



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION
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FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN'S MEDIA SESSION AFTER ATTENDING A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TODAY (MONDAY):

QUESTION: SIR, MR LU PING IS GOING TO MEET THE CIVIL SERVICE TRADE UNIONS, DO YOU THINK IT IS SUITABLE FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS TO MEET HIM?

GOVERNOR: YES.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, HOW ARE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SUPPOSED TO KNOW IN WHO'S HANDS DO THEIR FUTURE LIE WHEN LU PING IS OUT THERE DECIDING OUR FUTURE AND THERE ARE CERTAIN LIMITS IN, THINGS LIKE XI YANG DID NOTHING ABOUT, OR VERY LITTLE?

GOVERNOR: THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE SOVEREIGN POWER UNTIL THE 30TH JUNE 1997 IS BRITAIN AND THAT THIS GOVERNMENT, THIS HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, WILL BE TAKING DECISIONS UNTIL THAT DATE. WE'RE GOVERNING IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, GETTING OUT AND SEEING THEM AND MEETING THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING, SHOWING THAT WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'LL CONTINUE TO DO. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT DIRECTOR LU HAS AN ENJOYABLE AND USEFUL WEEK IN HONG KONG. I HOPE THAT HE MEETS AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. I HOPE THAT HE HEARS AS MANY POINTS OF VIEW AS POSSIBLE, AND I HOPE THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THE WEEK, HE'LL HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR US AS WELL. AND FINALLY, I HOPE THAT HE'LL COME HERE MANY MORE TIMES BETWEEN NOW AND 30TH JUNE, 1997.

QUESTION: ARE YOU GOING TO TRY TO MEET HIM?

GOVERNOR: I'VE MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO MEET HIM INDEED BEFORE ANYBODY KNEW HE WAS COMING FOR THIS VISIT TO HONG KONG. I'VE WRITTEN TO HIM AGAIN SUGGESTING A MEETING. I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO MEET DIRECTOR WHENEVER HE CAN FIND TIME IN HIS CLEARLY BUSY SCHEDULE.

QUESTION: THE CIVIL SERVICE UNIONS, IN THE PAST THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DID NOT ALLOW CIVIL SERVANTS TO CONTACT PWC MEMBERS. BUT NOW THE FIVE UNIONS WILL MEET LU PING ON THE COMING SATURDAY. DO THEY AGAINST THE CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS?

GOVERNOR: NO, IT'S NOT AGAINST ANY REGULATIONS. WHAT WE'VE ACTUALLY SAID IS THAT WE HAVE AGREED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OURSELVES SET UP, SOME OF THEM UNDER INTERNATIONAL TREATY, THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE AND SO ON, AND THAT CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO DO TRYING TO MAKE THOSE AGREED CONTACTS WORK SUCCESSFULLY. SO, WE'VE SAID WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THOSE THINGS. BUT THERE IS NO REASON WHY CIVIL SERVICE UNIONS SHOULDN'T MEET DIRECTOR LU PING. HE'S AN IMPORTANT MAN IN THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY, AND I HOPE THAT THEY WILL TELL HIM EXACTLY WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THAT THE PWC MEMBERS THEY CAN ALSO MEET THE CIVIL SERVICE TRADE UNIONS OR THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS?

GOVERNOR: WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS SAID, I'VE JUST REPEATED THE POINT, IS THAT THERE ARE PROPER AND ESTABLISHED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR DOING BUSINESS, AND I DON'T THINK THERE IS VERY MUCH SENSE IN COMPLICATING THOSE. BUT IF PEOPLE WISH TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE PWC PRIVATELY, SO BE IT. WE RUN AN OPEN SOCIETY. I THINK IT'S ALSO REASONABLE TO SAY, THAT THE BETTER INFORMED PWC MEMBERS ARE, THE BETTER. BUT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE POLICY WHICH HAS BEEN ENUNCIATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, ANSON CHAN, AND ENUNCIATED BY ME. IT'S A WHOLLY REASONABLE ONE. WE TALK TO ALL SORT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE. BUT THE RIGHT WAY, TO SOLVE MATTERS IN THE RIGHT WAY, TO ARRIVE AT DECISIONS, IS THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE AND THOSE OTHER CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND I HOPE WE'LL HEAR SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT THOSE MATTERS THIS WEEK.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THE AIRPORT AGREEMENT WILL BE AGREED IN THIS MONTH, BECAUSE

GOVERNOR: WELL, I THINK YOU BETTER ASK DIRECTOR LU PING THAT QUESTION. I THINK THAT EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG WILL HOPE THAT HE HAS GOOD NEWS ON MATTERS LIKE THAT THIS WEEK.

QUESTION: HOW DAMAGING TO HONG KONG IS THIS BECAUSE OF LACK OF DIALOGUE.....?

GOVERNOR: I THINK EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG, NOT LEAST JUDGING BY THE POLLS BUT JUDGING BY WHAT SOME HONG KONG ADVISERS TO PRC GOVERNMENT HAVE SAID, I THINK EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG WOULD HAVE LIKE DIRECTOR LU PING AND I TO HAVE A MEETING. NOW I AM SORRY THAT THE BUSINESS OF DIRECTOR LU'S SCHEDULE APPARENTLY MAKE THAT IMPOSSIBLE. BUT I'M SURE THAT PATIENCE BEING AN IMPORTANT THING IN POLITICS, I'M SURE THAT AS WE GET THINGS LIKE THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS BUILD BEHIND US, WE'LL SEE INCREASING DIALOGUE ON ALL SORTS OF CHANNELS. AND I REPEAT WHAT AS I'VE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL LEAVE ITS DOORS AND WINDOWS AND EVERY OTHER ENTRY TO THE HOUSE OPEN SO THAT DIRECTOR LU PING CAN COME AND CALL WHENEVER HE WOULD LIKE.

QUESTION: SINCE THERE IS NO MEETING ARRANGED BETWEEN YOU AND LU PING, IS THERE ANY MORE MESSAGES YOU WANT TO GIVE TO HIM?

GOVERNOR: HAVE A NICE TIME IN HONG KONG.

GOVERNOR PLEDGES SUPPORT TO POLICE

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WILL DO EVERYTHING REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE POLICE FORCE IN ITS WORK. THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

MR PATTEN MADE THE PLEDGE DURING A RECEPTION FOLLOWING A GUARD OF HONOUR CEREMONY AT EDINBURGH PLACE TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

IN PRAISING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE POLICE FORCE, THE GOVERNOR SAID IT HAD MADE HONG KONG ONE OF THE SAFEST CITIES IN THE WORLD IN WHICH TO LIVE AND BRING UP A FAMILY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE OVERALL CRIME RATES OF THE TERRITORY HAD BEEN DECLINING SINCE 1990 AND WERE LOWER THAN THAT OF SINGAPORE, TOKYO OR TORONTO; ROBBERIES AND THEFTS WERE LESS THAN HALF THE LEVEL IN TOKYO, WHILE THE MURDER RATE WAS LESS THAN HALF THAT OF TORONTO.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT HONG KONG WILL LONG REMAIN A SAFE CITY. THE TRADITION OF PROFESSIONALISM, SERVICE AND RESOURCEFULNESS THAT THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE HAS BUILT UP OVER THE LAST 150 YEARS IS A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR WHATEVER THE FUTURE MAY HOLD," MR PATTEN SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, AND ALL HIS SENIOR OFFICERS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE.

"THEY CARRY OUT THE DEMANDING TASK OF MANAGING THE MORE THAN 30,000 OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS WHO MAKE UP THE POLICE FORCE WITH GREAT EFFICIENCY, DEDICATION AND GOOD SENSE," HE SAID.

THANKING THE GOVERNOR AND THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO THE POLICE, MR LI SAID THAT OVER ITS 150 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT, THE POLICE FORCE HAD GROWN FROM A SMALL CONSTABULARY OF ONLY A HANDFUL OF OFFICERS INTO A LARGE MODERN POLICE FORCE COMPARABLE IN SIZE, CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY TO ANY OF THE TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE WORLD.

"THERE HAVE BEEN UPS AND DOWNS; THE FORCE HAS GONE THROUGH THICK AND THIN," HE SAID.

"I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT WITH DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM, AND ABOVE ALL, TEAM SPIRIT, MEMBERS OF MY FORCE HAVE ACTED IN CONCERT, RODE OUT THE STORMS AND EMERGED EVER STRONGER.

"IT GIVES ME PARTICULAR PLEASURE TO BE WORKING WITH SUCH A FINE BODY OF MEN AND WOMEN AT THIS HISTORIC TIME."

THE GUARD OF HONOUR MOUNTED BY THE POLICE AT EDINBURGH PLACE TODAY COMPRISED MORE THAN 100 OFFICERS FROM THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL.

THE CELEBRATION ALSO FEATURED A SAIL-PAST BY MODERN POLICE LAUNCHES AND HIGH-SPEED CRAFT AS WELL AS A FLY-PAST BY THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE.

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THE GOVERNOR WAS FEATURED IN THE MARINE DISPLAY, HAVING BOARDED A POLICE LAUNCH IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND SAILED TO QUEEN'S PIER IN CENTRAL UNDER THE ESCORT OF AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF POLICE VESSELS.

AFTER ALIGHTING, THE GOVERNOR WAS ESCORTED ONTO A DAIS TO RECEIVE A "ROYAL SALUTE" BEFORE INSPECTING THE GUARD OF HONOUR.

THE CEREMONY ALSO FEATURED AN IMPRESSIVE MARCHING DISPLAY, POLICE BAND PERFORMANCES AND LION DANCING BY JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS.

A RECEPTION FOR ALL THE GUESTS WAS HELD AT CITY HALL AFTER THE CEREMONY.

MEANWHILE, THE GUARD OF HONOUR AT EDINBURGH PLACE AND THE CEREMONIAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE GUARD WERE DISMOUNTED SIMULTANEOUSLY AT THE COMPLETION OF THE EVENT.

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HK'S CONFIDENCE AND VIGOUR CAN BE PRESERVED

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) HE BELIEVED HONG KONG COULD PRESERVE ITS CONFIDENCE AND VIGOUR AFTER 1997.

"I REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT THE EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT WORK THAT BRITAIN AND CHINA EMBARKED ON TOGETHER WHEN NEGOTIATING THE JOINT DECLARATION CAN ACHIEVE ITS PURPOSE - PRESERVING A HONG KONG, PRESERVING A HONG KONG THAT HAS THE CONFIDENCE AND THE VIGOUR TO CONTRIBUTE RICHLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA AND OF THE WHOLE REGION," HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG MANAGED TO GROW REMARKABLY IN THE PAST DECADES DESPITE OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS.

AND THE 1980S SAW TWO DEVELOPMENTS WHICH GAVE NEW IMPETUS TO THAT GROWTH, HE ADDED.

THE FIRST WAS THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WHICH PROMISED THE PRESERVATION OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM IN THE TERRITORY AND A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

"MUCH WORK HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY TO TRANSLATE THOSE PROMISES INTO REALITY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HONG KONG HAD SINCE BECOME A SEPARATE CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) AND A FELLOW MEMBER WITH CHINA AND CANADA IN THE ASIAN PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC), HE SAID.

"IN THE BASIC LAW, CHINA HAS PUT GUARANTEES CONTAINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION INTO THE MINI-CONSTITUTION THAT WILL GUIDE HONG KONG AFTER 1997," MR PATTEN SAID.

/"SOME ISSUES

"SOME ISSUES - THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OPEN AND FAIR ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXAMPLE - HAVE PROVED DIFFICULT, BUT EVEN THESE ARE BEING DEALT WITH STEADILY."

HE NOTED THE SECOND IMPORTANT FACTOR OF THE 1980S WAS CHINA'S RE-OPENING TO TRADE AND INVESTMENT, WHICH CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN.

AS A RESULT, HONG KONG HAS RE-EMERGED AS AN ENTREPOT FOR CHINA-TRADE ON AN ALTOGETHER LARGER SCALE, ENJOYING UNPRECEDENTED PROSPERITY.

ON THE SUCCESS OF THE TERRITORY, THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG'S OPENNESS, ITS CARING, THE INDUSTRY OF THE PEOPLE AND THE ENTERPRISE OF ITS BUSINESSMEN WERE ALL CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.

"THIS OPENNESS TO CHANGE AND NEW IDEAS, AND READINESS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE WORLD AT LARGE HELPS MAKE HONG KONG A VERY EFFECTIVE CONDUIT FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH CHINA", THE GOVERNOR SAID.

MR PATTEN ENCOURAGED CANADIAN BUSINESSMEN TO MAKE USE HONG KONG AS A STEPPING STONE IN INCREASING ITS BUSINESS WITH CHINA.

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LEGAL DEPARTMENT TAKES OVER PROSECUTIONS FROM POLICE

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ALL PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS WILL BE HANDLED BY THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WHEN IT TAKES OVER PROSECUTION DUTIES FROM THE POLICE IN NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY TODAY (MONDAY).

A LEGAL DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COURT PROSECUTORS TO NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY, WHICH WAS THE LARGEST AND BUSIEST MAGISTRACY IN HONG KONG OPERATING 11 COURTS, 11 POLICE OFFICERS WOULD BE RELEASED FROM PROSECUTION WORK TO PERFORM POLICE DUTIES.

OUTLINING THE BACKGROUND OF THE TAKEOVER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID COURT PROSECUTORS ARE PUBLIC OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE (CAP. 227) TO CONDUCT PROSECUTIONS ON HIS BEHALF BEFORE A MAGISTRATE.

HE SAID THE COURT PROSECUTOR GRADE WAS FIRST CREATED IN 1977 IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT FOR A PILOT SCHEME TO BE CONDUCTED IN TWO MAGISTRACIES TO TEST WHETHER PROSECUTION WORK, WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT BY POLICE OFFICERS, COULD BE PERFORMED BY CIVILIAN OFFICERS OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

THE PILOT SCHEME WAS PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL, AND IN 1979, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT THE SCHEME ON A PERMANENT BASIS AND TO GRADUALLY EXTEND IT TO ALL MAGISTRACIES, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID COURT PROSECUTORS HAD TO UNDERGO NINE MONTHS' FULL-TIME TRAINING BEFORE THEY COULD CONDUCT PROSECUTIONS INDEPENDENTLY IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID SINCE THE COURT PROSECUTOR GRADE WAS CREATED, PROSECUTORS HAD PROVIDED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN HONG KONG.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT A TOTAL OF 104 COURT PROSECUTORS IN HONG KONG, AS COMPARED WITH 22 IN 1979.

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NEW PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES

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TWO NEW PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 4) TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AGED ABOVE 45 AND THE ELDERLY ABOVE 65.

INTRODUCING THE WOMAN HEALTH CENTRE AND THE ELDERLY HEALTH CENTRE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY), THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES), DR CHAN WAI-MAN, SAID WOMEN AND THE ELDERLY WERE VULNERABLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN HEALTH PROBLEMS.

DR CHAN SAID: "CANCER, HEART DISEASE AND CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES ARE NOW THE TOP THREE KILLERS IN HONG KONG AND MANY PEOPLE ALSO SUFFER FROM CHRONIC DISEASES LIKE HYPERTENSION AND DIABETES.

"IF THESE DISEASES CAN BE PREVENTED OR DETECTED EARLY FOR APPROPRIATE CARE, MUCH OF THE SUFFERING AND PREMATURE DEATHS CAN BE AVOIDED," SHE SAID.

DR CHAN SAID THESE TWO NEW CENTRES WERE SET UP TO DETECT CERTAIN RISK FACTORS AND UNREPORTED DISEASES PREVALENT AMONG THESE TARGET GROUPS SO AS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH EARLY AND APPROPRIATE TREATMENT.

CLIENTS ATTENDING THESE CENTRES WOULD HAVE ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT THROUGH HISTORY AND SIMPLE SCREENING TESTS, AND HEALTH EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING TAILORED TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

DR CHAN SAID SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS LIKE BLOOD TESTS AND X-RAY WOULD BE ARRANGED ON A NEED BASIS.

AT THE WOMAN HEALTH CENTRE, SUCH SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS MIGHT INCLUDE MAMMOGRAPHY, A SPECIAL TYPE OF X-RAY, FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER, THE SECOND MOST COMMON CANCER AMONG WOMEN IN HONG KONG.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE TWO SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A HEALTH RECORD WITH SUMMARY HEALTH FINDINGS. INDIVIDUAL HEALTH ADVICE IS GIVEN ACCORDING TO THE HEALTH NEEDS.

IF NECESSARY, THE CLIENTS WOULD BE REFERRED TO OTHER SERVICES FOR FOLLOW-UP TREATMENT, DR CHAN SAID.

/DR CHAN

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DR CHAN SAID ALL HONG KONG CITIZENS IN THE SPECIFIED SEX AND AGE GROUPS COULD MAKE USE OF THESE NEW SERVICES BY PAYING AN ANNUAL FEE.

THE ANNUAL FEE FOR THE WOMAN HEALTH CENTRE IS \$285 AND THE ELDERLY HAVE TO PAY AN ANNUAL CHARGE OF \$220.

DR CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE ANNUAL FEE INCLUDED THE CHARGE FOR PHYSICAL EXAMINATION BY THE DOCTOR, THE SCREENING TESTS, ALL THE HEALTH EDUCATION SESSIONS AND ANY OTHER VISITS DURING THE YEAR.

PARTICIPANTS REQUIRING MAMMOGRAPHY WOULD HAVE TO PAY A SEPARATE FEE OF \$205 FOR THE X-RAY EXAMINATION.

DR CHAN ADDED THAT FOR PERSONS WITH FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, THE USUAL WAIVING PROCEDURES WOULD APPLY.

THESE TWO NEW PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES WOULD COMMENCE OPERATION ON WEDNESDAY AND TELEPHONE APPOINTMENTS COULD BE MADE TODAY.

THE ENQUIRY AND APPOINTMENT TELEPHONE NO. OF THE WOMAN HEALTH CENTRE IS 727 5332 AND, FOR THE ELDERLY CENTRE, 779 5596.

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SPEL MEETS UDHK
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AS PART OF THE CURRENT CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT BODIES AND CONCERNED GROUPS, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TODAY (MONDAY) MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATS OF HONG KONG (UDHK) TO DISCUSS PROPERTY PRICES AND URBAN RENEWAL.

AT THE MEETING, MR EASON SAID THE PROCESS OF PUTTING TOGETHER A TERRITORY-WIDE LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME WAS VERY COMPLICATED AND THE 1994/95 PROGRAMME WAS WORKED OUT WELL BEFORE THE TASK-FORCE WAS SET UP TO LOOK INTO THE LAND SUPPLY AND PROPERTY PRICE SITUATION.

MR EASON SAID: "THE REASON WHY WE SHIFTED THE BALANCE THIS YEAR MORE TOWARDS LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL SITES WAS BECAUSE THE EMPHASIS HAD BEEN ON HIGH-DENSITY SITES IN RECENT YEARS.

"CONCERN HAD BEEN EXPRESSED DURING 1993 THAT MULTI-NATIONAL FIRMS HAD DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR THEIR SENIOR STAFF HERE WHICH MADE HONG KONG LESS COMPETITIVE.

"DESPITE A HIGHER PROPORTION OF LOW-DENSITY SITES, THE LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME THIS YEAR SHOULD MAINTAIN THE FLAT PRODUCTION RATE OF 10,000-11,000.

"THIS TOGETHER WITH FLATS PRODUCED BY REDEVELOPMENT WOULD ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN OUR TARGET OF PRODUCING 30,000-35,000 FLATS ANNUALLY OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

/"TO MEET

"TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR MORE FLAT SUPPLY, WE WILL CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING DENSITIES ON SITES APPEARING LATER IN THIS YEAR'S LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME AND USING THE FIVE-HECTARE SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME AGREED AT THE LAND COMMISSION FOR HIGH DENSITIES ALSO."

WITH REGARD TO POINTS RAISED BY UDHK ON URBAN RENEWAL, MR EASON SAID ANY PROPOSAL FOR LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT IN RESPECT OF LAND RESUMPTION FOR PUBLIC PURPOSE HAS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF TASK-FORCE'S OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS.

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PEARL RIVER - A HIGHWAY TO HK
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THE PEARL RIVER IS BECOMING ONE OF THE MAIN HIGHWAYS TO HONG KONG'S PORT, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

AS THE BORDER CROSSING POINTS AND ROADS BECOME MORE CONGESTED, SHIPPERS ARE INCREASINGLY LOOKING TO BARGES TO SHIP GOODS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND FEEDER PORTS IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE.

TOTAL RIVER CARGO TONNAGE INCREASED IN 1993 BY 30 PER CENT OVER 1992 TO JUST OVER 23 MILLION TONNES. THIS COMPRISED 12.6 MILLION TONNES OF INWARD AND 10.5 MILLION TONNES OF OUTWARD CARGO.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WAS THE INCREASING TREND TOWARDS CONTAINERISATION. TOTAL THROUGHPUT OF CONTAINERISED CARGO GREW BY 44 PER CENT COMPARED WITH A 22 PER CENT INCREASE IN BREAK BULK CARGO.

THIS MEANT THAT IN 1993, 40 PER CENT OF RIVER TRADE NON-BULK CARGOES WERE CONTAINERISED COMPARED WITH 36 PER CENT IN 1992.

RIVER VESSELS LOADED AND DISCHARGED A TOTAL OF 612,000 20-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS AT PLACES OTHER THAN CONTAINER TERMINALS IN 1993. THIS WAS 6.7 PER CENT OF THE PORT'S TOTAL CONTAINER THROUGHPUT.

MANY SHIPPERS ARE REALISING THE ADVANTAGES OF RIVER OVER ROAD TRANSPORT. CONSOLIDATING SEVERAL CONTAINERS WITH A COMMON DESTINATION ON TO ONE BARGE IS MORE COST-EFFECTIVE.

IT IS ALSO BETTER FOR THE TERMINAL OPERATOR WHO CAN HANDLE THE CONSIGNMENT TOGETHER RATHER THAN RECEIVING CONTAINERS ON A RANDOM BASIS FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF LORRIES.

HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENT AND TRAFFIC BOTH BENEFIT BECAUSE EACH CONTAINER CARRIED BY RIVER MEANS ONE CONTAINER TRUCK LESS ON THE ROADS. WITHOUT RIVER TRAFFIC, CONTAINER VEHICLES WOULD HAVE MADE MORE THAN 400,000 EXTRA JOURNEYS ON HONG KONG ROADS IN 1993.

THE TOY INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY, IS EXPANDING ITS USE OF RIVER TRADE. MANUFACTURERS CAN STUFF 40-FOOT CONTAINERS AT CHINESE FACTORIES, THEN SHIP THEM BY BARGE TO LINERS IN HONG KONG.

SOME RIVER OPERATORS HAVE RECORDED ANNUAL GROWTH OF 30 PER CENT SINCE 1990.

SHIPPING LINES ARE DEVELOPING NEW SERVICES AND EXPANDING THOSE ALREADY OPERATING. ONE LINE IS DOUBLING ITS WEEKLY BARGE CAPACITY AND EXPECTS STRONG GROWTH. ANOTHER TRADE SOURCE SAYS THERE IS RAPID GROWTH OF BARGE SERVICES BETWEEN ZHUHAI AND HONG KONG.

SOME COMPANIES ARE CONSIDERING THE INTRODUCTION OF RHINE-TYPE BARGES TO THE PEARL RIVER. THESE MUCH BIGGER VESSELS WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY MORE CONTAINERS EACH TRIP.

THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD'S PORT CARGO FORECASTS PREDICT THAT RIVER TRAFFIC WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AT A RATE OF 8.1 PER CENT A YEAR UNTIL 2011. THIS COMPARES WITH A PROJECTED 6.3 PER CENT PER ANNUM GROWTH FOR OCEAN CARGO.

THE BOARD PREDICTS THAT TOTAL RIVER CARGO TRAFFIC WILL GROW FROM LAST YEAR'S 23 MILLION TONNES TO 49.2 MILLION TONNES IN 2001 AND 84.8 MILLION TONNES IN 2011.

TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED TRAFFIC, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO BUILD A DEDICATED RIVER TRADE TERMINAL AT TUEN MUN.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CALL TENDERS LATER THIS YEAR TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE THE TERMINAL AND EXPECTS THE FIRST BERTH TO COME INTO OPERATION SOMETIME IN 1997.

ONE MAJOR BENEFIT OF THE TERMINAL WILL BE TO SEPARATE RIVER TRAFFIC FROM OCEAN-GOING VESSELS USING THE CONTAINER PORT. IT WILL ALSO MEAN THAT RIVER TRADE VESSELS NO LONGER HAVE TO USE THE BUSY AND DIFFICULT MA WAN CHANNEL.

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MANUFACTURING CONTRIBUTES TO HK ECONOMY

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR DOMINIC LAW, TODAY (MONDAY) REFUTED A GENERAL MISCONCEPTION THAT MANUFACTURING WAS FAST DISAPPEARING IN HONG KONG.

"THIS IS ABSOLUTELY WRONG AND NOTHING IS FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH THAN THAT," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS FOR MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING, MR LAW SAID HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WERE CONTRIBUTING 13 PER CENT TO GDP.

IN 1993, THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR PRODUCED OVER \$200 BILLION DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

IN REAL TERMS, HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR IS PRODUCING 25 PER CENT MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS AGO WITH ONLY THREE-FIFTHS OF THE WORKERS THEN.

/HE NOTED

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG INDUSTRIALISTS HAD ACCOMPLISHED THIS BY MOVING THE MORE LABOUR-INTENSIVE AND LOWER-END ASSEMBLY PROCESSES TO CHINA WHILE CARRYING OUT THE REST OF THE MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN HONG KONG.

THIS DEVELOPMENT HAD ENABLED LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS TO DEPLOY THE LIMITED RESOURCES IN HONG KONG TO MORE VALUE-ADDED AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED MANUFACTURING AND RELATED SUPPORT FUNCTIONS, HE SAID.

IT HAD ALSO ALLOWED THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY TO SWITCH TO THE PRODUCTION OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND UPPER END OF THE MARKET PRODUCTS AND HENCE ENHANCED THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS IN THE WOULD MARKET, HE ADDED.

MR LAW POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY, CONCENTRATING ON INNOVATIVE DESIGNS, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, HIGHER TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE.

ONE OF THE MORE RECENT INITIATIVES IS THE \$200 MILLION APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, ESTABLISHED A YEAR AGO TO PROVIDE MATCHING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL MANUFACTURERS TO UNDERTAKE MARKET-DRIVEN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

"RESPONSE TO THE SCHEME IS ENCOURAGING AND SO FAR 25 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED," HE SAID.

ANOTHER INITIATIVE IS THE PROVISION OF AN ADDITIONAL \$180 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR TO SUPPORT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WHICH ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE INDUSTRIAL OR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AND TO THE OVERALL COMPETITIVENESS OF THE HONG KONG MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

THIS LATTER SCHEME HAD GENERATED ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS, MR LAW SAID.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT PROJECTS COMPLETED UNDER BOTH SCHEMES WOULD ADD NEW DIMENSIONS TO HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY," HE ADDED.

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APPLICATIONS FOR FLAG DAYS 1995 INVITED

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ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO HOLD FLAG DAYS NEXT YEAR TO RAISE FUNDS TO FINANCE THEIR SERVICES ARE INVITED TO APPLY TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

ABOUT 50 FLAG DAYS WILL BE DESIGNATED NEXT YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT APPLICANTS MUST BE BONA FIDE, NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS UNDER SECTION 88 OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

/"ALL APPLICANTS

"ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE SUBVENTIONS AND LOTTERIES FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MERITS OF THE SERVICE OR SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUND-RAISING THROUGH A FLAG DAY IS PROPOSED, THE ORGANISATION'S FINANCIAL NEEDS, AND ITS ABILITY TO EXECUTE THE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE CRITERIA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID EACH APPLICATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED BASICALLY IN THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS:

- * AN ASSESSMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY OF THE APPLICANT ORGANISATION. THIS IS IMPORTANT SINCE PUBLIC COLLECTION OF MONEY IS INVOLVED;
- * THE NATURE OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISATION, AND THE COMMUNITY DEMAND FOR SUCH SERVICES;
- * THE FINANCIAL NEED OF THE ORGANISATION BASED ON ITS ANNUAL BUDGET, OPERATING SURPLUS OR DEFICITS, AVAILABILITY OF OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES, AND PLANNED PROJECTS; AND
- * THE ORGANISATION'S ABILITY TO ORGANISE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES AND TO MAXIMISE THE BENEFITS OF A FLAG DAY.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT EXPENSES RELATING TO A FLAG DAY SHOULD NOT EXCEED 10 PER CENT OF THE GROSS RECEIPTS, AND THAT SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS NEED TO OBSERVE THE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN ON A PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION PERMIT ISSUED UNDER SECTION 4 (17) OF SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN NOW BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS, ROOM 920, NINTH FLOOR, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI, IN PERSON OR IN WRITING.

THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM, TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF THE ORGANISATION'S LATEST ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS, MUST REACH THE DEPARTMENT BY MAY 31. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED BY OCTOBER.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TELEPHONE 892 5293.

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SPECIAL CAMPAIGN TO ATTRACT STUDENT VOTERS UNDER WAY

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A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY TO ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE TO REGISTER AS A VOTER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION, MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE JOINTLY HELD BY THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMERCIAL RADIO TO ANNOUNCE THE STATION'S SPECIAL VOTER REGISTRATION PROGRAMMES, HE SAID SPECIAL VOTER REGISTRATION CENTRES WERE BEING SET UP AT VARIOUS TERTIARY AND POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO ATTRACT STUDENTS.

THE COMMISSION IS ALSO CONDUCTING THE CAMPAIGN IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO APPEAL TO SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS.

"TO BE A VOTER IS OUR CIVIC RIGHT. IT SIGNIFIES OUR COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY," MR JUSTICE WOO SAID.

STARTING FROM APRIL THIS YEAR, THE VOTING AGE IS LOWERED FROM 21 TO 18.

"THIS IS INDEED A VERY ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

"HONG KONG RESIDENTS SHOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT, THROUGH ELECTIONS, THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE THREE-TIER REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18. THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 5 NEXT YEAR.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 65.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 385.588 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 309.243 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 52.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,236	0930	+300
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,763	1000	+300
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+458
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+ 457	1200	+458
LAF TODAY	- 930	1500	+458
		1600	+457
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 124.4	*+0.0*	2.5.94

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.06	19 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.06	5.54
1 MONTH	3.37	22 MONTHS	2602	4.40	97.73	5.83
3 MONTHS	3.84	30 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.41	6.32
6 MONTHS	4.29	33 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.70	6.43
12 MONTHS	4.90	36 MONTHS	3704	6.15	99.30	6.51

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,285 MN

CLOSED 2 MAY 1994

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