



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1984

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RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY CHAN KAM-CHUEN  
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THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN SAID TODAY THAT HE COULD NOT +COMMEND THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AND FORESEE ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION WITHOUT RESERVATIONS.+

ABSTAINING FROM VOTING TODAY (TUESDAY) ON THE MOTION ENDORSING THE JOINT DECLARATION AND COMMENDING IT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, HE SAID THAT DURING THE TWO YEARS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE COMMUNITY HONG KONG WERE BROADLY DIVIDED INTO FOUR CATEGORIES: THE +HAVES, THE +HAVE-NOTS+, THE +BELIEVERS+ AND THE +BELIEVE-NOTS+.

THE +HAVES+ WERE THOSE WITH LARGE INTERNATIONAL OR CHINESE BUSINESS LINKS, WITH SEVEN-FIGURE BANK ACCOUNTS, WITH EXPERTISE, WITH FOREIGN PASSPORTS, WITH EXPERIENCE OF LIVING ABROAD, AND THOSE WHO HAD SUITABLE RELATIVES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAD BABIES BORN BY DESIGN IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

+RECENTLY, I SPOTTED SOME FIGURES ON APPLICATIONS FOR +CERTIFICATE OF NO CRIMINAL CONVICTION+ IN A LOCAL NEWSPAPER, AND AFTER CONFIRMING THAT THESE FIGURES WERE CORRECT I MADE SOME DEDUCTIONS AND ARRIVED AT BROAD BRUSH FIGURES ON THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS,+ MR CHAN SAID.

THE FIGURES WERE 12 408 IN 1979 AND 20 477 IN 1983.

A SMALL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS WERE REJECTED FOR SUCH MINOR OFFENCES AS A \$15 FINE FOR BEING FOUND IN A GAMBLING HOUSE BUT WERE NOT DEDUCTED FROM THE ABOVE FIGURES AS THE APPLICANTS COULD STILL EMIGRATE.

EMIGRANTS AND STUDENTS WHO REQUIRED NO SUCH CERTIFICATE, SUCH AS THOSE GOING TO THE UK, TAIWAN, ETC, WERE NOT INCLUDED.

MR CHAN SAID MANY OPINIONS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT BRAIN-DRAIN AND FINANCIAL-DRAIN, BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER DRAIN WHICH MAY CAUSE THE COMPETITIVE EDGE OF OUR INDUSTRIES TO BE WORN OFF, AND THAT WAS THE DRAINING OF ENTREPRENEURS IN SMALL MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING UNDER 50 WORKERS.

MANY OF THEM WERE PROVIDING SUPPORTIVE GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE LARGER MANUFACTURERS AND OTHER SECTORS, SUCH AS BUTTONS TO THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY AND SCREWS FOR ALMOST ALL INDUSTRIES.

+OF COURSE, ONE CAN GET SUPPLIES FROM ABROAD, BUT CERTAINLY NOT WITH SUCH COMPETITIVE PRICES AND QUICK DELIVERY.

+IF THESE SMALL MANUFACTURERS MOVE OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS, OUR INDUSTRY WILL CRUMBLE FROM INSIDE,+ MR CHAN SAID.

/THIS WAS .....

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THIS WAS WHERE THE +HAVE-NOTS+ WHO REMAINED IN HONG KONG COME IN.

IF THEY ALREADY HAD EXPERIENCE WORKING FOR THESE SMALL FACTORIES AND HAD A SMALL CAPITAL, THEY MAY TAKE UP THIS GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR A PROFITABLE BUSINESS AND HELP STABILISE THE COMMUNITY.

THE +BELIEVERS+ WERE THOSE WHO HAD EXPRESSED THEIR CONFIDENCE AND WOULD TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE EVEN BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

THOSE WHO WERE SINCERE WOULD STICK THROUGH +THICK AND THIN+ AND +TILL DEATH DO THEY PART+, HE SAID.

THE COMMUNITY WAS ONLY WORRIED ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF THOSE WHO LOUDLY SAID +I HAVE CONFIDENCE+ IN FRONT OF THE TV CAMERAS, BUT WHO HAD ALREADY SENT IN THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION, HE SAID.

+LASTLY, I TURN TO THE +BELIEVE-NOTS+,+ MR CHAN CONTINUED.

+AFTER EXPRESSING THEIR WORRIES, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG GOT A LETTER OF COMFORT WITH A CHEQUE FOR AN AMOUNT BIGGER THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED.

+WHY ARE THEY STILL WORRYING ABOUT CASHING IT AFTER JULY 1, 1997?+

TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM ONE HAD TO LOOK AT THE COMPOSITION OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE.

ABOUT 150 000 WERE NON-CHINESE AND THE REST WERE OF CHINESE ORIGIN.

OF THE 5.3 MILLION PEOPLE, ABOUT 2.6 MILLION WERE HONG KONG BORN.

THE REMAINING 2.7 MILLION, MOSTLY CAME TO HONG KONG FROM MAINLAND CHINA DURING THE VARIOUS POLITICAL MOVEMENTS.

FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN A SOCIETY GOVERNED BY THE RULE OF LAW, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE TURMOIL WHICH THESE PEOPLE UNDERWENT.

SOME WERE SUDDENLY DEPRIVED OF ALL THEIR EARTHLY POSSESSIONS AND FOUND THAT THEIR OWN CHILDREN TURNED INTO THEIR PROSECUTORS ON CHARGES WHICH WERE NON-EXISTENT.

NEIGHBOURS AND RELATIVES TURNED INTO WITNESSES AND THE MOB WAS THE JUDGE.

THE EARTH SEEMED TO HAVE OPENED UNDER THEIR FEET AND HEAVEN CAME DOWN LIKE A COLLAPSED CEILING.

/IF THEY .....

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IF THEY SURVIVED, THEIR VALUE OF LIFE WOULD CHANGE AND THEY WERE WILLING TO SWIM ACROSS SHARK-INFESTED WATERS TO COME TO HONG KONG FOR FREEDOM.

+HENCE, ONE DOES NOT SEE DANCING AND CELEBRATIONS IN THE STREETS OF HONG KONG WHEN THE SETTLEMENT OF THEIR FUTURE IS ANNOUNCED,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HOWEVER, THESE +BELIEVE-NOTS+ SHOULD NOT DESPAIR, FOR THERE WERE MANY WHO CAME TO HONG KONG IN RAGS AND BECAME RICH WITHIN 10 YEARS.

THESE +BELIEVE-NOTS+ STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO DO SO BY LEARNING SOME SKILL OR EXPERTISE, BY LEARNING ENGLISH, WORKING AND SAVING HARD AND RUNNING A SMALL BUSINESS, VERY SOON THEY WOULD FIND THAT THEY HAD AN OPTION TO STAY OR EMIGRATE BEFORE 1997.

+HELP TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY STABLE AND PROSPEROUS NOW AND SEE WHETHER CHINA'S MODERNISATION PROGRAMME COULD SUCCEED BEFORE MAKING THE FINAL DECISION,+ HE SAID.

IN CONCLUSION, MR CHAN SAID HE COULD ONLY COMMEND THE DRAFT AGREEMENT TO THE +BELIEVERS+ AND HE COULD PERSUADE THE +BELIEVE-NOTS+ THAT IT WAS THE BEST WHICH COULD BE OBTAINED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

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PEOPLES' FEARS RAISED BY STEPHEN CHEONG  
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PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE JOINT DECLARATION HAVE BEEN MOSTLY FAVOURABLE SO FAR, YET IT IS AN EQUALLY HONEST OBSERVATION THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE - DEEP IN THEIR MINDS - STILL CANNOT DISARD THEIR FEAR THAT CHINA MIGHT RENEGE ON THE JOINT DECLARATION VIA THE BASIC LAW.

THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) DURING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

HE SAID THEY SEEMED TO BE ASKING WHAT SAFEGUARDS WERE THERE AGAINST THE BASIC LAW BEING CHANGED FOLLOWING A CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN CHINA, WHAT SAFEGUARDS WERE THERE THAT CHINA WOULD NOT UNDULY INTERFERE WITH THE POLICIES OF THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT, AND HOW COULD WE BE SURE THAT THE 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS' CONCEPT WOULD WORK?

+GIVEN CHINA'S TURBULENT PAST THESE FEARS ARE PERHAPS NATURAL AND UNDERSTANDABLE,+ MR CHEONG SAID, +BUT IN MY VIEW, OUR FUTURE CERTAINLY WILL NOT LIE IN OUR PEOPLE CONSTANTLY HAVING FEARS AND DOUBTS.

/+WE SOMEHOW .....

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+WE SOMEHOW NEED TO SURMOUNT THIS OBSTACLE.

+AS A START SHOULD WE NOT RECOGNISE THAT PAST EXPERIENCES AND HISTORY SHOULD ONLY SERVE AS A GUIDE TO ANY PROCESS OF EVALUATION?

+THEY SHOULD NOT INHIBIT US FROM MAKING A MORE OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESENT OR THE FUTURE.

+SHOULD WE NOT THEN ATTEMPT TO EXAMINE ALL THE FACTS AND FACTORS, INCLUSIVE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION PLUS ITS EQUALLY BINDING ANNEXES, THAT MAY HAVE A BEARING ON OUR FUTURE WITHOUT UNDUE INFLUENCE FROM OUR DOUBTS OR FEARS?

+I HAVE GONE THROUGH SUCH A PROCESS AND MY CONCLUSION IS THAT THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM IN OUR FUTURE.

+HENCE, I ENDORSE THE JOINT DECLARATION AND COMMEND IT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, MR CHEONG CONTINUED, THE NEGOTIATORS ON BOTH SIDES HAD SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING TOGETHER, IN REASONABLY CLEAR AND CONCISE LANGUAGE, A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE AND, IN SO DOING, SUCCEEDED IN PRESERVING THE INSTITUTIONS, RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WHICH PLAYED A CRUCIAL PART IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

IN THE SECOND PLACE, IT WAS A FACT THAT LEADERS OF CHINA HAD REPEATEDLY PUBLICISED THEIR FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE POLICY THAT HONG KONG'S PREVIOUS CAPITALIST SYSTEM WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997, AND THAT HONG KONG WOULD BECOME AN SAR OF CHINA WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

IN THE THIRD PLACE, GIVEN THE THRUST OF CHINA'S MODERNISATION PROGRAMME AND THE OPENING UP OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES, AND THE EFFECTIVE ROLE HONG KONG MIGHT PLAY IN BOTH, IT WAS AS MUCH IN CHINA'S INTEREST AS OURS THAT HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE TO FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE, WITHOUT WHICH INGREDIENT WE COULD NEITHER PROSPER NOR BE STABLE.

+AS HONG KONG PROGRESSES TOWARDS A HIGHER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, WE SHOULD CONTINUOUSLY BEAR AT THE BACK OF OUR MINDS THAT THE FUTURE IS WHAT WE WILL MAKE OF IT,+ MR CHEONG SAID.

+MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE AUTONOMY THAT HAS BEEN PROMISED MUST NOT ONLY BE EARNED BUT SHOULD ALSO BE SEEN TO BE WELL-DESERVED.

+THEREIN LIES OUR BEST GUARANTEE FOR THE FUTURE AGAINST POSSIBLE UNDUE INTERFERENCE FROM CHINA.+

MR CHEONG SAID POLITICALLY WE HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM CHINA FOR MANY YEARS, AND IN HIS VIEW, AND IF THERE WAS ONE SINGLE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS IN HONG KONG WHO COULD EXPLAIN THE INGREDIENTS OF THE STABLE ENVIRONMENT UNDER WHICH HONG KONG HAD PROSPERED, IT WAS THE SENIOR ECHELONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

/+THUS I .....

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+THUS I SEE, AS AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THE NEED FOR ENCOURAGING A CLOSER DIALOGUE BETWEEN CIVIL SERVANTS AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN CHINA, PARTICULARLY THOSE AT THE POLICY-MAKING LEVELS, FOR THEY HAVE A POSITIVE ROLE TO PLAY IN SECURING THE UNDERSTANDING, PATIENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN CHINA BEFORE 1997, WHEN THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW HAS TO BE COMPLETED, AND THEREAFTER WHEN THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENSURING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAR RUNS SMOOTHLY,+ HE SAID.

CONCLUDING, MR CHEONG SAID IRRESPECTIVE OF ONE'S PERSONAL FEELING ON THE ROLES SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS MIGHT HAVE PLAYED ON THIS ISSUE OF OUR FUTURE, ONE COULD AT LEAST BE SATISFIED THAT FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS THE HEART OF OFFICIALS AND UNOFFICIALS ALIKE IN HONG KONG WERE AND STILL WERE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

+AMID TREMENDOUS PRESSURE FROM ALL SIDES, THEY WORKED HARD FOR THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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BASIC LAW DRAFTERS URGED TO LEARN ABOUT HONG KONG  
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THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING THE BASIC LAW WERE URGED TODAY (TUESDAY) TO DO SO AT THEIR OWN PACE, TO TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN IN DETAIL ABOUT HONG KONG, AND TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WISH TO STAY THE WAY THEY ARE AND HOW THEY ARE TO STAY THE WAY THEY WISH.

THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MOTION ENDORSING THE SINO-BRITISH DRAFT AGREEMENT.

MR CHEUNG, WHO SUPPORTED THE MOTION, SAID DRAFTING THE BASIC LAW WAS A CRUCIAL NEXT STEP TOWARDS 1997.

HE SAID HE SINCERELY HOPED THAT THE DRAFTERS OF THE BASIC LAW WOULD DEVOTE THEIR MINDS AND THEIR HEARTS TO THE COMPLEX TASK AT HAND, AND TO CONSULT EXTENSIVELY AND SINCERELY PUBLIC VIEWS AT EVERY LEVEL OF AND IN EVERY SECTOR OF SOCIETY.

IN THIS THEY MIGHT DO WELL TO CONSULT OUR DISTRICT BOARDS FOR THEIR VIEWS AND ADVICE.

+WE ALREADY HAVE A GOOD DRAFT AGREEMENT,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

+WE MUST ENSURE THAT THERE WILL ALSO BE A GOOD BASIC LAW.+

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID THE BASIC LAW WOULD SET THE TONE FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG AND, CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT DUE CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE BEST SELECTION PROCESS FOR OUR FUTURE TOP EXECUTIVES WHETHER BY ELECTIONS OR CONSULTATIONS, GIVEN THE NEED TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS THAT HAD MADE HONG KONG WHAT IT WAS TODAY, AND WITHOUT WHICH HONG KONG WOULD VERY QUICKLY BECOME WHAT IT WAS BEFORE.

MR CHEUNG ASKED, WITH THE PROSPECT OF PLA TROOPS BEING STATIONED IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997, WOULD OUR THEN CHIEF EXECUTIVE BE EMPOWERED TO ISSUE MILITARY DIRECTIVES IF SO REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER?

HE ALSO ASKED WOULD OUR YOUNG MEN AS CHINESE CITIZENS BE REQUIRED TO SERVE WITH THE CHINESE MILITARY FORCES, OR WOULD THEIR SAR RESIDENCE PRECLUDE SUCH MILITARY SERVICE?

ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, MR CHEUNG ASKED WOULD CHINESE CITIZENS OF HONG KONG BE SUBJECT TO STATE DIRECTION REGARDING THEIR MOVEMENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CHINA?

+FREEDOM OF TRAVEL AFTER 1997 WOULD NOT BE OF MUCH GOOD TO HONG KONG PEOPLE WITHOUT THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO DO SO, AND SUCH TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WOULD BE OF LITTLE USE IF THEY ARE NOT DULY RECOGNISED BY OTHER COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER USE OF SEPARATE MEMORANDA TO CONTAIN THE VARIOUS PLEDGES ON NATIONALITY SUGGESTED THAT NEITHER BRITAIN NOR CHINA WAS WILLING TO MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT?

+NO AGREEMENT IS BETTER THAN A BAD AGREEMENT, AND THIS AGREEMENT IS BETTER THAN NO AGREEMENT,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

+IN GREAT SERIOUSNESS, WE ARE DETERMINING THE FATE OF OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, ON A CHART BASED ON PROMISES OF GOOD FAITH.

+IT REMINDED ME OF HAMLET'S SOLILOQUY, A TRIP FROM WHICH NO ONE HAS YET RETURNED.

+THE RISK IS THERE.

+BUT IT IS ALSO A CHALLENGE FOR A BOLD DECISION TO BE MADE.

+BECAUSE THE PROMISES ARE MADE IN GOOD FAITH, I COMMEND IT TO THOSE WHO WILL BE RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG AFTER 1997.+

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HK PEOPLE'S ROLE VITAL - SELINA CHOW  
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THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE AGREEMENT WILL BE FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENTED WAS TO BE FOUND NOT ONLY WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO WITH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY).

SHE WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

+CHINA HAS, IN MY VIEW, SHOWN ITS SINCERITY OF INTENTION BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE VIEWS THAT WE, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, HAVE EXPRESSED REGARDING THE AGREEMENT, IN ORDER THAT WE MAY HAVE CONFIDENCE IN ACCEPTING AND IMPLEMENTING IT.

+ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER CHINA CAN MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT STABILITY AND CARRY ON ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC POLICIES.

+ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP CAN SUCCESSFULLY EXERCISE RESTRAINT OVER THEIR OWN OFFICIALS FROM INTERFERING WITH HONG KONG, AND LET ME SAY THAT IT IS A FACT THAT MANY HERE DO NOT BELIEVE CHINA COULD REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING, AND HENCE THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE HONG KONG SAR WILL BE TRULY AUTONOMOUS,+ SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THERE WERE ALSO GRAVE DOUBTS AS TO HOW MUCH CHINA REALLY UNDERSTOOD THE SPIRIT OF FREE ENTERPRISE AS WE HAD IT IN HONG KONG.

+CONFIDENCE CAN BE GAINED IF CHINA IS TO PRACTISE, AND IS SEEN TO PRACTISE, POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTION IN HONG KONG,+ SHE SAID.

THIS COULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE, SHE SAID, IF AN UNDERSTANDING, TRUST AND MUTUAL RESPECT WERE CULTIVATED ON BOTH SIDES.

+BUT THE CRUX OF THE MATTER IS, WITHOUT THE WILL AND EFFORT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WE ARE DOOMED FROM THE START.

+IF WE DO NOT DO OUR SHARE IN MAINTAINING OUR OWN STABILITY AND PROSPERITY WHICH WE HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO ESTABLISH, WE WOULD LOSE OUR ENTIRE VALUE OF EXISTENCE, TO OURSELVES AND TO CHINA,+ SHE SAID.

+CONVERSELY, IF WE CONTINUE TO PERFORM, IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF ANYONE TO DISTURB OR DISRUPT OUR STATUS QUO.

+SO THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM IS TO BE FOUND HERE, AND WE SHOULD STOP LOOKING TO OTHERS FOR A KEY TO THE SOLUTION THAT WE FIRMLY HOLD IN OUR HANDS,+ SHE ADDED.

/SHE BELIEVED .....

SHE BELIEVED THAT AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF +ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS+ LINKED BY A CONSISTENT NATIONAL POLICY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO PERSUADE THEMSELVES TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE AGREEMENT AS AN ACCEPTED AND WORKABLE FRAMEWORK ON WHICH TO BUILD OUR FUTURE.

SHE STRESSED THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MUST VOICE THEIR OPINIONS ON THE AGREEMENT, DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE INADEQUACIES AND RAISING QUESTIONS WHERE THEY OUGHT TO BE RAISED.

THIS WAS BECAUSE, SHE SAID, THE AGREEMENT SIGNIFIED NOT SO MUCH THE END OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT THE BEGINNING OF A MAJOR CHANGE IN OUR HISTORY, AND IF WE ABDICATED OUR RIGHTS AND OUR RESPONSIBILITIES NOW TOWARDS OUR FUTURE, WHAT SHOULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PHASE COULD ONLY BECOME THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR HONG KONG.

MRS CHOW MADE COMMENTS ON FOUR MAJOR AREAS CONCERNING THE AGREEMENT.

FIRSTLY, SHE ASKED WHO WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO DISSOLVE THE LEGISLATURE GIVEN THAT WE WOULD HAVE AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE TO WHICH THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES WERE ACCOUNTABLE?

+I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THE POWER IS VESTED IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND NOT IN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SO THAT THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE LEGISLATURE AND THE EXECUTIVE CAN BE GUARANTEED,+ SHE SAID.

SECONDLY, SHE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE A HONG KONG INPUT IN DRAFTING THE BASIC LAW, A FREE HAND FOR HONG KONG IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND INDEPENDENCE IN ITS INTERPRETATION.

SHE ALSO SAID THAT THE SUGGESTION THAT A BASIC LAW ADVISORY AND MONITORING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF CHINESE PEOPLE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING AND REPUTATION BE FORMED TO ADVISE ON THE DRAFTING, IMPLEMENTATION AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENT TO THE BASIC LAW SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

THIRDLY, SHE STRESSED THAT CHINA MUST GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE FEAR WITH WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG REGARDED THE STATIONING OF THE PLA HERE AND THE FURTHER FEAR OF POSSIBLE ABUSE IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

FOURTHLY, SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP SHOULD INCLUDE HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVES.

THIS WOULD HELP THE GROUP TO GAIN THE TRUST AND CO-OPERATION OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE AND WOULD ALSO BE SEEN AS A SINCERE EFFORT TO PREPARE HONG KONG PEOPLE FOR TRUE AUTONOMY, SHE SAID.

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SPECIAL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS SHOULD BE PRESERVED - MARIA TAM  
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SPECIAL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND CONCEPTS WHICH PROTECT THE PERSONAL FREEDOM OF CITIZENS SHOULD BE PRESERVED IN THE LAWS OF THE HONG KONG SAR, THE HON MARIA TAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY).

SHE WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

SHE CITED AS EXAMPLES THE INSTITUTION OF HABEAS CORPUS AND THE PRACTICE THAT GOVERNMENT HAD TO MAKE REASONABLE COMPENSATION TO A CITIZEN WHO WAS WRONGFULLY DETAINED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE SAID, BRITISH MILITARY FORCES AND OTHER PERSONNEL AT PRESENT STATIONED IN HONG KONG WERE SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF HONG KONG, AND SO CHINESE MILITARY FORCES AND OTHER PERSONNEL STATIONED HERE IN FUTURE SHOULD OBSERVE AND ABIDE BY THE LAWS OF THE HONG KONG SAR.

+ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND THE ANNEX OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT HAS STATED THAT THE LAWS PREVIOUSLY IN FORCE IN HONG KONG SHALL BE MAINTAINED, YET THE BASIC LAW HAS NOT YET BEEN DRAFTED,+ SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD NOT YET THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD THE CONSTITUTION AND MILITARY LAWS OF CHINA, AND POSSIBLY CHINA ALSO DID NOT YET HAVE A SOUND KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAWS CURRENTLY PRACTISED IN HONG KONG.

+THE LAWS OF CHINA AND THOSE OF HONG KONG HAVE DIFFERENT ORIGINS- THEY ALSO DIFFER IN LANGUAGE AS WELL AS IN CONCEPT.

+FOR THIS REASON, I SPECIFICALLY POINT OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TWO POINTS SO THAT THE FUTURE BASIC LAW WILL NOT CONTRADICT CHINA'S LAWS RELATING TO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS,+ SHE SAID.

MISS TAM SAID ON THE ONE HAND, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ACCEPTED RIGHTLY THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT COULD MAINTAIN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS OF HONG KONG BUT ON THE OTHER, THEY ALSO RAISED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS.

THE FIRST KIND OF QUESTION CONCERNED REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AND MISS TAM SAID IF THE GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE A REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS WHICH WERE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO VARIOUS SECTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CLARIFICATION OF THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, THEN PSYCHOLOGICALLY IT WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO WERE AFFECTED.

/THE SECOND .....

THE SECOND KIND OF QUESTION WAS ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AND THE THIRD KIND WERE THOSE WHICH ONLY HISTORY AND TIME COULD ANSWER.

MISS TAM SAID SHE BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA HAD GOOD FAITH TO FULFIL THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AND THE COMMITMENTS SET OUT IN THE EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA.

+I DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG CAN ONLY AFFORD TO SUCCEED BUT NOT TO FAIL IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS',+ SHE STRESSED.

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MORE AUTONOMY OFFERED IN DRAFT ACCORD - DR IP  
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THE DRAFT AGREEMENT HAS GIVEN US MORE AUTONOMY THAN WE EVER HAD BEFORE, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY) IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE AGREEMENT.

+THE FUTURE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WILL BE ONE OF US, THE FINAL COURT OF APPEAL WILL BE IN HONG KONG AND FURTHERMORE, AS A BONUS, WE WILL RECEIVE THE PROTECTION OF A SOVEREIGN STATE AT ABSOLUTELY NO EXPENSE ON OUR PART,+ SHE SAID.

THE AGREEMENT WAS A GOOD ONE, BETTER THAN ANYONE HAD HOPED, SHE SAID.

IT WAS ALSO AN EXCELLENT COMPROMISE FOR ALL THREE PARTIES CONCERNED.

AT THIS POINT, DR IP PAID TRIBUTE TO SIR S.Y. CHUNG'S LEADERSHIP OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL +IN PRESSING FOR MORE AND MORE UNTIL THE LAST DROP OF ADVANTAGE HAD BEEN SQUEEZED OUT.+ THE NEXT THREE GENERATIONS OR MORE HAD SO MUCH TO THANK HIM FOR A JOB WELL DONE, SHE SAID.

DR IP SAID THE FREEDOM GIVEN ACCORDING TO THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS MORE THAN MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD COULD ENJOY.

+WE WILL HAVE FREEDOM TO TRAVEL, TO LEAVE HONG KONG, TO OWN PROPERTY, TO TAKE MONEY OUT OF HONG KONG WITHOUT EXCHANGE CONTROL, TO MARRY WHOM WE LOVED AND BRING UP A FAMILY, TO CHOOSE THE TYPE OF EDUCATION WE WANTED FOR OUR CHILDREN, AND TO HAVE OUR OWN RELIGIOUS BELIEF,+ SHE SAID.

OF COURSE WE WOULD NOT BE COMPLACENT; WE WOULD CONTINUE TO AIM AT IMPROVING THE AGREEMENT AND TO TRY TO SECURE FOR THE PEOPLE THOSE POINTS NOT MENTIONED IN THE DRAFT, DR IP SAID. WE WOULD DO OUR BEST IN REFLECTING THEIR OPINION ON THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, THE ACTUAL OPERATION OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP ETC.

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/+BUT IN .....

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+BUT IN THE MEANTIME YOU MUST GET YOUR CONFIDENCE BACK - IN YOURSELF, IN HONG KONG AND IN OUR FUTURE,+ SHE SAID.

DR IP SAID SHE COMMENDED THE DRAFT AGREEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

SHE SINCERELY HOPED THAT THEY WOULD CEASE TO WASTE ANY MORE TIME AND ENERGY ON THE UNCERTAINTIES AND PUT ALL THEIR ENERGY BACK INTO BUILDING UP HONG KONG.

+HONG KONG NEEDS EVERY ONE OF YOU,+ DR IP SAID. +HELP YOURSELVES AND HELP CHINA IN ITS MODERNISATION PROGRAMME SO THAT, IN 13 YEARS PLUS 50, THE GAP BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG CAN BE NARROWED.+

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JOINT EFFORT NEEDED TO PUT WORDS INTO PRACTICE -- CHAN YING-LUN  
\* \* \* \* \*

IF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG COULD BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF THE TERRITORY WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE REALISED, THE HON CHAN YING-LUN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, MR CHAN SAID THE CONCERTED EFFORT AND DETERMINATION OF CHINA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HONG KONG WERE NEEDED TO TRANSLATE THE WRITTEN WORDS INTO PRACTICE.

+THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS PROMISED THAT HONG KONG WILL HAVE A HIGHLY EFFICIENT AND COMPETENT GOVERNMENT IN THE COMING 13-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD.

+IT IS BEYOND DOUBT THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, WITH ITS FINE TRACK RECORD, CAN FULFIL THE ABOVE PROMISE.

+WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S CONVENTIONAL BASIC PRINCIPLE OF SEEKING PROGRESS WITH CAUTION, AND THE PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC ATTITUDE OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE, WE BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG, THOUGH FACED WITH A CHANGE OF POLITICAL SYSTEM, CAN HAVE A MORE OPEN AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID MANY PEOPLE HERE WERE STILL DOUBTFUL AS TO WHETHER THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

+THUS WE THINK THAT 'THE QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE' STILL EXISTS.

+NEVERTHELESS, THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE SHOULD FEEL AT EASE AFTER READING THROUGH THE DRAFT AGREEMENT,+ HE SAID.

/THE QUESTION -----

THE QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE WAS NOW DIRECTED TOWARDS THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPMENTS BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

+THIS IS THE ONE ASPECT THE PEOPLE ARE QUITE WORRIED ABOUT.

+HOWEVER, IF WE THINK CAREFULLY, WE SHALL ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION.

+WHY WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING THAT IS NOT WITHIN OUR CONTROL AND THUS BEYOND OUR CAPABILITY TO INTERFERE?

+WHY NOT USE OUR ENERGY TO DO SOMETHING WHICH CAN REALLY BE DONE, ACTIVELY ENGAGING OURSELVES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF HONG KONG SO THAT THE 63 YEARS AHEAD CAN BE BUILT ON A FIRM FOUNDATION?

+THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+FOR OURSELVES, FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, WE SHOULD ALL DO BETTER TO MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

+AS WE ALL UNDERSTAND, A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS HONG KONG IS THE BEST GUARANTEE FOR THE REALISATION OF OUR EXPECTATION,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE FELT THAT IF, IN THE NEXT THREE TO FIVE YEARS, THE PREVAILING CHINESE POLICIES WERE MAINTAINED AND THE LIVING STANDARD IN CHINA WAS BEING RAISED CONTINUOUSLY, THE FAITH OF HONG KONG IN CHINA WOULD DEFINITELY INCREASE WITH TIME.

THIS RESTS ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP AND THE EFFORTS OF ITS PEOPLE.

ON THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, MR CHAN SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO DEFINE CLEARLY THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP, SPECIFYING PRECISELY THAT IT HAD NO EXECUTIVE AND SUPERVISORY POWER, AND WAS SET UP MERELY TO ASSIST HONG KONG IN THE SMOOTH TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT IN ORDER THAT THE AGREEMENT COULD BE EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED.

+IT MUST BE NOTED THAT ANY MOVE OR ACTION WHICH MAY BE PERCEIVED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE THAT HONG KONG'S ADMINISTRATION IS BEING INTERFERED WITH MAY THROW SUSPICION ON THE WORK OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, THEREBY UNDERMINING THE CONFIDENCE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT,+ MR CHAN SAID.

+BESIDES HAVING SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS, SUCH ACTION OR MOVE WILL ALSO LEAD TO DOUBTS OVER THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE FUTURE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT IN MANAGING ITS OWN AFFAIRS.

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+SO I AM OF THE VIEW THAT THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP MUST NOT IN ANY WAY INTERVENE IN THE DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP MUST BE CLEARLY DEFINED, SO THAT ITS ACTIVITIES ARE STRICTLY CONFINED TO THE FRAME AS LAID DOWN IN THE AGREEMENT, AND THAT IT MUST NOT TO GO BEYOND ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHINA TO DEMONSTRATE ITS ASSURANCE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT ALSO PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE TO SEE CHINA'S BASIC POLICIES AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS HONG KONG.

+AS THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN THE SOCIETY AND SYSTEMS BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG, WHETHER THE 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS' CONCEPT IS FEASIBLE OR NOT RESTS MAINLY ON CHINA'S PART TO BACK UP HER POLICIES WITH FACTS, WHICH WILL SERVE TO STRENGTHEN HONG KONG PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE.

+IN VIEW OF THIS, THE WORK AND ACTIONS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP CAN ALSO SERVE AS A TOUCHSTONE TO TEST CHINA'S SINCERITY TOWARDS THE AGREEMENT,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE FELT THAT WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG NOW HOPED FOR WAS A SMOOTH TRANSITION IN THE NEXT 13 YEARS DURING WHICH THEY COULD LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

+I AM PLEASED TO SEE SUCH A DETAILED AGREEMENT AND I HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENTED,+ HE SAID.

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PEOPLE SHOULD SET THEIR HEARTS AT EASE - PAULINE NG  
\* \* \* \* \*

A WIDE RANGE OF FREEDOMS HAVE BEEN GUARANTEED IN THE SINO-BRITISH DRAFT AGREEMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD SET THEIR HEARTS AT EASE, THE HON PAULINE NG SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, SHE SAID:

+FOR ONE THING, THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT IS LEGALLY BINDING IN ITSELF TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE PROVISIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

/+BESIDES, IT .....

+BESIDES, IT IS HOPED THAT, THROUGH HER LINK WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, CHINA WILL TAKE PART IN THE MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION IN ORDER THAT THE NOBLE AIM OF PROMOTING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN EVERY COUNTRY MAY BE ACHIEVED,+ SHE SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT SECTION XIII OF ANNEX I TO THE DRAFT AGREEMENT STIPULATED THAT THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE LAWS PREVIOUSLY IN FORCE IN HONG KONG WOULD BE MAINTAINED BY THE HONG KONG SAR GOVERNMENT.

IT WAS FURTHER STIPULATED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AS APPLIED TO HONG KONG WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE, SHE SAID.

+IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT WHEN SIGNING AND RATIFYING THESE TWO COVENANTS, BRITAIN MADE DECLARATIONS RELEVANT TO HONG KONG THAT SHE WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT NOT TO APPLY CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN HONG KONG.

+THESE RESERVATIONS SOMEHOW SEEM TO BE OUT OF DATE NOW,+ MRS NG SAID.

INSTEAD, A MORE LIBERAL ATTITUDE SHOULD BE ADOPTED TO INTRODUCE MORE OF THE REASONABLE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE COVENANTS SO AS TO TIE IN WITH THE CHANGES OF THIS HISTORICAL MOMENT, SHE SAID.

SHE SAID SHE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE FROM SECTION X IN ANNEX I TO THE DRAFT AGREEMENT THAT HONG KONG WOULD ENJOY THE RIGHT OF MAKING ITS OWN POLICIES IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AFTER 1997, THUS ENABLING INSTITUTIONS OF ALL KINDS TO RETAIN THEIR AUTONOMY.

WHILE NOTING THAT THE HONG KONG SAR GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE ITS OWN RIGHT TO DECIDE THE POLICIES REGARDING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND ITS ADMINISTRATION, MRS NG HOPED THAT IT WOULD ADOPT A MORE DEMOCRATIC APPROACH IN FORMULATING SUCH POLICIES AND IMPROVE THE EXISTING CONSULTATIVE SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.

SHE ALSO HOPED THAT HONG KONG WOULD TAKE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF A PANEL OF VISITORS DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A HIGHLY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN THE MAKING OF OUR EDUCATION POLICIES.

MRS NG CONSIDERED THAT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND OF SPEECH WERE ESSENTIAL IN MAINTAINING THE FUTURE STATUS OF HONG KONG.

+AS LONG AS THE CONTENTS OF EXPRESSION ARE NOT LIBELLOUS, I HOPE THAT CHINA WILL ALLOW THE EXPRESSION OF DIFFERENT OPINIONS AND CRITICISMS,+ SHE SAID.

/+I ALSO .....

+I ALSO HOPE THAT THE SUBSTANTIAL CONTENTS AND THE LIMITS OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND SPEECH WILL BE SPECIFICALLY DEFINED IN THE FUTURE BASIC LAW, SO AS TO PRESERVE THE HONG KONG SAR TO BE ONE OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN PLACES WHERE PEOPLE HAVE THE GREATEST FREEDOM IN THE PRESS AND SPEECH,+ SHE SAID.

MRS NG SAID SHE HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WOULD NOT ONLY INCORPORATE THE VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT IN THE BASIC LAW, BUT ALSO INCLUDE SUPPLEMENTS AND DETAILED EXPLANATIONS FOR THOSE PROVISIONS, AND WOULD WIDELY CANVASS THE OPINIONS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE AND CARRY OUT IN-DEPTH CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE BASIC LAW WAS PASSED.

+I ALSO HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL ENTHUSIASTICALLY EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS AND FORWARD THEIR COMMENTS TO THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION.+

SHE SAID, DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM NOW TO 1997, THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP SHOULD STUDY AND CONDUCT CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE SMOOTH TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG SHOULD GRADUALLY INTRODUCE NEW MEASURES AND POLICIES DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD IN LINE WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS AFTER 1997.+

SHE BELIEVED THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS AFTER CHINA RECOVERS HONG KONG WOULD NOT ONLY ENHANCE THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, BUT WOULD ALSO GIVE AN IMPETUS TO THE MODERNISATION OF CHINA.

+FOR THIS REASON, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY AT THIS TURNING POINT IN HISTORY.

+WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WITH CONFIDENCE AND ZEAL,+ SHE SAID.

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#### PETER POON WARNS AGAINST EUPHORIA

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THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MUST NOT BE TAKEN BY EUPHORIA, THE HON PETER POON SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+RESTORATION OF THE CONFIDENCE OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS WILL TAKE TIME AND REQUIRE CONCERTED EFFORTS FROM ALL PARTIES CONCERNED,+ HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE ADAPTABLE TO CHANGES AND THEY SHOULD CONSOLIDATE THEIR POSITION AND FACE THEIR DESTINY WITH COURAGE AND DETERMINATION, HE SAID.

/MR POON .....

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MR POON WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

+IT IS NOW UP TO THE HONG KONG PEOPLE TO MAKE THE AGREEMENT WORK, TO DEMONSTRATE TO CHINA AND THE WORLD THAT WE WILL TRY OUR BEST TO MAKE THE CONCEPT 'HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG' A SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

+WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE,+ HE STRESSED.

HE CONSIDERED THAT THERE WERE FIVE POINTS IN THE AGREEMENT WHICH WERE CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE WAS BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

+IF THESE ARE FAITHFULLY OBSERVED, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN LIVE AND WORK IN PEACE AND NOT WORRY ABOUT PERSECUTION, ARBITRARY ARREST OR DIFFICULTY OF TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE TERRITORY,+ HE SAID.

THE SECOND POINT, HE SAID, RELATED TO HONG KONG'S VIABILITY AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE AND A STRONG ECONOMIC ENTITY.

HE FELT THERE WAS AMPLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG'S TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ECONOMY WOULD CONTINUE TO FLOURISH PROVIDED THAT THE ADVANTAGES THAT CURRENTLY EXISTED WERE TO BE RETAINED.

ON THE THIRD POINT - THE STABILITY OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION - MR POON SAID THAT THERE WERE PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ABOUT PUBLIC SERVANTS TO ALLEVIATE THEIR CONCERNS AND ANXIETIES AS REGARDS TERMS OF SERVICE AND PENSION RIGHTS AND THAT INTERNAL SECURITY WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FUTURE HONG KONG SAR GOVERNMENT.

ALSO, IN CONNECTION WITH THIS POINT, HE FOUND THE ANNEX ON LAND LEASES GENERALLY SATISFACTORY.

+MY RESERVATION IS WHETHER THE REPLACEMENT OF THE PREMIUM FOR RENEWAL OF LAND LEASES BY THE ANNUAL RENT OF ONLY THREE PER CENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, THE LIMIT ON LAND SALES TO 50 HECTARES PER YEAR, AND THE SHARING OF PREMIUM INCOME FROM LAND TRANSACTIONS WITH THE FUTURE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT WILL BEGIN TO AFFECT GOVERNMENT'S FINANCES BEFORE 1997 TO AN EXTENT THAT TAXES WILL HAVE TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY RAISED TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF REVENUE FROM SUCH SOURCES,+ HE SAID.

THE FOURTH POINT WAS THE FREEDOM OF HOLDERS OF VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO LEAVE THE HONG KONG SAR WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORISATION, UNLESS RESTRAINED BY LAW, MR POON SAID, DESCRIBING THIS AS +A BIG PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST TO LOCAL PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE+.

/+HOWEVER, TO .....

+HOWEVER, TO ENSURE GENUINE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE MEANING OF 'RESTRAINED BY LAW' BE CONFINED TO THAT ALREADY PRACTISED IN HONG KONG, FOR EXAMPLE, RESTRAINT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENCES OR FAILED TO PAY TAXES DUE,+ HE SAID.

FINALLY, HE SAID, THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE IN FUTURE, THOUGH UNDERSTANDABLY FLEXIBLE IN CERTAIN ASPECTS, WOULD SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF +HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG+, AS THE SAR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ELECTED AND HAVE A MANDATE FROM THE PUBLIC.

+IT IS HOWEVER IMPORTANT THAT OUR FUTURE SYSTEM MUST BE FORMULATED IN A WAY SUITABLE FOR THE UNIQUE POSITION OF HONG KONG AND WE SHOULD GUARD AGAINST MAKING ANY RADICAL CHANGES PREMATURELY AND HASTILY,+ HE SAID.

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GOOD DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATION PROVIDED -- P.K. YEUNG  
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A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT MUST BE BUILT ON A GOOD FOUNDATION, AND THE CONTENT OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY PROVIDED ONE, THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

HE SAID THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PASSING GRADUALLY THE ADMINISTRATION TO THE PEOPLE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, TOWARDS THE TARGET OF +HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG+, THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

+THIS REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM MUST NOT FAIL,+ HE STRESSED.

+ITS SUCCESS DEPENDS ON PUBLIC SUPPORT - THE STRENGTH OF SUPPORT COMES FROM PEOPLE'S WHOLE-HEARTEDNESS IN ELECTING CAPABLE MEN TO SERVE THE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY,+ HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED THAT CHOOSING THE RIGHT MEN WOULD HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON POLICIES AND ATTITUDES TO BE ADOPTED AND SAID THAT REGISTERED VOTERS MUST MAKE USE OF THEIR RIGHT TO ELECT CAPABLE PEOPLE AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

HE ALSO SAID THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD NOT OVERLOOK THE WISHES OF CHINA, AS THE POLITICAL REFORM IN THESE 13 YEARS HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO THE FOLLOWING 50 YEARS.

+HONG KONG WOULD BECOME PART OF CHINA AFTER 1997, AND CHINA WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT A GOVERNMENT LED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN MAKE THE TERRITORY PROSPEROUS AND STABLE,+ HE SAID.

IN STRIVING FOR A BASIC LAW CONFORMING TO THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, MR YEUNG SAID THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MUST UTILISE THE AVAILABLE CHANNELS TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS, AND TO DEMONSTRATE THE FEASIBILITY OF +HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG+ BY FACTS.

HE ALSO FELT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE BASIC LAW TO BE FORMULATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PUT THE HEART OF THE PEOPLE AT EASE.

+ITS FORMULATION MUST BE PARTICIPATED BY WELL-PLACED HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE BACKGROUND TO THE AGREEMENT, SO THAT PUBLIC OPINION CAN BE REFLECTED HONESTLY,+ HE SUGGESTED.

HE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOW DOUBLE ITS EFFORTS IN TRAINING PEOPLE IN VARIOUS SECTORS (INCLUDING CIVIL SERVANTS), PARTICULARLY IN THE USE OF CHINESE, TO FIT INTO FUTURE POLITICAL OPERATIONS.

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#### KIM CHAM URGES JOINT STATEMENT TO CLARIFY PROVISIONS

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CHINA AND BRITAIN SHOULD ISSUE A JOINT STATEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN THE AGREEMENT, THE HON KIM CHAM SUGGESTED TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

+THIS WILL SERVE TO REMOVE ANY UNCERTAINTIES ARISING FROM THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DOCUMENT CARRYING WITH IT A COMMITMENT FROM BOTH GOVERNMENTS.+

HE SAID THE LATITUDE OF SAFEGUARDS PROVIDED BY THIS DIPLOMATIC INSTRUMENT WAS DESIGNED TO ANCHOR THE CONTINUOUS POSITION OF HONG KONG AS AN OPEN ECONOMY OF FREE ENTERPRISE AFTER 1997.

+VIEWING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, IT MAY BE SAID THAT THE WHITE PAPER FASHIONS A CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT SO AS TO MAKE THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVE, FINANCIALLY VIABLE AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE ELECTED LEGISLATURE.

/+IN PARALLEL, .....

+IN PARALLEL, THE VARIETY OF LEGAL, POLITICAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES, PRESCRIBED NOW OR LATER UNDER THE BASIC LAW, AIM TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG AS A FREE FINANCIAL AND TRADING CENTRE THAT SERVES THE CHINESE AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY,+ MR CHAM SAID.

HE SAID THAT A CENTRAL FEATURE OF OUR PRESENT MONETARY SYSTEM AND ITS STABILITY WAS THE VIABILITY AND STRENGTH OF OUR CURRENCY.

+WE SHOULD REALISE THAT A STABLE AND CREDITABLE MONETARY SYSTEM CONSTITUTES A POTENT TOOL THAT ENABLES US TO EXERCISE DISCIPLINE ON OUR ECONOMY.

+ITS EFFICACY AFFECTS STRATEGICALLY OUR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, SO THAT THE UNBIASED OPERATION OF THE FUTURE MONETARY SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE REGULATION OF CURRENCY ISSUE, IS NECESSARY,+ HE SAID.

FOR THIS REASON, MR CHAM SAID, WE SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF TWO CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR THE EFFECTIVE WORKING OF THE FUTURE MONETARY SYSTEM.

+FIRST, THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE EXCHANGE FUND MUST BE PRUDENT IN MAINTAINING A MIXED PORTFOLIO OF CURRENCIES AND INSTRUMENTS FREELY DISPOSABLE IN LEADING FINANCIAL MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

+SECONDLY, THE FUTURE MONETARY SYSTEM SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE OFFICIAL FISCAL SYSTEM, EVEN IF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT IS CHARGED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF BOTH SYSTEMS UNDER THE DRAFT AGREEMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE CONCEDED THAT THE INSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES ABOUT THE BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL LAID THE PILLARS FOR OUR FUTURE STABILITY, PROSPERITY AND HARMONY.

+HOWEVER, THESE MEASURES AND ARRANGEMENTS, EVEN IF REPRESENTED UNEQUIVOCALLY UNDER THE LETTERS OF THE LAW, ARE NO MORE THAN AN EMPTY-SHELL UNTIL AND UNLESS PEOPLE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE ECONOMY WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AND THRIVE,+ HE SAID.

+THE ESSENCE OF OUR ECONOMIC DYNAMICS WILL STILL BE OUR COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG AS A FREE AND OPEN ECONOMY WHICH SERVE EFFICIENTLY THE CHINESE AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMIES.

+AND THE BATON OF SUCH A POLICY IS STILL THAT ABILITY FOR US TO WORK WITH A FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTIVE PRIVATE SECTOR, BACKED BY LOW TAXATION AND A NON-COERCIVE SYSTEM OF FISCAL AND MONETARY REGULATION.

+LET US STRIVE TOWARDS THIS FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF ACCOMPLISHING AND UPKEEPING OUR ECONOMIC SELF-EXCELLENCE,+ HE SAID.

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LET TIME AND FACTS TELL --- KEITH LAM  
\* \* \* \*

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO WORRY ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT NOW AND THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE LEFT TO SHOW THEIR SINCERITY IN ADHERING TO THE COMMITMENT THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF TIME AND BY ACTUAL FACTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON KEITH LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

HE SAID THAT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION HE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THE DRAFT AGREEMENT HAD SATISFIED THE LONG-TERM AND CURRENT INTERESTS OF BRITAIN AND CHINA.

+IT ALSO MEETS THE PRIMARY INTERESTS OF THE CHINESE AND BRITISH PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS NOT A FLAWLESS DOCUMENT AND POINTED OUT THAT CLARIFICATION WAS NECESSARY ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- \* WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION (OTHER THAN ARTICLE 31) THAT WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG OR RELEVANT TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE BASIC LAW OF HONG KONG;
- \* WHETHER SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE FOR LAND HELD UNDER +FREE-HOLD LAND+ LEASES;
- \* WHETHER CHINESE FORCES STATIONED IN HONG KONG WOULD NOT CONSCRIPT THEIR MEMBERS FROM HERE;
- \* WHETHER CHINESE TROOPS STATIONED IN HONG KONG SHOULD COME UNDER THE RULE OF LAW AS OTHER CITIZENS;
- \* WHETHER CHINA WOULD POST LOCAL PEOPLE OUT OF HONG KONG ON ANY EXCUSE; AND
- \* THE PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE BASIC LAW SHOULD BE DRAFTED.

MR LAM URGED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO STUDY THE WHITE PAPER IN DETAIL AND TO GIVE THEIR OPINIONS.

+I AM IN FULL CONFIDENCE THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE THE BOLDNESS OF VISION AND THE NECESSARY ABILITY TO MAKE THEIR OWN HISTORY SO LONG AS THEY KEEP THEIR CONFIDENCE, UNIFY THEIR EFFORTS AND REMAIN STEADFAST IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

+HONG KONG WILL HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

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CLARIFICATION NEEDED ON NON-CHINESE BDTC'S - CARL TONG  
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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA, MUST RESOLVE TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF ABOUT 10 000 NON-CHINESE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY CITIZENS (BDTC'S) IN HONG KONG.

THE HON CARL TONG SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THROUGH A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

HE SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT FOR THESE PEOPLE, MOSTLY CITIZENS OF INDIAN, PAKISTANI AND PORTUGUESE ORIGIN, TO BECOME STATELESS AFTER 1997.

MR TONG ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE BASIC LAW.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT, WHILE IN PRACTICE THE DRAFT AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE CHANGED, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, INCLUDE THE NECESSARY REFINEMENT TO THE DRAFT AGREEMENT IN THE BASIC LAW.

MR TONG LIKENED HONG KONG TO A COMPANY AND DISCUSSED WHETHER INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP.

HE SAID INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE DEPENDED ON FIVE KEY FACTORS - THE GENERAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, THE MARKET FOR ITS PRODUCTS, THE MANAGEMENT, THE LABOUR FORCE AND THE ADEQUACY OF THE SYSTEM OF PROCEDURES AND ORGANISATION.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE GENERAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT WOULD ALWAYS BE SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL FORCES AND, +EVERYTHING REMAINING EQUAL, 'HONG KONG INCORPORATED'S' MARKET POSITION SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP. +

+THE WHITE PAPER HAS EXPLAINED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF ITS PROVISIONS IS TO PRESERVE THE SYSTEM BEFORE THE CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP AND TO GIVE 'HONG KONG INCORPORATED' A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN WHICH IT WILL BE ABLE TO ADMINISTER ITSELF AND CONTINUE TO DECIDE ON MOST OF ITS OWN POLICIES.

+THIS APPEARS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF PRESERVING 'HONG KONG INCORPORATED'S' EXISTING SYSTEM IN GENERAL, + HE ADDED.

ON MANAGEMENT, HE SAID IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT NO CHANGE IN SENIOR MANAGEMENT IN ANY TAKEOVER BID.

/HOWEVER, HE .....

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HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED THAT PURELY POLITICAL CHANGES SHOULD BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM IN 1997 AS THESE WOULD DISTURB INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE.

HE ALSO PREDICTED THAT AS HONG KONG MOVED CLOSER TO 1997, THE MANAGEMENT WOULD BECOME MORE UNCERTAIN ABOUT ITS OWN POSITION AND THIS UNCERTAINTY WOULD AFFECT ITS PERFORMANCE AND CONTINUAL LOYALTY.

+TO COUNTER THIS, MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE CONSULTED AND ADEQUATELY INFORMED THROUGHOUT THE 13 YEARS' TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

+I BELIEVED THAT THIS CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVELY ACHIEVED BY INCLUDING 'HONG KONG INCORPORATED'S' MANAGEMENT IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP,+ HE SAID.

+AS IN THE CASE OF MANAGEMENT, THE LABOUR FORCE SHOULD ALSO BE ADEQUATELY INFORMED THROUGHOUT THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

+AN UNSETTLED LABOUR FORCE COULD BE HIGHLY DISRUPTIVE TO PRODUCTIVITY AND IN TURN WILL AFFECT INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE IN 'HONG KONG INCORPORATED',+ HE ADDED.

MR TONG SAID IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, INVESTORS WERE MOST CONCERNED WITH THE RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT AND IF 'HONG KONG INCORPORATED' CONTINUED TO BE A SUCCESS STORY, ITS MANAGEMENT AND LABOUR FORCE ALIKE SHOULD NOT BE UNDULY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR POSITION.

+HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE WHOLLY UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT NO RETRENCHMENT IN A BUSINESS IF THE RESULTS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN DESIRABLE.

+OVERALL, I BELIEVE THAT THE INVESTORS SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENT IN 'HONG KONG INCORPORATED',+ HE SAID.

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## EIGHT SUSPECTED II'S HELD IN RAIDS

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EIGHT SUSPECTED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE ARRESTED ON TSING YI ISLAND LAST (MONDAY) NIGHT IN A SPECIAL OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY OFFICERS OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

THE EIGHT, ALL MEN AGED BETWEEN 20 AND 35, WERE FOUND WHEN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS RAIDED FIVE DIFFERENT PLACES ON THE ISLAND.

ONE OF THEM WAS FOUND IN POSSESSION OF A SUSPECTED FORGED OLD-TYPE IDENTITY CARD, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

A PARTY OF 32 IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, ACTING ON INFORMATION, HAS TAKEN PART IN LAST NIGHT'S RAIDS, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT LAST NIGHT'S OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ON-GOING EFFORTS TO FERRET OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HIDING IN HONG KONG.

SIMILAR OPERATIONS WOULD CONTINUE AND THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, HE STRESSED.

THE ARRESTED PERSONS WERE BEING DETAINED FOR ENQUIRIES.

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## COLLECTING PUBLIC VIEWS ON WHITE PAPER

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THE DISTRICT BOARDS OF YAU MA TEI AND MONG KOK WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS AND SEMINARS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS, KAIFONGS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), TO COLLECT VIEWS ON THE WHITE PAPER ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD WILL ORGANISE A SEMINAR TOMORROW AT 8 PM IN THE HENRY G. LEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE. RESIDENTS, MEMBERS OF THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND AND EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

THE SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE OF YAU MA TEI WILL DISCUSS THE DOCUMENT AT THEIR MEETING ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 19) AT 3 PM IN THE FOUR SEASONS SUITE OF THE NEW WORLD HOTEL. THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BOWEN LEUNG WILL SIT IN AT THE MEETING. COMMENTS FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS WILL THEN BE FORWARDED TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE.

/THE BOARD .....

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER AT THEIR REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 26 (FRIDAY), STARTING AT 3 PM.

IN MONG KOK, BOARD MEMBERS HAVE ARRANGED A JOINT MEETING WITH THE FIVE AREA COMMITTEES ON OCTOBER 29, AT THE CHAN HING SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE TO COLLECT VIEWS FROM THEIR MEMBERS. THIS WILL START AT 8 PM.

PRIOR TO THE JOINT MEETING, THE FIVE AREA COMMITTEES WILL ARRANGE SEPARATE SEMINARS ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND VENUES:

NORTH (AC)	ST. MARGARET GIRL'S COLLEGE, LAI CHI KOK ROAD	OCTOBER 19, FRIDAY 8 PM
SOUTH (AC)	HONG KONG VERNACULAR NORMAL SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOOL, SAI YEE STREET	OCTOBER 21, SUNDAY 10 AM
EAST (AC)	MONG KOK CHURCH, BUTT STREET	OCTOBER 18, THURSDAY 8 PM
WEST (AC)	SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHERRY STREET	OCTOBER 24, WEDNESDAY 8 PM
TAI KOK TSUI	KEI CHUEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, TAI KOK TSUI	OCTOBER 18, THURSDAY 8 PM

AFTER COLLECTING THE VIEWS, THE DB MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER AT A SPECIAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8 AT THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, AT 3 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE MEETINGS.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1984

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AREA GROUPS TO DISCUSS WHITE PAPER  
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TEN AREA COMMITTEES IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT WILL HOLD JOINT MEETINGS, ON A SUB-DISTRICT BASIS, OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS TO DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN, WILL BE PRESENT AT THE THREE MEETINGS TO EXPLAIN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE WHITE PAPER TO AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), THE AREA COMMITTEES OF CAUSEWAY BAY NORTH, CAUSEWAY BAY SOUTH, NORTH POINT WEST AND NORTH POINT EAST WILL MEET AT 8 PM IN THE HONG KONG VICTORIA KINDERGARTEN AT 32-36, HING FAT STREET, CAUSEWAY BAY.

ON OCTOBER 22 (MONDAY) THE AREA COMMITTEES OF QUARRY BAY, SHAU KEI WAN SOUTH, SHAU KEI WAN EAST, AND SHAU KEI WAN WEST WILL MEET AT 6 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR, 880-886, KING'S ROAD.

THE CHAI WAN NORTH AND CHAI WAN SOUTH AREA COMMITTEES WILL BE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 2 AT 8 PM IN YUE WAN COMMUNITY HALL, YUE WAN ESTATE, CHAI WAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE JOINT MEETINGS OF THE AREA COMMITTEES.

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RICHLAND GARDENS OFFER DRAWS THOUSANDS  
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THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE IN HO MAN TIN WAS TODAY SWARMED WITH THOUSANDS OF ASPIRING HOME-OWNERS WHO WENT THERE ON THE FIRST DAY OF APPLICATION TO COLLECT APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE PSPS RICHLAND GARDENS FLATS ON SALE UNDER PHASE VIB OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.

+UP TO 7 PM TODAY, MORE THAN 25 000 APPLICATION FORMS, OF WHICH ABOUT TWO-THIRDS ARE WHITE FORMS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR APPLICANTS, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED ALONE AT THE CENTRE, + SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

HE SAID SEVERAL THOUSAND MORE FORMS WERE ALSO PICKED UP AT OTHER OUTLETS, INCLUDING THE APPLICATIONS SECTION OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, HOUSING AUTHORITY AND HOUSING SOCIETY ESTATE OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES AS WELL AS AT A NUMBER OF MINI EXHIBITIONS ON RICHLAND GARDENS BEING STAGED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

/+COPIES OF .....

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+COPIES OF A SALES BROCHURE AND A GUIDE TO THE HOS PHASE VI B ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE WHICH IS OPEN TILL 7 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 10 AM TO 7 PM ON SUNDAYS.+

IN VIEW OF SOME 40 000 PEOPLE HAVING VISITED THE SAMPLE FLATS AT RICHLAND GARDENS OVER THE LAST SIX DAYS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THEIR OPENING HOURS BETWEEN MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS WOULD, FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), BE CHANGED TO 10 AM - 5.30 PM, INSTEAD OF 1 PM - 6.30 PM.

+THE OPENING HOURS FOR SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS WILL, HOWEVER, REMAIN UNCHANGED,+ HE ADDED.

THE FIRST BATCH OF RICHLAND GARDENS FLATS ON SALE UNDER THE CURRENT EXERCISE INCLUDE 2 688 FLATS ON BLOCKS 1-10.

THEIR PRICES RANGE FROM \$188 300 TO \$337 000 EACH, WITH GROSS AREAS BETWEEN 43.7 AND 57.9 SQUARE METRES.

APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON OCTOBER 30 AND A PUBLIC BALLOT WILL BE HELD NEXT MONTH TO DECIDE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

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#### MP LOOKS OVER KWUN TONG HOUSING

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MR GORDON BAGIER AND HIS WIFE THIS MORNING TOURED KWUN TONG TO SEE VARIOUS TYPES OF HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK, ON OTHER DEVELOPMENT IN KWUN TONG.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICERS, MISS SANDRA LEE AND MR CLAYMON LAI, THE PARTY VISITED AN OLD-TYPE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IN SAU MAU PING, FROM WHERE MR AND MRS BAGIER HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE DISTRICT. THEY ALSO VISITED THE RECENTLY BUILT KAI YIP ESTATE.

AT KAI YIP ESTATE, THEY VISITED A CENTRE AND HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY.

APART FROM PUBLIC HOUSING, MR AND MRS BAGIER ALSO VISITED A SQUATTER AREA IN ON LOK VILLAGE AND WERE SHOWN SOME IMPROVEMENT WORKS FUNDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

IN KAM KUK VILLAGE, THEY VISITED A MORNING WALK TRAIL WHICH HAD BEEN RECENTLY COMPLETED FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THIS MORNING'S VISIT WAS CONCLUDED BY A MEETING WITH THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1984

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THREE MP'S TO MEET PRESS DURING WEEK  
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THREE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL BE MEETING THE NEWS MEDIA THIS WEEK, IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) LABOUR MP, MR GORDON BAGIER, WILL BE GIVING A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 3 PM.

ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 18) CONSERVATIVE MP, MR MICHAEL MARSHALL, WILL MEET THE PRESS AT 4.30 PM.

AND ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 20) SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MP, MR CHARLES KENNEDY, WILL BE HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE, STARTING AT 11 AM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCES.

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FIVE NT SITES OFFERED FOR LETTERS A/B  
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM REGISTERED OWNERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTERS A AND B) FOR FIVE SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THREE OF THE SITES ARE IN YUEN LONG, AND THE OTHERS IN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN.

THE YUEN LONG SITES ARE AT SAI CHING STREET (6 197 SQ.M.), KIN TAK STREET (429.9 SQ.M.), AND MA TIN ROAD (4 350 SQ.M.). THE FIRST TWO SITES ARE FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE, EXCLUDING GODOWN PURPOSES, WHILE THE THIRD IS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL USE.

THE NEXT SITE, MEASURING 2 690 SQUARE METRES, IS AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN. IT IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL BUT GODOWN AND HOTEL USES.

THE LAST PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SITE IS AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TUEN MUN. IT COVERS 3 875 SQUARE METRES.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE AT NOON ON OCTOBER 19.

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MUSIC OFFER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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YOUNG HONG KONG MUSICIANS ARE BEING OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN AN ORCHESTRA, BAND OR CHOIR.

THEY ARE BEING INVITED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT TO JOIN ITS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, SYMPHONIC BAND, CHINESE ORCHESTRA, REGIONAL STRING ORCHESTRA, DISTRICT CHINESE ORCHESTRA, DISTRICT SYMPHONIC BAND, YOUTH CHOIR OR CHINESE FOLK SINGING CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE SAID TODAY THAT APPLICANTS FOR ORCHESTRA OR BAND SHOULD BE UNDER 23 YEARS OF AGE, AND SHOULD HAVE ATTAINED AT LEAST GRADE V OR ABOVE IN THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC EXAMINATION, OR EQUIVALENT, IN AT LEAST ONE ORCHESTRAL MUSIC INSTRUMENT.

+THOSE WHO WISH TO JOIN THE CHINESE ORCHESTRA SHOULD HAVE GOOD PERFORMANCE SKILL IN ONE OR MORE CHINESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. APPLICANTS WITH PREVIOUS ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE WILL BE FAVOURABLY CONSIDERED,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR THE YOUTH CHOIR, APPLICANTS SHOULD BE BETWEEN 17 AND 26 YEARS OF AGE, GOOD AT SIGHT-SINGING AND INTERESTED IN STANDARD CHOIR REPERTOIRE.

CHILDREN INTERESTED IN CHINESE FOLK SONGS AND BETWEEN THE AGES OF EIGHT AND 12 ARE WELCOME TO APPLY FOR THE CHINESE FOLK SINGING CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE.

AN AUDITION WILL BE ARRANGED FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS AT A LATER DATE.

APPLICATIONS BY STUDENTS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS MUST BE ENDORSED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AND COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE YAU MA TEI MUSIC CENTRE, GOLDEN GATE COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 138 AUSTIN ROAD, THIRD FLOOR, ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 31.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE BY CALLING TEL. NO. : 3-7226240.

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### SPREADING THE ROAD-SAFETY MESSAGE

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A PROMOTIONAL DOUBLE-DECKER BUS WILL TOUR KOWLOON CITY TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO PUT ACROSS THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS.

JINGLES AND TAPED MESSAGES WILL BE BROADCAST AS THE BUS MAKES ITS JOURNEY, STOPPING AT BUSY CROSSROADS OF HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, HO MAN TIN AND KOWLOON CITY TO DISTRIBUTE SOUVENIRS AND POSTERS TO PASSERS-BY.

A SEND-OFF CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 12 NOON TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN FRONT OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE IN KAU PUI LUNG ROAD.

CHAIRMAN OF THE KOWLOON CITY ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, MR WONG WING-BIU AND THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CLEMENT CHEUNG WILL OFFICIATE.

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### MORE ROADS FOR YUEN LONG

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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONSTRUCTING A 500-METRE LONG DUAL CARRIAGEWAY ROAD ALONG THE NORTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY OF LONG PING ESTATE, AND A 250-METRE LONG SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY ROAD ALONG ITS SOUTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY, IN YUEN LONG.

THE EXISTING 400-METRE LONG SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY ROAD LEADING TO YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WILL BE WIDENED TO DUAL CARRIAGEWAY.

CYCLE TRACKS AND FOOTPATHS WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE ROADS, WHICH, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL IMPROVE ACCESS TO YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AND EVENTUALLY BE PART OF A LINK TO THE PLANNED TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT.

THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES CONSTRUCTING A SEWAGE PUMPING STATION AND LAYING A SEWAGE MAIN TO SERVE LONG PING ESTATE AND THE ADJACENT AREAS, AS WELL AS WORKS ON AN AMENITY AREA AT PAU CHEONG SQUARE.

THE PROJECT WILL COST ABOUT \$20 MILLION AND TAKE ABOUT 17 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1984

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STAGE LIGHTING FOR NEW SCHOOL  
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF STAGE LIGHTING AND CURTAIN EQUIPMENT AT A GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL BEING BUILT AT TAI PO.

THE SCHOOL IS LOCATED ON A 9 261-SQUARE-METRE SITE ON THE RECLAMATION OFF TAI PO OLD MARKET.

APART FROM THE NORMAL TEACHING FACILITIES, THERE IS AN ENLARGED SCHOOL HALL WHICH CAN BE USED FOR BOTH SCHOOL FUNCTIONS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC IN THE DISTRICT.

TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE NOON ON NOVEMBER 9.

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