



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Saturday, April 20, 1996

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Statement on meeting in The Hague

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In response to media enquiries on the meeting between the foreign ministers in The Hague, a government spokesman said this evening: "We welcome the reassurances on important civil service issues given by Mr Qian Qichen, the Chinese Vice Premier and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, at his meeting with the Foreign Secretary, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, in The Hague today (Saturday).

"These reassurances provide a firm basis for the discussions the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, will be having with senior Chinese officials during her forthcoming visit to Peking."

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Hong Kong to attend ESCAP plenary session

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Deputy Secretary for Trade and Industry, Mr Francis Ho, will lead a Hong Kong delegation to Bangkok tomorrow (Sunday) to attend the 52nd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

ESCAP is a subsidiary body established under the United Nations. Its major activities include conducting research and initiating measures to facilitate concerted action for the economic development of the Asia-Pacific region, sponsoring the collection, evaluation and dissemination of economic, technological and statistical information of the region.

Hong Kong is an associate member of the ESCAP, and has been actively participating in its various activities, such as the Typhoon Committee and the Committee on Statistics.

The theme topic for discussion at the 52nd Plenary Session of the ESCAP is "Alleviation of Rural Poverty and Sustainable Development". Mr Francis Ho will be delivering a statement on the topic at the Session.

The Hong Kong delegation to the ESCAP Session includes Director of the Royal Observatory, Mr Robert Lau, Assistant Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Mr H.W. Fung, Principal Assistant Secretary, Mr Kenneth Mak, Environmental Protection Officer, Mr S.M. Leung, and Assistant Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Monica Chen.

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## Meeting between Guangdong and HK Customs

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The 14th Annual Review Meeting between Guangdong Branch of the Customs General Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department was held in Shantou from April 15 to 19.

The Guangdong delegation comprising seven members was led by Director Liu Wenjie, Guangdong Sub-administration of Customs General Administration and Director Lin Futing, Shantou Customs of the People's Republic of China. The Hong Kong delegation also comprising seven members was led by Mr Lawrence Li Shu-fai, Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise. Representatives from the Foreign Affairs Office, People's Republic of China and the Foreign Affairs Department, Xinhua News Agency (Hong Kong Branch) also attended the meeting.

Director Liu Wenjie chaired the meeting. Both side exchanged views on the co-operation since the last meeting in anti-smuggling, anti-narcotics efforts and were satisfied with the results achieved.

Both sides also positively discussed further expansion of co-operation between the two Customs administrations, especially in anti-smuggling and intellectual property protection.

Members of both delegations were warmly received by the Shantou Customs. The Hong Kong delegation was greatly impressed by the great changes brought about by the rapid economic growth and city development of Shantou. The Hong Kong Customs delegation also visited other Customs offices outside Guangdong Province.

End

## School heads polled on drug abuse problem

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The great majority of secondary school principals and primary school heads in an Education Department questionnaire survey did not think that the problem of drug abuse in schools was serious.

A total of 770 primary school heads (99 per cent) and 410 secondary school principals (97 per cent) considered that the problem was not serious.

Releasing the findings of the survey today (Saturday), a senior Education Officer, Mrs Dorothy Chan, nevertheless noted that the schools showed grave concern over the drug problem.

"Half of the secondary school principals and 84 per cent of primary school heads surveyed were interested in organising activities to beat drugs," she said.

The survey was to study the problem of student drug abuse and needs for support services to tackle the problem. It was conducted by the department between last October and this February.

Questionnaires were sent to 771 primary schools and 421 secondary schools. All were completed and returned, representing a total student population of 893,681.

All local schools were covered by the study while kindergartens, special schools, international and English Schools Foundation schools were not included.

"School heads were asked to estimate the number of students at risk of occasionally or habitually abusing drugs," Mrs Chan said.

"They also indicated their preferences for support services needed to tackle the problem," she added.

Among 454,267 primary school pupils covered by the survey, 1,054 students, representing 0.23 per cent, were estimated by their school heads to be in the at-risk group; 153 students, or 0.03 per cent, were estimated to be occasional drug abusers and only 76 students, or 0.02 per cent, habitual drug abusers.

In secondary schools, school principals estimated that 9,194 (2.1 per cent) were at risk, 2,197 (0.46 per cent) were occasional and 588 (0.12 per cent) habitual drug abusers.

Mrs Chan noted that group sizes of estimated drug abusers grew from junior to senior classes in primary schools and shrank from junior to senior forms in secondary schools.

Among activities suggested to tackle the problem of drug abuse, the school heads preferred talks for teachers on knowledge of drug abuse (36%), issuing of guidelines on handling drug abuse in schools (21%) and training courses for teachers (14 per cent)," Mrs Chan said.

Mrs Chan suggested that schools should try to identify the at-risk groups with the assistance of the community, including parents.

"The Education Department will provide guidance and advice to schools whenever possible," she said.

End

#### Fund for elderly services invites applications

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Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) wishing to plan and organise non-profit making self-financing welfare services for the elderly are invited to apply financial assistance from the Social Welfare Department.

"A sum of \$200 million from the Lotteries Fund has been earmarked as an Elderly Services Development Fund to finance such projects," a department spokesman said today (Saturday).

In November 1993, the Governor appointed a Working Group on Care for the Elderly to conduct a general review of services for old people and to formulate proposals on the objectives and future development of such services.

Among the 71 recommendations of the Working Group, an Elderly Services Development Fund was proposed to provide grants to NGOs to help them introduce non-profit making self-financing welfare services for elderly persons of the "sandwich class".

"Many middle-class families are at present left out of the welfare services delivery system because priority is always given to low-income families and clients.

"To fill the service gap, the Working Group recommended that NGOs should be encouraged to operate services on a self-financing basis for the sandwich class who could afford to pay the services at reasonable rates," the spokesman said.

He said the Fund aimed at providing financial assistance, in the initial stage, to NGOs for providing new and innovative services for elderly persons and the level of support would be considered on individual merits of each application.

"In general, capital grants will be provided up to 80 percent of the approved capital costs.

"Recurrent grants will be considered to meet operating costs for a period of not more than three consecutive years.

"Up to 50 percent of the operating costs of the first year of service could be granted for initiating a self-financing service and up 30 percent in the second and third years," he added.

NGOs interested to apply for the Fund are welcome to contact the SWD on 2892 5214 or 2892 5191 for further details.

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#### Fresh water cut in Tai Po

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Tai Po will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Tuesday (April 23) to 6 am the following day for detection work on watermains to be carried out.

The suspension will affect all premises on Ting Kok Road between Tai Yuen Estate and Tai Fu Street, and Kau Shi Wai, Fung Yuen, Tin Sam, Yue Kok and Fung Yuen Lo Tsuen in Fung Yuen Road, Tai Po.

End

#### Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Time (Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Change (\$ Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	1,849	09:30	+910
Closing Balance in the account	1,784	10:00	+910
Change Attributable to:		11:00	+910
Money Market Activity	+910	12:00	+910
Laf Today	-975		

Laf Rate 4% Bid/6% Offer TWI 123.9 \*+0.1\* 20.4.96

End

Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

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Following is the full text of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on RTHK's "Letter to Hong Kong" this (Sunday) morning:

In just over a week's time, I set out for Canada and the United States to talk about Hong Kong and to bang the drum for Hong Kong's interests. Just after my visit, Anson Chan will herself head for America. And both of us will, of course, be arguing the case in Washington to often sceptical audiences for renewal by the United States of Most Favoured Nation Status for China. What should we tell people? What should our message be?

One reason why I pose these questions is that my basic confidence about Hong Kong was described by one newspaper in Britain 10 days ago as "Panglossian". I was - according to them - far too starry-eyed about the future. It's worth reflecting on why many people outside Hong Kong take a similar view, and why (if for no other reason) Chinese officials should seek advice from a wider rather than narrower range of opinion when they come here.

A lot of the anxieties both outside and inside Hong Kong focus on the analysis which some Chinese officials have made of our city and which they have subsequently acted upon. We're not a political city, they say; we're an economic city - and we shouldn't bother our heads about anything other than making money.

What on earth does that mean?

Hong Kong is no more a political city than anywhere else, but no less either. It's a city where economic success and progress have produced a better educated, better informed, better travelled, better off population. A population with views on more issues than horse-racing.

Hong Kong is also a city whose economic success is partly a result of things which you don't necessarily find in a list of economic variables. The rule of law. Good, clean administration. Personal liberty. Freedom of speech.

All those things are guaranteed under the treaty signed by Britain and China in 1984. If Chinese officials are now saying, "forget the politics and only bother about the economics", where does that place the guarantees given on all those non-economic issues? Does free speech come under the heading of politics or economics? What about freedom of assembly? Freedom of worship? Freedom of travel?

You can't pick and choose the bits of the Joint Declaration you like, and the bits you don't like. The Joint Declaration describes Hong Kong - economics and politics.

One part of the politics is the development of democracy - which is meant to underpin Hong Kong's freedom and give its people confidence that they have their own future in their hands. Remember - Hong Kong people running Hong Kong. Not 150, or 400, hand-picked people running Hong Kong.

This doesn't mean, to quote another senior Chinese official, aping western democracy. It means developing open, accountable, representative government, just as is happening elsewhere in Asia. It is having a government which serves the people, rather than allowing things to happen the other way round.

We have the beginnings of democracy at the moment - as promised by China as well as Britain. And the question which is starting to singe confidence elsewhere, and maybe here too, even if it hasn't yet burnt it to a crisp, is whether that democratic development is going to be halted and reversed, and with it the best protection for Hong Kong's human rights, rule of law and good and uncorrupt public administration.

For many people this question of the survival of a cleanly elected legislation isn't an optional extra, it's a litmus test of what else will survive. And the way the issue is handled by Chinese officials raises not only questions about their intentions, but also their understanding of the nature of Hong Kong. Do they understand how a free society works?

Our free society has been reasonably stable and remarkably moderate. One reason is that we've tried, by and large, to involve everyone in the management of the community. There aren't some who are locked out, excluded, anathematised. If you do that to people, it's a recipe for social turmoil not community harmony.

I prefer peaceful discussion to noisy demonstration. I hated that scene a week ago - flashed around the world - of a burning tyre and an angry group of demonstrators. I will never condone and always condemn rowdiness in a political cause in a free society like ours. But it is one of the oldest lessons in history, that if you try to shut people up who have a good argument and a good reason for putting it, you'll bring trouble down on your head.

I hated seeing our police having to hold the line between those who want to be heard and those who won't listen. We should avoid putting our policemen and women under that sort of pressure unnecessarily.

Where does all this leave us? As I said, with a more difficult task in giving reassurance about the future. But at least I'm pleased, no, more than pleased, delighted, that Lu Ping ended his week in Hong Kong by meeting Anson Chan. They had a good meeting, and Anson has accepted an invitation to continue their discussion in Peking very soon.

I'll point to that meeting and that visit, when I go to North America, as two of the more hopeful signs we have seen recently - two candles of hope if you like. I'll naturally speak up for the fundamental economic strength of Hong Kong. And I'll point to another fundamental strength as well.

I didn't bring democracy or the protection of human rights to Hong Kong, as some United Front activists rather curiously suggest from time to time. Those values, those ideas, have taken root and begun to flower here in Hong Kong over many years.

And nothing, repeat nothing, can stop these plants flowering, and re-seeding and flowering again in the future.

Maybe Chinese officials can turn a deaf ear for a time to the views and voices of those who represent Hong Kong's majority. But those views and voices won't fall silent.

Maybe - shamefully and without a scrap of justification - this Legislative Council can be torn down in 1997 and our Bill of Rights be hamstrung. You can try to trample on institutions. But you can't just snuff out the spirit of democracy; you can't smother a growing civic consciousness in Hong Kong. Hong Kong people treasure their freedoms - and not just their freedom to make money. That spirit of liberty will survive in Hong Kong - whatever the short term threats or dangers.

It's because I believe that passionately, that I'll be able to express my conviction about Hong Kong's future passionately, as well. I will set out our case to the world, not glossing over the problems or the mistakes, but stating, for as long as I have the breath and the energy, how this great city can continue to grow in freedom and prosperity.

Do I believe in a better Hong Kong tomorrow? Yes, because I believe in the people of Hong Kong. I wish that was true of everyone who claimed to speak in Hong Kong's name.

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Textiles and clothing delegation on China visit

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A delegation of the Textiles and Clothing Committee (TCC) of the Industry and Technology Development Council set off today (Sunday) on a six-day visit to Beijing and Shanghai.

The 21-member delegation is led by the Chairman of the TCC, Dr Harry Lee. The two deputy leaders of the delegation are Mrs Regina Ip, the Director-General of Industry and Mrs Sophie Leung, the Chairman of the Organising Committee for the visit.

Dr Lee said that the purpose of the visit was to enhance the ties between the textiles and clothing industries of Hong Kong and China, exchange views on matters of mutual interest and explore possible areas for future co-operation.

In Beijing, the delegation will visit the China National Textile Council, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation, State Economic and Trade Commission, State Administration of Taxation, Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council, State Science and Technology Commission, Chinese Academy of Sciences and State Bureau of Foreign Experts.

In Shanghai, the delegation will call on the Shanghai Municipal Offices, Planning Commission, Economic Commission, Science and Technology Commission, Shanghai Economic and Trade Commission, Shanghai Tax Bureau and Shanghai Textiles Holdings Corporation. They will also visit the Chao He Jing Science Park and two factories.

Dr Lee said that the Textiles and Clothing Committee is a key advisor to the Hong Kong government on issues relating to the textiles and clothing industries.

"The Committee has been a useful and effective forum of communication. Industrialists would like very much to see the establishment of a similar consultative arrangements between Chinese authorities and Hong Kong businessmen investing in the textiles and clothing sector in China", he said.

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Software design competition to promote healthy lifestyles

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The Department of Health is organising a computer game software design competition to promote the cultivation of healthy lifestyles, a spokesman for the Department said today (Sunday).

Entries for the competition should be able to bring out messages on the importance of healthy life practices and the methods of diseases prevention in general.

All students and members of the public are invited to participate in the competition which is organised jointly with the Hong Kong Computer Society and the Hong Kong Association for Computer Education.

The entries will be judged on their effectiveness in bringing out the messages, their attractiveness, creativity and visual effects, and whether they are user-friendly and be understood by the general public. Some of them may be selected for public display at the Department's Student Health Service Centres and Health Education Centres.

Attractive prizes will be given to winners of the two divisions, namely the student division and the open division.

The champion of each division will receive a laptop computer, while the first and second runners-up will be presented prizes worth about \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

Furthermore, two special prizes will be given for the most educational and the most creative entries. Each winner will get a cash coupon of \$5,000.

All participating units, whether individual or group, will receive a souvenir.

Participants are free to make use of animation cartoon stories, still or motion image games, or question-and-answer format in designing their entries.

Application forms for the competition can be obtained from secondary schools and government general out-patient clinics.

The completed form, together with the entry, must be submitted to the Student Health Service Division of the Department of Health, fourth floor, Lam Tin Polyclinic, 99 Kai Tin Road, Kwun Tong, by hand or by mail on or before July 8, 1996.

Enquiries can be made on 2349 2772. A briefing session will be held at the Student Health Service Division on May 25 to explain the details of the competition.

The competition is sponsored by the LECCO Consultants Limited.

End

#### Schools reminded to vote in conduct council election

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The Education Department reminded all kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, and special schools to collect ballot papers tomorrow (Monday) for the Council on Professional Conduct in Education election.

Assistant Director of Education (Services), Mr David Pun, said: "To ensure a smooth launching of the election for teacher-nominated categories, schools should collect the ballot papers from their respective District Education Officer or Senior Inspector (Special Schools Administration) tomorrow."

Each school will be issued an exact number of ballot papers according to the number of teachers eligible to vote.

"If schools choose not to participate in the election, they are not required to collect the ballot papers," Mr Pun said.

"But they should return a statement signed by all eligible voters in the school to this effect together with the blank Voting Results Return Form to their respective District Education Officer or the Special Education Administration Unit."

Mr Pun appealed to all full-time registered and permitted teachers, including school heads, regular and temporary teachers employed on a monthly basis to vote on Wednesday (April 24) to show support for the Council.

The Council on Professional Conduct in Education is a non-statutory body to advise the Government on measures to promote professional conduct in education, including the drafting of operation criteria defining the conduct expected of an educator, and advising the Director of Education on disputes or alleged professional misconduct.

End

\$346 million grant from Lotteries Fund approved

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A total of \$346,494,500 has been approved from the Lotteries Fund to finance various social welfare service programmes during the first quarter of 1996, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

"Of the amount, \$96,930,700 are earmarked to family and child welfare services, \$164,115,800 to elderly and medical social services, \$71,483,600 to rehabilitation services, \$13,029,400 to youth services, \$651,000 to community development services and \$284,000 to social welfare support programmes," the spokesman said.

The Lotteries Fund was established for the purpose of financing, by way of a grant, loan or an advance, the operation or development of social welfare services and medical or educational projects with a welfare content.

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41 building plans approved in February

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The Buildings Department approved 41 building plans in February this year.

Of the plans, 12 are for Hong Kong Island, 17 for Kowloon and 12 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include 22 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, seven for commercial developments, three for factory and industrial developments, and nine for community services developments.

In the same month, consent was given for work to start on 42 building projects, which involve 90,881 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 149,513 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

During the same period, the department also issued 32 Occupation Permits - nine for Hong Kong Island, 14 for Kowloon and nine for the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in the month, the usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses are 150,491 square metres and 85,087 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled \$2,472 million.

In addition, 13 demolition consents involving 21 buildings and structures were issued.

The Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division received 553 complaints of unauthorised building works, and issued 321 Removal Orders on unauthorised works.

End

#### Fresh water cut in the New Territories

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Sai Kung and Yuen Long will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (April 24) to 6 am the following day for detection work on watermains to be carried out.

In Sai Kung, the suspension will affect Tai Chung Hau, Sai Kung Farm, Che Keng Tuk, Pak Sha Wan, Pak Sha Toi, Ta Ho Tun Sheung Wai, Tsiu Hang, Ta Ho Tun Ha Wai and Pak Kong.

In Yuen Long, all premises along Long Ping Road, Long Tin Road, Fung Chi Tsuen, Wing Ning Tsuen and Ha Mei San Tsuen will be affected.

End