



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of Chief Secretary's media session

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The following is a transcript of what the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said to the media at the airport on her return from Europe today (Saturday):

Chief Secretary: Hello everyone, very good to see you. I've just paid a week-long visit to Brussels, the Hague and Bonn, met with the Belgian and Dutch Prime Ministers, had very useful discussions with them and also with the president, the vice-president of the European Commission. I've also met with members of the European Parliament and with various business leaders.

I was very encouraged by the degree of interest that all these people showed in Hong Kong. They all have a very clear appreciation of what we are attempting to do in Hong Kong to prepare for a smooth transition. They expressed great interest in Hong Kong both now and after 1997. But also at the same time made it very clear that they were concerned that our current systems, our business environment and our way of life and, in particular, the rule of law can all be maintained after 1997. So in the context of my discussions we discussed where we currently stood on the Court of Final Appeal on which there is a great deal of interest and understandably so from our trading partners and business leaders and I expressed the hope that we would soon reach an agreement with the Chinese on the Court of Final Appeal going forward to enable us to get the necessary legislation enacted.

I also took the opportunity to express the hope that after 1997, our European countries might see it fit to continue to grant visa-free travel to Hong Kong people because it is extremely important in terms of facilitating trade and facilitating tourism. There was also interest in other transitional issues. So on the whole very useful series of discussions and I'm very much encouraged by the response that I've received from all whom I came to contact with.

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

Police Management Review completed

The Government today (Saturday) announced that it had completed its consideration of all of the reports compiled under the Police Management Review and had reached a view on how to take the reports forward.

"The Police Management Review, which began in 1992 and finished in 1994, is the most comprehensive management review of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force (RHKPF) that has ever been undertaken by the Government," a Government spokesman said.

"The Review included a Top Command Structure Review, conducted by consultants, Coopers and Lybrand, which examined the task and staff-related responsibilities of all Directorate Police Officer posts, and a Manning Scale Review, which was conducted by a dedicated Police Study Team (PST) with the assistance of the consultants, to examine the manpower requirements of each and every formation of the Police Force," the spokesman added.

The progress of review was monitored by Security Branch, Finance Branch and Civil Service Branch.

The main objective of the Review is to identify the most appropriate management, command structure and manning levels to lead the RHKPF into the future.

Measures to improve efficiency, such as the scope for further civilianisation and greater use of technology, were also addressed.

The majority of the recommendations made in the Top Command Structure Review were accepted and implemented by the Force.

The Government last year provided \$145 million to implement 10 of the PST reports in 1995-96. This allows the Police to deploy an additional 400 policemen on the streets and to provide some additional 80 officers to tackle organised and drug-related crimes.

"The concerns expressed by the community and members of the Legislative Council were taken into account when priority was given to implement these reports," the spokesman said.

The net resource requirement for implementing the remaining 32 reports is in the region of \$374.6 million. The precise cost and the time frame for implementing the recommendations of these reports will be further examined by the Administration.

Members of the Legislative Council Panel on Security will be briefed on the Review at its meeting scheduled for May 8.

With the exception of the PST report on the Security Wing, a copy of all the 41 review reports and the Top Command Structure Review report have been passed to the Panel.

"The Security Wing report cannot be released to Legislative Council Members on security grounds because it contains sensitive information on the security of Hong Kong," the spokesman explained.

"Hong Kong is one of the safest cities in the world. We have a lower crime rate than those of many other big cities around the world. Implementation of the findings of the Review will certainly help to enhance the capability of the RHKPF in the fight against crime," the spokesman said.

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

Eligible electors of old FCs urged to register early

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The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) today (Saturday) urges all qualified persons of companies and organisations in the old functional constituencies (FCs) to return voter registration forms as soon as possible.

An REO spokesman said this would enable the office to process such applications early, to meet this year's voter registration deadline on June 1.

Under the new franchise of these FCs, former corporate electors have been replaced by individual electors of the respective organisations. They include company directors, sole proprietors, partners, management and executive committee members and trade union officers.

The right to register as electors is given to a maximum of four officers in respect of each eligible trade union, and six relevant persons in respect of each eligible organisation other than a trade union.

The REO has written to the relevant corporations in these old functional constituencies to obtain the list of these persons.

Based on the information so obtained, the REO has issued letters to these persons inviting them to register in their respective functional constituency.

The spokesman said applications received from eligible persons before May 2 would be processed.

If such applications exceed the maximum number allowed for registration, the REO will determine which applications should be accepted for registration by the drawing of lots.

In respect of those trade unions and corporations the maximum number of which has not been exceeded, all eligible applicants will be registered.

He said an unsuccessful applicant would be informed of the result of the draw.

He would be invited to apply, if eligible, by virtue of being an eligible person in another trade union or company, partnership, organisation or body, for registration as an elector in such organisation, subject to there being a vacancy available.

If the number of applications received during the period from May 2 to June 1 is less than the number of vacancies available in the entity concerned, the eligible applicants will be registered.

If it exceeds the number, the REO will determine which eligible applications should be accepted by drawing of lots shortly after June 1.

The spokesman said they may call an REO hotline 2827 9175 for enquiries or to obtain registration form.

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

Judiciary more open and transparent: CJ

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The traditional reticence of the Judiciary is a thing of the past, the Chief Justice, Sir Ti Liang Yang, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the ceremony for the admission of Queen's Counsel this morning, the Chief Justice said: "We are now much more open and much more transparent; we no longer shy away from explaining to the public what we do, what our problems are, and what we hope to achieve."

At a time when the standard of the Bar is being reviewed within the profession, and several aspects of legal services are being debated within the community, Sir Ti Liang suggested "it is both the right and the duty of the senior Bar to examine these issues".

"The legal professions have to march with the times, make themselves more accessible to the common man, and remove some of the myths long held by members of the public," he said.

"The kind of questions which may be asked could be: Is the operation of our legal system too expensive? Is the time it takes to resolve legal problems unacceptably long? Is the law hampered rather than assisted by too many technical rules? Has the whole system become rather too cumbersome?"

Noting that these great issues cried out for study and somehow a balance had to be struck, the Chief Justice said it was encouraging that some of these questions at least were being addressed.

He said the courts placed much importance on pre-trial reviews, skeleton arguments, case management and listing, all designed to shorten waiting times and/or hearing times, as well as to enhance judicial efficiency.

"We encourage the use of Chinese in the Magistrates' courts and the Tribunals, and are actively pursuing the possibility of giving people a choice of using Chinese or English in the higher courts, so as to make our proceedings more easily understood by the layman," Sir Ti Liang said.

"In the final analysis, we the judges and magistrates need the co-operation of the legal professions and the Administration, thus the phrase I have coined recently: 'tripartite co-operation'."

The Chief Justice concluded: "Whatever the occasional criticisms, there was a large measure of public support for the basic principles of our system. The very idea of the rule of law, the independence of the Judiciary, the open trial, the independence of the legal professions, the jury all these are accepted as worth preserving."

Today's ceremony was to mark the appointment of Mr Patrick Fung Pak-tung, Mr Peter Van Tu Nguyen, Mr John Bleach, Mr William Stone, Mr Benjamin Yu and Mr Peter Garland as Queen's Counsel.

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

Director of Fire Services visits Beijing

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The Director of Fire Services, Mr Lam Chek-yuen, and three senior fire officers left Hong Kong this (Saturday) afternoon on an eight-day familiarisation visit to fire brigades in Beijing and Xian.

During their stay, they will exchange views and experiences on matters of mutual interest with senior counterparts in the Public Security Ministry.

Their itinerary will also include tours of the Beijing City Fire Brigade Command Centre, a Beijing hotel to see its fire prevention work, a fire research institute in Tianjin and the Xian Fire Brigade.

The Hong Kong delegation will return on May 6 from Xian.

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

Fund-raising schedule for May

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Ten organisations have been granted permission to raise funds next month, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Saturday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or put donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the department's hotline 2343 2255 or the Hong Kong Council of Social Service on 2866 8123 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money, sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from the Social Welfare Department.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added.

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
May 6	Breakthrough Ltd.
May 13	Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council
May 20	Society for the Relief of Disabled Children (Duchess of Kent Hospital)
May 27	The Salvation Army

Public Subscription

<u>Event Day</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
May 5 to 7	Morris Cerullo World Evangelism Ltd.
May 6 & 7	The Hong Kong Cancer Fund
May 6 & 7	Project Hope Return to School Sponsorship Ltd.
May 7, 14, 21 & 28	Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd.
May 13 & 14	Hong Kong Kidney Foundation Ltd.
May 13 & 27	Land of Virtue Centre Ltd.

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

Latest issue of public transport guide on sale

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The latest edition of the "Public Transport in Hong Kong - A Guide to Services 1994/5" will be available in both Chinese and English from Monday (May 1).

It will be on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, at \$40 a copy.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said today (Saturday) the guide provided detailed information on public transport services in Hong Kong and generally indicated the position of the public transport network in August last year.

He said services of taxis and red public light buses were not covered in the guide because they did not operate on fixed routes and schedules. However, a table on urban, New Territories and Lantau taxi fares was included.

"The network of these services of course need to be expanded and modified from time to time so as to meet changing demand. Therefore a list of enquiry hotlines of major public transport operators is provided in the guide to enable commuters to directly obtain the latest information," the spokesman said.

The latest issue of the guide is the 12th edition of the series since 1983.

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

A new alternative for youths in Hong Kong

An exciting new place for entertainment and education is now opened to youngsters of Hong Kong, thanks to the organising committee of the Warehouse Project who resurrected a dilapidated building for their benefit.

Speaking at the opening of the Warehouse, formerly the old Aberdeen Police Station, Mrs Patten said she was pleased to see the fine historical building restoring to its former glory and she described it as a 'splendid achievement'.

"In the busy and sometimes dangerous streets of Hong Kong, it provides a safe refuge for teenagers from different backgrounds to mingle, to learn from each other, to work together and to relax together," she said.

Mrs Patten also praised the committee's vision and determination in carrying out the Project.

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

Strengthened bus services on Nathan Road Corridor

Bus services along Nathan Road Corridor southbound will be strengthened in the coming months with a view to provide relief to the expected increase of MTR passenger demand.

From May 15 to October 31, Kowloon Motor Bus will reduce the section fare from \$4.8 to \$3.5 on Routes 230X, 234X, 235X, 238X, 242X, 244X, 252B, 257B, 258B, 258C, 259B, 259C, 260B, 261B, 267S and 268B from Mei Foo to Tsim Sha Tsui.

This is to encourage passengers to ride air-conditioned buses. The discount fares will apply to commuters travelling on these routes before 9.30 am.

Furthermore, the services of KMB Routes 1, 13X, 28 and 69X to Tsim Sha Tsui and Cross Harbour Routes 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 109, 113, 114 and 116 will be improved during the period between May and September.

Additionally, a number of residents' services will be introduced in the next few months to provide direct coach services from the New Territories to Tsim Sha Tsui and Central.

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

Fresh water cuts in Tuen Mun and Tsz Wan Shan

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In order to facilitate water mains connection, fresh water supply to some premises in Tuen Mun and Tsz Wan Shan will be suspended from 10 pm on Monday (May 1) to 6 am the following day and from 11 pm on Tuesday (May 2) to 6 am the next day respectively.

The suspension will affect all the premises bounded by Lung Mun Road, Tuen Tsing Lane, Wu Shan Road and the waterfront in Tuen Mun, including the LRT depot, Sun Tuen Mun Centre, Siu Shan Court, Butterfly Estate, Wu King Estate, Siu Hei Court, Marina Garden, Miami Beach Towers, Pierhead Garden, Richland Garden, Melody Garden, Yuet Wu Villa, San Wah Cold Storage, the Tuen Mun Riding School and Butterfly Beach.

In Tsz Wan Shan, the affected areas will include Tsz Oi Estate, Tsz Ching Estate, Tsz Man Estate, Tsz On Estate, Tsz Lok Estate, Wan Wah Street, Wai Wah Street, Hong Wah Street, Yuk Wah Street, Yuk Wah Crescent, Lok Wah Street, Tate's Cairn Tunnel, Shung Wah Street, Fung Shing Street, Hilltop Gardens, King Lai Court, Nam Shan Mei Village, Sheung Fung Street, 171-199 Po King Village Road as well as those bounded by Yuk Wah Street, Po Kong Village Road, Po Ming Lane and Po Leung Lane.

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End/Saturday, April 29, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Time (Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Change (\$ Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	3,186	09:30	-275
Closing Balance in the account	2,166	10:00	-275
Change Attributable to:		11:00	-275
Money Market Activity	-275	11:30	-275
Laf Today	-745	15:00	

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 118.6 **+0.2* 29.4.95

End/Saturday, April 29, 1995