



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, JULY 3, 1989

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BRITAIN TO ACT IN TWO AREAS ON NATIONALITY, ABODE: SIR GEOFFREY
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BRITAIN WILL TAKE ACTION IN TWO AREAS ON THE QUESTION OF NATIONALITY AND RIGHT OF ABODE WHICH HAS BEEN A MATTER OF MUCH CONCERN TO HONG KONG PEOPLE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD THE DEPTH OF ANXIETY OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ON THIS MATTER AS IT WAS THEIR LIVES AND LIVELIHOOD THAT WERE AT STAKE.

"I KNOW THE ARGUMENT THAT AN INSURANCE POLICY FOR ALL WOULD UNDERPIN THE CONFIDENCE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WISH TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG. AND I RECOGNISE TOO THAT AT THE MOMENT, COMPARATIVELY FEW HONG KONG PEOPLE THINK THAT THEY WOULD IN PRACTICE WISH TO TAKE UP A RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"BUT THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY THAT A BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD GRANT TO SEVERAL MILLION PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO COME AND LIVE IN BRITAIN," HE ADDED.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE WAS DISMAYED THAT SOME PEOPLE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF RACE.

"IT IS NOTHING OF THE SORT. IT IS A PRACTICAL PROBLEM, ON AN ENORMOUS SCALE," HE SAID.

IF RIGHT OF ABODE WERE EXTENDED TO 3.3 MILLION BDTC'S, OR TO ALL 5.7 MILLION HONG KONG PEOPLE, IT WOULD NEVER BE KNOWN HOW MANY OF THOSE MIGHT PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR SETTLEMENT AS A MATTER OF RIGHT, NOT JUST IN THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS BUT OVER THE COMING DECADES, SIR GEOFFREY POINTED OUT.

"IT WOULD BE AN INDEFINITE AND OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT THAT WOULD TEST OUR CAPABILITY IN ALL KINDS OF AREAS -- HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, TRANSPORT, INNER CITY SERVICES -- ON A SCALE AND IN A WAY THAT FAR EXCEEDED ANY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE," HE SAID.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS NO WAY THAT THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT COULD BE PERSUADED TO SUPPORT A SCHEME ON THIS SCALE AND THAT THIS WAS A VIEW SHARED BY THE GREAT MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HOUSE.

"THERE IS NO MORE BINDING CONTRACT THAN AN INSURANCE POLICY. THERE WOULD BE NO MORE CRUEL DECEPTION THAN AN INSURANCE POLICY ON WHICH WE COULD NOT DELIVER," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"BUT THAT CERTAINLY DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE WASHING OUR HANDS OF THIS PROBLEM. WE INTEND TO TAKE ACTION IN TWO AREAS," HE SAID.

"FIRSTLY, I HAVE BEEN LOOKING URGENTLY, WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HOME SECRETARY AND OTHER CABINET COLLEAGUES AT WHAT CHANGES CAN BE MADE TO OUR IMMIGRATION ARRANGEMENTS.

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"FOR THE REASONS I HAVE DESCRIBED, WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT EXTENDING RIGHT OF ABODE TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OR TO ANYTHING LIKE THAT NUMBER," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"BUT URGENT ACTION DOES NEED TO BE TAKEN TO GIVE SOME ASSURANCE. WE ARE WORKING ON A SCHEME THAT WILL MAKE SOME PROVISION FOR PEOPLE IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS ON THE BASIS NOT SIMPLY OF CONNECTIONS WITH BRITAIN BUT ALSO THE VALUE OF SERVICE TO HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID WHILE HE COULD NOT GIVE DETAILS NOW, AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AS SOON AS DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WERE WORKED OUT.

"SECONDLY, WE HAVE TO LOOK AT WHAT WOULD NEED TO BE DONE IN THE VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES OF AN EXTREME SITUATION.

"IT NEED NOT BE CHINESE TANKS POURING ACROSS THE BORDER. IT COULD BE MUCH LESS DRAMATIC THAN THAT.

"WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS A FAR-REACHING BREAKDOWN OF THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. I AM NOT PREDICTING ANYTHING OF THAT SORT," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"I STILL BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG HAS A SECURE FUTURE. BUT IF THINGS DID GO CATASTROPHICALLY WRONG, BRITAIN HAS FIRM OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"WE COULD NOT CLOSE OUR DOOR. AND WE WOULD MOBILISE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP IF THE NUMBERS LEAVING HONG KONG WERE LARGER THAN WE COULD DEAL WITH ALONE. WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED WORK ON THIS," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO TRAGIC EVENTS IN PEKING ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THEY HAD SENT SHOCK WAVES ROUND THE WORLD AND WERE FELT NOWHERE MORE STRONGLY THAN IN HONG KONG.

"THAT ONE NIGHT DESTROYED AT A STROKE THE REPUTATION THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN BUILDING FOR ITSELF OVER MORE THAN TEN YEARS.

"IT HAS DONE ENORMOUS HARM TO CHINA. AND IT HAS DEALT A REAL BLOW TO HONG KONG," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"WE WERE APPALLED BY THE HUMAN TRAGEDY. ANGERED BY THE SENSELESSNESS AND STUPIDITY OF IT: THE LOSS OF YOUNG LIVES. REPELLED BY THE SAVAGERY OF WHAT WAS DONE.

"THE PRIME MINISTER AND I HAVE MADE PLAIN THE REACTION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED. AND WE HAVE TAKEN ACTION," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

BRITAIN AND ITS PARTNERS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAD STOPPED MILITARY CO-OPERATION WITH, AND ARMS SALES TO, CHINA, HE NOTED.

/BRITAIN HAD

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BRITAIN HAD ALSO SUSPENDED HIGH LEVEL VISITS; POSTPONED NEW CO-OPERATION PROJECTS, AND CUT BACK CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION.

"IN PARTICULAR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE REAFFIRMED OUR DETERMINATION TO STAND BY HONG KONG," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE WAS DISMAYED AT THE DAMAGE DONE IN THE NAME OF CHINA TO THE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE OF EVERYONE IN BRITAIN AND HONG KONG WHO HAD LABOURED SO HARD OVER THE YEARS TO CONSTRUCT A SOLID RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA.

HE SAID THE CORE OF THAT WORK HAD BEEN THE BUILDING OF A SECURE FUTURE FOR HONG KONG, WHICH HAD BEEN HIS CONSTANT CARE AND CONCERN AS FOREIGN SECRETARY.

"TOGETHER WE FACED A REALLY DAUNTING TASK: TO NEGOTIATE WITH AN AUTHORITARIAN COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PRESERVE HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE, ITS FREEDOMS AND ITS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

"WE SUCCEEDED AGAINST THE ODDS. THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS WELCOMED AS OFFERING THE BEST POSSIBLE GUARANTEE OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"THE QUESTION EVERYONE IS ASKING NOW IS QUITE SIMPLY THIS: IS IT STILL A WORTHWHILE AGREEMENT? LET ME TELL YOU THAT I AM MYSELF CONVINCED THAT IT IS," HE SAID.

SIR GEOFFREY SAID THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS NOT PRODUCED ONLY FOR THE GOOD TIMES. IT WAS AN AGREEMENT FOR THE BAD TIMES AS WELL AS THE GOOD.

THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS AN INTERNATIONALLY BINDING TREATY, AND WHILE THE EVENTS OF RECENT WEEKS DID NOT MAKE IT ANY LESS BINDING, THEY DID MAKE ITS STRICT OBSERVANCE ALL THE MORE NECESSARY, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY NOTED.

"IT IS REGISTERED AT THE UNITED NATIONS, OF WHOSE SECURITY COUNCIL WE AND CHINA ARE PERMANENT MEMBERS," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"THE WHOLE POINT OF THE AGREEMENT WAS AND IS TO SAFEGUARD HONG KONG FROM THE KIND OF PROBLEMS IN CHINA OF WHICH WE HAVE JUST SEEN AN EXTREME EXAMPLE," HE EXPLAINED.

"THE AGREEMENT IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE FOR HONG KONG, WITHIN THE LARGER CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY, A SECURE, DISTINCT EXISTENCE OF ITS OWN," HE ADDED.

SIR GEOFFREY POINTED OUT THAT RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA HAD NOT ALTERED THE ASSUMPTIONS ON WHICH THE AGREEMENT WAS BASED.

"QUITE THE CONTRARY. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN CHINA HAS DEMONSTRATED CLEARLY THE VALUE OF THE 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS' CONCEPT, NOT DISPROVED IT," HE SAID.

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THERE HAD BEEN A CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CHINESE THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND OTHER CHANNELS SINCE 1985, TO ENSURE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WOULD BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED, HE NOTED.

SIR GEOFFREY SAID THAT HAVING BEEN DEEPLY AND ENERGETICALLY INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE JOINT DECLARATION, THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT ABOUT HIS COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, WHICH WAS ALSO SHARED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT.

"NOW, AFTER TIANANMEN, WE SHALL BE WORKING ALL THE HARDER, WITH ALL THE MORE VIGOUR, AND ALL THE MORE DETERMINATION TO MAKE HONG KONG'S FUTURE AS SECURE AS IT CAN BE MADE," HE SAID.

"THE CHINESE HAVE SAID PUBLICLY, AND HAVE ASSURED US PRIVATELY TOO, THAT THEIR POLICY TOWARDS HONG KONG WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE RECENT EVENTS, AND THAT THEY, LIKE US, REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE JOINT DECLARATION," HE ADDED.

"WE NATURALLY WELCOME THAT. AND WE NOW LOOK TO THEM TO DEMONSTRATE BY THEIR ACTIONS THAT THEY MEAN WHAT THEY SAY, FOR THERE IS MUCH THAT THEY NEED TO DO TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY HAVE DONE," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT CHINA'S ECONOMIC STAKE IN HONG KONG WAS COLOSSAL, AND IT WAS BIG ENOUGH IN 1984 WHEN CHINESE LEADER DENG XIAOPING REACHED AGREEMENT WITH BRITAIN OVER THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"IT IS FAR BIGGER TODAY, FIVE YEARS LATER, AS HE FACES HUGE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN CHINA, LET ALONE THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE BEEN DOMINATING OUR HEADLINES," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"WE HAVE NEVER BEEN STARRY EYED ABOUT THE REASON WHY THE CHINESE MADE THE AGREEMENT WITH US. THEY DID SO BECAUSE IT WAS IN THEIR INTERESTS THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BE STABLE AND PROSPEROUS.

"AND IN THEIR INTERESTS, AS MUCH AS IN HONG KONG'S, THAT THE SYSTEMS OF CHINA AND HONG KONG SHOULD REMAIN SEPARATE FROM EACH OTHER. THOSE INTERESTS HAVE NOT CHANGED," HE SAID.

"CHINA'S NEW LEADERS SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE OF THIS. GENERAL SECRETARY, JIANG ZEMIN, AS MAYOR OF SHANGHAI, HAS HIMSELF HAD TO GRAPPLE WITH CHINA'S FORMIDABLE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES," HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT SINCE CHINA'S GENERAL SECRETARY HAD VISITED HONG KONG AND BRITAIN BEFORE, MR JIANG AND HIS COLLEAGUES MUST SEE THAT CHINA'S OWN INTERESTS LAID IN DOING EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO RESTORE THE CONFIDENCE ON WHICH HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROSPERITY DEPENDED.

"BRITAIN WILL THEREFORE SPARE NO EFFORT TO WORK FOR A SECURE FUTURE FOR HONG KONG AFTER 1997," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

/THE FOREIGN

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THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID BRITAIN WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT IN DISCHARGING ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG BEFORE 1997.

BRITAIN WOULD ALSO ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT TO SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT HONG KONG'S SECURITY AND PROSPERITY, AND TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOMS WHICH WERE ESSENTIAL TO THE TERRITORY'S WAY OF LIFE, HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN BETWEEN NOW AND 1997.

"THE RIGHT DECISIONS FOR THE NECESSARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG WILL BE TAKEN," HE SAID.

"DECISIONS HAVE TO BE TAKEN ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TOO. IN THIS RESPECT, WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CAREFUL TO BASE OURSELVES FIRMLY ON THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN A RECIPE FOR DANGEROUS INSTABILITY. ALL THE REFORMS UP TO AND INCLUDING THOSE ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR HAVE BEEN BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF WHAT HONG KONG ITSELF WANTED," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"IT IS NOW PLAIN THAT HONG KONG OPINION HAS MOVED ON SINCE THEN. THIS WAS PLAIN BEFORE THE MASSACRE IN PEKING," HE NOTED.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID OMELCO'S UNANIMOUS PROPOSAL FOR A 50 PER CENT DIRECTLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE BY 1997 AND MOVING TO FULL DIRECT ELECTIONS SIX YEARS LATER, WAS A MOST IMPORTANT INDICATION OF THE EMERGING CONSENSUS.

"I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE WITH THE GOVERNOR AND HIS ADVISERS SINCE MY ARRIVAL YESTERDAY. I SHALL LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY TO THE VIEWS THAT YOU AND OTHERS PUT FORWARD," HE SAID.

SIR GEOFFREY NOTED THAT CHANGES CURRENTLY PROPOSED FOR 1991 NEEDED TO BE RE-EXAMINED; CAREFUL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN ON WHAT FURTHER STEPS MIGHT BE NECESSARY BEFORE 1997, AND THE PROVISIONS FOR THE BASIC LAW ON CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NEED FULL REAPPRAISAL ONCE THE DRAFTING PROCESS RESUMED.

"BRITAIN WILL CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT ITS APPROACH TO THIS QUESTION ON THE BASIS OF THE VIEWS THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE THEMSELVES EXPRESS.

"OUR DECISION ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE 1997, AND OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS AFTER 1997, WILL ALL PROCEED FROM THAT STARTING POINT," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"ANOTHER MATTER THAT WE SHALL BE TAKING UP WITH THE CHINESE WHEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ARE RESUMED IS ARTICLE 18 OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW -- WHICH COULD ENABLE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997.

/"THIS ARTICLE

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"THIS ARTICLE HAS GIVEN RISE TO GREAT ANXIETY IN HONG KONG IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT NEEDS TO BE THOROUGHLY RE-EXAMINED," HE SAID.

"WHEN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP RESUMES ITS WORK, AS IT MUST, ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT IT WILL BE CONSIDERING VERY CLOSELY WILL BE DEFENCE AND PUBLIC ORDER IN HONG KONG.

"THE SCALE AND NATURE OF ANY PLA PRESENCE IN HONG KONG WILL NEED RIGOROUS ATTENTION. THIS IS A MATTER OF VITAL IMPORTANCE," SIR GEOFFREY STRESSED.

ANOTHER MATTER TO WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY POINTED OUT.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS URGENTLY CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO SAFEGUARD HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN HONG KONG'S PRESENT CONSTITUTION. THIS MEANS, IN PARTICULAR, A BILL OF RIGHTS WHICH WOULD FORM PART OF THE EXISTING LAW AND CONTINUE AFTER THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY.

"THE GOVERNOR HAS ALREADY PROMISED A FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT ON THIS," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

ON THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID MAJOR PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE OBJECTIVES PUT FORWARD AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES IN GENEVA LAST MONTH.

"ON RESETTLEMENT, THE TOTAL OF THE PLEDGES MADE IN GENEVA IS ENOUGH TO CLEAR ALL REFUGEES IN THE REGION, INCLUDING HONG KONG.

"ON THE REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTRE, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT GENEROUSLY OFFERED TO PROVIDE THE LAND FOR SUCH A CENTRE, AND I ANNOUNCED A BRITISH OFFER OF FIVE MILLION POUNDS STERLING TOWARDS IT.

"ON REPATRIATION, LORD GLENARTHUR AND I HAVE HAD TALKS WITH THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN GENEVA AND IN LONDON. WE HOPE SOON TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE CONCRETE RESULTS," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"IN SHORT, WE MAY NOW BE WITHIN SIGHT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE TO BRING ABOUT A DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE BOAT PEOPLE," HE ADDED.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT BRITAIN WAS HELPING HONG KONG TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN, POLITICALLY AND FINANCIALLY.

"WE HAVE PLEDGED SO FAR THIS YEAR A TOTAL OF 17 MILLION POUNDS STERLING (OVER HK\$200 MILLION) TOWARDS THE HANDLING OF THE PROBLEM," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S FUTURE BEYOND 1997 WAS NOT THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHOICES IMPOSED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT IT REFLECTED INSTEAD THE FACTS OF THE TERRITORY'S HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

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"BUT DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE YOUR OWN ABILITY TO MOULD THAT FUTURE," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"HONG KONG HAS SEEN HARD TIMES BEFORE. YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN THE RESILIENCE AND THE RESOURCEFULNESS TO LIVE THROUGH SUCH TIMES AND EMERGE FROM THEM STRONGER THAN BEFORE," HE ADDED.

SIR GEOFFREY SAID HONG KONG'S FUTURE WOULD CONTINUE IN THAT BOLD TRADITION AND WOULD EMERGE FROM THE TRAUMA OF TIANANMEN AND GO ON CONSOLIDATING THE FUTURE AS A GREAT INTERNATIONAL CITY.

"YOU WILL BE BUILDING ON FOUNDATIONS WHICH BRITAIN HAS HELPED TO LAY: FOUNDATIONS THAT WILL ENDURE TO THE MIDDLE OF THE NEXT CENTURY. BRITAIN IS DETERMINED TO SAFEGUARD WHAT WE HAVE BEEN, AND SHALL GO ON, BUILDING TOGETHER," HE SAID.

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NEW HARBOUR CROSSING SYMBOLISES CONFIDENCE, SAYS SIR GEOFFREY

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THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WHICH SYMBOLISES OVERSEAS CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

HIS COMMENTS CAME THIS AFTERNOON AFTER HE VISITED THE SITE OF THE \$4 BILLION PROJECT WHICH IS THE LARGEST SINGLE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN HONG KONG.

"THIS PROJECT IS OF ENORMOUS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG. IT WILL EASE CROSS HARBOUR AND RAIL CONGESTION AND OPEN UP EASTERN AREAS OF KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND," SIR GEOFFREY SAID.

"BRITISH INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN WIDE-RANGING: BRITISH FIRMS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED WITH MANY DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT.

"BUT FOR ME, THE GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE IS THAT IT ALSO SYMBOLISES HONG KONG'S OWN CONFIDENCE AND COMMITMENT IN BUILDING FOR ITS FUTURE," HE ADDED.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING IS REPRESENTATIVE OF OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ALL OVER THE TERRITORY SUCH AS PLANS FOR PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, A NEW CONTAINER TERMINAL, THE TSEUNG KWAN O (JUNK BAY) NEW TOWN AND VARIOUS LAND RECLAMATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS.

"THIS SERVES AS A VALUABLE REMINDER THAT DESPITE THE SHOCK OF RECENT EVENTS, HONG KONG'S ECONOMY REMAINS HEALTHY AND RESILIENT," HE SAID.

/SIR GEOFFREY

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SIR GEOFFREY CONGRATULATED ALL THOSE CONCERNED FOR COMPLETING THE PROJECT SIX MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY GAINED FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING ON DIFFERENT MODES OF TRANSPORT.

SIR GEOFFREY FIRST RODE ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND GOT OFF AT THE LAM TIN STATION. FROM THERE HE WAS DRIVEN TO THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WHERE HE SPOKE TO THE STAFF IN THE CONTROL ROOM.

ON HIS RETURN TRIP TO HONG KONG ISLAND, SIR GEOFFREY DROVE THROUGH THE TUNNEL TO QUARRY BAY. HE WAS TOLD THAT THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, WHICH SERVES THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, WOULD BE OPENED AT THE END OF THIS MONTH,

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SIR GEOFFREY IMPRESSED BY OFFICIALS' COMMITMENT

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT HE WAS IMMENSELY IMPRESSED BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' DEDICATION TO WORK AND COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SIR GEOFFREY SAID: "I'VE BEEN HEARING OF COURSE OF SOME OF THE ANXIETIES THAT THEY FEEL AND ALSO OF THE POSITIVE THINGS WHICH THEY BELIEVE WE CAN DO TOGETHER TO CONSOLIDATE THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG."

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING A WIDER GROUP OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING SOME IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, LATER TODAY.

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PAID ANNUAL LEAVE SET TO IMPROVE

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD DISCUSSED A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DAYS OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE FOR WORKERS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, AT ITS MEETING TODAY (MONDAY).

CURRENT LEGISLATION ENABLES AN EMPLOYEE TO HAVE SEVEN DAYS' PAID ANNUAL LEAVE UPON COMPLETION OF 12 MONTHS' CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT.

AFTER DISCUSSIONS, MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE PROVISION ON PAID ANNUAL LEAVE SHOULD BE IMPROVED BUT VIEWS WERE DIVIDED ON THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL DAYS TO BE GRANTED.

/EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES WERE OF THE VIEW THAT THE AMOUNT OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM THE EXISTING LEVEL OF SEVEN DAYS TO A MAXIMUM OF 14 DAYS BASED ON THE LENGTH OF SERVICE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES CONSIDERED IT APPROPRIATE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER TO 10 DAYS, BUT SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT LABOUR SHORTAGE, THE ISSUE SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN TWO YEARS' TIME.

AS NO CONSENSUS COULD BE REACHED, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT UNDERTOOK TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS BEFORE FORWARDING THEM TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE MEETING NEXT CONSIDERED A PAPER PROPOSING TO SET UP A COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR WORKERS SUFFERING FROM OCCUPATIONAL NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS.

HEARING LOSS HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AS A COMPENSABLE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE, AND MANY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES INCLUDING BRITAIN, CANADA, JAPAN AND SINGAPORE HAVE INTRODUCED COMPENSATION SCHEMES FOR THE DEAF.

BASED ON A SURVEY BY THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON SELECTED NOISE-PRONED INDUSTRIES LAST YEAR, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE NUMBER OF WORKERS BEING EXPOSED TO NOISE OF 90 DBA OR ABOVE FOR EIGHT HOURS A DAY WAS IN THE REGION OF 66,000.

THESE WORKERS WILL VERY LIKELY DEVELOP NOISE-INDUCED HEARING IMPAIRMENT IF THEY FAIL TO WEAR PROPER HEARING PROTECTIVE GEAR AT WORK.

IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS, THE BOARD ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE TO SET UP SUCH A SCHEME TO PROTECT WORKERS. USEFUL VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED AND SPECIAL EMPHASIS WAS ALSO MADE ON THE 20-YEAR OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE FULFILLED BY CLAIMANTS.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE COMMENTS MADE BY MEMBERS, THE CHAIRMAN UNDERTOOK TO RE-EXAMINE AND MODIFY THE PROPOSALS BEFORE RE-SUBMITTING THEM TO THE BOARD FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

THE BOARD ALSO ENDORSED A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO AMEND EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

THEY AGREED TO INCREASE THE LEVELS OF COMPENSATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE AS FROM JANUARY NEXT YEAR TO BRING THEM IN LINE WITH WAGE INCREASES.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL, THE MAXIMUM COMPENSATION FOR DEATH WILL BE RAISED FROM \$345,000 TO \$424,000; FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY, FROM \$394,000 TO \$485,000; AND FOR CONSTANT ATTENTION ALLOWANCES, FROM \$158,000 TO \$194,000.

MEMBERS FURTHER AGREED TO RE-CLASSIFY OFFENCES COMMITTED UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE INTO "MINOR", "SERIOUS" AND "VERY SERIOUS", AND TO REVISE THEIR MAXIMUM PENALTIES TO \$5,000, \$10,000 AND \$20,000 RESPECTIVELY.

ENCOURAGING RESPONSE ON RURAL PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT
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INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE RURAL PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY (RPIS) FROM BODIES WHO WILL BE MOST AFFECTED HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING. ACCORDING TO THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ROTARY CLUB THIS (MONDAY) EVENING, MR HSU SAID THE DOCUMENT, ISSUED ON MAY 4, WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE STRATEGY, SUCH AS THE HEUNG YEE KUK, REGIONAL COUNCIL, DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, RURAL COMMITTEES AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES.

WHILE THE BROAD PRINCIPLES OF THE STRATEGY WERE GENERALLY WELCOMED, MR HSU NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN STRESSED THAT THE INTEREST OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS SHOULD NOT BE INFRINGED UPON AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE FAIR AND REASONABLE IF PRIVATE LAND HAD TO BE RESUMED IN THE COURSE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RPIS, MR HSU SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAD BEEN INCREASED INVESTMENT IN THE RURAL AREAS, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH THE URBAN FRINGE IMPROVEMENT AND LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES, THESE INVESTMENTS WERE FAR FROM SUFFICIENT.

"UNLESS THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE, BETTER PLANNING AND BETTER LAND MANAGEMENT CONTROL, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO SEE THAT THERE WILL BE EVIDENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE RURAL AREAS.

"THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE CONSIDERS THAT THE EXISTING PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE EXPANDED, WITH MORE INVESTMENTS IN THE RURAL AREAS," HE SAID.

MR HSU OUTLINED THE THREE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE RPIS -- A RURAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS PROGRAMME, LAND USE PLANS AND POLICIES AND A NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY.

THE WORKS PROGRAMME, COSTING ABOUT \$4 BILLION OVER 10 YEARS, WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO FLOOD PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES; IMPROVED VILLAGE ACCESS, SERVICED LAND FOR VILLAGE EXPANSION; AND THE PROVISION OF OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES.

MR HSU ADDED THAT A RURAL DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP TO BE CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT AND COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK, WOULD BE SET UP.

THE STEERING GROUP WOULD MONITOR THE PLANNING AND OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RPIS.

/THE DISTRICT

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THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND RURAL COMMITTEES WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, HE SAID.

STRESSING THE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RPIS, MR HSU CONCLUDED THAT WITHOUT THE MUCH REQUIRED LOCAL SUPPORT AND INPUT, THE BEST OF GOVERNMENT PLANS AND INTENTIONS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REALISE.

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VISIT TO PRIVATE DEMONSTRATION FARMS

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THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, MR JOHN BURRETT, AND FARMER REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COMMITTEE AND ITS STEERING GROUP ON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON PRIVATE FARMS TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED TWO FARMS TO SEE THE PROGRESS OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS THERE.

THERE ARE NINE PRIVATE FARMS PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON LIVESTOCK WASTE TREATMENT METHODS.

THE TWO FARMS BEING VISITED TODAY - A PIG FARM IN MA ON SHAN AND A POULTRY FARM IN FANLING - ARE AMONG THE FOUR FARMS WHICH HAVE NOT HAD THEIR TREATMENT FACILITIES HANDED OVER TO THE OPERATORS YET.

BOTH FARMS ARE FOR THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE HYBRID METHOD, IN WHICH THE SOLID WASTE IS MUCKED OUT AND DISPOSED OF THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S LIVESTOCK WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE WHILE THE LIQUID WASTE IS TREATED TO THE REQUIRED QUALITY FOR ULTIMATE DISPOSAL.

THE TREATMENT FACILITIES IN THE PIG FARM ARE ALREADY IN OPERATION AND THE OPERATOR IS BEING TRAINED ON THE USAGE.

THE POULTRY FARM IS IN THE FINAL STAGE OF COMMISSIONING AND WILL BE READY FOR OPERATION AND TRAINING SOON.

ACCOMPANYING THE GROUP WERE A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH, MR NICHOLAS YEK; AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, MR CHAN TIN-SUNG.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS RECREATION AND SPORTS PROGRAMME

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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE 1989-90 URBAN COUNCIL RECREATION AND SPORTS PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR ORGANISING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PUBLICITY FOR THE 1989 WAN CHAI FESTIVAL, DISTRICT BOARD'S SPRING RECEPTION, A YOUNG SOCIAL WORKERS' SCHEME AND AN OUTREACHING PROGRAMME FOR THE HOME-BOUND ELDERLY.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE A TOUR OF SUNG DYNASTY VILLAGE, A PHOTO COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION, TRAINING COURSES ON DRAMA SKILLS AND A SUMMER MUSIC CAMP.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA IS THE "DESIGN AWARD FOR THE MOST ACCESSIBLE BUILDINGS FOR THE DISABLED IN HONG KONG".

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG.

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PROBATION HOME FOR GIRLS IN FANLING

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MEMBERS OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE CONVERSION OF THE FANLING ROTARY YOUTH CENTRE AND HOSTEL INTO A PROBATION HOME FOR GIRLS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE NEW GIRLS' HOME, TO BE RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WILL ACCOMMODATE 40 GIRLS AGED BETWEEN SEVEN AND 16.

IN OTHER MATTERS, A MEMBER WILL ASK WHAT MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE AGAINST SUSPECTED DECEPTION INVOLVING TELEPHONE-TUITION SERVICES.

/OTHER ITEMS

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OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A PROPOSED STUDY ON THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY CARE FOR CHILDREN IN THE DISTRICT, AND AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO HOLD COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOCUSSED ON THE THEME "CARE FOR CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT".

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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JOINT SEMINAR FOR WONG TAI SIN AREA COMMITTEES
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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL HOLD A JOINT SEMINAR FOR THE 14 AREA COMMITTEES IN THE DISTRICT ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 5).

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, WILL ADDRESS THE SEMINAR, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 6.30 PM IN THE CHOI HUNG ROAD INDOOR GAMES HALL IN SAN PO KONG.

THE THEME OF THE SEMINAR IS "THE FUTURE OF CIVIC EDUCATION". MEMBERS OF THE AREA COMMITTEES WILL TAKE PART IN GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE JOINT SEMINAR. IT WILL BEGIN AT 6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 5) IN THE CHOI HUNG ROAD INDOOR GAMES HALL, SAN PO KONG.

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HK TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE A CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS
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THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE (HKTTTC) HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS IN DIFFERENT FIELDS AND AT DIFFERENT LEVELS TO MEET AND SHARE THEIR IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE CONCERNING HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING TO THE 392 GRADUATES AT THE TRAINER TRAINING COURSES GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE HKTTTC AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE, MR LI SAID HE COULD IMAGINE THE BENEFITS THAT TRAINERS WOULD DERIVE FROM INTERPERSONAL INTERACTIONS IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT.

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"WITH THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS AND WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AS AN IMPORTANT MANUFACTURING AND FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE FAR EAST, THE DEMAND FOR TRAINER TRAINING IS EXPECTED TO RISE SIGNIFICANTLY," MR LI SAID.

"IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT TRAINER TRAINING IS AN IMPORTANT INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE AND THAT A WELL TRAINED WORKFOR IS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE ASSETS OF A COMMUNITY LIKE OURS," HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT PARTICIPANTS OF THE COURSES CAME FROM MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS AND WERE ALL INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING OF PEOPLE TO ACQUIRE A VARIETY OF TRADE SKILLS, MR LI SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS A CONSTELLATION OF TASKS COMMON TO ALL PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS WHILE THE CONTENT OF SPECIFIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES VARIED FROM TRADE TO TRADE, AND FROM ORGANISATION TO ORGANISATION.

"STUDENT-TEACHERS WERE EXPECTED TO POSSESS AFTER TRAINING, AMONG THEIR AREAS OF COMPETENCY, THE ABILITIES IN COURSE DESIGN, COURSE DELIVERY AND EVALUATION, KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN LEARNING AND PLANNING, ORGANISING AND MANAGEMENT OF TRAINING WHICH WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE FINDINGS OF A RECENT RESEARCH IN THE UK," MR LI SAID.

"IT IS LOGICAL AND APPROPRIATE FOR A COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SUCH AS THE HKTTC TO BE ASSIGNED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OFFERING TRAINER TRAINING COURSES SOME YEARS AGO IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING NEED IN INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF TRAINING PERSONNEL," HE ADDED.

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ADVICE AGAINST SUMMER DISEASES

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WITH THE ARRIVAL OF SUMMER, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (MONDAY) URGES MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CHOLERA AND OTHER GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT LAST YEAR THERE WERE TWO CHOLERA CASES AND 534 FOOD POISONING CASES, WHICH AFFECTED MORE THAN 1,240 PEOPLE.

DURING THE FIRST TWO QUARTERS OF THIS YEAR, 64 CASES OF FOOD POISONING, AFFECTING 220 PEOPLE, WERE REPORTED.

"THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN ONE CHOLERA CASE REPORTED SO FAR THIS YEAR, SO THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT RELAX THEIR PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE DISEASE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE MOST RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE METHOD TO PREVENT CHOLERA AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUCH AS TYPHOID AND DYSENTERY IS TO OBSERVE PERSONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD HYGIENE," HE STRESSED.

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DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, PEOPLE TEND TO BE LESS CAREFUL IN THE CHOICE OF FOOD AND DRINKS. SINCE MOST GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES ARE TRANSMITTED THROUGH CONTAMINATED FOOD AND DRINK, PEOPLE SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL IN THEIR EATING HABITS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED THAT ALL FOOD SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY COOKED AND SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNCOVERED IF NOT TAKEN IMMEDIATELY.

"THE CHOLERA BEING ENCOUNTERED NOWADAYS IS CHOLERA EL TOR WHICH IS ENDEMIC IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND ISOLATED CASES ARE EXPECTED TO OCCUR EVERY NOW AND THEN.

"THE STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE SIMPLE RULES OF PERSONAL HYGIENE SUCH AS WASHING OF HANDS AFTER TOILET AND BEFORE FOOD PREPARATION, AND THE HYGIENIC HANDLING OF FOOD AND DRINKS ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS OF PREVENTING CHOLERA AND OTHER DIARRHOEA DISEASES," HE SAID.

PEOPLE TRAVELLING TO OVERSEAS COUNTRIES WHERE CHOLERA AND OTHER GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES ARE ENDEMIC ARE ALSO ADVISED TO TAKE SPECIAL CARE IN THE SELECTION OF FOOD AND DRINK.

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GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1989.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED MONTHLY SINCE AUGUST 1981, COLLECTS INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THE GENERAL SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

IN ADDITION, QUESTIONS ON HONG KONG RESIDENTS' EXPENDITURE ABROAD, HOUSING DEMAND, EXPENDITURE ON PURCHASES AND SALES OF PROPERTIES AND DEMAND FOR CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES SERVICE; HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON RENT, LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING SERVICE AND CHILDREN LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE QUARTER OF JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1989.

ABOUT 5,000 HOUSEHOLDS ARE SELECTED AT RANDOM EACH MONTH FROM ALL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY.

ABOUT HALF OF THE HOUSEHOLDS INTERVIEWED THREE MONTHS AGO WILL BE SURVEYED AGAIN TO MEASURE MORE ACCURATELY THE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THEN.

AN OFFICIAL LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY AND TO SEEK THEIR CO-OPERATION.

ASSISTANT CENSUS AND SURVEY OFFICERS, EACH CARRYING AN IDENTITY CARD ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WILL VISIT THESE HOUSEHOLDS TO COLLECT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.

ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE TREATED IN CONFIDENCE AND WILL NOT BE REVEALED TO ANY PERSON OR ORGANISATION OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 55.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 326.840 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 157.899 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 26.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER CUTS IN SHAM SHUI PO AND SAI KUNG
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO AND SAI KUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED TO FACILITATE NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN SHAM SHUI PO, FRESH WATER SUPPLY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 5) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY PO ON ROAD, SHUN LING ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, CHEUNG WAH STREET, HING WAH STREET AND CHEUNG FAT STREET.

IN SAI KUNG, THE SUPPLY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JULY 6) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY HONG KIN ROAD, WA YUNG ROAD, WA FUK STREET AND WA FUN STREET, INCLUDING TUI MIN HOI, FISHERMEN HOUSING ESTATE AND SAI KUNG TUI MIN HOI TSUEN.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN QUARRY BAY TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE PROJECTING FROM THE EXTERNAL WALL OF FLAT 9 ON 15TH FLOOR, PO LEE BUILDING, AT 995 KING'S ROAD IN QUARRY BAY, SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER, ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE, WITH WHICH THE OWNER HAS FAILED TO COMPLY.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON SEPTEMBER 5 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICIOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURE TODAY (MONDAY).

IT IS INTENDED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSIM SHA TSUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE DRAINAGE REPAIR WORKS AT HART AVENUE, TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TSIM SHA TSUI FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 5) FOR THREE WEEKS.

HART AVENUE FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH TO A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

AT THE SAME TIME, HART AVENUE FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH MODY ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 34 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC UNTIL THE DRAINAGE WORKS HAVE COMPLETED.

MOREOVER, HART AVENUE, FROM A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH TO A POINT ABOUT 110 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FOR LOCAL ACCESS.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MOK CHEONG STREET

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDS MOTORISTS THAT MOK CHEONG STREET IN TO KWA WAN, BETWEEN TAM KUNG ROAD AND PAK TAI STREET, HAS BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOLLOWING A WATERMAIN BURST.

THE CLOSURE WILL LAST UNTIL THURSDAY (JULY 6) TO FACILITATE URGENT REPAIR WORKS.

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