



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1985

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LIVESTOCK CURBS IN WASTE CONTROL PLAN  
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PLANS TO RESTRICT LIVESTOCK KEEPING THROUGHOUT HONG KONG AS A MEANS TO CONTROL THE PROBLEM OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY ANIMAL WASTE, WERE OUTLINED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS.

SPEAKING AT A Y'S MEN'S CLUB OF HONG KONG MEETING, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT CONSULTATIONS ON THE NEW PROPOSALS WERE ABOUT TO START, AND EXPLANATIONS WOULD BE GIVEN TO LIVESTOCK KEEPERS AND TO DISTRICT BOARDS AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE INTENTION WAS TO PHASE IN THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS.

HE SAID THAT A COMPLETE BAN ON LIVESTOCK KEEPING THROUGHOUT HONG KONG WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF CONTROLLING THE PROBLEM.

BUT HE ADDED: +THE AUTHORITARIAN NATURE OF SUCH A MEASURE MAY WELL APPEAL TO SOME, BUT COULD ALSO EXCITE ANTIPATHY ON OTHERS. A MIXTURE OF BANNING IN SOME AREAS AND TIGHTER CONTROLS IN OTHERS THEREFORE SEEMS TO US TO BE A SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE WHICH IS MORE LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE.

+IN SOME AREAS, THEREFORE WE ARE PROPOSING THAT LIVESTOCK KEEPING SHOULD BE BANNED COMPLETELY. BROADLY SPEAKING, THE BANNED AREAS WOULD BE THOSE WHERE THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH ANIMAL FARMING.

+AREAS FALLING INTO THIS CATEGORY INCLUDE THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON, AND THE BUILT-UP AREAS OF THE NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. IN OTHER WORDS, IN THESE AREAS WE WOULD NOT ALLOW THE INSTALLATION OF WASTE TREATMENT PLANTS OR THE OPERATION OF MANURE COLLECTION SYSTEMS - EVEN IF THAT WERE PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE. IN MOST CASES IT IS NOT, ANYWAY. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE WOULD BE A CASE FOR LIVESTOCK KEEPERS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO COMPENSATE THEM FOR THE FACT THAT THEIR CHOSEN MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD HAD BEEN PROHIBITED.+

+IN OTHER AREAS WE ARE PROPOSING THAT PROPER CONTROLS ON THE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL WASTE SHOULD BE ENFORCED. IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTY OF ENFORCEMENT WHICH HAS HINDERED SATISFACTORY CONTROL THROUGH EXISTING MEASURES, OFFENCES WOULD BE CREATED SO THAT LIVESTOCK KEEPERS WHO WERE UNABLE TO SHOW THAT THEY POSSESSED A SUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED CONTAINERS OR WHO WERE UNABLE OTHERWISE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY WERE EQUIPPED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS, WOULD RENDER THEMSELVES LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.

+IT WOULD, OF COURSE, ALSO BE AN OFFENCE NOT TO USE THE CONTAINERS OR NOT TO TAKE THE PRESCRIBED PRECAUTIONS. LIQUID ANIMAL WASTES COULD CONTINUE TO BE DISCHARGED INTO STREAMS, WATERCOURSES OR SEWERS PROVIDED THAT SUCH WASTES HAD BEEN PROPERLY TREATED TO A PUBLISHED STANDARD, WHICH MAY VARY FROM AREA TO AREA. BY THE VERY NATURE OF HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND TOPOGRAPHY THESE CONTROLS WILL HAVE TO BE STRINGENT.+

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THAT MANY EXISTING KEEPERS OF PIGS AND CHICKENS MIGHT WELL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THE NEW REQUIREMENTS. THE INTENTION WAS TO GIVE THEM LENGTHY NOTICE OF THE STARTING DATE FOR ENFORCEMENT SO THAT THEY WOULD HAVE AMPLE TIME TO ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONTROLS OR TO SEEK ADVICE ON THEM OR EVEN TO PLAN ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES.

+WE ACKNOWLEDGE ALSO THAT MANY WILL CLAIM, WITH REASON, THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT IN THE 1950'S WHICH PROMOTED AND EVEN ASSISTED THE EXPANSION OF PIG-KEEPING, AND WE ACCEPT THAT THERE MAY BE A NEED TO OFFER SOME SORT OF COMPENSATION TO SUCH PEOPLE.

+BUT WE CANNOT CLOSE OUR EYES TO THE FACT THAT TIMES HAVE CHANGED - AND CONTINUE TO CHANGE - AND THE REASONS WHY IT MADE GOOD SENSE TO ENCOURAGE LIVESTOCK FARMING 30 YEARS AGO DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FORCE TODAY. GOOD ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FOOD SUPPLY ARE READILY AVAILABLE NOW AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. MOREOVER THE NEW TERRITORIES IS A VASTLY DIFFERENT PLACE FROM WHAT IT WAS WHEN I FIRST CAME TO HONG KONG IN THE 1950'S,+ HE SAID.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER  
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HONG KONG DOLLAR AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS CONTINUED TO GROW IN SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO MONETARY STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY. THE INCREASE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS CONTINUED TO BE MORE RAPID THAN HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS.

MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS INCREASED, WITH THE TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY INCREASING FASTER THAN THE CORRESPONDING HONG KONG DOLLAR COMPONENTS.

LOAN DEMAND STRENGTHENED marginally IN SEPTEMBER. LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG-KONG CONTINUED TO DECLINE, BUT OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG INCREASED FURTHER.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 0.1 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER, THE SAME AS IN AUGUST. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY A MODEST 0.6 PER CENT; OVER TWELVE MONTHS THE GROWTH RATE WAS 18.3 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW SLOWER, BY 1.9 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER HAVING INCREASED BY 3.2 PER CENT IN AUGUST. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW BY 9.7 PER CENT; OVER TWELVE MONTHS THE GROWTH RATE WAS 31.1 PER CENT.

/FOREIGN CURRENCY .....

FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS REVERSED THE RECENT FALL TO REGISTER AN INCREASE OF 1.5 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER, COMPARED WITH A DECLINE OF 4.9 PER CENT IN AUGUST. ADJUSTED FOR THESE DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 0.2 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER BUT FELL BY 0.1 PER CENT IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER; FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, ON THE OTHER HAND, GREW AT 1.9 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER AND 11.9 PER CENT IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER.

TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED AT 1.1 PER CENT AND 0.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SEPTEMBER. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN AUGUST WERE 1.8 PER CENT AND 1.2 PER CENT. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER, THE GROWTH OF TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS, AT 4.9 PER CENT, WAS LOWER THAN THAT WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AT 6.0 PER CENT; BUT OVER TWELVE MONTHS, THE GROWTH OF DEPOSITS WITH BANKS, AT 28.3 PER CENT, WAS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THAT WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, AT 10.7 PER CENT.

#### HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS GREW FURTHER. HK\$M1 (THE NARROWEST DEFINITION) ROSE BY 2.7 PER CENT, HK\$M2 BY 0.3 PER CENT AND HK\$M3 BY 0.4 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN AUGUST WERE 2.2 PER CENT, 0.8 PER CENT AND 0.6 PER CENT. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER, HK\$M1 GREW BY 7.1 PER CENT, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 BY THE SAME RATE, AT 1.7 PER CENT; OVER TWELVE MONTHS, THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES WERE 36.9 PER CENT, 25.2 AND 19.8 PER CENT.

AFTER ADJUSTING FOR SWAP DEPOSITS, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 GREW SLIGHTLY HIGHER, BY 0.4 PER CENT AND 0.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SEPTEMBER. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER, THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE 0.8 PER CENT AND 0.9 PER CENT.

#### TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS CONTINUED TO RISE IN SEPTEMBER. TOTAL M1 INCREASED BY A RAPID 3.5 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 BY 1.2 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 1.1 PER CENT. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN AUGUST WERE 2.8 PER CENT, 1.9 PER CENT AND 1.8 PER CENT. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER, TOTAL M1 GREW BY 7.8 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 BY 5.1 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 5.3 PER CENT; OVER TWELVE MONTHS, THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE 36.1 PER CENT, 28.3 PER CENT AND 24.9 PER CENT.

#### LOANS AND ADVANCES

LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED MODESTLY BY 0.2 PER CENT, FOLLOWING THE INCREASE OF 0.1 PER CENT IN AUGUST. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER THESE GREW BY 0.3 PER CENT AND OVER TWELVE MONTHS BY 5.3 PER CENT. LOANS DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLAR INCREASED BY 0.8 PER CENT, WHILE LOANS DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES FELL BY 0.3 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER, THE FORMER GREW BY 1.0 PER CENT WHILE THE LATTER FELL BY 0.5 PER CENT.

WITHIN THE TOTAL, LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG FELL BY 2.0 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER, FOLLOWING A FALL OF 0.7 PER CENT IN AUGUST. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER, THESE LOANS FELL BY 4.4 PER CENT AND OVER TWELVE MONTHS BY 7.5 PER CENT. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG, HOWEVER, GREW BY 1.1 PER CENT, FOLLOWING A 0.1 PER CENT INCREASE IN AUGUST. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER, THEY GREW BY 1.9 PER CENT AND OVER TWELVE MONTHS BY 8.4 PER CENT.

#### QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR

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DURING THE THIRD QUARTER, LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ROSE BY 3.4 PER CENT, AFTER A MODEST INCREASE OF 1.8 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

LOANS TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES FELL BY A MARGINAL 0.6 PER CENT, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 3.3 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

LOANS TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR FELL FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE QUARTER, BY 4.1 PER CENT, FOLLOWING A FALL OF 2.4 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

REFLECTING A SUSTAINED REVIVAL IN THE PROPERTY MARKET, LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME) CONTINUED TO RISE STRONGLY BY 7.2 PER CENT, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 6.5 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

#### LIQUIDITY RATIOS

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THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 18 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE) FOR ALL BANKS ROSE TO 50.5 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER FROM 49.1 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 24A OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE) FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE TO 41.5 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER FROM 40.5 PER CENT IN AUGUST.

#### NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

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THE NUMBERS OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS AND LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 141 AND 34 RESPECTIVELY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 1 TO 283.

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TRAVEL AGENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED  
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THE GOVERNOR HAS MADE APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAVEL AGENTS, WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE TRAVEL AGENTS ORDINANCE ENACTED IN AUGUST 1985.

THE COMMITTEE'S MAIN FUNCTIONS ARE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDINANCE AND ON ISSUES IT MAY CONSIDER TO BE IN THE INTEREST OF TRAVEL AGENTS AND PERSONS USING THE SERVICES OF TRAVEL AGENTS.

THE APPOINTMENTS ARE:

MR HAROLD T. WU

MR KONG HO-PAK

MR WILLIAM JAMES NEWPORT

MR MARTIN WONG

MRS PAMELA CHAN

MS MABEL TING

MR GEORGE CHAN WAI-HO

MR FRANKLIN SHAM TUNG-KEUNG

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR G.A. HIGGINSON, IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, REPRESENTING THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE IS INTENDED TO REFLECT A CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY, REPRESENTING THE TRAVEL AND TOURIST SERVICES, THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, AIRLINE AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS.

AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 6, 1985, MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS PROPOSALS ON DRAFT REGULATIONS SETTING OUT PROCEDURES FOR THE APPLICATION AND ISSUED OF LICENCES FOR TRAVEL AGENTS AND THE VARIOUS FEES TO BE PRESCRIBED UNDER THE TRAVEL AGENTS ORDINANCE BEFORE THESE PROPOSALS ARE RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

THE APPOINTMENTS ARE EFFECTIVE FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1985 FOR ONE YEAR. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE MAY BE EXPANDED IF THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE DESIRABLE IN THE INTERESTS OF STRENGTHENING THE ADVISORY ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE.

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SIR DAVID VISITS FACILITIES AT STANLEY

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, HAD A LOOK AT THE WORK OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT DURING A VISIT TO STANLEY PRISON AND THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE TODAY.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, HE WAS SHOWN AROUND THE PRISON'S CELLS, WORKSHOPS, CHAPEL, KITCHEN AND HOSPITAL.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT PRISONERS THERE HAD TO BE DETAINED IN MAXIMUM SECURITY CONDITIONS AND THERE WERE OVER 1 400 PRISONERS AT STANLEY.

SIR DAVID LEARNED THAT THE INMATES PREPARED THEIR OWN MEALS UNDER SUPERVISION BY CATERING INSTRUCTORS.

MOST OF THE PRISONERS ALSO WORKED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF TRADES INCLUDING SHOE-MAKING, TRAFFIC-SIGN MANUFACTURING, CARPENTRY AND GARMENT MAKING.

SIR DAVID THEN WENT TO THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY AND WAS BRIEFED ON THE BASIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR RECRUITS AND DEVELOPMENTAL COURSES FOR SERVING OFFICERS.

HE SAW OFFICERS UNDERGOING TRAINING IN CLASSROOMS, THE GYMNASIUM AND INDOOR SHOOTING RANGE. HE ALSO TOURED OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDING THE TRAINING COURT ROOM, CONTROL ROOM, NURSING TRAINING WARD, TRAINING CELLS AND THE MUSEUM.

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SIR PETER VISITS PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH HONG KONG PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, SIR PETER BLAKER, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED A VARIETY OF PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS.

SIR PETER AND LADY BLAKER FIRST CALLED AT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS WHERE THEY WERE WELCOMED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (OPERATIONS), MR HAIDER BARMA.

THEY WERE BRIEFED BY MR BARMA ON THE EVOLUTION AND LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME.

ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE VISITORS THEN WENT TO CHUK YUEN (SOUTH) ESTATE TO VIEW THE FIRST BATCH OF CONVERTED FLATS SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR SINGLE PERSONS IN NEW ESTATES.

/SIR PETER .....

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SIR PETER WAS IMPRESSED TO SEE THAT THE FLATS PROVIDED INDIVIDUAL PERMANENT HOMES FOR OCCUPANTS WITH A GREAT DEGREE OF PRIVACY AND COMFORT AND EQUIPPED WITH INDIVIDUAL METRED WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, TELEVISION/RADIO ANTENNA SOCKET, TELEPHONE LINE AND COOKING BENCH.

THE GROUP THEN WENT TO THE ADJACENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME TIN MA COURT IN MA CHAI HANG WHERE THEY SAW CONSTRUCTION WELL UNDER WAY ON FIVE NEW TOWER BLOCKS.

ON PROGRESSIVE COMPLETION NEXT YEAR, THS RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 2 800 FLATS FOR SALE TO ACCOMMODATE SOME 12 000 PEOPLE.

LATER AT LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE, SIR PETER INSPECTED THE WIDE RANGING SHOPPING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THE NEWLY-OPENED ULTRA MODERN COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WHICH IS ONE OF THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN NORTH KOWLOON.

THE CENTRE, HE WAS TOLD, WAS THE LATEST IMPROVEMENT ACHIEVED IN A COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY TRANSFORM THE FOUR OLDER HOUSING ESTATES IN THE DISTRICT INTO A SELF-SUFFICIENT MODERN ENTITY.

SIR PETER LEARNED THAT THE CENTRE, WHICH COMPRISES 160 SHOPS, 198 MARKET STALLS AND 24 COOKED-FOOD STALLS, NOT ONLY SERVES THE ESTATE POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT, BUT ALSO RESIDENTS IN NEARBY KOWLOON TONG AND BROADCAST DRIVE.

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MINISTER LEAVES WITH HOPE TO RETURN  
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THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR TIMOTHY RENTON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) HE HOPED TO VISIT HONG KONG AGAIN SOON.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, MR RENTON SAID HE HAD HAD A MOST INTERESTING TIME DURING HIS FIVE-DAY VISIT.

+YESTERDAY, THE NEW OPENING OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS A VERY EXCITING DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. I THANK YOU FOR ALL THE FRIENDSHIP AND HOSPITALITY YOU'VE SHOWN ME OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS,+ HE SAID.

MR RENTON WAS SEEN OFF BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE.

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HELP OVER WEEKEND FOR REDUNDANT WORKERS

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THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL EXTEND ITS WORKING HOURS DURING THE WEEKEND TO HELP WORKERS AFFECTED BY THE CLOSURE OF ATLAS ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING LTD AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES TO APPLY FOR PAYMENTS FROM THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE (LRS), MR JAMES YEUNG, AFTER A MEETING BETWEEN WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES AND LRS OFFICERS THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF WORKERS AFFECTED BY THE CLOSURE, LRS OFFICERS WOULD RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR WAGES IN ARREARS FROM THE WORKERS AT ITS SAN PO KONG OFFICE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AND ON SATURDAY, THE LRS OFFICERS WILL GO DOWN TO THE FACTORIES IN TO KWA WAN AND KWUN TONG TO HELP WORKERS THERE FILL IN THE APPLICATION FORMS.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S WAGE SECURITY UNIT WOULD ALSO EXTEND ITS WORKING HOURS IF NECESSARY TO SPEED UP THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS SO THAT PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND COULD BE MADE TO THE WORKERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE WILL ALSO ASSIST THE WORKERS TO FILE CLAIMS FOR SEVERANCE PAYMENTS, WHICH ARE NOT COVERED BY PAYMENTS FROM THE INSOLVENCY FUND.

REMINDER ON TAXI SEAT BELT INSTALLATION

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OWNERS OF TAXIS REGISTERED FROM JANUARY 1, 1981 TO DECEMBER 31, 1983 ARE REMINDED TO INSTALL SEAT BELTS TO THE FRONT OF THEIR VEHICLES BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

+UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (SAFETY EQUIPMENT) REGULATIONS 1983, ALL TAXIS REGISTERED DURING THE PERIOD WILL HAVE TO BE INSTALLED WITH APPROVED ANCHORAGE POINTS AND SEAT BELTS FOR THE DRIVER'S SEAT AND THE FRONT PASSENGER SEAT BY JANUARY 1, 1986,+ A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IN THE CASE OF A TAXI WHICH HAS A BENCH SEAT AT THE FRONT, A SEAT BELT SHOULD BE INSTALLED FOR THE FRONT PASSENGER SEAT THAT IS AWAY FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT,+ HE ADDED.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SEAT BELTS WERE ALREADY MANDATORY FOR TAXIS REGISTERED FROM JANUARY 1, 1984 AND FOR PRIVATE CARS FROM AUGUST 1, 1976.

+NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS COULD RENDER OWNERS OR USERS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT TAXI OWNERS SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT THE SEAT BELTS AND ANCHORAGE POINTS FIXED TO THEIR VEHICLES COMPLIED WITH THE LAW. ENQUIRIES CONCERNING APPROVED SEAT BELTS AND ANCHORAGE POINTS COULD BE MADE ON TELEPHONE 5-8933111.

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DB MEMBERS VISIT SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES  
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KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TODAY (THURSDAY) HAD A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WORK OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT DURING A TOUR OF ITS OFFICES AND A VISIT TO A COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE VISIT WAS PART OF A PROGRAMME ARRANGED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO FAMILIARISE MEMBERS WITH THE OPERATIONS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

LED BY THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG, MEMBERS FIRST WENT TO THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE IN HUNG HOM.

THERE THEY WERE BRIEFED BY THE ACTING WEST KOWLOON REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MR NG KAI-KIN, ON VARIOUS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

BOARD MEMBERS ALSO VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT SOCIAL SECURITY UNIT, FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE AND THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OFFICE HOUSED IN THE SAME BUILDING.

THE GROUP THEN WENT TO THE OI MAN KAI FONG ASSOCIATION WHERE THE CARITAS COMMUNITY CENTRE RUNS A SPECIAL CLASS FOR CHILDREN WHO RECENTLY ARRIVED IN HONG KONG.

LATER, THEY VISITED THE CARITAS COMMUNITY CENTRE IN PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, TO SEE FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED IN THE CENTRE, WHICH RECEIVES SUBVENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

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CONTESTS TO PROMOTE HEALTH EDUCATION  
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GROUPS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS WILL VIE FOR PRIZES IN THE 1985 SCHOOLS HEALTH EDUCATION SPEECH AND SONG CONTESTS TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH.

THE CONTESTS ARE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PROMOTE AWARENESS IN PUBLIC HEALTH AMONG STUDENTS.

+THE APPROACH IS BY WAY OF PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THAT AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THERE WOULD BE SEPARATE CONTEST FOR SPEECH AND SONG, BUT BOTH WOULD HAVE THE SAME THEME -- +HYGIENIC HABITS PROMOTE HEALTH.+

+THE SPEECH CONTEST WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR SECTIONS - ENGLISH AND CHINESE SECTIONS FOR BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

+THE SONG CONTEST WILL BE HELD IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTIONS.

+THE WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP IN BOTH CONTESTS WILL GET TROPHIES AND BOOK COUPONS.

IN THE SONG CONTEST THERE WOULD ALSO BE A SPECIAL TROPHY, THE BEST COMPOSER AWARD, FOR EACH SECTION.

+THE FINALS OF THE SPEECH CONTEST WILL TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 2 AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, AND THOSE FOR THE SONG CONTEST, ON NOVEMBER 9 AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL.

+WINNERS WILL GET THEIR PRIZES AND REPEAT THEIR WINNING PERFORMANCES AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL ON NOVEMBER 16.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE FINALS OF THE SPEECH CONTEST TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 2) AT 9 A.M. AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN WANCHAI.

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SAND SCULPTURE CONTEST FOR YOUTHS  
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MORE THAN 200 YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE TESTING THEIR CREATIVE TALENTS IN BUILDING MODELS AT A +SAND SCULPTURING+ COMPETITION AT CLEAR WATER BAY (2ND BEACH) ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 3).

THE THIRD HONG KONG SAND SCULPTURING COMPETITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND CHAMPION CLUB, WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM IN CONJUNCTION WITH A BEACH CARNIVAL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE BEACH CARNIVAL, AT WHICH LEADING LOCAL SINGERS WILL PERFORM.

PHOTOGRAPHY ENTHUSIASTS MAY BRING ALONG THEIR CAMERAS TO PHOTOGRAPH THE SCULPTURES, FOR ENTRY LATER IN A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION TO BE HELD BY THE THREE ORGANISERS, IN CO-OPERATION WITH UNITED ARTIST PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE THIRD HONG KONG SAND SCULPTURING COMPETITION AT CLEAR WATER BAY (2ND BEACH) ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 3) FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM.

TRANSPORT FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT TSIM SHA TSUI AT 2.30 PM SHARP. INFORMATION OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT.

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DETAILS ON CHINESE MUSIC FESTIVAL  
\* \* \*

THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MRS DORIS HO, AND THE ASSISTANT MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MR THOMAS WANG, WILL BE ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE 1985 HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE MUSIC FESTIVAL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE AT 3 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS PERFORMING GROUPS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SEPARATE INTERVIEWS AFTER THE CONFERENCE.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1985

- 12 -

TRANSPORT SCHEME PLANNED FOR ELDERLY  
\* \* \* \*

THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF A TRANSPORT SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE SCHEME IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND INTRODUCED BY A DISTRICT BOARD.

ATTENDING THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE THE BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM HANG-FAI; CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, MR LI WAH-MING; CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE CONCERN FOR MEDICAL AND TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, MISS MONA LO; AND THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STANLEY YING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 3 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET.

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SHA TIN SITE TO LET  
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS TO LET BY TENDER A MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SITE AT FO TAN IN SHA TIN.

THE TENANCY FOR THE SITE IN SHAN MEI STREET, MEASURING ABOUT 780 SQUARE METRES, IS TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 15.

THE TENDER FORM, NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SHA TIN, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1985

- 13 -

OPENING OF TSUEN WAN BYPASS

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SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, WILL OPEN THE SECOND STAGE OF THE TSUEN WAN BYPASS AT 3 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON THE DECK OF THE BYPASS NEAR THE TSUEN WAN TRANSPORT COMPLEX.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE LEAVING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CARPARK AT 1.45 PM SHARP.

GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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CLOSURE OF FLYOVERS IN YAU MA TEI

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A NUMBER OF FLYOVERS IN YAU MA TEI AND KOWLOON CITY WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR AN HOUR FROM 10 AM ON THE DAY SPECIFIED TO FACILITATE GULLY CLEANSING:

THESE ARE:

- \* ON NOVEMBER 3 (SUNDAY), THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE GASCOIGNE ROAD.
- \* ON NOVEMBER 10 (SUNDAY), THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE ARGYLE STREET FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE GROUND-LEVEL ARGYLE STREET.
- \* ON NOVEMBER 17 (SUNDAY) THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE FLYOVER LEADING FROM THE JUNCTION OF BOUNDARY STREET AND COLLEGE ROAD TO THE JUNCTION OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST AND SOUTH WALL ROAD WILL BE CLOSED. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE GROUND LEVEL BOUNDARY STREET.
- \* ON NOVEMBER 24 (SUNDAY), THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE GROUND LEVEL PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1985

- 14 -

ROAD CLOSURE IN NORTH POINT  
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THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN MERCURY STREET AND POWER STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 PM ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 3) UNTIL 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR ROAD WORK.

THE SAME MEASURE WILL BE REPEATED DURING THE SAME PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 4 TO NOVEMBER 18.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC ON KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED TO HING FAT STREET, GORDAN ROAD, ELECTRIC ROAD AND TIN CHONG STREET.

VEHICLES REQUIRING ACCESS TO JUPITER STREET AND SHELL STREET WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KING'S ROAD.

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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN - SUPPLEMENT

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1985

### MINISTER OF STATE MEETS PRESS

\* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE BY MR TIMOTHY RENTON, MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, TODAY (THURSDAY):

MR IVOR ROBERTS, DEPUTY HEAD OF NEWS DEPARTMENT, FCO:  
+GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. SORRY TO DRAG YOU HERE AT THIS EARLY HOUR BUT THE MINISTER HAS A VERY EARLY DEPARTURE FOR SINGAPORE AND JAKARTA, SO I THINK I WOULD LIKE TO START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO ASK AS MANY QUESTIONS. THE MINISTER WILL FIRST OF ALL MAKE A FEW INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND THEN WE WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS IF YOU WILL IDENTIFY YOURSELVES AND YOUR ORGANISATIONS IN DOING SO. MINISTER.

MR TIMOTHY RENTON: +GOOD MORNING. IT IS VERY PLEASANT TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE. THANK YOU FOR COMING. I WOULD LIKE TO START MY FEW OPENING REMARKS WITH A QUOTATION FROM DENG XIAOPING WHO IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID:

'I AM NOT SCARED OF HEAVEN OR EARTH BUT ONLY OF REPORTERS FROM HONG KONG.'

+AFTER FOUR DAYS HERE I AM FLATTERED BY THE DEGREE OF ATTENTION THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME; I KNOW EXACTLY HOW HE FEELS! NOW I WOULD NOT PRETEND TO BE AN INSTANT EXPERT ON HONG KONG AFTER THESE PAST FOUR DAYS BUT I DO HAVE SOME IMPRESSIONS, SOME VERY STRONG IMPRESSIONS, ON MY FIRST VISIT AFTER A GAP OF NEARLY 10 YEARS AND I WOULD LIKE VERY QUICKLY TO SHARE SOME OF THESE WITH YOU.

+FIRST, AND MOST IMPORTANT FOR ME, I HAVE HAD SOME EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE MEETINGS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND OFFICIALS, WITH MEMBERS OF EXCO AND LEGCO, AND ON ONE PRIVILEGED OCCASION WITH MEMBERS OF A DISTRICT BOARD AND MANY OTHERS. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT ON FUTURE VISITS I CAN FILL SOME OF THE GAPS; BUT IN THESE MANY CONVERSATIONS I HAVE, I THINK, LEARNED A GOOD DEAL ABOUT WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THINK AND WHAT THEY WANT.

/+YESTERDAY WAS, .....

+YESTERDAY WAS, AS WE ALL KNOW, A HISTORIC DAY FOR LEGCO AND A MOST IMPORTANT DAY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. I WAS PRIVILEGED WITH TWO PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, SIR PETER BLAKER AND SIR PAUL BRYAN, TO ATTEND THE FIRST SESSION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH ELECTED MEMBERS. IN BRITAIN WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR HONG KONG TO DEVELOP ITS OWN SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN NEEDS AND CUSTOMS.

+I AM NOT A SOCIALIST, INDEED ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I AM A CONSERVATIVE IS BECAUSE I HAVE MUCH SYMPATHY WITH THE WAY IN WHICH THE MARKET HAS DEVELOPED IN HONG KONG, THE EMPHASIS ON FREE TRADE AND ENTERPRISE, WHILST AT THE SAME TIME THERE IS SUCH A LOT OF COMMUNITY CONSCIOUSNESS AND CARING FOR THE DEPRIVED IN HONG KONG. BUT I DO BELIEVE, ALTHOUGH I AM NOT A SOCIALIST, IN THE FABIAN APPROACH IN THIS AREA OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. THAT IS TO SAY, STEP BY STEP WITH EACH STAGE BEING TESTED AGAINST THE EXPERIENCE AND WISHES OF THE PEOPLE.

+I ALSO VISITED TWO REFUGEE CAMPS, BOWRING AND KAI TAK, AND I CAME AWAY WITH AN IMMENSE ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY HONG KONG HAS SHOULDERED THE VERY REAL BURDENS IMPOSED BY THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. NO VISIT TO A REFUGEE CAMP, BE IT HERE, BE IT IN THE SUDAN, BE IT IN PAKISTAN, NO VISIT CAN BE A HAPPY EXPERIENCE. I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE DISLOCATION OF THE LIVES OF THOSE IN THESE CAMPS. BUT I WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE DEDICATION AND CHEERFULNESS OF THE STAFF AND I WAS IMPRESSED, TOO, BY THE DETERMINATION OF SOME OF THE REFUGEES TO LEARN ENGLISH, TO DEVELOP A VOCATIONAL TRADE, SO THAT WHEN RESETTLEMENT COMES, LIFE IN THE COUNTRIES THAT THEY GO TO WOULD BE EASIER. I WAS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY THE CRECHE AT KAI TAK AND THE PLAYGROUP AT THE BOWRING CAMP.

+IN ALL TOO BRIEF A TIME I HAVE MANAGED TO SEE SOMETHING OF THE MANY DEVELOPMENTS PLANNED AND UNDERWAY IN HONG KONG: HOUSING PLANS AT KWUN TONG, TSUI PING REDEVELOPMENT, PROPOSALS FOR THE EASTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE. THE SPEED AND PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW TOWNS LIKE TAI PO WHICH WILL QUADRUPLE ITS POPULATION IN A DECADE, A LOT OF IT HAPPENING ON RECLAIMED LAND, ARE FOR SOMEONE COMING FROM BRITAIN QUITE BREATH-TAKING. EVERYTHING I HAVE SEEN SUGGESTS A PLANNING FOR, AND A CONFIDENCE IN, THE FUTURE, NOT JUST FOR 12 YEARS AHEAD BUT FOR CHILDREN AND GENERATIONS TO COME. AND I ADMIRE AND SHARE THAT OPTIMISM IN THE FUTURE. THERE IS, OF COURSE, A LOT OF WORK THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT CAN AND WILL BE DOING IN THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR HONG KONG.

+AND PERHAPS I CAN END BY JUST MENTIONING THAT OUR SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, RAISED WITH SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION THE TEXTILE BILL, AND HE EMPHASISED - I AM TALKING ABOUT MR LEON BRITTON - HE EMPHASISED OUR JOINT INTEREST IN THE CONTINUED FUTURE, PROSPERITY AND POLITICAL STABILITY OF HONG KONG, ITS OPEN MARKET, AND THE UNACCEPTABLE DAMAGE THAT ANY TEXTILE BILL PASSED THROUGH CONGRESS WOULD DO. THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION WERE WHOLLY SYMPATHETIC AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION'S UNEQUIVOCAL OPPOSITION TO PROTECTIONIST LEGISLATION WITH TEXTILES AS A PRIME EXAMPLE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MR ROBERTS: +THANK YOU, MINISTER. WELL, WE ARE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS NOW.

QUESTION: NICK BEACROFT FOR RTHK: MINISTER, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO DO OR WILL DO ABOUT CONVINCING THIRD COUNTRIES ABOUT THE VALIDITY AND ACCEPTABILITY OF THE NEW BN(O) PASSPORT?

MR RENTON: YES. WE ARE ..... WE HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL, AND NO REASON TO DOUBT, THAT THIS NEW BN(O) PASSPORT, WHEN IT COMES INTO EFFECT FROM 1987 ONWARDS, THAT IT WILL BE WIDELY ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER COUNTRIES. WE PROPOSE TO APPROACH OTHER COUNTRIES SPECIFICALLY ON THIS ISSUE ONCE THE DRAFT ORDER HAS BEEN DEBATED AND ONCE THE WHOLE ISSUE OF THE PRECISE ENDORSEMENT ON THE NEW BN(O) PASSPORT, ONCE THAT IS FIRMLY IN PLACE. BUT WE DON'T THINK IT APPROPRIATE TO APPROACH OTHER COUNTRIES ON A HYPOTHETICAL BASIS, ON THE LINES OF SAYING +IF THIS WERE THE PASSPORT, WHAT WOULD YOU THINK ABOUT IT?+. BUT WE WILL BE APPROACHING OTHER COUNTRIES THE MOMENT WE KNOW THE PRECISE FORM OF THE DOCUMENT, AND OF COURSE WE ARE ENCOURAGED VERY MUCH, AS I AM SURE YOU WILL BE IN HONG KONG, ABOUT THE REMARKS BY VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH MADE WHEN HE WAS HERE TWO WEEKS AGO ABOUT THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THIS PASSPORT TO THE AMERICANS AND TO THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION.

QUESTION: (BY NICK BEACROFT) WOULD YOU SEEK A GUARANTEE THAT THE BN(O) WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THIRD COUNTRIES AFTER 1997?

MR RENTON: I DON'T THINK IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO SEEK PRECISELY THAT GUARANTEE. I THINK THAT WHAT WE WILL DO IS MAKE CERTAIN IN THE TIME, AS I SAY, AFTER THE PASSPORT IS - ITS PRECISE FORM IS KNOWN - THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE. WE WILL ANNOUNCE THOSE FINDINGS AND, OF COURSE, ANY HONG KONG, ANY PRESENT BDTG PASSPORT HOLDER WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE HIS OWN DECISION AFTER '87 AS TO THE STAGE AT WHICH HE APPLIES FOR A BN(O) PASSPORT. WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO DOUBT, AND I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE THIS, BECAUSE I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN ON THIS POINT AMONG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, I KNOW THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE VERY GREAT TRAVELLERS AND THEY WILL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THE BN(O) PASSPORT. SO I WOULD LIKE TO REASSURE HONG KONG PEOPLE THROUGH YOU THIS MORNING THAT WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT THIS BN(O) PASSPORT WILL BE WIDELY ACCEPTABLE AND EVEN IF WE CAN'T GIVE A SPECIFIC GUARANTEE, WE WILL CERTAINLY BE LOOKING FOR ACCEPTABILITY THE MOMENT THE PASSPORT COMES INTO EFFECT, BUT AFTER 1997 AS WELL.

QUESTION: MR RENTON, PATRICIA PENN, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION: ONCE SUCH A PASSPORT IS ISSUED, HOW EASY OR DIFFICULT IS IT TO MODIFY IT IF IT PROVES UNACCEPTABLE?

/MR RENTON: .....

MR RENTON: I THINK THAT REALLY IS LOOKING, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING SO, AT THE PROBLEM THE WRONG WAY ROUND. FIRST OF ALL, WE DO HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THIS PASSPORT INTERNATIONALLY AS I HAVE JUST SAID. WE WILL BE, THE MOMENT IT IS FIRMLY IN PLACE, WE WILL BE GOING THROUGH ALL THE DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT - TO ENSURE ITS ACCEPTABILITY, AND AS I SAID, THOSE WHOSE BDTG PASSPORTS EXPIRE, FOR EXAMPLE IN '88-'89, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE THEIR DECISION AS TO WHETHER THEY APPLY FOR BN(O) PASSPORT AT THAT STAGE OR WHETHER THEY RENEW THEIR BDTG PASSPORT UNTIL '97 TO SEE IN THOSE INTERVENING MONTHS, TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT REGULATIONS CONCERNING NO NECESSITY FOR HAVING VISAS, FOR EXAMPLE, TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES, THAT THEY ARE PROPERLY ESTABLISHED.

QUESTION: (BY PATRICIA PENN) EXCUSE ME, BUT WITH RESPECT YOU DON'T ANSWER MY QUESTION, WHICH IS HOW EASY OR DIFFICULT IS IT TO MODIFY A PASSPORT.

MR RENTON: WELL, I AM SORRY, BUT I THOUGHT I WAS SAYING, I DON'T EXPECT IT TO BE IN ANY SENSE NECESSARY TO MODIFY THE PASSPORT BECAUSE WHAT WE ARE DOING IS FOLLOWING ON FROM AGREEMENTS THAT WERE LAID OUT VERY CLEARLY IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND WE EXPECT TO PRODUCE A DOCUMENT THAT WILL BE THOROUGHLY ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONALLY AND TO WHICH MODIFICATIONS WON'T BE NECESSARY.

QUESTION: JIM BIDDULPH, BBC: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, YOU SAID I THINK THAT YOU ANTICIPATE SEEING A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE CAMP POPULATION IN HONG KONG. THE NUMBER THAT BRITAIN IS GOING TO TAKE WILL ONLY JUST ABOUT COVER THE NATURAL GROWTH IN THE CAMP POPULATION. HOW SUBSTANTIAL DO YOU EXPECT THIS REDUCTION TO BE?

MR RENTON: WELL, I THINK THAT AS I WAS ASKED THAT QUESTION AFTER VISITING BOWRING CAMP TWO DAYS AGO, THAT IT REALLY WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO PUT A SPECIFIC FIGURE ON IT AT THE MOMENT. AS I SAID ON THAT OCCASION, ON THE BASIS OF OUR LEAD IN TAKING 500 FURTHER RESETTLEMENT CASES OURSELVES, WE ARE IN VERY CLOSE DISCUSSION WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS AT THE MOMENT. WE ARE BEING CLOSELY SUPPORTED IN THIS BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES. WE HAVE RECEIVED VERY FAVOURABLE INDICATIONS, I AM GLAD TO SAY, FROM AUSTRALIA THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO TAKE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THEIR NUMBERS, AND FAVOURABLE INDICATIONS FROM A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL, AND INCLUDING SCANDINAVIA. BUT IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR ME AT THIS STAGE TO PUT A FIGURE ON IT UNTIL I AM ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED, BUT OUR ESTIMATE AT THE MOMENT IS THAT THE FIGURE - IT WILL BE QUITE A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL HERE.

QUESTION (BY JIM BIDDULPH): MAYBE A COUPLE OF THOUSANDS?

MR RENTON: NO. YOU CAN'T LEAD ME ON TO GIVE YOU SPECIFICS!

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: HARVEY STOCKWIN, TIMES OF INDIA: MR MINISTER, THE BRITISH WHITE PAPER ON THE ORDER IN COUNCIL REGARDING THE BN(O) QUESTION, MAKES GREAT PLAY WITH THE FACT THAT BRITAIN IS HONOURING ITS PLEDGE TO REDUCE STATELESSNESS. NOW IN ONE VITAL ASPECT I WOULD PUT IT TO YOU THAT IN FACT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS INCREASING STATELESSNESS. THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE ANOMALOUS POSITION OF THE MINORITIES IN HONG KONG, THE INDIANS, PAKISTANIS, PORTUGUESE, AND OTHERS, THE NON-ETHNIC CHINESE, WHO WILL ON THE ONE HAND NOT COME WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF RIGID CHINESE NATIONALITY LAW, AND ON THE OTHER HAND BRITAIN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OFFER THEM CONSULAR PROTECTION WITHIN HONG KONG AFTER 1997. IN OTHER WORDS, BRITAIN IS GIVING THEM A PASSPORT BUT BRITAIN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HELP THEM IN THE PLACE WHERE BRITAIN EXPECTS THEM TO RESIDE. NOW, I KNOW THIS IS NOT TECHNICAL STATELESSNESS, BUT SURELY THIS IS STATELESSNESS IN ALL BUT NAME.

MR RENTON: WELL, THANK YOU FOR THAT QUESTION. I AM GLAD YOU RAISED IT, BECAUSE I DO THINK IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT POINT. I MEAN IF I COULD DEAL WITH TWO ASPECTS OF THAT. I MEAN, FIRSTLY THE QUESTION OF CONSULAR PROTECTION. THE UK MEMORANDUM ON NATIONALITY SPECIFICALLY DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE PROVISION OF BRITISH CONSULAR PROTECTION FOR NON-CHINESE BN(O)'S OR BOC'S IN THE HONG KONG SAR, SPECIFICALLY DOES NOT EXCLUDE PROVISION OF CONSULAR PROTECTION FOR THOSE PEOPLE. I MEAN, SECONDLY ON THE STATELESSNESS OR STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS, AS YOU WILL KNOW WE HAVE PROVIDED FOR DESCENDANTS OF FORMER BDTC'S WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE STATELESS TO RETAIN A FORM OF BRITISH NATIONALITY, BRITISH OVERSEAS CITIZENSHIP, FOR TWO GENERATIONS AFTER '97 AND THIS TAKES US UP TO THE MIDDLE OF THE 21ST CENTURY. WE DO THEN BELIEVE THAT THE RIGHT COURSE FOR THOSE WHO ARE PERMANENTLY SETTLED, IN WHAT WILL THEN BE A PART OF CHINA, THAT THE RIGHT COURSE WOULD BE FOR THEM TO BECOME CHINESE NATIONALS. BUT THIS IS ONE OF THE MATTERS THAT WE SHALL BE PURSUING WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION (BY HARVEY STOCKWIN): ON THE ONE HAND, SIR, WOULDN'T IT BE MORE ACCURATE FOR THE WHITE PAPER TO REFER TO POSTPONING STATELESSNESS RATHER THAN REDUCING IT, IN THE SENSE THAT YOU ARE EXPECTING PEOPLE TO BE HAPPY WITH A SITUATION IN WHICH THEIR GRANDSONS ARE TAKEN CARE OF BUT NOTHING BEYOND THAT? AND SECONDLY, CORRECT ME IF I AM WRONG, BUT IN THE MEMORANDUM BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS ON NATIONALITY APPENDED TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, IT WAS STATED THAT BRITAIN WOULD NOT HAVE CONSULAR PROTECTION RIGHTS IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997.

/MR RENTON: .....

MR RENTON: WELL, I MEAN, ON YOUR SECOND POINT, THE UK MEMORANDUM ON NATIONALITY, I MEAN IT DOES SPECIFICALLY NOT EXCLUDE THE PROVISION OF BRITISH CONSULAR PROTECTION AS I HAVE SAID FOR NON-CHINESE BN(O)'S OR BOC'S IN THE HONG KONG SAR. THERE IS A LIMIT TO WHICH WE CAN GO ON PROVIDING INDEFINITELY FOR THE POSITION OF PEOPLE AND, AS YOU WILL KNOW, THE JOINT DECLARATION COVERS ESSENTIALLY THE PROVISION OF BASIC LAW WHICH WILL THEN BE BINDING FOR 50 YEARS, AND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CONTINUE THE POSITION BEYOND - WE CAN'T ENSURE THE POSITION AFTER THAT DATE, BUT I THINK THAT IN FACT THAT WHAT WE HAVE DONE ABOUT THE STATELESSNESS AND STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS IS NOT AN UNSATISFACTORY ANSWER. I WOULD JUST LIKE FINALLY TO MAKE THE POINT TO YOU THAT THE POSITION IS EXACTLY THE SAME FOR BN(O)'S LIVING ABROAD ACTUALLY AS IT IS FOR BRITISH CITIZENS THEMSELVES.

QUESTION (BY HARVEY STOCKWIN): IN WHAT WAY?

MR RENTON: WELL, I MEAN, IN REGARD TO WHAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT CONSULAR PROTECTION. I MEAN, THERE IS NOT GOING TO BE ANY DIFFERENCE.

QUESTION (BY HARVEY STOCKWIN): YES, BUT BRITISH CITIZENS LIVING WITH A BRITISH PASSPORT IN BRITAIN HAVE THE PROTECTION OF A NON-COMMUNIST BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

MR RENTON: YES, BUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING, WITH RESPECT, IS TALKING ABOUT THE QUESTION OF CONSULAR PROTECTION OF PEOPLE LIVING ABROAD - OF PEOPLE TRAVELLING ABROAD, AREN'T YOU.

QUESTION: EMILY LAU FROM THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW: MR RENTON, IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF UMELCO, POLITICAL GROUPS, AND PRESSURE GROUPS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, IS IT YOUR OPINION THAT DEMOCRATIC REFORMS ACCORDING TO THOSE THAT ARE IN WESTERN COUNTRIES, FOR HONG KONG, DO YOU THINK THAT WOULD CREATE DIVISION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OR WOULD THAT BRING ABOUT CONSENSUS POLITICS?

MR RENTON: WOULD YOU MIND REPEATING YOUR QUESTION PLEASE?

QUESTION (BY EMILY LAU): WELL, BASED ON YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERS AND BUDDING SO-CALLED POLITICAL GROUPS, IS IT YOUR IMPRESSION THAT DEMOCRATIC WESTERN-STYLE REFORMS WILL BRING ABOUT CONSENSUS POLITICS OR WILL DIVIDE THE COMMUNITY?

/MR RENTON: .....

MR RENTON: I THINK IF ONE THING I HAVE LEARNED IN HONG KONG IN THE LAST 96 HOURS IS THAT ALMOST EVERY MEMBER OF THIS TERRITORY, EVERY +HONG KONGER+, IS A POLITICIAN! YOU ALL HAVE VERY STRONG IDEAS WHICH YOU ARE READY, AND SO IT SHOULD BE, TO DEBATE VERY FULLY AS TO WHAT THE FUTURE PATTERN OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN THIS TERRITORY SHOULD BE, HOW IT SHOULD DEVELOP. I HAVE A VERY STRONG IMPRESSION OF POLITICAL DEBATE HERE. BUT WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO THINK, AND IT IS CERTAINLY NOT FOR ME AS A VISITOR TO MAKE OR TO GIVE YOU A SPECIFIC JUDGMENT ON THIS, THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS TO PREACH THE WESTMINSTER FORM OF DEMOCRACY NECESSARILY TO HONG KONG, BECAUSE I AM SURE THAT WHAT YOU HAVE GOT TO EVOLVE IS SOMETHING THAT WILL BE SUITABLE FOR YOUR OWN UNIQUE POSITION. BUT THE LAST THING THAT I WOULD WANT TO DO - SORRY, THAT I AM SURE THAT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IS THAT IN THE PERIOD UP TO 1987 REVIEW AS THE GOVERNOR SAID IN HIS SPEECH YESTERDAY, THERE WILL BE ALL SORTS OF SHADES OF OPINION COMING FORWARD.

THESE WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE 1987 REVIEW AND WILL THEN AGAIN TAKE SHAPE IN THE 1988 ELECTIONS. SO IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ACTUALLY THERE IS A VERY HEALTHY FERMENT, NOT A DIVISIVE FERMENT, A VERY HEALTHY FERMENT AT THE MOMENT OF DEVELOPING IN HONG KONG OF SHADES OF POLITICAL OPINION.

QUESTION: WILSON WONG OF TVB NEWS: I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, I MEAN, IN UK'S MIND, WHEN DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD COMPLETE OUR POLITICAL REFORMS, BY NINETIES OR AFTER NINETIES?

MR RENTON: I THINK THAT THE IMPORTANT STAGE, REALLY IMPORTANT POINT IN THIS AS I SAID IN MY OPENING REMARKS, IS FOR YOU TO TAKE THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH AND SEE HOW EACH STEP DEVELOPS, HOW IT IS REFLECTED AND ACCEPTABLE WITHIN HONG KONG OPINION. AND I WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, VERY IMPRESSED, AS I SAID EARLIER, AND GOING TO A DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH IS ATTENDED NOW BY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, AT THE DEGREE OF, YOU KNOW, THE AMOUNT OF DEMOCRACY AT THAT LEVEL. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS VERY ENDEMIC IN THE HONG KONG SYSTEM BUT THIS MUST BE A STEP BY STEP APPROACH AND CLEARLY THE REVIEW IN '87 WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD BY TWO YEARS, I THINK THE ORIGINAL IDEA WAS TO HAVE IT IN '89, THAT IS GOING TO BE THE NEXT IMPORTANT PHASE AND ALL OF YOU, ALL THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THIS, WILL BE FEEDING IN YOUR OPINIONS DIRECTLY TO UMELCO, THROUGH YOUR LEGCO REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE DISTRICT BOARD, THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF AVENUES OPEN, AREN'T THERE.

QUESTION (BY WILSON WONG): BUT SHOULD WE FINISH OUR POLITICAL REFORMS BY NINETIES?

MR RENTON: SORRY?

QUESTION (BY WILSON WONG): SHOULD WE COMPLETE OUR POLITICAL REFORMS BY NINETIES, SO THAT WE AVOID ANY CHAOTIC SITUATION AFTER THE NINETIES?

MR RENTON: NO, I AM QUITE CERTAIN THAT THAT IS FOR YOU WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AT EVERY LEVEL, IT IS FOR YOU TO EVOLVE AND TO CONSIDER IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD, THE PACE AT WHICH YOU TAKE THIS.

QUESTION (BY WILSON WONG): SO ONE FOLLOW-UP QUESTION IS THAT, DO YOU THINK BECAUSE HONG KONG IS NOW PRACTISING CAPITALISM AND MAINLAND CHINA IS ON SOCIALISM, DO YOU THINK WE CAN COME UP WITH A POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH IS COMPATIBLE, I MEAN WHICH IS COMPATIBLE OF BOTH SYSTEMS AND WORKABLE IN HONG KONG?

MR RENTON: WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT A GREAT SUCCESS CAN BE MADE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, OF THE AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH FULL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE - FULL CO-OPERATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT - BETWEEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. NOW THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ARE RESPONSIBLE IN THIS FOR DRAFTING THE BASIC LAW, AND BOTH WILL HAVE THE JOINT DECLARATION AS THEIR STARTING POINT. BUT BOTH HAVE PLEDGED TO CONSULT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND I THINK BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL BE VERY WELL ALIVE TO EACH OTHER'S CONCERNS AS WELL AS TO THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. I WOULD HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT, OR THAT YOU CAN REACH THE CONSENSUS OF THE SORT THAT YOU ARE AIMING FOR, AND THAT IS VERY MUCH THE HALLMARK OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENTS IN THIS COLONY.

MR ROBERTS: YES, QUESTION THERE.

QUESTION: TSUI MING-YUEN FROM WEN WEI PO.

MR ROBERTS: COULD YOU SPEAK UP PLEASE?

QUESTION: MR RENTON, THEN DO YOU THINK THAT OUR POLITICAL REFORMS SHOULD CONSIDER THE WILL OF THE CHINESE SIDE AND, IF YES, IN WHAT WAYS?

/MR RENTON: .....

MR RENTON: I THINK I HAVE ONLY JUST ANSWERED THAT POINT AND PARTICULARLY IN WHAT I WAS SAYING ABOUT THE BASIC LAW, I THINK IT IS RATHER THAT THE LOOKING IN FROM OUTSIDE AT WHAT IS DEVELOPING HERE AND THAT YOU IN THE STEADY PROGRESS AND STEP BY STEP APPROACH OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL BE VERY CONSCIOUS ACTUALLY AS MISS DUNN SAID IN HER REMARKS AT THE OPENING OF LEGCO YESTERDAY, OF THE NEED FOR CONTINUITY, STABILITY, AND AS SHE WAS SAYING, OUT OF DIVERSITY COMES BOTH UNITY AND STRENGTH. YOU WILL BE SEEKING TO KNIT TOGETHER THE DIVERSE OPINIONS IN HONG KONG IN ORDER TO FIND A UNIFIED APPROACH THAT WILL GIVE HONG KONG STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY AFTER 1997. THIS IS A CHALLENGE, BUT I DON'T THINK IT IS BY ANY MANNER OF MEANS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND IT IS A PROCESS TO WHICH ALL OF YOU ARE GOING TO BE PART.

QUESTION (BY TSUI MING-YUEN): BUT HOW WOULD THEY LINK UP TO PROVIDE A SMOOTH TRANSITION?

MR RENTON: I AM SORRY, I DIDN'T CATCH THAT.

QUESTION (BY TSUI MING-YUEN): HOW THEY LINK UP TOGETHER TO PROVIDE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO 1997?

MR RENTON: TO PROVIDE? WELL, NO DOUBT THAT THE STEPS THAT WILL BE ENVISAGED, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE '87 REVIEW WHICH IS THE NEXT STEP, AND THEN IN THE '88 ELECTIONS, THAT THESE WILL ALL BE PART OF THE PROCESS OF STEP BY STEP CHANGE THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE IN MIND THROUGH THE SMOOTH TRANSITION OF '97. IT IS IN ALL OF YOUR INTERESTS, IS IT NOT, TO ENSURE THAT THE TRANSITION IS SMOOTH AND I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL BE BENDING YOUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE JUST THAT.

QUESTION: STACEY MOSHER FROM ATV: RECENTLY OUR CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT DECIDED WHAT IS GOING TO BE DONE WITH FILES ON POLITICAL FIGURES AND GROUPS WHEN THE BRITISH HAND OVER SOVEREIGNTY TO CHINA IN 1997. DID YOU TALK OVER THIS MATTER WITH ANYBODY HERE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND WHAT ARE YOUR OWN VIEWS ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THESE FILES?

MR RENTON: MY DISCUSSIONS IN FACT WITH EXCO AND WITH OFFICIALS. THE CONTENTS OF THOSE ARE ... THE CONTENTS OF THOSE ARE CONFIDENTIAL, BUT THAT IS A MATTER FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO THINK CLOSELY ABOUT, AND IT IS FOR THEM TO TAKE THEIR DECISIONS, IF NECESSARY IN CONSULTATION WITH US. I HAVEN'T ANYTHING FURTHER TO ADD ON THAT AT THE MOMENT.

QUESTION: PHILIP HO, FINANCIAL DAILY: MINISTER, IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING, WHAT IS CHINA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE POLITICAL REFORM OF HONG KONG AND WHAT IS THE RESPONSE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT?

MR RENTON: WELL, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AS YOU WILL WELL KNOW, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE WITH AND THROUGH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG UP UNTIL 1997. I THINK AS FAR AS THE CHINESE ATTITUDE IS CONCERNED, I AM TEMPTED TO SAY TO YOU +ASK CHINA+! BUT, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IN THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE SHALL BE HAVING WITH CHINA, AND PARTICULARLY THAT ALL THE TIME IN THE BACK OF OUR MINDS WILL BE TO GO BACK TO THE POINT ASKED ME BY THE QUESTIONER JUST NOW BEHIND YOU, IS OF COURSE TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND THAT THE PROSPERITY WHICH IS AT THE HEART OF HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT, THAT THIS ISN'T PUT AT RISK.

QUESTION (BY EMILY LAU): YES, MR RENTON, TO GO BACK TO MY PREVIOUS QUESTION. IS IT NOT TRUE ABOUT YOUR OPINION ON POLITICAL REFORMS IN HONG KONG, IS IT NOT TRUE THAT IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH CERTAIN COMMUNITY LEADERS IN HONG KONG OVER COCKTAIL PARTIES, YOU EXPRESSED DEEP RESERVATION ABOUT WESTERN-STYLE DEMOCRACY FOR HONG KONG, SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIVISIVE, AND IN YOUR OPINION IT IS NOT THE PROPER PATH TO TAKE?

MR RENTON: WELL, I AM PERSONALLY RATHER DISTRUSTFUL OF QUESTIONS THAT BEGIN WITH THE WORDS +IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS OVER COCKTAIL PARTIES+ BECAUSE IT IMPLIES A SORT OF NEFARIOUS APPROACH IN THE CORNER OF A ROOM OVER A STRONG GIN AND TONIC! AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I AM NOT AWARE OF HAVING HAD ANY SUCH PARTICULAR CONVERSATIONS OR, INDEED, OF HAVING MADE SUCH REMARKS. WHAT I WOULD SAY TO YOU QUITE CLEARLY, AND I SAID THIS IN MY OPENING REMARKS I THINK WHEN I ARRIVED HERE ON SUNDAY, IT IS NOT FOR ME OR FOR MY PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES TO PREACH OR TO TRY AND CONVERT HONG KONG, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, TO A WESTMINSTER FORM OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY. THAT MAY SUIT US, BUT IT HAS TAKEN US OVER 700 YEARS, SINCE 1265 TO BE PRECISE, TO EVOLVE THAT FORM OF DEMOCRACY. NOW I REPRESENT THAT FORM OF DEMOCRACY IN WESTMINSTER. I WOULD NOT DREAM OF TRYING TO BE SUPERIOR ENOUGH TO SELL IT TO YOU AND THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I AM AGAINST THAT FORM OF DEMOCRACY OR THAT I AM SAYING THAT IT IS UNSUITABLE FOR YOU. WHAT I HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG AND TRYING TO SAY IN THIS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING, IT IS UP TO YOU THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WITH THE UNIQUE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENTS THAT YOU HAVE WHICH WE SAW IN THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND AT THE NEW MEETING

OF LEGCO YESTERDAY. NOW THAT IS QUITE UNIQUE. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY PARALLEL TO IT IN THE WORLD. IT IS UP TO YOU TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, OVER THE YEARS AHEAD, AND NATURALLY IN THAT YOU WILL BE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO ENSURE SMOOTH TRANSITION IN 1997. SO I AM NOT PREACHING EITHER FOR WESTMINSTER OR AGAINST WESTMINSTER. I AM JUST SAYING THAT IT IS A MATTER THAT YOU ALL, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, HAVE GOT TO THINK ABOUT AND THROUGH THE MANY CHANNELS THAT ARE OPEN TO YOU MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN.

MR ROBERTS: WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR JUST TWO OR THREE QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: STEPHEN MORGAN FROM THE HONG KONG STANDARD: MR RENTON, ON YOUR ARRIVAL HERE YOU SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HONOUR ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. DOES THIS INCLUDE AN OBLIGATION TO BRING ABOUT THE SAME RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION THAT YOUR OWN CONSTITUENTS HAVE IN ELECTING YOU TO YOUR POSITION, THAT IS, CAN WE SEE OR WOULD YOU SUPPORT A DEVELOPMENT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS HERE IN HONG KONG?

MR RENTON: WELL, YOU REALLY BRING ME BACK VERY STRONGLY, AND I DON'T WANT TO REPEAT MYSELF, WE HAVE ONLY A LITTLE TIME TO GO, BUT TO THE QUESTION I HAVE JUST ANSWERED. I THINK THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN HONG KONG, MUST BOTH REFLECT THE WISHES AND DESIRES OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. THAT IT MUST ALSO BE AIMED TO PROMOTE AND CONTINUE THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY THAT IS AT THE HEART OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE LAST GENERATION. NOW BECAUSE I AM A PRODUCT OF A SYSTEM THAT HAS EVOLVED SINCE SIMON DE MONTFORT, THE FIRST CALLED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOROUGHS TO WESTMINSTER IN 1265, I REALLY DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS IN ANY WAY PART OF BRITAIN'S MORAL COMMITMENT TO SELL OR TRY AND ENFORCE THE SAME SYSTEM HERE IN HONG KONG. WHAT I THINK OUR JOB TO DO QUITE SIMPLY IS WITH AND THROUGH YOUR GOVERNMENT, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, TO ADVISE IF OUR ADVICE IS ASKED, AND TO HELP YOU DEVELOP THE SORT OF SYSTEM THAT SUITS HONG KONG AND REFLECTS THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

QUESTION (BY STEPHEN MORGAN): BUT HOW CAN THIS OCCUR WHEN MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG DO NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE WAY IN WHICH HONG KONG IS RUN?

MR RENTON: I FIND ON THE BASIS OF FOUR DAYS HERE THAT RATHER HARD TO ACCEPT. UMELCO IS THERE, THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, AT ANY TIME TO RECEIVE THE VIEWS OF ANY PERSON IN HONG KONG. THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT CAN BE DISCUSSED AT DISTRICT BOARD LEVEL. I UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ONE OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS IS DISCUSSING TODAY THE QUESTION OF BN(O) PASSPORTS. I MEAN, SURELY THERE IS NO SHORTAGE NOW THROUGH REPRESENTATIVES EITHER ON THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCILS, THE DISTRICT BOARDS, OR DIRECTLY TO UMELCO, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF AVENUES FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN, AND

MY IMPRESSION FROM THE LAST FEW DAYS IS THAT EVERYONE IS GOING TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN WITHOUT ANY HESITATION AT ALL! BECAUSE I THINK EVERYONE IN HONG KONG IS AT HEART A POLITICIAN.

QUESTION: DO YOU MEAN THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN HONG KONG'S POLITICAL REFORM?

MR RENTON: I CERTAINLY DON'T THINK IT IS UP TO US TO COME DOWN FIRMLY ON ONE SIDE AND SAY THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PACE OF PROGRESS TOWARDS, FOR EXAMPLE, MORE ELECTED REPRESENTATION SHOULD BE HURRIED UP. I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT IS OUR ROLE AT ALL. I WOULD BE LOOKING ALL THE TIME AT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND AT THE STEADY DEVELOPMENT OF THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH THAT WAS SO STRONGLY MENTIONED IN THE SPEECHES IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY. I THINK THAT IS THE RIGHT WAY TO GO.

QUESTION: FUNG TAK HUNG FOR ATV: THE BASIC LAW WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE 1990S AS THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS SAID AND WE WILL HAVE THE REVIEW OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM BY 1987 WHICH WILL DEFINE THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM. HOW CAN WE GUARANTEE THAT THESE TWO WILL NOT BE - WILL NOT HAVE SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT?

MR RENTON: WELL, TWO POINTS THERE ARE THERE. OF COURSE, FIRST THAT THE CHINESE ARE, AS I SAID EARLIER, THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING THE BASIC LAW BUT ON THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A FAIRLY STRONG REPRESENTATION FROM HONG KONG, QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND OF COURSE THERE IS THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE OPERATING HERE IN HONG KONG NUMBERING 150, SOMETHING OF THAT ORDER, WHICH AGAIN PRESUMABLY WILL REFLECT A LOT OF VIEWS FROM THE VARIED SECTIONS OF OPINION IN HONG KONG BACK TO PEKING ABOUT THE BASIC LAW AND ITS DRAFTING. SO I THINK YOU HAVE GOT TWO POINTS OF VERY STRONG AND CONTINUING CONTACT THERE.

MR ROBERTS: WELL, I AM SORRY WE HAVE NOT GOT TIME FOR ANY MORE QUESTIONS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR COMING.

MR RENTON: WELL, THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH INDEED. I AM AFRAID THAT I NOW HAVE TO CATCH AN AEROPLANE AND GO TO SINGAPORE. I MUCH APPRECIATED YOUR COMING THIS MORNING. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTIONS AND I HOPE THAT WE SHALL MEET AGAIN SOME TIME SOON. THANK YOU.

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