



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1994

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S PRESS BRIEFING

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT LONDON OFFICE THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING:

GOVERNOR: WELCOME, ON THIS WONDERFUL AUTUMN DAY, AS YOU KNOW, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF MY VISIT, AS WELL AS SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS, WAS TO SPEAK AT THE TDC DINNER LAST NIGHT. EVERY GOVERNOR HAS BEEN TO THE TDC DINNER FOR SOME YEARS - QUITE PROPERLY - BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST OCCASIONS AT WHICH PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO SHOW THEIR INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG. THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE THERE LAST NIGHT WILL KNOW THAT IT WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL OCCASION AGAIN, WITH A HUGE TURN OUT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT WE ARE DOING, AND PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HOW THE TRANSITION IS GOING AND HOW HONG KONG CAN CONTINUE TO BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS IT HAS BEEN.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS IN THE WORLD, MADE A VERY HELPFUL AND INTERESTING SPEECH. CLEARLY, THE POINT HE MADE ABOUT HOW IT TAKES TO ESTABLISH A REPUTATION BUT HOW QUICKLY YOU CAN LOSE ONE HAS TO BE ONE OF OUR MOTTOS FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

I HAVE MORE MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS THIS WEEK, PRIMARILY WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TODAY. TONIGHT I HAVE ONE MORE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT: I AM GIVING THE ANNUAL SWISS BANK LECTURE AND COPIES OF THAT TEXT WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTERWARDS. IT IS A SPEECH WHICH IS PRINCIPALLY ABOUT TRADE AND PROTECTIONISM, AND COPIES WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU AS YOU LEAVE.

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

QUESTION: I LISTENED WITH INTEREST AGAIN TO YOU YESTERDAY, SUGGESTING THAT YOU WERE QUITE OPTIMISTIC, APPARENTLY, THAT THINGS WERE GOING TO MOVE, TOWARDS THE END OF THE NEXT YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR. BUT APART FROM THE MINUTE ON THE AIRPORT, I WONDER WHAT EVIDENCE THERE MAY BE IN THE BACKGROUND THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A CHANGE TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR, PARTICULARLY WHAT YOU REFERRED TO YESTERDAY, AND IT WAS IN THE TIMES YESTERDAY, WITH GUO FENGMIN SUGGESTING THAT REALLY THAT THIS BUSINESS ABOUT TALKING ABOUT THE 'LEGAL VACUUM' OF HONG KONG IS A SORT OF BRITISH INVENTION AND SCARE, AND THAT WHEN THEY GOT THERE THEY COULD REALLY QUITE EASILY ARRANGE ALL THIS WITH A CHINESE LAWYER AND THE HELP OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. ONE WONDERS WHETHER IT IS REALLY TRUE THAT IT IS WITHIN THE CHINESE INTEREST TO GET BACK IN BUSINESS WITH THE JLG, OR WHETHER THEY MAY JUST NOT PLAY IT A LA CARTE, IF YOU LIKE, AND THEN LEAVE THE REST.

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: THERE IS A LOT PACKED INTO THAT QUESTION. LET ME DEAL WITH THE GENERAL AND THEN THE PARTICULAR.

IT IS NOT HELPFUL FOR US TO ENGAGE IN RHETORIC, WHETHER OF THE 'IT IS ALL A DISASTER' SCHOOL OR OF THE 'WE HAVE A BREAKTHROUGH' SCHOOL: WE JUST HAVE TO BE VERY PATIENT AND WE HAVE TO RECOGNISE THE HUGE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IF WE ARE TO DISCHARGE OUR RESPONSIBILITY COMPETENTLY AND HONOURABLY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THAT IS A RESPONSIBILITY FOR BRITAIN, A RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHINA, AND A RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR WHICH I AM PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE.

THIS IS THE MOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG - SEEING IS BELIEVING. THEY WILL WANT TO SEE EXAMPLES OF BETTER CO-OPERATION BEFORE THEY ARE PREPARED TO GIVE THREE CHEERS. I AM OF THE VIEW THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH OF AN ALTERNATIVE, EXCEPT FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER BETTER. I SHALL BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF THAT DOES NOT TURN INTO SOME PRACTICAL ADVANCE.

I NOTED WHAT VICE PREMIER QIAN QICHEN SAID YESTERDAY ABOUT THE AIRPORT AND THE MINUTE, WHICH WAS REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO WHAT I SAID AT THE TDC DINNER. WHEN WE HAVE AGREED THAT MINUTE, WE THEN HAVE TWO FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS WHICH WE NEED TO DEAL WITH AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE. THAT SHOULD BE A FAIRLY TECHNICAL MATTER BECAUSE ONCE YOU HAVE AGREED THE AGGREGATE FIGURES AND THE OVERALL MINUTE, THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS WHICH ACTUALLY GO TO MAKE IT UP SHOULD FOLLOW QUITE NATURALLY. I HOPE THAT THAT PROVES, IN PRACTICE, TO BE THE CASE.

I NOW TURN TO ONE PARTICULAR AREA OF CO-OPERATION. PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY IT IS AN AREA WHERE WE HAVE NOT CO-OPERATED QUITE AS SUCCESSFULLY AS WE WOULD LIKE, AND THAT IS IN ENSURING A SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR HONG KONG'S LAWS AS WELL AS FOR OTHER MATTERS.

THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT AREAS. THE FIRST IS THE LOCALISATION OF LAWS, THAT IS UNITED KINGDOM LAWS WHICH NEED TO BE TRANSLATED INTO A FORM WHICH IS ADEQUATE FOR HONG KONG BEFORE AND AFTER 1997. WITH THE LOCALISATION OF LAWS WE ARE MAKING REASONABLE PROGRESS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL QUITE A LOT TO BE DONE. ROUGHLY SPEAKING - AND THESE ARE RULE OF THUMB FIGURES - WE HAVE DONE ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF WHAT IS REQUIRED, THERE IS ABOUT 20 PER CENT IN THE PIPELINE, AND THERE IS ABOUT ANOTHER 40 PER CENT TO DO. I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF CHINESE OFFICIALS WOULD DISAGREE WITH ME IN MY ESTIMATE THAT WE ARE MAKING REASONABLE PROGRESS ON LOCALISATION AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THAT WORK SATISFACTORILY PUT AWAY BEFORE 30TH JUNE 1997.

THERE IS ANOTHER ISSUE, WHICH IS THE ADAPTATION OF LAWS. THAT IS, HONG KONG'S LAWS, MADE IN HONG KONG, OR SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION WHICH HAS IN IT FEATURES WHICH MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE AFTER 1997. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CAN SEE THAT IN AN ENTIRELY PROSAIC, TECHNICAL WAY, THE USE OF EXPRESSIONS LIKE 'CROWN' OR 'CROWN LAND', OR YOU CAN SEE IT IN A WAY WHICH INVOLVES, CONCEIVABLY, SUBSTANTIAL ISSUES OF POLICY.

/THERE IS,

THERE IS, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, A PRINCIPAL POSITION ON THE CHINESE SIDE THAT WE SHOULD NOT, BEFORE 1997, APPEAR TO BE PUTTING OURSELVES IN THE POSITION IN WHICH WE ARE MAKING LAWS FOR THE SAR GOVERNMENT AFTER 1997. THAT IS WHY WE PROPOSED ONE LEGAL TRIGGER, WHICH WOULD BE APPLIED AT MIDNIGHT ON 30TH JUNE AND WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD DEAL WITH THAT POINT.

AMBASSADOR GUO HAS EVIDENTLY SAID, AND HE HAS SAID IT IN PRIVATE AS WELL, THAT THIS IS NOT ADEQUATE AS FAR AS THE CHINESE ARE CONCERNED, SO OUR POSITION IS THAT WE HAD BETTER DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN COPE WITH IT DIFFERENTLY. IT HAS BEEN AGREED BETWEEN BOTH SIDES THAT THE ADAPTATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE JLG. I KNOW IT WILL BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT JOINT LIAISON GROUP MEETING. IT DOES, I REPEAT, COVER ISSUES WHICH SHOULD BE MERELY TECHNICAL AS WELL AS COVERING ISSUES IN WHICH THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL POLICY CONTENT, SUCH AS IMMIGRATION AND RIGHT OF ABODE.

THERE IS THEN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT MATTERS TO HAVE A SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR OUR LAWS. THE EXPRESSION 'LEGAL VACUUM' IS NOT NECESSARILY VERY HELPFUL, BUT IT IS PRETTY CLEAR THAT IF SOME IMPORTANT LAWS HAVE QUESTION MARKS OVER THEM, IF SOME AREAS OF POLICY DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE LEGISLATIVE BACKING, THEN IT DOES RAISE UNCERTAINTIES AND DOUBTS IN THE MINDS OF BUSINESSMEN AND IN THE MINDS OF OTHERS. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE FAIRER TO SAY THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ONE LARGE HOLE IN THE ROAD, BUT THAT THE ROAD WOULD BE QUITE BADLY POT-HOLED.

IF BUSINESSMEN START TO BECOME ANXIOUS ABOUT THE LEGAL POSITION IN HONG KONG, AND I AM NOT MAKING UP THESE CONCERNS, THEN ONE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE IS THAT THEY WILL SIGN CONTRACTS ELSEWHERE, OR THEY WILL WANT TO WRITE INTO CONTRACTS AGREEMENTS FOR ARBITRATION IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS. THAT DOES NOT COME AS A GREAT SURPRISE BECAUSE IT IS WHAT BUSINESSMEN THEMSELVES SAY. IT GOES BACK TO THE POINT MADE BY THE GOVERNOR SO WELL LAST NIGHT THAT A REPUTATION WHICH YOU BUILD UP CAREFULLY OVER THE YEARS, AND IN OUR CASE A REPUTATION FOR A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR BUSINESS, CAN BE LOST RATHER RAPIDLY.

I DO NOT SAY ANY OF THAT IN A CONFRONTATIONAL OR PROVOCATIVE SPIRIT, BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO SORT THESE MATTERS OUT IF WE POSSIBLY CAN IN GOOD TIME BEFORE 30 JUNE 1997.

NEXT QUESTION?

QUESTION: YOU MENTIONED YESTERDAY IN DOWNING STREET THAT YOU HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE A SIGNING OF THE AIRPORT MINUTE 'SOON' - I THINK THAT WAS YOUR WORD. LAST NIGHT IT WAS 'A FEW DAYS'. ARE WE TALKING ABOUT POSSIBLY THE FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER? COULD YOU PUT A LITTLE MORE FLESH ON THE BONES THERE?

GOVERNOR: I COULD USE EITHER 'SOON' OR 'IN A FEW DAYS', OR I COULD TURN THEM ROUND THE OTHER WAY, BUT NEITHER YOU NOR I WOULD REGARD THAT AS A PARTICULARLY HELPFUL WAY OF DISCUSSING A SERIOUS ISSUE. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A DATE THIS MORNING BUT THE FACT THAT I CANNOT DOES NOT MEAN THAT I AM BEING AWKWARD. WE ARE IN THE POSITION OF HAVING CONTACTS WITH CHINESE IN ORDER TO AGREE THE MOST SUITABLE DATE FOR FORMALISING THE ARRANGEMENT. I GUESS THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS WANT TO SORT THAT OUT AS RAPIDLY AS WE DO, BECAUSE WE ARE BOTH IN THE POSITION AT THE MOMENT OF FINDING DIFFERENT WAYS OF SAYING 'SOON' OR 'IN A FEW DAYS'.

I CAN UNDERSTAND THE QUESTIONS, BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE THINK THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THERE IS ABOUT TO BE AN AGREEMENT ON THE AIRPORT BEFORE AND IT HAS NOT QUITE MATERIALISED. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I HOPE THAT THE EXPRESSIONS OF CONFIDENCE WHICH ARE BEING HEARD FROM BOTH CHINESE OFFICIALS AND FROM OUR OWN OFFICIALS WILL BE TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY AS A VERY GOOD SIGN THAT THIS TIME 'SOON' REALLY DOES MEAN SOON, RATHER THAN LATER.

QUESTION: HONG KONG HAD AN AGREEMENT ABOUT THE AIRPORT, A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER SIGNED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND THAT WAS THE END OF THE STORY THEN. DO YOU THINK THAT THIS COULD BE THE END OF THE STORY?

GOVERNOR: IT SHOULD BE THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE STORY.

QUESTION: IN WHAT WAY?

GOVERNOR: THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IS NOW FAMOUS FOR ITS LONGEVITY AND FAMOUS FOR SOME OF THE THINGS THAT IT DID NOT RESOLVE. THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, YOU WILL RECALL, DID NOT EVEN AGREE ON WHERE THE AIRPORT SHOULD BE BUILT. I AM SURE IT WAS A HELPFUL SIGNPOST, BUT ALL OF US ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT IT HAS TAKEN RATHER LONGER TO TRAVEL TO THE END OF THE RUNWAY OR ROAD.

IT HAS SURPRISED MANY PEOPLE, NOT LEAST ONE OF THOSE WHO SIGNED IT, THAT RATHER THAN ENDING THE DISCUSSION IT APPEARED TO START THE DISCUSSION AND THE DEBATE. SO WHAT IS DIFFERENT THIS TIME?

TWO THINGS ARE DIFFERENT. FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE BUILT A LARGE AMOUNT OF THE AIRPORT AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET AHEAD WITH THAT - NOT AS RAPIDLY AS WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN THE CASE - BUT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET AHEAD WITH THAT BECAUSE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS VOTED THE MONEY.

SECONDLY, WHAT IS DIFFERENT IS THAT WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IN THIS CONTEXT IS THE AGREEMENT WHICH IS, AS IT WERE, BANKABLE. FIRST OF ALL, THE OVERALL MINUTE IN WHICH BOTH SIDES AGREE ON THE PRECISE BALANCE BETWEEN, FOR INSTANCE, EQUITY INVESTMENT AND DEBT IN THE FUNDING OF THE AIRPORT, IN WHICH BOTH SIDES AGREE ON SUCH ISSUES AS MONITORING OF THE EXPENDITURE. THAT SHOULD BE THE PARENT OF A RAPID BIRTH OF TWO FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS, WHICH ARE THE PIECES OF PAPER YOU WOULD TAKE ALONG TO YOUR BANKER WHEN YOU WERE TRYING TO RAISE SOME MONEY.

SO THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, WHICH POINTED THE WAY, AND THE MINUTE OF AGREEMENT AND THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE NOT SIGNPOSTS BUT THE END OF THE ROAD.

QUESTION: DO YOU ENVISAGE SEEING THE NEW SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR ROBIN COOK, AT ANY STAGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE? AFTER ALL, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RATHER ALARMING STATEMENTS OUT OF LABOUR IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, INTIMATING THAT ANY BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, INDEED ENDURING INTEREST IN HONG KONG, SHOULD END WITH THE HANDOVER. DO YOU THINK IT IS YOUR ROLE TO CLARIFY SOME OF THE ENDURING GUARANTEES WHICH TAKE US BEYOND THE YEAR 2000?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: SINCE THOSE STATEMENTS WERE MADE THERE HAS BEEN A COMPLETE CHANGE IN THE TEAM. I THINK I AM RIGHT IN SAYING THAT YESTERDAY MR BLAIR ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENTS OF SHADOW MINISTERS OUTSIDE THE RANKS OF THE SHADOW CABINET AND THAT TWO WOMEN HAVE BEEN APPOINTED: ANN CLWYD, WHO IS A GREAT EXPERT ON OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, AND JOYCE QUIN WHO, WHEN I WAS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WAS PRINCIPALLY KNOWN FOR HER CHAMPIONSHIP OF CONSUMER PROTECTION ISSUES, AND THEY WILL WELCOME HER TO THE WORLD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

I HAVE WRITTEN TO ROBIN TO SAY THAT I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE HIM AT HIS CONVENIENCE, SUGGESTING THAT HE MIGHT FIND IT EASIER DURING MY VISIT TO LONDON AT THE END OF JANUARY. I THOUGHT IT WAS PERHAPS PRESUMPTUOUS TO ASSUME THAT, WITHIN HIS FIRST WEEK, HE WOULD WANT TO SEE ME. I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY TO WELCOME HIM OR ANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES TO HONG KONG. I HOPE THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM WHEN I COME BACK IN JANUARY AND, AS EVER, IF TONY BLAIR WANTS A BRIEFING AS WELL, I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO PROVIDE HIM WITH IT.

JACK CUNNINGHAM WAS A GREAT SUPPORTER OF HONG KONG, NOT JUST IN HIS RESPONSIBILITY AS A SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY, BUT FOR MANY YEARS EVER SINCE HE FIRST VISITED HONG KONG IN THE EARLY 1970S WITH TOM PENDRY. I WISH HIM THE BEST IN HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AS SHADOW TRADE AND INDUSTRY SPOKESMAN.

I REPEAT: IT IS A NEW TEAM. I WILL BE DELIGHTED TO MEET THEM AND BRIEF THEM WHENEVER THEY WOULD LIKE. I DO NOT KNOW WHICH OF THE TWO NON-SHADOW CABINET MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG YET, BUT WHICHEVER OF THEM IT IS, I HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM EVERY ASSISTANCE.

AS I SAID BEFORE, WHILE INEVITABLY FROM TIME TO TIME THERE WILL BE CRITICISMS AT WESTMINSTER ON THIS OR THAT ASPECT OF POLICY, THERE HAS BEEN A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT FOR US IN HONG KONG. THAT IS MANIFEST AT THINGS LIKE MEETINGS OF THE HONG KONG PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WHICH I ADDRESSED YESTERDAY. IT IS MANIFEST AT OCCASIONS LIKE THE TDC DINNER YESTERDAY, AND I HOPE IT WILL CONTINUE. IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL IF HONG KONG BECAME A VERY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE AT WESTMINSTER, PARTICULARLY IN THE LAST, INEVITABLY DIFFICULT, TWO AND A HALF YEARS. WE ARE TRYING TO HAND OVER A PRICELESS OBJECT AND IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT IF PEOPLE WERE JOGGING OUR ELBOW.

QUESTION: YOU HAVE STRESSED AN HONOURABLE DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG. HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE AN HONOURABLE DEPARTURE? DO YOU THINK THAT AFTER 1997, AND IF THERE IS AN ABSENCE OF THROUGH TRAIN, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED TO BE A DISHONOURABLE DEPARTURE?

GOVERNOR: AN HONOURABLE DEPARTURE, IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT, IS DEFINED IN THE EXPLICIT TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION. OF COURSE, THE JOINT DECLARATION IS LEGALLY AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS, BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AN AGREEMENT LODGED AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

IT IS MORE THAN THAT AS WELL. IT IS A PACT WITH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. IT IS A GUARANTEE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG OF THEIR WAY OF LIFE, OF THEIR STABILITY AND THEIR PROSPERITY, OF THEIR VALUES, OF THE DECENCY WHICH ALL ASSOCIATE WITH LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY. HONOUR, IN THE CONTEXT OF HONG KONG, IS COMPRISED MAINLY, THOUGH NOT OF COURSE SOLELY, IN TERMS OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE, AS THE OUTGOING SOVEREIGN, CAN SAY THAT WE HAVE DISCHARGED OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FAITHFULLY UNDER THE JOINT DECLARATION.

I SAID LAST NIGHT THAT A BY-PRODUCT OF THAT SHOULD BE TO LEAVE A COMMUNITY WHICH IS ABLE ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO MEET ITS AMBITIONS TO MAKE AN EVEN GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE IN CHINA. THAT IS TRUE.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

GOVERNOR: NO. I THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DISHONOURABLE FOR US TO PUT IN PLACE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE DID NOT BELIEVE TO BE OPEN, FAIR AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

QUESTION: RIDING ON TOP OF THAT, YOU HAVE PROBABLY SEEN REES-MOGG IN THE TIMES THIS MORNING, WHO WRITES THAT:

"THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW THE VIRUS OF HONG KONG DEMOCRACY TO INFECT CHINA, AND SEEMS TO BE PREPARED TO RISK THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF A COMPETENT HANDOVER IN ORDER TO PREVENT THAT."

WOULD YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

GOVERNOR: I HAVE NOT READ THE ARTICLE, AND I AM TOO MUCH OF AN ADMIRER OF LORD REES-MOGG TO COMMENT BEFORE I HAVE ACTUALLY READ WHAT HE SAYS. HEARING THOSE SENTENCES, I WOULD ONLY SAY THAT I DO NOT REGARD CLEAN ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN HONG KONG AS A VIRUS WHICH THREATENS ANYONE.

GOING AROUND HONG KONG BEFORE OUR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, AND BEING IN HONG KONG FOR OUR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WHEN WE HAD A RECORD NUMBER OF CANDIDATES, A RECORD REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, A RECORD NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN, AND, FOR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, A RECORD NUMBER OF PEOPLE VOTING, ONE DID NOT HAVE THE FEELING THAT IT WAS ANY BIG DEAL IN THE SENSE OF BEING SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD SEND SOCIAL TREMORS ANYWHERE, NEITHER THROUGH HONG KONG NOR CERTAINLY THROUGH SOUTHERN CHINA. IT WAS HONG KONG TAKING THE DISCHARGE OF CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS IN ITS STRIDE, AND THAT IS NOT A THREAT TO ANYBODY BUT IT IS JUST AN EXAMPLE OF HONG KONG'S MATURITY.

ONE LAST QUESTION.

QUESTION: RECENTLY THERE WAS A REPORT FROM HONG KONG SUGGESTING THAT THERE MAY BE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS LEAVING GOVERNMENT SERVICE BEFORE 1997. IS THE GOVERNMENT TAKING ANY ACTION? DO YOU THINK THERE IS A REAL PROBLEM?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN TO ENCOURAGE OUR EXCELLENT CIVIL SERVICE TO CARRY ON WORKING FOR THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AND THEREFORE TO CARRY ON DOING ITS JOB AS WELL FOR THE SAR GOVERNMENT AS IT HAS DONE IT FOR THE PRESENT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

THERE IS A GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR HONG KONG'S SUCCESS IS THE QUALITY AND COMPETENCE OF OUR CIVIL SERVICE. THERE IS A GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT ONE OF THE REASONS WHY HONG KONG HAS CLEAN GOVERNMENT IS BECAUSE IT HAS A CIVIL SERVICE OF CONSIDERABLE PROBITY AND GREAT INTEGRITY.

I BELIEVE SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS, LIKE DIRECTOR LU PING, WHEN THEY SAY THAT THEY WISH THAT CIVIL SERVICE TO CONTINUE IN BEING, APPLYING THE SAME STANDARDS AFTER 1997 AS BEFORE. WE HAVE PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME BEFORE 1997. FOR EXAMPLE, THE WHOLE ISSUE OF LOCALISATION IS VERY DIFFICULT AND WE ARE TRYING TO COPE WITH THAT AS SENSITIVELY AND FAIRLY AS POSSIBLE. BUT NONE OF US CAN PRETEND THAT IT IS ENTIRELY EASY.

PRC OFFICIALS, FOR THEIR PART, WILL BE FACED WITH DIFFERENT CHALLENGES. THEY WILL NEED TO GIVE REASSURANCE TO CIVIL SERVANTS THAT THINGS ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE FUNDAMENTALLY AFTER 1 JULY 1997. THERE IS CLEARLY A LIMIT TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH ANY BRITISH GOVERNMENT CAN GIVE REASSURANCES ABOUT WHAT LIFE WILL BE LIKE AFTER 1997, BUT WE WELCOME THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY DIRECTOR LU PING AND SOME OF HIS SENIOR COLLEAGUES. I HOPE WE WILL SEE MANY MORE SUCH ASSURANCES.

I HAVE WORKED WITH CIVIL SERVANTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING MY CAREER AS A BRITISH POLITICIAN. I HAVE WORKED WITH CIVIL SERVANTS NOW IN HONG KONG. I HAVE TO SAY THAT I THINK THE CIVIL SERVICE IN HONG KONG IS QUITE OUTSTANDING, AND WOULD BE RECOGNISED AS SUCH INTERNATIONALLY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

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TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTEP INTERVIEW
BY GOVERNOR AND FOREIGN SECRETARY

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF A DOORSTEP INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR DOUGLAS HURD, IN LONDON TODAY (THURSDAY):

QUESTION: HAVE YOU MADE ANY PROGRESS TODAY?

FOREIGN SECRETARY: IT HAS BEEN VERY GOOD TO HAVE THE GOVERNOR BACK AND HE AND I HAVE TAKEN STOCK OF WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING SINCE WE LAST MET, WHICH WAS A FEW WEEKS AGO IN HONG KONG. SINCE THEN HE HAS MADE HIS SPEECH TO THE LEGCO WITH ITS EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF PROGRESS IN HONG KONG AND WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN RECENT YEARS. THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS CONTACTS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE. THERE IS GOOD PROGRESS ON THE AIRPORT, WE CAN HOPE TO GET AN AGREEMENT THERE ON SOME OF THE ISSUES OUTSTANDING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. SO THERE ARE SOME GOOD SIGNS BUT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE AND WE HAVE REVIEWED REALLY WHAT THAT WORK IS AND HOW WE INTEND TO SET ABOUT IT.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: WHEN YOU SAY AGREEMENT IS CLOSE ON THE AIRPORT, HOW CLOSE?

FOREIGN SECRETARY: I HOPE IT IS A MATTER OF DAYS.

QUESTION: THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP THE OTHER DAY WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ALL THESE LEGAL MATTERS THAT HAD TO BE CLEARED UP WAS AN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE CHINESE COULD SOLVE THEM ON THEIR OWN.

FOREIGN SECRETARY: I DO NOT THINK THAT IS QUITE WHAT HE SAID, THE GOVERNOR WILL WANT TO ADD TO THIS. IN FACT THE WORK OF THE JLG HAS BEEN GOING AHEAD, TOO SLOWLY, AND BOTH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE ACCELERATED. BUT THE WORK HAS BEEN GOING ON BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY IT DOES MAKE SENSE TO HAVE THE WORK DONE BEFORE THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY, AND NOT AFTER. IT IS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF EVERYBODY THAT THE WORK IS DONE BEFORE AND NOT AFTER.

QUESTION: INAUDIBLE.

FOREIGN SECRETARY: IT MAKES SENSE TO THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER BECAUSE THAT IS WHY HE AGREED WITH ME THAT THERE SHOULD BE THIS ACCELERATION.

QUESTION: MIGHT THE AIRPORT AGREEMENT TAKE PLACE TOMORROW?

FOREIGN SECRETARY: I DO NOT KNOW.

GOVERNOR: I THINK NOT TOMORROW BUT AS I SAID TO YOU THIS MORNING, SOON IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MEANS SHORTLY.

QUESTION: WHAT IS STILL HOLDING THE DEAL UP?

GOVERNOR: THERE IS NOTHING HOLDING THE DEAL UP EXCEPT THE DATE OF THE MEETING I THINK AT WHICH WE WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN. BUT THEN THERE ARE OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH. FOLLOWING AN AGREEMENT ON THE MINUTE WHICH WE ALL HOPE, I REPEAT, WILL HAPPEN SOON, WE WILL HAVE TO AGREE THE FINANCIAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS FOR THE MTRC AND THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY WHICH I THINK THE BANKS WILL WANT TO SEE AGREED. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT AN AGREEMENT ON THE MINUTE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD AND I THINK WILL BE WIDELY WELCOMED IN HONG KONG WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO SEE PROGRESS IN THESE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE LASTED FOR SO LONG.

QUESTION: WILL THAT AGREEMENT HERALD THE NEW SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WITH THE CHINESE?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS TO NOTCH UP A RECORD OF SUCCESS BEFORE BOASTING ABOUT IT.

QUESTION: DID YOUR DEPARTMENT AGREE WITH THE EXCO MEMBER, EDWARD CHEN, THAT ON SETTING UP THE LEGISLATURE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ITS POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE TO BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT OUR POSITION IS WELL KNOWN. THE PROPOSALS WHICH WERE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ARE ENTIRELY IN LINE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW AND IN OUR JUDGMENT THERE IS NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD BE CHANGED. THOSE WHO WISH TO CHANGE THEM WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN WHY AND WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR WHATEVER THEY WISH TO PUT IN THEIR PLACE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK IT IS NOT QUITE POSSIBLE FOR THE JLG TO FINISH SO MANY OUTSTANDING TASKS BEFORE 1997?

FOREIGN SECRETARY: I THINK THE MORE IT ACHIEVES THE BETTER FOR HONG KONG. OBVIOUSLY IT CANNOT ACHIEVE MORE THAN IT DOES ACHIEVE, BUT THE MORE IT ACHIEVES THE BETTER FOR HONG KONG, THE BETTER FOR HONG KONG AFTER 1 JULY 1997. THAT IS WHY IT IS A COMMON INTEREST OF BRITAIN AND HONG KONG AND CHINA THAT THE JLG SHOULD GET ON WITH IT.

QUESTION: ... TASK WILL BE UNFINISHED BY 1997?

FOREIGN SECRETARY: WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT THE MORE IT DOES MANAGE THE BETTER FOR HONG KONG. THE CHINESE ARE NOW PUTTING THEIR OWN ITEMS ON THE JLG AGENDA, IT IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF THE BRITISH SIDE SAYING WE HAVE GOT TO DO X AND Y. NOW THE CHINESE ARE SAYING WE ALSO NEED TO DISCUSS A AND B, AND THAT IS VERY REASONABLE, AND WE ARE DISCUSSING ITEMS WHICH THE CHINESE HAVE SUGGESTED, THAT IS WHAT THE JLG IS FOR.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THERE ARE CONCRETE SIGNS THAT THE PRESENT RATHER ILL-TEMPERED PERIOD WE ARE LIVNIG IN IS GOING TO CHANGE BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT YEAR. SAY?

FOREIGN SECRETARY: THERE ARE CONTINUING DISAGREEMENTS BUT THERE ARE CONTINUING POINTS ON WHICH WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT, AND THERE IS A COMMON INTEREST THAT WE DO. I THINK THOSE ARE THE THREE FACTS.

QUESTION: YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT TURNING A CORNER WHERE THE AIRPORT IS CONCERNED, DO YOU THINK THAT WHEN THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED IT WILL LEAD TO A DOMINO EFFECT ON OTHER DEALS ON BOTH SIDES OR DO YOU THINK IT IS ONE ON ITS OWN?

GOVERNOR: OBVIOUSLY ALL OF US HOPE THAT AN AGREEMENT OVER THE AIRPORT WILL BE MATCHED BY AGREEMENTS ELSEWHERE ON OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS. ALL OF US HOPE THAT IT WILL NOT TAKE QUITE SO LONG TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THOSE OTHER MATTERS, AS IT HAS OVER THE AIRPORT. BUT WE DID SEE THIS SUMMER THE END OF 7 YEARS OF NEGOTIATION ON THE FUTURE OF DEFENCE LANDS. I HOPE THAT WE WILL SOON BE ABLE TO SEE THE END OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE FINANCE OF THE AIRPORT. IT IS WORTH POINTING OUT THAT WE HAVE GONE ON BUILDING THE AIRPORT DESPITE THE LACK OF AN OVERALL FINANCING AGREEMENT. AND ON THE BACK OF THOSE AGREEMENTS I HOPE WE CAN AGREE ON MUCH MORE, WE CERTAINLY NEED TO DO SO. IF WE DO NOT MANAGE TO GET AS MUCH WORK DONE THROUGH THE JLG AS EVERYONE WANTS IT WILL BE THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET OFF TO SUCH A FLYING START AS WE WOULD LIKE AND I AM SURE ITS MEMBERS WOULD LIKE.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU SAY THAT RELATIONS ARE BACK ON AN EVEN KEEL WITH BEIJING?

GOVERNOR: I WOULD SAY THAT THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS AND ACHIEVE PROGRESS RATHER THAN BRAG ABOUT IT AND I WANT TO PUT OUR ENERGIES INTO REAL SOLID ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE RATHER THAN RHETORICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF WHAT IS GOING ON.

/FOREIGN SECRETARY:

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FOREIGN SECRETARY: I THINK YOU WILL GET THE FLAVOUR OF WHAT BOTH THE GOVERNOR AND I HAVE BEEN SAYING. WE ARE NOT THINKING IN TERMS OF SUDDEN DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGHS AFTER WHICH THE SUN SHINES EVERY DAY, BECAUSE LIFE IS NOT GOING TO BE LIKE THAT. WHAT WE ARE HOPING FOR AND WORKING FOR IS STEADY PROGRESS ON THOSE MATTERS WHERE AGREEMENT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF EVERYBODY CONCERNED. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE AIMING AT, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THOSE MATTERS AGAIN TODAY AND WE WILL WORK TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON THOSE MATTERS.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY LATEST INFORMATION ON CAMBODIA?

FOREIGN SECRETARY: I DO NOT HAVE MORE THAN YOU DO. WE HAVE NO FIRM NEWS BUT OF COURSE IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION OUR ANXIETIES, OUR FEARS, GROW DAY BY DAY.

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STATEMENT ON STOCK FUTURES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS REJECTED SPECULATION BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER THAT THERE MAY BE A POLITICAL AGENDA BEHIND THE STOCK FUTURES PROPOSAL ANNOUNCED BY THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE LTD (HKFE) ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 25).

THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE PLAN TO INTRODUCE STOCK FUTURES WAS PURELY AN INITIATIVE OF THE HKFE WHICH AIMED TO BROADEN ITS PRODUCT RANGE.

"THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE MOVE AS A STEP TO IMPROVE THE GENERAL COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG VIS-A-VIS OTHER MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

"THE OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN CLEARLY EXPLAINED AND THE ALLEGATION THAT THE PROJECT WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED WAS COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS," MR CARTLAND SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO ENSURE THAT PROPER AND SUFFICIENT RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES WERE IN PLACE BEFORE THE TRADING OF THE NEW CONTRACTS COMMENCED.

"IN THIS REGARD, THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE CONFIRMATION OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION ABOUT THE RISK MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY OF THE HKFE AS WELL AS THE OVERALL BENEFIT THAT THE NEW PRODUCT WILL BRING TO THE HONG KONG MARKETS," MR CARTLAND SAID.

"AMENDMENTS TO SCHEDULE 1 OF THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE WERE NECESSARY SO THAT THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION CAN IMPOSE STATUTORY RULES REGARDING TRADING AND POSITION LIMITS ON THE TRADING OF SUCH CONTRACTS," HE ADDED.

IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS THAT THERE WAS NO PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE MARKET BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE, MR CARTLAND SAID IT WAS THE CLEAR VIEW OF THE FUTURES EXCHANGE THAT CONFIDENTIALITY MUST BE MAINTAINED BEFORE THE PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED TO AVOID SUBJECTING HONG KONG TO POTENTIAL COMPETITIVE PRESSURE FROM OTHER MARKETS DEVELOPING SIMILAR PRODUCTS.

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HK REGAINS ROLE AS MAJOR ENTREPOT FOR CHINA TRADE

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HONG KONG HAD REGAINED ITS ORIGINAL ROLE AS THE MAJOR ENTREPOT FOR CHINA TRADE WITH THE OPENING UP AND RAPID GROWTH OF CHINA'S ECONOMY.

"THE EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF TRADE FAIRS HELD IN HONG KONG EACH YEAR UNDERLINES THE WAY THAT HONG KONG HAS BECOME THE PREMIER REGIONAL SUPER-MART," HE SAID.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 10TH HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL FOOTWEAR FAIR AND THE 9TH HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL HANDBAGS AND LEATHER GOODS FAIR, MR MILLER SAID THIS HAD COME AFTER HONG KONG'S EARLY POST-WAR YEARS AS A CENTRE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF CONSUMER GOODS.

"OVER THE SAME PERIOD, OUR MANUFACTURING BASE MAY HAVE SHRUNK IN RELATIVE SIZE, BUT OUR INDUSTRIES HAVE GROWN BOTH IN STATURE AND IN REACH. THEY HAVE MOVED UP-MARKET," HE SAID.

"THEIR PRODUCTS ARE INCREASINGLY KNOWN FOR QUALITY, FOR VARIETY AND FOR INNOVATIVE DESIGN.

"OVER HALF OF OUR PRODUCTION OF FOOTWEAR, HANDBAGS AND LEATHER GOODS IS EXPORTED, PRINCIPALLY TO WESTERN MARKETS AND THE INCREASINGLY AFFLUENT NEWER MARKETS OF THE FAR EAST. THE HONG KONG LABEL IS NOW RECOGNISED AND VALUED ALL AROUND THE WORLD."

MR MILLER SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS ITSELF ONE OF THESE NEWLY AFFLUENT MARKETS, WITH LOCAL DEMAND FOR HIGH QUALITY AND DESIGNER LABELS IN FOOTWEAR, IN HANDBAGS AND IN OTHER LEATHER PRODUCTS CONTINUING TO EXPAND.

"JUST TO QUOTE ONE STATISTIC, THE LAST FOUR YEARS HAVE SEEN HONG KONG'S IMPORT OF SUCH GOODS INCREASE BY A STAGGERING 146 PER CENT TO OVER \$45 BILLION," HE ADDED.

MR MILLER NOTED THAT THE TWO INTERNATIONAL FAIRS HAD GONE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH OVER THE LAST DECADE AND THEIR PROGRESS IN MANY WAYS REFLECTED THE CHANGES IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANISERS AS THEY HAD BROUGHT TOGETHER SOME 700 EXHIBITORS FROM OVER 20 COUNTRIES, PROVIDING THE PERFECT SHOWCASE FOR MANUFACTURERS AND TRADERS TO BROWSE THROUGH THE LATEST PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGY, TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, TO BUILD UP CONTACTS AND TO CONCLUDE BUSINESS CONTRACTS.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1994

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COMAC RELEASES DETAILS OF CASE

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS, MR ANDREW SO, TODAY (THURSDAY) RELEASED FOR THE FIRST TIME DETAILS OF A COMPLAINT CASE TO HIS OFFICE.

SPEAKING ON "FROM THE FILES OF COMAC" AT A LUNCHEON MEETING, MR SO SAID IT WAS THE FIRST EVER REPORT HE PUBLICISED UNDER THE REVISED LEGISLATION PASSED IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE LEGISLATION GIVES HIM THE POWER, INTER ALIA, TO PUBLICISE ANONYMISED INVESTIGATION REPORTS AT ANY TIME.

THE REPORT WAS ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST A PUBLIC HOSPITAL. THE COMPLAINANT'S WIFE DIED SUDDENLY AND RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY, THE NEXT DAY AFTER ADMISSION INTO HOSPITAL.

AS THE DEATH OCCURRED IN THE EARLY MORNING, AND THE COMPLAINANT WAS ASLEEP AND COULD NOT BE REACHED BY TELEPHONE, THE HOSPITAL STAFF LEFT THE MESSAGE OF THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE ON HIS ANSWERPHONE.

THE COMPLAINANT FELT THAT THIS WAS IMPROPER.

HE ALSO COMPLAINED AGAINST THE HOSPITAL FOR NOT ACCEDING TO HIS REQUEST TO VIEW HIS WIFE'S DEAD BODY UPON HIS RUSHING TO THE HOSPITAL.

THE COMMISSIONER'S INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE HOSPITAL STAFF HAD MADE A TOTAL OF 12 ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT THE COMPLAINANT BY TELEPHONE, SINCE HIS WIFE'S CONDITION BEGAN TO DETERIORATE, RINGING BOTH HIS HOME AND OFFICE NUMBERS, BUT ALL TO NO AVAIL.

THEY ALSO SENT FOR THE LOCAL POLICE TO CALL AT THE COMPLAINANT'S ADDRESS, ALTHOUGH THE COMPLAINANT DOUBTED IF THEY DID COME AS HIS ENTRY PHONE DID NOT RING, AND HIS DOG NEVER BARKED THAT MORNING.

AS THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO INFORM THE COMPLAINANT, THE HOSPITAL STAFF LEFT A TOTAL OF FOUR MESSAGES ON HIS ANSWERPHONE, ASKING HIM TO COME URGENTLY TO THE HOSPITAL FIRST, AND LATER TELLING HIM ABOUT THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE.

AS REGARDS THE DENIAL OF THE COMPLAINANT'S REQUEST TO VIEW HIS WIFE'S DEAD BODY, THE HOSPITAL EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE THERE WAS A LAPSE OF MORE THAN FIVE HOURS BETWEEN THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, AND HIS ARRIVAL AT THE HOSPITAL, THE BODY HAD ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE MORTUARY.

THE COMMISSIONER'S CONCLUSION WAS THAT IT WAS A SAD AND UNFORTUNATE CASE, AND THAT EVERYBODY HAD ACTED IN GOOD FAITH.

"WHETHER A DEATH MESSAGE SHOULD BE LEFT ON THE ANSWERPHONE WOULD VERY MUCH DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND DIFFERENT PEOPLE WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS," MR SO SAID.

/WITH HINDSIGHT,

WITH HINDSIGHT, HE SUGGESTED IT WOULD SEEM MORE APPROPRIATE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR THE PATIENT'S FAMILY TO CONTACT THE HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY, AND LEFT THE SAD NEWS TO BE BROKEN WHEN PERSONAL CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE COMPLAINANT'S REQUEST TO VIEW HIS WIFE'S DEAD BODY, THE COMMISSIONER ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS ALREADY MOVED TO THE MORTUARY.

HE FELT HOWEVER MORE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE HOSPITAL TO ACCEDE TO THE COMPLAINANT'S REQUEST, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF HIS FEELINGS AT THE TIME, HIS LACK OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPARATION FOR THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, AND THE TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE HE HAD GONE THROUGH.

OVERALL, THE COMMISSIONER CONSIDERED THE COMPLAINT TO BE PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED.

THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL CONCERNED SUBSEQUENTLY SENT A REGRET LETTER TO THE COMPLAINANT, AND UNDERTOOK TO FORMULATE SOME GUIDELINES FOR ITS STAFF ON HOW TO BREAK SAD NEWS TO THE SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS.

THE COMMISSIONER CONCLUDED HIS TALK BY ASKING THE PUBLIC NOT TO TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED BECAUSE THEY HAD THEIR RIGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS, WHICH HE SUGGESTED THEY SHOULD VOICE THEM OUT.

IN SO DOING, HE NOTED IT WOULD BRING IMPROVEMENTS AND AVOID UNPLEASANTNESS, AND SOMETIMES SUFFERINGS OF PEOPLE IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN FUTURE.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO BE FAIR AND OBJECTIVE IN THEIR DEMAND FOR AND EXPECTATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

WHILE SUCH COULD NOT ALWAYS BE MET, HE SAID IT WAS THE COMMUNITY THAT THE GOVERNMENT SERVED, AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS WITHOUT THE PUBLIC TELLING IT HOW THEY FELT, AND HOW THEY WOULD WANT TO BE SERVED.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING MET THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MR HUI YIN-FAT, AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (NLCDP).

MR STRACHAN SAID NLCDP WAS INTRODUCED IN THE 1970S TO DEPRIVED AND TRANSIENT COMMUNITIES WHERE THE PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES WAS INADEQUATE OR NON-EXISTENT.

SUCH TRANSIENT COMMUNITIES INCLUDE SQUATTERS, TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES UNDER HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S FIVE-YEAR REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

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"NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON THE FUTURE OF NLCDP. THIS SERVICE WOULD CONTINUE SO LONG AS THERE ARE DEPRIVED AND TRANSIENT COMMUNITIES TO BE SERVED WITHIN EXISTING POLICY.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE COUNCIL AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED ON THE ISSUE. IN FACT, I SHALL MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG SOCIAL WORKERS GENERAL UNION TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS NLCDP AND EXPLAIN THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION," HE SAID.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION VISITS A TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, LED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, DR TAM MAN-KWAN, AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MISS ELAINE CHUNG, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SCHOOLS), MR TSUI SEE-MING, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED KEI HEEP SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN WONG TAI SIN.

THE OTHER MEMBERS WERE MISS BOW SUI-MAY, MS AUDREY EU YUET-MEE, MR MICHAEL HONG MAN-HOI, MRS GRACE HUI WONG KING-MAN AND SISTER MARIE REMEDIOS.

THE GROUP WAS BRIEFED BY THE PRINCIPAL, MR CHEUNG KIM-SING, ON THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL.

IN ADDITION TO MAINSTREAM SUBJECTS, THE SCHOOL OFFERS A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL SUBJECTS SUCH AS METALWORK, WOODWORK, TECHNICAL DRAWING, DOMESTIC SCIENCE AND ELECTRICITY AND ELECTRONICS AS AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF SECONDARY EDUCATION.

MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE SCHOOL JOINED THE DEPARTMENT'S SCHOOL-BASED REMEDIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

THE PRINCIPAL SAID, UNDER THE REMEDIAL PROGRAMME, THE SCHOOL LAUNCHED A NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND PARENTS AND TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO SEEK FOR IMPROVEMENT.

HE SAID STUDENTS WOULD BE AWARDED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, CONDUCT AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

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AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME TEACHING KIT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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A SPECIALLY DESIGNED TEACHING KIT, PRODUCED BY THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO) AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY PRESS, WILL SOON BE LAUNCHED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS NEXT MONTH.

ABOUT 900 SETS OF THE TEACHING KIT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS, AND RELATED YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY RELATIONS) OF NAPCO, MR PAUL TANG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY): "THIS TEACHING KIT, DESIGNED BY THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY PRESS, WILL PROVIDE TEACHERS WITH A TEACHING TOOL TO GIVE STUDENTS A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF THE ACP PROJECTS AS WELL AS THEIR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL VALUE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT TO HONG KONG."

EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THE TEACHING KIT, MR TANG SAID THE ACP WOULD TRANSFORM HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AND PHYSICAL LAY-OUT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

"AS WE MOVE FORWARD WITH THE ACP PROJECTS, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP EDUCATE OUR NEXT GENERATION ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, SO THAT THEY CAN FULLY UTILISE THEM.

"WE HOPE THAT THE NEW TEACHING KIT WILL SUPPLEMENT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM IN RELATED SUBJECTS AND PROMOTE STUDENTS' INTEREST IN THE ACP PROJECTS," HE SAID.

MR TANG SAID THIS WAS THE SECOND TEACHING KIT ON THE ACP PRODUCED BY NAPCO.

THE FIRST TEACHING KIT, DESIGNED FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, WAS INTRODUCED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

"SO FAR, THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING. MORE THAN 1,200 SETS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND RELATED ORGANISATIONS, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT MANY TEACHERS HAVE BEEN USING THE KIT IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY TEACHING," HE SAID.

THE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHING KIT CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS TO CATER FOR THE DIFFERENT NEEDS OF JUNIOR AND SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS.

THE FIRST PART FOR FORMS 1-3 STUDENTS INCLUDES BILINGUAL TEACHING MATERIALS FOR GEOGRAPHY, ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AND SOCIAL STUDIES, WHILE THE SECOND PART, INTENDED FOR FORMS 4-7 STUDENTS, COMPRISES MATERIALS RELEVANT TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE SYLLABUSES FOR HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION AND ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL.

TOPICS INCLUDE THE NEW AIRPORT, FUTURE TRANSPORT LINKS, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND THE OVERALL IMPACT OF THE ACP. IN ADDITION, BILINGUAL TEACHING ACTIVITIES ARE ALSO DESIGNED TO BE USED DURING SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES.

FACTS AND CONCEPTS ON THE ACP ARE INTRODUCED THROUGH INTERESTING ILLUSTRATIONS AND CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES. THE TEACHING KIT COMPRISES A VARIETY OF TEACHING AIDS SUCH AS A VIDEO TAPE, AUDIO CASSETTES, MAPS, POSTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, GAMES, GROUP DISCUSSION EXERCISES AND TAKE-HOME WORK SHEETS.

"TO ENCOURAGE TEACHERS TO USE THE KIT, EACH TEACHING UNIT IS SELF-CONTAINED, STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND EASY TO USE.

"COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON THE CHARACTERISTICS, BENEFITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ACP PROJECTS IS ALSO PROVIDED TO HELP TEACHERS TO PREPARE FOR MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION AND FOLLOW-UP WORK," SAID MR TANG.

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FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CASTLE PEAK ROAD IMPROVEMENT

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THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR IMPROVING THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD SECTION BETWEEN AREA 2 AND KA LOON TSUEN, TSUEN WAN WILL START NEXT MONTH UPON THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER/NEW TERRITORIES OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, MR YEUNG YU-CHEONG, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA LIMITED.

THE STUDY IS TO BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AIMS AT IMPROVING THE CAPACITY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE OF THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD SECTION BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AREA 2 AND KA LOON TSUEN BY WIDENING AND REALIGNING THE ROAD.

THE SECTION OF THE ROAD IS ABOUT 8.5 KILOMETRE.

THE FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL INVESTIGATE VARIOUS SCENARIOS OF IMPROVEMENT WITH PRIME CONSIDERATIONS GIVEN TO ENGINEERING, TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS ASPECTS.

SUBJECT TO THE FINDINGS OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY, THE PROJECT IS TENTATIVELY PROGRAMMED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN TWO PHASES.

WORKS FOR PHASE I WHICH COVERS THE SECTION BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AREA 2 AND SHAM TSENG WILL START IN MID-1997 AND TO BE COMPLETED IN MID-2000. PHASE II COVERS THE SECTION BETWEEN SHAM TSENG AND KA LOON TSUEN. WORKS WILL COMMENCE IN EARLY 1998 FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY 2001.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE GRADING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BI-WEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS WERE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.

GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "4" GRADE OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

AT PRESENT FOUR GAZETTED BEACHES: ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY, ARE CLOSED TO SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE BEACHES HAS BEEN MADE BY THE REGIONAL AND URBAN COUNCILS ON THE BASIS OF BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA FOR 1993. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THESE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH	GRADING PREVIOUS (AS AT 14.10.94)	GRADING PRESENT (AS AT 27.10.94)
HONG KONG SOUTH		
BIG WAVE BAY	3	3
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	1
DEEP WATER BAY	2	2
HAIRPIN	2	1
MIDDLE BAY	1	1
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	1
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	1	1
TURTLE COVE	1	1
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1
TUEN MUN DISTRICT		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	3
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	3	3
BUTTERFLY	3	3

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	2	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	2	2
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

ISLAND DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	2
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	1	1
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	1	1
SILVERMINE BAY	3	3
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	2	2
TUNG O*	1	1

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	3	3
CASAM	2	2
GEMINI	2	2
HOI MEI WAN	2	2
LIDO	2	2
TING KAU	3	3
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	2

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING.
* NON-GAZETED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

HAIRPIN AND SHEK O FROM "2" TO "1".

THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

THIS IS THE LAST REPORT ON BEACH WATER QUALITY GRADINGS IN 1994, AS THE BATHING SEASON WILL COME TO AN END BY LATE OCTOBER. AN ANNUAL REVIEW ON THE WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BATHING BEACHES IN THE BATHING SEASON OF 1994 WILL BE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER DR M J BROWN ON TEL 835 1234.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1994

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GARMENT MANUFACTURER AND EXPORTER
FINED FOR FALSE ORIGIN CLAIM

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A GARMENT MANUFACTURER AND A GARMENT EXPORTER WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$455,000 BY A MAGISTRATE, MR GARRY TALLENTIRE, AT THE SAN PO KONG MAGISTRACY FOR MAKING FALSE STATEMENT IN 12 EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS AND EXPORT NOTIFICATIONS.

WELL-MATE GARMENTS LTD AND JUPITEX INTERNATIONAL LTD PLEADED GUILTY TO 15 COUNTS AND SIX COUNTS RESPECTIVELY OF FALSELY DECLARING 16,380 PIECES OF CHINA-MADE LADIES' BLOUSES AS OF HONG KONG ORIGIN. THE GOODS, VALUED AT \$1.53 MILLION, WERE FOR EXPORT TO AUSTRIA, GERMANY AND HUNGARY.

THE COURT HEARD THAT BETWEEN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND JANUARY THIS YEAR, OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, ACTING ON INFORMATION, CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION.

THEY FOUND THAT THE GARMENT MANUFACTURER HAD DIRECTLY ARRANGED THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION OF THE BLOUSES TO BE DONE IN CHINA.

THE GARMENT EXPORTER WAS ALSO AWARE OF THE CHINESE SUBCONTRACTING ARRANGEMENT.

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE ISSUANCE OF HONG KONG EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS AND EXPORT NOTIFICATIONS, THE TWO DEFENDANT COMPANIES MADE FALSE STATEMENT THAT THE GOODS WERE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE OFFENCES WERE SERIOUS.

"OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD STEP UP ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TO TRACK DOWN SUCH CASES.

"THE AIM IS TO PROTECT THE COMMERCIAL REPUTATION OF HONG KONG AND TO ENSURE THAT THE CONFIDENCE OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS IN OUR TEXTILE LICENSING CONTROL SYSTEM WOULD NOT BE UNDERMINED BY SOME DISHONEST BUSINESSMEN," HE SAID.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR MAKING FALSE STATEMENT IN A LICENCE APPLICATION IS \$500,000 FINE PLUS TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT ON EACH COUNT OF OFFENCE.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,410	0930	+810
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,076	1000	+810
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+780
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+774	1200	+780
LAF TODAY	-2,108	1500	+780
		1600	+774

LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER TWI 120.5 *-0.1* 27.10.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.41	19 MONTHS	2605	6.35	99.92	6.50
1 MONTH	4.28	22 MONTHS	2608	6.15	99.20	6.73
3 MONTHS	4.97	30 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.78	7.26
6 MONTHS	5.33	33 MONTHS	3710	7.25	99.51	7.57
12 MONTHS	5.89	59 MONTHS	5909	7.45	97.42	8.26

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 53,167 MN

CLOSED 27 OCTOBER 1994

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