



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1992

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AN AGREEMENT IS BEST OPTION FOR NEW AIRPORT

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THE BEST OPTION IN THE NEW AIRPORT ISSUE WAS FOR HONG KONG TO BE ABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA TO GO AHEAD WITH THE AIRPORT, THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND ALL THE REST OF THE PROJECTS, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, MR PATTEN SAID: "I REPEAT SOMETHING WHICH EVERYBODY KNOWS IN THEIR BONES, WHICH IS THAT THE AIRPORT AND THE PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH IT WILL BE COMPLETED; THAT WILL BE GOOD FOR HONG KONG; IT WILL BE GOOD FOR THE WHOLE REGION."

"IF WE CAN'T REACH AGREEMENT, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN HERE IN HONG KONG, BUT THAT WILL BE A SECOND-BEST OPTION. I WANT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON THURSDAY'S AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING, MR PATTEN SAID: "WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT CHINA WILL MAKE ANOTHER POSITIVE STEP FORWARD. THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT, BOTH AT THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE THIS WEEK AND WHEN I GO TO PEKING NEXT WEEK, AND MAYBE IT WILL REQUIRE ANOTHER AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING AFTER THAT."

"BUT I HOPE WE CAN NOW REACH AN AGREEMENT OR MOVE TOWARDS REACHING AGREEMENT. MY VIEW IS THAT THAT IS VERY MUCH WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD LIKE TO SEE US DO," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON HIS PROPOSALS IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST WEEK, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "THE PROPOSALS I PUT FORWARD LAST WEEK WERE MADE IN HONG KONG."

"THE PROPOSALS I'VE PUT FORWARD REPRESENT MY BEST JUDGMENT OF HOW THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD LIKE TO SEE US MOVE FORWARD ON A NUMBER OF FRONTS; SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL, AND NOTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN HAS PERSUADED ME THAT THE JUDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IS WRONG.

"THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE MADE THIS ASTONISHINGLY SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY; THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL GO ON BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATIONS THAT THEY'VE LAID SO WELL IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. IT'S THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WHO HAVE SAVED THEMSELVES AND WILL GO ON SAVING THEMSELVES AND BUILDING A BETTER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE," MR PATTEN SAID.

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN'S  
PUBLIC MEETING AT TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL  
ON TUESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 1992

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MICHAEL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FIRST OF ALL, WELCOME, I'M DELIGHTED THAT YOU ALL CAME THIS EVENING. THIS IS THE SECOND VISIT THAT I'VE PAID TO THIS HALL, THE FIRST ONE WAS ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO WHEN I WAS BEGINNING TO GET OUT AND MEET AS MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AS POSSIBLE. I'M DELIGHTED THAT YOU'RE HERE TO MEET ME THIS EVENING.

QUITE A LOT OF THINGS, IN THE THREE MONTHS THAT I'VE BEEN HERE, HAVE SURPRISED AND DELIGHTED ME BUT I THINK IN SOME WAYS THE THING THAT HAS SURPRISED ME MOST HAS BEEN THE CONTROVERSY WHICH SURROUNDED MY DECISION TO COME OUT OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AROUND HONG KONG. SOMEBODY, FOR EXAMPLE, WRITING ABOUT THESE MEETINGS THIS MORNING, DESCRIBED THEM AS A "SHOW". I THINK THAT'S A TERRIBLY PATRONISING WAY TO DESCRIBE THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH YOU HAVE, AS THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, TO ASK YOUR GOVERNOR QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.

WHAT I TALKED ABOUT LAST WEEK IN MY SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS YOUR FUTURE, AND YOU HAVE MORE RIGHT THAN ANYONE TO QUESTION ME ABOUT MY VIEWS ON YOUR FUTURE BECAUSE IT IS YOUR FUTURE. SO THIS YEAR, AND EVERY YEAR THAT I AM GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, I WILL COME OUT AND GIVE YOU THE CHANCE OF ASKING ME QUESTIONS LIKE THIS, AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT MY SUCCESSOR, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE SAR, WILL DO THE SAME.

SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT IT WEAKENS THE GOVERNMENT IF THE GOVERNOR COMES OUT AND TRIES TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS. I THINK IT MAKES GOVERNMENT STRONGER, AND I THINK IT MAKES GOVERNMENT BETTER. AND I THINK THAT FOR ONE VERY SIMPLE REASON: IF YOU'RE IN GOVERNMENT AND YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO GO OUT SOMETIME AND HAVE TO EXPLAIN YOUR DECISIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, IF YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO GO OUT AND HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DECISIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, YOU THINK A GREAT DEAL HARDER ABOUT THOSE DECISIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE. SO ONE THING THAT HAPPENS IS, I BELIEVE THAT WHEN YOU HAVE GOVERNMENT THAT IS ACCOUNTABLE, YOU HAVE STRONGER AND BETTER GOVERNMENT.

I JUST WANT TO SAY FOUR THINGS VERY, VERY BRIEFLY, ABOUT THE SPEECH THAT I MADE LAST WEEK. I SET OUT TO DO FOUR THINGS. FIRST OF ALL, I WANTED TO SHOW HOW WE CAN KEEP HONG KONG AS ECONOMICALLY SUCCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE: WITH LOW TAXES, WITH PRUDENT FINANCES, WITH SENSIBLE CONTROL OVER SPENDING, WITH THE FRIENDLIEST POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS. BECAUSE ALL OF US KNOW THAT UNLESS HONG KONG IS ECONOMICALLY SUCCESSFUL, MANY OF THE THINGS THAT WE WANT TO DO WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

/SECONDLY, I .....

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SECONDLY, I WANTED TO SHOW HOW, WITH THE RESULTS OF OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS, WE CAN DO MORE TO LOOK AFTER THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED, WHO HAVE DISADVANTAGES IN OUR COMMUNITY. I WANTED TO SHOW HOW WE COULD DO MORE FOR THE HANDICAPPED, FOR THE MENTALLY-ILL, FOR THE ELDERLY, FOR THE POORER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. I WANTED TO SHOW HOW WE CAN INVEST MORE IN EDUCATION, IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE OTHER THINGS WHICH WE REGARD AS IMPORTANT. THAT WASN'T THE GOVERNOR INVESTING THE GOVERNOR'S MONEY IN ALL THESE THINGS WE WANT. YOU HAVE EARNED THAT AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE USE IT IN WAYS WHICH MAKE SENSE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

THIRDLY, YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME, MANY OF YOU, IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THAT WHAT YOU WANT IS A RATHER GREATER SHARE IN DETERMINING YOUR OWN FUTURE. THAT YOU WANT SOME MORE MODEST PROGRESS IN DEMOCRACY, BUT THAT YOU WANT THAT IN A WAY THAT WILL LAST, IN A WAY, IF POSSIBLE, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONSTITUTION AFTER 1997, THE BASIC LAW. THAT IS THE BALANCE WHICH I HAVE TRIED TO STRIKE. THAT IS WHAT I HAVE TRIED TO DO IN MY PROPOSALS ON CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH I BELIEVE REFLECT WHAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING TO ME, WHICH I WILL OF COURSE BE DISCUSSING IN CHINA NEXT WEEK.

FOURTH, WHAT I AM DETERMINED TO TRY TO DO, IS TO SAFEGUARD THE WAY OF LIFE OF HONG KONG. THE WAY OF LIFE WHICH HAS UNDERPINNED OUR PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, AND THE WAY OF LIFE WHICH OUR STABILITY AND PROSPERITY HELP TO SHAPE AS WELL. HONG KONG HAS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL STORIES OF MODERN TIMES. BY YOUR OWN EFFORTS YOU HAVE MADE HONG KONG INTO PROBABLY THE TENTH LARGEST TRADING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD. IT'S AN ASTONISHING ACHIEVEMENT! I THINK WE HAVE TO SAFEGUARD THAT, AT THE SAME TIME AS WE TRUST YOU TO TAKE A GREATER SHARE IN RUNNING YOUR OWN AFFAIRS.

PART OF THAT WAY OF LIFE IS THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ASK THE GOVERNOR DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, OR EVEN, I HOPE, SOME EASY QUESTIONS. BUT AS WAS SAID AT THE BEGINNING, I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE GIVE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS. AT MY FIRST MEETING, IN THE CITY HALL IN CENTRAL, WE HAD ABOUT 25-30 QUESTIONS BUT ONLY 11 QUESTIONERS, BECAUSE SEVERAL PEOPLE ASKED THREE OR FOUR QUESTIONS. AT SHA TIN LAST FRIDAY, WE REACHED AN AGREEMENT, WE HAD A BIT OF DEMOCRACY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE QUESTION AND ANSWER, AND I ASKED EVERYBODY WHETHER THEY WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT EVERYBODY WOULD ONLY HAVE ONE QUESTION. AND IF EVERYBODY ONLY HAS ONE QUESTION, WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET 20 OR SO QUESTIONERS IN. I THINK THAT'S A FAIR WAY OF PROCEEDING, AND AFTER THIS HAS BEEN INTERPRETED, I'D JUST LIKE TO HAVE EVERYONE WHO THINKS THAT IT SHOULD BE ONE QUESTION FOR EVERY QUESTIONER, TO RAISE THEIR HAND.

ANYBODY AGAINST? - A COUPLE. SO I THINK, BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY, WE'VE AGREED THAT IT WILL BE ONE QUESTION EACH.

/QUESTION: MR .....

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QUESTIONER: MR GOVERNOR, HOW ARE YOU? I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU, DURING THE SEVERAL MONTHS YOU ARE HERE, WHETHER YOU HAVE TRAVELLED ALONG TUEN MUN ROAD AND HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY CONGESTION ALONG TUEN MUN ROAD?

GOVERNOR: I HAVE TRAVELLED ALONG IT, BUT THIS IS WHEN I SHOULD MAKE A CONFESSION, BECAUSE ALL OF YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU ARE GOVERNOR, YOU TEND TO TRAVEL WITH THE HELP OF THE POLICE RATHER MORE QUICKLY THAN IF YOU ARE AN ORDINARY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG. YOU SEE, I'VE STARTED OFF BY BEING VERY HONEST AND I WANT TO GO ON LIKE THAT. IF I CAN JUST SAY ANOTHER WORD AND THEN YOU COME BACK; WHAT I THINK I RECOGNISE IS THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING MORE IN THIS PART OF OUR COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO SPEED UP TRANSPORT LINKS. BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, WE WILL HAVE, OF COURSE, STUDIES WHICH SHOULD BE ABLE TO ALLOW US TO MAKE DECISIONS, FIRST OF ALL ON ROUTE 3 AND SECONDLY, ON A RAIL LINK FROM THE NORTH-WEST OF THE NEW TERRITORIES INTO THE MAIN URBAN AREAS. IN THE MEANTIME, THERE ARE IMPORTANT THINGS WE SHOULD DO TO GO ON TRYING TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FERRY CROSSINGS, THE NUMBER OF BUS SERVICES AND, IF I MAY SAY SO, TO INVOLVE DISTRICT BOARDS MUCH MORE IN TAKING DECISIONS ABOUT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES; ISSUES LIKE THE PROVISION OF CROSSINGS AND THE SITING OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS, THOSE ARE EXACTLY THE SORT OF ISSUES WHICH DISTRICT BOARDS ARE EXTREMELY WELL PLACED TO ADVISE US ON, BUT THE QUESTIONS ARE, I KNOW, GOING TO BE THE FUTURE OF THE ROUTE 3 AND THE FUTURE OF OUR RAIL SERVICES.

DO YOU WANT TO COME BACK?

QUESTIONER: MR GOVERNOR, IF YOU HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED ANY CONGESTION ON TUEN MUN ROAD, I HOPE YOU HAVE GOOD LUCK. NOW, MANY NEW TOWNS ARE BEING DEVELOPED, A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE MOVING INTO NEW TOWNS FROM THE URBAN AREA, FROM THE AREA OF TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE TO GO OUT TO THE URBAN AREA TO WORK EVERYDAY AND ALL OF THEM ARE USING TUEN MUN ROAD. ALL KINDS OF VEHICLES HAVE TO USE THAT ROAD TOO AND THE CONGESTION IS VERY BAD AND THE NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS HAVE MORE THAN ONCE REFLECTED THEIR OPINION AND THEIR REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO ASK FOR A RAIL LINK BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN, BUT SO FAR WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY ANSWER. SO MAY I ASK YOU, MR GOVERNOR, WOULD THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER BUILDING A RAIL LINK BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN? IF NOT, THEN I MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER MOVING OUT TO URBAN AREA AGAIN.

GOVERNOR: WELL, WE WOULDN'T WANT THAT. I REPEAT WHAT I SAID EARLIER, THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE TWO DECISIONS LATER IN THE YEAR: ONE WILL BE ON ROUTE 3, THE OTHER WILL BE ON THE RESULTS OF OUR RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER IN THE YEAR. I HOPE THAT WILL START TO SUGGEST SOME OF THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS. BUT IF IT DOESN'T I'M SURE YOU WILL LET ME KNOW AS ELOQUENTLY AND HUMOROUSLY AS YOU HAVE THIS EVENING, BECAUSE THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES, I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT TRANSPORT IS, PARTICULARLY WHEN WE ARE STILL SEEING SUCH SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

/QUESTION: MR .....

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, HOW ARE YOU? AT ONE OF YOUR PRESS CONFERENCES I READ IN THE PRESS REPORT THAT YOU WANTED TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF PUBLIC HOUSING. WE WERE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT BECAUSE WE THOUGHT THREE MILLION RESIDENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING WOULD SEE THE SALVATION. BUT WHEN YOU DELIVERED YOUR POLICY SPEECH IT WAS NOT THE SAME, YOU ONLY MENTIONED ABOUT THE HOUSING FOR THE SANDWICH CLASS. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE THREE MILLION RESIDENTS WHO ARE NOW LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING? THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS ACTING LIKE A BIG LANDLORD AND THEY KEEP ON PERSECUTING US. THEY JUST RAISE RENTS WHENEVER THEY LIKE, ESPECIALLY FOR US WHO LIVE IN THE REDEVELOPMENT AREA AT KWAI CHUNG. WE PETITIONED TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, WE PETITIONED TO THE GOVERNOR, BUT THE GOVERNOR JUST PASSED THE BALL BACK TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AGAIN WHO GAVE US A REPLY WHICH CONTAINS NOTHING AT ALL; AND YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF HIGH RENTAL. I AM PAYING \$187 PER MONTH BUT WHEN I MOVE TO A NEW BUILDING I HAVE TO PAY \$715 PER MONTH. SO CAN YOU SEE HOW MANY TIMES THE RAISE IS? MR GOVERNOR, CAN YOU BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF PUBLIC HOUSING BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T MENTIONED ANYTHING IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH? AND I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A CARD.

GOVERNOR: WHICH I'VE GOT. CAN I, WITHOUT CRITICISING WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT MY SPEECH TOO MUCH BECAUSE I DID TALK ABOUT PUBLIC HOUSING - LET ME SAY A WORD OR TWO ABOUT PUBLIC HOUSING, AND ABOUT RENTS WHICH YOU MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR.

HOUSING IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES THAT WE HAVE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. WE INTEND TO SPEND ABOUT 41 BILLION OF YOUR HONG KONG DOLLARS ON HOUSING. THAT WILL PROVIDE NEW HOUSING FOR NEARLY 200,000 FAMILIES, ABOUT 650,000 PEOPLE, OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. AND IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE PROVIDE THAT HOUSING BECAUSE WE HAVE TO IMPROVE THE HOUSING OF SOME PEOPLE WHO AT PRESENT LIVE IN INADEQUATE HOMES AND WE HAVE TO GO ON PROVIDING NEW HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE FORMING FAMILIES, WHO ARE STARTING OUT IN LIFE TOGETHER, AND WE HAVE TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIALISED HOUSING AS WELL, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE SINGLE ELDERLY.

NOW, YOU MENTIONED THE PARTICULAR QUESTION OF RENTS. I SYMPATHISE WITH THOSE WHO DON'T RECEIVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BUT HAVE DIFFICULTY IN PAYING THEIR RENT AND, THEREFORE, I AM PLEASED THAT PROPOSALS HAVE COME FORWARD FOR GIVING PEOPLE IN THAT CATEGORY SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN THEIR RENTS FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS. THOSE PROPOSALS WILL COST ABOUT HK\$60 MILLION IN THE FIRST YEAR AND ABOUT \$20 MILLION IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS. SO YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT TO SAY THAT WHATEVER THE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN HOUSING WHICH MAY BE FACED BY THE SO-CALLED SANDWICH CLASS, WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IN HONG KONG IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE GO ON WITH A VERY LARGE, SUBSTANTIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME IN ORDER, LITERALLY, TO BUILD ON THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION WHICH WAS PRODUCED IN PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE 1970'S AND 80'S. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE STABILITY AND HARMONY OF OUR COMMUNITY THAT WE DO THAT.

/QUESTION: MR .....

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, I AM AN EDUCATION WORKER. IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS YOU SAID THE RECURRING EXPENDITURE IN EDUCATION WILL BE INCREASED BY 15.8% IN REAL TERMS. I AM AT THE SAME TIME HAPPY AND UPSET, BECAUSE I AM A PRE-PRIMARY TEACHER AND I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION. TAIWAN DOES, CHINA DOES, AND A LOT OF COUNTRIES DO, BUT THE GOVERNMENT GAVE THE REASON THAT THE CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE TO FINISH KINDERGARTEN OR GO TO CHILD CARE CENTRES BEFORE THEY GO TO PRIMARY SCHOOL, BUT NOW IN HONG KONG, MORE THAN 90% OF THE PARENTS SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO KINDERGARTEN AND CHILD CARE CENTRES, SPENDING SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS A MONTH OR SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS A MONTH. ARE THEY DOING JUST A USELESS THING? I THINK IN THE PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. THE STATUS OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION WORKERS AND THE QUALITY OF THE PRIMARY EDUCATION WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY RAISED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE THE RECOGNITION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION. WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR GOVERNOR, ABOUT THE VIEW THAT PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION IS NOT NECESSARY?

GOVERNOR: CAN I FIRST OF ALL SAY THAT IN ANY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS, IN ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION, HOWEVER EXTENSIVE THEY ARE YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE PRIORITIES. I WAS BEING CRITICISED LAST WEEK BY SOME PEOPLE FOR PROPOSING THAT WE SHOULD SPEND TOO MUCH MONEY IN HONG KONG. ACTUALLY, I THINK THAT WE'VE PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS THAT WE CAN AFFORD BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL RECOGNISE IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY THAT WE CAN'T DO EVERYTHING THAT WE WOULD WANT, AT ONCE.

LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT I MEAN IN EDUCATION. WE HAVE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS IN HONG KONG, DECIDED GREATLY TO EXPAND THE TERTIARY SECTOR OF EDUCATION SO THAT WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO ALMOST ONE IN FIVE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 17 TO 20 WILL BE ABLE TO GO ON TO A UNIVERSITY OR A POLYTECHNIC. BUT WHAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING TO ME IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS IS, IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST TO PUT MORE INVESTMENT INTO HIGHER EDUCATION, WE ALSO NEED TO PUT MORE INTO OUR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND IN PARTICULAR, THEY'VE ARGUED, WE NEED TO PUT MORE INTO TEACHERS, INTO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS, INTO REDUCING CLASS SIZES, AND INTO RAISING THE QUALITY OF TEACHER TRAINING.

I'VE TRIED TO RESPOND TO THAT, BEGINNING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, BY STARTING TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF CLASSES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS FROM 40 TO 35 BEGINNING IN YEAR ONE. AND WHY DID I FEEL THAT ABOUT PRIMARY SCHOOLS? BECAUSE ALL OF US KNOW, AS PARENTS - AND TEACHERS KNOW AS WELL - THAT THE EDUCATION THE CHILDREN GET AT THE VERY BEGINNING IS CRUCIAL TO THEIR LATER DEVELOPMENT. OF COURSE IT'S REASONABLE FOR YOU TO SAY, "YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS JUST FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS, YOU SHOULDN'T JUST DO THIS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, YOU MUST DO MORE FOR PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS AS WELL." WE ARE DOING SOME MORE FOR PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS. I ANNOUNCED AN INCREASE OF, I THINK, 5,600 IN THE NUMBER OF NURSERY PLACES. I ANNOUNCED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FEE-REMISSION SCHEME FOR KINDERGARTENS, SO WE DO WANT TO SEE MORE DONE AT PRE-SCHOOL TOO. BUT I REPEAT WHAT I SAID AT THE BEGINNING, THAT MAKING POLITICAL DECISIONS IS ALL ABOUT TAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS ABOUT PRIORITIES AND I THINK THIS YEAR, IT WAS RIGHT TO CONCENTRATE AS MUCH EXTRA HELP AS WE COULD ON TEACHERS AND ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

QUESTION: GOOD EVENING, MR PATTEN. I SHOULD LIKE TO RAISE AN ISSUE NOT MENTIONED IN YOUR RECENT POLICY ADDRESS. I REFER TO THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG'S MINORITY LONG TERM RESIDENTS, NOT OF CHINESE DESCENT, WHO DO NOT ENJOY PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS IN HONG KONG. THE JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDES FOR PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS BEING CONFIRMED ON NON-CHINESE PERSONS WHO HAVE RESIDED HERE FOR SEVEN YEARS. IN SPITE OF THIS EXISTING AGREEMENT, YOUR GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO DECLINE TO GIVE SUCH LONG TERM RESIDENTS, LIKE MYSELF, PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS, CLAIMING THAT A LACK OF A CLEAR DEFINITION FOR THE TERM "CHINESE RESIDENT" PRECLUDES THIS.

THE GOVERNMENT IS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILLING TO USE THEIR OWN RACIALLY-DISCRIMINATING DEFINITION IN CURRENT LEGISLATION, TO ISSUE PERMANENT IDENTITY-CARDS TO PERSONS WHOLLY OR PARTLY OF CHINESE BLOOD. THIS PARTICULAR DEFINITION, DISTASTEFUL THOUGH IT IS, COULD JUST AS EASILY BE UTILISED TO GIVE NON-CHINESE RESIDENTS PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS. WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT REMOVING THIS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND PROVIDE ALL HONG KONG RESIDENTS WITH THE SAME RIGHTS? THANK YOU.

GOVERNOR: JUST BEFORE ANSWERING THE QUESTION, CAN I DEAL WITH A LITTLE LOCAL DIFFICULTY WITH THE GENTLEMAN AT NUMBER 2. WHAT IS VERY IMPORTANT ON OCCASIONS LIKE THIS IS, EVERYONE IN THE AUDIENCE IS FAIR TO ONE ANOTHER. A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT TO ASK QUESTIONS BUT WE'VE GOT TO DO IT IN A FAIR ORDER. I WILL ANSWER A QUESTION FROM YOU, BUT I WON'T ANSWER A QUESTION FROM YOU UNTIL THE GENTLEMAN IN THE WHITE T-SHIRT HAS ASKED A QUESTION, BECAUSE I CALLED HIM FIRST. SO IF YOU SIT DOWN, I WILL ASK YOU TO HAVE A QUESTION AFTER THE GENTLEMAN IN THE WHITE T-SHIRT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR, THAT IS A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW WE CAN HAVE SERIOUS DISCUSSION IN AN ORDERLY WAY.

CAN I NOW COME TO THE IMPORTANT QUESTION WHICH WAS ASKED FROM NUMBER 5. I'M GOING TO BE QUITE BRIEF BECAUSE IT'S AN ISSUE WHICH IS AT PRESENT BEING DISCUSSED. IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH WE DO NEED TO DISCUSS WITH OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES. IT'S BEEN ON THE AGENDA OF WHAT'S CALLED "THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP" FOR QUITE A LONG TIME NOW BUT I'M EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, AT WHICH BRITISH AND CHINESE OFFICIALS DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS AROUND THE TABLE, AT THE LAST MEETING IN LONDON LAST MONTH, WE STARTED TO MAKE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ON WHAT IS CALLED "THE RIGHT OF ABODE AND RELATED ISSUES". SO I HOPE THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE MATTERS IN A WAY WHICH IS SATISFACTORY FOR YOU AND FOR COLLEAGUES, SO THAT YOU CAN GO ON MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELL BEING AND THE STABILITY OF HONG KONG. I DO UNDERSTAND THE WORRIES THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE AND WE WILL TRY TO RESOLVE THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH YOU MENTIONED A LOT ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT BUT YOU SAID THAT YOU ARE GOING TO TAKE THESE PROPOSALS TO PEKING TO DISCUSS WITH THEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU ALSO STRESS THAT THIS IS WHAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WANT, THEY WANT A FASTER PACE IN DEMOCRATISATION. BUT THESE TWO MAY BE CONTRADICTORY. MAY I ASK YOU ONE THING: WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THE WISHES OF PEKING AND THE HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE NOT COMPATIBLE? AND WILL IT TRIGGER OFF A NEW POLITICAL WRANGLING, AND WILL IT AFFECT YOUR DISCUSSIONS ON THE NEW AIRPORT?

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL OF YOU RECOGNISE, AS I HOPE NOW THAT OFFICIALS IN PEKING RECOGNISE, THAT SO FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, THERE HAS NOT BEEN, THERE CANNOT BE, THERE CAN NEVER BE, ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN DISCUSSIONS ON THE AIRPORT AND DISCUSSIONS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. THE AIRPORT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AND WE ALL KNOW THAT ONE DAY, I HOPE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, WE'LL HAVE A NEW AIRPORT, AND IT WILL BE ONE OF THE BEST AIRPORTS IN THE WORLD. BUT I AM NOT - AND I HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW I COULDN'T - I AM NOT GOING TO PUT MYSELF IN A POSITION IN WHICH I TRADE VALUES FOR COMMERCIAL SETTLEMENTS. THAT WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY INTOLERABLE, AND I DON'T THINK YOU'D TRUST ME IF I DID THAT.

I THINK THAT MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT IT IS WHOLLY PROPER FOR ME TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS. I THINK PEOPLE RECOGNISE THAT THAT IS A SENSIBLE THING TO DO. I HOPE THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE CHINESE OFFICIALS THAT WE CAN GIVE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG A GREATER SAY IN THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT UNDERMINING STABILITY IN HONG KONG, WITHOUT THREATENING ANYONE. WE CAN BEHAVE MATURELY AND RESPONSIBLY, AS PEOPLE ARE THIS EVENING. I HOPE THAT I CAN PUT THAT CASE PERSUASIVELY. BUT AFTER THOSE DISCUSSIONS - AND IT MAY NEED MORE THAN ONE MEETING - AFTER THOSE DISCUSSIONS, I WILL HAVE TO PUT MY JUDGMENT, ONCE AGAIN, BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, ABOUT THE BEST WAY FORWARD. AND I WILL HAVE TO PUT LEGISLATION, AT SOME STAGE, BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH WILL HAVE TO DECIDE THE BASIS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS.

LET ME ADD ONE OTHER POINT. THESE AREN'T THINGS WHICH I'VE TAKEN OUT OF THE BLUE, OUT OF THE SKY, THESE ARE PROPOSALS THAT I HAD TO BRING FORWARD BECAUSE WE DO NEED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTION COMMITTEE IN 1995, FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND SO ON. AND IF THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT MY PROPOSALS ARE WRONG, IT'S NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THEM JUST TO CRITICISE, IT'S NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THEM JUST TO SHOUT FROM THE GRANDSTAND AT THOSE OF US WHO ARE OUT ON THE PITCH, THEY SHOULD COME DOWN AND JOIN THE GAME AS WELL. THEY SHOULD TELL US WHAT PROPOSALS THEY WOULD PUT ON THE TABLE INSTEAD OF THE ONES WHICH I AM ADVANCING.

SO THAT IS THE WAY I SEE THINGS DEVELOPING. FIRST OF ALL MY DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS. I SHALL REPORT BACK ON THOSE DISCUSSIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. WE MAY NEED TO HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, BUT BEFORE TOO LONG, CERTAINLY IN THE EARLY PART OF NEXT YEAR, I WILL HAVE TO SET OUT MY THOUGHTS ON THE BEST WAY FORWARD FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO VOTE ON THEM.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, THIS YEAR, IN THE FOUR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION THE TOTAL PLACES WERE 1,100 BUT THE ADMISSIONS WERE ONLY 972, AND THE SHORTFALL WAS 11%. IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH YOU MENTION THAT 780 ADDITIONAL TEACHERS WILL BE RECRUITED. MAY I ASK YOU: HOW CAN YOU ATTRACT MORE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS TO ENTER THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION? AND HOW CAN YOU ENSURE THAT THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS WILL NOT DROP?

/GOVERNOR: I .....

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT IN A COMMUNITY WHICH REGARDS EDUCATION AS IMPORTANT AS HONG KONG DOES, IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT THE TEACHING PROFESSION HAS AS MUCH ESTEEM AS POSSIBLE. PEOPLE VERY OFTEN ASK WHAT IT IS THAT PRODUCES A GOOD EDUCATION, AND THERE HAS BEEN ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF RESEARCH ON THE SUBJECT. WE ALL KNOW THAT WHAT PRODUCES THE BEST EDUCATION IS GOOD TEACHERS. AND I THINK THAT THE RECOGNITION THAT TEACHERS ARE AT THE HEART OF A GOOD EDUCATION, PROPERLY REMUNERATED, PROPERLY PAID, GIVEN THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEY CAN WORK BEST, THOSE ARE THE WAYS IN WHICH WE'LL BE ABLE TO ATTRACT MORE AND BETTER PEOPLE INTO THE PROFESSION.

NOW, YOU HAVE QUITE RIGHTLY SAID THAT WE HAVE SET OURSELVES AMBITIOUS AND PERHAPS DIFFICULT TARGETS. WE'RE TRYING TO RECRUIT ANOTHER 700 TEACHERS NEXT YEAR, AND WE WANT TO RECRUIT, ON TOP OF THAT, ANOTHER 1,500 TEACHERS IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE TEACHING FORCE BY ABOUT 2,200. I HOPE THAT THE FACT THAT WE ARE REDUCING CLASS SIZES, THE FACT THAT WE ARE GIVING TEACHERS MORE TIME TO PREPARE THEIR LESSONS AND MORE TIME TO SPEND WITH INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS, WILL MAKE TEACHING ITSELF BOTH MORE ATTRACTIVE AND PERHAPS A LITTLE LESS BURDENSOME FOR TEACHERS THEMSELVES. AND IT'S A SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH I SPEAK WITH SOME PERSONAL INTEREST - BOTH MY GRANDPARENTS WERE TEACHERS.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, AS FAR AS I UNDERSTAND, THE FUNCTION OF A POLICY ADDRESS IS TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO DO FOR US AND WHAT ARE THE MAJOR GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT YOU ARE GOING TO IMPLEMENT. YOU HAVE ALREADY TOUCHED ON SEVERAL SOCIAL POLICIES AND I AM SURE YOU HAVE ALREADY LISTENED TO A LOT ABOUT THE PROS AND CONS ABOUT THESE POLICIES AND YOU HAVE ALREADY STRUCK A BALANCE BETWEEN THEM. BUT RIGHT NOW THERE ARE STILL GREAT CONTROVERSIES SURROUNDING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH YOU HAVE ALREADY PUT FORTH RADICAL CHANGES. SO DO YOU THINK IT WOULD DETERIORATE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA, BRITAIN AND HONG KONG? NORMALLY, A GREEN PAPER WOULD BE ISSUED TO CONSULT THE PUBLIC ON MAJOR POLICIES, BUT WHY WAS THERE NO GREEN PAPER THIS TIME?

IN HONG KONG THERE IS THIS POLITICAL REALITY: A LOT OF PEOPLE DO NOT REGISTER AS VOTERS. THOSE WHO HAVE REGISTERED DID NOT GO TO CAST THEIR VOTE. SO UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WHY DO YOU HAVE SO MUCH CONFIDENCE THAT THE MAJORITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WANT SO MUCH DEMOCRACY? WHAT IS THE BASIS OF YOUR ARGUMENT?

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, AS I SAID EARLIER, WHAT I HAVE DONE IS TO SET OUT MY PROPOSALS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS AND FOR OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, AND THOSE PROPOSALS, I OBSERVE, ARE BEING WIDELY DISCUSSED IN HONG KONG, AS WOULD HAPPEN IF I'D PRODUCED A GREEN PAPER. WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN ANY HAPPIER IF I HAD SAID, IN MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPEECH, "I'M PRODUCING A GREEN PAPER WITH ALL THESE PROPOSALS IN", RATHER THAN STATING THEM IN THE SPEECH? I'M NOT SURE THAT THAT WOULD HAVE PRODUCED MORE OR LESS DISCUSSION.

/BUT YOU .....

BUT YOU MAKE A MORE IMPORTANT AND FUNDAMENTAL POINT, WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DECIDE, WITH ME, OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. AND I MUST SAY THAT JUDGING BY SOME RECENT POLLS, SOME RECENT OPINION POLLS, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO ME THAT I HAVE BADLY MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE ASKING FOR. I THINK THAT PEOPLE WANT A MODEST INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF CONTROL THEY HAVE OVER THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED, SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES IN ASIA, ONE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED, SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES IN THE WORLD. I'M NOT PROPOSING ANYTHING WHICH IS RADICAL, I'M MAKING PROPOSALS WHICH ARE GRADUAL AND ORDERLY AND IN MY VIEW, WELL BALANCED. BUT IF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DISAGREE WITH THAT, I'M SURE THAT THEY WILL TELL ME.

WHAT I DON'T THINK IS CLEAR IS WHAT ALTERNATIVES ANYBODY ELSE HAS TO OFFER. PEOPLE CRITICISE, BUT I'M NOT AWARE OF OTHER PROPOSALS BEING PUT ON THE TABLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS. I HOPE WE CAN DISCUSS THESE THINGS IN A RATIONAL AND COOL AND SENSIBLE WAY, AS YOU HAVE PUT YOUR QUESTION THIS EVENING, AND I HOPE AT THE END OF THAT DISCUSSION, WE CAN MOVE FORWARD IN A WAY WHICH CARRIES THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, CONFIDENCE WHICH WILL BE STRENGTHENED IN A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE FOR THIS GREAT TERRITORY.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, HOW ARE YOU? I AM VERY HAPPY TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WHAT IS ON MY MIND AND I WOULD LIKE TO GREET ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS DISTRICT AND I WANT TO WISH THEM WELL. I AM A BUSINESS WOMAN AND I HOLD A BUSINESS LICENCE AND I THANK YOU ALL. MY RIGHTS ARE ALSO YOUR RIGHTS. YOU HAVE TOLD US ABOUT AIRPORT. YOU HAVE BEEN HERE THREE MONTHS, AND YOU ARE VERY HAPPY. IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS YOU HAVE MENTIONED HOW TO PROTECT BUSINESSMEN AND I HOPE YOU WILL DO WHAT YOU SAY.

GOVERNOR: WE'VE ONLY GOT ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES. I WILL TELL YOU WHAT, WE WILL BOOK THE HALL NEXT WEEK AND YOU CAN COME AND HAVE A MEETING HERE.

QUESTIONER: I HAVE SUFFERED LOSS AT THE CLOSURE OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE.

GOVERNOR: IF YOU COULD LET OTHER PEOPLE NOW ASK A QUESTION, YOU'VE HAD A JOLLY GOOD GO. DON'T PUSH HER, PLEASE DON'T PUSH HER. PLEASE, PLEASE, WE'LL DO THIS VERY CALMLY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED, THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION. IF YOU'VE GOT A LETTER FOR ME AFTERWARDS, I WILL TAKE IT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED. ALRIGHT, IT JUST SPOILS IT FOR EVERYBODY ELSE.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, I JUST WANT TO ASK A VERY SIMPLE QUESTION. HOW MUCH MONEY WILL THE GOVERNMENT INJECT INTO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IN THE COMING YEARS, BECAUSE, IF IT IS NOT ENOUGH, THEN YOU ARE NOT GIVING ANY GENUINE ASSISTANCE TO THE LOWER INCOME CLASSES. LAST YEAR, THERE WERE ONLY 300 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH WENT TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND WE JUST GAVE YOU A CARD AND WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A MEETING WITH YOU, SO WHEN CAN YOU GIVE US AN ANSWER ON THE DATE OF YOUR AVAILABILITY?

/GOVERNOR: I'LL .....

GOVERNOR: I'LL TAKE THE CARD FROM YOU AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF I'VE GOT A DATE SOON, BUT I HOPE IT BETTER NOT BE IN SCHOOL TIME. BUT I SAID EARLIER THAT THIS COMMUNITY WILL BE SPENDING 41 BILLION HONG KONG DOLLARS ON HOUSING IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS; THAT IS A SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT, A HUGE AND NECESSARY INVESTMENT IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF MANY FAMILIES. I THINK I WILL PROBABLY GET SOME - WE'LL ALL GET THROWN OUT UNLESS WE STOP FAIRLY SOON BECAUSE WE ARE SUPPOSED TO FINISH AT 7.15. BUT, IF NO. 4 AND NO. 5 PROMISE TO BE REALLY, REALLY, REALLY BRIEF - NOT READING OUT A GREAT SPEECH BUT REALLY BRIEF - IF THEY BOTH ASK A QUESTION, I'LL ANSWER THEM BOTH TOGETHER.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, ON THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS ANSWERED A JOURNALIST THAT, IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH YOU MENTIONED ABOUT ABOLISHING ALL THE APPOINTED SEATS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS BUT THIS MEASURE, MR MICHAEL SZE SAID WAS STILL SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION. SO WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER PART OF YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS? ARE YOU GOING TO DISCUSS THEM WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES AND WILL YOU COMPROMISE WITH THEM AND WOULD YOU CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE?

GOVERNOR: WHAT I WILL DO - AND I THINK EVERYBODY WOULD REGARD IT AS BEING CORRECT - IS TO DISCUSS MY PROPOSALS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS JUST AS I AM DISCUSSING THEM WITH YOU AND OTHERS HERE THIS EVENING. BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, AND THAT WILL BE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, I WILL HAVE TO GIVE YOU MY BEST JUDGMENT ON THE MOST SENSIBLE WAY FORWARD. THAT IS WHAT I WILL HAVE TO DO AS GOVERNOR, THAT IS WHAT I WILL HAVE TO DO AS SOMEBODY WHO HAS TO PUT FORWARD SCHEMES FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IN 1994 AND 1995. SO, WHEN I SAY THEY ARE PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION, THEY ARE PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION, BUT MY OBJECTIVE IS ABSOLUTELY PLAIN. MY OBJECTIVE IS TO SECURE MORE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN A WAY THAT WILL LAST AND I THINK THAT IS WHAT MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WANT AS WELL.

QUESTION: GOOD EVENING MR PATTEN. I HOPE MY QUESTION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION WILL NOT MAKE YOU FED UP. PRIMARY STUDENTS IN HONG KONG ARE REALLY UNDER SCHOOLING PRESSURE AND IT'S BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO DO HEAPS OF HOMEWORK, WHICH LASTS FOR HOURS; AND TEACHERS ALSO ADVISES THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS THAT THEIR CHILDREN FOR NOT DOING THEIR HOMEWORK, MIGHT EVEN ALSO THREATEN THE STUDENT DIRECTLY AND GIVE THEM MENTAL PRESSURE. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY CAN'T THE SCHOOLCHILDREN ENJOY THE MORE NATURAL WAY OF EDUCATION AS OTHER MODERN COUNTRIES DO? THAT'S TO DO THEIR PAPERWORK IN SCHOOL, KEEP TO LESSER HOMEWORK AND DO MORE PRACTICAL PARTICIPATION IN LEARNING SUCH AS GOING ON EXCURSION, SO THAT PARENTS CAN SPEND MORE TIME ON JUDGING THEIR BEHAVIOUR THAN JUST TO FORCE THEM TO PAY MORE ATTENTION ON ASSIGNMENTS? WHY PRIMARY EDUCATION ATMOSPHERES IN HONG KONG ARE PUSHING CHILDREN TO BECOME MORE MATURE AND LEARNED AT AN EARLY STAGE? THIS WILL DESTROY OUR CHILDHOOD FREEDOM. I THINK IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN CIVIC EDUCATION TO CHILDREN TO DISCIPLINE OUR FUTURE PILLARS OF HONG KONG THAN JUST BLINDLY TO MAKE THEM STUDY. I HOPE, MR PATTEN, YOU WILL INVESTIGATE AND GIVE MORE INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN THIS CONNECTION. THANK YOU.

GOVERNOR: I THINK BY YOUR REACTION TO THAT QUESTION, ALL OF YOU RECOGNISE HOW CRUCIAL IT IS. ANY GOOD EDUCATION WE ALL KNOW, HAS TO BE A BALANCE, A BALANCE BETWEEN CHILDREN LEARNING THINGS AND THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU HAVE TO LEARN IN THE CLASSROOM AND CHILDREN DEVELOPING IN A BROADER WAY; AND WHAT IS RIGHT FOR ONE CHILD ISN'T NECESSARILY RIGHT FOR THE CHILD SITTING NEXT TO HIM OR HER IN THE CLASSROOM. AS I SAID IN MY SPEECH THE OTHER DAY, SOME CHILDREN ARE, FROM THEIR FIRST MOMENT IN SCHOOL, BUDDING EINSTEINS; SOME CHILDREN ARE VERY GOOD AT WORK, OTHER CHILDREN ARE BETTER AT DAY-DREAMING. WHAT IS IMPORTANT - AND IT'S THE GREAT CHALLENGE TO GOOD TEACHERS - IS TO BE ABLE TO LOOK AFTER THE DIFFERENT INTERESTS AND DIFFERENT ABILITIES OF EVERY CHILD AND TO HELP INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN DEVELOP TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH ALL OF US WHO ARE PARENTS. WE WERE EDUCATED YEARS AGO, I LEFT SCHOOL - I WON'T TELL YOU HOW LONG AGO - AND WE TEND TO THINK THAT THE ONLY SORT OF EDUCATION WHICH MAKES SENSE IS THE SORT THAT WE HAVE WHEN WE WERE AT SCHOOL. I KNOW VERY WELL THAT MY OWN CHILDREN HAVE BEEN BETTER EDUCATED THAN I WAS, HAVE BEEN EDUCATED IN A MUCH BROADER WAY, HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO THINK AND UNDERSTAND, NOT JUST TO LEARN. SO I DO THINK, AS PARENTS, WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND OURSELVES THAT THE CURRICULUM CHANGES, THAT TEACHING STYLE CHANGES. SO LONG AS THE CORE OF EDUCATION IS HARD, SO LONG AS THE CORE OF EDUCATION ENSURES THAT CHILDREN DEVELOP TO THE FULL, THAT IS A GOOD EDUCATION IN MY VIEW. I THINK IT IS CRUCIAL TO BUILD THE BRIDGES BETWEEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS, THROUGH PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS, THROUGH CLOSER INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS IN HELPING TO RUN SCHOOLS, BECAUSE THAT WAY, IF PARENTS UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM MORE, AND IF TEACHERS KNOW PARENTS BETTER, I THINK SOME OF THE DIVISIONS AND BREAKDOWNS IN COMMUNICATION WHICH YOU MENTIONED WOULD BE ENDED.

NOW WE'VE OVER-RUN BY FIFTEEN MINUTES AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT THERE ARE MEN IN THE WINGS AND I THINK THEY ARE WAITING TO CARRY ME OFF. BUT THERE ARE TWO GROUPS THAT I WANT TO THANK THIS EVENING. FIRST OF ALL. I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR COMING AND ASKING SUCH GOOD QUESTIONS AND BEHAVING SO WELL. JUST IN CASE ANYBODY DOUBTED IT, YOU'VE DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN THAT WE CAN DISCUSS SOMETIMES VERY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AT A PUBLIC MEETING LIKE THIS IN HONG KONG IN A GOOD SPIRIT.

AND SECONDLY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ANOTHER GROUP. WITHOUT THEM, I'M AFRAID, THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE UNDERSTOOD YOUR QUESTIONS, AND SOME OF YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD MY ANSWERS. I'D LIKE TO THANK THE INTERPRETERS WHO, ONCE AGAIN, HAVE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB. THANK YOU FOR COMING.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1992

- 13 -

STOCK MARKET IS SET FOR MORE DEVELOPMENTS

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WITH THE ADVENT OF THE CENTRAL CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEM (CCASS), THE WAY HAS NOW BEEN PAVED FOR A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STOCK MARKET, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THESE INCLUDED THE INTRODUCTION OF AN AUTOMATIC ORDER MATCHING AND EXECUTION SYSTEM, PROPOSALS REGARDING SHORT SELLING, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS, SUCH AS TRADED OPTIONS, MR MACLEOD SAID AT A RECEPTION TO MARK THE INAUGURATION OF THE CCASS.

THE CCASS WAS FIRST INTRODUCED TO OPERATE INITIALLY ON TRADE-FOR-TRADE SETTLEMENT BASIS IN JUNE THIS YEAR FOR PARTICIPANTS TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH ITS OPERATION.

IT CAME INTO FULL OPERATION LAST WEDNESDAY WHEN IT MOVED ON TO THE CONTINUOUS NETTING SYSTEM.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BRIEF EXPERIENCE SO FAR HAS SHOWN THAT CCASS HAS GREATLY ENHANCED SETTLEMENT EFFICIENCY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE COUNTERPARTY EXPOSURE OF BROKERS AND WILL PROVIDE A BETTER RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKET," MR MACLEOD SAID.

HE SAID THE LAUNCHING OF THE CCASS MARKED ANOTHER NOTABLE MILESTONE IN A SERIES OF IMPROVEMENTS TO HONG KONG'S STOCK AND FUTURES MARKETS.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS THAT AIMED AT ENSURING MARKET INTEGRITY AND PROTECTING INVESTORS INCLUDED THE FORMATION OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC); THE RE-CONSTITUTION OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE FUTURES EXCHANGE, WITH MORE REPRESENTATIVE AND BROADLY BASED GOVERNING BODIES, INCLUDING BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS; AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST INSIDER DEALING AND A REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE INTERESTS OF SIGNIFICANT SHAREHOLDERS.

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HK TO RECOGNISE WORLD STANDARDS DAY

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HONG KONG WILL BE JOINING MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN RECOGNISING THE 23RD WORLD STANDARDS DAY WHICH MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION.

THE WORLD STANDARDS DAY IS CELEBRATED EACH YEAR ON OCTOBER 14 IN ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION (ISO) AND THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC).

/THE DEPUTY .....

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG, SAID: "THIS DAY IS AN ANNUAL FOCAL POINT FOR PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF THOUSANDS OF EXPERTS WHO PREPARE THE STANDARDS.

"THIS YEAR, ISO AND IEC HAVE CHOSEN 'INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS - A KEY TO OPEN MARKETS' AS THE THEME TO RECOGNISE THE GROWING IMPORTANCE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ARE HAVING ON THE FREE MOVEMENTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES ACROSS NATIONAL FRONTIERS."

THE EVENT IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE ISO AND THE IEC WHICH HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT STANDARDS AND WORKING TOWARDS COMPATIBILITY OF SYSTEMS WORLDWIDE FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH MANUFACTURERS AND CONSUMERS.

HONG KONG MONITORS CLOSELY THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH STANDARDS IN THE ISO AND IEC.

MR FUNG SAID HONG KONG WAS AN EXPORT-ORIENTED ECONOMY AND ITS MAJOR MARKETS HAD BEEN PLACING INCREASING EMPHASIS ON QUALITY AND CONSUMER SAFETY IN RECENT YEARS.

"A COMPREHENSIVE, POSITIVE INFORMATION SERVICE ON ALL STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, TESTING, CERTIFICATION AND RELATED TOPICS IN RELEVANT MARKETS AND FOR DOMESTIC USE IS THUS CRUCIAL TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

TO PROMOTE STANDARDISATION AND THE AWARENESS OF QUALITY IN HONG KONG, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SET UP THE PRODUCT STANDARDS INFORMATION BUREAU IN 1986.

ITS MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TO COLLECT AND COLLATE INFORMATION ON STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS IN HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS MARKETS AS WELL AS TO DISSEMINATE IT TO THE INDUSTRY.

THE BUREAU MAINTAINS A LIBRARY WITH ABOUT 80,000 VOLUMES OF NATIONAL STANDARDS OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ISSUED BY THE ISO AND IEC.

IT HAS SET UP DIRECT ON-LINE COMPUTER LINKS WITH OVERSEAS STANDARDS INSTITUTIONS SINCE 1989 IN ORDER TO GET UPDATED INFORMATION ON OVERSEAS STANDARDS.

A COMPUTER-ASSISTED INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM HAS ALSO BEEN INSTALLED SINCE 1991.

IN ADDITION, THE BUREAU OPERATED A SALES AGENCY SERVICE THROUGH WHICH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS CAN BE PURCHASED.

IT IS ALSO AUTHORISED TO REPRODUCE AND SELL PHOTOCOPIES OF AUSTRALIAN, BRITISH, EUROPEAN, ISO AND IEC STANDARDS TO FACILITATE THE USE OF STANDARDS.

THE SALES AGENCY SERVICE HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE WELL RECEIVED BY THE TRADE. FOR INSTANCE, THE VOLUME OF SALES HAS INCREASED 56 PER CENT DURING APRIL TO SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AS AGAINST THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR.

THE BUREAU ALSO PROVIDES A TECHNICAL ENQUIRY AND ADVICE SERVICE WHICH AIMS AT EXPLAINING THE TECHNICAL CONTENT OF OVERSEAS SPECIFICATIONS AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, OFFERS SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS TO ENABLE A PRODUCT TO MEET THE STIPULATED REQUIREMENTS.

THE SERVICE HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS WITH THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES HANDLED RISING FROM 60 IN 1986 TO ABOUT 1,800 IN 1991.

TO HELP THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR TO MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVENESS AND TO FOSTER ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT BY BUILDING UP A QUALITY-IMAGE INTERNATIONALLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT MANUFACTURERS' OWN EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THEIR PRODUCTION.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES IMPROVEMENTS TO HONG KONG'S EXISTING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE LAUNCHING OF A THREE-YEAR CAMPAIGN IN MARCH 1990 TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF QUALITY AWARENESS AMONG LOCAL MANUFACTURERS.

ALSO, THE HONG KONG QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY HAS BEEN SET UP TO MANAGE A VOLUNTARY SCHEME FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF BUSINESSES, BASED ON THE ISO 9000 QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS.

SO FAR, 28 LOCAL COMPANIES HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED TO THE ISO 9000 INTERNATIONAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS. A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF COMPANIES ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION FOR THE ISO 9000 AUDIT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL HELP THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR MEET VARIOUS PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS.

MR FUNG SAID APART FROM HELPING THE LOCAL INDUSTRY MEET VARIOUS OVERSEAS PRODUCT STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO CONSCIOUS OF THE SAFETY OF GOODS IMPORTED OR LOCALLY MADE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

"THOUGH HONG KONG DOES NOT HAVE A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF TECHNICAL REGULATIONS OR STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MOST PRODUCTS, THERE ARE, HOWEVER, CERTAIN REGULATIONS AND MEASURES RELATING TO SAFETY, INCLUDING THOSE GOVERNING SHIPS AND SHIPS REQUIREMENT, FOOD AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, ROAD TRAFFIC, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, FIRE SERVICES AND RADIATION.

"IT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT PRODUCTS BOUGHT BY LOCAL CONSUMERS ARE OF GOOD QUALITY AND UP TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS.

"A RECENT EXAMPLE IS THE PROPOSED TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCT SAFETY BILL WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE ENACTED IN THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION," HE SAID.

FIGURES ON RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR SECOND QUARTER  
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE RESTAURANT SECTOR IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$11.1 BILLION, INCREASED BY 21% OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RECEIPTS INCREASED BY 9% IN VOLUME.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1992, ESTIMATED AT \$4.2 BILLION, WAS 22% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1991.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS CONTINUED TO INCREASE RAPIDLY IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1992, BY 55% IN VALUE AND 36% IN VOLUME AS COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF FAST FOOD SHOPS ALSO INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, BY 33% IN VALUE AND 23% IN VOLUME. THE SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE EXPANSION OF SOME MAJOR FAST FOOD CHAINS IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1991.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS ALSO WENT UP BY 19% AND 18% RESPECTIVELY. IN VOLUME TERMS, BOTH TYPES OF RESTAURANTS REGISTERED AN INCREASE OF 7%.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD OF 1991, TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS ROSE BY 19% IN VALUE AND 8% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1992 WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THE COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS REGISTERED A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 1% IN VALUE BUT A SLIGHT DECREASE OF 1% IN VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED FIGURES FOR THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND TOTAL PURCHASES OF THE RESTAURANT SECTOR FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1992.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RECEIPTS BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1992, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

ALSO TABULATED ARE COMPARISONS OF THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1992 WITH THOSE OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991; COMPARISONS OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1992 IS NOW ON SALE AT \$1.50 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

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TABLE 1: TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		1st qtr. 1992 (Revised figures)	2nd qtr. 1992 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(in HK\$ million)	10 924.5	11 050.1
Total purchases by restaurants	(in HK\$ million)	4 141.9	4 172.0

TABLE 2: VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 1st QUARTER 1992 AND 2nd QUARTER 1992

(Quarterly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Type of restaurant	Index of total restaurant receipts	1st quarter 1992	2nd quarter 1992	2nd qtr. 1992 compared with 1st qtr. 1992		2nd qtr. 1992 compared with 2nd qtr. 1991		1st-2nd qtr. 1992 compared with 1st-2nd qtr. 1991	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	points	%	points	%
Chinese restaurants	Value	124.2	121.8	-2.4	-2.0	+19.4	+19.0	+17.3	+16.4
	Volume	99.2	94.7	-4.5	-4.5	+6.3	+7.1	+4.3	+4.6
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	118.1	125.4	+7.3	+6.2	+19.1	+18.0	+16.5	+15.7
	Volume	95.0	98.2	+3.2	+3.4	+6.1	+6.6	+4.1	+4.4
Fast food shops	Value	159.7	175.7	+16.0	+10.0	+43.9	+33.3	+46.9	+38.8
	Volume	131.9	142.4	+10.5	+7.9	+26.1	+22.5	+29.2	+27.1
Bars	Value	157.7	164.1	+6.4	+4.1	+58.1	+54.8	+56.8	+54.7
	Volume	125.1	125.0	-0.1	-0.1	+33.0	+35.9	+32.3	+34.8
Other eating and drinking places	Value	152.7	154.6	+1.9	+1.2	+21.7	+16.3	+30.7	+24.9
	Volume	127.5	125.6	-1.9	-1.5	+8.6	+7.3	+15.7	+14.1
All restaurant types	Value	127.1	128.6	+1.5	+1.1	+22.4	+21.1	+20.8	+19.4
	Volume	102.1	100.7	-1.4	-1.4	+8.6	+9.3	+7.2	+7.6

LEGCO TO MEET TOMORROW

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON J D MCGREGOR, WILL MOVE A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH IF CARRIED, WILL ENABLE HIM TO MOVE A MOTION ON THE FORMATION OF AN ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE LEGCO MEETING.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS AT THE MEETING.

OF THE SIX BILLS, FOUR WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES OF THEM ARE DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE OATHS AND DECLARATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES BILL, WATERWORKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND TRAVEL AGENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

DEBATES ON TWO OTHER BILLS WILL BE RESUMED. THEY ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THEY ARE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BILL AND BUILDING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992.

IN ADDITION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL PRESENT TO THE COUNCIL THE GOVERNMENT MINUTE IN RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18 DATED JUNE 1992 AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT 1991/92.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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228 VMS RETURNED TODAY

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A GROUP OF 228 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 101 MEN, 54 WOMEN, 30 BOYS AND 43 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 127TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 9,309 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 23,188 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1992

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A REPUTED DISCIPLINED SERVICE

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STAFF OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, INITIATIVE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY.

THIS WAS STATED BY DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HEADQUARTERS), MR LAM CHUN-MAN, TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING A PASSING-OUT PARADE OF 12 SENIOR FIREMEN/FIREWOMEN IN THE CONTROL STREAM, MR LAM SAID THESE STANDARDS AND TRADITIONS HAD EARNED THE DEPARTMENT A FIRST-CLASS REPUTATION BOTH IN HONG KONG AND ABROAD.

THE RECRUITS, WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED A 12-WEEK INITIAL TRAINING, WILL BE POSTED TO THE COMMUNICATION (CONTROL) CENTRE WHICH OPERATES A ROUND-THE-CLOCK SERVICE.

MR LAM TOLD THEM THAT AS A CONTROL STAFF, THEY WOULD BE THE FIRST TO RECEIVE THE CALLS FOR HELP TO FIRES, ACCIDENTS, AND OTHER DISASTERS.

"YOUR ACCURACY AND EFFICIENCY IN COMMUNICATION, DECISION-MAKING AND SUBSEQUENT MOBILISING OF RESOURCES ARE VITAL FACTORS THROUGH WHICH THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

HE REMINDED THE GRADUATES THAT THEY NEED TO HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND A MIND CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING WORKING PRESSURE, AND HOPED THEY WOULD SKILFULLY APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNIQUE LEARNED FROM THEIR TRAINING IN DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTY.

IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, CONTROL STAFF ANSWERED A TOTAL OF 17,180 FIRE CALLS, 11,598 SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS AND 286,977 AMBULANCE CALLS.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	13 OCT 92	13 OCT 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q242	H275
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,875 MN	HKD 740 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 800 MN	HKD 300 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.70 PCT	2.82 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.74 PCT	2.85 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 4 PCT	ABOUT 22 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.74 PCT	2.88 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 19 OCTOBER 1992 -

TENDER DATE	20 OCT 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q243
ISSUE DATE	21 OCT 92
MATURITY DATE	20 JAN 93
TENOR	91 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 800+160 MN

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,050
REVERSAL OF LAF	+450
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 110.8 *+0.3* 13.10.92	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.50 PCT	13 MONTHS	2311	6.25	103.17	3.31
1 MONTH	2.57 PCT	16 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.66	3.49
3 MONTHS	2.69 PCT	19 MONTHS	2405	5.502	102.69	3.78
6 MONTHS	2.78 PCT	22 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.80	3.96
12 MONTHS	3.25 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 5,561 MN

CLOSED 13 OCTOBER 1992

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