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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Sunday, September 15, 1996

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Transcript of the Governor and Mr Jeremy Hanley's media session

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Following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, and the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley, after visiting the Sai Kung District this (Saturday) morning:

Governor: I am delighted that Mr Hanley is able to spend some time with us again in Hong Kong, and particularly pleased that he has been able to visit Sai Kung with me this morning to see the University of Science and Technology, and to see this estate and the work that is being done in Tseung Kwan O.

We have invested, I suppose, about 12 billion so far in this new town and there will be about twice that much still to invest. And as you know, we want to get on with building the railway extension which is a project which we are considering at the moment, and we also want to complete the work on the hospital which I announced a couple of years ago. Those are important facilities for the community and the sooner we can get on with them and finish them the better. I am very pleased to see this excellent centre for the elderly and to see so many cheerful senior citizens here.

Mr Hanley: And also to see how young they really look. And it is a fact that there is in that room a lot of sunshine on a very rainy day. And I thank the Governor very much indeed for bringing me here to Sai Kung, it is a remarkably inspirational place. These communities are so important to thousands of people and it is wonderful to see the way that the standards that have been set here are so high, and the way that the community is benefiting from the investment.

And indeed, as the Governor said, I can see for myself the foundations for the new hospital which will be quite a tremendous resource, and the way in which the area has grown since I was here ten years ago - in this particular spot ten years ago. I couldn't have recognised it. So thank you, Governor, for bringing me here - and seeing such happiness.

Question: Mr Hanley, some people in Hong Kong say that actually the British Government has given up its fight against the setting up of the Provisional Legislature. How far is this true?

Mr Hanley: It is not true at all, for the simple reason that I spent my meetings in Peking last week with all three people that I met - Vice Minister Wang, Lu Ping and Qian Qichen - and we expressed very strongly what our position is: that we believe that LegCo has been properly elected and should complete its usual term. And I look forward to further discussions on the subject between the Foreign Minister, Malcolm Rifkind, and Qian Qichen in New York on the 26th of this month.

Question: Mr Hanley, how confident are you that Sino-British relations are now in fact on track again ... ?

Mr Hanley: It is very important indeed for the people of Hong Kong that the relationship between the United Kingdom and China is good. And I think that over the last year or so we have made very great progress, through the Joint Liaison Group, through ministerial discussions, through the actions of the Government of Hong Kong too. I think that proves that the relationships are good and constructive. What I am particularly pleased about is that China does seriously recognise the benefit to China and to the wider world that Hong Kong, a successful vibrant Hong Kong with the greatest degree of autonomy, with the greatest degree of continuity of the civil service, that all of that is vital, as I say, not just for Hong Kong but for the wider world.

And I am pleased that the Chinese also recognise that the choice of the Chief Executive is such a sensitive and important point in making sure that the confidence in Hong Kong remains.

The United Kingdom has, not a historical interest in Hong Kong, it has a vast future interest in Hong Kong. And that is why we are investing so much in our consulate general, that is why a thousand British companies will continue, that is why our interest not only under the law will continue until the year 2047 but why our interest in Hong Kong will last for all time.

Question: Mr Hanley, why, last night, did you say that the problem of the legal basis of the consulate general should be resolved? What is the problem?

Mr Hanley: Yes, but there is no problem. What it is is that a consulate general needs a legal basis and I raised that last week in Peking and I am very pleased indeed that the Chinese are looking seriously at the issue and I expect a resolution before too long. They recognise the investment we are putting in but it needs a legal basis, just as with other countries from all around the world are wanting to discuss the legal basis for their Consulates general here in Hong Kong, and that will be achieved before too long.

Question: What are the details? Is that something related with the relationship with Taiwan?

Mr Hanley: No, it is a normal contract, a contractual arrangement which needs to be worked out so that we can serve the interests that our consulate general will undertake. It will be a very big job that is going to be carried out by the consulate general, that is why it is a very big building, that is why it is a tremendous investment and it is important that the legal basis is formulated and I expect that before, as I say, just a few weeks.

Question: Mr Patten, 18 cargoes of firearms have been seized in the cargo terminal, do you think that Hong Kong has been used by a certain group of those people as the transition centre of firearms in Asia?

Governor: I don't think it is a principal distribution point for weapons in Asia but there has always been concern about arms proliferation and always concern about arms - or drugs - going through Hong Kong, which is why we work very closely with other law enforcement agencies in North America, in Asia and in Europe, and why I am very pleased that the Police and the Customs have identified this particular group of weapons. It is terribly important for our integrity as a principal trading city that we deal with issues like drugs and arms very vigorously indeed. We do so now and I am sure the future Government of the SAR will want to operate just as effectively.

Question: Mr Hanley, how does your visit here by the President of the Board of Trade indicate China's and its neighbours importance to Britain commercially for the next millennium?

Mr Hanley: The relationships between nations of this world are going to be vital to make sure that we all maximise the benefits that extra trade can bring to our own people. And that is one of the reasons why we are so keenly interested to preserve this remarkable miracle that is Hong Kong because Hong Kong is one of the most vibrant places in the world. The standard is set by Hong Kong as far as the business excitement and the flourishing city that is Hong Kong, all of that is part of what we want to preserve. But our relationship with China is part of an international relationship and when I was in Peking last week it was interesting to note that no fewer than eight or nine countries were there looking at the trading arrangements between them and China, and that is nothing more than normal.

I am pleased that our investment in South-east Asia, the United Kingdom's investment, is the largest of any country in Europe. We have this deep commitment to the region and obviously our trade links with Japan, Korea and Taiwan are important for the United Kingdom. Inward investment into the United Kingdom has preserved or created over 100,000 jobs in the last one year alone and we want to make sure that jobs are created here, that Hong Kong continues to grow, and the relationship with China is one very good way of making sure that we continue to see eye to eye for the benefit of the people of Hong Kong.

Question: Mr Patten, what is your view on an Executive Councillor participating in the Selection Committee?

Governor: Well, I have always been reluctant, as you know, to answer questions before they arise. But if there were any members of the Executive Council chosen for the Selection Committee, I would want to discuss that with the individuals concerned and with my Executive Council colleagues as a whole, to consider whether it was the general view that there would be any conflict of interest. As you know, one of our Executive Councillors for a time was also on the Preparatory Committee and then felt that it was difficult to go on without there being some conflict of interest. So it is important, I think, to take an intelligent view of these issues and to discuss them with those concerned. It is, I think, a little more difficult to draw up hard and fast rules in advance.

Question: Some Hong Kong citizens will go to the Diaoyu Islands, do you think the British Forces have an obligation to ensure their safety in case of confrontation with the Japanese?

Mr Hanley: I do recognise the sensitivity on this issue that is felt by so many people here in Hong Kong but it is not an issue that I can comment on, it is a matter for the parties themselves to resolve and I hope they will do so amicably.

Question: Governor, will there be consular protection if people involved in the Diaoyu Islands protest have some personal safety matters?

Governor: I very much hope that questions of personal safety won't arise over an issue on which I know people locally feel very strongly. I hope that they will be able to express their views in a way which does not in any way risk their personal safety. And we all hope that the dispute in question about which very strong views have been held for a very long time can be resolved amicably by those concerned.

Mr Hanley: May I thank you again very much indeed. Thank you.

End

#### SHW to attend rehabilitation congress

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The Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, left Hong Kong today (Saturday) for Auckland, New Zealand, to attend the 18th World Congress of Rehabilitation International.

She is accompanied by the Commissioner for Rehabilitation, Mr Augustine Choi, and four senior officers from the Social Welfare, Labour and Education departments.

Rehabilitation International is a federation of national and international organisations working for the prevention of disability, the rehabilitation and equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families.

The Congress will look into the key issues of access, human rights and vision. Mrs Fok will address the participants on Hong Kong's rehabilitation policy on Monday (September 16).

Mrs Fok and Mr Choi will fly to Australia on Tuesday (September 17) where they will call on the New South Wales Department of Health and the Department of Ageing and Disability. They will also take the opportunity to study the local health reforms, health financing options, disabled and rehabilitation services, as well as the elderly care programmes.

They will return to Hong Kong on Friday (September 20).

End

#### Applications for health courses invited

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Applications are now invited for the next round of health worker training courses organised by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in conjunction with three professional health care training institutes.

The three institutes are the College of Nursing Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Red Cross and the Hong Kong St John Ambulance Association.

"This is the sixth round of training courses since 1995," a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Saturday).

"The courses are organised with an aim to meeting the demand for health care staff in residential care homes for the elderly as well as raising the professional standard of health workers."

SWD plans to train 630 health workers in 1996-97. The first of the next round of courses is scheduled to start on December 6.

"Under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation, all health workers are required, among other things, to complete training approved by the Director of Social Welfare before being qualified for registration," the spokesman said.

Each course, covering 140 hours, is designed to equip trainees with the necessary knowledge and skills for a comprehensive understanding of health care for the elderly.

The content of the course includes lectures on basic nursing skills for elderly persons, physiological and psychological development and common medical conditions of the elderly, basic skills in interpersonal relationship, communication and management of residential care homes for the elderly.

Hong Kong residents who have completed Form 3 or equivalent and are competent to complete the training course can apply.

Priority will be given to those who have two or more years of working experience in services for the elderly and those who have received medical, nursing, first aid or home nursing training.

Copies of invitation have already been sent to elderly home operators, inviting them to recommend suitable candidates for the course. Posters of the training courses will also be put up at all public housing estates and group work units of SWD.

Individuals who are interested to take up a job in elderly homes may obtain an application form from any of the three institutes or SWD's Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly at Room 2354, 23rd floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

Enquirers may call the licensing office on 2961 7220 or 2961 7221. The deadline for application is October 11.

End

#### Governor and Minister of State call on Sai Kung

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, and the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley, visited Sai Kung district today (Saturday).

Accompanied by the acting Director of Home Affairs, Mr Lee Lap-sun, and the Sai Kung District Officer, Mr Tony Dickinson, they first called on the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and visited its Council Chamber and library.

Chairman of the University Council, Sir S Y Chung, briefed them on the operation of the university which first opened its doors in 1991 and has since saw its students body increased tenfold in five years to 7,000.

Most of its 500 academic staff were trained in the world's leading institutions of learning.

The visitors then went to Tseung Kwan O, now Hong Kong's latest and most rapidly expanding new town. Its population has grown by about five times from 49,000 in 1987 to 204,000 in just 10 years.

At King Lam Estate, Mr Patten and Mr Hanley walked through an elegant Chinese-style landscape garden, which provide a spacious recreational area for residents' enjoyment. Features in the garden include a waterfall, a pond, pavilions, stone bridges, rock carvings and children's play equipment.

The party concluded their visit at the King Lam Neighbourhood Community Centre, which accommodates the Christian Family Service Centre Jackie Chan King Lam Children and Youth Centre; the Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod, Day Nursery; and the Christian and Missionary Alliance Bradbury King Lam Elderly Centre.

Residents at the elderly centre gave the visitors a demonstration on mini mooncake, Chinese calligraphy, paper-flower and bookmark making.

End

#### Water cut in Tai Po

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The fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Tai Po will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Tuesday (September 17) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect Tai Hang, Wai Tau Tsuen, Nam Wa Po and Kiu Tau of Tai Wo Section of Tai Po Road.

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Flushing water cut in Tai Po

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The flushing water supply to some premises in Tai Po (South) will be suspended from 6 pm on Tuesday (September 17) to 6 am on Thursday (September 19) for checking of the flushing water supply system.

The suspension will affect all premises in Kwong Fuk Estate, Wang Fuk Court, Nam Wan Road south of Tai Po Tai Wo Road, Plover Cove Road, Po Wu Lane, Tung Mau Square, Tung Sau Square, Tung Fat Square, Tung Cheong Street, Luk Heung Lane, Kwong Fuk Road, Po Heung Street, Po Yick Street, Sui On Street, Yan Hing Street, Fu Shin Street, Tsing Yuen Street, Hei Yuen Street, Yan Wo Lane, Pak Shing Street, Shung Tak Street, On Fu Road, Wan Yan Street, Nam Shing Street, Wai Yi street, Po Heung Square, Tai Wing Lane, Heung Sze Wui Square, Heung Sze Wui Street, Kwong Fuk Lane, Kwong Fuk Square, Tai Ming Lane, Tai Kwong Lane, Wan Tau Street, Wan Tau Square, Wan Tau Kok Lane, Tai Po Market Station, Uptown Plaza, Elegance Garden, Pan Chung Road, Yat Nga Court, Wan Tau Tong Estate, Tak Nga Court, King Nga Court, Classical Garden, Ma Wo Road, Ma Chung Road, Kam Shan Road, Kam Shek New Village and Shek Lin Road.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,877	09:30	+85
Closing balance in the account	1,877	10:00	+85
Change attributable to:		11:00	+85
Money market activity	+85	11:30	+85
LAF today	- 85		

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 \*\*+0.0\* 14.9.96

End

49 new building plans approved in July

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The Buildings Department had approved 49 building plans in July - 11 for Hong Kong Island, 15 for Kowloon and 23 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include 19 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, 20 for commercial developments, two for factory and industrial developments, and eight for community services developments.

Consent was given for work to start on 45 building projects in July, involving 195,681 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 400,256 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

During the same period, the department also issued 24 occupation permits - seven for Hong Kong Island, five for Kowloon and 12 for the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in the month, the usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses are 21,606 square metres and 70,323 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about \$1,086 million.

In addition, 25 demolition consents involving 92 buildings and structures were issued.

In the same month, the Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division had received 1,008 complaints of unauthorised building works, and issued 202 removal orders on unauthorised works.

End

### Information books on social welfare facilities published

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A set of comprehensive information books containing details of existing and planned social welfare facilities in each of the 18 districts throughout the territory are now available for the public.

Copies of the 1996 English edition of the information books have been placed at all regional and district offices of the Social Welfare Department as well as district offices of the Home Affairs Department.

Members of the public interested in such information could approach any of these offices and asked to see the books which should be returned after perusal, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

They can also contact the department's hotline on 2343 2255 in case they have any queries about the books, he added.

The books contain three parts: a glossary on the types of social welfare facilities and explanation about the services provided, a list of existing welfare facilities in the district and another list of facilities being planned in the district.

"The Chinese version of the information books is being prepared and will be published as soon as it is available," said the spokesman.

End

### Slope maintenance exhibition opens at Heng Fa Chuen

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An exhibition on slope safety and maintenance will begin tomorrow (Monday) at Heng Fa Chuen in Chai Wan.

Organised by the Civil Engineering Department, the exhibition will be open daily between 10 am and 10 pm until September 22 at the ground floor of the Heng Fa Chuen Shopping Centre (East Wing). Admission is free.

The event is the second of a series of roving exhibitions organised to promote public awareness of slope safety and the importance of slope maintenance, a spokesman for the department said.

"The first exhibition held in China Hong Kong City in Tsim Sha Tsui last month had attracted hundreds of visitors," he said.

The exhibition will feature various aspects of proper slope maintenance through display of colourful illustrations and photographs.

Information on landslip warning messages, warning signs, evidence of landslip danger and precautionary measures to take when the landslip warning is in force, will also be displayed.

A promotional video on slope maintenance will be shown at the exhibition venue.

Similar exhibitions will be staged at Luk Yeung Sun Chuen in Tsuen Wan between November 11 and 17 and Cheung Fat Estate in Tsing Yi between December 2 and 8.

End

#### Fresh water cut in Sham Shui Po

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The fresh water supply to some premises in Sham Shui Po will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (September 18) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Nam Cheong Street, Tai Po Road, Castle Peak Road, Kweilin Street and Fuk Wing Street.

End