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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1994

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BUSY DAY IN OTTAWA FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, CONTINUED WITH HER WEEK-LONG VISIT IN CANADA. SHE HAD A BUSY DAY YESTERDAY (OCTOBER 12) IN OTTAWA, DURING WHICH SHE MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND ADDRESSED A LUNCHEON SEMINAR ATTENDED BY OVER 200 PEOPLE FROM THE CANADIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

DURING THEIR MEETING, MRS CHAN THANKED THE PRIME MINISTER, RT. HON JEAN CHRETIEN, FOR CANADA'S FRIENDSHIP AND UNSTINTING SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG. SHE SAID AFTER THE MEETING THAT THEY BOTH FELT EXTREMELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG, IN CHINA AND IN THE ENTIRE ASIA PACIFIC REGION.

MRS CHAN SAID THAT SHE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO HONG KONG NEXT MONTH.

"WE ARE VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF TOGETHER WITH THE PREMIERS OF NINE CANADIAN PROVINCES ARE GOING ALONG ON THIS TRIP TO CHINA AND THEN TO HONG KONG, AND WE GREATLY LOOK FORWARD TO THAT," MRS CHAN SAID.

DURING THE DAY, MRS CHAN ALSO MET WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE HON PAUL MARTIN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION, MR PETER HARDER, AND SECRETARY OF STATE (ASIA PACIFIC), MR RAYMOND CHAN, TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

AT THE LUNCHEON BUSINESS SEMINAR JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE OTTAWA-CARLETON BOARD OF TRADE AND THE HONG KONG-CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (OTTAWA CHAPTER), MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS NOT ONLY A NATURAL GATEWAY FOR BUSINESS IN CHINA, BUT ALSO A SPRINGBOARD FOR DOING BUSINESS IN THE ENTIRE ASIA PACIFIC REGION.

"HONG KONG'S BUSINESS LINKS EXTEND TO ALL PARTS OF CHINA. WE COULD OFFER CANADIAN BUSINESS A WELL-ESTABLISHED NETWORK OF CONTACTS AND JOINT-VENTURE PARTNERS. IN ADDITION, WE ARE ALSO A BUSINESS BASE FOR THE ENTIRE EAST ASIAN REGION, INCLUDING KOREA, JAPAN AND VIETNAM. SEVENTY PER CENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FIRMS WITH FAR EAST HEADQUARTERS HAVE THEM IN HONG KONG," MRS CHAN SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON SEMINAR, MRS CHAN SAID HONG KONG'S ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION HAD BEEN REMARKABLE.

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"WE ARE NOW THE WORLD'S EIGHTH LARGEST TRADING ECONOMY, THE BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT, THIRD BUSIEST PASSENGER AIRPORT AND SECOND BUSIEST CARGO AIRPORT. TODAY, HONG KONG'S PER CAPITA GDP IS ABOUT US\$20,000, WHICH IS AHEAD OF THAT OF BRITAIN, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA. OUR ECONOMY GROWS BY AN AVERAGE OF SIX PER CENT EVERY YEAR AND GDP IS NOW DOUBLING IN REAL TERMS ROUGHLY EVERY DECADE," MRS CHAN SAID.

MRS CHAN EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG TO MAINTAIN ITS WELL EARNED REPUTATION FOR OPERATING A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD, AND FOR RUNNING A CLEAN, EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION FREE OF CORRUPTION AND POLITICAL INTERFERENCE.

"THE PRESERVATION OF THE RULE OF LAW IS VITAL TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, NOT LEAST THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. ONCE THAT BECOME ERODED, OR UNDERMINED, BUSINESS, LIKE THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY, WILL FIND ITSELF PLAYING ON A FIELD THAT IS ANYTHING BUT LEVEL, FAMILIAR OR FRIENDLY. THIS IS ONE PLAYING FIELD WHERE THE GOAL POSTS CANNOT BE SHIFTED, AND I HOPE THAT OUR FRIENDS IN BUSINESS MAKE THAT CLEAR AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ALL OF US INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO SECURE HONG KONG'S FUTURE," MRS CHAN SAID.

TODAY (THURSDAY), MRS CHAN WILL MEET WITH SENIOR CANADIAN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES OF COMPANIES WITH HONG KONG LINKS AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE TREASURY BOARD OF CANADA AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, THE HON ARTHUR EGGLETON. SHE WILL THEN FLY BACK TO TORONTO IN THE AFTERNOON AND ATTEND A HONG KONG GALA DINNER AT THE METRO TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE IN THE EVENING.

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## TRANSCRIPT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S MEDIA SESSION

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY MRS ANSON CHAN'S MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION AFTER THE OTTAWA-CARLETON BOARD OF TRADE AND HONG KONG-CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 12) IN OTTAWA:

CS: AS YOU WILL HAVE HEARD, THIS IS MY FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT IN OTTAWA, ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN HERE SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE, WEARING DIFFERENT HATS, TO TORONTO AND VANCOUVER. AS I HAVE HAD AN EXCELLENT VISIT SO FAR, AND I HAVE A VERY, VERY CORDIAL DISCUSSION WITH YOUR PRIME MINISTER TODAY, AND I WAS ABLE TO PASS ON GOVERNOR CHRIS PATTEN'S GREETINGS TO YOUR PRIME MINISTER AND TO SAY HOW VERY MUCH WE WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT IN EARLY NOVEMBER. THE PRIME MINISTER AND I DISCUSSED THIS OPPORTUNITY AND CLEARLY WE BOTH FEEL EXTREMELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG, IN CHINA, AND IN THE ENTIRE ASIA PACIFIC REGION. AND AS I SAID IN MY SPEECH JUST NOW TO THE GATHERING, HONG KONG'S PROSPECTS ARE EXTREMELY RIGHT IN THE VERY STRATEGIC MENTALITY, WE SEE OURSELVES NOT ONLY AS THE NATURAL GATEWAY TO DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA, BUT ALSO VERY MUCH AS A SPRING BOARD FOR DOING BUSINESS IN THE ENTIRE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, WELL ACCORDING TO, YOU SEE THE STATISTICS THAT AREA IS GOING TO BE THE AREA OF FASTEST GROWTH. OF COURSE, EVERYBODY'S ATTENTION IS FORECAST ON 1997, BUT THE PRIME MINISTER AND I DISCUSSED TODAY AND HE WAS SAYING TO ME HOW HE RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT THE PARTICULARLY EVENTFUL DAY, I BELIEVED IT WAS THE 24TH OF JUNE, WHEN SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS HAD TO BE MADE AND HE WAS ASKED WELL WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AFTER 24TH, AND HE SAID WELL 25TH, 26TH, 27TH, AND IN THE SIMILAR EVENT, WHEN I WAS ASKED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HONG KONG AFTER 1997, MY RESPONSE HAS ALWAYS BEEN WELL THE ONLY THING THAT YOU CAN BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN ABOUT IS THAT 1998 WILL FOLLOW 1997. AS SERIOUSLY AS I SAID IN MY SPEECH JUST NOW, NOTWITHSTANDING SOME DIFFERENT DIFFICULTIES THAT WE HAVE WITH CHINA, BOTH CHINA AND BRITAIN WERE THE TWO SOVEREIGN POWERS WHO PUT THEIR SIGNATURE TO THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. I FULLY COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING THE JOINT DECLARATION. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS EQUALLY COMMITTED. WE ARE VISUALLY TRYING TO PUT IN PLACE THE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK THAT WILL ENSURE HONG KONG CAN CONTINUE TO ENJOY A HIGHLY AUTONOMY AFTER 1997 THAT THE SAR GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BE THE GOVERNMENT, THE FIRST GOVERNMENT POST 1997. WELL, INDEED, WE ARE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE CONCEPT OF ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS. OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH CANADA IS AN EXTREMELY CLOSE ONE, IT HAS STRENGTHENED OVER THE YEARS, AND IT WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN, WE VERY MUCH VALUE THAT FRIENDSHIP, AND INDEED I HAVE BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED IN MY DISCUSSION SO FAR WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WITH BUSINESS LEADERS AT A CONSIDERABLE GOODWILL THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN TOWARDS HONG KONG AND AT THE WILLINGNESS OF CANADIANS TO CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG, AND IN PARTICULAR TO EXPRESS THE INTEREST IN WISHING TO SEE HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE, ITS SYSTEMS, ITS FREEDOMS CONTINUED AFTER 1997. SO THANK YOU, THAT'S ALL BY WAY OF MY BRIEF REMARKS.

Q: (INAUDIBLE ..... NEW AIRPORT PROJECT)

CS: WELL, ACTUALLY SPEAK, IN FACT, THERE ARE DISCUSSIONS GOING ON BETWEEN EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES, THAT IS ON THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SIDE AND THE CHINESE SIDE PUTTING THIS AS A WELL DEFINISHING TOUCHES TO THE AGREEMENT THAT WE HOPE TO SIGN WITH THE CHINESE AND I'M VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WILL REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE VERY SOON. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MEET THE CHINESE MAIN CONCERN WISHES IN RESPECT OF THE LEVEL OF EQUITY INJECTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PUT INTO THE TWO STATUTORY CORPORATIONS THAT WILL VOTE THE AIRPORT AND THE RAILWAY AND ALSO AT THE LEVEL OF DEBT TO BE INCURRED BY THESE TWO STATUTORY CORPORATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT IN ADDITION TO REACHING AGREEMENT ON THESE ISSUES, IT IS ALSO VERY ESSENTIAL THAT WE SHOULD SECURE THE CHINESE AGREEMENT TO THE TWO FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL BE NEEDED IN ORDER TO GIVE COMFORT TO POTENTIAL LENDERS WHO WILL BE LENDING MONEY TO THE MASS TRANSIT CORPORATION AND THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY. AS I SAID, I AM HOPEFUL THAT VERY VERY SHORTLY, WE WILL REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE, BUT IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAVE, OF COURSE, READILY CARRIED OUT A GOOD DEAL AT THE WORST WE HAVE FOR EXAMPLE A READILY CLAIMED TWO-THIRD OF THE AIRPORT PLATFORM WHICH DELIBERATELY RISING FROM THE SEA. WE PUT UP THE TOWERS FOR THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE WHICH WHEN COMPLETED WILL BE THE LONGEST COMBINED ROAD AND RAIL SUSPENSION BRIDGE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

Q: (INAUDIBLE ....,JOINT DECLARATION)

CS: BUT WE DO HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE. THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF HONG KONG IS VERY CLEARLY LAID OUT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND IN THE BASIC LAW WHICH IS THE MINI-CONSTITUTION FOR THE SAR GOVERNMENT AFTER 1997 IS VERY CLEARLY LAID OUT. WE WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR EXISTING SYSTEMS ETC. ETC. AS I SAID EARLIER IN MY PRELIMINARY REMARKS, CLEARLY OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS AND FRIENDS SUCH AS YOUR COUNTRY, UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA AND SO ON. THEY TOO HAVE INTEREST IN HONG KONG NOT LEAST OF COURSE, THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT THERE AND SEE CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTINUE TO DO BUSINESS IN HONG KONG. AND SO CLEARLY, THEY SEE AS IN THEIR INTEREST AND IN HONG KONG'S INTEREST THAT OUR CURRENT WAY OF LIFE, THE FREEDOMS THAT WE ENJOY, OUR ECONOMIC AUTONOMY, OUR FINANCIAL AUTONOMY, OUR INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND OPEN LEGISLATURE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT, ALL THOSE SHOULD CONTINUE AFTER 1997. BECAUSE THOSE ARE THE KEY TO FAVOURABLE AND ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT.

Q: (INAUDIBLE ..... QUEBEC PREMIER NOT GOING TO CHINA VISIT WITH THE PRIME MINSITER)

CS: WE ARE VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF TOGETHER WITH THE PREMIERS OF NINE PROVINCES ARE GOING ALONG ON HIS TRIP TO CHINA AND THEN TO HONG KONG, AND WE GREATLY LOOK FORWARD TO THAT.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

CS: I THINK WE INVITED THE PRIME MINISTER AND WHOEVER A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM, WE LOOK FORWARD TO THAT.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

CS: THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S FULL COMMITMENT IS TOWARDS THE FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION. ITS TASKS FOR THE 993 DAYS THAT REMAIN BEFORE SOVEREIGNTY REVERSED TO CHINA IS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE THAT THE TRANSITIONAL ISSUES ARE SORTED OUT WITH THE CHINESE SO THAT, AS I SAID EARLIER, THE SAR GOVERNMENT CAN ENJOY HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY AFTER 1997. AND THE BRITISH AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CLEARLY SEE THAT UNDERPINNING ORDERS, IT IS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN A LEGISLATURE THAT IS OPENLY AND FAIRLY ENACTED, BECAUSE IT IS ONLY IN THAT WAY THAT WE CAN ENSURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO HAVE AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, THAT WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD, AND THAT WE HAVE A HIGHLY EFFICIENT AND CORRUPTION FREE CIVIL SERVICE. AND LET ME STRESS AGAIN, BOTH THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO THAT, IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MEET AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS, BUT ALL THAT IS BEHIND US, WE WISH TO DRAW A LINE UNDER THAT. WE WISH AND ARE VERY SINCERE IN THE PROPOSALS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUT FORWARD IN THIS OCTOBER ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATURE ABOUT THE PRACTICAL WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN CO-OPERATE WITH CHINESE TO RESOLVE THE MANY TRANSITIONAL ISSUES THAT STILL NEED TO BE DISCUSSED. THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD. THEY ARE PROPOSALS, WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR FROM THE CHINESE WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT THESE PROPOSALS OR INDEED TO HEAR ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FROM THE CHINESE, BUT I STRESS AGAIN, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH SIDES SIT DOWN, TALK ABOUT ISSUES AND INTENSIFY CO-OPERATION.

Q: (INAUDIBLE - ADVISE TO CANADIAN BUSINESSES)

CS: WELL, I AM IN THE VERY HAPPY POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO, FIRST OF ALL, EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR CANADA'S FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT ALL THESE YEARS. TO SAY HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THE CONTINUING INTEREST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS PEOPLE HAVE TO HONG KONG AND IN PARTICULAR, YOUR INTEREST ENSURING, AS I SAID EARLIER, THAT OUR CURRENT WAY OF LIFE, OUR SYSTEMS CONTINUED AFTER 1997, BECAUSE THAT'S THE BEST GUARANTEE FOR HONG KONG, AND IF YOU HAVE A CROSS REFERENCE IN HONG KONG, THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE FROM YOUR COUNTRY, FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO HAVE IN HONG KONG. AND AS I SAID ALSO, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROSPEROUS AND STABLE HONG KONG, A PROSPEROUS AND STABLE CHINA WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD AND FOR EVERY INVESTORS AND CLEARLY, THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, INCLUDING CHINA, HONG KONG AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE GOING TO BE THE AREA OF FASTEST GROWTH IN THE NEXT DECADE. SO I WOULD SUGGEST THAT CANADIANS CANNOT AFFORD TO LET THIS OPPORTUNITY GO BY. THANK YOU.

CS: WELL, OBVIOUSLY WE WISH TO SEE AN INTENSIFICATION OF OUR TIES WITH CANADA THEY ARE ALREADY VERY CONSIDERABLE. IF YOU LOOK AT OUR TRADE TIES, TRADE HAS BEEN GROWING VERY RAPIDLY, AIR TIES, FOR EXAMPLE, ALSO HAS BEEN GROWING, FOR EXAMPLE, AT 10 PER CENT EVERY YEAR, AND IN RECENT YEARS, WE CLEARLY HAVE A LOT OF OUR PEOPLE WHO HAVE DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO EMIGRATE AND LIVE IN CANADA AND OF COURSE, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, WE WOULD RATHER NOT LOSE THESE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE SKILLED PEOPLE. BUT IF WE DO HAVE TO LOSE THEM, THEN AS I SAID TO YOUR MINISTER TODAY, I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER COUNTRY THAN CANADA, AND WE ALL SEE THAT A QUITE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE EMIGRATED, WHO HAVE DECIDED TO COME BACK TO WORK IN HONG KONG, AND I THINK THAT'S GOOD FOR BOTH OUR COUNTRY AND FOR CANADA. TRADE HAS BEEN EXPANDING VERY, VERY FAST.

Q: (INAUDIBLE ..... FUTURE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON TAIWAN)

CS: OUR POLICY TOWARDS TAIWAN IS VERY CLEAR. WE HAVE NEVER, IN ANY ACT, AND WE WILL NOT WISH TO GIVE ANY INDICATION THAT WE RECOGNISE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE TAIWANESE GOVERNMENT, BUT OF COURSE IN TERMS OF INVESTMENT, IN TERMS OF DOING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG, TAIWAN IS DOING BEST. THEY INVEST IN HONG KONG, THEY INVEST IN CHINA.

Q: (INAUDIBLE ..... PRESS FREEDOM)

CS: WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING PRESS FREEDOM BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT TO BE ONE OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS THAT GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE AN OPEN, CREDIBLE GOVERNMENT THAT IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE, PRESS WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. WE ARE ENGAGED IN ENSURING THAT NOTHING ON OUR STATUTORY BOOKS IN ANY WAY INHIBIT PRESS FREEDOM AND WE HAVE ALREADY, FOR EXAMPLE, MADE AMENDMENT TO SOME LEGISLATIONS ON OUR BOOKS WHICH HAVE BEEN THERE FOR MANY, MANY YEARS, BUT WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN EXERCISED. BUT AS I SAID, WE ARE KEEN TO MAINTAIN PRESS FREEDOM AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN OUR STATUTORY BOOKS THAT WILL IN ANY WAY INHIBIT PRESS FREEDOM. WE ARE OF COURSE ALSO CONCERNED PARTICULARLY AS 1997 DRAWS NEARER THAT THE PRESS, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, OR THE MEDIA THEMSELVES, SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY FEEL THAT THEY HAVE TO EXERCISE SELF CENSORSHIP. WE WILL WISH TO SEE, CONTINUE TO SEE AN OPEN, THRIVING PRESS, A RESPONSIBLE PRESS WHO WILL QUESTION THE ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE, WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE AN INQUIRING MIND. I THINK THAT THIS WOULD BE GOOD FOR HONG KONG AND WOULD OBVIOUSLY I THINK ALSO, CONTINUE TO INSPIRE BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997. BUT THERE IS A DANGER OF SELF CENSORSHIP. WE HAVE SEEN SOME INDICATION AND, BUT I THINK ALSO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CAN DO ITS PART, OBVIOUSLY MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA CAN ALSO DO ITS PART, BUT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, IN TERMS OF THE FACT THAT THEY WILL BE THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWER CAN ALSO DO A GREAT DEAL TO GIVE CONFIDENCE TO THE PRESS. Q: (INAUDIBLE)

CS: YES, WELL, I THINK MOST OF THE MANY SYSTEMS IN CHINA ARE NOT QUITE THE SAME AS THEY ARE IN HONG KONG OR IN WESTERN COUNTRIES. BUT TO THE EXTENT THAT ALL OF OUR FREEDOMS ARE GUARANTEED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE CHINESE WILL, ALONG THAT, THEY HAVE AFTER ALL ON MANY OCCASIONS, STRESSED THEIR FULL COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW. THANK YOU.

HONG KONG CELEBRATES WORLD STANDARDS DAY

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HONG KONG WILL BE JOINING MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING THE 25TH WORLD STANDARDS DAY TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

ANNOUNCING THIS, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR DOMINIC LAW, SAID THE WORLD STANDARDS DAY PROVIDED AN ANNUAL FOCAL POINT THAT PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF THOUSANDS OF EXPERTS INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

THE WORLD STANDARDS DAY IS CELEBRATED ON OCTOBER 14 EACH YEAR BY MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION (ISO) AND THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC), WHICH ARE MAJOR ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

THIS YEAR, THE THEME CHOSEN IS "STANDARDS AND THE CONSUMER: PARTNERS FOR A BETTER WORLD".

"THIS THEME COINCIDES WITH A NUMBER OF RECENT LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AIMED AT CONSUMER PROTECTION IN HONG KONG," MR LAW SAID.

FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SAFETY ORDINANCE, WHICH REQUIRES MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS AND SUPPLIERS TO ENSURE THAT TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS MEET THE STANDARDS STIPULATED IN THE ORDINANCE, THE CONSUMER GOODS SAFETY BILL HAS JUST BEEN PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) AND WILL COME INTO OPERATION IN OCTOBER 1995 AFTER THE ONE-YEAR GRACE PERIOD.

THE PLUGS AND ADAPTORS (SAFETY) REGULATION, WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT ON MARCH 23, 1995, STIPULATES SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PLUGS AND ADAPTORS AND REQUIRES ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS FOR HOUSEHOLD USE TO BE FITTED WITH SUITABLE PLUGS.

EFFORTS ARE ALSO BEING MADE TO INTRODUCE THE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS (SAFETY) REGULATION, WHICH COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS.

"ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT, THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ATTENDING MEETINGS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION ON STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE, WHICH IS RECOGNISED AS AN IMPORTANT AREA OF WORK AND WHERE EFFORTS CAN BE MADE TO ACHIEVE TRADE FACILITATION," MR LAW SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO ATTENDED MEETINGS OF THE PACIFIC AREA STANDARDS CONGRESS, WHICH IS A FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS REGARDING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION ACTIVITIES.

THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING OTHER PARTIES TO THE GATT AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE OF SAFETY STANDARDS STIPULATED IN HONG KONG'S LEGISLATION.

"AS AN EXPORT-ORIENTED ECONOMY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR GOODS MEET THE SAFETY STANDARDS OF OUR MARKETS. TO ASSIST OUR MANUFACTURERS, THE PRODUCT STANDARDS INFORMATION BUREAU OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT OFFERS A RANGE OF STANDARDS-RELATED SERVICES," MR LAW SAID.

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THE BUREAU MAINTAINS A LIBRARY WHICH HOLDS SOME 80,000 INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL STANDARDS. THEY INCLUDE STANDARDS ISSUED BY ISO, IEC AND HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS. THESE ARE MADE READILY AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMERS.

TO ENHANCE ITS SERVICE, THE BUREAU HAS RECENTLY INSTALLED A FULL SET OF IEC STANDARDS IN THE FORM OF COMPACT DISKS, WITH WHICH IEC STANDARDS CAN BE READILY RETRIEVED ONTO A COMPUTER SCREEN.

THE BUREAU ALSO OPERATES A SALES AGENCY SERVICE FOR THE PROVISION OF PHOTOCOPIES OF STANDARDS AND FOR THE PURCHASE OF ORIGINALS OF STANDARDS FROM OVERSEAS STANDARDISATION BODIES. THE BUREAU IS AUTHORISED BY ISO, IEC, THE BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION, AND THE STANDARDS AUSTRALIA TO REPRODUCE AND SELL PHOTOCOPIES OF THEIR STANDARDS.

IN ADDITION, THE BUREAU PROVIDES A TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE TO ASSIST, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, MANUFACTURERS IN THE INTERPRETATION OF STANDARDS.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN YUEN LONG

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO KAM TIN, PAT HEUNG AND SHEK KONG IN YUEN LONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 15) TO 7 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE OF WATER MAINS.

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