



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1991

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GOVERNOR STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING DIALOGUE
WITH CHINESE LEADERS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (MONDAY) SAID THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT TO CHINA IS TO MAINTAIN THE DIALOGUE AT A VERY SENIOR LEVEL WITH CHINESE LEADERS.

"THAT IS SOMETHING TO WHICH I ATTACH A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE IN TRYING TO BUILD UP THE RIGHT SORT OF CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OVERSEAS AND CHINA," THE GOVERNOR SAID, WHEN SPEAKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR PEKING FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT.

SIR DAVID SAID WHILE IN PEKING, HE WOULD BE SEEING THE CHINESE PREMIER, MR LI PENG, THE FORMER AND PRESENT DIRECTORS OF HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE UNDER CHINA'S STATE COUNCIL, MR JI PENGFEI AND MR LU PING, AND SOME OTHER CHINESE OFFICIALS.

SIR DAVID WILL HAVE DINNER THIS EVENING WITH THE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR TIAN ZENGPEI, WHO IS HIS HOST ON THIS VISIT.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE LEADERS ON THE NEW AIRPORT ISSUE, SIR DAVID SAID: "WHAT I WANT TO DO IS TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE ISSUE OF THE AIRPORT AND SEE IF WE CAN FIND A WAY OF GETTING FORWARD ON IT."

"ONE OTHER THING I WANT TO SAY IS HOW IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG, TO THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF HONG KONG HAVING A GOOD, MODERN EFFICIENT AIRPORT IS" HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID HE DID NOT NECESSARILY ANTICIPATE BEING ABLE TO RESOLVE EVERY ISSUE THAT FACED HONG KONG AT THE MOMENT. "BUT I REALLY DO HOPE THAT WE CAN MAKE SOME PROGRESS AND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE AIRPORT WAS BY NO MEANS THE ONLY THING THAT HE WAS GOING TO DISCUSS IN CHINA.

"THERE ARE MANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH NEED CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE CHINESE," HE SAID, CITING CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION AS AN EXAMPLE.

"BUT FURTHER THAN THAT, IT'S NOT JUST A QUESTION OF DEALING WITH PROBLEMS, THE RELATIONSHIP IS ONE WHERE THERE ARE ENORMOUS BENEFITS TO BOTH SIDES,"

IN TERMS OF TRADE, FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THE TWO-WAY TRADE LAST YEAR GREW BY 14 PER CENT.

"YOU CAN SEE WHAT IMMENSE ADVANTAGES THERE ARE IN A GOOD RELATIONSHIP.

"AND IT'S TIME OF UNCERTAINTY AND UNREST OF THE WORLD IN THE GULF. HAVING THAT SOLID ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA IS SOMETHING WHICH GIVES GREAT STRENGTH TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID DISAGREED WITH ANY SUGGESTION THAT HONG KONG LACKED SINCERITY. HE SAID THAT WAS ONE THING THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR WHEN HE WAS IN PEKING.

"AND IT'S A GOOD REASON FOR GOING IS THAT, WE DO WITH GREAT SINCERITY WANT TO HAVE THE PROPER SORT OF CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA."

"IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO US, I BELIEVE IT ALSO SERVES CHINESE INTERESTS, AND GOING AND TALKING DIRECTLY IS ONE WAY I HOPE OF SHOWING THAT WE DO LOOK AT THAT VERY SERIOUSLY AND WITH GREAT SINCERITY," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE PEKING PART OF HIS PROGRAMME HAD NOT IN ANY WAY BEEN SHORTENED.

HE SAID THE TIANJIN PART WAS SHORTENED BECAUSE HE WANTED TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF TIME HE WAS AWAY FROM HONG KONG IN VIEW OF THE UNCERTAINTY PRODUCED BY THE GULF SITUATION.

SIR DAVID WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD; SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, BARONESS DUNN; SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ALLEN LEE; AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY HONG KONG BRANCH, MR QIAO ZONGHUAI.

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HK'S OIL STOCKS REMAIN SUFFICIENT
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HONG KONG'S OIL STOCKS REMAIN SUFFICIENT AND SHIPMENTS ARE CONTINUING TO ARRIVE ON SCHEDULE, THE DIRECTOR OF OIL SUPPLIES, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) AFTER A MEETING OF THE OIL DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE SUPPLY SITUATION FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS IN THE GULF WAR.

HE SAID SUPPLIES FROM THE GULF REMAINED NORMAL AND TANKER TRAFFIC DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED.

"AMPLE OIL STOCKS ARE AVAILABLE IN ALL THE MAJOR ECONOMIES.

"THIS ADEQUATE SUPPLY SITUATION IS SHOWN MOST CLEARLY IN THE FACT THAT OIL PRICES HAVE FALLEN QUICKLY TO BELOW US\$20 A BARREL," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE MONITORING EVENTS.

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POSTAL RESUMPTION TO U.S. AND CANADA

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THE RESUMPTION OF AIR PARCEL, SMALL PACKET AND SPEEDPOST MERCHANDISE SERVICES TO THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND ALL CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

"I AM PLEASED THAT THIS IS NOW POSSIBLE DUE TO INCREASED SPACE PROVISION BY AIRLINES," MR WONG SAID.

AS ANNOUNCED PREVIOUSLY, THE PUBLIC MAY EXPECT SOME DELAY IN AIR MAIL SERVICES, INCLUDING SPEEDPOST, TO ALL DESTINATIONS OUTSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST BECAUSE OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TAKEN BY AIRLINES IN RESPONSE TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GULF AREA.

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TWO-CENTURY-OLD CANNON TO GUARD FIRE STATION

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THE AP LEI CHAU FIRE STATION IS TO HAVE A "FAITHFUL GUARDIAN" AT ITS THRESHOLD -- A 200 YEAR-OLD CANNON.

DONATED BY THE AP LEI CHAU KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, THE CANNON IS TO STAND GUARD AT THE FRONT GATE OF THE FIRE STATION FROM TODAY (MONDAY).

THE CANNON, CAST IN THE LATE 1700'S, WAS GIVEN TO THE OLD AP LEI CHAU FIRE STATION IN SAN SHI STREET WHEN IT OPENED IN 1976. EVER SINCE, THE CANNON WAS PUT AT THE FRONT OF THE STATION AS ITS "GUARDIAN".

TO COPE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE ISLAND, THE OLD STATION WAS REPLACED BY A NEW SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION, AT 300 AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE ROAD.

TO HELP RELOCATING THE CANNON TO THE NEW FIRE STATION, THE AP LEI CHAU KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION DONATED MORE THAN \$11,000 TO COVER THE EXPENSES.

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HONG KONG), MR RAYMOND JOHNSTON, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AP LEI CHAU KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, MR HO CHUN-TUNG, OFFICIATED AT A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY TODAY TO MARK THE RELOCATION OF THE CANNON TO THE NEW FIRE STATION. MR HO ALSO ENSHRINED THE CANNON AFTERWARDS.

AT THE CEREMONY, REPRESENTATIVES FROM TWO LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS PRESENTED A TOTAL OF THREE BANNERS TO THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN PUTTING OUT THREE FIRES LAST YEAR.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH DISTRICT SHIPBUILDING TRADE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, MR CHU CHUN-YIN, PRESENTED A BANNER TO ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER OF AP LEI CHAU FIRE STATION, MR YU CHUNG-WAI, FOR PUTTING OUT A THIRD ALARM FIRE AT A SHIPYARD IN PAK SHA WAN, ON NOVEMBER 13.

/THE FIRE

THE FIRE BROKE OUT AT A JETTY, USED AS A SHIPYARD AND SPEED BOAT STORAGE, WHICH COVERED AN AREA OF ABOUT 50 METRES BY 20 METRES AT THE SEAFRONT.

DESPITE THE SEVERITY OF THE FIRE, THE FIREMEN WERE ABLE TO KEEP THE FIRE IN THE AFFECTED SHIPYARD AND THUS AVOIDED DAMAGES TO NEARBY SHIPYARDS. NO CASUALTY WAS REPORTED IN THE FIRE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ABERDEEN KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, MR ALLAN SHEK KWOK-KEUNG, PRESENTED A BANNER TO ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER OF THE ABERDEEN FIRE STATION, MR CHAN CHAN-CHEUNG, FOR THE FIREMEN'S EFFORTS IN PUTTING OUT A FIRST ALARM FIRE AT 14-18 CHENGTU ROAD, ABERDEEN, ON NOVEMBER 22.

THE FIRE INVOLVED ELECTRIC WIRINGS AT THE FIRST FLOOR REAR STAIRCASE LANDINGS OF A 14-STOREY BUILDING.

DESPITE ALL SORTS OF DIFFICULTIES SUCH AS HEAVILY SMOKE-LOGGED STAIRCASES AND POWER FAILURE, THE FIREMEN WERE ABLE TO PUT OUT THE FIRE AND LED ALL THE PEOPLE TO SAFETY.

MR SHEK ALSO PRESENTED A BANNER TO ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER OF THE POK FU LAM FIRE STATION, MR WONG SAI-CHUEN, FOR RESCUING NINE PERSONS IN A FOURTH ALARM FIRE IN A TYRE SHOP AND TYRE STORAGE AT 1-3 YUE KO STREET, ABERDEEN ON DECEMBER 2.

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NINE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IN LEGCO

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF NINE QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER EIGHT BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 23).

OF THE EIGHT BILLS, FOUR WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND DEBATES ON THEM WILL BE ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, AND PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

THE OTHER BILLS, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1990, AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1990, TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 ARE DUE FOR SECOND READING BEFORE GOING THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING.

IN THE MEETING, THE HON MIRIAM LAU WILL SPEAK ON THE HONG KONG ACADEMIC FOR PERFORMING ARTS ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1989 TO JUNE 1990; AND THE HON JAMES TIEN WILL SPEAK ON THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 1989/90.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR SEATS IN THE PUBLIC GALLERIES BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.