



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
NEW VISITOR CENTRE FOR TAI MO SHAN COUNTRY PARK	1
ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN AIMED AT YOUNG AND OLD	2
DB TO DISCUSS LION ROCK TUNNEL EXPERIMENT	3
PUBLIC REMINDED OF FIREWORKS PROHIBITION	4
NGAU CHI WAN MARKET COMPLEX WINS ANNUAL AWARD	5
EASTERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS HELP FIGHT CRIME	6
PUBLIC SUPPORT IMPORTANT TO FIGHT CRIME	7
FIGHT CRIME SHOW FOR SAI KUNG RESIDENTS	8
TOP BRITISH MARATHON RUNNER JOINS HK RACE	8
INVITATION FOR SHA TIN DANCE COMPETITION	9
ANTI-SMOKING EXHIBITION IN TAI PO	10
GEOTECHNICAL REPORT ON CENTRAL NT OUT	11

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

- 1 -

NEW VISITOR CENTRE FOR TAI MO SHAN COUNTRY PARK

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A \$4.5 MILLION PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT ANOTHER MAJOR PURPOSE-BUILT VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE IN HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARKS SYSTEM.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CENTRE AT TAI MO SHAN COUNTRY PARK WAS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE LAST WEDNESDAY.

IT WILL BRING TO FOUR THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PURPOSE-BUILT INFORMATION CENTRES IN POPULAR COUNTRY PARKS. THE EXISTING THREE ARE AT PAK TAM CHUNG, SAI KUNG; AT SHING MUN AND AT CLEARWATER BAY.

THE SAI KUNG CENTRE WAS COMPLETED IN 1985 WHILE THE SHING MUN CENTRE WAS OPENED JUST FIVE MONTHS AGO. THE CLEARWATER BAY CENTRE, DONATED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, WAS OPENED IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

THERE ARE TWO SMALLER VISITOR CENTRES AT ABERDEEN AND TAI MBI TUK. BOTH WERE CONVERTED FROM OLD OFFICE BUILDINGS.

ANNOUNCING THE PROJECT TODAY (SUNDAY), THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR K.C. IU, SAID THE NEW CENTRE WOULD OCCUPY A 370 SQUARE-METRE SITE NEAR THE ENTRANCE ON TAI MO SHAN ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION WORK WOULD TAKE TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

WHEN OPENED IN 1989/90, THE NEW CENTRE WILL PROVIDE THE EVER GROWING NUMBER OF PARK VISITORS WITH USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT TAI MO SHAN AND NEARBY COUNTRY PARKS AND THE MANY ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES THAT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THEIR ENJOYMENT.

MR IU SAID THE NEW CENTRE WOULD ALSO SERVE THE PURPOSES OF PROMOTING VISITORS' INTEREST IN AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND EDUCATING THEM TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY PARK ESTATE FROM LITTER, FIRE AND VANDALISM.

"THE TAI MO SHAN VISITOR CENTRE IS PART OF A FIVE-YEAR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL COUNTRY PARKS IN WHICH MUCH EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE PROVISION OF VISITOR INFORMATION.

"THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE NEW VISITOR CENTRES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COUNTRYSIDE EDUCATION AND VISITOR INFORMATION OUTLETS. THE TAI MO SHAN CENTRE IS THE SECOND OF THE THREE NEW CENTRES SO PLANNED, AFTER THE ONE AT SHING MUN," MR IU ADDED.

THE \$4.5 MILLION VISITOR CENTRE WILL SERVE THE TAI MO SHAN AND NEARBY TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK. BOTH PARKS ARE PARTICULARLY POPULAR WITH VISITORS IN VIEW OF THEIR CENTRAL LOCATIONS AND EASY ACCESSIBILITY. THEY ATTRACTED AN AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL OF MORE THAN 292,000 VISITORS IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

/MR IU

MR IU SAID THE NEW CENTRE WAS TARGETTED TO SERVE ABOUT 1,000 LOCAL AND OVERSEAS VISITORS EACH DAY.

A FULL RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE NEW CENTRE INCLUDING AN EXHIBITION HALL, AN AUDIO-VISUAL AND ACTIVITY ROOM, SALES/ENQUIRIES COUNTERS, AND AN OUTDOOR DISPLAY AREA. IN ADDITION, THE CENTRE WILL ALSO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL TALKS, SLIDE SHOWS AND GUIDED WALKS FOR SCHOOL PARTIES AND TOUR GROUPS.

THE TAI MO SHAN AND TAI LAM COUNTRY PARKS, COVERING SOME 6,770 HECTARES OF HILLY AREA, ARE AMONG THE MOST POPULAR OF THE 21 COUNTRY PARKS DEVELOPED AND MANAGED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT. THEY OFFER GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR PICNICKING AND HILL WALKING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN AIMED AT YOUNG AND OLD

* * * * *

THE EMPHASIS OF THE CURRENT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN IS ON THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN UNDER 15 AND THE ELDERLY AGED 60 AND OVER, AS THESE TWO AGE GROUPS ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR JAMES SO, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

ADDRESSING THE REGIONAL INSPECTION OF HONG KONG ISLAND'S ROAD SAFETY PATROL, MR SO SAID: "BOTH THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS AND HOPE TO FURTHER REDUCE THE CASUALTY RATES OF THESE TWO GROUPS."

THE ROAD SAFETY PATROLS CAN HELP BY ATTENDING TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE CROSSING THE ROAD AND BY ASSISTING OLD PEOPLE AS A GENERAL COURTESY WHICH ALL YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD EXTEND TO THE ELDERLY, MR SO SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER COMMENDED THE ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION FOR ITS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROMOTION OF ROAD SAFETY. THE MOST OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ROAD SAFETY PATROL SCHEMES, HE SAID.

"THE SCHEME, STARTED IN 1963 WITH ONLY TWO SCHOOLS AND 48 MEMBERS, NOW EMBRACES MORE THAN 12,000 PATROL MEMBERS FROM 211 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS."

ON THE ASSOCIATION'S RECENT DECISION TO EXPAND ITS ACTIVITIES TO KINDERGARTENS, MR SO SAID THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE EXTENSION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S WORK AS, AMONGST THE YOUNG, THE IMPORTANCE OF ROAD SAFETY COULD NEVER BE STRESSED ENOUGH.

/"THIS IS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

- 3 -

"THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN A CITY LIKE HONG KONG WHERE POPULATION AND VEHICLE DENSITIES ARE AMONGST THE WORLD'S HIGHEST," HE SAID.

TO ACHIEVE A GREATER AWARENESS OF ROAD SAFETY AND HOW TO USE THE ROAD, MR SO CALLED ON THE PATROL MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC TO COLLECT A COPY OF THE ROAD USERS' CODE RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

"THE CODE WILL BE OF PARTICULAR BENEFIT TO PARENTS FOR TEACHING ROAD SAFETY TO THEIR CHILDREN, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO GO CYCLING."

THE CODE, A 114-PAGE COLOURED BOOKLET, CONTAINS USEFUL INFORMATION ON TRAFFIC LEGISLATION, RULES OF BEHAVIOUR FOR PEDESTRIANS, PASSENGERS, CYCLISTS, DRIVERS AND MOTOR-CYCLISTS, AND SOME HINTS ON FIRST AID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DB TO DISCUSS LION ROCK TUNNEL EXPERIMENT

* * * *

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS AT ITS MEETING ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 15) MORNING THE TOLL-WAIVING EXPERIMENT AND PROGRESS OF OTHER MAJOR SCHEMES TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

BRIEFING MEMBERS ON THE ISSUE WILL BE THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT (NT), MR RICHARD MEAKIN; CHIEF ENGINEER (NT) OF TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MR TSOH MING; CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER (NT EAST), MR SAM CHAN AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MVA CONSULTANCY COMPANY.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PRELIMINARY SURVEY ON SHA TIN RESIDENTS' DEMAND FOR OFF-DISTRICT BUS SERVICES, IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION, KCR FEEDER BUS SERVICES IN SHA TIN AND A REQUEST FROM BELAIR GARDENS RESIDENTS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR THE ESTATE.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA ARE THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINAL FACILITY PLANNED IN KOWLOON TONG, APPLICATION FOR FUNDING A TWO-WEEK CYCLING SAFETY CAMPAIGN, AS WELL AS PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ROAD SAFETY AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

/UNFINISHED ITEMS

- 4 -

UNFINISHED ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED. THEY ARE THE PROPOSAL TO EXEMPT BUSES FROM STOPPING INTERMITTENTLY AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA, EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS OCCURRING IN THE LION ROCK TUNNEL AREA AND THE DRAFT FOR 1988/89 DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR SHA TIN DISTRICT.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 9.30 AM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 15) AT THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PUBLIC REMINDED OF FIREWORKS PROHIBITION

* * * *

WITH THE FESTIVE SEASON FAST APPROACHING, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT THEY ARE PROHIBITED FROM UNLICENSED POSSESSION OR DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS, FIRE-CRACKERS, PISTOL CAPS AND PARTY POPPERS.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE, ANY PERSON WHO POSSESSES OR DISCHARGES ANY FIREWORK WITHOUT A LICENCE IS LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

"SPOT CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY EXPLOSIVES OFFICERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S MINES DIVISION, ESPECIALLY AROUND CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR, ON SHOPS AND PREMISES SUSPECTED OF SELLING OR STORING SUCH GOODS," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ANY UNLICENSED DANGEROUS GOODS FOUND WILL BE SEIZED AND THE OFFENDERS PROSECUTED."

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT AROUND THIS TIME LAST YEAR, EXPLOSIVES OFFICERS CONFISCATED MORE THAN 270 PARTY POPPERS, 2,600 ROUNDS OF RING CAPS AND 70,800 ROLLS OF PISTOL CAPS.

HE URGED THOSE IN POSSESSION OF ANY FIREWORK OR CATEGORY I DANGEROUS GOODS TO SURRENDER THEM TO THE MINES DIVISION AT THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KOWLOON, IMMEDIATELY.

THEY CAN ALSO RING UP THE DIVISION ON 3-7332383 OR 3-7332384 FOR SUCH GOODS TO BE COLLECTED BY EXPLOSIVES OFFICERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

- 5 -

NGAU CHI WAN MARKET COMPLEX WINS ANNUAL AWARD

* * * * *

THE NGAU CHI WAN MARKET COMPLEX HAS WON THIS YEAR'S ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ANNUAL AWARD, A PANEL OF INDEPENDENT JUDGES HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR JOSE LEI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR LEI SAID THE WINNING PROJECT, COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1986 AT A COST OF \$60 MILLION, "SHOWED AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION IN THE INTEGRATION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS, WITH UNPRETENTIOUS ARCHITECTURE AND FREE OF CLICHE."

A TOTAL OF 12 SUBMISSIONS WERE ENTERED IN THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION, WHICH WAS LIMITED TO PROJECTS DESIGNED AND SUPERVISED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THEY WERE SUBMITTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE PROJECT TEAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ARCHITECTS.

IN EXPLAINING THE JUDGING CRITERIA, MR LEI SAID: "AS A DEPARTMENT PROVIDING ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES TO GOVERNMENT, WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC."

BUILDINGS PRODUCED MUST BE FUNCTIONAL, EFFICIENT, ECONOMICAL BOTH IN CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

WE ARE ALSO SUBJECTED TO WATER-TIGHT RULES AND PROCEDURES, AND ARCHITECTURAL AESTHETICS, UNFORTUNATELY, IS ONLY OUR SECONDARY OBJECTIVE," HE ADDED.

MR TONY LIEM, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WINNING PROJECT TEAM, SAID: "ONE NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT WAS THE GOOD PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION ACHIEVED DESPITE THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT.

"THE VIABILITY OF THE MARKET WAS ONE MAJOR PLANNING CONSIDERATION BECAUSE ITS SUCCESS GENERATES REVENUE FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL, DISCOURAGES ILLEGAL HAWKING AND THUS CREATE A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

"WE ALSO MET THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE EXISTING UNCONTROLLED HAWKERS AND TEMPORARY MARKET GIVING RISE TO POOR HYGIENE, BLOCKING OFF FOOTPATHS, ROADS AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSING," MR LIEM SAID.

THE JUDGING PANEL, WHICH INCLUDED SEVERAL NOTABLE PERSONALITIES IN ARCHITECTURE OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT, ALSO GAVE SPECIAL MENTION TO THREE OTHER SUBMISSIONS - THE QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, RESERVOIR PARK AT WONG NAI CHUNG AND RESTORATION OF FRENCH MISSION BUILDING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

- 6 -

EASTERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS HELP FIGHT CRIME

* * * *

THE NORTH POINT POLICE STATION WAS CROWDED WITH THOUSANDS OF EASTERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS TODAY (SUNDAY) WHO ATTENDED THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY CUM NORTH POINT POLICE STATION OPEN DAY.

ELEVEN LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE PRESENTED WITH GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS FOR THEIR BRAVERY IN HELPING THE POLICE TO FIGHT CRIME; PRIZES WERE ALSO PRESENTED TO THE WINNERS OF THE ANTI-TRIAD ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION AND THE FIGHT CRIME CARTOON DRAWING COMPETITION.

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG SAID THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAD ORGANISED VARIOUS TALKS, VISITS, COMPETITIONS AND SEMINARS TO DISSEMINATE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGES AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS.

TO SUPPORT THE 'LIFT DISPLAY PROJECT' INITIATED BY THE POLICE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU WHICH IS AIMED AT AROUSING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, MR YEUNG URGED MORE LOCAL RESIDENTS IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS TO JOIN THE SCHEME.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE EASTERN POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR R.M.A. HARPER, SAID THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CRIMES REPORTED PER MONTH IN 1987 WAS 391, IN WHICH ROBBERIES AND BURGLARIES SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE AS COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

HOWEVER, THE DETECTION RATE HAD SHOWN A CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT FROM 38 PER CENT IN 1985 TO 50 PER CENT IN 1987, HE ADDED.

MR HARPER SAID THE SUCCESS WAS ATTRIBUTED NOT ONLY TO THE HARD WORK AND HIGH DETECTION RATE OF THE POLICE, BUT ALSO THE COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL RESPONSE FROM ALL LAW ABIDING RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO ADOPT CRIME PREVENTION MEASURES BOTH AT HOME AND AT WORK, ESPECIALLY NOW WHEN NEW YEAR WAS APPROACHING AND CRIMES WERE USUALLY MORE ACTIVE DURING THE SEASON.

MR HARPER POINTED OUT THAT SHOP LIFTING BY CHILDREN WAS ANOTHER PROBLEM TO WHICH SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID.

"IT USUALLY OCCURRED IN SUPERMARKETS WHERE THE DISPLAY OF SWEETS AND OTHER ITEMS ARE VERY TEMPTING; HOWEVER, THEIR STAFF ARE VIGILANT AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING CAUGHT ARE MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN MOST PEOPLE REALISE."

"ANOTHER SUBJECT OF CONCERN IS THE INVOLVEMENT OF TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT," HE CONTINUED.

HE NOTED THAT TRIADS EXTENDED THEIR INFLUENCES IN THE COMMUNITY BY OFFERING PROTECTION, SOMETIMES EVEN IN BUSINESS COMPETITIONS.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO REPORT ANY TRIAD ACTIVITIES TO THE POLICE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

- 7 -

PUBLIC SUPPORT IMPORTANT TO FIGHT CRIME

* * * * *

PUBLIC SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT TO FIGHT CRIME AND PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE SHOULD COOPERATE TO MAINTAIN A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY, CHARIMAN OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR WONG WING-PIU, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"I HOPE TODAY'S CARNIVAL WOULD HELP AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND STRENGTHEN THE TIES BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

MR WONG WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL AND "FRIENDS OF THE POLICE AWARD" PRESENTATION AT ARGYLE STREET PLAYGROUND.

THE EVENT WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, KWOLOON CITY JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, AND SPONSORED BY THE KOWLOON LOK SIN TONG.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE CARNIVAL INCLUDED 21 GAMES STALLS WITH THE FIGHT CRIME THEME, SINGING, LUCKY DRAW, A PLAY AND AN EXHIBITION ON CRIME PREVENTION, AND PERFORMANCES BY THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL ROTARY BAND. A POLICE RECRUITMENT COUNTER WAS ALSO SET UP AT THE VENUE.

MEANWHILE, 20 LOCAL RESIDENTS AND EIGHT STUDENTS RECEIVED PRIZES AND SOUVENIRS FOR HAVING HELPED THE POLICE IN COMBATING CRIME.

THE RECIPIENTS, AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 59, WERE NOMINATED BY THE POLICE, AREA COMMITTEES AND SCHOOLS.

OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CARNIVAL WERE A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MRS ROSANNA TAM; KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALEX FONG; KOWLOON CITY DICTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, MRS WONG LEUNG KAM-SHAN; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR CHEUNG WOO-YICK.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

- 8 -

FIGHT CRIME SHOW FOR SAI KUNG RESIDENTS

* * * * *

SAI KUNG RESIDENTS WILL BE TREATED TO A NIGHT OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT IN THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME VARIETY SHOW ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 19) AT THE SAI KUNG JOCKEY CLUB TOWN HALL.

ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, THE VARIETY SHOW WILL START AT 7.30 PM WITH A PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY IN WHICH NINE GOOD CITIZEN AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FROM THE DISTRICT IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PROMOTING THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME.

RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARDS INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL VILLAGES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS' CORPORATIONS.

OTHER PROGRAMMES OF THE NIGHT ARE SINGING BY FAMOUS ARTISTES, ZITHER PERFORMANCE AND A DRAMA WITH AN ANTI-TRIAD THEME.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MRS ROSANNA TAM; SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN HO AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN WILL ATTEND THE VARIETY SHOW CUM PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

TICKETS OF THE SHOW ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICES OF THE SAI KUNG AND HANG HAU RURAL COMMITTEES AND THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TOP BRITISH MARATHON RUNNER JOINS HK RACE

* * * * *

BRITAIN'S TOP MARATHON RUNNER HUGH JONES WILL BE HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1988 HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL MARATHON, IT WAS CONFIRMED TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE EVENT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) AND THE HONG KONG AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (HKAAA), WILL BE HELD AT THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR ON JANUARY 24, (SUNDAY).

HUGH JONES, THE WINNER OF THE LONDON MARATHON IN 1982, HAS A PERSONAL BEST TIME OF 2.09.24 HOURS AND HAS BEEN THE FIRST CHOICE FOR BRITAIN IN THE 1987 ATHLETIC SEASON.

"HE IS CERTAINLY THE CLASSIEST MARATHON RUNNER WE HAVE EVER BEEN ABLE TO ATTRACT," SAID RACE DIRECTOR OF THE EVENT, MR JAMIE SCOTT.

/"HUGH IS

"HUGH IS ACTUALLY USING THE EVENT AS PART OF HIS PREPARATION FOR THE OLYMPICS. HE WILL BE COMING FOR A STEADY RUN AS A PRELUDE TO COMPETING AGAIN IN LONDON NEXT APRIL AND IN THE SEOUL OLYMPICS IN SEPTEMBER," HE ADDED.

THIS YEAR HUGH JONES WAS THIRD IN LONDON IN MAY IN 2.10.11 HOURS, FIFTH IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ROME IN AUGUST IN 2.12.54 HOURS AND NINTH IN NOVEMBER'S NEW YORK MARATHON IN 2.14.07 HOURS.

MEANWHILE, ACAN WILL HOST A RUNNING SEMINAR ON JANUARY 22 BEFORE THE SUNDAY RACE DURING WHICH HUGH JONES WILL BE ONE OF THE SPEAKERS.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE HONG KNG AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, SPORTS GOODS OUTLETS OR ON WRITTEN APPLICATION TO THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL MARATHON G.P.O. BOX 10368 HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INVITATION FOR SHA TIN DANCE COMPETITION

* * * *

DANCING FANS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS BY TAKING PART IN THE EIGHTH SHA TIN DISTRICT DANCE COMPETITION TO BE HELD IN MEI LAM INDOOR GAMES HALL ON JANUARY 17.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION AND REGIONAL COUNCIL, CO-ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, AND SPONSORED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD.

COMPETITIONS WILL BE CLASSIFIED INTO FIVE GROUPS, NAMELY THAT FOR "CHILDREN" AGED FOUR TO SIX YEARS OLD; YOUTH AGED SEVEN TO 12; "OPEN" FOR AGE 13 AND ABOVE; "COUPLE" FOR AGE 18 AND ABOVE; AND "SPECIAL" FOR THE DISABLED WITH NO AGE LIMITS.

PARTICIPANTS CAN COMPETE IN DIFFERENT KINDS OF DANCES INCLUDING ORIENTAL CLASSIC, ORIENTAL FOLK, WESTERN FOLK, MODERN, SOCIAL AND JAZZ. COMPETITORS FOR THE "CHILDREN" AND "SPECIAL" GROUPS MAY CHOOSE OTHER FORMS AS THEY LIKE.

ENTRIES TO THE EVENT ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 2.

OUTSTANDING DANCERS WILL BE AWARDED AND INVITED TO PERFORM AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL ON FEBRUARY 6.

ENTRY FORMS CAN NOW BE OBTAINED FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY CENTRE, SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION AND SHA TIN OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 0-6989750 AND 0-6066552.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

- 10 -

ANTI-SMOKING EXHIBITION IN TAI PO

* * * *

AN EXHIBITION TO CONVEY TO TAI PO RESIDENTS THE MESSAGE THAT SMOKING IS HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH WILL OPEN AT 3 PM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 15).

THE EXHIBITION, LASTING UNTIL DECEMBER 18, IS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES HELD IN THE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF THE ANTI-SMOKING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN.

IT WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 10 AM TO 9 PM IN THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE TAI PO COMMUNITY CENTRE.

APART FROM DISPLAYING ANTI-SMOKING INFORMATION, THERE WILL BE A VIDEO AND A SLIDE SHOW AS WELL AS GAMES STALLS TO PROMOTE THE MESSAGE.

WINNERS OF AN ESSAY COMPETITION AND A POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION IN SUPPORT OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL RECEIVE PRIZES DURING THE CEREMONY.

THE EXHIBITION, ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON TAI PO DISTRICT ANTI-SMOKING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE TAI PO ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR SIDNEY CHAN, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, MR MICHAEL LAI.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT ANTI-SMOKING EXHIBITION AT 3 PM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 15) AT THE TAI PO COMMUNITY CENTRE IN HEUNG SZE WUI STREET, TAI PO MARKET.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

- 11 -

GEOTECHNICAL REPORT ON CENTRAL NT OUT

* * *

A NEW GEOTECHNICAL AREA STUDIES PROGRAMME (GASP) REPORT FOCUSING ON THE CENTRAL NEW TERRITORIES HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF 12 SUCH REPORTS WHICH CONTAIN REGIONAL GEOTECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS OF ALL THE LAND IN THE TERRITORY, THE LATEST REPORT ENCOMPASSES TSING YI, TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND SHA TIN.

PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER, DR E.W. BRAND, SAID THE REPORT CONTAINED A WEALTH OF FACTUAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, FOLD-OUT COLOUR MAPS, AND A SET OF FOUR MAPS WHICH PROVIDED AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE GEOTECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS ON ALL THE LAND IN THE AREA.

"THE GEOTECHNICAL AREA STUDIES PROGRAMME REPORTS WILL BE INVALUABLE TO THOSE INVOLVED WITH PLANNING, LAND DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

"THEY WILL ALSO BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO TEACHERS AND ACADEMICS, BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF THE NATURAL LAND RESOURCES OF THE TERRITORY," DR BRAND SAID.

HE CONTINUED: "THE GASP STUDIES ARE BASED ON TERRAIN CLASSIFICATION TECHNIQUES WHICH USE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, FIELD RECONNAISSANCE AND EXISTING SITE INVESTIGATION RECORDS.

"THEY WILL PROVIDE A GOOD BASIS FOR ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF LARGE SITES."

THE GASP REPORTS COMPLEMENT THE NEW SERIES OF 15 GEOLOGICAL MAPS AND SIX ACCOMPANYING DESCRIPTIVE MEMOIRS WHICH THE GCO IS ALSO PRODUCING.

THE GASP REPORT ON THE CENTRAL NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH CONSISTS OF A 165-PAGE VOLUME AND FOUR ACCOMPANYING MAPS, IS NOW ON SALE AT \$150 PER SET FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE (GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE) AND THE MAP SALES OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT (FIFTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD).

- - - - 0 - - - -



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

GOVERNOR'S ARTICLE ON HK'S FUTURE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1987

- 1 -

GOVERNOR'S ARTICLE ON HK'S FUTURE

* * * * *

FOLLOWING IS AN ARTICLE ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WRITTEN BEFORE OCTOBER FOR THE NOVEMBER EDITION OF THE HARVARD INTERNATIONAL REVIEW, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED RECENTLY.

READERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS MAY WELL BE PUZZLED BY WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN READING RECENTLY ABOUT HONG KONG. SOME NEWSPAPER COMMENTARIES HAVE SPOKEN OF A "JITTERY CITY"; A "CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE"; AND THE "SUNSET FOR CAPITALISM" IN A "DYING COLONIAL POSSESSION". OTHERS HAVE REFERRED TO A "MASSIVE BRAIN DRAIN" AND A "DRAIN OF CAPITAL". YET IN THIS SAME PERIOD, PERCEPTIVE READERS WILL HAVE SEEN THE FINANCIAL PRESS REPORT THAT OUR ECONOMY IS BOOMING, AND THAT EXPORTS, INVESTMENT, AND OTHER KEY MARKET INDICES ARE ALL BUOYANT. VISITORS HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY A SURGE IN CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY COMPARABLE WITH THAT CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN MANHATTAN. EXPORTS AT THE END OF JULY WERE UP BY 32 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR BEFORE, RE-EXPORTS WERE UP BY 52 PER CENT, AND THE STOCK MARKET WAS AT AN ALL TIME HIGH. WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON?

HONG KONG'S POSITION IS UNIQUE. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUTURE ARE ALSO UNIQUE. THIS UNIQUENESS NEEDS TO BE UNDERSTOOD IF ANYONE IS TO HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE TERRITORY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

IN 1997, HONG KONG WILL BECOME A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR) OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT WILL REMAIN CAPITALIST. IT WILL ADMINISTER ITSELF, EXCEPT IN THE AREAS OF FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENCE, WHICH WILL BE CHINA'S RESPONSIBILITY JUST AS THEY ARE CURRENTLY HANDLED BY BRITAIN. FOR THIS UNIQUE AND FAR-REACHING CONCEPT, THE CHINESE HAVE COINED THE PHRASE, "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS". BY THIS THEY MEAN THAT HONG KONG'S CAPITALIST SYSTEM AND SOCIETY WILL BE MAINTAINED SEPARATELY FROM CHINA'S COMMUNIST SYSTEM, EVEN THOUGH HONG KONG WILL BE A PART OF THE SAME COUNTRY.

THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" CONCEPT IS UNCHARTED TERRITORY. IT HAS NEVER BEEN TRIED ELSEWHERE. ITS VERY UNIQUENESS UNDERSTANDABLY LEADS PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE NOT CLOSE TO THE SCENE, TO WONDER IF IT CAN WORK. IT IS NATURAL THAT QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ASKED ABOUT THE VIABILITY OF COMMUNISM AND CAPITALISM CO-EXISTING. BUT I BELIEVE THAT THOSE QUESTIONS CAN BE AND ARE BEING SATISFACTORILY ANSWERED.

/IN CONSIDERING

IN CONSIDERING HONG KONG'S FUTURE, IT IS USEFUL TO RECALL ITS PAST, PARTICULARLY THE ERA SINCE THE COMMUNIST PARTY CAME TO POWER IN CHINA IN 1949. DURING THIS PERIOD HONG KONG, WHICH WAS DEVASTATED AND DEPOPULATED DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HAS DEVELOPED INTO A THRIVING CITY OF OVER FIVE AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE. HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS PLACE THE TERRITORY THIRTEENTH IN THE WORLD LEAGUE. OUR PER CAPITA GDP OF US\$6,761 IS AMONG THE VERY HIGHEST IN ASIA, AND AHEAD OF SOME WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ALL OF THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF A HIGHLY UNCERTAIN POLITICAL FUTURE. UNTIL 1984 NO ONE KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN 1997, THE EXPIRATION DATE OF BRITAIN'S NINETY-NINE YEAR LEASE ON THE NEW TERRITORIES - WHICH ACCOUNT FOR 92 PERCENT OF HONG KONG'S LAND AREA, INCLUDING MUCH OF ITS POPULATION AND INDUSTRY, ITS AIRPORT, CONTAINER PORTS, POWER STATIONS AND RESERVOIRS, AND WITHOUT WHICH THE REMAINDER OF THE TERRITORY WOULD NOT BE VIABLE. INDEED, SINCE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS NEVER RECOGNISED THE VALIDITY OF THAT NINETEENTH CENTURY LEASE, THERE WAS ALSO CONCERN, ESPECIALLY DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN CHINA, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE EVEN BEFORE 1997. THE MODERN BUSTLING INTERNATIONAL CITY OF HONG KONG WAS BUILT UP AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF UNCERTAINTY.

NOW THAT UNCERTAINTY HAS BEEN REMOVED. THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION SETS OUT IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WHAT HONG KONG'S POLITICAL FUTURE WILL BE, AS WELL AS THE POLICIES WHICH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WILL ADOPT TOWARDS THE TERRITORY AFTER 1997. IN ESSENCE, THE JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDES FOR HONG KONG TO MAINTAIN ITS WAY OF LIFE ALMOST UNCHANGED AFTER 1997. SOME CHANGES WILL OF COURSE BE NECESSARY TO REFLECT THE CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND CHINA'S ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AND DEFENCE AFFAIRS. BUT CHINA HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WILL BE HONG KONG'S OWN PEOPLE, NOT PEOPLE SENT FROM THE MAINLAND, WHO WILL COMPRISE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SAR. THEY WILL HAVE A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY TO ADMINISTER HONG KONG ESSENTIALLY AS IT IS RUN NOW. CHINA WILL NOT THEREFORE "RUN" HONG KONG, AS THE PRESS SHORTHAND OFTEN HAS IT. NOR, OF COURSE, DOES BRITAIN "RUN" HONG KONG TODAY.

THE JOINT DECLARATION GUARANTEES THE CONTINUATION OF HONG HONG'S PRESENT RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, ITS LEGAL SYSTEM AND ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. IT STIPULATES THAT HONG KONG'S CAPITALIST SYSTEM, WITH RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP PROTECTED BY LAW, ITS SECURITIES, FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND OTHER MARKETS, ITS OWN FREELY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY, AND LACK OF EXCHANGE CONTROLS WILL CONTINUE. THE HONG KONG SAR WILL KEEP ITS OWN FINANCIAL AND FISCAL SYSTEMS, ITS FREE PORT, AND ITS OWN CUSTOMS TERRITORY. IT WILL HAVE ITS OWN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND ITS OWN AIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS, AND WILL CONDUCT ITS OWN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL EXTERNAL RELATIONS. HONG KONG WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS MUCH AS IT DOES NOW. THE FABRIC OF RELATIONSHIPS THAT MAKE HONG KONG AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING, FINANCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE WILL BE KEPT INTACT. ALL THESE PROVISIONS ARE GUARANTEED FOR FIFTY YEARS FROM 1997.

FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE, THEREFORE, THE JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDES THAT THE ESSENTIALS OF THEIR LIFESTYLE WILL NOT CHANGE. FOR INVESTORS, LOCAL AND OVERSEAS, IT GIVES REASSURANCE THAT THEIR RIGHTS WILL BE PROTECTED AND THAT PROFITS CAN BE FREELY CONVERTED OR REPATRIATED.

SO MUCH FOR WHAT THE JOINT DECLARATION SAYS. BUT WHAT MANY PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT IS WHETHER IT WILL WORK IN PRACTICE. THERE ARE GOOD GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING THAT IT WILL. WE HAVE A SUCCESSFUL RECORD OF IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS SO FAR. BRITAIN AND CHINA HAVE HAD MORE OR LESS CONTINUOUS DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION SINCE THE RATIFICATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IN MID-1985. THE MAIN FORUM FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS HAS BEEN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, CONSISTING OF FIVE OFFICIALS ON EACH SIDE (WITH TWO HONG KONG OFFICIALS AS PART OF THE BRITISH TEAM), CALLING ON EXPERT ADVICE WHEN NECESSARY. THE GROUP HAS ACHIEVED A GREAT DEAL SINCE IT STARTED ITS WORK TWO YEARS AGO. IT HAS AGREED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BECOME A SEPARATE CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) AND THAT IT SHOULD REMAIN SO AFTER 1997. HONG KONG DULY BECAME A PARTY IN ITS OWN RIGHT IN APRIL 1986, THEREBY ENDING UNCERTAINTY OVER HONG KONG'S FUTURE TRADING POSITION WHEN THE BRITISH UMBRELLA IS REMOVED (CHINA IS NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE GATT). IT HAS AGREED ON TRAVEL AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE TO USE UP TO AND AFTER 1997. IT HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR HONG KONG TO CONCLUDE ITS OWN AIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS - THE FIRST, WITH THE NETHERLANDS, HAS ALREADY BEEN SIGNED - AND TO SET UP ITS OWN SHIPPING REGISTER. THUS IN AREAS OF VITAL CONCERN TO HONG KONG - TRADE, TRAVEL, AND COMMUNICATIONS - THE JOINT DECLARATION IS ALREADY BEING IMPLEMENTED. IN OTHER AREAS TOO, NOTABLY IN THE DISCUSSIONS OVER HOW TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S STATUS IN THE MYRIAD INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS IN WHICH IT PARTICIPATES, THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.

BOTH THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS ARE PUBLICLY AND FIRMLY COMMITTED TO MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION - A LEGALLY BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, REGISTERED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, TO WHICH BOTH HAVE DEVOTED AND CONTINUE TO DEVOTE A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND EFFORT, RIGHT UP TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

IT IS WORTH EXAMINING THE VESTED INTERESTS RIDING ON THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG. THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN THIS ARE OBVIOUS. PERHAPS LESS OBVIOUS TO SOME OVERSEAS OBSERVERS IS THE STRONG CHINESE INTEREST THAT HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROSPER AS IT DOES NOW. HONG KONG IS CHINA'S LARGEST MARKET AND ITS SECOND LARGEST TRADING PARTNER. IT IS BY FAR CHINA'S LARGEST SOURCE OF DIRECT EXTERNAL INVESTMENT AND JOINT VENTURE INVESTMENT (IN THE SEVEN YEAR 1979-1985, 60 PER CENT OF CHINA'S EXTERNAL INVESTMENT CAME FROM HONG KONG). IT IS A VITAL OUTLET FOR CHINESE EXPORTS, AND AN IMPORTANT SERVICE CENTRE FOR CHINA AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. THE VAST NUMBER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TRAVELLING TO CHINA (OVER 22 MILLION BORDER CROSSINGS IN 1986, COMPARED WITH AROUND HALF A MILLION IN THE MID-1970'S), AND REMITTANCES SENT TO RELATIVES IN CHINA BY HONG KONG RESIDENTS ARE ALSO VALUABLE SOURCES OF INCOME FOR CHINA.

CHINESE INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG ARE LARGE AND GROWING. THEY HAVE OVER-TAKEN BRITISH INVESTMENTS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, AND ARE NOW EXCEEDED ONLY BY AMERICAN AND JAPANESE INVESTMENTS. CHINESE INTERESTS CONTROL FIFTEEN BANKS AND NUMEROUS OTHER COMPANIES IN HONG KONG. A CHINESE COMPANY BOUGHT A SIGNIFICANT MINORITY SHAREHOLDING IN CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS EARLIER THIS YEAR AND IS PARTICIPATING IN A CONSORTIUM THAT IS BUILDING A HK\$3 BILLION SECOND CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL. ESTIMATES OF WHAT CHINA EARNS FROM HONG KONG RANGE FROM 30 TO 40 PER CENT OF CHINA'S TOTAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RECEIPTS. THESE CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT TO CHINA FOR MANY YEARS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPORTANT AS CHINA CONTINUES ITS AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPING ITS POTENTIALLY VAST ECONOMY. THEY DEPEND NOW, AS THEY WILL AFTER 1997, ON HONG KONG RETAINING A SEPARATE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM, NOT ON THE ABSORPTION OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY IN CHINA'S AS A WHOLE. THEY ARE THUS PART OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" CONCEPT AND PART OF ITS GUARANTEE.

THE MAJOR FREE-MARKET ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD ALL HAVE AN INTEREST IN SEEING THAT HONG KONG'S FUTURE IS SECURE. AS A CENTRE OF TRADING AND COMMUNICATIONS, AN ENTREPOT FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE, HONG KONG IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CAPITALIST COMMUNITY AND A BASE FOR MANY COMPANIES AND BANKS DOING BUSINESS IN THE REGION. THESE ARE NOT MERELY BRITISH INTERESTS, BUT WESTERN INTERESTS. THE AMERICAN STAKE IN HONG KONG, FOR EXAMPLE, IS VERY LARGE. ABOUT 14,000 AMERICANS LIVE IN HONG KONG. THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ESTIMATED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR THAT THERE WERE OVER 900 AMERICAN FIRMS IN HONG KONG WITH A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF OVER US\$6 BILLION. THE U.S. CONSUL-GENERAL IN HONG KONG RECENTLY DESCRIBED HONG KONG'S IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AS BASED "NOT ONLY ON COMMERCIAL TIES BUT ALSO SHARED VALUES". FROM FREE TRADE (AND NO MARKET IS FREER THAN HONG KONG'S) TO INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, THESE ARE VALUES WHICH IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE WESTERN INTEREST TO PRESERVE.

SECOND ONLY TO THE AMERICAN BUSINESS PRESENCE IN HONG KONG COMES THE JAPANESE, WITH OVER 800 COMPANIES REPRESENTED. JAPANESE BUSINESS IS SHOWING GREAT CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG: IT HAS TRIPLED ITS DIRECT INVESTMENT SINCE 1981. HONG KONG IS NOW JAPAN'S SEVENTH LARGEST INVESTMENT MARKET IN THE WORLD. THE JAPANESE PRESENCE IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR HAS ALSO GROWN FAST. JAPAN'S VIEW OF HONG KONG WAS PERHAPS MOST NEATLY SUMMED UP IN A SPEECH BY THE JAPANESE CONSUL-GENERAL IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR WHEN HE REFERRED TO THE CITY AS "THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS IN ASIA". MANY OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS IN HONG KONG; THE NUMBER OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COMPANIES HERE IS LARGE AND GROWING RAPIDLY.

FOR WESTERN BUSINESSMEN, HONG KONG IS THE NATURAL PLACE TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE EAST, BOTH WITH CHINA AND WITH THE REST OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION. MANY INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND BANKS HAVE ESTABLISHED REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN UNBEATABLE COMBINATION OF AN IDEAL GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, SUPERB SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS, A GOOD WORKFORCE PLUS A SUPPLY OF WELL-EDUCATED ENGLISH-SPEAKING MIDDLE MANAGERS, AND A STABLE, SAFE, AND COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT. THE SPECIAL ADVANTAGE OF HONG KONG AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA IS UNMATCHED. HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN HAVE EXPERTISE AND CONNECTIONS THAT CAN BE OF GREAT HELP TO WESTERN COMPANIES SEEKING TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE DISTANT AND UNFAMILIAR CHINESE MARKET. HONG KONG HAS THE BEST DEEP-WATER PORT ON THE CHINESE COAST AND THE SECOND BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT IN THE WORLD. IT ALSO HAS GOOD AND IMPROVING TRANSPORT LINKS WITH THE CHINESE HINTERLAND - BY ROAD, RAIL, AIR, SEAS AND RIVER. AND HONG KONG'S TRADITIONAL ROLE AS AN OUTLET FOR CHINESE TRADE, WHICH WAS DISRUPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL EMBARGO AT THE TIME OF KOREAN WAR, IS NOW STRONGER THAN EVER. SEVENTY-EIGHT PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S LARGE RE-EXPORT BUSINESS COMES FROM, OR IS DESTINED FOR CHINA. THIS AMOUNTED TO TRADE BOTH WAYS WORTH US\$15 BILLION IN THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1987. SOME 2,800 CHINESE VESSELS ANNUALLY USE THE PORT OF HONG KONG, NEARLY TEN TIMES THE NUMBER TEN YEARS AGO.

INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG, MATCHING THE INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN HONG KONG, HAS BEEN HIGH SINCE THE JOINT DECLARATION. BUT WHAT OF THOSE WHO HAVE THE GREATEST INTEREST OF ALL: THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG? ARE THEY ALL LEAVING AND TAKING THEIR MONEY WITH THEM, AS SOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS HAVE ALLEGED? HARDLY. THERE IS AN OUTFLOW, NOT A FLIGHT, OF CAPITAL FROM HONG KONG. THIS IS NORMAL IN ANY STRONG ECONOMY: JAPAN IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A SIMILAR BUT LARGER TREND. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF INVESTMENT IN THE TERRITORY, WHETHER IN PLANT AND MACHINERY (1984-1986 WAS THE BEST THREE-YEAR PERIOD FOR GROWTH IN THIS AREA OF INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY) OR FOR MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN MAY BE BUYING INTO COMPANIES OVERSEAS, SUCH AS HUSKY OIL IN CANADA OR MARINE MIDLAND BANK IN THE UNITED STATES; BUT THEY ARE ALSO MAKING INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG, MANY OF WHICH WILL NOT PAY FOR THEMSELVES UNTIL WELL INTO THE 1990'S OR LATER. MEANWHILE, THE DEMAND AMONG ORDINARY PEOPLE TO BUY HOUSES AND APARTMENTS IS EXTREMELY STRONG, AND NEW SHARE ISSUES ARE HEAVILY OVERSUBSCRIBED. THERE IS NO SIGN THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO INVEST THEIR MONEY IN HONG KONG.

IT IS WORTH REMEMBERING THAT EMIGRATION HAS BEEN A FACT OF LIFE IN HONG KONG SINCE THE LAST CENTURY. HENCE, IN LARGE PART, THE LARGE CHINESE COMMUNITIES THAT NOW EXIST IN THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, AND BRITAIN. THE LEVEL OF EMIGRATION HAS BEEN MUCH THE SAME AS IT IS NOW FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS. THOSE LEAVING NOW INCLUDE SOME WHO COUNT 1997 AMONG THEIR REASONS. BUT MANY OTHERS LEAVE FOR TRADITIONAL REASONS, PRINCIPALLY TO JOIN FAMILY MEMBERS ALREADY ABROAD. OF THOSE LEAVING BECAUSE OF A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, QUITE A FEW, HAVING OBTAINED THEIR "INSURANCE POLICY", HAVE ALREADY RETURNED TO HONG KONG TO LIVE AND WORK, BECAUSE THEY PREFER ITS LIFESTYLE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY ITS DYNAMIC ECONOMY. IF CONFIDENCE, BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, IS MAINTAINED, MORE WILL RETURN.

THERE ARE OF COURSE REAL WORRIES ABOUT THE FUTURE. THE YEAR 1997 WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE, HOWEVER, MUCH ITS IMPACT CAN BE MINIMISED BY SENSIBLE POLICIES AND GOOD CO-OPERATION AMONG ALL CONCERNED. CURRENTLY IT IS THE POLITICAL RATHER THAN THE ECONOMIC FUTURE THAT ATTRACTS THE MOST ATTENTION. HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE WATCHING CLOSELY AS THE CHINESE DRAFT THE BASIC LAW, WHICH WILL GIVE EFFECT UNDER THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION. A NUMBER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH PUBLIC DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CHAPTER THAT WILL DEAL WITH THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE SAR. MEANWHILE, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING A REVIEW OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, WHICH HAS ALSO GIVEN RISE TO LIVELY DEBATE. MUCH OF THAT DEBATE HAS CENTERED ON THE QUESTION OF HOW THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD EVENTUALLY BE COMPOSED; IT CURRENTLY COMPRISES OFFICIAL, APPOINTED AND INDIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS. THE JOINT DECLARATION STIPULATES THAT, WHEN THE SAR IS ESTABLISHED IN 1997, ALL MEMBERS SHOULD BE ELECTED, BUT DOES NOT SPECIFY THE METHOD OF ELECTION.

THE CURRENT DEBATE ON THESE MATTERS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONCEAL THE FACT THAT THERE IS IN HONG KONG A STRONG CONSENSUS IN FAVOUR OF MAKING THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" CONCEPT WORK. NO ONE IS ADVOCATING INDEPENDENCE, AND IT IS WIDELY ACCEPTED THAT HONG KONG MUST HAVE A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH SUITS ITS OWN SPECIAL NEEDS RATHER THAN SIMPLY COPY SOME MODEL FROM ELSEWHERE. THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD BY AND HAVE CREDIBILITY WITH THE PEOPLE. IT NEEDS TO EVOLVE FROM THE EXISTING SYSTEMS, WHICH HAVE SERVED HONG KONG WELL AND WHICH OPERATE IN A FASHION MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE PUBLIC THAN THE FORMAL CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION MIGHT SUGGEST. THE CHALLENGE WE FACE IN THE PRESENT REVIEW, AND THE CHINESE FACE IN DRAFTING THE BASIC LAW, IS TO DEVELOP THE PRESENT SYSTEM TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS AS WELL AS THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WHILE MAINTAINING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ADMINISTRATION PLUS STABILITY AND CONTINUITY OF POLICIES. BOTH PROCESSES MUST WORK TOWARDS THIS COMMON GOAL. NO ONE'S INTERESTS WILL BE SERVED IF THE BABY IS THROWN OUT WITH THE BATHWATER, AND FOR THAT REASON, I AM SURE THAT THE CHALLENGE WILL BE MET.

WE ARE THEREFORE LIVING THROUGH INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING TIMES. BUT HONG KONG IS NO STRANGER TO SUCH CHALLENGES. IT HAS A CLEARER IDEA OF ITS LONG-TERM FUTURE THAN AT ANY TIME OVER THE LAST FIFTY YEARS. IT IS FACING THE CHALLENGE IN GOOD SHAPE, WITH A STRONG ECONOMY - GROWING AT A RATE OF 9 PER CENT, AND WITH FULL EMPLOYMENT - AND A FIRM COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF CHINA AND BRITAIN TO MAINTAINING ITS STATUS AS A GREAT INTERNATIONAL CITY. NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD IS THERE A DOCUMENT THAT GUARANTEES THAT THE ESSENTIALS OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND WAY OF LIFE WILL BE RETAINED UNTIL 2047. THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME FOR HONG KONG'S BUOYANT ECONOMY AND DYNAMIC SOCIETY TO CONTINUE TO GROW: IT IS FIRMLY IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL WHO HAVE A STAKE HERE THAT THEY SHOULD.