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| <i>Press November 2, 1995</i> |   |
| <b>Headline :</b>             | <i>Views on Environmental Impact Assessment Bill expressed</i>  |
| <b>Content :</b>              | <p>The following is issued on behalf of the Housing Authority:</p> <p>The Housing Authority's Development Committee today (Thursday) noted the proposals made in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Bill and their potential impact on public housing development.</p> <p>"Under the draft Bill, developers of all designated projects, which include nearly all public housing sites, are required to submit an application to proceed with an EIA," a spokesman for the Authority said.</p> <p>"Members were of the view that the spirit behind the legislation should be supported, taking into account the increasing need for public participation and the awareness of the need for a good environment but its implications on the development of housing sites should be minimised," he said.</p> <p>"They were told that the Housing Department had on one hand explored the chances for exclusion from the Bill to avoid lengthening the lead time for public housing development.</p> <p>"On the other hand, suggestions were also made to ensure public housing developments are in compliance with the legislative requirements," he said.</p> <p>"These include the use of previous EIA as a reference to exclude a project from further impact study, the granting of exemption to a project which has been approved by the Government under another relevant Ordinance and which will commence within six months.</p> <p>"Another possibility is the inclusion of more specific requirements in the Technical Memorandum, an important component of the Bill, for housing developments," he explained.</p> <p>The Department's views will be sent to the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands who will separately arrange briefings for members on details of the Bill.</p> <p>End/Thursday, November 2, 1995<br/>NNNN</p> |