFFERENCE IN ELEVATION OF 200 FEET OR WHERE THE HEALTH AUTHORITY CERTIFIES THAT THERE WERE OVER-RIDING HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS DUE TO INADEQUACY OR GROSS POLLUTION OF EXISTING SUPPLIES.+

THE INSTALLATION OF STANDPIPES, MR STEAN SAID, IS ALSO SUBJECT TO THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES' ADVICE ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSAL IN QUESTION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SUPPLY OF WATER TO SQUATTER AREAS WAS BEING ACTIVELY EXAMINED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROVISION OR LOCATION OF STANDPIPES MAY PROVE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE IN THE MAJORITY OF AREAS, HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, MANY OF THE PROBLEMS OF PROVIDING AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY ARISE FROM THE LOCATION OF SQUATTER AREAS, WHICH MAY BE REMOTE FROM THE NEAREST AVAILABLE SUPPLY OR WHICH MAY BE AT AN ELEVATION ABOVE THAT CAPABLE OF BEING SUPPLIED FROM THE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BY GRAVITY, SUCH AS THE HIGHER SLOPES OF THE MA SHAN AREA.

MR STEAN SAID: +THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING SUPPLIES TO THESE AREAS IS INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT EXAMINATION, WHICH MAY INDICATE THAT THE IMPROVEMENT OF SUPPLIES GENERALLY LIES IN THE PROVISION OF MORE INDIVIDUALLY METERED SERVICES.

+SUCH SERVICES HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED IN A FEW AREAS WHERE PROPER ACCESS, A REASONABLE CONFIGURATION OF THE LAYOUT OF THE DWELLINGS TO PERMIT MAINLAYING, AND POSTAL IDENTIFICATION OF THE DWELLINGS FOR BILLING PURPOSES ARE AVAILABLE.+

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EASY WAY TO ORGANISE ORDERLY LION DANCES

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REPUTABLE ORGANISATIONS WHO HOLD LION OR SIMILAR DANCES REGULARLY WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR A GENERAL PERMISSION AND NOT HAVE TO OBTAIN APPROVAL ON EACH OCCASION.

THEREBY, THOSE WHOSE ACTIVITIES POSE NO LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS WOULD NOT BE INCONVENIENCED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE BILL, WHICH HE INTRODUCED FOR SECOND READING, REQUIRES ORGANISERS OF LION AND SIMILAR DANCES TO OBTAIN ADVANCE PERMISSION FOR PERFORMANCES FROM THE POLICE. PREVIOUSLY A LICENCE IS REQUIRED UNDER THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE.

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+IN THE ABSENCE OF CONTROL THERE IS A DANGER THAT UNRULY OR UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOUR MAY OCCUR, OR THAT THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC MAY BE OBSTRUCTED,+ MR DAVIES EXPLAINED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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NO INCREASE IN DOMESTIC FLATS KEPT VACANT
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THERE IS NO INDICATION OF ANY SIGNIFICANT RISE IN THE NUMBER OF DOMESTIC FLATS BEING KEPT VACANT, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE LEVEL OF VACANCIES AT THE END OF 1979 AT 3.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL IS ABOUT THE SAME IN PERCENTAGE TERM AS IN 1973 AND SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN 1974, AND CERTAINLY A FAR CRY FROM THE MID-SIXTIES WHEN OVER 19 000 FLATS OR NEARLY 9 PER CENT OF THE THEN TOTAL STOCK REMAINED VACANT FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD, HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRY HU.

HE SAID THE SITUATION WAS BEING KEPT UNDER REVIEW THROUGH THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION'S PROPERTY SURVEYS AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

ACCORDING TO THE 1980 PROPERTY REVIEW, DOMESTIC VACANCIES AT THE END OF 1979 IN RESPECT OF NEW PREMISES COMPLETED DURING THAT YEAR TOTALLED 11 200 UNITS, OR JUST OVER 40 PER CENT OF THE NUMBER BUILT.

A MID-YEAR REVIEW IN JUNE 1980 SHOWED THAT OF THE 27 565 UNITS COMPLETED IN THE PRECEDING TWELVE MONTHS 11 405 OR 41.3 PER CENT WERE VACANT, SHOWING A MARGINAL INCREASE.

ENQUIRIES INDICATED THAT A LARGE PROPORTION OF THESE HAD BEEN VACANT FOR A LONGER PERIOD AND THAT THE MAJORITY OF THESE UNITS WERE IN THE HANDS OF INDIVIDUAL OWNERS.

MR LIAO POINTED OUT THAT THE REASONS FOR PREMISES BEING KEPT VACANT WERE VARIOUS, AND THE POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE RULED OUT THAT SOME WERE BEING HOARDED FOR SPECULATIVE REASONS.

IN OTHER CASES OWNERS MAY BE RELUCTANT TO LET OUT THEIR PROPERTY AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT THAT RENT CONTROL LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE ON SUCH LETTINGS IN THE FUTURE.

HOWEVER SINCE 1974 FULL RATES HAVE BEEN LEVIED ON ALL DOMESTIC PREMISES, WHETHER OCCUPIED OR NOT, THREE MONTHS AFTER THE ISSUE OF AN OCCUPATION PERMIT. +THIS IS INTENDED TO DISCOURAGE OWNERS FROM KEEPING PREMISES VACANT,+ MR LIAO SAID.

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PREPARATIONS FOR COMING URBCO ELECTION

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THE RETURNING OFFICER APPOINTED FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL SHORTLY ANNOUNCE A DAY IN MARCH THIS YEAR FOR THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION AND WILL RECEIVE NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JACK CATER IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SIR JACK EXPLAINED THAT IF THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WERE TO BE IMPLEMENTED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE SIX URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED IN MARCH SHOULD COMPLETE THEIR TERM OF OFFICE IN TWO AND NOT FOUR YEARS' TIME AS PREVIOUSLY UNDER THE LAW.

THE BILL IS INTRODUCED SO AS TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WHO MAY WISH TO RUN FOR THE COMING ELECTION, AND THE PUBLIC, KNOW CLEARLY THAT THE ELECTION IS FOR A TERM OF OFFICE OF TWO YEARS.

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MANY MORE JOIN SCHOOL MEDICAL SCHEME

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THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME, WHICH IS SCHOOL-BASED, VOLUNTARY AND CONTRIBUTORY, HAS RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ENROLMENT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

DR THONG SAID THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 40 000 PUPILS IN ENROLMENT OR 30 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING PUPILS TO ABOUT 200 000.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE AIM OF THE SCHEME, WHICH IS HEAVILY SUBSIDISED BY THE GOVERNMENT, IS TO PROVIDE ECONOMICAL MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR PUPILS FROM PRIMARY 1 TO FORM 3 IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT POLICY OF FREE EDUCATION.

UNDER THE SCHEME, HE SAID, A PUPIL IS REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE ONLY \$5 A YEAR WHILE THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION IS \$30 PER PUPIL PER YEAR.

DR THONG ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO \$50 FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

THE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE SCHEME ARE FOR A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEME ON APPLICATION TO THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD, WHICH IS AN INDEPENDENT STATUTORY BODY.

/THE DOCTOR

THE DOCTOR IS REQUIRED DURING NORMAL CONSULTATION HOURS TO ATTEND IN HIS OFFICE TO THE PUPILS ALLOTTED TO HIM FROM ONE OR MORE SCHOOLS.

DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PARTICULAR CASE, THE DOCTOR MAY ISSUE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CERTAIN DRUGS WHICH ARE DISPENSED AT THE PHARMACIES, THE COST OF WHICH IS TO BE BORNE BY THE PATIENT.

DR THONG POINTED OUT THAT THE SCHEME HAD BEEN QUITE POPULAR, AS COULD BE SEEN BY THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING PUPILS, WHICH HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

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AMPLE TIME TO PREPARE FOR TAX PAYMENT
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IT IS NOT CORRECT TO SAY THAT THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF SALARIES TAX IS USUALLY DUE AT OR AROUND LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR PHILIP SAID THE SCHEDULE OF DUE DATES FOR FIRST INSTALMENTS SPANS A NINE-WEEK PERIOD, BEGINNING THIS YEAR ON JANUARY 5 AND ENDING ON MARCH 6.

THE FIRST INSTALMENT IS MADE UP OF THE BALANCE OWING FROM THE FINAL ASSESSMENT ON EARNINGS IN THE PRECEDING YEAR AND 75 PER CENT ONLY OF THE CURRENT YEAR'S PROVISIONAL TAX, HE SAID.

THIS IS EFFECTIVELY A PAYMENT IN ARREARS FOR INCOME EARNED IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS UP TO DECEMBER AND TAKES NO ACCOUNT OF ADDITIONAL EARNINGS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR.

AND, OF COURSE, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS EXIST IN THE FORM OF TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES FOR INDIVIDUALS TO SAVE FOR EVENTUAL PAYMENT OF TAX, SIR PHILIP SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN, SIR PHILIP SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CONSIDER ADJUSTING THE PERSONAL ALLOWANCE FOR SALARIES TAX TO KEEP PACE WITH CIVIL SERVICE PAY INCREASES AT THE LOWER END OF THE MASTER PAY SCALE.

SUCH AN APPROACH TO ANY REVISION OF THE THRESHOLDS FOR PERSONAL TAXATION AND EFFECTIVE RATES OF TAX WOULD BE ILLOGICAL, NOT TO SAY, NARROW-MINDED, HE SAID.

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IMMIGRANTS ADD TO LABOUR SUPPLY

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IMMIGRATION IS THE MAJOR FACTOR WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR THE VERY RAPID GROWTH RATE OF THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, SIR PHILIP SAID THE IMMIGRANTS, THROUGH COMPETING FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND SLOWING DOWN THE RATE OF INCREASE IN WAGES, INDIRECTLY FORCED RELATIVELY MORE PEOPLE, SUCH AS HOUSEWIVES, INTO THE LABOUR FORCE.

HE SAID HONG KONG'S LABOUR FORCE HAD GROWN BY 8.3 PER CENT DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1980. THIS IS THREE TO FOUR TIMES THE TREND GROWTH RATE OF THE LABOUR FORCE DURING THE PREVIOUS EIGHT YEARS.

THE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE IN SEPTEMBER 1980 WAS 63.8 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 62.4 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1979.

+SO, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A STRONG GROWTH RATE OF DEMAND FOR LABOUR, IT WAS NOT RAPID ENOUGH TO ABSORB COMPLETELY THIS ADDITIONAL SUPPLY,+ HE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH THE GROWTH RATE OF THE EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE WAS AS HIGH AS 7.2 PER CENT DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1980, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASED FROM 3.4 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1979 TO 4.3 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1980 (FROM 2.8 PER CENT TO 3.8 PER CENT ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS).+

+AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND,+ SIR PHILIP SAID, +ANY POSITIVE ATTEMPT 'TO EASE THE SITUATION OF THE UNEMPLOYED' MUST BE DIRECTED AT FURTHER REDUCING THE FLOW OF IMMIGRANTS.+

BUT, HE ADDED, SHOULD THE ECONOMY'S GROWTH RATE DECLINE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD (AND A DECLINE IN THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IS ALREADY UNDER WAY), +THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MAY RISE FURTHER TEMPORARILY UNTIL THE COST/PRICE STRUCTURE ADJUSTS DOWNWARDS AND OUR COMPETITIVENESS IS RESTORED TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO RESTORE A STATE OF FULL EMPLOYMENT, WHICH STATE I WOULD DEFINE AS ONE WHERE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS AROUND 4 PER CENT OR LESS.+

AS REGARDS THE UNEMPLOYED THEMSELVES, SIR PHILIP SAID THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT PROVIDES A FREE EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT SERVICE TO PERSONS WISHING TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT LOCALLY.

THE FACSIMILE SYSTEM INSTALLED IN AUGUST 1978 HAS HELPED TO SPEED UP DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON JOB VACANCIES AND HAS IMPROVED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OPERATION OF THE LES.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO ANY PERSON UNDER 17 OR OVER 59 YEARS OF AGE WHO HAS BEEN RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR ONE YEAR IF THE TOTAL INCOME OF HIS FAMILY (I.E. THE FAMILY WHICH SITS ROUND THE MEAL TABLE) FALLS BELOW THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LEVEL, (WHICH WAS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1980).

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IN THE CASE OF AN ABLE-BODIED UNEMPLOYED PERSON BETWEEN 15 AND 59 YEARS OF AGE THERE IS A RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT OF TWO YEARS BEFORE HE BECOMES ELIGIBLE AS AN UNEMPLOYED PERSON FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND IT IS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE LES FOR A MONTH AND NOT YET IN GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT.

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DEPARTURES OF TRANSIT VISITORS FROM CHINA
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OF THE 17 390 HOLDERS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PASSPORTS WHO ENTERED HONG KONG IN TRANSIT TO THIRD COUNTRIES IN 1980, ABOUT 70 PER CENT (8 000 OUT OF 12 403) OF THOSE WHO ENTERED BEFORE, AND 90 PER CENT (4 500 OUT OF 4 987) OF THOSE WHO ENTERED FROM OCTOBER 23 HAVE SINCE DEPARTED.

THESE FIGURES WERE GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON F.K. HU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ON THE POLICY GOVERNING THE GRANT OF EXTENSIONS OF STAY, MR DAVIES SAID PRIOR TO OCTOBER LAST YEAR, CHINESE PASSPORT HOLDERS WERE USUALLY LANDED INITIALLY FOR THREE MONTHS AND WERE GIVEN FURTHER THREE-MONTH EXTENSIONS ON APPLICATION.

+HOWEVER, IT THEN CAME TO NOTICE THAT SOME TRANSITEES HAD OVERSTAYED AFTER BEING GIVEN A NUMBER OF EXTENSIONS OF STAY AND HAD NO INTENTION OF CONTINUING THEIR JOURNEY TO THEIR COUNTRY OF DESTINATION.

+INDEED, SOME HAD POSED AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO HAD 'REACHED BASE' AND OBTAINED HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS,+ MR DAVIES SAID.

HE SAID A CHANGE IN THE PRACTICE OF GRANTING EXTENSIONS BECAME NECESSARY AND URGENT AND SINCE OCTOBER 10, 1980 CHINESE PASSPORT HOLDERS WHO SATISFY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION AS TO THEIR GENUINE INTENTION TO CONTINUE THEIR ONWARD JOURNEY ARE PERMITTED TO TRANSIT FOR 48 HOURS INITIALLY AND ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE AN UNDERTAKING TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WILL MOVE ON AT THE EXPIRY OF STAY.

UPON REQUEST AND WHERE IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT, DESPITE THEIR INTENTION TO PROCEED OVERSEAS, URGENT FAMILY OR PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE PREVENTED THEIR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE, EXTENSIONS OF STAY FOR SEVEN DAYS AT A TIME ARE GRANTED.

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GOVERNMENT HELPS IN SEARCH FOR NEW FISH GROUNDS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSIST IN-SHORE FISHERMEN WHO WISH TO CONVERT TO OFF-SHORE OR DEEP-SEA FISHING, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL FISHING INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY DEEP-SEA FISHING WHICH PROVIDES SOME 70 PER CENT OF TOTAL FISH LANDINGS, HAD ALWAYS BEEN A MATTER OF PRIME CONCERN FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

THE ASSISTANCE ALREADY BEING GIVEN IS, IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION, BEING STEPPED UP.

THIS INCLUDES:

- * LOW-INTEREST LOANS TO BUILD NEW BOATS, CONVERT OLD BOATS, BUY NEW EQUIPMENT AND TO PROVIDE WORKING CAPITAL. LOAN PROCEDURES ARE BEING SIMPLIFIED AND REPAYMENT TERMS HAVE BEEN EASED=
- * COURSES IN NAVIGATION, ENGINEERING AND USE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT. THESE WILL BE EXPANDED TO MEET INCREASED DEMAND=
- * IMPROVED DESIGNS FOR VESSELS AND GEAR SUPPLIED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT SERVICE=
- * RESEARCH ACTIVITIES TO IDENTIFY NEW RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY BOTTOM LIVING FISH STOCKS IN PREVIOUSLY UNEXPLOITED AREAS AND MID-WATER OR SURFACE FISH STOCKS. A PROGRAMME IS BEING DRAWN UP FOR THE NEWLY ACQUIRED MODERN RESEARCH VESSEL.

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EVERY ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TREE PLANTING

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IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROMOTE THE PLANTING OF TREES BY ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING SCHOOL CHILDREN, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS ONLY TOO WILLING TO HELP SCHOOLS TO PLANT TREES IN ANY SUITABLE AREA ON THEIR PREMISES, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE ENCOURAGED TO DIG UP THEIR CONCRETE PLAYGROUNDS WHICH ARE REQUIRED FOR ASSEMBLIES AND GAMES.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT RESPONDS WITH ENTHUSIASM TO ALL REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE IN TREE PLANTING AND PROVIDES, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, YOUNG TREES FREE OF CHARGE, MR JONES SAID.

/SINCE APRIL

SINCE APRIL 1980, THE DEPARTMENT HAS RESPONDED TO SIX REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN THE PLANTING OF 665 TREES IN THEIR GROUNDS.

THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS ALSO WILLING TO UNDERTAKE A SURVEY OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS TO FIND OUT THE SCOPE FOR TREE PLANTING IF THIS IS REQUIRED, MR JONES ADDED.

IN OTHER PLACES, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS UNDERTAKING A WIDESPREAD PROGRAMME OF TREE PLANTING IN SUITABLE AREAS WITHIN COUNTRY PARKS. THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CARRYING OUT EXTENSIVE TREE PLANTING WITHIN THE NEW TOWNS AND ON THEIR FRINGES.

IN 1980 20 000 TREES WERE PLANTED IN TUEN MUN ALONE AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT IN 1981 AS MANY AS 300 000 TREES WILL BE PLANTED AS PART OF THE LANDSCAPING PROGRAMMES FOR THE NEW TOWNS.

WITHIN THE URBAN AREA, THE USD PLANS FROM 1981 ONWARDS TO ADOPT MAY OF EACH YEAR AS +TREE PLANTING MONTH+.

THIS YEAR IT HOPES TO PLANT AT LEAST 16 000 TREES AND IN FUTURE YEARS IT PLANS TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS, PROPERTY COMPANIES, WELFARE AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO JOIN WITH IT IN SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMME.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AIMED AT ENCOURAGING TREE PLANTING INCLUDE THE SCHOOL FORESTRY WORK CAMPS AND RESIDENTIAL TRAINING CAMP FOR STUDENT LEADERS OF SCHOOL CONSERVANCY CLUBS.

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FAIRER TO HAVE NO LABOUR LAW WAGE CEILING

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THE WAGE CEILING FOR NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE SHOULD BE REMOVED WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE, THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN SAID IN COMMENT ON THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 WHICH WAS PASSED TODAY.

HE SAID THE REMOVAL WAS NOT MEANT SO MUCH FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE, BUT FOR EQUITY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW TO ALL EMPLOYEES.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL WHICH SOUGHT TO RAISE THE PRESENT WAGE CEILING FOR NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES FROM \$3 500 TO \$6 000, MR CHAN NOTED THAT +IN ECONOMICS, A PERSON WHO SELLS HIS TIME TO RENDER ANY VALUABLE SERVICE IN THE PRODUCTION OF WEALTH BUT WITHOUT ASSUMING ANY RISK IN THE PROVISION OF CAPITAL, IS CONSIDERED AN EMPLOYEE.+

+WITH THE INCREASED AFFLUENCE OF OUR SOCIETY BUILT ON DIVERSED BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, THE PAY DISPARITY BETWEEN BLUE AND WHITE COLLAR CLASSES IS FAST DISAPPEARING AS THEY BOTH CONTRIBUTE EQUALLY TO OUR PRESENT PROSPERITY.

/+WITH IMPROVED

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+WITH IMPROVED EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY, THE RATIO OF USING ONE'S BRAIN OR HANDS IN ONE'S WORK IS RAPIDLY CHANGING AND THE DEMARCATION BETWEEN MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES IS BECOMING BLURRED,+ HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE AMENDMENT BILL WAS A TIMELY ONE IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF HONG KONG AND THE PROPOSED CEILING AT \$6 000 PER MONTH APPROPRIATELY REFLECTED THE PAY RANGE FOR THE SUB-MANAGERIAL OR SUPERVISORY LEVEL.

HE SAID AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THIS CEILING WAS NECESSARY, +ESPECIALLY IN THESE DAYS OF DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION+.

MEANWHILE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, NOW PASSED, RAISES THE WAGE CEILING FOR NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE FROM \$3 500 TO \$6 000 A MONTH.

HE REITERATED THAT THE WAGE CEILING WAS REVISED TO KEEP IT IN LINE WITH RISES IN WAGES AND WITH INCREASES IN THE COST OF LIVING.

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TIME TO REGISTER FURTHER TAXIS
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THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING UP TO 10 000 URBAN TAXIS HAS BEEN EXTENDED BY SIX MONTHS TO JULY 31, 1981.

SEEKING THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THIS EXTENSION, THE SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAD ORDERED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES THAT COULD BE REGISTERED AND LICENSED AS URBAN TAXIS SHOULD BE SET AT 10 000, TO BE REACHED BY ISSUING BY TENDER 300 LICENCES EVERY THREE MONTHS.

AT PRESENT, 9 369 URBAN TAXI LICENCES HAVE BEEN ISSUED. THIS NUMBER WILL BE INCREASED BY 300 IN THE CURRENT TENDERING EXERCISE.

THE EXTENSION OF THE TIME LIMIT BY ANOTHER SIX MONTHS WILL ALLOW ANOTHER TENDERING EXERCISE TO TAKE PLACE IN MARCH AND APRIL THIS YEAR, MR JONES SAID.

THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING TO KEEP THE OPERATIONS OF THE TAXI TRADE UNDER CAREFUL REVIEW, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE ISSUE OF LICENCES AFTER THE PRESENT LIMIT HAD BEEN REACHED.

THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED ARE NOW BEING EXAMINED AND IT IS HOPED THAT PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HE SAID.

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MORE FACILITIES FOR DRIVERS IN SHA TIN

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BY 1985, THERE WILL BE 11 PETROL FILLING STATIONS IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALEX WU, WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT PETROL SUPPLY AND CAR-PARK FACILITIES WERE SUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT IN SHA TIN, IN VIEW OF THE RAPID INCREASE IN POPULATION THERE.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, SHA TIN HAS TWO PETROL FILLING STATIONS- SITES FOR TWO MORE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SOLD AND ONE MORE WILL BE SOLD IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

IN 1983 THERE WILL BE EIGHT OR NINE FILLING STATIONS OPEN FOR BUSINESS, AND 11 IN 1985.

FILLING STATIONS ARE PLANNED AT SUITABLE PLACES THROUGHOUT THE NEW TOWN INCLUDING ONE IN EACH MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AREA.

+I BELIEVE THIS TO BE BOTH ACCEPTABLE AND SUFFICIENT,+
MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

AS FOR CAR-PARK FACILITIES, LAND -- BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL -- BEING SOLD IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDES PROVISION FOR PARKING SPACES.

PRIVATE CAR-PARKING IS ALSO PROVIDED IN ALL SHA TIN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

BY 1983/84 A FURTHER 1 700 PUBLIC CAR-PARKING SPACES WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE TOWN CENTRE, TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED MORE PUBLIC CAR-PARKING SPACES IN VARIOUS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATE DEVELOPMENTS, MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

AFTER 1983/84 THREE GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR-PARKS WILL, IN ADDITION, BE PROVIDED AT EACH OF THE THREE RAILWAY STATIONS OF TAI WAI, SHA TIN CENTRAL AND MA LIU SHUI.

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BILLS PASSED

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THREE BILLS PASSED THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY. THEY ARE THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 AND THE FOREIGN JUDGMENTS (RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1981

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ACTION AGAINST FIRE PRONE FACTORIES

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL ISSUE FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES TO 126 KWUN TONG FACTORIES FOR CAUSING OBSTRUCTION TO COMMON AREAS AND STAIRCASES.

IN ADDITION, 13 FACTORIES WILL BE SUMMONSED FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH FIRE SERVICES REGULATIONS.

THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THE FACTORIES IS THE RESULT OF AN INSPECTION OF FACTORY BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT TODAY BY OFFICERS OF THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU.

SOME 30 OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU, LED BY DIVISIONAL OFFICER KWAN SAI YIU, VISITED 1 256 UNITS IN 41 BUILDINGS.

DURING THE VISIT, OFFICERS ALSO DISCOVERED 45 OTHER CASES INVOLVING BREACHES OF LABOUR, PUBLIC WORKS AND URBAN SERVICES REGULATIONS. THESE WILL BE REFERRED TO THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ADVISED FACTORY OWNERS THAT IF THE ABATEMENT NOTICES ARE IGNORED THEY MAY BE ISSUED SUMMONSES.

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TIMETABLE FOR STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES WISHES TO ADVISE THAT, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL, THE PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR BRINGING THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION ORDINANCE INTO EFFECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

* DATE OF NOTICE IN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE	JANUARY 30, 1981
* COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE ORDINANCE	FEBRUARY 1, 1981
* DATE OF NOTICE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 25, SPECIFYING +APPROVED ASSETS+ AND +RANKING LIABILITIES+	JANUARY 30, 1981

THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT ONLY MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF AN EXISTING EXCHANGE ON THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE ORDINANCE WILL BE SENT AN INVITATION TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP (OR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP) OF THE NEW EXCHANGE COMPANY.

THERE CAN BE NO GUARANTEE THAT ANY APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A DEALER CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES WILL BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT DATE, AND IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT ANY APPLICATION LODGED AFTER 5 PM ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 WILL BE PROCESSED IN TIME FOR THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE ORDINANCE.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1981

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GOVERNOR TO INSPECT PRISONS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL PARADE
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE WILL INSPECT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL PARADE ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 23) AT THE PARADE GROUND OF ITS STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

SIR MURRAY WILL ALSO PRESENT COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDALS, WHICH ARE AWARDED FOR 18 YEARS' EXEMPLARY SERVICE, TO 29 OFFICERS.

SEVEN CONTINGENTS COMPRISING 205 OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE PART IN THE PARADE TO BE COMMANDED BY SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS, MR JOHN ASHWORTH.

THE PIPES AND DRUMS BAND OF CAPE COLLINSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION WILL PROVIDE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE CEREMONY.

THE PARADE IS ONE OF THE MAJOR ANNUAL EVENTS OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL PARADE WHICH WILL BE INSPECTED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE AT 4 PM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 23) AT THE PARADE GROUND OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 2.45 PM SHARP.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS
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A 300 METRE DOWNHILL SECTION OF STUBBS ROAD FROM THE ROUNDABOUT WITH TAI HANG ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM HALF-PAST MIDNIGHT TO 5.30 AM ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY THIS AND NEXT WEEK (JANUARY 23-24, 30-31).

THIS TUESDAY TO THURSDAY (JANUARY 27-29), THE SECTION OF TAI HANG ROAD BETWEEN THE ROUNDABOUT AND BLUE POOL ROAD WILL ALSO BE CLOSED DURING THE SAME HOURS.

THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL FACILITATE WORK ON THE STUBBS ROAD FLYOVER.

IN MONG KOK, FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 26), THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE IN DUNDAS STREET WILL BE EXTENDED EASTWARDS TO ITS JUNCTION WITH SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET.

WITHIN THE ZONE, PLB'S ARE NOT ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

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