



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1994

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1994

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S PRESS BRIEFING

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS BRIEFING BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, IN LONDON ON JULY 27:

GOVERNOR: IT HAS BEEN A VERY USEFUL VISIT TO LONDON. IT HAS BEEN MY FIRST VISIT SINCE THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF OUR PROPOSALS ON ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS ON JULY 29 THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THAT DAY MARKED THE COMPLETION OF AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT.

I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REVIEW THE POSITION SINCE THAT VOTE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND OTHER OFFICIALS AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE WAY FORWARD OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED TO SEE AS MUCH RAPID PROGRESS AS POSSIBLE IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG IN THE WHOLE RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES WHICH REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.

WE HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY LOOKING AT THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN 29 MEETINGS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND CONSIDERING HOW WE CAN MAKE CONSIDERABLY FASTER PROGRESS IN THE NINE OR SO MEETINGS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WHICH REMAIN TO BE HELD BEFORE JUNE 30, 1997. THERE IS A FORMIDABLE RANGE OF WORK WHICH STILL HAS TO BE DONE AND WE WANT TO SEE THAT AGENDA ADDRESSED AS RAPIDLY AND AS VIGOROUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

I HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO A NUMBER OF OTHER PEOPLE IN LONDON, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES. I HAD A USEFUL DISCUSSION TODAY WITH JACK CUNNINGHAM, THE SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY AND YESTERDAY I MET PADDY ASHDOWN, THE LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AS WELL DAVID HOWELL, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE WHICH PRODUCED SUCH AN INTERESTING REPORT ON HONG KONG AND SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS.

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT WE CONTINUE TO ENJOY SUCH SOLID CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT AT WESTMINSTER FOR OUR APPROACH TO OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN HONG KONG AND TO OUR DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING WE POSSIBLY CAN TO SECURE THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION. WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG STAYS SPECIAL. WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT IT CONTINUES TO ENJOY ITS UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF A PLURAL, OPEN SOCIETY. THAT IS WHAT HAS MADE HONG KONG SO SUCCESSFUL AND WE WANT TO KEEP THINGS THAT WAY. THAT IS WHAT THE JOINT DECLARATION IS ALL ABOUT.

I ALSO REPORTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND OTHER MINISTERS THE LATEST ASSESSMENT OF OUR ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. I WAS ABLE TO REPORT TO THEM THAT OUR SURPLUS IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR WAS EVEN LARGER THAN WE HAD EXPECTED, AND I WAS ABLE TO DISCUSS WITH THEM OUR PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING A DECENT SCHEME FOR LOOKING AFTER THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY AND OF COURSE I MENTIONED TO THEM THAT IN THE LATEST POLLS OUR PROPOSALS ENJOYED 75 PER CENT - 80 PER CENT SUPPORT WHICH SEEMS A PRETTY GOOD SCORING RANGE.

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IT HAS BEEN A GOOD VISIT, DRIER AND HOTTER THAN HONG KONG. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY ONCE AGAIN HOW SAD I WAS AT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FLOODING IN HONG KONG, AND HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR THE WORK DONE BY THE EMERGENCY SERVICES. I EXTEND MY CONDOLENCES TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOST FRIENDS AND RELATIVES, AND WE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE SEEKING TO LEARN ALL WE CAN FROM THAT TRAGEDY TO TRY TO PREVENT SIMILAR TRAGEDIES IN THE FUTURE, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY WITH DIFFICULT WEATHER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREVENT ANY UNTOWARD EVENT EVER HAPPENING.

QUESTION: DID YOU AGREE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OR MR HOGG ANY TACTICS FOR SPEEDING UP THE PROGRESS IN THE JLG?

GOVERNOR: WE HAVE SOME THOUGHTS ON THAT, BUT WE WILL BE HAVING FURTHER MEETINGS BOTH HERE AND IN HONG KONG OVER THE COMING WEEKS. I WILL OBVIOUSLY WANT TO HAVE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, AMBASSADOR DAVIS WHO RUNS OUR JLG OPERATION AND WITH AMBASSADOR APPEYARD, BUT WE WANT TO SEE MORE PROGRESS. I WOULD VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE COULD GIVE AN AUTUMN PUSH A GOOD SEND-OFF BY AGREEING SOONER RATHER THAN LATER ON THE AIRPORT. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE AIRPORT NARROW RAPIDLY AND I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO GET THAT AGREED, THOUGH WE CONTINUE TO MAKE VERY RAPID PROGRESS IN BUILDING THE AIRPORT.

QUESTION: WILL YOU HAVE MORE TALKS IN LONDON ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM HOLIDAY?

GOVERNOR: NO. UNLESS ANYTHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS I INTEND TO GO BACK PRETTY WELL STRAIGHT AWAY WHEN I GET BACK FROM MY HOLIDAY.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WOULD YOU SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF THE AGENTS IN HONG KONG WHO FELT LEFT BEHIND TO GRANT THEM BRITISH PASSPORTS OR MAKE A KIND OF ARRANGEMENT WITH THEM?

GOVERNOR: THEIR SITUATION HAS BEEN EXHAUSTIBLY REVIEWED BOTH WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION AND WITHIN THE COURTS. THE COURTS HAVE MADE THEIR DECISION CLEAR AND SO FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, THAT IS THAT.

THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY APPLY FOR POSITIONS UNDER THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SCHEME IS A DIFFERENT MATTER.

QUESTION: YOU HAVE IN THE PAST SUGGESTED, NOTABLY TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THAT IF THIS BLOCK IN THE JLG WAS TO CONTINUE, YOU WOULD HAVE TO GO AHEAD UNILATERALLY AS IT WERE TO THE LOCALISATION ... IS THAT STILL ON THE CARDS OR IS THERE SOME SORT OF THOUGHT THAT THAT COULD BE AN INCENTIVE, OR HAS THAT BEEN PUT BEHIND US NOW?

GOVERNOR: IF YOU ARE MAKING THE PROGRESS YOU WOULD LIKE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OPTIONS. YOU CAN EITHER SAY 'WE HAD BETTER, IN GOOD FAITH, DO THE BEST WE CAN ON OUR OWN' AND THEN CHINA AND THE SAR GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO TAKE A VIEW ON THAT PROGRESS ON JULY 1, 1997. BUT IT WOULD NOT BE AS CONDUCTIVE AS ONE WOULD LIKE TO A SMOOTH TRANSITION. IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE RESPONSIBLE IF OTHER ATTEMPTS TO EXPEDITE PROGRESS HAD FAILED.

THE SECOND COURSE, I SUPPOSE, IS SIMPLY TO THROW UP OUR HANDS IN DESPAIR AT THE INADEQUATE PROGRESS, BUT I DO NOT THINK THAT IS SENSIBLE AS WE WANT TO DO AS WELL AS WE CAN FOR HONG KONG.

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THIRDLY, WE COULD MAKE MORE PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA, AND THAT IS OUR PREFERRED WAY FORWARD, BUT IT WILL TAKE EFFORTS - IF I PUT THE POINT MILDLY - ON BOTH SIDES.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WHAT WILL BE THE FOCUS OF DOUGLAS HURD'S MEETING WITH QIAN QICHEN IN SEPTEMBER?

GOVERNOR: I WOULD BE A LITTLE RELUCTANT TO SPELL THAT OUT SO FAR AHEAD, BUT CLEARLY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL BE WANTING, I AM SURE AMONGST OTHER THINGS, TO REVIEW WITH VICE PREMIER QIAN THE PROGRESS THAT WE HAVE MADE ACROSS THE BOARD IN TRYING TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS SATISFACTORILY BEFORE 1997, AND THAT WILL OF COURSE INCLUDE THE JLG AGENDA.

THERE IS ALWAYS, OF COURSE, A NON-HONG KONG ELEMENT IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS, BECAUSE CHINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE BOTH PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, SO THERE ARE A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHICH THE VICE PREMIER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ALWAYS NEED TO COVER. BUT IN THE SPECIFICALLY HONG KONG-RELATED ISSUES THE PROGRESS ON THE JLG WILL LOOM VERY HIGH.

QUESTION: WILL THAT BE PART OF YOUR AUTUMN PUSH? IS THAT PART OF THE CAMPAIGN TO GET THINGS MOVING AGAIN?

GOVERNOR: I AM SURE THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL WANT HIS MEETING TO HELP SPEED THINGS UP RATHER THAN SLOW THINGS DOWN.

QUESTION: ACCORDING TO REPORTS THAT HAVE GONE AROUND CHINESE PAPERS, ONE OF THE REASONS THEY EXPLAINED WHY QIAN QICHEN FELT HE SHOULD SAY TO ALASTAIR GOODLAD THAT WAS THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SPEARATE POLITICAL FROM FACT.... WAS THAT BEIJING STILL FEARS THAT.

THERE IS A CONSTITUTIONAL AGENDA WHICH STILL EXISTS IN HONG KONG AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE VOTING ISSUE IS TO ENHANCE THE POWERS OF LEGCO TO THE POINT AT WHICH THE FREEDOM OF MANOEUVRE OF THE FIRST CHIEF EXECUTIVE AFTER 1997 WOULD BE INHIBITED. THAT COULD EITHER BE A SMOKESCREEN OR IT COULD BE A REASONABLE SUPPOSITION. YOU CAN IMAGINE THE CHINESE THINKING ABOUT THAT. IS THERE ANY TRUTH IN THAT? ARE YOU GOING TO MOVE ON TO THE POINT AT WHICH LEGCO WOULD HAVE SUCH POWERS THAT, AS IT WERE, THE EXECUTIVE-LED GOVERNMENT IN THAT CONSULATE WOULD BE THAT THREATENED?

GOVERNOR: THE POWERS OF LEGCO ARE PERFECTLY CLEAR IN THE BASIC LAW AND IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. THE JOINT DECLARATION TALKS ABOUT AN EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABLE TO A LEGISLATURE WHICH IS WHOLLY ELECTED. NOW I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ACCOUNTABILITY MAKES A GOVERNMENT LESS EFFECTIVE OR LESS STRONG. I DO NOT THINK CRITICISM BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE EXECUTIVE UNDERMINES A SELF-CONFIDENT EXECUTIVE. I DO NOT THINK THAT A PUBLIC AND POLITICAL DIALOGUE ABOUT IMPORTANT ISSUES BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE MEANS THAT GOVERNMENT IS LESS STRONG. ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT IS MORE STRONG. ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT PURSUES BETTER POLICIES BECAUSE IT HAS TO EXPLAIN AND DEFEND THOSE POLICIES.

ALL THAT IS TO GIVE FORM TO THE WORDS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, AND THAT IS ALL WE SEEK TO DO. IT IS NOT A HIDDEN AGENDA. TRYING TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION IS A VERY PUBLIC AND OPEN AGENDA. WE HAVE SEEN WITH A LEGISLATURE LARGELY ELECTED SINCE 1991 THE GOVERNMENT SUCCESSFULLY GETTING ITS LEGISLATION THROUGH. WE HAVE SEEN SINCE 1991 THE GOVERNMENT GETTING FUNDING FOR ITS PRINCIPAL PROGRAMMES, LIKE THE AIRPORT, SO I DO NOT HEAR ANYBODY SAYING WE DO NOT HAVE EFFECTIVE EXECUTIVE-LED GOVERNMENT TODAY. USUALLY THEY SEEM TO BE CRITICISING THE EXECUTIVE DECISIONS THAT I TAKE AND THE GOVERNMENT TAKES. LOOK AT THE ISSUE OF PENSIONS; THAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT GIVING A STRONG AND DECISIVE LEAD.

PEOPLE CANNOT PICK AND CHOOSE. I AM NOT SURE THAT IF THE LEGISLATURE HAD VOTED OTHERWISE ON JUNE 29 WE WOULD HAVE HEARD GREAT CRITICISMS FROM SOME OF THOSE WHO MAKE THE REMARKS THAT YOU MENTIONED OF THE WAY THAT LEGISLATURE HAS CARRIED OUT ITS ROLE. THERE HAVE BEEN ONE OR TWO PEOPLE WHO HAVE CRITICISED US FROM TIME TO TIME WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN METAPHORICALLY THROWING THEIR HATS INTO THE AIR, IF HATS THEY POSSESSED.

SO WE SHOULD STICK TO WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS IN HONG KONG, AND WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS IN HONG KONG IS THAT WE HAVE A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS IMPLEMENTING THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND WE HAVE A GOVERNMENT WHICH GIVES A DECISIVE LEAD TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY THAT IS DELIGHTED TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ALL ITS WORKS, ALL ITS ACTIONS, ALL ITS DEEDS, TO A LEGISLATURE WHICH REFLECTS THE VIEW OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND WILL DO SO EVEN MORE ACCURATELY AFTER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN 1995, WHEN IT IS WHOLLY ELECTED BY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE FAIR AND OPEN, AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK CHINA SEES IT LIKE THAT?

GOVERNOR: YOU SHOULD ASK CHINESE OFFICIALS HOW THEY SEE IT, AND IF THEY DO NOT SEE IT LIKE THAT IT WOULD BE NICE TO KNOW HOW THEY INTERPRET THE WORDS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THAT NATIONALITY WILL COME MORE TO THE FORE IN THE FUTURE IN HONG KONG, AND WAS THERE MUCH MENTION OF IT IN YOUR MEETINGS?

GOVERNOR: YES, IT WAS MENTIONED IN MY MEETINGS WITH DR CUNNINGHAM AND MR ASHDOWN AND DAVID HOWELL, ALL OF WHOM WERE INTERESTED IN NATIONALITY ISSUES, PARTICULARLY OF COURSE IN RELATION TO THE POSITION OF THE ETHNIC MINORITIES, ON WHICH THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE CONCERNS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED IN HONG KONG.

MORE GENERALLY THERE IS A RANGE OF ISSUES WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WHICH ARE DIFFICULT AND REQUIRE EARLY AGREEMENT. I WILL NOT GO THROUGH THEM ALL BUT THEY ALL TOUCH IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON VISAS, ON NATIONALITY, ON TRAVEL, ON ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, ON RIGHT OF ABODE, AND WE DO NEED TO GET ON AND TACKLE THEM AND SETTLE THEM, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU CONSIDER A MEETING BETWEEN YOU AND LU PING A GOOD WAY OF PUSHING AHEAD THE WORK OF THE JLG AND THE AIRPORT, AND GENERAL RELATIONSHIPS? DO YOU SEE THAT HAPPENING?

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GOVERNOR: I DO THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD WAY AHEAD. WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL HAPPEN IN THE AUTUMN IS VERY MUCH A MATTER FOR DIRECTOR LU AND PRC OFFICIALS. SO FAR AS I AM CONCERNED I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE DIRECTOR LU OR ANY OTHER CHINESE OFFICIALS WHENEVER THEIR DIARIES ALLOW THEM A SPARE SLOT. I HAVE MADE THAT PLAIN OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

QUESTION: THERE IS AN OBLIGATION FOR THE GOVERNOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE TO MEET TWICE A YEAR, SO WHO IS BREAKING THE MOU?

GOVERNOR: THERE ARE 365 DAYS IN MOST YEARS AND 366 FROM TIME TO TIME, AND EACH OF THEM IS A DAY ON WHICH I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO SEE DIRECTOR LU OR ANY OF HIS OFFICIALS.

QUESTION: IN YOUR OCTOBER SPEECH, WILL YOU BE CONCENTRATING ON THE PENSION SCHEME ISSUES?

GOVERNOR: I WILL OBVIOUSLY BE SAYING A GOOD DEAL ABOUT PENSIONS BECAUSE IT WILL BE MORE OR LESS AT THE END OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, AND WE WILL WANT TO RESOLVE MATTERS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN DISCUSSING PENSIONS FOR, WHAT, 30 YEARS I SUPPOSE, AND SOONER OR LATER WE HAVE TO TAKE A DECISION. YOU CANNOT GO ON PUTTING IT OFF FOR EVER.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MEANTIME? MORE PEOPLE GROW OLD - NOT JUST GOVERNMENTS. MORE PEOPLE GROW VERY OLD, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE OLD HAVE FINANCIAL WORRIES WHICH THEY SHOULD BE SPARED. COME 1997 11 PER CENT OF OUR POPULATION WILL BE 65 OR OVER - 600,000 PLUS. THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO ARE VERY ELDERLY WILL DOUBLE OVER THE PERIOD AHEAD, OVER THE NEXT DECADES, SO WE NEED BETTER AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, AND WE NEED TO TAKE THE WORRY AND ANXIETY OUT OF RETIREMENT.

QUESTION: [INAUDIBLE] REGARDING THE \$23 BILLION TO BE RAISED BY THE PAA AND THE MTRC, WILL GOVERNMENT COMMIT IN BLACK AND WHITE TO ASSURE THE CHINESE THAT \$23 BILLION WILL NOT IN ANY WAY BECOME GOVERNMENT LIABILITY?

GOVERNOR: THAT IS THE SORT OF ISSUE WHICH IS BEING DISCUSSED BETWEEN EXPERTS AT THE MOMENT. AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN ALL THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE AIRPORT, HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE ENDLESSLY IMAGINATIVE IN TRYING TO FIND SOLUTIONS. THINGS HAVE MOVED FORWARD REASONABLY WELL BECAUSE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAVE VERY SENSIBLY GONE ON FUNDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRPORT, BUT WE WOULD LIKE A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT. WE THINK THAT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, AND QUITE FRANKLY IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF CHINA AS WELL, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO BE IMAGINATIVE IN SEEKING SUCH AN OUTCOME.

I SHOULD JUST ADD THAT THERE IS NOT A COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD WHICH HAS SUCH A GOOD RECORD IN FUNDING BIG PROJECTS PRUDENTLY, IN BUILDING THEM TO COST AND IN COMPLETING THEM ON TIME OR BEFORE TIME, SO WE LISTEN TO THE CRITICISMS OF OTHERS WITH INTEREST AND CONTINUING HUMILITY.

QUESTION: AS YOU ARE HAVING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO PUSH AHEAD WITH WORK WITH THE JLG, PRESUMABLY THE NORMAL CONTACTS THAT TAKE PLACE ON JLG MATTERS ARE NOT WORKING SATISFACTORILY. SO WHAT AREAS ARE YOU LOOKING AT TO PROMOTE THE WORK OF THE JLG? ARE YOU LOOKING AT TAKING THINGS TO A HIGHER LEVEL?

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GOVERNOR: THERE ARE MANY CONTACTS WITHIN THE EXISTING JLG PARAMETERS. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY DO NOT PRODUCE THE RESULTS WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE, AND I ASSUME THE RESULTS THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO SEE.

SO MUCH OF THIS AGENDA IS TECHNICAL; IT IS A MATTER OF DETAIL RATHER THAN A MATTER OF GREAT POLITICAL ISSUES, BUT ALL OF IT MATTERS TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO WORK IN AS SUCCESSFUL AND A EXPEDITIOUS WAY AS POSSIBLE.

I WOULD JUST ADD ONE OTHER POINT: I WILL PROBABLY BE MAKING MY NEXT VISIT TO LONDON IN LATE OCTOBER, WHICH WILL BE AFTER MY LEGCO SPEECH AND AFTER THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SEEN VICE PREMIER QIAN, SO WE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE ABLE TO LOOK AT HOW THINGS STAND THEN. I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE VISITS FOUR OR FIVE TIMES A YEAR TO LONDON. IT IS EXTREMELY VALUABLE, AND OF COURSE HAS THE ADDITIONAL BENEFIT THAT IT ENABLES ME TO MEET YOU AGAIN.

I HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY!

QUESTION: WHERE ARE YOU GOING ON HOLIDAY?

GOVERNOR: I AM GOING TO FRANCE. A FORMER LABOUR LORD CHANCELLOR SAID THAT A YEAR WITHOUT A HOLIDAY IN FRANCE WAS LIKE A DAY WITHOUT SUNSHINE! AS YOU KNOW, ENGLISHMEN ARE ALWAYS FRANCOPHILES!

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RUBBISH IN HARBOUR A DISGRACE

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE AMOUNT OF REFUSE IN THE HARBOUR WAS A TOTAL DISGRACE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A VISIT TO INSPECT THE MARINE REFUSE COLLECTION OPERATIONS IN THE HARBOUR, MRS CHAN SAID THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WAS DOING A VERY VALIANT JOB BUT THEY COULD NOT TACKLE THE PROBLEM SINGLE-HANDEDLY.

"PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING OUR HARBOUR IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE AND WE NEED THE CO-OPERATION OF NOT ONLY THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BUT ALSO INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS," MRS CHAN SAID.

"I AM DETERMINED THAT WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT AND WE ARE GOING TO LOOK INTO WHAT IS THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME IN CONSULTATION WITH VARIOUS BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS."

SHE SAID THE ACTIONS WHICH NEEDED TO BE TAKEN SHOULD, ON THE ONE HAND, COVER MEASURES TO ERADICATE POLLUTIONS BY THE PUBLIC AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, COVER EDUCATION AND PENALTY FOR OFFENDERS.

MRS CHAN STRONGLY URGED THE PUBLIC TO STOP POLLUTION AT SOURCE.

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"I AM ADVISED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT THAT IN FACT, 80 PER CENT OF THE REFUSE IN THE HARBOUR ACTUALLY COMES FROM LAND," SHE SAID.

"WE CAN STOP THE POLLUTION AT SOURCE AND THEN, OBVIOUSLY, THE HARBOUR WILL BE MUCH CLEANER."

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TRANSCRIPT OF DEPUTY TO GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, AFTER HER INSPECTION OF MARINE REFUSE COLLECTION OPERATIONS THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON:-

MRS CHAN: THIS MORNING, I WENT OUT WITH A FEW LEGCO MEMBERS AND MARINE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER OFFICIALS TO LOOK AT THE REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE IN THE HARBOUR. I MUST SAY THAT THE AMOUNT OF THE REFUSE IN HARBOUR IS A TOTAL DISGRACE TO THE COMMUNITY AND WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS DOING A VERY VALIANT JOB BUT THEY CANNOT TACKLE IT SINGLE-HANDEDLY. AS YOU KNOW, PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING OUR HARBOUR IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE AND WE NEED THE CO-OPERATION OF NOT ONLY THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BUT ALSO INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS. I AM DETERMINED THAT WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT AND WE ARE GOING TO LOOK INTO WHAT IS THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME IN CONSULTATION WITH VARIOUS BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS. I DO URGE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO STOP POLLUTING AT SOURCE BECAUSE I AM ADVISED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT THAT IN FACT, 80 PER CENT OF THE REFUSE IN THE HARBOUR ACTUALLY COMES FROM LAND. WE CAN STOP THE POLLUTION AT SOURCE AND THEN, OBVIOUSLY, THE HARBOUR WILL BE MUCH CLEANER. WE WILL, OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, IN CONSULTATION WITH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, DECIDE WHAT IS THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAMME.

QUESTION: CAN YOU REPEAT IN ENGLISH (ABOUT CONSULTING THE CHINESE OVER THE ALLOCATION OF A FURTHER 50 HECTARES OF LAND)?

MRS CHAN: I THINK WE'VE PREVIOUSLY MADE KNOWN OUR DESIRE TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE LAND COMMISSION THE ALLOCATION OF A FURTHER 15 HECTARES OF LAND IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON PROPERTY.

QUESTION: MRS CHAN, DO YOU THINK THAT KWUN LUNG LAU....PLAN OF CHECKING RETAINING WALLS REGULARLY?

MRS CHAN: NOT AT ALL. I THINK THAT THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS HAS MADE IT QUITE PLAIN. WE LOOK AT DANGEROUS SLOPES ALL THE TIME. WE HAVE A CONSULTANCY AT THE MOMENT WHO IS, IN FACT, UPDATING THE LIST OF SLOPES. I THINK YOU NEED TO BEAR IN MIND THAT WE SUSPECT THAT THE MAIN CAUSE, BUT THIS IS STILL TO BE ESTABLISHED, BUT THE MAIN CAUSE FOR THE COLLAPSE IN KENNEDY TOWN IS BECAUSE OF THE VERY, VERY HEAVY DOWNPOUR OF RAIN. BUT I AM EXPECTING A PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS BEFORE THIS WEEKEND AND IN THE LIGHT OF THAT REPORT, WE WILL DETERMINE WHAT REMEDIAL WORKS NEED TO BE DONE AND WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE IN TERM OF ENSURING THE STABILITY OF VARIOUS SLOPES.

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FIRST REVIEW OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S WORK PUBLISHED

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LAWYERS ACTING FOR THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT PROSECUTED A TOTAL OF 4,970 CASES IN THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF COURTS, AND HANDLED 4,125 CIVIL ACTIONS DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE "LEGAL DEPARTMENT 1994", THE FIRST REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE LARGE AMOUNT OF CASES AND SUMMONSES HANDLED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S COURT PROSECUTORS IN THE MAGISTRATES COURTS - AMOUNTING TO 570,000 - IN 1993.

AMONG THE 4,970 CASES PROSECUTED IN THE 1993/94 FINANCIAL YEAR, 864 CASES WERE HEARD IN MAGISTRATES COURTS, 1,507 IN THE DISTRICT COURT, 673 IN THE HIGH COURT, AND 1,926 IN THE COURT OF APPEAL.

THE CONVICTION RATE WAS 78.2 PER CENT IN CASES HANDLED BY COURT PROSECUTORS AND 59 PER CENT BY COUNSEL IN MAGISTRATES COURTS; 67.4 PER CENT IN THE DISTRICT COURT; AND 70.1 PER CENT IN THE HIGH COURT, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT.

WRITING IN THE FOREWORD OF THE REPORT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT THERE WAS GROWING INTEREST IN THE WORK OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE MEDIA, AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE WERE INCREASINGLY SEEKING INFORMATION FROM HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES, HE SAID.

SINCE BECOMING ATTORNEY GENERAL IN 1988, HE SAID HE HAD, THROUGH SPEECHES, ARTICLES, AND ANSWERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, FREQUENTLY EXPLAINED ASPECTS OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S WORK.

LAST YEAR, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT PUBLISHED A BOOKLET SETTING OUT THE BASIS ON WHICH DECISIONS IN RESPECT OF PROSECUTIONS WERE MADE.

"I AM NOW PLEASED TO INTRODUCE THIS BOOKLET, 'LEGAL DEPARTMENT 1994', WHICH ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN THE WORKINGS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALL SECTIONS OF MY DEPARTMENT," MR MATHEWS SAID.

"I HOPE THIS PUBLICATION WILL HELP THE COMMUNITY TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE VITAL LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY MY DEPARTMENT," HE ADDED.

THE PUBLICATION, IN ADDITION TO EXPLAINING THE ORGANISATION OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, ALSO ILLUSTRATES THE WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SIX DIVISIONS.

ON THE WORK OF THE CIVIL DIVISION, THE REVIEW SAID IT HANDLED A TOTAL OF 4,125 CIVIL LITIGATION CASES DURING 1993/94.

AMONG THESE CASES, SOME WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN TO COURT AND 82.9 PER CENT OF THEM, OR 334 CASES, WERE DECIDED IN FAVOUR OF THE CROWN.

IN RESPECT OF LAW DRAFTING, THE REVIEW NOTED THAT THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DRAFTING OF ALL LEGISLATION PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT, PREPARED 96 ORDINANCES, 106 BILLS AND 608 PIECES OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, WHICH WAS ABOUT FIVE PER CENT MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

AS REGARDS TRANSLATION OF EXISTING LAW, ABOUT 5,400 PAGES OF LEGISLATION HAD BEEN EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE BILINGUAL LAWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OUT OF A TOTAL OF ABOUT 22,000 PAGES WHICH REQUIRE TO BE TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE.

WHERE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR A PARTICULAR PIECE OF NEW LEGISLATION, COUNSEL IN THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL POLICY DIVISION WILL TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE PREPARATION OF THE BILL AND ITS PRESENTATION TO THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, THE PUBLICATION NOTED.

IN 1993/94, THE DIVISION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF NEW BILLS, INCLUDING THE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION BILL, THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE BILLS OF LADING AND ANALOGOUS SHIPPING DOCUMENTS BILL.

IN ADDITION TO FORMULATING LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, THE DIVISION IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE GOVERNMENT WHETHER PROPOSED LEGISLATION, OR A PARTICULAR POLICY, IS CONTRARY TO ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE LEGAL SYSTEM.

EXAMPLES OF LEGISLATION THAT THE DIVISION WAS CONSULTED ON ARE THE ORGANISED AND SERIOUS CRIMES BILL AND THE DRAFT LEGISLATION TO PREPARE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL.

THE SECRETARIAT SERVING THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION ALSO OPERATES ADMINISTRATIVELY UNDER THE LEGAL POLICY DIVISION.

DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, THE COMMISSION COMPLETED WORK ON TWO REFERENCES: COPYRIGHT AND INCHOATE OFFENCES, AND REPORTS ON THESE TWO ISSUES WERE PUBLISHED.

THE COMMISSION ALSO CONTINUED TO WORK ON A NUMBER OF OTHER PROJECTS DURING THE YEAR. A CONSULTATION PAPER ON INFORMATION PRIVACY WAS ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 1993 BY THE COMMISSION'S PRIVACY SUB-COMMITTEE.

IN JULY 1993, THE INSOLVENCY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION ISSUED ITS PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS ON BANKRUPTCY, PROMPTING RESPONSES FROM A WIDE RANGE OF ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.

THE PROBLEM OF MISDESCRIPTION OF FLATS ON SALE WAS ALSO STUDIED BY THE COMMISSION AND ONE OF ITS SUB-COMMITTEES PUBLISHED ITS INTERIM PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL LAW FRONT, THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERNATIONAL LAW DIVISION CONTINUED TO PROVIDE LEGAL SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH TEAM OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP (JLG).

THE LAW OFFICER (INTERNATIONAL LAW) IS THE LEGAL ADVISER TO THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE JLG AND ALSO HEADS THE BRITISH SIDE IN THE INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS (IRO) SUB-GROUP.

DURING THE YEAR THE JLG MET THREE TIMES (AND THE IRO SUB-GROUP THREE TIMES) AND AGREED ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION TO HONG KONG AFTER 1997 OF VARIOUS MULTILATERAL TREATIES, INCLUDING THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE TAKING OF EVIDENCE ABROAD, THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE SERVICE OF JUDICIAL AND EXTRA JUDICIAL DOCUMENTS AND SIX TREATIES IN RESPECT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING.

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SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE TO CATER FOR GROWING DEMAND

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THE SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE WAS BUILT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC CAPACITY TO CATER FOR HOUSING AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON AP LEI CHAU, THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWONG HONG-SANG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW BRIDGE, MR KWONG SAID THE NEW BRIDGE WOULD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXISTING BRIDGE, SERVE TO FORM A DUAL TWO-LANE TRAFFIC LINK BETWEEN AP LEI CHAU AND ABERDEEN.

HE SAID IN ANTICIPATION OF THE GROWTH IN TRAFFIC GENERATED BY THE DEVELOPMENTS ON AP LEI CHAU, GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONED MAUNSELL CONSULTANT ASIA LIMITED IN 1988 TO IDENTIFY AND INVESTIGATE ALL PRACTICAL LOCATIONS FOR A SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE, AND TO DETERMINE THE OPTIMUM BRIDGE LOCATION.

THE CONSULTANT RECOMMENDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND BRIDGE ALONG THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE EXISTING AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE. DETAILED DESIGN OF THE NEW BRIDGE WAS CARRIED OUT IN 1991 AND WORK STARTED IN 1992 AT A COST OF \$110 MILLION.

THE NEW BRIDGE IS BASICALLY DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS, NAMELY, THE MAIN BRIDGE OVER ABERDEEN HARBOUR, THE NORTH APPROACH ON THE ABERDEEN SIDE, AND THE SOUTH APPROACH ON AP LEI CHAU SIDE.

THE MAIN BRIDGE IS OF THREE-SPAN BALANCED CANTILEVER CAST-IN-SITU CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, 230 METRES IN LENGTH WITH A CENTRE SPAN OF 115 METRES ACROSS ABERDEEN HARBOUR.

THE NORTH APPROACH IS A FIVE-SPAN 190-METRE LONG POST-TENSIONED CONTINUOUS BRIDGE DECK AND THE SOUTH APPROACH IS A TWO-SPAN 60-METRE LONG POST-TENSIONED CONTINUOUS BRIDGE DECK WITH A 125-METRE LONG WIDENED ROAD SUPPORTED BY CAISSON RETAINING WALL.

THE APPROACH BRIDGES WERE FORMED BY CAST-IN-SITU CONSTRUCTION WITH CONVENTIONAL FORMWORK AND FALSEWORK, WHEREAS THE MAIN BRIDGE WAS BUILT BY CAST-IN-SITU BALANCED CANTILEVER CONSTRUCTION, CHOSEN FOR MAINTAINING THE NAVIGATION CHANNEL WITH A MINIMUM CLEARANCE OF 16 METRES UNDER THE BRIDGE AT ALL TIMES DURING CONSTRUCTION.

STARTING FROM THE PIERS NEAR THE TWO BANKS, THE BRIDGE DECKS OF THE MAIN BRIDGE WERE FORMED BY CASTING SUCCESSIVE REINFORCED CONCRETE SEGMENTS UNTIL THE CANTILEVERED SPANS WERE CONNECTED RIGHT ABOVE THE MIDDLE OF THE ABERDEEN HARBOUR.

AN EXISTING PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY ADJACENT TO HARBOUR MISSION SCHOOL HAS BEEN EXTENDED ACROSS THE SOUTH APPROACH ROAD TO MAINTAIN A GRADE SEPARATED CROSSING FACILITY AT THIS LOCATION.

A 2.5-METRE WIDE WALKWAY IS PROVIDED ALONG THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BRIDGE FOR PEDESTRIANS. UNDERNEATH THE WALKWAY IS A UTILITY TROUGH WHICH ACCOMMODATES ADDITIONAL UTILITY SERVICES TO AP LEI CHAU.

AS THE NEW BRIDGE RUNS ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING BRIDGE AND THEIR LANDFALLS ARE AT MATCHING LEVELS, THE STRUCTURES OF THE NEW BRIDGE HAS TAKEN SIMILAR FORMS AS THE EXISTING BRIDGE STRUCTURES FOR AESTHETIC REASONS.

THE NEW BRIDGE WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC AT 10.30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY). UPON THE OPENING OF THE NEW BRIDGE, THE EXISTING BRIDGE WILL BE CONVERTED TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND TOWARDS AP LEI CHAU WHILE THE NEW BRIDGE WILL BE ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND TOWARDS ABERDEEN.

EMERGENCY MEDIAN OPENINGS AND CROSS-OVERS ARE PROVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO BRIDGES SUCH THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENTAL CLOSURE OF EITHER BRIDGE, TRAFFIC CAN BE DIVERTED ONTO THE UNAFFECTED BRIDGE WHICH WOULD OPERATE IN A TWO-WAY MODE TEMPORARILY.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE OPENING OF THE NEW BRIDGE, TOGETHER WITH THE ONE-WAY GYRATORY SCHEME BEING INTRODUCED IN WONG CHUK HANG, WILL IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA.

JOINING MR KWONG TO OFFICIATE AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR MAN HON-MING; THE DISTRICT OFFICER (SOUTHERN), MRS ROSANNA URE; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTOR BOARD AND PRESIDENT OF CHINA ROAD AND BRIDGE CORPORATION, MR ZHU ZHENLIANG.

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MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO TAKE OVER MUSIC OFFICE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO HAND OVER THE WORK OF THE MUSIC OFFICE TO THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AFTER SOME MONTHS OF CAREFUL DELIBERATION.

FOLLOWING THE ARTS POLICY REVIEW CONDUCTED LAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO TRANSFER THE WORK OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, CURRENTLY UNDER THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH, TO A NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION.

THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT A NON-GOVERNMENT BODY SHOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE WORK OF THE MUSIC OFFICE MORE EFFECTIVELY, FLEXIBLY AND CREATIVELY.

THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS, THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS SUBSEQUENTLY SUBMITTED FORMAL PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNMENT, EXPRESSING THEIR INTEREST IN TAKING OVER THE WORK OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

THE PROPOSALS WERE ASSESSED ON THE FOLLOWING BASIC CRITERIA:

- * THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT THE PRESENT LEVEL AND IF POSSIBLE TO EXPAND ON THEM;
- * THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING MUSIC PROMOTION ACTIVITIES AT THE PRESENT LEVEL, AND IF POSSIBLE TO EXPAND ON THEM;
- * THE NEED OF RETAIN THE EXISTING REGIONAL MUSIC CENTRES AND TO OPEN MORE CENTRES WHEREVER POSSIBLE; AND
- * THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A LOW AND AFFORDABLE FEE STRUCTURE FOR BOTH THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING PROGRAMME AND THE MUSIC INSTRUMENTS HIRE SCHEME.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS FULLY ASSESSED ALL THE PROPOSALS AND OVERALL, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ARE CONSIDERED THE MOST SUITABLE ORGANISATION TO TAKE OVER THE WORK OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

THE OBJECTIVES AND EXISTING ACTIVITIES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND ENHANCED AS A RESULT OF THE TRANSFER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY): "THE PARTICULAR STRENGTHS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ARE THEIR RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE, ACCESS TO SUITABLE VENUES AND THE WIDEST COMMUNITY LIAISON NETWORK FOR MUSIC PROMOTION."

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING LEVEL, SCOPE AND STANDARD OF MUSIC TRAINING, AND WOULD ALSO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF MUSIC CENTRES AND UPGRADING TRAINING STANDARDS AND FACILITIES.

THEY WOULD ALSO MAINTAIN REASONABLE AND AFFORDABLE FEES, THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME AND THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS HIRE SCHEME.

IN ORDER TO EXERCISE ECONOMY IN ESTABLISHMENT AND OBTAIN FLEXIBILITY IN STAFF MANAGEMENT, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WILL ENGAGE FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL TRAINING STAFF ON CONTRACT TO UNDERTAKE TEACHING DUTIES WITH THE SUPPORT OF PART-TIME PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS HAVE INDICATED THAT A GOOD NUMBER OF THE EXISTING PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL BE ENGAGED ON CONTRACT BY THE NEW MUSIC OFFICE.

SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND BARRING ANY UNFORESEEN PROBLEMS IN THE HANDING-OVER, IT IS TENTATIVELY PLANNED THAT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL BE EFFECTIVELY TRANSFERRED TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IN APRIL 1995, WHEN THERE WILL BE A NORMAL BREAK IN CLASSES TO FACILITATE THE CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT.

"WE SHALL ENSURE THAT THE TRANSFER IS EFFECTED SMOOTHLY WITH MINIMUM DISRUPTION TO THE SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE," THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED.

RESPONSE TO REPORTS ON AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS REPORTS QUOTING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT VICTIMS, MR CHAN KAM-HONG, AS CRITICISING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ATTRIBUTING THE CAUSE OF ACCIDENT TO THE TWO VICTIMS WHO DIED IN AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT IN SHEUNG SHUI LAST WEEK, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING, SAID THE COMMENTS MADE BY MR CHAN KAM-HONG WERE TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE.

"DURING YESTERDAY'S (TUESDAY) MEETING WITH MR CHAN'S DELEGATION, OUR COLLEAGUES HAD CLEARLY ADVISED HIM THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD NEVER ATTRIBUTED THE CAUSE OF ACCIDENT TO THE VICTIMS, NOR TO ANYBODY," THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR SAID.

"IN FACT, HE WAS ADVISED THAT WE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING INTO THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT, AND THE RESULTS CANNOT BE DISCLOSED BEFORE A DEATH INQUEST IS BEING CONDUCTED BECAUSE IT MAY JEOPARDISE THE HEARING.

"THE DELEGATION WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THERE ARE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF WORKERS AT WORK IN CONSTRUCTION SITES AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT HESITATE TO TAKE OUT PROSECUTION AGAINST THOSE WHO MIGHT BREACH THE SAFETY LAW.

"I REGRET THAT MR CHAN KAM-HONG MADE USE OF THE TRAGEDY TO MISLEAD THE GENERAL PUBLIC DESPITE OUR EFFORTS TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION," THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR ADDED.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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| | \$ MILLION | TIME (HOURS) | CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION) |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 2,626 | 0930 | -1,086 |
| CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 2,874 | 1000 | -1,086 |
| CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO : | | 1100 | -1,128 |
| MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY | -1,122 | 1200 | -1,128 |
| LAF TODAY | +1,370 | 1500 | -1,122 |
| | | 1600 | -1,122 |
| LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER | TWI 122.7 | *-0.1* | 27.7.94 |

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 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 | 2.75 | 16 MONTHS | 2511 | 4.15 | 98.15 | 5.70 |
| 1 MONTH | 3.45 | 22 MONTHS | 2605 | 6.35 | 100.45 | 6.17 |
| 3 MONTHS | 4.08 | 30 MONTHS | 3701 | 4.60 | 95.54 | 6.67 |
| 6 MONTHS | 4.53 | 33 MONTHS | 3704 | 6.15 | 98.64 | 6.81 |
| 12 MONTHS | 5.28 | 36 MONTHS | 3707 | 6.95 | 100.32 | 6.95 |

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 47,574 MN

CLOSED 27 JULY 1994

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