



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1994

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TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING AFTER HIS RETURN FROM HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES:

GOVERNOR: SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING. THE HEADWINDS HELD US UP AND WE WERE LATE STARTING FROM SEATTLE AS WELL AND I AM SORRY IF IT'S RUINED YOUR SUNDAY EVENING. I'VE HAD A SUCCESSFUL AND BUSY VISIT TO THE WEST COAST. THE MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO GIVE FOUR KEY-NOTE SPEECHES IN ORANGE COUNTY, LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO AND SEATTLE. WHILE WE WERE THERE, WE ADDRESSED VERY BIG AUDIENCES WHICH, I THINK, WAS A MARK OF THE INTEREST IN, AND ENTHUSIASM ABOUT, WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HONG KONG. I ALSO HAD A NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS, THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA, THE MAJORS OF LOS ANGELES AND SEATTLE AND HAD MANY MEETINGS AS WELL WITH LEADING BUSINESS FIGURES INCLUDING SOME OF THOSE WHO INVEST SUBSTANTIALLY IN HONG KONG. WE HAVE A STRONG AND CLOSE ECONOMIC AND TRADING RELATIONSHIP WITH CALIFORNIA AND WITH SEATTLE AND WASHINGTON STATE AND WE ALSO HAVE A POINT THAT WAS BORNE IN ON ME INCREASINGLY DURING MY VISIT, A GROWING AND SHARED COMMITMENT TO FREE TRADE AND TO PREVENTING AN OUTBURST OF PROTECTIONISM IN NORTH AMERICA, IN EUROPE OR ELSEWHERE. AND THE MESSAGE THAT I CONVEYED ABOUT FREE TRADE BROUGHT, I THINK, AN ECHO ESPECIALLY IN MY LAST SPEECHES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND IN SEATTLE. PEOPLE DO OBVIOUSLY ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE. PEOPLE DO OBVIOUSLY ASK FOR REASSURANCE ABOUT 1997 AND I WAS PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF SETTING OUT MY OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND I HOPE BY DEEDS AND WORDS, OTHERS WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY CAN GIVE REASSURANCE TOO ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. I THINK THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE LAND COMMISSION LAST WEEK AND THE AGREEMENT ON FUNDING FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY REACHED AT THE END OF THE WEEK WERE BOTH EXTREMELY GOOD SIGNS FOR INVESTORS, BOTH MADE IMPORTANT STATEMENTS ABOUT THE FUTURE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG AND WE HOPE WE WILL SEE FURTHER SIGNS IN THE COMING MONTHS.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE LEGISLATORS' IDEA TO HAVE THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT LOOKING TO YOUR FOREIGN TRIPS, I MEAN, YOUR OVERSEAS TRIPS AND SEE IF THERE IS A WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY?

GOVERNOR: WELL, IT WOULD BE AN INTERESTING THING FOR THEM TO DO. EVERYTHING THE GOVERNOR DOES IN HONG KONG IS OPEN TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY. I AM SURE THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THEY WOULD DISCOVER WAS THAT IF YOU PUT TOGETHER THE INVITATIONS I'VE RECEIVED FOR NEXT YEAR AS WELL AS THIS YEAR AND ADDED UP ALL THE TRIPS THAT I WOULD HAVE DONE AS GOVERNOR IN MY FIRST THREE AND HALF YEARS AS GOVERNOR, THEY ARE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE NUMBER OF TRIPS THAT WERE MADE IN HIS LAST THREE AND HALF YEARS BY MY PREDECESSOR. THERE IS UNCANNY SIMILARITY WHICH IS IN THE FIGURE FOR MY TRIPS AND THE NUMBER FOR HIS TRIPS AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY PUT ACROSS THE MESSAGE ABOUT HONG KONG SUCCESS AS FREQUENTLY AND AS VIGOROUSLY AS POSSIBLE. IF YOU TALK TO ANY OF YOUR COLLEAGUES WHO'RE ACCOMPANYING US ON THIS VISIT, THEY WOULD, I AM SURE, CONFIRM FOR YOU JUST HOW HARD WE WERE WORKING BUT I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE FACTS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF VISITS THAT I'VE MADE AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS'VE MADE WILL BE FAITHFULLY REPORTED AND NOT JUST THE SORT OF ASSERTION WHICH YOU REFERRED TO.

/QUESTION

QUESTION: NCNA OFFICIALS OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S VBP POLICY MAY HEAD TO SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES AND WANT TO PUT THE VBP ISSUE ON THE AGENDA OF JLG. WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON THAT?

GOVERNOR: WE ARE HAPPY TO DISCUSS ANYTHING THAT IS RELEVANT TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IN THE JLG OR THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS. I DO THINK THAT THOSE WHO CRITICISE SHOULD REMEMBER FROM TIME TO TIME THAT WE HAVE DEALT, AS I THINK ONE OR TWO EDITORIALS IN NEWSPAPERS POINTED OUT LAST WEEK, WE HAVE DEALT WITH AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ISSUE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH DECENCY AND FIRMNESS. ONE RESULT IS THAT WE'VE MANAGED TO RETURN IN RECENT YEARS WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES OVER 43,000 SCREENED OUT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS. THAT'S NOT EASY. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WHO HAVE A VERY DIFFICULT JOB TO DO. I PARTICULARLY SYMPATHISE WITH THOSE MEMBERS OF OUR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHO HAVE AN EXCEPTIONALLY DIFFICULT JOB AND THEY'VE BEEN DOING IT AGAIN TODAY. I THINK THE WHOLE COMMUNITY HAS REASONS TO BE GRATEFUL TO THEM FOR THE WAY IN WHICH THEY CARRIED OUT THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES. SO, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD HAVE SUPPORT IN CONTINUING TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULT PROBLEM AND THE DIFFICULT TASK AS COMPETENTLY AND AS DECENTLY AS WE HAVE BEEN. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY, NOT EASY FOR ANYONE. IT'S CERTAINLY NOT A PROBLEM WHICH DISAPPEARS BY THE APPLICATION OF RHETORIC

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, A UN COMMITTEE IS GOING TO EXAMINE THE BRITISH REPORT

..... PEOPLE ARE WORRIED THAT IF THE REPORTING PROCESS CANNOT BE CONTINUED AFTER 1997, IF CHINA REFUSES TO MAKE A REPORT ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG AFTER 1997 AS IT HAS CLAIMED THAT IT WOULD NOT DO THAT, DO YOU HAVE ANY OPTION THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE REPORTS FROM HONG KONG REGULARLY AFTER 1997?

GOVERNOR: I THINK YOU SHOULD WAIT AND HEAR WHAT THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL HAS TO SAY WHEN HE SPEAKS IN GENEVA TOMORROW. HE IS PART OF THE DELEGATION WHICH IS ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM THE UN AND WHAT WE WERE DOING IN THAT CONTEXT IS DISCHARGING OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE COVENANT, AN OBLIGATION WHICH THE JOINT DECLARATION MAKES EXPLICITLY CLEAR WILL CONTINUE BEYOND 1997 AND THOSE INCLUDE, AS WE'VE ALWAYS SAID, THE REPORTING OBLIGATIONS BUT THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL'LL BE ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON HONG KONG'S RECORD TOMORROW AND WE ALSO, I IMAGINE, IF ASKED, ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IS.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR QIAN, IS PLANNING TO VISIT LONDON DURING THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR. DOES THAT MEAN IMPROVEMENT OF SINO-BRITISH RELATIONSHIP OVER HONG KONG?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT IT WILL BE SENSIBLE FOR ME TO COMMENT ON NEWSPAPER SPECULATION BUT WHAT I AM HAPPY TO DO IS TO SAY THAT I AM SURE THAT WHENEVER VICE-PREMIER QIAN QICHEN WAS HAPPY TO GO TO LONDON, HE'D RECEIVE A COURTEOUS WELCOME. HE'LL BE A VERY WELCOMED VISITOR AND I AM SURE THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND WITH OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN AS CONSTRUCTIVE AND CIVILISED MANNER AS WERE HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH DOUGLAS HURD AT THE UNITED NATIONS A FEW MONTHS AGO. I REPEAT, HE IS ALWAYS A WELCOMED VISITOR TO LONDON. ANY OTHERS? ONCE AGAIN, SORRY TO KEEP YOU ALL WAITING. HAVE A GOOD EVENING.

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15 VMS TRANSFERRED

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FIFTEEN VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS (VMS) WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THE HIGH ISLAND DETENTION CENTRE THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING TO VICTORIA PRISON IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR RETURN HOME UNDER THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME (ORP).

EARLY THIS MORNING, 11 VMS COMPRISING TWO MEN, SEVEN WOMEN AND TWO BOYS, PRESENTED THEMSELVES FOR TRANSFER FOLLOWING COUNSELLING BY CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) STAFF.

FOUR OTHERS, THREE MEN AND ONE WOMAN, WHO CLIMBED ON TO THE ROOFTOPS OF THREE HUTS, CAME DOWN SHORTLY BEFORE 10 AM.

AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE 39 VMS WHO LEFT THE DETENTION CENTRE YESTERDAY, ALL 15 WERE TRANSFERRED TO VICTORIA PRISON TO UNDERGO PREFLIGHT DOCUMENTATION AND MEDICAL CHECKS PRIOR TO THEIR REPATRIATION ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 25).

THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR BRIAN BRESNIHAN, SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE MIGRANTS LEFT THE CENTRE VOLUNTARILY.

"THE COUNSELLING WHICH TOOK PLACE OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS WAS CLEARLY EFFECTIVE AND MUCH CREDIT IS DUE TO THE STAFF OF CSD."

THE OPERATION WAS SMOOTH AND WAS COMPLETED IN LESS THAN ONE HOUR.

IN ALL, FIVE VMS WERE MEDICALLY EXAMINED BY THE END OF THE OPERATION. THREE WERE FOUND TO HAVE MINOR INJURIES AND WERE TREATED. THE REMAINING TWO DID NOT REQUIRE ANY TREATMENT. ONE CSD OFFICER SUSTAINED ABRASIONS TO HIS HAND.

MR BRESNIHAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE ORP. "THE EXERCISE THIS MORNING WAS A MEASURE OF ITS RESOLVE TO REPATRIATE ALL SCREENED-OUT VMS TO VIETNAM."

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CONCERTED EFFORTS IN FIGHTING AGAINST AIDS

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THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO EVERYTHING TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF AIDS AND WOULD PROVIDE NOT JUST MEDICAL CARE BUT ALSO COUNSELLING AND A FULL RANGE OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THOSE WITH HIV AND AIDS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS KATHERINE FOK, SAID THIS WHILE OFFICIATING AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG AIDS FORTNIGHT 1994 OPENING DAY TODAY (SUNDAY) AT THE PIAZZA OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE.

"WE SHALL CONTINUE IN OUR EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT AIDS, AND TO INSTIL IN THE COMMUNITY AN INFORMED, CARING AND COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO THE DISEASE," MRS FOK SAID.

/THE HONG

THE HONG KONG AIDS FORTNIGHT 1994 FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO DECEMBER 4 WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION, AIDS CONCERN AND HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE IN RESPONSE AND SUPPORT OF THE WORLD AIDS DAY ON THE FIRST OF DECEMBER.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S WORLD AIDS DAY FOCUSED ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAMILIES AND AIDS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES HELD WITHIN THE HONG KONG AIDS FORTNIGHT, PREVENTION OF AIDS WILL START FROM THE FAMILY," SAID THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS, MS CARLYE TSUI, WHO ALSO OFFICIATED AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDED THE CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION, DR LEONG CHE-HUNG; THE CHAIRMAN OF AIDS CONCERN, MR CHARLES YANG; THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR MARGARET CHAN; THE DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MR HUI YIN-FAT; THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MRS IRENE YAU AND THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL RADIO 2, MR THOMAS CHOW.

A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING EXHIBITION, GAMES BOOTHS, CONCERT, MAZE, CHILDREN'S CHOIR, DRAMA, MAGIC AND ACROBATICS PERFORMANCES WERE ORGANISED DURING THE OPENING DAY. THESE ACTIVITIES ATTRACTED THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS WHO WERE THRILLED WITH LAUGHTER AND JOY.

IN THE AIDS FORTNIGHT PERIOD, A DIVERSE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES WOULD ALSO BE ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION, AIDS CONCERN, HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND OTHER AIDS GROUPS.

"THEY ALL AIM AT PROMOTING PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT AIDS," MS CARLYE TSUI SAID.

"IT IS HOPED THAT PARENTS WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THESE ACTIVITIES ALONG WITH THEIR CHILDREN AS PART OF THEIR FAMILY EDUCATION," SHE ADDED.

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CONDUCT COUNCIL TO HOLD BY-ELECTION

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MEMBERS OF SUBJECT-RELATED ORGANISATIONS IN THE COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION ARE URGED TO VOTE IN A BY-ELECTION IN DECEMBER 1994 TO FILL A VACANT SEAT IN THEIR CATEGORY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE BY-ELECTION FOLLOWED THE RESIGNATION OF A COUNCIL MEMBER, MRS PANG CHU WAI-SEE, WHO REPRESENTED SUBJECT-RELATED ORGANISATIONS ON THE COUNCIL.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED THREE NOMINATIONS FOR THE VACANT SEAT. THE CANDIDATES ARE:

* MR LAI SIU-KI OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR BUSINESS EDUCATION;

* MRS MAK LAU SIU-MING, SHARINA, OF THE HONG KONG HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION; AND

* MISS TSUI WAI-CHUEN, GRACE, OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID VOTING WOULD BE CARRIED OUT ON A ONE-ORGANISATION-ONE-VOTE BASIS AND THAT EACH ORGANISATION WAS REQUESTED, APART FROM CHOOSING ONE CANDIDATE, TO NOMINATE AN EXTRA CANDIDATE AS A SECOND CHOICE.

HE SAID A CANDIDATE SHOULD NOT BE CHOSEN AS BOTH THE FIRST CHOICE AND THE SECOND CHOICE, OTHERWISE THE VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE AS A SECOND CHOICE WOULD BE CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED CHAIRMEN OF THE SUBJECT-RELATED ORGANISATIONS THAT THE COMPLETED VOTING RESULT RETURN FORM, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT TO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS, IN A SEALED ENVELOPE BY HAND OR REGISTERED MAIL SHOULD REACH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE NOON ON DECEMBER 20.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION, DR CHENG KAI-MING, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE COUNTING OF VOTES AT 2.30 PM ON DECEMBER 21, WHEN THE ENVELOPES WILL BE UNSEALED IN FRONT OF CONCERNED ORGANISATIONS AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

ENQUIRIES ON THE BY-ELECTION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MRS ANNA LEE ON TEL 892 6635.

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DEADLINE FOR BEDSPACE APARTMENT OPERATORS

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BEDSPACE APARTMENT OPERATORS MUST APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION BEFORE NOVEMBER 30 OR FACE HEAVY FINES AND POSSIBLE IMPRISONMENT.

IN ANOTHER REMINDER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) SAID 77 OPERATORS, OR MORE THAN HALF OF THE TOTAL NUMBER, HAD SO FAR REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY (OLA).

HE REITERATED THAT ANY PERSON WHO OPERATED A BEDSPACE APARTMENT WITHOUT A VALID CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION OR A LICENCE WILL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$100,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

THE OPERATOR WILL ALSO BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$20,000 FOR EACH DAY DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION WOULD PROVISIONALLY EXEMPT A BEDSPACE APARTMENT FROM OBTAINING A LICENCE.

HE SAID A GRACE PERIOD OF TWO YEARS WOULD BE GIVEN TO OPERATORS TO UPGRADE THEIR PREMISES TO MEET THE LICENSING CRITERIA.

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COPIES OF THE LEAFLET - "HOW TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE UNDER THE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS ORDINANCE" - ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OLA ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR, HENNESSY CENTRE, EAST WING, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY AND DISTRICT OFFICES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A LEAFLET ON "HOW TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE UNDER THE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS ORDINANCE" (IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE) CAN BE COLLECTED AT GIS NEWSROOM.

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