



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR WELCOMES AGREEMENT ON RETURN OF VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	1
GOVERNOR THANKS OUTGOING EXCO MEMBERS	1
AGREEMENT ON RETURN OF VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	2
TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON THE RETURN OF VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS	3
FAVOURABLE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT PROTECTED	18
CLOSER TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN ASIA CALLED	20
SHIPPING AND CARGO STATISTICS FOR OCEAN-GOING VESSELS FOR SECOND QUARTER OF 1991	21
EASY TRAVEL SCHEME TO BENEFIT MORE PEOPLE	24
TWO-DAY POLICY DEBATE IN LEGCO	25
ONE MORE CASE OF AIDS CONFIRMED	26
BLOOD DONATION IN SAI KUNG	28
RISING DEMAND FOR NICHE ENVISAGED	29
NEW AP LEI CHAU FIRE STATION OFFICIALLY OPENED	29
PARCELS BETWEEN UK AND HK TO BE DELAYED	30
FORUM OF SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS	30
CHECK-IN BAGGAGE LIMITATION INTRODUCED AT CHINA FERRY TERMINAL	31
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND HKEG	32
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	32

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1991

- 1 -

GOVERNOR WELCOMES AGREEMENT ON RETURN OF
VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (TUESDAY) WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT WITH VIETNAM ON THE RETURN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM HONG KONG.

SIR DAVID SAID: "THIS IS VERY GOOD NEWS INDEED. HONG KONG HAS WORKED HARD FOR MANY YEARS TO FIND A HUMANE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

"THE FUTURE OF THOSE SCREENED OUT MUST LIE IN VIETNAM. IT IS NO SOLUTION TO KEEP IN CAMPS FOR YEAR AFTER YEAR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, MANY OF THEM YOUNG CHILDREN.

"WE NOW HAVE ARRANGEMENTS AND GUARANTEES WHICH ENABLE US TO RETURN NON-REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES WITHOUT FEAR OF PERSECUTION.

"IT IS ONLY BY RETURNING TO VIETNAM THOSE WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO PLAY OUR FULL PART UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION AND LOOK AFTER THOSE WHO ARE GENUINE REFUGEES."

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNOR THANKS OUTGOING EXCO MEMBERS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (TUESDAY) THANKED THREE OUTGOING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERES FOR THE IMMENSE AMOUNT OF WORK THEY HAD DONE ON THE COUNCIL OVER THE YEARS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID: "THIS HAS BEEN THE LAST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AS IT IS AT PRESENT COMPOSED."

"I'VE BEEN SAYING "THANK YOU" TO THREE OF OUR MEMBERS; MARIA TAM, DANIEL TSE AND CHENG HON-KWAN. AND THANKING THEM FOR THE IMMENSE AMOUNT OF WORK THEY'VE DONE ON THE COUNCIL, FROM EIGHT YEARS; FIVE YEARS; THREE YEARS," HE SAID.

"ALL OF THEM HAVE SERVED THROUGH A PERIOD WHEN A LOT OF EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ISSUES HAVE BEEN TACKLED. AND I'VE JUST BEEN TELLING THEM HOW MUCH I VALUE THEIR ADVICE AND HOW MUCH I HOPE THEY WILL GO ON SERVING HONG KONG," SIR DAVID SAID.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION WITH THE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ISSUE, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "ON THINGS TO DO WITH VIETNAMESE I HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING ON THAT VERY SOON. I CAN'T CARRY IT FURTHER FORWARD AT THE MOMENT, BUT I HOPE VERY SOON WE WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ON IT."

- - - - 0 - - - -

AGREEMENT ON RETURN OF VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

* * * * *

ON BEHALF OF THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN HANOI TODAY (TUESDAY) SIGNED A STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON THE RETURN OF VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN HONG KONG.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID THAT FOLLOWING SCREENING WHICH WILL BE MONITORED BY THE UNHCR, ALL VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO WERE FOUND UNDER NORMAL INTERNATIONAL RULES TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WOULD BE RETURNED TO VIETNAM.

"THIS UNDERSTANDING BRINGS INTO EFFECT AN ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME WHICH WILL APPLY INITIALLY TO ALL NEW ARRIVALS FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND THEN SUBSEQUENTLY TO ALL OTHER VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ALREADY IN DETENTION CENTRES," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE ADDED THAT REPATRIATION WOULD TAKE PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (CPA), ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES CONVENED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN JUNE 1989.

MR ASPREY SAID THE UNHCR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME WOULD CONTINUE.

EVERY ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD BE GIVEN TO NON-REFUGEES TO RETURN HOME UNDER THIS PROGRAMME. THOSE WHO DID NOT OPT FOR THE VOLUNTARY PROGRAMME WOULD BE REPATRIATED UNDER THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME.

MR ASPREY NOTED THAT OVER 11,000 PEOPLE HAD ALREADY RETURNED TO VIETNAM FROM HONG KONG ALONE UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION SCHEME.

THERE HAD BEEN NOT A SINGLE SUBSTANTIATED CASE OF PERSECUTION OF ANYONE WHO HAD RETURNED IN THAT TIME.

"THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS GUARANTEED THAT NO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WHO RETURNS TO VIETNAM WILL FACE PERSECUTION AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO FACILITATE MONITORING OF RETURNEES BY THE UNHCR TO ENSURE THAT THESE GUARANTEES ARE FULLY RESPECTED," HE POINTED OUT.

WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, ALL NEW ARRIVALS WILL BE SCREENED AT GREEN ISLAND RECEPTION CENTRE. THEY WILL HAVE THE NORMAL RIGHT OF APPEAL AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

THOSE FOUND NOT TO BE GENUINE REFUGEES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO HEI LING DETENTION CENTRE TO AWAIT REPATRIATION.

AN ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME FOR THOSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ALREADY IN THE CAMPS WILL BEGIN ONCE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN FINALISED WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

/"IN CARRYING

"IN CARRYING OUT THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME WE WILL EXPLAIN TO THOSE IN THE DETENTION CENTRES WHAT THE AGREEMENT INVOLVES AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE EXISTING VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION SCHEME, "MR ASPREY SAID.

MR ASPREY EMPHASISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT RETURN TO VIETNAM ANY ASYLUM SEEKER WHO WAS DETERMINED UNDER HONG KONG LAW, OR BY THE UNHCR, TO BE A GENUINE REFUGEE.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

PLEASE NOTE THAT IT SHOULD BE "ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME", NOT "ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAMME" AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE PRESS RELEASE COLLECTED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE AGREEMENT SIGNED
WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON THE RETURN
OF VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

* * * * *

MR ASPREY: GOOD AFTERNOON. LAST WEEK WE ANNOUNCED THAT WE HAD REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON THE RETURN OF THE DOUBLE-BACKERS. TODAY, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN HANOI HAS SIGNED A STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF BOTH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ON THE RETURN OF ALL VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN HONG KONG. I EMPHASIZE THAT THIS IS A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT COVERING THE RETURN OF ALL NON-REFUGEES. IT SUBSUMES THE AGREEMENT WE ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK ON THE RETURN OF THE DOUBLE-BACKERS. IT ALSO COVERS ALL NEW ARRIVALS, THAT IS ALL PEOPLE WHO ARRIVE ANY TIME AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY. THEY WILL BE SCREENED AND GO THROUGH THE APPEAL PROCESS IN THE NORMAL WAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ARRIVAL; THEY WILL BE KEPT SEPARATELY FROM OTHER VIETNAMESE, AND THEN THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO VIETNAM. WE EXPECT THAT IT WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY FIVE TO SIX WEEKS FOR ANY NEW ARRIVAL TO GO THROUGH THE SCREENING PROCESS, AND THEN IF HE IS SCREENED-OUT, TO BE RETURNED TO VIETNAM. IT WILL ALSO APPLY SUBSEQUENTLY TO ALL THOSE AMONGST THE EXISTING POPULATION WHO ARE SCREENED-OUT.

THE EXACT DETAILS OF TIMING AND NUMBERS FOR THE RETURN OF THE EXISTING POPULATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE VIETNAMESE, BUT THERE IS CLEAR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE AGREEMENT APPLIES TO ALL THE VIETNAMESE IN HONG KONG, BOTH NEW ARRIVALS AND THE EXISTING POPULATION.

/THERE ARE

THERE ARE CERTAIN POINTS I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE ABOUT THE AGREEMENT. FIRST OF ALL, AND IN PARTICULAR WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE NEW ARRIVALS, THE NORMAL SCREENING PROCEDURE WILL APPLY. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF A SHORT-CUT SCREENING. THE NORMAL SCREENING PROCEDURE WILL APPLY; PEOPLE WILL BE ADVISED OF THE PROCEDURE; UNHCR WILL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL THE SCREENING INTERVIEWS; PEOPLE WILL BE GIVEN LEGAL ASSISTANCE BY AVS, AS THEY ARE NOW.

SECONDLY, IT IS OF COURSE OUR INTENTION TO ENCOURAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, VOLUNTARY RETURN, AND WE SHALL BE WORKING IN THE CAMPS AND TOGETHER WITH THE UNHCR AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO THIS END. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR POSITION, AND I HAVE REPEATED IT MANY TIMES, THAT VOLUNTARY AND MANDATORY REPATRIATION ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE IN FACT COMPLIMENTARY AND IT CERTAINLY WILL BE OUR INTENTION TO ENCOURAGE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY ALL OF THEM, TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY.

THIRDLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN RECEIVED - AND THIS IS ENSHRINED IN THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING - THE VIETNAMESE GUARANTEES THAT PERSONS RETURNING WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO PERSECUTION OR HARASSMENT, AND WILL NOT BE PROSECUTED FOR HAVING LEFT VIETNAM ILLEGALLY.

AND FOURTHLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT UNHCR WILL BE MONITORING AND RENDERING ASSISTANCE TO ALL THOSE WHO RETURN UNDER THIS ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY MONITOR AND ASSIST THOSE WHO RETURN UNDER THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME.

THE AGREEMENT WHICH WE HAVE REACHED AMOUNTS, IN MY VIEW, TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CPA. THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING FOR THE PAST THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE OF THE NON-REFUGEES MUST BE IN VIETNAM AND WE THINK IT IS IN THEIR INTERESTS, OUR INTERESTS, AND EVERYBODY'S INTERESTS THAT THE PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED SHOULD NOW COME TO AN END. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE IN THEIR INTERESTS AND IT IS THE HUMANITARIAN SOLUTION TO PUT THEM OUT OF THE UNCERTAINTY THEY HAVE BEEN IN AND TO ENABLE THEM TO FACE THE FACTS OF THEIR FUTURE AND COME TO TERMS WITH IT.

THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE HAVE NEGOTIATED ALLOW PEOPLE TO RETURN TO VIETNAM WITHOUT ANY FEAR THAT THEY WILL BE PERSECUTED THERE. THANK YOU.

QUESTION: CAN YOU TELL ME WHEN THE FIRST RETURNEES ARE LIKELY TO BE SENT BACK TO VIETNAM?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WE HAVE SAID THAT THE FIRST PEOPLE TO BE RETURNED WILL PROBABLY BE THE DOUBLE-BACKERS AND THAT WE EXPECT THAT THEY WILL BE RETURNED IN NOVEMBER; THAT REMAINS THE POSITION. AS REGARDS THE NEW ARRIVALS, THAT DEPENDS VERY MUCH OF COURSE WHEN WE GET THE FIRST NEW ARRIVALS, WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY NOW FOR OVER A WEEK. AS I SAID, I WOULD EXPECT THAT IT WILL TAKE ABOUT SIX WEEKS FROM DATE OF ARRIVAL TO GO THROUGH THE SCREENING PROCESS BEFORE RETURN TO VIETNAM.

/QUESTION:

- 5 -

QUESTION: HAVE THE AMERICANS BEEN PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT, AND IF SO WHAT IS THEIR STANCE ON IT? AND IF NOT, WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THEIR STANCE ON IT WILL BE?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: THE AMERICANS HAVE NOT BEEN PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT. THE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THE AGREEMENT; THEIR REACTION, I THINK YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THEM AND WAIT FOR THEM TO GIVE IT TO YOU.

QUESTION: SO JUST TO FOLLOW UP, WOULD YOU CARRY ON WITH THIS REPATRIATION SCHEME EVEN IF THE AMERICANS ARE AGAINST IT?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: THIS IS A BILATERAL AGREEMENT; IT IS WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE CPA; WE INTEND TO IMPLEMENT IT.

QUESTION: IF WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY NEW ARRIVALS RECENTLY, WHY ARE WE STARTING OFF WITH THEM?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT ONE OF THE FIRST OBJECTIVES IN TRYING TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE TO MAKE THE PROBLEM FINITE. REALLY, ONE OF THE WORST ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS HAS BEEN THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN AN EVER INCREASING PROBLEM. IT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH BECAUSE OF THAT. ONCE WE CAN MAKE THE PROBLEM FINITE THAT WE CAN RETURN ALL NEW ARRIVALS AND THEREFORE MAKE FINITE THE CAMP POPULATION, THEN WE CAN DEAL WITH IT. WE FEEL THAT THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH IT, TO RETURN THE NEW ARRIVALS FIRST AND THEN, AND I HOPE SHORTLY, TO MOVE ON TO THE RETURN OF THOSE WITHIN THE EXISTING CAMP POPULATION.

QUESTION: I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT. YOU SAY, SHORTLY, BUT HOW SOON DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING TO MOVE ON TO RETURN ALL THE 21,000 WHO ARE ALREADY SCREENED-OUT?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: AS I SAID, IT IS OUR INTENTION TO ENCOURAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND WE WILL BE WORKING TO THAT END. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO GIVE A DEFINITE DATE, EITHER FOR STARTING TO RETURN THE EXISTING CAMP POPULATION OR FOR WHEN WE WILL COMPLETE IT, THOUGH CLEARLY IT WILL TAKE SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME GIVEN THE NUMBERS INVOLVED AND GIVEN THE UNDOUBTED WISH OF THE VIETNAMESE TO PHASE THE RETURN OF ALL THESE PEOPLE. THAT IS SOMETHING WHICH WE HAVE TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITH THE VIETNAMESE.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU LEASED MILITARY-STYLE AIRCRAFT TO GET THE RETURNEES BACK TO VIETNAM? IF YOU HAVEN'T, DO YOU INTEND TO?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: NO, WE HAVE NOT AT THIS STAGE LEASED ANY AIRCRAFT. WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH A NUMBER OF AIRLINES BUT WE HAVE NOT CONCLUDED ANY AGREEMENT OR ARRANGEMENTS YET.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE VIETNAMESE REQUEST FOR AID TO HELP THEM HANDLE THESE RETURNING NON-REFUGEES? ARE THEY STILL HOLDING OUT FOR MONEY, AND HAVE YOU MADE A DECISION ON HOW TO TREAT THAT?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: NO, THE AGREEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN REACHED WITH THE UNHCR, WHO HAVE BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, IS THAT THE UNHCR WILL PROVIDE THE SAME ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO RETURN UNDER THIS ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME AS THEY DO FOR THE VOLUNTEERS. WE ARE NOT PAYING ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE, THAT HAS NOT BEEN A MATTER OF DISCUSSION IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE. THERE IS ALSO OF COURSE THE EC PROGRAMME IN VIETNAM WHICH IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF RETURNEES.

QUESTION: CAN I FOLLOW THAT UP? I WAS REFERRING ALSO THOUGH TO THE VIETNAMESE DEMAND FOR MONEY TO HELP BUILD RECEPTION CENTRES TO HELP THEM REINTEGRATE THE RETURNEES, NOT THE PAYMENTS TO RETURNING VIETNAMESE.

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WELL I MEANT TO COVER THAT. THE UNHCR ASSISTANCE WITH REINTEGRATION COVERS BOTH PAYMENTS DIRECT TO RETURNEES AND IT COVERS PAYMENTS TO THE VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES, THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORITIES, TO ENABLE THEM TO IMPLEMENT REINTEGRATION, AND THOSE WILL APPLY TO THESE RETURNS IN THE SAME WAY AS THE VOLUNTARY RETURNS.

QUESTION: YOU MENTIONED THAT THIS MEMORANDUM IS IN PRINCIPLE TO PAVE SOME WAY FOR THE SOLUTION TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS. NOW IF YOU SEE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE, THEN CAN YOU SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS IN VIETNAM? FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNITED STATES MAY, IN THE INTERIM PERIOD, DISAGREE WITH THIS MEMORANDUM?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I HESITATE TO TRY TO FORECAST THE FUTURE. I DARESAY WE WILL GET A FEW PROBLEMS BUT I DON'T EXPECT THAT THEY WILL IN ANY WAY UNDERMINE THIS AGREEMENT. LET ME JUST CLARIFY WHAT I WAS INTENDING TO SAY. THE AGREEMENT COVERS THE RETURN OF THE DOUBLE-BACKERS AND THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THAT WE HAVE ALREADY AGREED. IT ALSO COVERS THE RETURN OF ALL PEOPLE ARRIVING FROM TODAY ONWARDS AND THE DETAILS OF THAT WE HAVE ALSO AGREED WITH THE VIETNAMESE. IT ALSO COVERS THE RETURN OF ALL THE EXISTING CAMP POPULATION, BUT THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THAT - BY WHICH I MEAN THE TIMING AND THE PHASING OF THE RETURN BECAUSE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHOM VIETNAM WOULD NOT WISH TO RECEIVE BACK ALL IN ONE DAY - THOSE WILL STILL NEED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE. BUT THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL THE EXISTING CAMP POPULATION WHO ARE NON-REFUGEES MUST RETURN HAS BEEN AGREED, IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE FURTHER NEGOTIATED.

QUESTION: WHAT IF THERE IS SOME TECHNICAL PROBLEM? FOR EXAMPLE, LIKE SOME VIOLENCE HAPPENING IN HONG KONG CAMPS AND THEN THIS REACTION WILL MAKE THE US POLITICIANS HAVE CERTAIN FEELINGS; HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THIS?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I DON'T THINK I CAN REALLY SPECULATE ON A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION LIKE THAT. THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT, THIS IS AGREEMENT BETWEEN OURSELVES AND VIETNAM. THE ISSUE OF FORCE HAS NOT BEEN AN ISSUE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE AGREED THAT RETURNS WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE IN THE SAME WAY AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE RETURNED TO OTHER COUNTRIES EVERY DAY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

QUESTION: YOU MENTIONED THE EC PROGRAMME, HAS THAT BEEN THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN GETTING VIETNAM TO YIELD FINALLY? AND CAN YOU SAY A FEW THINGS ON THE CONTENTS OF THIS PROGRAMME?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT HAS BEEN A DECISIVE FACTOR. I SUSPECT PROBABLY NOT A DECISIVE FACTOR BUT I THINK IT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN A FACTOR IN PERSUADING THE VIETNAMESE THAT THEY SHOULD CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT TO TRY TO BRING THIS PROBLEM NOW TO AN END. THE EC PROGRAMME, AS I SAID, EXPENDITURE UNDER THAT PROGRAMME IN VIETNAM IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RETURNING TO VIETNAM AND IT INCLUDES, I THINK, TWO MAIN ELEMENTS. FIRST, IT INCLUDES LOANS TO PEOPLE RETURNING TO VIETNAM WHICH ENABLE THEM TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN BUSINESS AND TO SET UP IN EMPLOYMENT. AND IT ALSO INCLUDES SMALL SCALE PROJECTS - SMALL SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER PROJECTS - IN THE AREAS IN VIETNAM WHICH HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM WHICH THE BOAT PEOPLE HAVE LEFT.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU EXPECT SOME SEVERE UNREST IN THE CLOSED-CAMPS AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT, AND HOW WILL THE FORCE REACT TO THE SITUATION?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I DON'T EXPECT VIOLENCE IN THE CAMPS BUT NOR DO I EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY. WE WILL REALLY APPROACH THIS SUBJECT IN TWO WAYS. FIRST, WE WILL ENDEAVOUR TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS WHAT THE AGREEMENT ENTAILS. WE WILL CO-OPERATE WITH THE UNHCR AND THE NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS IN THE CAMPS TO COUNSEL PEOPLE AND REALLY EXPLAIN TO THEM WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR THEM AND WHAT THEY MUST FACE UP TO AND TAKE A DECISION ON. SO IT WILL BE OUR AIM AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PREVENT ANY KIND OF DISORDER IN THE CAMPS. OF COURSE, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WE WILL BE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER IN THE CAMPS. IF THERE IS ANY DISORDER THERE, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT IT WILL BE INSTIGATED BY ONLY A VERY SMALL MINORITY AND REALLY IT IS THE, IF YOU LIKE, THE SILENT MAJORITY IN THE CAMPS THAT SUFFERS MOST FROM THIS SORT OF DISORDER AND IT IS THOSE PEOPLE WHOM WE WILL CERTAINLY PROTECT FROM DISORDER.

QUESTION: MR ASPREY, DO YOU STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE U.S. RESPONSE MAY BE, IT WILL NOT AFFECT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AGREEMENT IN ANY MATERIAL WAY?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT WE CERTAINLY INTEND TO IMPLEMENT THIS AGREEMENT, AND I AM SURE THAT VIETNAM ALSO INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT IT, BECAUSE THAT IS WHY WE HAVE BOTH SIGNED THE AGREEMENT. WE WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WHICH WE DO NOT INTEND TO IMPLEMENT.

QUESTION: BUT MR ASPREY, VIETNAM HAS SIGNED AGREEMENTS BEFORE AND THEN RENEGED ON THEM, ARE YOU CONFIDENT THAT YOU ARE ACTUALLY GOING TO GET THE WHOLE CAMP POPULATION BACK? ARE THEY NOT JUST WAITING TO SEE HOW THESE FIRST FLIGHTS GO INITIALLY AND IF THEY ARE UNSATISFACTORY THEN THEY WILL JUST BACK OUT AGAIN?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE NOW HAVE AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM AND TO RESOLVE IT.

/QUESTION:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1991

- 8 -

QUESTION: CAN YOU GIVE US A FEW MORE DETAILS ABOUT EXACTLY HOW THE REPATRIATIONS WILL GO AHEAD? AND EVEN THOUGH THE QUESTION OF FORCE WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN VIETNAM, OBVIOUSLY THE UNITED STATES IS VERY INTERESTED IN WHETHER FORCE WILL OR WILL NOT BE USED. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I THINK IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPECT ME TO GO INTO ALL THE OPERATIONAL DETAILS. WE WILL NOT DO THIS TODAY, OR IN ADVANCE, ALTHOUGH AS WE HAVE SAID, WE WILL KEEP THE PRESS INFORMED AS AND WHEN WE HAVE A REPATRIATION OPERATION TAKING PLACE. WHAT I THINK I WILL SAY IS THIS, TO REPEAT THAT IT IS OUR AIM TO GET AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY AND I AM ENCOURAGED THAT IN RECENT MONTHS, AND PARTICULARLY IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS HAS INCREASED VERY SUBSTANTIALLY. SECONDLY, THAT WE SHARE WITH THE VIETNAMESE, AND I AM SURE WITH EVERYBODY ELSE, THE WISH THAT REPATRIATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN AN ORDERLY AND DIGNIFIED FASHION. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE POSSIBLY CAN TO ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE PEOPLE TO RETURN IN DIGNITY. WHETHER THEY DO SO IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS DEPENDS OF COURSE ON THEIR OWN BEHAVIOUR WHICH WE CANNOT CONTROL.

QUESTION: HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO WAIT FOR NEW ARRIVALS BEFORE TURNING YOURSELF TO THE LARGER MASS OF BOAT-PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS? ARE YOU GOING TO WAIT UNTIL THERE ARE NO MORE NEW ARRIVALS BEFORE THINKING ABOUT IT?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ANSWER THAT BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE PATTERN OF ARRIVALS WILL BE OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, FEW WEEKS, OR FEW MONTHS. I WOULD CERTAINLY EXPECT AND HOPE THAT WE WILL QUITE SOON REACH THE POSITION WHERE NEW ARRIVALS WILL HAVE DWINDLED, IF NOT TO NOTHING AT LEAST TO FAIRLY NEGLIGIBLE NUMBERS OF A HANDFUL OR SO A WEEK. WE WILL INTEND TO MOVE ON FAIRLY QUICKLY TO THE EXISTING CAMP POPULATION ONCE WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PROBLEM OF NEW ARRIVALS HAS BEEN SOLVED. I DON'T MEAN BY THAT UNTIL THERE ARE NO NEW ARRIVALS AT ALL, BUT UNTIL WE HAVE GOTTEN DOWN TO VERY INSIGNIFICANT NUMBERS.

QUESTION: CAN I JUST CLARIFY? YOU WON'T BE TURNING TO THOSE ALREADY IN THE CAMPS UNTIL THERE ARE ALMOST NO NEW ARRIVALS? I MEAN THE SECOND STAGE WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL THE FIRST IS OUT OF THE WAY

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WE HAVE SAID THAT THE PROGRAMME WILL CONCENTRATE INITIALLY ON NEW ARRIVALS. NEW ARRIVALS ARE IN FACT, IF ONE TAKES THE LAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS, ALREADY NEGLIGIBLE. IF THEY CONTINUE LIKE THAT THEN I WOULD EXPECT TO MOVE FAIRLY QUICKLY ON TO THE REMAINING CAMP POPULATION. CERTAINLY IT WILL BE OUR INTENTION IN THE REASONABLY NEAR FUTURE TO MOVE ON TO THE REMAINING CAMP POPULATION BUT I CANNOT PUT ANY SPECIFIC TIMING ON THAT.

QUESTION: YOU SAID IN YOUR OPENING REMARKS ON THAT PARTICULAR POINT - THOSE IN THE CAMPS - THAT THERE ARE STILL DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT; WHAT ARE THOSE?

/ALISTAIR ASPREY:

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WHAT I MEANT WAS THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING APPROACHING 60,000 IN THE DETENTION CENTRES NOW. I EXPECT THAT OVER 50,000 OF THOSE PROBABLY WILL BE NON-REFUGEES WHO WILL NEED TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. AS I SAID, WE CANNOT REASONABLY EXPECT THAT THE VIETNAMESE ARE LIKELY TO AGREE TO RECEIVE THOSE 50,000 ALL AT ONCE. WE NEED TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITH THEM THE PHASING AND TIMING OF THE RETURNS OF SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY CAMP IN MIND FROM WHICH YOU WOULD BE STARTING?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: THE NEW ARRIVALS WILL GO INITIALLY, AS ALL NEW ARRIVALS DO, TO GREEN ISLAND.

QUESTION: ... THE ESTABLISHED CAMPS?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: NO, WE DO NOT, NOT AT THIS STAGE. I CAN TALK ABOUT THE NEW ARRIVALS; THEY WILL GO INITIALLY TO GREEN ISLAND, THEY WILL BE SCREENED AT GREEN ISLAND, WITHIN A FEW DAYS THEY WILL MOVE TO HEI LING CHAU WHICH WILL BE EMPTIED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS; THEY WILL THEN REMAIN AT HEI LING CHAU PENDING THE CONSIDERATION OF THEIR APPEALS AND THEN THEY WOULD RETURN TO VIETNAM FROM HEI LING CHAU.

QUESTION: I'M CONFUSED, I THINK. I THOUGHT THAT PEOPLE WHO ARRIVED FROM TODAY WOULD NOT BE SCREENED.

ALISTAIR ASPREY: NO, NO, I WILL MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR --

QUESTION: THEY WILL BE SCREENED?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: -- PEOPLE WILL ALL BE SCREENED, YES. THEY WILL BE SCREENED IN THE NORMAL WAY BUT WE WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO THEIR SCREENING.

QUESTION: COULD YOU TELL US, WHAT HAS CHANGED BETWEEN LAST WEEK AND THIS WEEK THAT WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT NOW BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE ONE LAST WEEK?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I'M NOT SURE THAT I QUITE FOLLOW THE QUESTION BUT -

QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENED? WAS THERE A BREAKTHROUGH? I MEAN YOU HAD A SORT OF MORE LIMITED AGREEMENT LAST WEEK, NOW YOU HAVE A FULL AGREEMENT. WHAT CHANGED, WHAT HAPPENED IN VIETNAM?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WHAT HAPPENED WAS WE HAD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH LED TO THE FULL AGREEMENT. I SAID LAST WEEK THAT WE SAW THE AGREEMENT ON THE DOUBLE-BACKERS AS PART OF WHAT WE HOPED WOULD BE AN OVERALL AGREEMENT AND I HOPED THAT THAT WOULD BE REACHED FAIRLY SOON, AND THAT IS ACTUALLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

QUESTION: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE STICKING POINT WAS? YOU SAID YOU HAD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

/ALISTAIR ASPREY:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1991

- 10 -

ALISTAIR ASPREY: THERE WAS NO STICKING POINT, WE SIMPLY HAD TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE DETAILS OF THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME WITH FURTHER POINTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE; THOSE WERE DISCUSSED AND WERE RESOLVED TO EVERYBODY'S SATISFACTION.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU APPROACHED THE UNHCR TO ASK THEM TO MONITOR THE RETURN OF THE VIETNAMESE FROM HONG KONG, AND IF NOT WHY NOT?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: YES, AS I HAVE SAID, THE UNHCR WILL BE --

QUESTION: HERE, NOT IN VIETNAM, HERE IN HONG KONG. THE ACTUAL PHYSICAL RETURNS FROM HERE.

ALISTAIR ASPREY: THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH WE HAVE STILL TO DISCUSS WITH THE UNHCR.

QUESTION: BUT SURELY, IF YOU HAVE GOT AN AGREEMENT YOU WOULD WANT TO HAVE THAT SORT OF SIDE OF THINGS IN PLACE ALREADY?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: YES, WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THAT FURTHER WITH THE UNHCR. WE HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED AND AGREED WHAT ROLE UNHCR WILL PLAY IN HONG KONG BUT THEY HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR, AND WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD THIS ALL ALONG, THAT IN THE CASE OF NON-VOLUNTARY RETURNS THAT IS A MATTER FOR GOVERNMENTS, IT IS A MATTER FOR BILATERAL ACTION, IT IS NOT SOMETHING IN WHICH UNHCR WOULD BE INVOLVED. THEY HAVE MADE THAT VERY CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING, WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD AND WE ACCEPT THAT.

QUESTION: SO IN NON-DIPLOMATIC-SPEAK, THEY HAVE SAID THEY DON'T WANT TO MONITOR THE RETURN OF THE PEOPLE ACTUALLY FROM HONG KONG?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: NO, NOT NECESSARILY. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS CERTAINLY WILL BE MADE BY US NOT BY THE UNHCR; IT IS A DIFFERENT PROGRAMME TO THE VOLUNTARY PROGRAMME.

QUESTION: I'M JUST WONDERING HOW YOU'RE GOING -- IF YOU'VE GOT TO PHASE THE NUMBERS WHO ARE GOING BACK, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DEAL WITH HAVING A THOUSAND A MONTH VOLUNTEERS AND ALSO X-NUMBER OF MANDATORY REPATRIATES? IS ONE GOING TO BE COMPLIMENTARY OR ARE YOU GOING TO REPLACE THE VOLUNTARY FLIGHTS WITH MANDATORY FLIGHTS?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: THAT, CLEARLY, IS SOMETHING THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK OUT WITH, (A) THE VIETNAMESE, AND (B) UNHCR. BUT THERE IS NO QUESTION, I THINK, OF OUR REPLACING VOLUNTARY FLIGHTS WITH MANDATORY FLIGHTS. AS I HAVE SAID SEVERAL TIMES, WE INTEND TO ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. SO WE WILL BE DOING ALL WE CAN TO GET AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN BACK VOLUNTARILY.

QUESTION: WHAT MADE YOU MOVE NOW, BECAUSE THE VIETNAMESE BOAT-PEOPLE HAVE BEEN VERY INCONVENIENT FOR A LONG TIME. IS IT THE MOOD IN EUROPE AT THE MOMENT - AN ANTI-FOREIGNER MOOD - WHICH YOU DECIDED ALSO TO APPLY HERE IN HONG KONG? AND SAY THE ATMOSPHERE IS VERY GOOD IN EUROPE NOW, AND TO GET RID OF THEM AS WELL AT THAT MOMENT. WHY DO YOU MOVE NOW? YOU HAVE FACILITATED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES FROM THIS PLACE - VERY INCONVENIENT FOR HONG KONG - BUT YOU HAVE DONE IT; WHY ARE YOU BEING SO TOUGH AT THIS MOMENT?

/ALISTAIR ASPREY:

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I THINK I HAVE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO REAL QUESTION OF US DECIDING TO MOVE NOW. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET THESE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE SINCE WE INTRODUCED SCREENING IN 1988. WE HAVE TRIED CONTINUOUSLY OVER ALMOST THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON THESE SORTS OF ARRANGEMENTS, EITHER MULTI-LATERALLY THROUGH THE CPA, OR BI-LATERALLY BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE VIETNAMESE, AND THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE NOW SUCCEEDED IN DOING. THE TIME IS NOT REALLY OF OUR MAKING, IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO ALL ALONG. I THINK I SHOULD ALSO SAY - YOU DO REFER TO TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES HAVING BEEN RE-SETTLED FROM HONG KONG; YES, THAT IS TRUE AND THOSE WHO ARE REFUGEES WILL STILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-SETTLEMENT FROM HONG KONG. THERE IS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO CHANGE THAT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE SCREENING; THOSE WHO ARE REFUGEES WILL CONTINUE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-SETTLEMENT. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS THE REPATRIATION OF THOSE WHO ARE NON-REFUGEES AND I DON'T REALLY, I THINK, TAKE THE POINT - IF THIS WAS YOUR SUGGESTION - THAT WE ARE ACTING IN A NON-HUMANITARIAN WAY IN RETURNING NON-REFUGEES TO VIETNAM. INDEED, I THINK THAT IT IS NON-HUMANITARIAN WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING FOR THE LAST THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS, TO GIVE THESE PEOPLE A FALSE HOPE THAT THEY WILL ACTUALLY BE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-SETTLEMENT. THAT HOPE IS BOUND TO BE DASHED AND IT HAS REALLY DONE NEITHER THEM NOR ANYBODY ELSE A SERVICE BY LEAVING THEM IN THIS STATE OF UNCERTAINTY AND WITH THIS FALSE HOPE. WE THINK IT IS FAR MORE HUMANITARIAN TO PUT PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR UNCERTAINTY AND TO ENABLE THEM TO FACE AND COME TO GRIPS WITH THEIR FUTURE, WHICH MUST LIE BACK IN VIETNAM.

QUESTION: CURRENTLY FOR THOSE IN THE CAMPS IT TAKES ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS FOR THE SCREENING PROCESS. DO YOU FEEL THAT FIVE OR SIX WEEKS FOR NEW ARRIVALS IS A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE REFUGEES OR NON-REFUGEES?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: YES, THE SCREENING PROCESS IS THE SAME, THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE. ALL IT MEANS IS THAT PEOPLE WILL BE SCREENED WITHIN TWO OR THREE DAYS OF ARRIVAL RATHER THAN WAITING IN THE CAMPS FOR A LONG PERIOD BEFORE BEING SCREENED. AFTER SCREENING, THE TIME ALLOWED FOR APPEAL AND REVIEW WILL BE THE SAME. THEY WILL BE GIVEN THE SAME ACCESS TO UNHCR COUNSELLING, THE SAME ACCESS TO AVS LAWYERS, THE UNHCR WILL CONSIDER THEIR CASE IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY DO FOR ANY OTHERS. SO IT IS THE SAME PROCEDURE, THERE IS NOTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT IT.

BETTY LIU (TVB NEWS): WHAT IS THE REALISTIC TIME FRAME FOR YOU TO REPATRIATE MOST OF THE CAMP POPULATION? 3 YEARS, 5 YEARS--

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I WOULD HESITATE TO PUT A FIRM TIME ON IT BUT REALISTICALLY I THINK WE ARE TALKING OF AT LEAST TWO YEARS, PROBABLY MORE LIKELY THREE YEARS FOR THE EXISTING CAMP POPULATION. IT DOES DEPEND TO SOME EXTENT ON OUR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE ON HOW THEY WILL SEE THE PHASING AND THE RE-INTEGRATION OF THIS LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTO VIETNAM BUT I SEE IT IN SOMETHING LIKE THAT TIME SCALE.

/Q: (CANTONESE)

Q: (CANTONESE) I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU ARE REPATRIATING THESE NEW ARRIVALS INSTEAD AND NOT REPATRIATE PEOPLE WHO HAVE STAYED HERE FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, CAN I HAVE THE ANSWER IN CANTONESE PLEASE?

A: (CANTONESE) THE AGREEMENT STATES THAT WE WILL BE REPATRIATING ALL NON-REFUGEES, ALL OF THEM WILL BE REPATRIATED. THE FIRST STEP, AS WE EXPLAINED LAST WEEK AFTER WE OBTAINED THE AGREEMENT, THE FIRST BATCH WILL BE THE DOUBLE BACKERS. THEY WILL BE THE FIRST BATCH TO BE REPATRIATED AND, AS I SAID, THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE PHASED OUT, WE WILL BE WORKING STEP BY STEP. THE FIRST STEP HAS ALREADY BEEN STRIDED. WE WILL BE SENDING BACK THE DOUBLE BACKERS FIRST. THE SECOND STEP WILL BE THE NEW ARRIVALS; THESE PEOPLE WHO ARRIVED AFTER MIDNIGHT, THEY WILL BE REPATRIATED AND THEN THE THIRD STEP WILL BE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW IN THE CAMPS - THE NON REFUGEES.

Q: DO YOU SEE THE CLIMATE BEING RIGHT NOW IN VIETNAM THAT WE WOULD SEE THIS TYPE OF AGREEMENT SPREADING OVER OTHER PARTS OF ASIA AND SEEING THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES SAY FROM MALAYSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES?

CLINTON LEEKS: HAVING MYSELF BEEN IN THE TALKS WITH THE VIETNAMESE OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS THE IMPRESSION THAT WE'VE HAD I THINK SINCE THE END OF SEPTEMBER, WHICH I THINK IS REFLECTED IN THIS AGREEMENT WE NOW HAVE, IS A GREATER WILLINGNESS, A GREATER UNDERSTANDING BY THE VIETNAMESE OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT FOR THEM IS OBVIOUSLY CLANDESTINE EMIGRATION AND THE BURDENS THAT IT PLACES ON OTHER PLACES, PARTICULARLY OBVIOUSLY AT THE MOMENT IN THE CASE OF HONG KONG. NOW WHAT WE ARE WORKING AT OBVIOUSLY IS A BI-LATERAL ARRANGEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CPA BUT PARTICULARLY IF WE SHOW THAT WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK AND OBVIOUSLY HAVING SIGNED IT WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL MAKE IT WORK, I CAN'T SEE ANY REASON WHY IT SHOULDN'T ACT AS A MODEL FOR OTHER PLACES IN THE REGION, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE, THEIR BURDENS ARE MUCH SMALLER AT THE MOMENT THAN OURS IS.

Q: I WAS WONDERING - IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ARE GOING TO PLACE A LOT OF WEIGHT ON PEOPLE VOLUNTEERING TO GO BACK TO VIETNAM AND LEAD THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION FOR THE VERY RESISTANT SORT OF PEOPLE. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT PROPORTION YOU ARE HOPING WILL ACTUALLY VOLUNTEER TO GO BACK AND SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I THINK AS A GOVERNMENT, AND I GUESS PROBABLY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG GENERALLY WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED IF EVERY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT IN HONG KONG VOLUNTEERS TO GO HOME. I CAN'T SEE ON WHAT OTHER BASIS ONE COULD CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD IN TRYING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. SADLY, I GUESS, THAT HISTORY SHOWS US THAT THAT'S NOT LIKELY TO BE TRUE WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE THIS AGREEMENT AND WHY WE ARE GOING TO BE MOVING FORWARD AND SHOWING THAT IF PEOPLE DON'T OPT OVER A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME, AND WE ARE GOING TO BE WORKING WITH THEM OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND IN PARALLEL, WE ARE GOING TO BE DISCUSSING THE DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT; BUT IF PEOPLE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME DON'T AGREE TO GO HOME VOLUNTARILY THEN WE WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO REMOVE THEM AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. BUT THE MORE PEOPLE THAT VOLUNTEER TO GO HOME THE BETTER IT IS FOR THEM AND THE BETTER IT IS FOR HONG KONG QUITE HONESTLY.

/O: YOU

Q: YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN AN IDEA OF THE PROPORTION THAT YOU WOULD HOPE OR EXPECT WILL VOLUNTEER.

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WELL, I HOPE AND EXPECT FOR DIFFERENT THINGS. I HOPE A 100 PERCENT, I EXPECT SADLY LESS.

Q: FIFTY? TWENTY?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: LET'S WAIT AND SEE.

Q: WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ACTUALLY TELL THE PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS, TONIGHT, TOMORROW MORNING? WHEN WILL THEY ACTUALLY GET THE NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A FURTHER AGREEMENT.

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WHAT WE'VE DONE IS OBVIOUSLY, YOU'VE SEEN THIS PRESS RELEASE, WE HAVE GIVEN IT TO THE CAMP MANagements; UNHCR ALSO HAVE IT, WE ARE STARTING A PROCESS THEREFORE AT THE MOMENT, AS THE NEWS BECOMES PUBLIC IN HONG KONG. WHAT WE WILL ALSO BE DOING IS TRANSLATING MORE INFORMATION INTO VIETNAMESE - IN FACT IT IS BEING TRANSLATED TODAY - MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WHAT THE AGREEMENT MEANS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTARY RETURN, ON THE GUARANTEES, ON THE FACT THAT PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GO HOME BUT THAT WE WANT THEM OBVIOUSLY TO UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS THAT'S HAPPENING AND WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THINGS LIKE THE GUARANTEES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SCHEME. THAT'S WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY AND THAT I SEE HAPPENING OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, WHERE WE ARE TELLING THE PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS THAT IN PUBLISHING THIS TODAY WE ARE NOT GOING TO GO TO THE CAMPS TONIGHT AND START REMOVING THE FIRST GROUP. IT WILL TAKE SOME WEEKS TO BEGIN TO ARRANGE THAT. WE ALSO WANT PEOPLE TO HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF TIME TO ACTUALLY THINK ABOUT HOW THIS AGREEMENT CHANGES THE SITUATION THEY ARE IN. FOR THREE YEARS THEY SAT IN THE CAMPS AND HOPED FALSELY THAT THEY WERE GOING TO AMERICA. YOU HAVE SEEN THE STATEMENT THE AMERICANS MADE ON THE DOUBLE BACKERS LAST WEEK, WHICH RE-UNDERLINES THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES ARE NOT GOING TO AMERICA. THIS NOW MAKES CLEAR THAT NOT ONLY ARE THEY NOT GOING TO AMERICA, THEY ARE GOING BACK TO VIETNAM.

Q: MR. ASPREY, BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. JAMES BAKER, JUST RECENTLY MADE A STATEMENT ON THE NORMALISATION BETWEEN VIETNAM AND UNITED STATES, GIVEN SUCH AND SUCH CONDITIONS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN THE WHOLE PRESS CONFERENCE YOU ARE NOT GOING TO ANTICIPATE ANY INFLUENCE FROM THE UNITED STATES BUT CAN YOU SAY THAT THE NORMALISATION BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM IS ONE OF THE MOTIVATING FORCE TOWARDS THIS AGREEMENT?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I DON'T KNOW, YOU'D REALLY HAVE TO ASK THE VIETNAMESE THAT AND I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THEM. I DO THOUGH THINK THAT THE PROSPECT OF NORMALISATION WITH THE UNITED STATES MUST BE SOMETHING THAT IS VERY WELCOME TO THE VIETNAMESE; I THINK THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS CLEARLY DECIDED I THINK THIS AGREEMENT IS EVIDENCE OF THIS, THAT IT WANTS TO NORMALISE ITS RELATIONS NOT ONLY WITH THE UNITED STATES BUT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, ITS NEIGHBOURS AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AS WELL. I THINK ALL THAT IS VERY GOOD NEWS. I THINK THE FACT THAT WE ARE GOING TO SEE IN THE NEAR FUTURE I BELIEVE THE NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES IS A VERY HELPFUL FACTOR IN BRINGING THIS PROBLEM TO AN END.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ANTICIPATE THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER OBJECTION FROM THE UNITED STATES.

ALISTAIR ASPREY: YOU WILL HAVE TO REALLY WAIT AND SEE WHAT THE UNITED STATES SAYS. I EXPECT THAT THEY WILL PUT OUT A STATEMENT AS THEY DID WITH THE DOUBLE BACKERS. I AM NOT GOING TO ANTICIPATE THAT. WE'VE EXPLAINED THE POSITION TO THEM AND I HOPE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND IT.

Q: (CANTONESE) MR. CHAN, IF THE BOAT PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS REFUSE TO BE REPATRIATED WHAT WILL HAPPEN AND HOW CAN YOU ASSURE SECURITY IN THE CAMPS?

A: (SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETER): WE HAVE SAID ALL ALONG THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO TRY AND AVOID ANY VIOLENT INCIDENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE CAMPS. THE FIRST STEP THAT WE ARE GOING TO TAKE IS THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE AS MUCH COUNSELLING TO THE NON-REFUGEES AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE PART IN THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME. WE WOULD DO IT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNHCR AND ALSO THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS THAT ARE PROVIDING SERVICES IN THE CAMPS. WE HOPE THAT THROUGH CONCERTED EFFORTS ON THE PART OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, WE WOULD MAKE THEM AWARE OF THE PROGRAMME AND WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THEM AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEIR FUTURE LIES IN VIETNAM.

Q: (CANTONESE) WHAT ABOUT THE SECURITY IN THE CAMPS?

A: (SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETER): WE HAVE TOLD THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CAMPS THAT THERE WILL BE SUCH A STATEMENT AND I AM SURE THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CAMPS WILL TAKE WHATEVER ACTIONS THEY THINK ARE NECESSARY IN RESPONSE TO THE SITUATIONS.

Q: (CANTONESE) ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE SECURITY IN THE CAMPS HAVE BEEN STEPPED UP?

A: (SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETER): WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT INSIDE THE CAMPS THE MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY AND THEY ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MOOD AND FEELINGS OF THE BOAT PEOPLE.

Q: WITH LAST WEEK'S AGREEMENT, PARTIAL AGREEMENT, COVERING ONLY THE DOUBLE BACKERS, WAS THIS SORT OF PUTTING A TOE IN THE WATERS OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION AND IF THERE WASN'T TOO MUCH OF A STIR, THIS IS WHAT LED TO THE COMPLETE AGREEMENT?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: NO, IT WAS NOT THAT. I THINK PROBABLY I CAN BEST PUT IT BY SAYING THAT WE GOT SO FAR IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE AND DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD ANNOUNCE AND GO AHEAD WITH THE RETURN OF THE DOUBLE BACKERS; MEANWHILE, CONTINUING TO TALK ABOUT A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON WHICH WE HAD ALREADY REACHED A GOOD MEASURE OF AGREEMENT BY THAT TIME, BUT ON WHICH WE KNEW THAT SOME FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THE DETAILS WERE NECESSARY. MR. LEEKS THEN WENT TO VIETNAM TO TAKE PART IN THOSE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS LAST WEEK AND REALLY IT'S FOLLOWING THAT THAT WE HAVE ACTUALLY FINALISED THE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT THAT WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT ALL ALONG.

/O: YOU SAID

Q: YOU SAID THAT IN THE PAST WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW ARRIVALS. WOULD YOU ATTRIBUTE THAT TO NEWS STARTING FROM LAST'S WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND IS A PART OF YOUR STRATEGY OR YOUR HOPE THAT THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO HEADING OFF VIETNAMESE FROM EVEN LEAVING FOR HONG KONG?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: IT'S ALWAYS RATHER DANGEROUS TO MAKE PREDICTIONS ABOUT ARRIVALS AS I FOUND IN THE PAST. I DON'T THINK THAT LAST WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT CAN BE THE MAIN, OR CERTAINLY NOT THE SOLE REASON FOR THE DROP OFF IN ARRIVALS WHICH HAS BEEN VERY VERY MARKED FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS. I THINK CERTAINLY SINCE THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER WE'VE HAD TWO BOATS WITH A TOTAL OF 30 PEOPLE ARRIVING. EQUALLY, I DO NOT THINK THAT THE REASON FOR THE DROP OFF CAN POSSIBLY BE ATTRIBUTED JUST TO THE WINTER WEATHER, ALTHOUGH WE DO USUALLY SEE A DROP OFF AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, BUT CERTAINLY NOT AS SUDDEN A DROP OFF AS WE'VE SEEN IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. I THINK ONE HAS TO GO BACK A LITTLE BIT TO TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHEN THE UNHCR ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE CUTTING THEIR RE-INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE FOR ALL NEW ARRIVALS. I THINK THAT WAS THE FACTOR WHICH REALLY STARTED THE MAJOR DROP IN NEW ARRIVALS. CERTAINLY WE'VE HAD VERY VERY FEW ARRIVALS WHO LEFT VIETNAM SINCE THAT DATE. WE'VE HAD A FEW BUT NOT VERY MANY. THAT I THINK WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST AND THE MAJOR FACTOR. CERTAINLY I THINK THE PROSPECT OF A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT SUCH AS WE'VE GOT TODAY ON MANDATORY REPATRIATION AND THE AGREEMENT WHICH WE ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK ON THE DOUBLE BACKERS WILL THEN HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THAT AND I HOPE THAT CERTAINLY THAT TODAY'S AGREEMENT WILL FURTHER REINFORCE THAT.

Q: ARE THERE GOING TO BE MATERIAL INCENTIVES FOR PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEER? I REMEMBER I THINK IN LATE '89 PEOPLE GOT US\$600 AND A SUITCASE FULL OF CLOTHES. I HEARD THE FIGURE MENTIONED THAT NOW EACH RETURNEE WILL GET US\$1,000 PAID FOR BY EC. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THIS?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: RE-INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE I THINK COMES IN TWO PARTS; FIRST OF ALL, THERE IS WHAT UNHCR WILL GIVE TO PEOPLE WHO RETURN. THAT REALLY IS A MATTER FOR THE UNHCR. THE AMOUNTS THAT THEY ARE GIVEN NOW - THIS IS TALKING ABOUT THE NORMAL VOLUNTARY REPATRIATES, NOT TALKING ABOUT THE DOUBLE BACKERS OR THE PEOPLE WHO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG AFTER SEPTEMBER. THAT AMOUNT HAS BEEN FIXED ACTUALLY FOR SOME TIME AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE UNHCR HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE INTENTION CERTAINLY OF CHANGING OF IT; CERTAINLY NOT OF INCREASING IT TO THE AMOUNTS THAT YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY HEARD FROM SOMEWHERE. I DON'T THINK THAT IS THE CASE.

Q: HOW MUCH IS IT? 600 DOLLARS?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: IT AMOUNTS TO US\$50 I THINK BEFORE DEPARTURE IN HONG KONG AND THEN US\$30 A MONTH FOR TWELVE MONTHS. THE EC PROGRAMME IN VIETNAM IS NOT DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT INDIVIDUALS. CERTAINLY THERE IS NO AUTOMATIC HANDOUT TO INDIVIDUALS AND I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY INTENTION THAT THERE SHOULD BE. IT IS DIRECTED AT TWO THINGS. FIRST OF ALL, AT INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN VIETNAM PARTICULARLY AMONGST THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM ABROAD AND IN THE AREAS IN WHICH MOST OF THE DEPARTURES HAVE COME FROM AND IT'S PRIMARILY A LOAN AND LOANS FOR SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT CREATION SCHEMES. AND THEN, ANOTHER PART OF THE PROGRAMME WILL BE SMALL PROJECTS, SMALL INFRA-STRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE AREAS FROM WHICH MOST OF THE PEOPLE HAVE LEFT VIETNAM. SO, THERE IS NO QUESTION I THINK UNDER THE EC PROGRAMME OF AN AUTOMATIC HANDOUT TO INDIVIDUALS.

Q: MR. ASPREY, WILL YOU BE WORKING BACKWARDS IN REPATRIATING THE EXISTING CAMP POPULATION SO THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN HERE THE LEAST TIME WILL BE GOING BACK FIRST?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: CLEARLY WE'VE GOT TO START WITH THE SCREENED OUT. WE WILL ONLY BE REPATRIATING THE SCREENED OUT AND CLEARLY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SCREENED SO FAR, IT'S BEEN DONE ROUGHLY IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, NOT ENTIRELY IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER BUT ROUGHLY IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER; SO IT WILL BE APPLYING INITIALLY, AND AFTER WE MOVE ON TO THE EXISTING CAMP POPULATIONS AND THE NEW ARRIVALS, PRIMARILY TO THE LONG STAYERS, BECAUSE THOSE ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN SCREENED OUT.

Q: ARE YOU FOCUSING ON NEW ARRIVALS BECAUSE YOU THINK THEY WILL BE LESS RESISTANT TO RETURN THEM FORCIBLY TO VIETNAM?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: NO, WE ARE FOCUSING ON NEW ARRIVALS, AS I SAID BEFORE, BECAUSE WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT ONE OF THE FIRST OBJECTIVES IN A REPATRIATION PROGRAMME, AND THE FIRST THING WE MUST AIM FOR IS TO MAKE THE PRESENT PROBLEM FINITE; TO PREVENT THE PROBLEM GETTING EVER BIGGER BY CONTINUING LARGE NUMBERS OF ARRIVALS. THIS HAS MADE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH IN EVERY WAY, IN TERMS OF ACCOMMODATION, IN TERMS OF SCREENING, IN EVERY WAY. SO OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE, AND WE HAD THIS IN MIND FOR A VERY LONG TIME, IS TO STOP NEW ARRIVALS BY CONCENTRATING ON THEM INITIALLY, AND MAKING THE RESIDUAL PROBLEM FINITE. WE WILL THEN PROPOSE TO GO ON TO DEAL WITH THAT RESIDUAL PROBLEM.

Q: BUT IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? WHAT OTHER OPTIONS DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I'M NOT AT THIS STAGE THINKING OF THIS NOT WORKING. WE HAVE GOT AN AGREEMENT WHICH COVERS THE RETURN OF ALL NON-REFUGEES TO VIETNAM; WE ARE DETERMINED THAT WE ARE GOING TO MAKE IT WORK.

Q: WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WILL THERE BE FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: THERE IS OF COURSE A SPECIAL PROCEDURE FOR STATUS DETERMINATION FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS. THAT WILL CONTINUE AND WE HAVE BEEN IN DISCUSSION WITH UNHCR AND THEY ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH US THAT THAT PROCEDURE MUST BE SPEEDED-UP, AND CERTAINLY IN THE CASE OF NEW ARRIVALS OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS, THAT PROCEDURE MUST BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE IN A VERY SHORT TIMESCALE, IN THE SAME WAY AS WE ARE DEALING WITH THE OTHER NEW ARRIVALS.

Q: AND SENDING THEM BACK - HOW WILL YOU DEAL WITH THEM?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: THEY WILL GO BACK EITHER VOLUNTARILY OR THROUGH THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAMME IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THEIR BEST INTERESTS AND THEIR FUTURE SHOULD LIE IN VIETNAM.

/Q: WILL THEY

Q: WILL THEY GO BACK FIRST HAVING BEEN DETERMINED -- I MEAN YOU'VE SCREENED SOME, YOU HAVEN'T SCREENED OTHERS - IT'S SLOW BUT SOME HAVE BEEN SCREENED NOW; ARE THOSE ONES GOING TO BE AMONGST THE FIRST TO GO BACK?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I MEAN BASICALLY WE WILL DEAL WITH THEM IN THE SAME WAY AS WE DEAL WITH ALL THE OTHERS. THE NEW ARRIVALS WILL COME UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND THE ARRANGEMENTS I'VE ANNOUNCED TODAY FOR NEW ARRIVALS. THE EXISTING POPULATION WILL THEN BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHERS, ONCE THEIR STATUS AND THEIR FUTURE IS DETERMINED.

Q: IF YOU OPT FOR THE LONG-STAYERS, THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THE LONGEST TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO BE TRYING TO REPATRIATE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LEAST LIKELY TO WANT TO GO BACK. THEY ARE GOING TO OFFER THE MOST RESISTANCE AND POSSIBLY YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO USE FORCE TO GET THEM TO RETURN. WHY DON'T YOU REPATRIATE THE ONES WHO'VE BEEN SCREENED-OUT MOST RECENTLY?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WE HAVE NOT AT THIS STAGE TAKEN ANY DECISION ON PRECISELY HOW WE WILL START WITH THE PROGRAMME IN TERMS OF CHOOSING BETWEEN THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN SCREENED-OUT. ALL I SAID WAS THAT CLEARLY WE WILL HAVE TO REPATRIATE ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SCREENED-OUT. BY AND LARGE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SCREENED-OUT FROM THE EXISTING POPULATION ARE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HERE LONGEST.

Q: UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT, ARE THE BRITISH GOING TO SHARE HALF OF THE COST OF REPATRIATION?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: I BELIEVE SO, YES. PERHAPS I SHOULD JUST MAKE CLEAR THAT, AS I'VE SAID THE REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IS A MATTER FOR UNHCR. WE WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO PAY FOR THE AIRLINE, THE TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF THOSE WHO GO BACK UNDER THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME; NOT OF COURSE FOR THOSE WHO GO BACK UNDER THE VOLUNTARY PROGRAMME. IT IS THE INTENTION THAT THOSE COSTS WOULD BE SPLIT FIFTY-FIFTY BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Q: HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK WILL BE NEEDED TO CLEAR OUT ALL THE CAMPS?

ALISTAIR ASPREY: WELL I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH WILL BE NEEDED, THAT DEPENDS OF COURSE ON THE PROPORTION WHO GO BACK VOLUNTARILY AS OPPOSED TO THE PROPORTION WHO GO UNDER THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME. WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT THE COST OF RETURNING SOMEONE TO VIETNAM WILL BE VERY MUCH LESS THAN THE COST IT TAKES TO KEEP SOMEONE IN HONG KONG. PURELY THE COST OF MAINTENANCE IS SOMETHING LIKE \$16,000 A YEAR, AND OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE OTHER COSTS THERE, STAFF COSTS, COST OF ACCOMMODATION AND SO FORTH, SO IT IS CERTAINLY A LOT LESS THAN THAT.

Q: I WAS WONDERING, ARE YOU GOING TO ALLOW THE PRESS TO VISIT THE CAMPS IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

CLINTON LEEKS: I THINK YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT WE DO ALLOW PEOPLE TO VISIT THE CAMPS, NOT AS OFTEN, I KNOW YOU'LL TELL ME, AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT IS PART AND PARCEL OF HAVING TO RUN DETENTION CENTRES, YOU CAN'T ALLOW PEOPLE TO GO IN WHENEVER THEY WANT. YOU'RE AWARE, I THINK EQUALLY, THAT OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED TENSION AND THAT IS SIMPLY A FACT OF LIFE AND IT REVOLVES AROUND THE VARIOUS RUMOURS AND SO ON THAT HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING. OBVIOUSLY, AT TIMES OF HEIGHTENED TENSION IT IS NOT AS EASY TO LET VISITORS IN AS AT OTHER TIMES, BUT WE DO HAVE A PRINCIPLE THAT IN CONSONANT WITH ACTUALLY BEING ABLE TO MANAGE THE CAMPS PROPERLY, WE DO ALLOW VISITORS IN FROM TIME TO TIME, INCLUDING PRESSMEN, TO VISIT VARIOUS CAMPS, USUALLY ON A GROUP BASIS BECAUSE OTHERWISE YOU SIMPLY CAN'T REALLY ORGANISE IT AT ALL, AND WE INTEND TO CONTINUE WITH THAT PRINCIPLE.

Q: SO WILL YOU ORGANISE ONE IN THE NEAR FUTURE AFTER THIS DECISION IS SORT OF DIGESTED?

CLINTON LEEKS: WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO IS FIRST TO SEE, OBVIOUSLY, HOW THIS ALL GOES DOWN IN THE CAMPS, TO SEE HOW THE SITUATION DEVELOPS THERE, BUT IN PRINCIPLE, YES, I THINK WE SHOULD MAINTAIN THE PRINCIPLE OF PERIODIC AND HONESTLY ORGANISED, BUT PERIODIC REGULAR PRESS ACCESS TO THE CAMPS.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US HOW MUCH ACCESS THE PRESS WILL HAVE TO THE FIRST, OR THE FIRST FEW REPATRIATIONS?

CLINTON LEEKS: NO, I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT NOW BUT THERE WILL BE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRESS. YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND WE WILL TELL YOU THE DETAILS NEARER THE TIME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FAVOURABLE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT PROTECTED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TOWARDS MAINTAINING MACROECONOMIC STABILITY AND INVESTING IN THE PHYSICAL AND HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURES WHICH ENABLE MANUFACTURERS TO OPERATE IN A FAVOURABLE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER ORGANISED BY THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, MR BARMA SAID HE BELIEVED THIS APPROACH HAD WORKED WELL IN THE PAST, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE RIGHT APPROACH IN THE FUTURE.

/DURING THE

- 19 -

DURING THE 1970'S, MR BARMA SAID THE TERM 'POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTIONISM' WAS USED TO CHARACTERISE THIS APPROACH.

"UNFORTUNATELY, THIS PHRASE IS TOO OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD.

"IT CAN GIVE THE IMPRESSION, PERHAPS ESPECIALLY TO INDUSTRIALISTS SEEKING A MORE ACTIVE INDUSTRIAL POLICY, THAT THE GOVERNMENT SIMPLY SITS THERE AND DOES NOTHING, AND CONCEALS THE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT WHICH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IN ORDER TO CREATE THE GENERALLY FAVOURABLE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT WHICH HONG KONG ENJOYS," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE ROLE OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, MR BARMA SAID PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLE THE DEPARTMENT PLAYED WAS TO ACT AS INDUSTRY'S LOBBYIST WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT.

"A LARGE PART OF OUR WORK INVOLVES MAKING SURE THAT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING LAND, ACCOMMODATION, PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND MANPOWER TRAINING FOR INDUSTRY DO SO AT THE RIGHT TIME, IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AND IN THE RIGHT QUANTITIES," HE SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THE TIME THIS WAS A STRAIGHTFORWARD PROCESS, IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE WAS TO GATHER ACCURATE INFORMATION ON WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND TO MAKE INFORMED FORECASTS OF MANUFACTURING TRENDS AS AN INPUT INTO THE PLANNING PROCESS.

"BOTH WITH LAND AND WITH TRAINED MANPOWER FOR INDUSTRY, WE TRY TO LOOK ONLY FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AHEAD, SO THAT OUR FORECASTS ARE REALISTIC EXTRAPOLATIONS FROM EXISTING TRENDS, AND NOT FANCIFUL PROJECTIONS.

"OCCASIONALLY, BUT NOT OFTEN, WE HAVE TO ALERT THE ADMINISTRATION TO POTENTIAL PROBLEMS, SO THAT THEY CAN BE ADDRESSED BEFORE THEY BECOME SERIOUS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ENDEAVOURED TO ENSURE THAT RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY WERE AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG FOR COMPANIES WHICH WISHED TO UPGRADE THEIR PRODUCTION TO DO SO, AND THE DEPARTMENT HELPED MANUFACTURERS TO MAKE USE OF DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH A SMALL INDUSTRIAL EXTENSION SERVICE.

"ANOTHER ASPECT OF OUR WORK IS TO ENCOURAGE COMPANIES TO ACHIEVE HIGH STANDARDS OF QUALITY IN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS AND MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.

"PUT AT ITS SIMPLEST, WE AIM TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS KNOW WHAT PRODUCT STANDARDS HAVE TO BE COMPLIED WITH IN THEIR EXPORT MARKETS AND TO ENSURE THAT THE TECHNOLOGY EXISTS LOCALLY TO ENABLE THEM TO MEET THESE STANDARDS.

"WE HAVE THEREFORE ESTABLISHED A RANGE OF QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES WHICH CAN BE USED BY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS," HE SAID.

/FINALLY, MR

FINALLY, MR BARMA SAID, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING INWARD INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT INTO HONG KONG.

"WE ENCOURAGE IT BECAUSE MOST INWARD INVESTMENTS BRING MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND MODERN MANAGEMENT METHODS.

"WHERE THE INVESTMENT IS IN THE FORM OF A JOINT VENTURE WITH A LOCAL PARTNER THIS STATE-OF-THE-ART THINKING IS OFTEN TRANSFERRED TO THE LOCAL PARTNER," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID WHILE THE DEPARTMENT PROMOTED OVERSEAS INVESTMENT, IN THE SENSE OF SELLING HONG KONG VIGOROUSLY ABROAD AND HELPING POTENTIAL INVESTORS SET UP IN HONG KONG, IT DID NOT PROVIDE INDUCEMENTS, SUCH AS TAX HOLIDAYS, TO POTENTIAL OVERSEAS INVESTORS.

"WE CONSIDER OUR OVERALL INVESTMENT CLIMATE IS SUFFICIENTLY FAVOURABLE IN ITS OWN RIGHT AND SEE NO REASON WHY AN OVERSEAS COMPANY, NO MATTER HOW EXCITING ITS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER POTENTIAL, SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE FAVOURED TREATMENT THAN A LOCAL COMPANY," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CLOSER TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN ASIA CALLED
* * * * *

A CALL FOR CLOSER TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN THE REGION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG.

SPEAKING TODAY (TUESDAY) AT THE "THINK ASIA" TECHNO-BUSINESS FORUM IN HIROSHIMA, MR WONG SAID HONG KONG WAS FULLY AWARE THAT IT WOULD BENEFIT MOST FROM FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IF IT COULD IMPROVE THE TECHNOLOGICAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY OF ITS INDUSTRY THROUGH BETTER INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING AND MANPOWER TRAINING.

"TO THIS END, WE HAVE, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AGENCY TO PROMOTE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN MANPOWER TRAINING IN ADVANCED PRECISION SHEET METAL PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY.

"SUCH CO-OPERATION HAS PROVED OF GREAT VALUE TO US. I AM SURE MORE OF THESE SCHEMES CAN BE ARRANGED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE REGION," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID JAPAN HAD LONG BEEN A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER TO HONG KONG.

"THE CUMULATIVE VALUE OF JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AT THE END OF 1989 STOOD AT US\$1.1 BILLION.

/"THE INDUSTRIES

"THE INDUSTRIES WHICH ATTRACT MOST JAPANESE INVESTMENT INCLUDE ELECTRONICS, ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS," HE SAID.

ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, MR WONG SAID AS ASIAN ECONOMIES WERE AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES EXISTED FOR REGIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR.

"THE MORE INDUSTRIALISED ECONOMIES WILL PROMOTE HIGHER VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTION BY TECHNOLOGICAL AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, AND RELOCATE LABOUR-INTENSIVE PROCESSES TO OTHER AREAS IN THE REGION WHICH OFFER COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES OF LOWER LABOUR COSTS," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID A NOTABLE EXAMPLE WAS THE SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

"OUR MANUFACTURERS ARE CAPITALISING ON THE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL SOPHISTICATION OF HONG KONG TO DO PRODUCT DESIGN AND HIGH VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTION, AND THE LOW-COST AND HIGH-VOLUME PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES OF CHINA TO PERFORM THE MORE LABOUR-INTENSIVE OPERATIONS," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SHIPPING AND CARGO STATISTICS FOR OCEAN-GOING VESSELS
FOR SECOND QUARTER OF 1991

* * * * *

FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 30.3 MILLION NET REGISTERED TONS (NRT) ARRIVED HONG KONG IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 657 (OR 14%) IN NUMBER AND OF 2.3 MILLION NRT (OR 8%) IN CAPACITY OVER THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

THE FINDINGS WERE CONTAINED IN THE 'HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT APRIL - JUNE 1991' PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED IN HONG KONG FROM INCOMING SHIPS (ESTIMATED FROM A SAMPLE OF MANIFEST CONSIGNMENTS) INCREASED BY 18%.

ANALYSING INCOMING SHIPS BY SHIP TYPE, MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF CONTAINER VESSELS (+376), OIL TANKERS (+126) AND CONVENTIONAL CARGO VESSELS (+116); WHILE A MAJOR DECREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF SEMI-CONTAINER VESSELS (-71).

ANALYSING INCOMING SHIPS BY FLAG OF VESSELS, MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF SHIPS REGISTERED IN CHINA (+214), PANAMA (+98), LIBERIA (+26), SINGAPORE (+25), NORWAY (+25) AND THE PHILIPPINES (+23); WHILE A MAJOR DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR THOSE REGISTERED IN JAPAN (-25).

/THE NUMBER

THE NUMBER OF INCOMING SHIPS WITH A CAPACITY OF LESS THAN 10,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS INCREASED BY 508 WHILST THE NUMBER OF THOSE WITH A LARGER CAPACITY INCREASED BY 149.

IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991, THERE WERE 5,396 OUTGOING SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 30.0 MILLION NRT, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 613 (OR 13%) IN NUMBER AND OF 2.0 MILLION NRT (OR 7%) IN CAPACITY OVER THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS (ESTIMATED FROM A SAMPLE OF MANIFEST CONSIGNMENTS) ROSE BY 19%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF OUTGOING SHIPS BY SHIP TYPE, FLAG, AND CAPACITY ARE LARGELY THE SAME AS THOSE OBSERVED IN INCOMING SHIPS, AS ABOUT 69% OF THE DEPARTING SHIPS STAYED IN HONG KONG FOR LESS THAN TWO DAYS.

OF THE CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING SHIPS, 85% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WAS IMPORTS AND 15% WAS TRANSHIPMENT CARGO.

OF THE CARGO LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS, 64% WAS EXPORTS (INCLUDING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) AND 36% WAS TRANSHIPMENT CARGO.

THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF LOADING FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS IN TONNAGE TERMS WERE SINGAPORE (WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 15%), JAPAN (14%), CHINA (12%), TAIWAN (10%), AUSTRALIA (9%), THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (8%) AND THE U.S.A. (8%); WHILE THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DISCHARGE FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS WERE THE U.S.A. (WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 19%), CHINA (18%), TAIWAN (14%), JAPAN (5%), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (5%), SINGAPORE (4%) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (3%).

TRANSHIPMENT CARGO WAS MAINLY LOADED IN CHINA (32%) AND THE U.S.A. (18%), AND WAS MAINLY DISCHARGED ALSO IN CHINA (20%) AND THE U.S.A. (12%).

COMPARING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 WITH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990, MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+82%), INDONESIA (+72%), THE U.S.A. (+59%), TAIWAN (+44%) AND THAILAND (+30%). AS A WHOLE, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF SEABORNE IMPORTS ROSE BY 15%.

AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, MAJOR INCREASES IN CARGO TONNAGE WERE RECORDED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS OF ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS (+55%), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD, ALL KINDS (+55%), PAPER, PAPERBOARD AND ARTICLES OF PAPER PULP, OF PAPER OR OF PAPERBOARD (+25%), AND COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES (+17%); WHILE A MAJOR DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS OF CEMENT AND CEMENT CLINKER (-36%).

COMPARING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 WITH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF SEABORNE EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) INCREASED BY 21%.

MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE RECORDED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+39%), JAPAN (+36%), TAIWAN (+35%), THE NETHERLANDS (+34%) AND CHINA (+25%); WHILE A MAJOR DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS TO INDONESIA (-30%).

AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS OF FOOTWEAR (+64%), CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED (+37%), TOYS (+29%), AND PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (+24%); WHILE A MAJOR DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS OF METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (-9%).

OF THE CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING SHIPS, INCLUDING SEABORNE IMPORTS AND INWARD TRANSHIPMENT, 42% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WAS CONTAINERISED CARGO.

OF THOSE LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS, INCLUDING SEABORNE EXPORTS AND OUTWARD TRANSHIPMENT, 78% WAS CONTAINERISED CARGO.

IN TERMS OF TONNAGE, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR 35% OF SEABORNE IMPORTS.

IN PARTICULAR, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR A LARGE PROPORTION OF SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (93%), TAIWAN (83%), THE U.S.A. (75%) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (73%).

THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CONTAINERISED SEABORNE IMPORTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 ROSE BY 30% OVER THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR, IN TONNAGE TERMS, 98% OF SEABORNE IMPORTS OF ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, 96% OF OTHER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES AND PARTS, 93% OF PAPER, PAPERBOARD AND ARTICLES OF PAPER PULP, OF PAPER OR OF PAPERBOARD, 90% OF TEXTILE FIBRES, AND 86% OF TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD, ALL KINDS.

FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR 70% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE. IN PARTICULAR, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR ALL SEABORNE EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS, AND ALMOST ALL TO THE U.S.A. AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CONTAINERISED SEABORNE EXPORTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 ROSE BY 20% OVER THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

SEABORNE EXPORTS OF SOME PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES WERE ALL OR NEARLY ALL CONTAINERISED. THESE INCLUDED COTTON GARMENTS; TOYS; FOOTWEAR; GARMENTS OF MIXED MATERIALS OR OTHER MATERIALS, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED; AND PLASTIC MANUFACTURES, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED.

SHIPPING STATISTICS ARE COMPILED PRIMARILY FROM GENERAL DECLARATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT BY SHIP MASTERS OR AUTHORISED SHIPPING AGENTS AND COVER ALL OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ENTERING AND LEAVING HONG KONG, EXCLUDING YACHTS AND PLEASURE CRAFT.

CARGO STATISTICS ARE COMPILED FROM OCEAN CARGO MANIFESTS SUPPLIED BY SHIPPING COMPANIES OR AGENTS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

BECAUSE OF RESOURCES CONSTRAINT, A SAMPLE OF ALL CONSIGNMENTS LISTED IN THE MANIFESTS IS USED FOR COMPILING CARGO STATISTICS. THE SAMPLING METHOD IS DESCRIBED IN THE EXPLANATORY NOTES OF THE REPORT.

MORE DETAILS ON SHIPPING AND CARGO STATISTICS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 ARE CONTAINED IN THE 'HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT APRIL - JUNE 1991', WHICH IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$34.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON STATISTICS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRADE SURVEYS AND SHIPPING STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 582 4887.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EASY TRAVEL SCHEME TO BENEFIT MORE PEOPLE

* * * * *

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT AS FROM NOVEMBER 1, HOLDERS OF VALID ADULT HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS WITH THE 'R' SYMBOL CAN TRAVEL ON THEIR IDENTITY CARDS THROUGH HONG KONG IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS WITHOUT THE NEED OF PRODUCING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

THE 'R' SYMBOL MEANS THE RIGHT TO LAND IN HONG KONG. UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, A BRITISH CITIZEN WHO HAS LIVED HERE FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS HAS SUCH A RIGHT.

"UNDER THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS, WHEN USING THEIR IDENTITY CARDS TO TRAVEL, HOLDERS OF ADULT HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS WITH THE 'R' SYMBOL ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CARDS BUT THEY NEED TO PRODUCE THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"THE REVISED ARRANGEMENTS FURTHER EXTEND THE FULL FACILITIES OF THE EASY TRAVEL SCHEME TO COVER THESE TRAVELLERS BY EXEMPTING THE REQUIREMENT OF PRODUCTION OF THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS," HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, TRAVELLERS IN THIS CATEGORY ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE PROPERLY DOCUMENTED FOR THEIR DESTINATIONS INCLUDING CHINA AND MACAU.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE FULL FACILITIES OF THE SCHEME ARE PROVIDED FOR PERSONS WITH THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG, THAT IS, HOLDERS OF HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD. AND NOW THE SCHEME IS EXTENDED TO THOSE WITH THE RIGHT TO LAND IN HONG KONG.

/RESIDENTS WHO

- 25 -

RESIDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE EITHER OF SUCH RIGHTS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE SCHEME BY NOT REQUIRING TO COMPLETE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CARDS IF THEY USE THEIR IDENTITY CARDS TO TRAVEL.

THOSE WHOSE IDENTITY CARDS BEARING THE "***" SYMBOL WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF HONG KONG RE-ENTRY PERMITS FOR VISIT TO CHINA AND MACAU.

THE REVISED ARRANGEMENTS WILL NOT AFFECT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE HONG KONG POPULATION CURRENTLY ENJOYING THE SCHEME.

HE ADDED THAT ALL RESIDENT CHILDREN WHO ARE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ARE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND HONG KONG JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS WHEN PASSING THROUGH HONG KONG IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS.

IN THE EVENT THAT JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THE PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO COMPLETE ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE CARDS ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN.

IN ADDITION, ALL PERSONS WHOSE HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS HAVE BEEN INVALIDATED, LOST, DEFACED, OR THOSE WHO ARE HOLDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORMS FOR THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION/REPLACEMENT OF IDENTITY CARDS AND THOSE WHO ARE EXEMPTED FROM OBTAINING IDENTITY CARDS SHOULD TRAVEL ON PROPER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND COMPLETE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CARDS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWO-DAY POLICY DEBATE IN LEGCO

* * * * *

FIFTY-FIVE LEGISLATORS ARE TO SPEAK IN THE TWO-DAY 'MOTION OF THANKS' DEBATE FOR THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, BEGINNING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE MOTION, TO BE MOVED BY THE SENIOR LEGCO MEMBER, THE HON. ALLEN LEE, WILL READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL THANKS THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS ADDRESS". THE DEBATE WILL CONTINUE ON THURSDAY.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 10 QUESTIONS AT TOMORROW'S MEETING WHICH WILL BE ANSWERED BY OFFICIALS IN WRITING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGCO MEETINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES TOMORROW AND ON THURSDAY AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 8699492.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1991

- 26 -

ONE MORE CASE OF AIDS CONFIRMED

* * * * *

ONE MORE CASE OF AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AIDS CASES IN HONG KONG TO 57, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 38 AIDS PATIENTS HAD DIED AND 19 OTHERS WERE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAD LEFT THE TERRITORY.

RELEASING THE STATISTICS ON THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME FOR SEPTEMBER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THREE MORE MEN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST, BRINGING TO 191 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HIV CARRIERS WHO HAD NOT YET DEVELOPED AIDS.

OF THESE, 51 WERE HAEMOPHILIACS, 118 ACQUIRED THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, FOUR WERE DRUG ABUSERS, THREE ACQUIRED THE INFECTION THROUGH BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND THE INFORMATION FOR THE OTHER 15 WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 206,891 BLOOD SPECIMEN HAD BEEN TESTED FOR THE AIDS VIRUS.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAD ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR AIDS.

UP TO LAST MONTH, 956,194 UNITS OF BLOOD HAD BEEN TESTED AND 17 WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

/AIDS VIRUS

- 27 -

愛滋病抗體檢驗
AIDS Virus (HIV) Antibody Testing
病毒組 衛生署
Virus Unit, Department of Health

	Apr 85-Aug 91		Sep 91		Total	
	No. tested*	No. +ve	No. tested*	No. +ve	No. tested*	No. +ve
經由政府診所及醫院轉介 Referrals from Govt. hospitals and clinics	17884	94	281	2	18165	96
經由私家醫生及補助醫院轉介 Referrals from private practitioners and subvented hospitals	2272	47	30	2	2302	49
前往社區衛生科診所求診人次 Attendances at social hygiene clinics	176292	41	2326	0	178618	41
血友病患者 Haemophiliacs	533	60	5	0	538	60
濫用靜脈注射毒品者 IV drug abusers	5919	1	133	0	6052	1
經由家庭計劃指導員轉介 Referrals from Family Planning Association	231	0	1	0	232	0
健康護理人員 Health care personnel	970	0	14	0	984	0

總數

TOTAL 204101 243 2790 4 206891 247

此乃驗血樣本數字, 並非人數, 因某些人士的檢驗是重複的。

* This indicates the number of specimens and not persons as tests are repeated for certain individuals.

	Aug 85-Aug 91		Sep 91		Total	
	No. tested	No. +ve	No. tested	No. +ve	No. tested	No. +ve
香港紅十字會輸血服務 Hong Kong Red Cross Blood transfusion Service	942947	17	13247	0	956194	17

Department of Health
October 1991

----- 0 -----

BLOOD DONATION IN SAI KUNG

* * * * *

THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION PROMOTION COMMITTEE WILL BE SEEKING BLOOD DONATIONS FROM RESIDENTS IN SAI KUNG ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS.

THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DATE	VENUE	TIME
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30	SUNG TSUN SECONDARY SCHOOL	9.30 AM -
	CHENG CHEK CHEE SECONDARY SCHOOL	12 NOON
	RENNIE'S MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL	2 PM -6 PM
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31	TSEUNG KWAN O GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL	9.30 AM - 12 NOON
	TSUI LAM COMMUNITY HALL,	3 PM -
	TSUI LAM ESTATE	9.30 PM
	SAI KUNG JOCKEY CLUB TOWN HALL	5 PM - 8.30 PM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1		
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4	CARMEL DIVINE GRACE FOUNDATION	9.30 AM -
	SECONDARY SCHOOL, PO LAM ESTATE	12 NOON

A LAUNCHING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 31) AT THE TSUI LAM COMMUNITY HALL, BEGINNING AT 3 PM.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PARRISH NG; SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE, DR LIN CHE-KIT; AND WINNER OF MISS HONG KONG PAGEANT, MISS AMY KWOK.

A FREE SHUTTLE BUS WILL DEPART FROM THE CARPARK OF SAI KUNG TANG SIU KIN SPORTS GROUND AT 2 PM THAT DAY TO TAKE RESIDENTS LIVING IN OTHER SAI KUNG AREAS TO THE BLOOD DONATION VENUE.

ANOTHER FREE SHUTTLE BUS WILL ALSO BE TRAVELLING BETWEEN THE VENUE AND THE VARIOUS HOUSING ESTATES IN TSEUNG KWAN O BETWEEN 2 PM AND 9.30 PM.

DETAILS OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND THE BLOOD DONATION TIMETABLES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE OR BY CALLING 792 4455 EXT. 41.

RIISING DEMAND FOR NICHEs ENVISAGED

* * * * *

THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR BURIAL NICHEs AS CREMATION BECOMES MORE COMMON NOWADAYS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SECOND ASH REPOSITORY AT THE CHAI WAN PERMANENT CEMETERY.

IN ADDITION TO THIS NEW REPOSITORY, THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERIES WOULD BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF A COLUMBARIUM EARLY NEXT YEAR AT JUNK BAY PERMANENT CEMETERY WHICH WOULD PROVIDE 80,000 NICHEs, MR TSAO ADDED.

THE SECOND REPOSITORY AT CHAI WAN WAS BUILT AT A COST OF \$55.7 MILLION.

THE 12-STOREY BUILDING COMPRISES TWO LEVELS OF OSSUARY NICHEs, ONE LEVEL OF FAMILY NICHEs AND NINE LEVELS OF ORDINARY NICHEs.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW AP LEI CHAU FIRE STATION OFFICIALLY OPENED

* * * * *

RESIDENTS OF AP LEI CHAU WERE TODAY (TUESDAY) ASSURED THAT THEY WILL HAVE A WELL PROTECTED LIVING ENVIRONMENT WITH THE OPENING OF THE AP LEI CHAU FIRE STATION.

SPEAKING AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIRE STATION AT AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE ROAD, THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (PROTECTION), MR CHOW WING-CHEONG, SAID THE NEW STATION WAS FIRST PLANNED IN 1977 TO REPLACE THE OLD AP LEI CHAU FIRE STATION IN SAN SHI STREET.

"AP LEI CHAU HAS UNDERGONE SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS WHICH, IN TURN, INDICATED THE NEED FOR A REPLACEMENT FIRE STATION.

"TO COPE WITH ANTICIPATED DEVELOPMENTS, IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO THE STANDARD OF A SUB-DIVISIONAL STATION WITH SIMILIAR MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT TO THOSE PROVIDED IN BUILT-UP AREAS," MR CHOW SAID.

HE SAID 35 YEARS AGO, AP LEI CHAU WAS BUT A PLACE WITH MOSTLY VILLAGE HOUSES AND SCATTERED SLIPWAYS.

TODAY, THE ISLAND HAD AN AREA OF ABOUT ONE SQUARE KILOMETRE AND A POPULATION OF OVER 100,000 WITH TWO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, ONE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME ESTATE AND TWO INDUSTRIAL BLOCKS.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION INCLUDED A MAJOR RESIDENTIAL PROJECT AND A LARGE-SCALE RECLAMATION TO PROVIDE 6.5 HECTARES OF GREEN LAND FOR COMMUNITY USEs AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

THE NEW AP LEI CHAU FIRE STATION, BUILT AT A COST OF \$11.7 MILLION, OCCUPIED AN AREA OF 1,673 SQUARE METRES AND WAS COMMISSIONED IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR. SINCE ITS COMMISSIONING THE STATION HAD ATTENDED 395 EMERGENCY CALLS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PARCELS BETWEEN UK AND HK TO BE DELAYED

* * * * *

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE BRITISH POST OFFICE HAS INDICATED THAT ITS PRINCIPAL PARCEL DISTRIBUTION CENTRE IN LONDON IS UNDERGOING REFURBISHMENT AND THAT AS A RESULT, PARCELS POSTED TO OR SENT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL BE DELAYED DURING THIS PERIOD.

A FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE WHEN THE SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FORUM ON SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS

* * * * *

SOME 300 INDUSTRIAL SUPERVISORS AND SAFETY AND HEALTH OFFICERS WILL GATHER TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE LEGAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN HANDLING CHEMICALS AT A SYMPOSIUM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 31).

THE SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT - SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS IS ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THIS IS TO PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH A FORUM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES IN PROMOTING SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK.

DIVISIONAL FACTORY INSPECTOR CHAN KING-CHUEN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES ARE WIDELY USED IN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES AND BY NATURE MANY OF THEM ARE DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF THEIR INFLAMMABILITY, TOXICITY OR CORROSION.

"IMPROPER USE, HANDLING OR LABELLING OF CHEMICALS IS VERY LIKELY TO EXPOSE WORKERS TO THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM," HE NOTED.

SPEAKERS AT THE SYMPOSIUM WILL HIGHLIGHT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS.

SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER (PROTECTION) OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT MR LOO WING-LAM WILL TALK ON "SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND RELEVANT REGULATIONS ON DANGEROUS GOODS BULK STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION."

CHIEF HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISER OF SHELL HONG KONG LIMITED MR LEE HUNG-KWONG AND THE COMPANY'S PRODUCT MANAGER - SOLVENTS MS SALLY LAM WILL SPEAK ON "HAZARDOUS PROPERTIES AND SAFE HANDLING OF SOLVENTS."

DIVISIONAL FACTORY INSPECTOR MR WONG CHING-KWOK WILL ADDRESS ON "LEGAL OBLIGATIONS ON THE USE OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES".

/THE SYMPOSIUM

THE SYMPOSIUM WILL BE OPENED BY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MR DARWIN CHEN, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF TEXTILE BLEACHERS, DYERS, PRINTERS AND FINISHERS LIMITED MR KWAN KON-WAH AND CHEMICALS DIRECTOR OF SHELL HONG KONG LIMITED MR CLARENCE ENG.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SYMPOSIUM AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 31) AT THE VICTORIA BALLROOM OF HOTEL VICTORIA, THIRD FLOOR, 200 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, CENTRAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHECK-IN BAGGAGE LIMITATION INTRODUCED AT CHINA FERRY TERMINAL

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT A CHECK-IN BAGGAGE LIMITATION HAS BEEN INTRODUCED AT THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL IN CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE MARINE OFFICER (CHINA FERRY TERMINAL) OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MR YEUNG CHUNG-KWONG, TODAY (TUESDAY) SAID PASSENGERS USING THE TERMINAL ARE EACH PERMITTED A MAXIMUM OF 60 KILOGRAMS OF CHECK-IN BAGGAGE COMPRISING NO MORE THAN THREE PIECES.

MR YEUNG SAID EACH PIECE OF BAGGAGE SHOULD MEASURE NO MORE THAN 65 CENTIMETRES BY 55 CENTIMETRES BY 30 CENTIMETRES.

"THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS BECOME NECESSARY IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE TRANSIT TIME OF PASSENGERS WITHIN THE TERMINAL," HE EXPLAINED.

MR YEUNG REMINDED PASSENGERS BRINGING EXCESSIVE CHECK-IN LUGGAGE MIGHT EXPERIENCE DELAYS BECAUSE THEIR LUGGAGE WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED SEPARATELY FROM OTHER PASSENGERS.

NOTICES CONTAINING DETAILS ON THE CHECK-IN BAGGAGE LIMITATION ARE POSTED AT THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL. FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL THE MARINE OFFICER (CHINA FERRY TERMINAL) ON TEL. 738 2900.

HE SAID LONG DELAYS HAD PREVIOUSLY OCCURRED AT THE BAGGAGE CLAIM CAROUSELS WHILE EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF CHECK-IN BAGGAGE WERE BEING CLEARED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1991

- 32 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND HKEG
* * * * *

EXCHANGE FUND BILLS TENDER RESULTS - - - TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 1991

ISSUE NUMBER	Q144	H176
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,130 MN	HKD 664 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN	HKD 200 MN
AVERAGE ACCEPTED YIELD	4.60 PCT	5.08 PCT
HIGHEST ACCEPTED YIELD	4.60 PCT	5.08 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 77 PCT	100 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	4.66 PCT	5.21 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND HKEH

NEXT TENDER OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS - - - - TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 1991

ISSUE NUMBER	Q145	Y 196
ISSUE DATE	6 NOV 91	6 NOV 91
MATURITY DATE	7 FEB 92	4 NOV 92
TENOR	93 DAYS*	364 DAYS
AMOUNT OF OFFER	HKD 500 + 100 MN	HKD 200 + 60 MN

* REPEAT 93 DAYS

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	DATE	\$ MILLION
	----	-----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	28.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	29.10.91	+190
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-190
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.2 *-0.1* 29.10.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	29.10.91	28.10.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	3.99 PCT	4.01 PCT
1 MONTH	4.21 PCT	4.21 PCT
3 MONTHS	4.59 PCT	4.47 PCT
6 MONTHS	5.08 PCT	5.10 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.07 PCT	6.13 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	6,170 MN	7,515 MN