



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR AT LEGCO

STATEMENT AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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MR PRESIDENT,

LET ME FIRST OF ALL APOLOGISE TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS FOR HAVING TO POSTPONE MY APPEARANCE BEFORE THIS COUNCIL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE. I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE INCONVENIENCE THIS WILL HAVE CAUSED TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS. WE DID, AS HONOURABLE MEMBERS KNOW, RECEIVE A FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHINESE SIDE AT ABOUT 1 O'CLOCK YESTERDAY; WE HAD TO CONSIDER THIS URGENTLY DURING THE COURSE OF YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, AND I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH ANY MORE INFORMATION THAN I WAS LAST WEEK. SO I APOLOGISE FOR THAT INCONVENIENCE AND I HOPE THE COUNCIL WILL UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR MY ACTION.

I AM, HOWEVER, IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FURTHER STATEMENT THIS AFTERNOON.

DESPITE OUR HOPES AND OUR BEST ENDEAVOURS RIGHT UP UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON, IT HAS SO FAR STILL NOT PROVED POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE SIDES THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF TALKS GETTING UNDERWAY. I PARTICULARLY REGRET THIS, AS WE CONSIDER THESE DIFFERENCES COULD AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY. I REALISE THAT THIS NEWS WILL CAUSE CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY. IT IS A DISAPPOINTMENT THAT I SHARE, HENCE THE EFFORTS THAT WE HAVE MADE TO ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO SEE.

WE HAVE MADE CLEAR SINCE OCTOBER THAT WE ARE WILLING TO TALK WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS. THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION.

IT IS NOT FOR ME, OF COURSE, TO REFLECT THE POSITION OF THE CHINESE SIDE. BUT LET ME SPELL OUT UNEQUIVOCALLY THE BASIS ON WHICH THE BRITISH SIDE HAS BEEN PREPARED TO TALK, SO THE COMMUNITY CAN SEE FOR ITSELF THAT WE HAVE BEHAVED REASONABLY AND SINCERELY IN THESE DISCUSSIONS.

FIRST, WE HAVE SAID TO THE CHINESE SIDE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO TALK ON THE BASIS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVERGENCE WITH THE BASIC LAW AND THE RELEVANT UNDERSTANDINGS AND AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA. WE CONSIDER OUR PROPOSALS TO BE WHOLLY COMPATIBLE WITH THESE.

SECONDLY, WE MADE PLAIN THAT IN ANY TALKS THE BRITISH TEAM WOULD INCLUDE THE NECESSARY HONG KONG OFFICIALS WITH THE RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, ON THE SAME BASIS AS OTHER OFFICIALS TAKING PART IN THE TALKS. BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAVE MADE THIS POINT PUBLICLY IN THE LAST 48 HOURS. HONG KONG OFFICIALS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE AS MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH TEAM, INCLUDING DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE JOINT DECLARATION AND IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

/WE HAVE

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WE HAVE ALSO SAID TO THE CHINESE SIDE THAT SIR ROBIN MCLAREN, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO CHINA, WOULD BE THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE, SUPPORTED BY A TEAM CONSISTING OF MICHAEL SZE, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, WILLIAM EHRLMAN, THE POLITICAL ADVISER, PETER LAI, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, AND PETER RICKETTS, HEAD OF THE HONG KONG DEPARTMENT IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE. THERE WOULD BE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE TEAM FROM HONG KONG AND FROM LONDON.

LET ME RECAP BRIEFLY THE HISTORY OF OUR RECENT EXCHANGES WITH THE CHINESE SIDE, SO THAT HONOURABLE MEMBERS CAN BE CLEAR IN THEIR OWN MINDS HOW MATTERS HAVE PROCEEDED. AS I INDICATED IN MY STATEMENT LAST WEEK, HAVING RECEIVED A POSITIVE RESPONSE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF TALKS FROM THE CHINESE SIDE, I DECIDED TO POSTPONE OUR ORIGINAL PLAN FOR GAZETTAL ON 12 FEBRUARY, WHILE MAKING CLEAR TO THE CHINESE SIDE THAT THERE COULD NOT BE AN INDEFINITE DELAY, GIVEN THE PRACTICAL NEED TO PRESS AHEAD WITH LEGISLATION. WE PROPOSED AN EARLY STARTING DATE FOR THE TALKS.

DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF A SOLUTION TO THE REMAINING DIFFICULTIES, I DECIDED, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, TO DELAY GAZETTAL FOR A SECOND TIME ON 19 FEBRUARY AND A THIRD TIME ON 26 FEBRUARY. LAST WEEK, I TOLD THE COUNCIL OF OUR DECISION TO DELAY GAZETTAL FOR A FOURTH TIME.

I EXPLAINED TO THE COUNCIL THAT WE WISHED TO GO THE EXTRA MILE AND GIVE THE CHINESE SIDE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND. TODAY IS THE FIFTH FRIDAY SINCE WE ORIGINALLY DECIDED TO DEFER GAZETTAL. UNFORTUNATELY THE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED AND WE STILL HAVE NO DATE FOR TALKS. I HAVE TO TELL THE COUNCIL THAT WE HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT TALKS COULD BE MADE EARLY NEXT WEEK. I HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT WE COULD NOT GO ON DEFERRING GAZETTAL INDEFINITELY. HAVING DEFERRED GAZETTAL ON FOUR OCCASIONS, I HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, TO GAZETTE THE DRAFT LEGISLATION THIS AFTERNOON. HAVING TAKEN THIS DECISION, WE WILL HAVE TO JUDGE, IN THE LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, WHEN TO INTRODUCE THE DRAFT LEGISLATION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

I WANT TO EMPHASISE TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE THAT WE REMAIN READY TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS. THE REMAINING ISSUES ARE MATTERS WHICH, GIVEN THE WILL, COULD BE SOLVED QUICKLY. I STILL HOPE THEY CAN BE. FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE DONE ALL WE REASONABLY CAN. THAT IS HOW WE WILL CONTINUE TO ACT.

THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT.

/PRESIDENT

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PRESIDENT: QUESTIONS WILL BE ALLOCATED ON THE SAME BASIS AS NORMAL QUESTION TIME, NAMELY PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE ASKED THE LEAST NUMBER OF QUESTIONS DURING GOVERNOR'S QUESTION TIME UP TO THIS POINT. WHERE MEMBERS HAVE EQUAL PRIORITY, SENIORITY WILL DECIDE. I WILL ASK FOR A SHOW OF HANDS BEFORE EACH QUESTION. AN EARLY SHOW OF HANDS WILL NOT ACHIEVE PRIORITY. THE MEMBER CONCERNED, MAY IF HE WISHES, ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FOR THE PURPOSE ONLY OF ELUCIDATION, BUT THE SUPPLEMENTARY SHOULD BE A SHORT, SINGLE QUESTION SO AS NOT TO CUT INTO THE TIME AVAILABLE, THE GOVERNOR HAS TO LEAVE NOT LATER THAN 4.00PM. SHOW OF HANDS:

MR NGAI SHIU-KIT (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PRESIDENT, MR GOVERNOR. THE GOVERNOR HAS TOLD US THAT HE INTENDS TO GAZETTE THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND IF THIS DECISION, THIS IS WHAT YOU SAID, WOULD THAT MEAN THAT YOUR PROPOSALS WOULD BE THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. IS THAT ACTUALLY BEING MADE A PRE-CONDITION? SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PRE-CONDITION; SO ARE YOU THEREFORE GOING AGAINST WHAT YOU HAVE SAID ACTUALLY?

GOVERNOR: NO, I WANT TO ASSURE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AS I'VE SAID ON A LARGE MANY OF PREVIOUS CONDITIONS, EVER SINCE LAST OCTOBER, WE HAVE NO PRE-CONDITIONS WHATSOEVER FOR TALKS. WE HAVEN'T HAD PRE-CONDITIONS, WE DON'T HAVE PRE-CONDITIONS TODAY, WE WON'T HAVE PRE-CONDITIONS IN THE FUTURE. IT IS NOT SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY BEEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS BEEN RAISING ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE CHARACTERISED AS PRE-CONDITIONS FOR TALKS.

MR HENRY TANG: MR PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR, CONSIDERING THAT YOU ARE GAZETTING THE BILL THIS AFTERNOON, WOULD YOU EXPLAIN TO THIS COUNCIL WHY YOU HAVE TO GAZETTE THE ENTIRE BILL, CAN IT NOT BE DONE IN PHASES, BECAUSE THERE ARE CERTAIN ELEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT CONTENTIOUS WITH THE CHINESE AND CAN BE DONE EARLIER WHILE CERTAIN OTHER PHASES CAN BE DONE LATER, SUCH AS THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAPPENS IN '94 AND THE OTHER ONE'S IN '95. COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO THIS COUNCIL PLEASE?

/GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR: WELL, OF COURSE WE HAVE PROCEEDED IN THAT WAY ALREADY, BECAUSE THE COUNCIL HAS BEFORE IT THE LEGISLATION ON THE ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION WHICH IS, I UNDERSTAND, AN ISSUE WHICH HASN'T RAISED CONTROVERSY IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BRITISH AND CHINESE OFFICIALS. I THINK THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL OBSERVE WHEN HE LOOKS AT THE BILL, WHEN HE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY OF DOING THAT, AS OF COURSE CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME WEEKS PAST, I THINK THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL OBSERVE THAT THE BILL FITS TOGETHER AND FITS TOGETHER, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN ONE LOOKS AT OUR APPROACH TO DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND TO THE POSITION OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. SO IT ISN'T EASY TO DISENTANGLE THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE LEGISLATION IN THE WAY THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER REQUESTS. CLEARLY, IF, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU WANT TO STAND IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR, YOU'D WANT TO BE ABLE BY THIS AUTUMN TO HAVE A PRETTY CLEAR IDEA ABOUT THE BOUNDARIES FOR YOUR LIKELY WARD, YOU'D WANT TO HAVE A PRETTY CLEAR IDEA ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THOSE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, I REPEAT, HAVE A CONSIDERABLE RELEVANCE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS. THERE IS ONE OTHER POINT THAT I'D PERHAPS LIKE TO MAKE; THE ISSUES THAT WE'RE DISCUSSING AND DEBATING HAVE TO BE RESOLVED SOONER OR LATER AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM RESOLVED SOONER SO WE CAN GET BACK TO DEBATING OTHER MATTERS. I'M ONLY SORRY THAT IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, MATTERS HAVE BEEN RAISED WHICH, EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE OCCASIONALLY BEEN THE SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY IN THE PAST, HAVE NEVER CAUSED THE SORT OF OBSTACLES THAT WE SEE TODAY. HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH TEAM FOR 10 YEARS OR MORE IN NEGOTIATIONS, WHY NOW IS THAT A PROBLEM?

MR DAVID LI: MR PATTEN, GOVERNOR, LAST FRIDAY YOU MENTIONED THAT ONLY A FEW POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA REMAIN WHICH YOU BELIEVE COULD AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY. WILL YOU INFORM THIS COUNCIL HOW MANY POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT STILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED AND WHAT ARE THEY?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T WANT TO PUT MYSELF IN THE POSITION OF EXPLAINING THE VIEW OF THE CHINESE SIDE TO THESE TALKS ABOUT TALKS. I'VE SET OUT VERY CLEARLY THE BASIS ON WHICH WE WERE PREPARED TO TALK AND I WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF THERE WAS ANY MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL WHO REGARDED THE BASIS THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AS BEING UNREASONABLE. SOME MIGHT THINK THAT WE'D GONE TOO FAR BUT I THINK BY AND LARGE IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ANYBODY TO ARGUE THAT WE HAD BEHAVED UNREASONABLY. IT REMAINS THE CASE THAT AFTER ALL THESE WEEKS, I WAS NOT IN A POSITION TODAY TO COME TO THE COUNCIL AND ANNOUNCE A DATE FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF TALKS. I WASN'T EVEN ABLE TO COME TO THE COUNCIL AND SAY: EARLY NEXT WEEK - IF WE DEFER GAZETTAL TODAY - WE'LL BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE A DATE FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF TALKS.

I'VE SET OUT WHAT OUR VIEWS ARE ON THE TEAM THAT SHOULD TAKE PART IN THE TALKS AND IT IS FOR THE CHINESE SIDE TO EXPLAIN WHY THAT WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTABLE FOR EXAMPLE IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WHICH SOME CHINESE OFFICIALS WERE SUGGESTING SHOULD BE WHERE WE DISCUSS THESE CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS, IS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR THE TALKS WHICH WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS. IT'S VERY DIFFICULT I THINK FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND AND I SUSPECT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR MANY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO UNDERSTAND.

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MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, THE UDHK IS VERY HAPPY TO LEARN THAT THE ELECTORAL BILLS WILL BE GAZETTED BUT WHEN WILL THE BILLS BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL? DOES IT MEAN THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE REPRESENTING PEOPLE, BECAUSE IT WILL BE IN A POSITION TO EXAMINE THE BILLS AND WILL BE ENDORSING THE BILLS SO THAT WE CAN INFLUENCE THE SINO-BRITISH NEGOTIATIONS? AND EVEN IF TALKS ARE REOPENED BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE CHINESE SIDE, I THINK THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT ONLY BE ONE OF THE LEGS OF A THREE-LEGGED-STOOL AND ACTUALLY IT SHOULD PLAY A MUCH MORE ACTIVE ROLE THAN THAT. AS LONG AS THE AGREEMENT IS NOT AGAINST THE JOINT DECLARATION THEN DOES IT MEAN THAT THE UK AND THE CHINESE SIDE MUST ACCEPT IT?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THE HONOURABLE MEMBER HAS ASKED TWO QUESTIONS WHICH ARE RATHER DIFFERENT. ONE IS ABOUT THE TIMING OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION, THE OTHER IS ABOUT THE PRECISE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. AND PERHAPS THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN WILL ALLOW ME TO ANSWER BOTH QUESTIONS IN SOME DETAIL.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF STEPS AS ONE APPROACHES LEGISLATION. FIRST OF ALL, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS TO ENDORSE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, AND IN THE CASE OF THE PROPOSALS ON THE 1994 AND 1995 ELECTIONS THAT HAS BEEN DONE. SECONDLY, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS TO GAZETTE THOSE PROPOSALS AND THAT, AFTER NOT HAVING TAKEN THAT ACTION FOR FOUR FRIDAYS, WE INTEND TO DO TODAY. THE NEXT STEP IS THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO THIS COUNCIL. WE'LL HAVE TO CONSIDER TAKING THAT STEP IN THE LIGHT OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS BUT I WANT TO SAY TO THE COUNCIL STRAIGHTAWAY THAT I STILL HOPE THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO HAVE TALKS ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS. I SAY THAT, HOWEVER, RECOGNISING THAT TIME MOVES ON, RECOGNISING THAT WE ARE NOT IMAGINING THE DIFFICULTY AS WE PROCEED INTO THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF HAVING LESS AND LESS TIME FOR CONSIDERING THESE VERY IMPORTANT MATTERS. I DON'T IMAGINE THAT MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WILL TAKE A DECISION TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF DEBATE THEY WANT TO HAVE ON THESE PROPOSALS MERELY BECAUSE WE HAVE TAKEN AN AMOUNT OF TIME TO ACTUALLY INTRODUCE THEM TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. SO WHILE WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, WE'LL ALSO HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT WE NEED TO GIVE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ADEQUATE TIME TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS.

/THE HONOURABLE

THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN ALSO REFERRED TO THE ROLE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND I HOPE THAT HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL ALLOW ME TO SAY A WORD OR TWO ABOUT THAT BECAUSE IT IS AN ISSUE ON WHICH I THINK IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THERE HAS BEEN SOME UNNECESSARY CONFUSION. LIFE IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH, AS I'VE SAID, ALREADY, WITHOUT IMAGINING OTHER DIFFICULTIES AND WITHOUT CREATING HUGE HYPOTHETICAL CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS. THE ROLE OF THIS COUNCIL IN LEGISLATING IS CLEAR. A NUMBER OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS HAVE IN RECENT DAYS AND WEEKS EXPLAINED THAT ROLE TO OFFICIALS IN PEKING. WE HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE JUDGMENTS OF THIS COUNCIL ON THE LEGISLATION THAT WE PUT BEFORE IT. THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO KNOW OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF THE SOVEREIGN POWER AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF THIS COUNCIL. IT WILL, I'M SURE, BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT UNDER SECTION 26 - IT MIGHT NOT HAVE REMEMBERED THE NUMBER - OF THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS, I CAN'T ACCEPT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WHICH GO AGAINST TREATY OBLIGATIONS ENTERED INTO BY THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE SOVEREIGN POWER. AND IN RELATION TO LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994/95, THERE ARE TWO VERY OBVIOUS TREATY OBLIGATIONS. THE FIRST IS THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE SECOND IS THE CONVENTION ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. I DON'T THINK THAT THIS COUNCIL WOULD BE LIKELY TO TAKE A DECISION WHICH WENT AGAINST THOSE TREATY OBLIGATIONS, BUT I THINK THIS COUNCIL WOULD KNOW PERFECTLY WELL WHAT THE GOVERNOR WOULD BE OBLIGED TO DO WERE IT TO DO SO.

NOW TO STATE THAT CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION AS CLEARLY AS I HAVE, DOESN'T IN MY VIEW IN ANY WAY DETRACT FROM THE FACT THAT THIS COUNCIL HAS TO LEGISLATE ON THE PROPOSALS WHICH I'M GAZETTING TODAY AND WHICH PERHAPS IN DUE COURSE WE WILL BE INTRODUCING.

MRS ELSIE TU: MR PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE GOVERNOR FOR SOME CLARIFICATION, A QUESTION OF CLARIFICATION. I REMEMBER IN THE PAST WHEN HONG KONG PEOPLE ATTENDED THESE MEETINGS, I BELIEVE ERIC HO WAS ONE OF THEM, THEY HAD TO TAKE BRITISH NATIONALITY BEFORE THEY WERE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE MEETINGS. NOW IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF MR MICHAEL SZE AND MR PETER LAI, IF THEY HAVE NOT HAD TO DO THAT, IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME TO BE A PRE-CONDITION THAT'S BEING MADE, WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PAST. I'M NOT QUITE CLEAR ON THAT BUT I'D LIKE SOME CLARIFICATION.

GOVERNOR: NO, I DON'T THINK THE HONOURABLE LADY IS RIGHT ON THAT PARTICULAR POINT THOUGH I WILL - IT'S THE FIRST TIME IT'S BEEN RAISED WITH ME AND I WILL COME BACK TO HER IF THERE IS A PROBLEM ON THAT.

BUT THE ISSUE THAT ARISES IS A PERFECTLY SIMPLE ONE; FOR MANY YEARS, FOR TEN YEARS OR MORE, HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH TEAM THAT NEGOTIATES ON MATTERS AFFECTING HONG KONG. ONE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO WHOM THE HONOURABLE LADY HAS REFERRED, IS A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH TEAM FOR THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. SO I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHY, SUDDENLY, THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN RAISED.

LET ME TELL THE HONOURABLE LADY A WORRY WHICH I HAVE, WHICH I'M SURE SHE WILL UNDERSTAND, EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T NECESSARILY AGREE WITH EVERYTHING I SAY OR EVERYTHING I DO, AND I THINK I MIGHT HAVE GOT THAT RIGHT. I DON'T THINK THAT TRYING TO DIMINISH THE STANDING OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD BE A VERY HOPEFUL WAY OF COMMENCING TALKS ABOUT THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF HONG KONG. I CAN'T MYSELF SEE HOW THAT DEMONSTRATES SINCERITY OR HOW IT DEMONSTRATES A COMMITMENT TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF TALKS, A SUCCESS WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO SEE. I STILL HOPE, I REPEAT IT STRONGLY AGAIN, I STILL HOPE THAT WE CAN HAVE TALKS BUT I DON'T THINK THAT TALKS ON THE BASIS WHICH I'VE DESCRIBED WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

DR K C LAM: MR PRESIDENT, WHAT FACTORS WOULD THE GOVERNOR CONSIDER IN HIS DECISION TO DECIDE ON THE TIMING OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL INTO THIS COUNCIL?

GOVERNOR: I'D HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF A NUMBER OF FACTORS, FOR EXAMPLE WHETHER DESPITE THE DISAPPOINTING DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LAST DAYS, OR WEEKS OR MONTHS, I'D HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER THERE SEEMED A REASONABLE BASIS FOR TALKS AND FOR DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY POSTPONING INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATION. THAT IS THE SORT OF ISSUE WHICH I WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER. IT MAY HAPPEN IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, BUT WE'LL OBVIOUSLY KEEP THE MATTER UNDER REVIEW WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND OF COURSE KEEP THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FULLY INFORMED.

DR CONRAD LAM (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PRESIDENT, A QUESTION FOR THE GOVERNOR. HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR LIVELIHOOD. WE ARE WORRIED THAT SHOULD THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CANNOT REALLY RESUME TALKS OR BE ON HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP, WOULD THAT AFFECT THE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER PROJECTS STRADDLING 1997? WILL THEY DELIBERATELY MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT IN THOSE ASPECTS AND THEREFORE AFFECT THE LIVELIHOOD AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN HONG KONG? SO ARE THERE ANY MEASURES THAT YOU HAVE IN THE PIPELINE TO PREVENT SUCH THINGS FROM HAPPENING?

GOVERNOR: AS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MADE PLAIN IN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET THE OTHER DAY, WE WANT TO SEE GREATER INVESTMENT IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF HONG KONG AS WELL AS IN THE SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF HONG KONG, BECAUSE IN OUR JUDGMENT THAT PROVIDES THE BEST BASIS FOR THE CONTINUING STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THIS TERRITORY, THE BEST BASIS FOR CONTINUING THE ECONOMIC MIRACLE WHICH IS HONG KONG. I DON'T THINK THAT ANYTHING THAT WE HAVE DONE OR THAT WE HAVE SAID HAS IN ANY WAY UNDERMINED THE PROSPECTS OF A BETTER FUTURE WITH STRONGER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL RECALL WHAT THE BAR COUNCIL HAD TO SAY ABOUT WHAT OTHERS HAD SAID AND DONE ABOUT MATTERS AFFECTING INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG. OTHERS WILL RECALL WHAT THE BAR COUNCIL SAID ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THOSE REMARKS HAD VIOLATED THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, NOT REMARKS MADE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, NOT REMARKS MADE BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN ALL REMEMBER THAT BEFORE 1997 AND AFTER THE RESUMPTION OF CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997, OUR PRINCIPAL CONCERN MUST BE THE WELL-BEING OF ORDINARY FAMILIES AND ORDINARY INDIVIDUALS IN HONG KONG, AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYBODY PLAYING POLITICS WITH THAT.

MR LAU CHIN-SHEK (THROUGH INTERPRETER): THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT, WILL THE GOVERNOR TELL US THIS. JUST SUPPOSE TALKS CANNOT BE REOPENED, HOW DOES THE GOVERNMENT PLAN TO PREPARE FOR THE 94/95 ELECTION, WHAT WILL BE THE TIMETABLE FOR IT? IN THE CASE WHERE TALKS ARE REOPENED, HOW CAN YOU MAKE SURE THAT THE TALKS CAN YIELD RESULTS BEFORE JULY SO THAT YOU CAN LEGISLATE TO PREPARE FOR THE 94/95 ELECTION?

GOVERNOR: IF THERE ARE NO TALKS, THEN IN DUE COURSE THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS THAT WE HAVE PUT TO IT. I HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. AS I SAID LAST WEEK, NO RUBBER-STAMP, AS I DISCOVER WEDNESDAY AFTER WEDNESDAY. I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN THIS COUNCIL TO PRODUCE PROPOSALS, TO AGREE PROPOSALS, WHICH WILL BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BECAUSE I THINK THIS COUNCIL IS IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE MOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND UNDERSTANDS THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND UNDERSTANDS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO SECURE THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS. SO I DON'T HAVE ANY LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THIS COUNCIL TO COME TO SENSIBLE, BALANCED, MODERATE, MODEST DECISIONS ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994 AND '95 ELECTIONS IN GOOD TIME FOR US TO ENSURE THAT THOSE ELECTIONS ARE SMOOTHLY CONDUCTED.

IF TALKS OPEN, WHICH I STILL HOPE WILL HAPPEN, THEN THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS QUITE RIGHT TO SAY THAT THEY WOULD NEED TO BE CONCLUDED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, IN TIME TO ALLOW THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994 AND '95. BECAUSE AS I SAID EARLIER, I DON'T THINK THERE IS GOING TO BE A SELF-DENYING ORDINANCE IN THIS COUNCIL WHICH ENCOURAGES HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO AGREE THAT THEY WON'T DEBATE THE PROPOSALS BEFORE THEM FOR LONGER THAN A COUPLE OF WEEKS OR SOME RIDICULOUS TIME CONSTRAINT LIKE THAT. THE LONGER, OF COURSE, IT TAKES TO GET TALKS GOING, THE LESS TIME THERE IS FOR TALKS SINCE TALKS HAVE TO FINISH IN TIME TO MAKE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

MR GILBERT LEUNG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, YOU HAVE DECIDED TODAY TO GAZETTE YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS. THAT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL INCREASE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN AND WILL HAVE A GREAT IMPACT ON HONG KONG SOCIETY. HAS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ASSESSED THE IMPACT THIS ACTION WILL HAVE ON OUR SOCIETY AND WHAT CONTINGENT MEASURES ARE THERE TO REDUCE THE IMPACT ON OUR PEOPLE IF CHINA, BECAUSE OF THIS MOVE, WILL 'BUILD THEIR OWN STOVE' ARE THERE CONTINGENCY PLANS THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS?

GOVERNOR: I'M NOT SURE THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS RIGHT TO ASSUME THE WORST OF CHINA AND CHINESE OFFICIALS. IS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER SERIOUSLY SAYING THAT CHINA WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AS DIFFICULT AS POSSIBLE FOR THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF HONG KONG? I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE A VERY SENSIBLE THING TO DO AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT CHINA WILL REGARD THAT AS BEING A SENSIBLE BASIS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997. I HOPE THAT CHINA WILL STILL JOIN US IN TALKING ABOUT THE 1994/95 ARRANGEMENTS, I REPEAT WE HAVE SET NO PRE-CONDITIONS FOR THOSE TALKS. IF THERE AREN'T TO BE TALKS THEN I HOPE THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS WILL HAVE THE SAME CONFIDENCE IN THE GOOD SENSE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT I DO.

CAN I JUST, ON A POINT OF ELUCIDATION, IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION - A QUESTION FROM THE HONOURABLE LADY WHO ASKED ME ABOUT MEMBERS OF BRITISH TEAMS IN FORMAL DIPLOMATIC TALKS WITH THE CHINESE WHO DID NOT HAVE BRITISH PASSPORTS - I, OR OTHERS HAVE IDENTIFIED THREE SUCH OFFICIALS FOR ME AND I CAN GIVE THOSE NAMES TO THE HONOURABLE LADY ANY TIME SHE WOULD LIKE.

MR ERIC LI: MR PRESIDENT, MR GOVERNOR, YOU HAVE NOW GAZETTED A BILL AND NOT MADE A DECISION TO INTRODUCE IT TO THIS COUNCIL. THAT CLEARLY SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT YOU STILL HOPE THAT TALKS WILL RESUME AND THAT YOU MAY BE WILLING TO AMEND YOUR PROPOSALS BEFORE TAKING THEM TO THIS COUNCIL. DO YOU HAVE AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE BEYOND WHICH YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO WAIT FOR THE CHINESE BEFORE INTRODUCING THE FINAL BILL TO THE COUNCIL AND ONCE THE BILL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED, DOES IT IMPLY THAT YOU WILL NO LONGER CONSIDER MAKING ANY AMENDMENT TO THE BILL BY THE GOVERNMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS?

GOVERNOR: ON THE LATTER POINT, WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE TALKS I CERTAINLY COULDN'T GIVE ANY GUARANTEE THAT THE EXECUTIVE WOULDN'T SEEK TO AMEND THE LEGISLATION WHEN IT'S BEING CONSIDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THIS COUNCIL. FOR EXAMPLE, LET ME TAKE AN OBVIOUS POINT; I THINK THAT INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLORS WILL HAVE VIEWS ABOUT THE LEGISLATION AND THEY MAY HAVE VIEWS WHICH ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S, AND THEY MAY HAVE VIEWS WHICH ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S AND COMMAND MAJORITY SUPPORT IN THIS COUNCIL, IN WHICH CASE THE GOVERNMENT MAY WELL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THOSE VIEWS IN SUBSEQUENT PARTS OF THE BILL. IT MAY HAVE TO AMEND OTHER PARTS OF THE BILL TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ITSELF. ON THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN'S FIRST QUESTION; WE DON'T HAVE AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE. IF I'D HAD AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WAIT SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY IN ORDER TO GAZETTE THE LEGISLATION BUT AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, WE DO WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL HAS THE AMOUNT OF TIME IT WILL REQUIRE AND THAT IT WOULD WANT IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS THAT ARE BEFORE IT. I THINK IT WOULD BE PRETTY INSULTING TO THE COUNCIL IF I WAS TO SAY WE DON'T NEED TO HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHEN WE BRING THE BILLS FORWARD INTO THE COUNCIL BECAUSE THE COUNCIL WILL SPEND AS LITTLE TIME AS WE REQUIRE ON DEBATING THESE MATTERS. I DON'T WANT TO SET A DEADLINE, I DON'T WANT TO RING A DATE IN THE CALENDAR, BUT TIME IS NOT INFINITE AND IF THERE ARE NOT GOING TO BE TALKS, THEN I'M SURE THAT MANY HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL TAKE THE VIEW THAT WE SHOULD GET ON WITH LEGISLATING.

MR STEPHEN CHEONG: GOVERNOR, IT'S VERY DISAPPOINTING THAT THERE IS NO TALK BEING ANNOUNCED TODAY, AND SHOULD FURTHER ATTEMPTS FOR TALKS FAIL WILL THE GOVERNOR PLEASE INFORM THIS COUNCIL HOW YOU, SIR, AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, IS TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION PROMISED TO US IN THE JOINT DECLARATION WILL HAPPEN IF CONTINUITY OF SYSTEMS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED? AND WILL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DO YOUR OWN THING BETWEEN NOW AND 1997 AND THEN LET THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DO THEIR OWN THING AFTER 1997?

GOVERNOR: I WOULD LIKE TO SEE, AS MUCH AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER, A SMOOTH TRANSITION. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF ARRANGEMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR ELECTIONS WHICH ARE FAIR RATHER THAN A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WEREN'T FAIR. IT WOULDN'T SEEM TO ME TO MAKE VERY MUCH SENSE TO HAVE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND WHICH THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE MIGHT REGARD AS DISHONOURABLE. SO WE WANT TO SEE A SMOOTH TRANSITION BUT WE ALSO WANT TO SEE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF SENSIBLE ELECTORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

THERE IS ONE OTHER THING THAT I SHOULD SAY. IN ORDER TO SECURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION IT IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT TO BE AS ACCOMMODATING AND CONCILIATORY AS ONE POSSIBLY CAN BE. WHILE MILLIONS OF WORDS OF ABUSE HAVE BEEN HEAPED ON THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNOR OVER THE LAST MONTHS, I'VE TRIED TO KEEP AS MILD AND QUIET AND CALM AS POSSIBLE. BUT NOBODY SHOULD THINK THAT BEING ACCOMMODATING, BEING CONCILIATORY IS THE SAME AS ABANDONING YOUR PRINCIPLES. I THINK THAT THIS COUNCIL WOULD BE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THAT WHAT IS MEANT BY A SMOOTH TRANSITION IS THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER, IN DISCUSSIONS, HAVE A BOTTOM LINE. THAT'S NOT THE BASIS FOR A SENSIBLE SMOOTH TRANSITION.

MR STEPHEN CHEONG: SIR, YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION.

GOVERNOR: WHICH WAS?

MR STEPHEN CHEONG: WILL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DO THEIR OWN THING NOW AND LET THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DO THEIR OWN THING AFTER 1997?

GOVERNOR: WHAT WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DO IS TO PUT IN PLACE ARRANGEMENTS, NOT ONLY WHICH ARE WHOLLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION BUT WHICH SEEK TO BUTTRESS THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. WE WILL ALSO TRY TO ENSURE THAT WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS ARE PUT IN PLACE IN HONG KONG AND ENSURE IN OUR VIEW AND IN THE VIEW OF THIS COUNCIL, A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO THE BASIC LAW. AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE SORT OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THIS COUNCIL WOULD FIND ACCEPTABLE BEFORE 1997 WILL BE FOUND ACCEPTABLE BY A CREDIBLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AFTER 1997, TOO.

MR HOWARD YOUNG: MR PRESIDENT, SIR, ALTHOUGH YOU ARE RIGHT IN SAYING THAT OVER THE LAST FORTNIGHT VARIOUS GROUPS HAVE EXPLAINED TO OFFICIALS IN BEIJING THE SIGNIFICANCE AND NECESSITY OF LEGISLATION PASSED IN THE COUNCIL, I WOULD THINK THAT TIME CONSTRAINTS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXPLAIN THESE TO VERY MINUTE DETAILS. SO WILL THE GOVERNMENT EXERT ALL EFFORTS TO ALSO MAKE CLEAR THAT THERE IS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN GAZETTING AND ACTUALLY INTRODUCING IN THE COUNCIL, AND THAT LEGALLY AND PROCEDURE-WISE IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SHOULD TALKS COMMENCE AFTER GAZETTING, THEN THERE COULD BE EVEN GAZETTING OF AMENDMENTS OR WHATEVER BEFORE INTRODUCTION THAT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY REASONABLE AND FAIR CONCLUSIONS OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GAZETTING AND INTRODUCTION INTO THE COUNCIL?

GOVERNOR: WE'VE MADE IT CLEAR IN CONTACTS OVER RECENT WEEKS THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GAZETTAL AND THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION. I THINK I'VE MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON AND SAID THAT WE STILL HOPE THAT THE PROBLEMS WHICH ALAS HAVE BECOME LARGER RATHER THAN SMALLER IN THE LAST DAY OR TWO, IF THOSE CAN BE RESOLVED, WE STILL HOPE THAT THERE CAN BE TALKS. THAT'S WHY I MADE THE REMARKS I DID EARLIER ABOUT HAVING TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN REACHING A DECISION ON WHEN TO INTRODUCE THE LEGISLATION. IT'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN A DISAPPOINTMENT THAT FRIDAY AFTER FRIDAY AFTER FRIDAY AFTER FRIDAY WE'VE DEFERRED GAZETTAL BUT STILL HAVEN'T MADE THE PROGRESS WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MADE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE HAVE HAD NO PRE-CONDITIONS FOR TALKS.

MR WONG WAI-YIN (THROUGH INTERPRETER): THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT. MR GOVERNOR, IF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CAN, ON POINTS OF DIFFERENCES THAT YOU HAVE MENTIONED, START TO TALK AGAIN AND YET THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS ASKING YOU TO DELAY INTRODUCING THE LEGISLATION TO LEGCO AND ALSO DURING THE PERIOD OF SCRUTINY BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THEY MIGHT ASK YOU TO WITHDRAW THE LEGISLATION, HOW WOULD YOU REACT? IF YOU WILL NOT DEFER INTRODUCTION INTO COUNCIL OR WITHDRAW THE LEGISLATION FROM THE COUNCIL, WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT MIGHT AFFECT SUCH THINGS AND MAKE IT HAPPEN?

GOVERNOR: I MAY BE BEING LESS INTELLIGENT THAN I SHOULD BE, BUT I'M NOT SURE THAT I WHOLLY FOLLOW THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S QUESTION. THERE WAS A PILE OF HYPOTHOSES BUT I WASN'T SURE WHAT HE WANTED ME TO SAY WHEN HE WAS STANDING ON TOP OF THEM. IF THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN AND I HOPE THAT I'M SERIOUSLY AND SINCERELY ANSWERING WHAT I THINK MAY BE HIS POINT - IF THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN IS SAYING 'ARE THERE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD AMEND LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON THE '94 AND '95 ELECTIONS PUT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'. THEN THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION MUST BE YES. IT WOULD BE BIGOTED, NARROW-MINDED, TO SAY ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT BUT ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONVINCED THAT THE PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM AMENDMENT WERE BETTER THAN THE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE IN THE LEGISLATION WHICH IS BEING GAZETTED TODAY. THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POINT IN PUTTING BEFORE THE COUNCIL PROPOSALS WHICH WE THOUGHT WERE LESS GOOD OR LESS LIKELY TO COMMAND THE ASSENT AND ACQUIESCENCE OF THE COMMUNITY. LITTLE POINT IN PUTTING SUCH PROPOSALS FORWARD BUT I DON'T WANT ON THIS OCCASION OR ON ANY OTHER TO GIVE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR PROPOSALS ARE CARVED IN TABLETS OF STONE WHICH IS NOT TO SAY THAT THEY'RE WRITTEN IN INVISIBLE OR EASILY WIPEABLE INK.

MR WONG WAI-YIN (THROUGH INTERPRETER): I BEG YOUR PARDON MR GOVERNOR. MAY I VERY BRIEFLY REPHRASE MY QUESTION. IF CHINA AND BRITAIN CAN RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND ARE WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND RESUME TALKS ON CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS - AND YET THE CHINESE ARE SAYING THAT YOU SHOULD DEFER INTRODUCING THE LEGISLATION TO LEGCO OR DURING THE PERIOD OF IT'S EXAMINATION BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YOU SHOULD WITHDRAW THEM - NOW WILL YOU DO WHAT THEY ASK YOU? NOW IF YOUR ANSWER IS NO THEN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL LEAD TO YOUR WITHDRAWING THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FROM LEGCO?

GOVERNOR: I'M STILL HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY IN FOLLOWING THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN'S QUESTION AND PERHAPS THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S THE END OF WHAT HAS BEEN A WEEK THAT'S LASTED ABOUT FOURTEEN DAYS! LET ME SAY, AND I HOPE THAT I'M ANSWERING THE SPIRIT OF THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN'S QUESTION, EVEN IF I'VE FAILED TO IDENTIFY SOME OF ITS' INNER SIGNIFICANCE. IF WE WERE TO HAVE TALKS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS, THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN HAVING THOSE TALKS IN OTHER THAN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT - THAT TRUE, I'VE MADE THAT CLEAR AGAIN, AGAIN AND AGAIN. THE TRUTH IS THAT I THINK TALKS WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT ONE WOULDN'T ENTER INTO THEM IN AS HOPEFUL AND POSITIVE A SPIRIT AS POSSIBLE. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WAS HOPING WE WOULD DISCOVER EARLY IN ANY TALKS WAS WHAT COUNTER-PROPOSALS CHINESE OFFICIALS HAD TO OFFER IN COMPARISON TO THOSE THAT WE'VE HAD ON THE TABLE SINCE LAST OCTOBER, ANY COUNTER-PROPOSALS TO THOSE PUT TOGETHER BY THE COMMUNITY IN THAT VAST COMPENDIUM THAT WE'VE ASSEMBLED OF ALTERNATIVES. THERE HAVE BEEN MILLIONS OF WORDS FROM CHINESE OFFICIALS AND NEWSPAPERS WHICH CUSTOMARILY IN A SPIRIT OF BELIEF OF FREE-SPEECH SUPPORT THE POSITION OF CHINESE OFFICIALS - MILLIONS OF WORDS OF CRITICISM OF THE PROPOSALS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAVE PUT FORWARD, CRITICISM OF THE PROPOSALS WHICH HONOURABLE MEMBERS HAVE PUT FORWARD, CRITICISM OF PROPOSALS WHICH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE PUT FORWARD. THERE HAVEN'T BEEN TEN WORDS WHICH HAVE ACTUALLY DESCRIBED A COUNTER-SET OF CHINESE PROPOSALS. SO, IF THERE ARE TALKS, I WOULD HOPE THAT WE'D BE ABLE TO LOOK AT CHINESE PROPOSALS AND I REPEAT WE WOULD GO INTO TALKS WITH AN OPEN MIND AND IF TALKS PRODUCED BETTER PROPOSALS THAN THE ONES' WE'VE PUT ON THE TABLE, I WOULD HAVE TO SHARE THAT PERCEPTION WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND TRY TO PERSUADE THEM OF IT.

MR HA WING-HO (THROUGH INTERPRETER): THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE GOVERNOR THIS - SINCE THE ELECTORAL BILL WILL BE GAZETTED THIS AFTERNOON AND SO WILL THE UK CONTINUE TO LOBBY THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO LOBBY FOR THEIR SUPPORT TO THESE PROPOSALS?

GOVERNOR: THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HASN'T BEEN DOING THAT, NOR HAS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT WON'T DO THAT, NOR WILL THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. WHAT WE DO PERCEIVE IS THAT MANY COUNTRIES, NOT SURPRISINGLY ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENS IN HONG KONG AND HOPE THAT HONG KONG WILL ENJOY AS SUCCESSFUL A FUTURE AS IT HAS HAD A RECENT PAST. WE FIND THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WHILE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IS A MATTER FOR THE PRESENT AND THE SOVEREIGN POWER, TAKE INEVITABLY AN INTEREST IN THAT SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION AND ARE SURPRISED THAT THE MODEST PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD BY THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS HAVE DRAWN SUCH A REACTION FROM CHINA. THAT IS NOT INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE ISSUE AND I'M SURE THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS DIDN'T THINK THAT SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW'S VIEWS ON HONG KONG REPRESENTED INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE ISSUE. THAT JUST REFLECTS THE FACT THAT HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRES OF THE WORLD, IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMUNITIES IN THE WORLD AND MANY PEOPLE LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENS IN HONG KONG AS A TOUCH-STONE FOR THEIR VIEWS ON MANY OTHER THINGS. I WILL CONTINUE AS PREVIOUS GOVERNORS HAVE DONE TO REPRESENT HONG KONG IN OTHER COUNTRIES. I WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLAIN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HONG KONG BOTH HERE AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THAT WON'T BE INTERNATIONALISING HONG KONG, IT WILL BE DOING WHAT I'M OBLIGED TO DO TODAY AND WHAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE SAR GOVERNMENT WILL BE OBLIGED TO DO AFTER 1997.

MR EDWARD HO: MR PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR, ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE DECIDED THAT TIME HAS RUN OUT AND YOU HAVE TO GAZETTE THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS NO LATER THAN TODAY, YET YOU HAVE INDICATED THAT YOU HAVE NOT DECIDED WHEN YOU WILL INTRODUCE THESE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO THIS COUNCIL. IF YOU CAN DO THE LATTER, WHY CAN'T YOU POSTPONE THE FORMER, THAT IS DEFER THE GAZETTAL UNTIL IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY? IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ANY CRITICISMS THAT MAY BE PUT TO YOU OF POSSIBLY CAVING-IN TO THE CHINESE? AND FURTHER TO THAT, HAVE YOU TAKEN ANY SOUNDINGS FROM THIS COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, AS TO THE TIMING OF THE GAZETTAL AND ARE YOU PREPARED TO TAKE SOUNDINGS FROM THIS COUNCIL ON THE TIMING OF INTRODUCTION OF THOSE PROPOSALS TO THIS COUNCIL?

GOVERNOR: IF I WAS WORRIED ABOUT CRITICISMS, I GUESS THAT I WOULD HAVE PURSUED A RATHER DIFFERENT PATH OVER RECENT MONTHS. I DON'T THINK THAT POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, I DON'T THINK THAT LEADERSHIP OF A COMMUNITY, IS ABOUT LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER THE WHOLE TIME AT CRITICISM. I THINK THAT IF I ATTEMPTED TO GOVERN HONG KONG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAUDITS OF 'WEN WEI PO' I'D TAKE SOME PRETTY CURIOUS DECISIONS. WE HAVE TO TAKE DECISIONS ABOUT LEGISLATION A STEP AT A TIME. I EXPLAINED EARLIER THAT THE FIRST DECISION FOR US TO TAKE WAS THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ENDORSE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, AND WE DID THAT. THE NEXT DECISION IS THE DECISION TO GAZETTE. THE THIRD STEP, THE THIRD DECISION, IS THE DECISION WHEN TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION. YOU CAN'T TAKE THE THIRD DECISION WITHOUT TAKING THE SECOND.

BUT I DO SUGGEST TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER, AND TO OTHER HONOURABLE MEMBERS, THAT THEY LOOK CAREFULLY AT MY STATEMENT, THAT THEY CONSIDER WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING IN THE LAST WEEKS TO CHINESE OFFICIALS, THAT THEY CONSIDER WHETHER THERE IS ANY ELEMENT, ANY ELEMENT AT ALL, OF THE PROPOSALS THAT WE HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO STAND ON WHICH IS UNREASONABLE. WHAT, IN THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE SUGGESTED, DOES THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN THINK WAS AN UNREASONABLE STANCE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT? THAT'S A DECISION WHICH THE WHOLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE WHOLE COMMUNITY SHOULD ACTUALLY TAKE ACCOUNT OF. I DON'T THINK THAT IT'S THE VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY OR THE VIEW OF INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHOULD NEVER, EVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE A BACKBONE, OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, HAVE A BOTTOM LINE. THAT WOULD BE A VERY CURIOUS WAY TO GOVERN HONG KONG.

THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN ASKS NEXT, WHETHER WE WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE DECISION THAT WE TAKE ON INTRODUCING THE LEGISLATION. WE'LL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THAT, AND WE'LL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY ON THAT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER OR OTHER LEGISLATORS ARE GOING TO SAY TO THE GOVERNMENT: WE WILL GIVE YOU A GUARANTEE THAT WE WON'T NEED VERY MUCH TIME TO DEBATE THESE BILLS, SO YOU CAN GO ON PUTTING OFF INTRODUCING THEM TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS LONG AS YOU LIKE. I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE THE POSITION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS. I'D BE VERY SURPRISED IF IT WAS.

MR EDWARD HO: I THINK THE GOVERNOR HAS MISUNDERSTOOD MY FIRST QUESTION. MY FIRST QUESTION WAS NOT RELATING TO THE REASONABLENESS OF THE PROPOSALS, IT WAS REALLY TALKING ABOUT THE TIMING BETWEEN GAZETTAL AND INTRODUCTION. SO FOR INSTANCE, IF INTRODUCTION WERE NOT TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS, THEN MY QUESTION IS: WHY CAN'T THE GAZETTAL BE DEFERRED SEVEN DAYS? BECAUSE INTRODUCTION AND GAZETTAL COULD TAKE - MORE OR LESS IN THE SAME MOMENTS.

GOVERNOR: BUT AT ANY STAGE WHEN WE GAZETTE, THE SAME QUESTION ABOUT INTRODUCTION COMES UP. I COULD - IF I WASN'T LEADING A GOVERNMENT OF SUCH LEGENDARY PATIENCE - I COULD TAKE THE VIEW THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED, IN VIEW OF OUR EXPERIENCE OVER THE LAST FOUR OR FIVE WEEKS, DIRECTLY TO INTRODUCE THE LEGISLATION. I'VE SAID AGAIN AND AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON THAT WE'LL WANT TO LOOK AT OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND STILL HOPE THAT WE CAN HAVE TALKS. BUT I THINK IF I'D COME TO THE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON AND SAID TO THE COUNCIL: WE HAVEN'T GOT A DATE FOR TALKS; WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOT A DATE WHEN I'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A DATE FOR TALKS; WE HAVEN'T GOT AGREEMENT THAT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHOULD BE PART OF THE BRITISH TEAM AS THEY HAVE BEEN FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS. IF I'D COME TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON SAYING ALL THAT AND THEN GOING ON TO SAY: NEVERTHELESS, WE WON'T GAZETTE AGAIN FOR ANOTHER FRIDAY, I THINK THIS COUNCIL WOULD HAVE REGARDED ME AS BEING MORE THAN A TRIFLE INDECISIVE. I THINK THE COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE REGARDED ME AS MORE THAN A TRIFLE INDECISIVE. I THINK A LOT OF MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE REGARDED IT AS INDECISIVE. BECAUSE I'VE HEARD MORE AND MORE PEOPLE SAYING: WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE THIS IS GOING, WE WANT A DECISION, WE DON'T JUST WANT TO GO ON HANGING ABOUT.

MR MARTIN BARROW: MR PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR, CAN WE TAKE OURSELVES AWAY FROM CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR A MOMENT. AS YOU'VE SAID EARLIER, THERE ARE MANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH WE NEED TO GET ON WITH OUTSIDE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, ON OCTOBER 7TH YOU EMPHASISED YOUR DETERMINATION THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BE THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY PLACE IN ASIA. COULD YOU ADVISE WHAT SPECIFIC ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THAT REMAINS THE CASE?

GOVERNOR: I MADE A PARTICULARLY MOVING SPEECH TO THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS YESTERDAY, IN WHICH I TRIED TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION AS WELL AS I COULD. THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WHO IS HIMSELF A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS WELL AS UNDERTAKING MANY PUBLIC SERVICE OBLIGATIONS, WILL I THINK BE AWARE OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET WHICH CONFIRM THE THRUST OF GOVERNMENT POLICY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THIS COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO GROW AND EXPAND ON THE BASIS OF UNFETTERED PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. I THINK THAT GUARANTEEING SOUND MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICY WITH LOW TAX, WITH PUBLIC SPENDING WHICH GROWS IN LINE WITH THE ECONOMY RATHER THAN AHEAD OF GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY, WITH RESERVES WHICH WILL BE GREATER IN 1997 EVEN THAN WE WERE PREDICTING LAST YEAR, I THINK DECISIONS WHICH CONFIRM THOSE ELEMENTS OF MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICY WILL ENSURE THAT WE REMAIN THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY OR ONE OF THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES IN THE AREA.

BUT THERE WERE OTHER DECISIONS WHICH I THOUGHT, IF I MAY SAY SO, WERE ALSO VERY HELPFUL. FIRST OF ALL, I THOUGHT THE ADDITIONAL AND WELL JUSTIFIED ASSISTANCE THAT WE'RE PROPOSING TO GIVE TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY. WHY DO I MENTION THE TOURIST INDUSTRY? - A FORMER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER ONCE IN A SPEECH SAID, "WHY DO I SPEAK ABOUT THE NAVY TODAY?" AND A HECKLER SHOUTED OUT, "BECAUSE YOU'RE IN CHATHAM". - WHY DO I SPEAK OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY? NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S SERVICE TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER KNOWS THAT THERE ARE SIX MILLION TOURISTS - SORRY, I THINK IT'S MORE THAN THAT - SEVEN MILLION TOURISTS COMING TO HONG KONG EVERY YEAR, IT'S THE MOST POPULAR TOURIST CENTRE IN ASIA AND WE WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

SECONDLY, I THINK THE DECISIONS THAT WE'VE TAKEN ABOUT THE EXTENSION TO THE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE CONFIRMING SUCCESS, UNDERLINING THE ENORMOUSLY VALUABLE JOB WHICH THE CENTRE HAS DONE, WHICH THE TDC HAS DONE, I THINK THAT IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE. I HOPE THAT IN DUE COURSE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT FURTHER SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY AND NOT JUST FOR THE PROMOTION OF OUR EXPORTS. I THINK THAT THE DECISIONS THAT WE'VE ANNOUNCED ABOUT THE MONETARY AUTHORITY AND ABOUT BROADENING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE EXCHANGE FUND ARE ALL HELPFUL TO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY. WHAT WE'VE DONE ABOUT EDUCATION AND RE-TRAINING. I COULD GO ON ALMOST AS LONG AS I DID TO THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS TO WHOM I'M AFRAID I DIDN'T MENTION TOURISM - BUT NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE HONOURABLE WASN'T THERE.

PRESIDENT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDING ORDERS I NOW ADJOURN THE SITTING UNTIL WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1993.

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ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1993
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THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1993 IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE ABOVE-MENTIONED BILL SETS OUT IN LEGISLATIVE FORM THE REMAINING PROPOSALS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL PACKAGE IN THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 7, LAST YEAR.

IT PROVIDES FOR THE LOWERING OF THE VOTING AGE FROM 21 TO 18, THE INTRODUCTION OF A "SINGLE-SEAT, SINGLE-VOTE" SYSTEM FOR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS, THE ABOLITION OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERSHIP OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS (DBS) AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (WITH AN INCREASE IN THEIR DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS), THE BROADENING OF THE FRANCHISE OF SOME EXISTING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES (FCS), AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES ENCOMPASSING HONG KONG'S WORKFORCE AND AN ELECTION COMMITTEE COMPRISING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO RETURN 10 MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1995.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID UNDER THE BILL, CORPORATE VOTERS IN THE EXISTING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SYSTEM WOULD BE REPLACED BY INDIVIDUALS (E.G. COMPANY DIRECTORS OR MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES) WHO CONTROLLED THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CORPORATIONS OR ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED IN THE RELEVANT CONSTITUENCIES.

"THIS WILL BROADEN THE FRANCHISE FOR THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, FINANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION, TOURISM, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND LABOUR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES," HE SAID.

THE FRANCHISE FOR THE SOCIAL SERVICES, TEACHING, HEALTH CARE, AND ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WILL ALSO BE BROADENED TO ENFRANCHISE MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG SOCIAL WELFARE PERSONNEL REGISTRATION COUNCIL, REGISTERED SCHOOL MANAGERS, MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, GROUPS OF HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND REGISTERED HOSPITALS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

THE TEACHING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY WILL BE RENAMED THE EDUCATION FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY TO REFLECT THE WIDER INTERESTS CONCERNED.

THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES PROPOSED ARE: PRIMARY PRODUCTION, POWER AND CONSTRUCTION; TEXTILES AND GARMENTS; MANUFACTURING; IMPORT AND EXPORT; WHOLESALE AND RETAIL; HOTELS AND CATERING; TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; AND COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES.

TOGETHER WITH THE EXPANDED FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THESE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WILL GIVE EVERY ELIGIBLE VOTER IN OUR WORKING POPULATION OF 2.7 MILLION THE OPPORTUNITY TO ELECT A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO REPRESENT HIM OR HER AT THE WORK PLACE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID MEMBERSHIP OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE WOULD BE DRAWN FROM THE DISTRICT BOARDS. DB MEMBERS WHO FORM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE WILL, AS WITH OTHER WORKING PERSONS, HAVE AT MOST TWO VOTES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS: ONE IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTION, AND ANOTHER IN EITHER THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY OR THE ELECTION COMMITTEE ELECTION.

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PLAN FOR AIRPORT RAILWAY IMMERSSED TUBE PUBLISHED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) GAZETTED THE FORESHORE AND SEABED AREAS THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE CONTRUCTION OF THE IMMERSSED TUBE TUNNEL FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO) SAID THE NOTIFICATION, UNDER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED ORDINANCE, WAS A STATUTORY STEP WHICH HAD TO BE TAKEN TO PREPARE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL UNDER THE HARBOUR.

"THE GAZETTING OF THIS NOTICE IS THEREFORE PART OF OUR STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE WHOLE OF THE AIRPORT RAILWAY PROJECT IS UNDIMINISHED," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE PURPOSE OF PUBLISHING THE GAZETTE NOTICE IS TO ESTABLISH WHAT LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OR INTERESTS MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE WORKS, WITH CLAIMS TO BE CONSIDERED AND DEALT WITH IN DUE COURSE.

THE AREA INVOLVED COVERS ABOUT 16.7 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED ALONG THE ALIGNMENT OF THE TUNNEL.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE OR SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS WITHIN TWO MONTHS, THAT IS ON OR BEFORE MAY 12, 1993.

THE SUBMISSION SHOULD DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH IT IS CLAIMED THAT HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE NOTICE (IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE) TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN NO. KM4942 WILL BE DISPLAYED ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER); THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL; AND THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD CARPARK BUILDING, 15 MIDDLE ROAD, KOWLOON.

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HK - A KEY REGIONAL CENTRE
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OVERSEAS COMPANIES HAVE SET UP 1,345 REGIONAL OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG, A RECENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT REVEALS.

THE 1992 SURVEY OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATION BY OVERSEAS COMPANIES IN HONG KONG IDENTIFIED 588 REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND 757 REGIONAL OFFICES AS AT JUNE 1 LAST YEAR.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T H BARMA, SAID THIS WAS THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF SURVEYS BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT TO STUDY REGIONAL REPRESENTATION BY OVERSEAS COMPANIES IN HONG KONG.

IN THE LAST SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 1991, A TOTAL OF 602 REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND 278 REGIONAL OFFICES OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES WERE IDENTIFIED IN HONG KONG.

MR BARMA EMPHASISED, HOWEVER, THAT CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED WHEN YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON WAS MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE RESULTS OF THESE SURVEYS.

"SOME RESPONDENTS IN THE 1992 SURVEY WERE NOT COVERED BY THE 1990 OR 1991 SURVEYS, AND SOME COMPANIES COVERED BY PREVIOUS SURVEYS DID NOT RESPOND TO THE 1992 SURVEY," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG HAD LONG BEEN AN IMPORTANT REGIONAL CENTRE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

"ITS CENTRAL LOCATION AND EXCELLENT EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION LINKS HAVE MADE HONG KONG ATTRACTIVE TO OVERSEAS COMPANIES NOT ONLY FOR BUSINESS, BUT ALSO AS A CONVENIENT BASE FROM WHICH TO SUPERVISE OTHER OFFICES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES."

"WITH THE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION IN RECENT YEARS, HONG KONG'S REGIONAL ROLE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE SURVEY REVEALED THAT BETWEEN 1980 AND 1984, AN AVERAGE OF 21 NEW REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS WERE SET UP EACH YEAR.

"FROM 1985 ONWARDS, THIS NUMBER INCREASED TO AN AVERAGE OF 45. IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1992, A TOTAL OF 24 NEW REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS WERE ESTABLISHED, AND A FURTHER 15 COMPANIES SAID THEY WERE PLANNING TO DO SO SOON," HE SAID.

THE UNITED STATES HAD THE LARGEST NUMBER OF REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG, WITH 206 COMPANIES, FOLLOWED BY JAPAN (74 COMPANIES) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (73 COMPANIES).

THE MAJOR BUSINESS OF THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS INCLUDED WHOLESALE, RETAIL, AND IMPORT AND EXPORT ACTIVITIES, FOLLOWED BY REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES, MANUFACTURING AND FINANCE AND BANKING.

AS REGARDS REGIONAL OFFICES, THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT JAPAN HAD THE LARGEST NUMBER, WITH A TOTAL OF 193. THE UNITED STATES (178 COMPANIES) WAS NEXT, FOLLOWED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM (79 COMPANIES), SWITZERLAND (39 COMPANIES) AND GERMANY (35 COMPANIES).

THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE SECTOR ACCOUNTED FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE BUSINESS OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES IN HONG KONG. OTHER IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES FOR REGIONAL OFFICES INCLUDED REAL ESTATE AND OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES, FINANCE AND BANKING AND MANUFACTURING.

THIRTY OF THE RESPONDING COMPANIES INDICATED THAT THEY HAD PLANS TO SET UP REGIONAL OFFICES IN HONG KONG.

WHEN ASKED TO GIVE VIEWS ON HONG KONG AS A REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OR REGIONAL OFFICE, 96 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS CONSIDERED HONG KONG'S BANKING AND FINANCIAL FACILITIES, THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR AFFECTING HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A REGIONAL CENTRE, TO BE FAVOURABLE.

HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE WAS CONSIDERED FAVOURABLE BY 90 PER CENT OF THE COMPANIES. OTHER FACTORS WITH A HIGH FAVOURABLE RATING INCLUDED HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY (84 PER CENT) AND HONG KONG'S REGIONAL LOCATION (82 PER CENT).

MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS CONSIDERED THAT, COMPARED WITH THE YEAR BEFORE, THE OVERALL FAVOURABILITY OF HONG KONG AS A REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OR REGIONAL OFFICE HAD IMPROVED OR HAD REMAINED SATISFACTORY.

COPIES OF THE SURVEY REPORT, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, INCLUDING LISTS OF REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES, ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE DATA AND SERVICES DIVISION OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AT ROOM 1419, OCEAN CENTRE.

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PILOTAGE REVIEW CONSULTANCY TO RECOMMEND PORT CHARGES

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANCY TO REVIEW THE PRESENT PILOTAGE SYSTEM IN HONG KONG AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY CHARGES NECESSARY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PORT IN THE MOST EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER FROM NEXT YEAR TO 2011.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR ALLAN PYRKE, ANNOUNCED THIS TODAY (FRIDAY) WHEN HE SIGNED THE CONTRACT FOR THE \$1.95 MILLION CONSULTANCY AT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN HARBOUR BUILDING, CENTRAL.

SIGNING THE CONTRACT FOR THE ROTTERDAM PILOTS AND MARINE ANALYTICS FROM THE NETHERLANDS WAS MR DAVID A GOWING.

MR PYRKE SAID: "THE NUMBER OF VESSELS USING THE PORT AND REQUIRING PILOTAGE IS RAPIDLY INCREASING. THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE PLANNED WESTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE FOCUS OF PORT ACTIVITY ENVISAGED BY THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PADS) AND THE URBAN DEMANDS FOR RECLAIMED LAND, HAS LED TO THE NEED TO REASSESS THE PATTERN AND CONTROL OF SHIPPING MOVEMENTS.

"THIS CHANGES NECESSITATE A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT PILOTAGE SERVICES WHICH ARE A VITAL LINK IN ENSURING THE CONTINUING SAFETY OF SHIPS IN THE PORT."

PILOTAGE IN HONG KONG IS COMPULSORY FOR OCEAN-GOING VESSELS OF 5,000 GROSS TONS OR OVER, ALONG WITH CERTAIN OTHER CATEGORIES OF VESSELS.

PILOTS ARE SELF-EMPLOYED AND ARE GOVERNED BY APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIONS UNDER THE PILOTAGE AUTHORITY WHO IS THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

MR PYRKE SAID THE SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- * GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT OF PILOTAGE SERVICES;
- * LOCATION OF PILOT BOARDING STATIONS AND METHODS OF BOARDING;
- * THE SIZE AND TYPE OF VESSEL FOR WHICH PILOTS SERVICES SHOULD BE COMPULSORY;

- * THE NEED AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANT OF PILOTAGE EXEMPTIONS;
- * THE NUMBER AND CLASSES OF PILOTS REQUIRED;
- * INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PILOTAGE SERVICE, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE USE OF A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PILOTS ASSOCIATION OR AN APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION;
- * METHODS TO SECURE THE ADEQUACY OF THE PILOTAGE SERVICE;
- * BASIS AND LEVEL OF PILOTAGE DUES AND THE CRITERIA FOR REVISING THIS LEVEL;
- * PILOT ROSTER OR SHIFT SYSTEM AND ANY ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSETS;
- * RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, TRAINING AND EXAMINATION OF PILOTS AND STRUCTURE OF PILOTAGE GRADES;
- * EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PILOTS;
- * PRESENT PILOTAGE ORDINANCE AND ANY CHANGES NECESSARY TO REFLECT INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE;
- * PILOT BOATS, THEIR PROVISION AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS AND CONTROL;
- * HOURS OF WORK OF PILOTS, FATIGUE AND ANY MITIGATING MEASURES, AND
- * OPERATIONAL RELATIONSHIP AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PILOTS, VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTRE AND THE FUTURE HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE.

MR PYRKE SAID: "A REVIEW OF A PILOTAGE ORGANISATION NEEDS TO ENCOMPASS ALL KINDS OF EXPERTISE NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF A PILOTAGE ORGANISATION.

"THE STUDY TEAM CONSISTS OF PERSONS WHO HAVE HAD EITHER A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RECORD AS AN EXPERT PILOT AND/OR AS AN EXECUTIVE OF THE PILOTAGE SERVICE, OR HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE FIELD OF MARITIME SAFETY FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS.

"THE HONG KONG PILOTS ASSOCIATION WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CONSULTANTS WHILE THE STUDY IS IN PROGRESS.

"DURING THE STUDY PHASE THE CONSULTANTS WILL SEEK THE VIEWS OF USERS OF THE PILOTAGE SERVICES SUCH AS THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION, HONG KONG SHIPPING LINERS ASSOCIATION, TERMINAL OPERATORS AND EVEN INDIVIDUAL CAPTAINS OF VISITING SHIPS."

THE CONSULTANCY STUDY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

SPORT HELPS MENTALLY HANDICAPPED INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY

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PARTICIPATION IN SPORT IS AN IMPORTANT WAY FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED TO BECOME INTEGRATED INTO THE COMMUNITY, MRS PATTEN TOLD ATHLETES OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM.

THIS WOULD HELP TO BRING DOWN THE BARRIERS OF PREJUDICE, SHE SAID AT THE FLAG-PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE TEAM WHICH TAKES PART IN THE 1993 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES IN AUSTRIA.

"WE MUST ALL DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED LIVE AS NORMAL LIVES AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME HONG KONG IS TAKING PART IN SUCH GAMES.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THE HONG KONG SPECIAL OLYMPIANS, IN PREPARATION FOR THESE GAMES, HAVE BEEN UNDER REGULAR AND VIGOROUS TRAINING OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. I AM SURE THAT THEY TOO WILL COME BACK WITH MANY MEDALS.

"BUT MEDALS OR NOT, THE EXPERIENCE OF TRAVELLING ABROAD, AND THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT DEVELOP ON THESE OCCASIONS, WILL BENEFIT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS," SHE SAID.

LAST TIME THE GAMES WERE HELD IN 1989 IN THE USA, WHEN THE HONG KONG ATHLETES WON SEVEN GOLD, SEVEN SILVER AND SIX BRONZE MEDALS.

"WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS," SHE SAID.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH OF MRS PATTEN AT THE FLAG-PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE BOXED.

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AIR QUALITY REPORT RELEASED FOR FEBRUARY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE ANNOUNCEMENT SERVED TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND TO EXPLAIN THE MEASUREMENTS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT NORMALLY CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS OBTAINED AT ITS MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG MONITORING STATIONS.

THESE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND USE TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY, NAMELY:

- * LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN DISTRICTS,
- * COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, AND
- * DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂), RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP).

THE GASEOUS POLLUTANTS ARE MONITORED CONTINUOUSLY WHILE PARTICLE SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED FOR 24 HOURS, ONCE EVERY SIX DAYS.

IN FEBRUARY, LEVELS OF ALL THE REPORTED POLLUTANTS WERE BELOW THE 24-HOUR HONG KONG AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE (AQO) VALUES.

HOWEVER, AT MONG KOK THE LEVEL OF TSP ON FEBRUARY 9 WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE 24-HOUR LIMIT VALUE OF 260 UG PER CUBIC METER.

AVERAGE MONTHLY CONCENTRATIONS OF MOST SPECIES AT ALL THREE SITES (APART FROM NO₂ AT MONG KOK) WERE WORSE THAN IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, WITH PARTICLE LEVELS BEING SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER.

PARTICLE CONCENTRATIONS FOLLOWED SIMILAR TRENDS AT ALL THREE SITES BUT LEVELS WERE HIGHER AT MONG KOK THAN AT THE OTHER STATIONS.

THIS IS BECAUSE MONG KOK IS AT STREET LEVEL, AND THEREFORE CLOSE TO VEHICLE EXHAUSTS, AND ALSO BECAUSE THERE ARE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES NEARBY.

THE PEAK OBSERVED AT ALL THREE SITES ON FEBRUARY 9 CANNOT YET BE EXPLAINED AND REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS.

CONCENTRATIONS OF THE GASEOUS SPECIES, SO₂ AND NO₂, WERE SIMILAR AT ALL THREE STATIONS AND FOLLOWED SIMILAR TRENDS.

THIS INDICATES THAT THE POLLUTANT LEVELS WERE INFLUENCED BY GENERAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND WERE NOT DOMINATED BY LOCAL SOURCES. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THESE EVENTS IS ALSO BEING CARRIED OUT.

THE FOUR POLLUTANTS DISCUSSED HAVE DIFFERENT ORIGINS. SO₂ MOSTLY ORIGINATES FROM THE COMBUSTION OF SULPHUR CONTAINING FOSSIL FUELS.

NO₂ IS FORMED EITHER DIRECTLY DURING COMBUSTION OR, BY THE ATMOSPHERIC OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (NO) WHICH IS ALSO PRODUCED DURING COMBUSTION. VEHICLE EXHAUST IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF NO AND NO₂.

VEHICLE EXHAUST IS ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICLES; OTHER SOURCES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNACES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND SOIL DUST.

THE DEPARTMENT IS MONITORING AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT 11 STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED ABOVE. SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRY CAN BE DIRECTED TO PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR R LEUNG ON TEL 594 6401.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1993

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TECHNICAL TEACHERS WANTED

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YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WITH INDUSTRIAL QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE ARE INVITED TO ENROL IN A ONE-YEAR, FULL-TIME TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COURSE STARTING SEPTEMBER AT THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE COURSE WAS INTENDED FOR MATURE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TAKING UP TEACHING AS A PROFESSION AND WHO HAVE ACQUIRED INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE IN ELECTRICAL-ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING OR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

APPLICANTS MUST POSSESS A HIGHER DIPLOMA, HIGHER CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL OR ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING OR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, AWARDED BY POLYTECHNICS OR TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, OR AN EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID INDUCEMENT GRANTS RANGING FROM \$6,707 TO \$10,480 A MONTH WOULD BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS DURING THEIR COURSE OF STUDY, CALCULATED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF RELEVANT POST-QUALIFICATION INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE AT 373 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED, EITHER IN PERSON OR BY REGISTERED MAIL, TO THE COLLEGE BEFORE APRIL 3.

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SAFETY DRIVING COMPETITION

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IF YOU ARE A DRIVING LICENCE HOLDER AND HAVE NO RECORD OF SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, COME AND JOIN THE FIRST-EVER COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TROPHY OPEN SAFETY DRIVING COMPETITION NOW.

THE COMPETITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS, IS TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY THROUGH SKILLFUL DRIVING.

THE FIRST ROUND OF CONTEST WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 21 (SUNDAY) AT THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND. THE FINAL ROUND WILL BE HELD AT THE VICTORIA PARK SPORTS GROUND ON APRIL 25 (SUNDAY).

DURING THE CONTEST, A CUP OF WATER WILL BE FIXED ON THE BONNET. THE ONE WITH LEAST SPILLAGE AND RETURN TO THE FINISHING POINT WITHIN THE SHORTEST TIME WILL WIN.

THOSE INTERESTED MAY JOIN IN THE PRIVATE CAR SECTION OR TAXI SECTION. WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED WITH TROPHIES AND MEDALS, COMPLIMENTARY HONG KONG/TOKYO ROUND TRIP AIR TICKETS AND PETROL COUPONS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OFFICES OR CALTEX PETROL STATIONS; AND TRANSPORT-RELATED ORGANISATIONS. FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS ON TEL 718 2299.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,590
REVERSAL OF LAF	+560
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-985
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,165
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 114.1 *-0.1* 12.3.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.21 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.31	3.51
1 MONTH	2.63 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.13	3.59
3 MONTHS	2.85 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.46	3.75
6 MONTHS	3.10 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.56	3.94
12 MONTHS	3.41 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,628MN

CLOSED 12 MARCH 1993

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