



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1989

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BRITISH INTERESTS IN HK GO BEYOND 1997

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BOTH BRITISH BUSINESS AND THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAVE LONG TERM CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND THEIR INTERESTS IN THE TERRITORY GO BEYOND 1997. THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR FRANCIS MAUDE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"AND THAT VERY MUCH PART OF MY VISIT TO HONG KONG THIS WEEK IS TO STRESS THAT OUR INTEREST IN HONG KONG DOESN'T FINISH IN 1997. IT CONTINUES AFTER THAT," HE SAID.

MR MAUDE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING A BRITISH-OWNED FACTORY, COATES BROTHERS (HONG KONG) LTD, IN THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NEW BRITISH INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG SINCE HIS VISIT TO THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE LAST YEAR WHEN HE WAS A MINISTER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

THIS SHOWED THE EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT BY BRITISH BUSINESS IN THE HONG KONG ECONOMY ALTHOUGH NOT ALWAYS IN WAYS AS VISIBLE AS DIRECT INVESTMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, HE ADDED.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR PETER HEAP, MR MAUDE TOURED COATES BROTHERS (HONG KONG) LTD WHICH SPECIALISED IN THE PRODUCTION OF PRINTING INKS, METAL COATINGS AND PRINTING PRODUCTS.

EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON, MR MAUDE VISITED ANOTHER BRITISH-OWNED FACTORY, THOMAS DE LA RUE (HONG KONG) LIMITED, A BANKNOTE PRINTING PLANT IN THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

THE PLANT IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST SECURITY PRINTER WHICH PRINTS BANKNOTES FOR OVER 70 COUNTRIES.

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DEMYSTIFY AND MAKE LAW MORE ACCESSIBLE: AG

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID THE LAW MUST BE DEMYSTIFIED AND MADE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.

SPEAKING AT THE 11TH LAWASIA CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY) ON THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE LAW, MR MATHEWS SAID: "WE MUST STRIVE TO DEMYSTIFY THE LAW, TO RENDER IT INTO PLAIN LANGUAGE, TO EXPLAIN ITS WORKINGS AT ALL TURNS AND TO HUMANISE AND SOFTEN ITS FREQUENTLY AUSTERE AND AT TIMES FRIGHTENING FACE."

/THE LAW

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THE LAW MUST NEVER BE SEEN TO BE REMOTE, ALIEN, MYSTERIOUS AND LAWYERS TO BE SEEN AS ITS ARCAIC ADEPTS, HE SAID.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE RULE OF LAW RESTED, ULTIMATELY, NOT UPON THE HOPES AND ENDEAVOURS OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS, BUT UPON THE RESPECT THAT IT ENJOYED IN THE EYES OF THE COMMUNITY.

"IF THE COMMUNITY (WHOM OF COURSE THE LAW SERVES) FEELS THAT THE LAW IS REMOTE FROM THEIR LIVES OR, EVEN WORSE, IS HOSTILE TO THEIR PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, THEIR FREEDOM TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL, THEIR CAPACITY FOR IMPROVEMENT, THEN THE LAW WILL CEASE TO HAVE THE RESPECT OF THE PEOPLE AND THEN WHAT PRICE THE RULE OF LAW?

"SO IT BEHOVES US ALL TO STRIVE AT ALL TIMES IN ALL THE WAYS WE PRACTISE OUR PROFESSION TO CARRY THOSE WHOM WE SERVE WITH US BY MAKING THE LAW MORE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL."

MR MATHEWS SAID HIS PAPER TABLED AT THE CONFERENCE ON "THE LANGUAGE OF THE LAW: THE HONG KONG EXPERIENCE" DESCRIBED SOME ASPECT OF THE LAW'S ACCESSIBILITY IN HONG KONG.

THE PAPER DEALS WITH THE ADVENT OF LAWS BEING PRODUCED BILINGUALLY, DISCUSSES THE WAYS IN WHICH, HOPEFULLY, CHINESE CAN BE USED MORE EXTENSIVELY IN THE COURTS AND ALSO ADDRESSES THE PLAN TO PRODUCE BILINGUAL LAWYERS.

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO SEE THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BROADER CONTEXT," MR MATHEWS SAID.

"THE DEMANDS FOR MORE AND BETTER LANGUAGE SKILLS, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, RUN ACROSS THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF LIFE IN HONG KONG, AS THIS VIBRANT COMMUNITY TAKES HONG KONG INTO THE FOREFRONT OF THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE, COMMERCE AND BANKING.

"IT IS, I BELIEVE, VITALLY IMPORTANT THE LAW KEEPS ABREAST OF THIS TREND, WHICH RECOGNISES HONG KONG'S ESSENTIALLY BILINGUAL CHARACTER."

HE SAID THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROGRAMME WAS AN "EXCITING" CHALLENGE. IT WOULD INVOLVE THE PRODUCTION OF CHINESE TEXTS FOR ALL NEW STATUTES AS WELL AS FOR THE EXISTING STATUTE BOOK CONTAINING MORE THAN 20,000 PAGES OF ENGLISH TEXT.

HE SAID THE AIM OF THE PROGRAMME WAS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF ACCESSIBILITY, "TO ARRIVE AT A SITUATION WHERE ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY CAN, IF HE OR SHE SO WISHES, TURN TO THE STATUTE BOOK TO READ THE LAW IN HIS OR HER OWN LANGUAGE."

THIS CHALLENGE HAS REQUIRED THE MOBILISATION OF MANY HUMAN RESOURCES.

FIRSTLY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS HAS HAD TO BUILD UP A TEAM OF BILINGUAL DRAFTSMEN BACKED BY A CORPS OF HIGHLY SKILLED TRANSLATORS COUPLED WITH A TEAM OF PARA-LEGALS INCLUDING PROOFREADERS, CLERICAL OFFICERS AND CALLIGRAPHISTS TRAINED IN THE USE OF CHINESE-LANGUAGE WORD PROCESSORS.

/"IN ALL

"IN ALL, SOME 34 PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED IN THE LAW DRAFTSMEN'S OFFICE IN THE FRONTLINE PRODUCTION OF BILINGUAL LAWS," MR MATHEWS SAID.

"IN PUTTING TOGETHER THIS IMPRESSIVE AND DEDICATED GROUP WE HAD NO MODELS TO FOLLOW, NO EASY PRECEDENTS TO ADOPT; WE HAD TO DEVISE OUR OWN SCHEME, OUR OWN ORTHODOXY, OUR OWN TRAINING METHODS."

SECONDLY, THE LEGISLATURE ITSELF HAS HAD TO DEVOTE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF ITS OWN RESOURCES AND TIME TO THE SCRUTINY OF BILINGUAL LAWS.

"THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL HAVE, IN A SERIOUS AND HIGH-MINDED WAY, RESPONDED TO THIS CHALLENGE.

"NO ONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROGRAMME CAN FAIL TO BE IMPRESSED BY THE ZEAL AND CARE DEVOTED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE IN THEIR CAREFUL SCRUTINY OF BILLS IN CHINESE INTRODUCED FOR ENACTMENT," HE SAID.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE BILINGUAL LAWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS YET ANOTHER GROUP WHICH HAD PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT PART IN THE BILINGUAL LAWS PROGRAMME.

HE SAID THIS GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS, LINGUISTS AND LAWYERS ADVISED ON THE CHINESE TEXTS OF EXISTING ORDINANCES ENACTED IN ENGLISH.

"THOSE WHO HAVE EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN TRANSLATION WILL APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTIES, ALMOST METAPHYSICAL IN QUALITY IN TRANSLATING ACCURATELY, SAY, THE EXPRESSION 'CHOSE IN ACTION' AND HOW DO YOU ACHIEVE THE CORRECT SHADES OF MEANING BETWEEN 'CARELESSLY', 'NEGLIGENTLY' AND 'RECKLESSLY' - QUESTIONS THAT HAVE PERPLEXED ENGLISH JURISTS FOR YEARS.

"IT SPEAKS VOLUMES FOR THE DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE COMMISSION THAT THEY HAVE THROWN THEMSELVES INTO THIS TASK WITH IMMENSE VIGOUR AND DETERMINATION," MR MATHEWS SAID.

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RESIDENTS CAN TAKE PRIDE IN TUEN MUN
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TUEN MUN RESIDENTS CAN PRIDE THEMSELVES ON THE DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NEW TOWN, THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF TUEN MUN, MR JOHN WAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR WAN, A PRESIDENT OF THIS YEAR'S TUEN MUN FESTIVAL, WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE FESTIVAL DETAILS.

/"AFTER MORE

"AFTER MORE THAN 10 YEARS OF RAPID DEVELOPMENT, TUEN MUN HAS BECOME A FLOURISHING AND PROSPEROUS NEW TOWN, WITH THE RESIDENTS ENJOYING A MODERN WAY OF LIFE AND PROPER COMMUNAL, EDUCATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES," MR WAN SAID.

HE SAID THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WOULD SYMBOLISE ALL THESE ACHIEVEMENTS AND HELP TO FOSTER FURTHER A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG RESIDENTS.

ON FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR HENRY CHAN, SAID ABOUT 100 ACTIVITIES WOULD BE HELD.

THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE AN ART FAIR, AN EXHIBITION OF ANCIENT POTTERY, VARIOUS DISPLAYS, SLIDE SHOWS, FILMS, CONCERTS, CONTESTS, VARIETY SHOWS, CIVIL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, FAMILY EVENTS AND SPORTS EVENTS.

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TUEN MUN FESTIVAL '89 WILL BE HELD AT THE CULTURAL SQUARE OUTSIDE THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL AT 2 PM ON OCTOBER 14.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DONALD LIAO, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL WILL COME TO A SPECTACULAR CLOSE ON NOVEMBER 9 WHEN A GRAND CARNIVAL AND A FIREWORKS "EXTRAVAGANZA" WILL BE HELD.

THE DISPLAY WILL BEGIN AT THE TUEN MUN GOLD COAST AT 9 PM. THE FIREWORKS SHOULD BE CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM BUTTERFLY BAY, ON TING, YAU OI, NEW AND OLD CAFETERIA BEACHES, THE BEAULIEU PENINSULA AND PEARL ISLAND. IT WILL ALSO BE BROADCAST LIVE ON TELEVISION.

THE EXPENDITURE ON THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL IS \$2 MILLION, THE HIGHEST IN THE 12 YEARS THAT THE ANNUAL FESTIVALS HAVE BEEN HELD.

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PRODUCT SOPHISTICATION, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT VITAL TO SUCCESS
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PRODUCT SOPHISTICATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ARE VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 7TH HONG KONG JEWELLERY AND WATCH FAIR THIS MORNING, MR CHAN SAID THE GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S WATCH AND JEWELLERY INDUSTRY WAS ANOTHER GOOD EXAMPLE OF INCREASING DIVERSIFICATION OF THE TERRITORY'S MANUFACTURING BASE.

IN 1988, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND JEWELLERY ITEMS AMOUNTED TO A TOTAL VALUE OF \$23 BILLION, ACCOUNTING FOR 11 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 23 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OVER 1987.

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"GIVEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUAL FREE TRADE POLICY AND THE ENTERPRISING SPIRIT OF HONG KONG'S BUSINESSMEN, THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS UPWARD TREND WILL BE SUSTAINED IN THE FORTHCOMING YEARS," MR CHAN SAID.

HE PRAISED THE EFFORTS MADE BY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS AND TRADERS IN OPENING UP NEW MARKETS, WHILE MAINTAINING CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN EXISTING ONES.

THE UNITED STATES, BEING THE LARGEST MARKET, TAKES IN SLIGHTLY MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF OUR WATCH AND JEWELLERY; WHILE THE REMAINING TWO-THIRDS ARE BEING EXPORTED TO A WIDE RANGE OF MARKETS, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR WEST GERMANY, JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

MR CHAN SAID THERE WAS A REMARKABLE INCREASE IN HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO THE ASIAN PACIFIC MARKETS. THE EXPORT OF COMPLETE WATCHES TO JAPAN, FOR EXAMPLE, INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT IN 1987 AND BY A FURTHER 49 PER CENT IN 1988.

"TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HUGE MARKET POTENTIAL OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC REGION, HONG KONG WILL DEFINITELY EMERGE AS A MAJOR PLAYER," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT, WHILE MAINTAINING THE POLICY OF POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTION, WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT, LIKE IN RESEARCH AND PROMOTION, IF AND WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFIED.

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AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 23) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL. THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

A TOTAL OF 40 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

EB9888	EC168	EC3	AA172
EC350	EC8060	EC8882	EB8120
EA787	EA280	EC603	DD32
EC1516	DT666	EC1688	EC1012
CN6688	EC190	EC377	EC1737
BZ167	EC3639	2992	EB9285
EB123	AC468	EC817	488
EC5251	EC3778	EC1978	EB7971
EC930	HK61	EC2326	EC1301
AH1800	EC1368	EB181	EC1128

/SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS

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SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF A BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 142ND ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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DB TO BE BRIEFED ON WALLED CITY CLEARANCE
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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SPECIAL DUTIES), MR LUI HAU-TUEN, WILL BRIEF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WALLED CITY CLEARANCE AT THE BOARD'S MEETING ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 21).

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY CONFUSING NUMBERING OF BUILDINGS AND THE PHENOMENON OF SOME PREMISES EARMARKED FOR COMMUNITY USES IN WHAMPOA GARDEN BEING LEFT VACANT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 21) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM.

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LRT TERMINUS DEVELOPMENT ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TOWN PLANNING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE INFORMED OF THE PROPOSED SUPERSTRUCTURE AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT YUEN LONG TERMINUS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LRT WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL, THERE WILL BE A GROUND LEVEL LRT INTERCHANGE WITH ASSOCIATED FACILITIES, A THREE-LEVEL PODIUM COVERING THE LRT INTERCHANGE, AND FIVE RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS STANDING ON TOP OF THE PODIUM.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE LATEST SITUATION CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TOWN PLANNING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO ORGANISE THE BUTTERFLY BAY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

IN ADDITION, THE MEETING WILL CONSIDER A TOTAL OF 74 APPLICATIONS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR FUNDS TO HOLD VARIOUS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PUBLIC TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

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MEMBERS OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT 1990-91 PUBLIC TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICER (PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLANNING/NEW TERRITORIES EAST) OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MR CHARLES LAU, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE DRAFT PROGRAMME.

A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER WILL ASK ABOUT THE PROPOSED SHUTTLE BUS ROUTE 70A PLYING BETWEEN TIN PING ESTATE AND TAI PING ESTATE, SHEUNG SHUI, VIA THE SHEUNG SHUI RAILWAY STATION.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO DESIGNATE THE SECTION OF JOCKEY CLUB ROAD FACING TIN PING ESTATE AS A 24-HOUR NON-RESTRICTED ZONE FOR BOARDING AND ALIGHTING OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT PASSENGERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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HENG FA CHUEN POST OFFICE OPENS FOR BUSINESS

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A NEW HENG FA CHUEN POST OFFICE LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE WEST CARPARK BLOCK OF HENG FA CHUEN ON HONG KONG ISLAND, OPENED FOR BUSINESS AT NOON TODAY (TUESDAY), BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN HONG KONG TO 108.

A CEREMONY WAS HELD AT 11 AM TODAY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE POST OFFICE.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WERE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG; THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC WONG; AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG.

A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE HENG FA CHUEN POST OFFICE PROVIDES THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES.

ITS BUSINESS HOURS ARE FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2.15 PM TO 5 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAY.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 5-8965638.

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TESTING OF ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS IN KOWLOON

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THE FIELD TEST OF ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS WILL BE EXTENDED TO KOWLOON FROM THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 21).

A TOTAL OF 25 OFF-STREET ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS INSTALLED IN A SECTION OF TEMPLE STREET, BETWEEN JORDAN ROAD AND AUSTIN ROAD, IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE WITH EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY.

YAU MA TEI DISTRICT HAD BEEN CHOSEN BECAUSE IT WAS A BUSY COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREA WHERE THERE WAS A HIGH DEMAND FOR PARKING METERS. A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HENCE IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSESS THE RELIABILITY AND PUBLIC ACCEPTENCE OF THE NEW PARKING METERS. HE ADDED.

THE FIELD TEST WILL LAST FOR NINE TO 12 MONTHS AND WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED, AND REVIEWED BY THE DEPARTMENT REGULARLY.

ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIELD TESTING IN WAN CHAI ON HONG KONG ISLAND IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. THE FIELD TEST WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE NEW TERRITORIES LATER THIS YEAR.

AT PRESENT, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OPERATES ABOUT 15,000 MECHANICAL PARKING METERS WHICH HAVE BEEN GENERALLY RELIABLE.

ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS ARE DESCRIBED AS MORE RELIABLE AND CAN PROVIDE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION THROUGH ELECTRONIC DATA RETRIEVAL. THEY ARE POWERED BY BATTERIES WHICH WILL LAST FOR A YEAR AND WILL BE FITTED INTO THE EXISTING CASTINGS.

THE ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS ARE SIMILAR TO THE MECHANICAL METERS IN APPEARANCE. BUT THE HANDLE OPERATES DIFFERENTLY. THE ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS ARE ACTIVATED BY PUSHING THE HANDLE INSTEAD OF TURNING THE HANDLE IN A CLOCKWISE DIRECTION. THE AMOUNT OF PARKING TIME IS DISPLAYED BY A DIGITAL READOUT.

THE PARKING CHARGES AND OPERATING HOURS OF THE ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS WILL REMAIN THE SAME. \$2 PER 30 MINUTES FROM 8 AM TO MIDNIGHT EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN KWUN TONG
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10.30 PM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 21), THE FLYOVER LINKING THE UNNAMED ROAD ADJOINING WAI YIP STREET WITH LEI YUE MUN ROAD EASTBOUND IN KWUN TONG WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

ALL CYCLISTS, PEDESTRIANS AND MOTOR VEHICLES DRIVEN BY LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE FLYOVER.

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METERING OF PARKING SPACES IN SHA TIN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 21), TWO-HOUR PARKING METERS INSTALLED AT THE 43 PARKING SPACES AT THE CARPARK FRONTING TAI WAI NEW VILLAGE, SHA TIN, WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL.

THE PARKING METERS WILL OPERATE DAILY, EXCEPT ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, BETWEEN 8 AM AND 8 PM. THE PARKING FEE WILL BE \$1 PER 30 MINUTES.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN – SUPPLEMENT

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1989

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS,
MR FRANCIS MAUDE, ON
SEPTEMBER 19, 1989

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MINISTER OF STATE GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

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THE FOLLOWING IS A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR FRANCIS MAUDE ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1989:

MR FRANCIS MAUDE: GOOD EVENING TO YOU ALL. I SAID WHEN I ARRIVED ON SUNDAY, THAT I HAD NOT COME TO HONG KONG BEARING MESSAGES, THAT REMAINS THE CASE AND IF I CAME WITH AN EMPTY BAG, I'M CERTAINLY RETURNING WITH ONE FULL OF LASTING IMPRESSIONS FROM MY DISCUSSIONS HERE.

AS YOU WOULD EXPECT, MY TALKS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND ALL HIS TOP ADVISERS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. ON MY PREVIOUS VISIT, NEARLY A YEAR AGO, I HAD SEEN MUCH OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE TERRITORY, BUT EVEN AS WE FLEW IN ON SUNDAY EVENING, I COULD SEE DRAMATIC CHANGES FROM A YEAR AGO. HONG KONG IS CONTINUING TO DEVELOP AT A BREATHTAKING PACE AND THAT IS THE BEST POSSIBLE AUGURY FOR THE FUTURE.

I WAS ABLE TO MEET HERE WITH NO FEWER THAN FOURTEEN PRESSURE GROUPS TO HEAR THEIR PARTICULAR CONCERNS AND THAT WAS AN EXERCISE WHICH I FOUND VALUABLE. MY MEETINGS WITH OMELCO, WITH EXCO, WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE UNIONS AND WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS, ENABLED ME TO HEAR AT FIRST HAND THEIR DEEPLY HELD CONCERNS ON ISSUES SUCH AS NATIONALITY, PACE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE BASIC LAW. SIMILAR THEMES ALSO EMERGED IN THE DISCUSSIONS I HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY.

NOW, ON THE ISSUE OF NATIONALITY, MANY HAVE ASKED ME WHEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE DECISIONS. WE'VE SAID WHAT OUR AIM IS, TO GIVE PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WHOSE SKILLS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR HONG KONG'S CONTINUED SUCCESS, THE CONFIDENCE TO REMAIN. WE ARE NOW WORKING HARD ON THE DETAILS. AS HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID, THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH WE CAN COVER EVERYBODY. THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SOME PROCESS OF SELECTION BUT WE ARE WORKING HARD TO GET THAT PACKAGE RIGHT.

NOW I'M MOST GRATEFUL TO THE GOVERNOR, AND TO HIS COLLEAGUES AND STAFF, FOR ARRANGING THIS VERY FULL PROGRAMME. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO HEAR, DURING THE COURSE OF THIS SHORT TWO DAYS -- TOO SHORT TWO DAYS -- A BROAD RANGE OF OPINION ARTICULATED WITH CONVICTION, CLARITY AND MODERATION.

FINALLY, THE ISSUE OF THE BOAT PEOPLE. IF I NEEDED CONVINCING THAT THE BURDEN WHICH IS BEING CARRIED BY HONG KONG WAS BECOMING INTOLERABLE, MY TRIP YESTERDAY TO HEI LING CHAU, CONVINCED ME. AND I ALSO SAW FURTHER EVIDENCE WHEN WE FLEW OVER WHITEHEAD AND SHEK KONG. IT'S AN ISSUE WHICH IS OF UNIQUE IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF THOSE WHO I SPOKE TO IN HONG KONG. IT'S OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE FOR US IN THE UK GOVERNMENT ALSO.

/NOW THE

NOW THE VOLUNTARY PROGRAMME OF REPATRIATION ALONE IS MOST UNLIKELY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. THOSE WHO HAVING BEEN SCREENED ARE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES MUST GO BACK TO VIETNAM. THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON THIS. THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE FOR THEM TO GO. BUT THE REPATRIATION EXERCISE MUST SUCCEED. IT'S THE ONLY HUMANE ANSWER. WE CLEARLY NEED TO GET IT RIGHT WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND WE'D PREFER TO HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. NOW I KNOW THAT PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN, BUT THE AIM MUST BE A LASTING SOLUTION TO THIS TRAGIC PROBLEM AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON, URGENTLY.

AFTER MY DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY WITH SENIOR LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY, THIS PHRASE WAS USED: "THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PARTNERSHIP". WE'VE TALKED TOGETHER, IN THE COURSE OF THESE TWO DAYS IN THE MOST FRIENDLY AND OPEN WAY. I'M PROUD TO BELONG TO THIS PARTNERSHIP. OUR FIRST TASK IS TO BUILD SECURELY FOR THE LONG TERM FUTURE FOR HONG KONG. WE HAVE FAITH IN HONG KONG'S LONG TERM FUTURE. THANK YOU.

CLAUDIA MO (AFP): COULD YOU GIVE US SOME ROUGH IDEA ON, SAY, SOME SORT OF TIME FRAME AS TO WHEN WE CAN HEAR SOMETHING CONCRETE FROM LONDON ON THE PASSPORT ISSUE?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I CAN'T GIVE YOU A CONCRETE ANSWER. WE ARE WORKING ON IT VERY HARD AND WE HOPE TO HAVE AN ANSWER BEFORE LONG, BUT IT WILL BE A LITTLE TIME YET.

CLAUDIA MO: HOW LONG?

MR MAUDE: AND IT WON'T BE NEXT WEEK.

CLAUDIA MO: A COUPLE OF MONTHS?

MR MAUDE: IT WON'T BE -- HOW LONG?

CLAUDIA MO: SEVERAL MONTHS?

MR MAUDE: NO, IT WON'T BE SEVERAL MONTHS. BUT IT WON'T BE VERY QUICKLY EITHER.

TONY FLORES (COMMERCIAL RADIO): MR MAUDE, YOU HAVE SAID CHINA SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN SOLVING THE CONFIDENCE CRISIS IN HONG KONG. WHAT WILL BRITAIN DO? CAN YOU GIVE US SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES?

MR MAUDE: AT WHAT BRITAIN CAN DO?

TONY FLORES: YES.

MR MAUDE: WELL, I THINK THERE'S CLEARLY THE NATIONALITY ISSUE WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT ONE, AND AS I SAY, WE ARE WORKING ON THAT TO PROVIDE THE BEST ANSWER WE CAN ON THAT. ANOTHER MAJOR CONCERN IS THE BASIC LAW. WE ARE CONCERNED TO PUT HONG KONG'S CONCERNS ON THE BASIC LAW TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, SO THAT THOSE CONCERNS CAN BE ASSIMILATED INTO THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW. AND I THINK OUR MAIN ROLE IS ACTUALLY, QUIETLY, PERSUASIVELY AND FIRMLY, TO PUT FORWARD HONG KONG'S INTERESTS IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE.

SALLY BLYTH (RTHK): I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY GIVE A TIME-TABLE AS FAR AS THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE IS CONCERNED, BUT HOW FAR DOWN THE ROAD IS IT TO ACTUALLY BEING PUT TOGETHER AND FINALISED? AND TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU NOW GOING TO BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE OR CHANGE WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED, IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR VISIT HERE?

MR MAUDE: WELL AS I'VE SAID, THERE IS A LOT OF WORK GOING ON, AND VERY DETAILED WORK GOING ON, AND OBVIOUSLY I AM PRETTY CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THAT WORK, AS YOU WOULD EXPECT. AND THAT WORK WILL CONTINUE, OBVIOUSLY, AFTER I RETURN AND I SHALL BE ABLE TO BRING TO THAT WORK THE EXPERIENCE THAT I'VE GATHERED HERE. WHAT WAS SAID BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND SIR GEOFFREY HOWE IN THE SUMMER REMAINS THE CASE, BUT WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK THERE IS A LOT OF WORK THAT CAN BE DONE AND WE ARE ANXIOUS TO GET THE PACKAGE RIGHT.

SALLY BLYTH: HAVE YOU BEEN PERSUADED BY THE VIEWS WHICH YOU HAVE HEARD SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE THAT PERHAPS BRITAIN SHOULD BE MORE GENEROUS THAN THE PROPOSALS WHICH WERE ALREADY UNDER CONSIDERATION?

MR MAUDE: WELL, AS THE WORK IS STILL CONTINUING, WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT I AM SURE THAT WE ARE RIGHT TO DO THE WORK TO GET A PACKAGE WHICH IS AS GOOD AS POSSIBLE.

SALLY MAK (EXPRESS): RECENTLY, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN IS VERY TENSE. THEY HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS ON MANY ISSUES. HOW CAN YOU SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS?

MR MAUDE: WELL, ONLY TIME WILL SOLVE IT, FINALLY. BUT WHAT WE CAN DO IS TO GET DOWN TO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE -- WHICH IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT WEEK IN THE RESUMED TALKS IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. WE CAN CONDUCT THOSE TALKS IN A SENSIBLE, FIRM AND OPEN WAY, AND THAT WE SHALL DO.

SALLY MAK: BUT IF THE PROBLEM CANNOT BE SOLVED, WILL THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG BE SACRIFICED?

MR MAUDE: WELL, BOTH CHINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM AGREED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION THAT THEY SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO ASSURE THE LONG TERM FUTURE OF HONG KONG. AND WE SHALL DO THAT, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT CHINA WILL DO THAT.

DEAN NELSON (SUNDAY MORNING POST): THE CHINESE SIDE, MAINLAND OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT THE OMELCO MODEL IS UNACCEPTABLE AND OMELCO MEMBERS THEMSELVES HAVE TRIED TO PERSUADE YOU TO TAKE THAT MODEL AND PUSH IT AT THE JLG MEETING. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT YOUR THOUGHTS ARE ON THAT?

MR MAUDE: WELL, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THERE IS A DESIRE IN THE COMMUNITY HERE FOR THERE TO BE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY AND THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MODELS BEING DISCUSSED AND PROMOTED. I'VE STUDIED THE OMELCO MODEL CAREFULLY AND I'VE DISCUSSED IT WITH OMELCO. I'M NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF COMMENTING ON WHAT PEOPLE ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SAID FROM ELSEWHERE, BUT WE ARE CONSIDERING WHAT WE CAN DO AND WE'LL BE TAKING DECISIONS WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ON THAT BASIS.

SARAH YUEN (ATV): I WONDER, IS IT POSSIBLE TO ASK YOU IF ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN OR HEARD IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAS MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR STANCE ON ANYTHING? AND IF SO, IS IT POSSIBLE TO TELL US WHAT?

MR MAUDE: IT WASN'T REALLY THAT SORT OF VISIT. WHAT IT'S DONE IS TO THROW DIFFERENT LIGHT ON THINGS FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES, AND TO ENABLE ME TO UNDERSTAND ISSUES IN THE ROUND. BECAUSE, AS I SAY, MY PREVIOUS VISIT HERE NEARLY A YEAR AGO, WHEN I HAD DIFFERENT RESPONSIBILITIES, AND WHEN THE SITUATION WAS DIFFERENT IN ANY EVENT, WAS CLEARLY NOT A BASIS ON WHICH I COULD FORM A ROUNDED VIEW. AND SITTING BEHIND A DESK IN WHITEHALL IS NOT EITHER. THE BEST PLACE TO FORM A ROUNDED VIEW. SO I AM ABLE NOW, TO HAVE FILLED OUT MY PERCEPTIONS OF THE PROBLEMS AND THE ISSUES, AND I HOPE TO CONTRIBUTE AS A RESULT OF THAT, TO THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS.

MARK BRAYNE (BBC): MR MAUDE, YOU SAID IN YOUR STATEMENT THAT THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PARTNERSHIP. SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND FROM THAT, IN SOME WAY, THAT THE PREVIOUS PARTNERSHIP, UNDER EARLIER MANAGEMENT, AS IT WERE, WAS LACKING? AND IF SO, IN WHAT WAY?

MR MAUDE: THIS IS NOT WHAT I SAID. I WAS QUOTING WHAT WAS SAID TO ME.

MARK BRAYNE: DO YOU AGREE?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I MEAN, I HOPE THAT WE CAN START AND WORK TOGETHER IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY. WHAT THERE CLEARLY IS, IS A NEW TEAM OF MINISTERS AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE. JOHN MAJOR AND I ARE NEW TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE. WE BOTH ATTACH VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG INDEED. WE SHALL WANT TO BUILD ON THE WORK THAT OUR PREDECESSORS HAVE DONE, BUT OF COURSE WE COME TO IT NEW: WE COME TO IT, PERHAPS, WITH FRESH MINDS, AND WANTING TO LOOK AT THE ISSUES OURSELVES.

IF I CAN JUST EXPAND ON THAT. ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH OBVIOUSLY I WANTED TO DO HERE WAS TO MEET PEOPLE AND TALK TO PEOPLE AND BEGIN TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WHO I'VE MET IN THE COURSE OF THESE TWO DAYS, AND WITH WHOM I HOPE I SHALL BE DEALING FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

KAREN CHENG (COMMERCIAL RADIO): A TOP CHINESE OFFICIAL RECENTLY SAID HE DOES NOT THINK THERE IS A CONFIDENCE CRISIS IN HONG KONG. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CONVINCHE THEM THAT THERE IS SUCH A PROBLEM AND THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE?

MR MAUDE: WELL, AS I'VE SAID, I AM NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF COMMENTING ON WHAT OTHERS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SAID. AS I SAID WHEN I CAME HERE ON SUNDAY EVENING, THE FACT THAT CONFIDENCE WAS DAMAGED HERE AS A RESULT OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE BEGINNING OF JUNE, IS SIMPLY A HISTORICAL FACT, AND I DID NO MORE THAN STATE THE FACT.

FUNG WAI-KONG (ASIAWEEK): MR MINISTER, YESTERDAY YOU MET THE PRESSURE GROUP LEADERS. YOU ASKED THEM THAT IF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DOES SOMETHING WHICH THE CHINESE DON'T LIKE, WHAT WILL THE REACTION OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE BE? ARE THE BRITISH GOING TO DO SOMETHING WHICH THE CHINESE DON'T LIKE?

/MR MAUDE:

MR MAUDE : WELL, WHAT I WILL SAY ABOUT THAT IS THAT WE'LL TAKE DECISIONS AS THEY COME - THAT IS WHAT WE'VE DONE THROUGHOUT. WE HAVE AT NO STAGE FLINCHED FROM TAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS IF DIFFICULT DECISIONS HAVE TO BE TAKEN. I HOPE WE ALWAYS TAKE THOSE DECISIONS IN THE RESPONSIBLE AND INFORMED WAY AND ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THOSE DECISIONS CAN BE WELL INFORMED IS BY MY BEING HERE AND ASKING THAT SORT OF QUESTION.

YOJANA SHARMA (DAILY TELEGRAPH): YOU'VE SAID THAT YOU'D LIKE TO PRESENT HONG KONG'S INTERESTS TO THE CHINESE IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM. HOWEVER, CHINA HAS ALREADY SAID THAT TO STATION PLA TROOPS IN HONG KONG IS THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT. IT HAS ALSO SAID THAT BASIC LAW IS A MATTER FOR CHINA AND HONG KONG ALONE. SO, ON WHAT BASIS ARE YOU GOING TO ACTUALLY BROACH THIS SUBJECT?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I'VE ACCEPTED IT THAT STATIONING THE PLA HERE IS A MATTER OF CHINA'S SOVEREIGN RIGHT, BUT WHAT WE HAVE ALSO SAID IS THAT IT IS A MATTER WHICH IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE HERE AND THAT AGAIN IS A SIMPLE STATEMENT OF FACT. SO FAR AS THE BASIC LAW IS CONCERNED, IT IS CLEARLY A MATTER FOR THE CHINESE WITH HONG KONG TO DRAFT THE BASIC LAW, BUT IT IS EQUALLY CLEARLY LEGITIMATE AND PROPER FOR US TO EXPRESS VIEWS ABOUT THE CONTENT AND THE FORMAT OF THE BASIC LAW. THAT WE HAVE DONE. MANY OF THE THINGS WE HAVE SUGGESTED ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND HAVE IMPROVED THE BASIC LAW, IN THE PAST, AND THERE IS NOTHING, I THINK, PARTICULARLY EXTRAORDINARY ABOUT US SEEKING TO EXPRESS VIEWS ABOUT IT. IT IS PERFECTLY PROPER.

SIMON MACKLIN (SCMP): MR MAUDE, YOU SAID YOU ARE QUITE CONVINCED THAT THE BURDEN OF THE BOAT PEOPLE IS BECOMING INTOLERABLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. WHAT IS BRITAIN ABOUT TO DO TO HELP SHARE THAT BURDEN?

MR MAUDE: WELL, WHAT WE ARE DOING IS WORKING VERY HARD INDEED TO TRY TO FIND, WELL, I MEAN TO FIND, A LASTING SOLUTION TO IT. THAT SOLUTION CAN ONLY INVOLVE THOSE WHO ARE FOUND AFTER SCREENING NOT TO BE REFUGEES. FOR THEM TO GO BACK TO VIETNAM. THERE IS A VOLUNTARY PROGRAMME GOING FORWARD AT THE MOMENT. AS I SAID IN MY OPENING REMARKS, IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THAT VOLUNTARY PROGRAMME WILL BEGIN TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND THAT IT TAKES TWO PARTNERS FOR THERE TO BE REPATRIATION - THE SENDER AND THE RECIPIENT - AND WE ARE WORKING TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE VIETNAMESE SO THAT PROCESS CAN CONTINUE.

SIMON MACKLIN: CAN'T BRITAIN DO SOMETHING TO HELP SHARE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN WHICH HONG KONG IS BEARING?

MR MAUDE: WELL, WE ALREADY DO. TWENTY ONE MILLION POUNDS STERLING WE HAVE SPENT IN THE LAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, WE HAVE SPENT TO SHARE THE BURDEN.

SIMON MACKLIN: ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND ANY MORE?

MR MAUDE: WELL, WE WILL TAKE DECISIONS AS THEY COME, BUT THE MOST URGENT THING IS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM SO THAT THE BURDEN REDUCES - THAT IS THE BEST CONTRIBUTION WE CAN MAKE.

MAY WONG (TVB): YOU SAID THAT BRITAIN IS WORKING HARD WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO FIND A LASTING SOLUTION. WE HAVE HEARD THIS MANY TIMES BEFORE - THAT LASTING SOLUTION JUST NEVER SEEMED TO COME UP OR TO BECOME A REALITY. HOW LONG IS HONG KONG GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT BEFORE SUCH A SOLUTION BECOMES A REALITY?

MR MAUDE: WELL, LET'S REMEMBER THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ONLY TOOK PLACE IN JUNE AND THE - I THINK THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION WAS FORMULATED AT THAT STAGE AND IT SETS OUT WAYS AND MEANS OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEM AND SO THAT AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN IN PLACE FOR VERY LONG. I FULLY ACCEPT THAT THE PROBLEM HAS EXISTED FOR A VERY GREAT DEAL LONGER THAN THAT. THERE ARE FURTHER MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE. THERE IS A FURTHER MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION - AND THAT IS A MEETING IN WHICH WE'LL BE TAKING A VERY FULL PART, I CAN ASSURE YOU.

MAY WONG: YOU SAY THAT REPATRIATION WILL HAVE TO BE THE SOLUTION, BUT RIGHT NOW THE MAJOR OBSTACLE IS THAT VIETNAM REFUSES TO ACCEPT MANDATORY REPATRIATION. HOW ELSE ARE WE GOING TO FIND A SOLUTION WHEN VIETNAM CANNOT BE PERSUADED?

MR MAUDE: WELL, VIETNAM AGREED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION THAT REPATRIATION WAS THE ONLY ANSWER TO THOSE WHO ARE SCREENED OUT, NOT TO BE REFUGEES, AND ARE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES, AND SO THEY HAVE AGREED THAT REPATRIATION IS THE ANSWER, AND WHAT WE ARE DOING AT THE MOMENT IS WORKING TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT ON THE WAYS AND MEANS OF ACHIEVING THAT.

STEVE VINES (THE OBSERVER): MR MAUDE, YOU SAID WHEN YOU ARRIVED THAT CHINA HAD THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. HOW WORRIED ARE YOU THAT CHINA HASN'T BEEN TAKING STEPS TO RESTORE THIS CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG?

MR MAUDE : WELL, I SHOULD VERY MUCH PREFER IT, AS PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD, IF THE CHINESE DID TAKE STEPS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE. BUT, I THINK THE BEST THAT WE CAN DO AT THIS STAGE IS TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS AS WE HAVE PROPOSED AND AS WILL HAPPEN NEXT WEEK - TO CONDUCT THOSE DISCUSSIONS, AS I SAY, QUIETLY, FIRMLY, SENSIBLY - NOT ALWAYS SHOUTING WHAT WE ARE DOING FROM THE ROOFTOPS, BUT NONETHELESS WORKING HARD IN PRIVATE TO PROMOTE HONG KONG'S BEST INTERESTS.

STEVE VINES : WELL, WHAT STEPS WOULD YOU LIKE THEM TO TAKE?

MR MAUDE : WELL, I THINK THE BEST STEPS THEY COULD TAKE AT THIS STAGE IS TO RECOGNISE THAT THERE ARE CONCERNS ABOUT SOME ASPECTS OF THE BASIC LAW AND TO ENSURE THAT THOSE CONCERNS ARE REFLECTED WHEN THE BASIC LAW IS FINALLY FORMULATED.

/LEUNG CHAU-YIN (ATV):

LEUNG CHAU-YIN (ATV): MR MAUDE, YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO THAT MR JOHN MAJOR AND YOURSELF COMPRISE A NEW TEAM AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL CHANGE ITS POLICY TOWARDS HONG KONG? MY SECOND QUESTION IS RELATED TO AN EARLIER STATEMENT YOU MADE, THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CANNOT PROVIDE THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO ALL IN HONG KONG. WHEN DELEGATIONS FROM HONG KONG WENT TO UK TO LOBBY FOR THAT PURPOSE IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE DIVISIVE EFFECTS IF ONLY SOME PEOPLE WERE GIVEN THE RIGHT OF ABODE. SO, IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT YOU HAVE SAID, ARE YOU REALLY IGNORING THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE DIVISIVE EFFECTS?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I THINK IT IS CLEARLY THE CASE THAT IF YOU GIVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO SOME AND NOT TO OTHERS THEN THERE ARE DISTINCTIONS BEING MADE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THAT IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE FACT WHICH HAS TO BE FACED - AND THERE IS NO DODGING THAT - THERE'S NO FUDGING IT - THAT HAS TO HAPPEN. AND IT IS A DIFFICULT PROCESS, WHICH IS WHY IT IS TAKING US SOME TIME TO WORK OUT HOW TO DO IT, BUT THAT IS IMPLICIT IN HAVING A SCHEME OF THIS SORT AT ALL. AND, WE WANT TO GET THAT PACKAGE RIGHT AND TO GET IT AS GOOD AS IT CAN BE AND THAT IS WHY WE ARE WORKING SO HARD AT IT.

LEUNG CHAU-YIN: AND HOW ABOUT THE FIRST QUESTION?

MR MAUDE: WELL, THERE IS NO POINT AT WHICH ON ANY ISSUE POLICY IS FORMULATED AND ENCASED IN ICE AND REMAINS THE SAME FOREVER. AND, POLICY IS ALWAYS DEVELOPING AS NEW ISSUES ARISE, AS NEW DEVELOPMENTS TAKE PLACE AND, OF COURSE, POLICY IS DEVELOPING. THERE IS GOING TO BE NO RADICAL SHIFT OF POLICY AS A RESULT OF TWO NEW MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG. BUT, AS I HAVE SAID, WE COME TO IT NEW AND WE COME TO IT FRESH.

JOHN PALMER (THE GUARDIAN): CAN I ASK YOU WHETHER IN YOUR BRIEF VISIT IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH HONG KONG INDUSTRIALISTS THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED WITH EUROPEAN ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES AND GENERAL FEARS OF FORTRESS EUROPE EMERGED OR NOT, AND WHETHER YOU HAD ANYTHING TO TELL THEM ABOUT THAT. AND SECONDLY, WHETHER YOU ARE PLANNING TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF RIGHT OF ABODE SPECIFICALLY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CONTEXT SINCE OF COURSE PORTUGAL IS ADMITTING SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF MACAUANS TO PORTUGAL, WHO WILL HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY?

MR MAUDE : WELL, ON THE FIRST ISSUE, NO. I AM BOUND TO SAY ONE OF THE ISSUES RAISED WITH ME IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST TWO DAYS HAS NOT BEEN EC ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES. NO DOUBT IF I STAYED HERE A LITTLE LONGER IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. IT WAS RAISED WITH ME, I'M BOUND TO SAY, A YEAR AGO, WHEN I WAS HERE AS A TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER WITH THE PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATING THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET. WE HAVE HAD CONCERN FOR A LITTLE TIME ABOUT ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES BEING CAPABLE OF BEING USED IN A PROTECTIONIST MANNER. I THINK THE NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION WHICH TOOK OFFICE IN JANUARY THIS YEAR TAKES A MORE LIBERAL APPROACH TO THESE MATTERS, WHICH IS WELCOME TO US.

ON THE SECOND POINT, ON RAISING THE RIGHT OF ABODE ISSUE WITH OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS. I THINK WE HAVE SAID ALL ALONG THAT WE WOULD SEEK TO TALK TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ABOUT HONG KONG. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND TO DEVELOP THAT AND WE SHALL CERTAINLY BE DISCUSSING HONG KONG, AS WE HAVE DONE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, BOTH WITH THE TWELVE AND AT THE PARIS ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT IT.

STANLEY LEUNG (HONGKONG STANDARD): ARE THERE ANY PLANS OF OTHER FCO OFFICIALS TO VISIT HONG KONG AND BEIJING IN THE NEAR FUTURE? INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR, TO BEIJING?

MR MAUDE : WELL, YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE GOVERNOR ABOUT HIS PLANS.

STANLEY LEUNG : INCLUDING MR MAJOR TO BEIJING, TO HONG KONG, AND ANY PLAN OF THE GOVERNOR TO VISIT BEIJING?

MR MAUDE : YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE GOVERNOR ABOUT HIS PLANS. BUT, SO FAR AS OTHER MINISTERS COMING TO HONG KONG, JOHN MAJOR CERTAINLY PROPOSES TO COME TO HONG KONG SOMETIME AROUND THE TURN OF THE YEAR - AN EXACT DATE HASN'T BEEN FIXED, BUT HE IS KEEN TO COME, AS I SAY AT AN EARLY DATE, WHICH WOULD LIKELY TO BE AROUND THEN. SO FAR AS OTHER BRITISH MINISTERS ARE CONCERNED, THERE IS, AS I BELIEVE, A FAIRLY STEADY FLOW OF BRITISH MINISTERS TO HONG KONG. I MYSELF CAME IN A DIFFERENT CAPACITY A YEAR AGO AND I KNOW THAT OTHER MINISTERS COME HERE ON A REGULAR BASIS AS WELL. BUT I MEAN THAT IS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH THE SORT OF ISSUES WITH WHICH I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH WHILE I AM HERE.

FUNG WAI-KONG (ASIAWEEK): MR MAUDE, THE CHINESE AND THE BRITISH HAD SOME SORT OF WRANGLE OVER CERTAIN ISSUES RECENTLY. YOU HAVE SAID THAT THE BRITISH SIDE WANT TO ADOPT A FIRM AND LOW-KEY APPROACH. DO YOU THINK THIS IS SOME SORT OF CONCESSION, BACK-TRACKING OR SOME SORT OF SURRENDER?

MR MAUDE : YOU CAN'T WIN ON THIS. I MEAN, YOU ARE EITHER PICKING A FIGHT OR YOU ARE SURRENDERING. WE ARE NOT DOING EITHER. WHAT WE ARE DOING IS PURSUING THE DISCUSSIONS QUIETLY, SENSIBLY, AND ON THE BASIS WHICH IS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE AGREEMENT - AND THAT IS A VERY PROPER WAY FOR US TO CARRY ON. SO WE SHALL CONTINUE. NOT ALWAYS SAYING WHAT WE ARE DOING, NOT ALWAYS CONDUCTING OUR DIPLOMACY THROUGH MEGAPHONES, BUT QUIETLY CARRYING ON WITH THE VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS THAT THERE IS TO BE DONE ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG.

STEVE JONES (ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL): AFTER YOUR VISIT, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATISATION IN HONG KONG OUGHT TO BE SPEEDED UP TO ENSURE HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AFTER 1997? DO YOU FEEL THAT THE PROGRAMME FOR DEMOCRATISATION IN LEGCO PRIOR -- ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR, IS IN FACT TOO SLOW?

MR MAUDE: WELL, I THINK I SAID EARLIER THAT THERE IS A PRETTY STRONG FEELING IN THE COMMUNITY HERE THAT THE SPEED OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OUGHT TO BE INCREASED.

LAW KWOK-WAI (ORIENTAL DAILY): WELL, IF I AM CORRECT, THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT COMPILED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR HER COLONIES, INCLUDING HONG KONG, OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, BUT IT HASN'T. COULD I KNOW WHEN WILL THE REPORT BE COMPLETED AND SENT? WOULD IT BE DISCLOSED?

MR MAUDE: I CAN'T TELL YOU THE EXACT ANSWER TO THAT. WHAT I CAN SAY FOR THE MINISTER IS THAT THERE WAS - THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS OF DELAY IN DEALING WITH THIS MATTER OF REPORTS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE. THERE WAS AN IMMENSELY LONG REPORT THAT WAS SUBMITTED. IT WAS DISCUSSED BY ALL CONCERNED AND THE REACTIONS WERE EXTREMELY FAVOURABLE TO THAT REPORT. THE ONLY CRITICISMS WERE EXTREMELY MINOR ONES. WE, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, FEEL THAT WE HAVE FULFILLED OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THAT MATTER COMPLETELY.