



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1984

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ACCEPT ACCORD OR HAVE NONE, LOBO SAYS  
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+WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT OUR CHOICE IS TO ACCEPT THIS AGREEMENT OR FACE THE FUTURE WITHOUT ONE,+ THE HON R.H. LOBO SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (MONDAY).

MR LOBO WAS MOVING A MOTION STANDING IN HIS NAME +THAT THIS COUNCIL ENDORSES THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND COMMENDS IT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

HE SAID THAT FOR THE PATIENT AND HARD WORKING PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THE PAST 24 MONTHS HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT PERIOD WHEN THEIR COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE HAD BEEN TESTED TO THE FULL. IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO ACCEPT SO MUCH ON TRUST AND HONG KONG HAD BEEN NO PLACE FOR FAINT HEARTS.

+THROUGHOUT THESE TWO LONG YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY AND BEWILDERMENT WE HAVE PRAYED THAT THE AGREEMENT UNDER NEGOTIATION WOULD MIRROR AND ALLEVIATE OUR WORRIES, FEARS AND FEELINGS FOR THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

+THE LONG-AWAITED AGREEMENT, THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY, IS NOW BEFORE US.+

HE SAID IN THE COURSE OF THESE TWO DAYS OF DEBATE, HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD EXPRESS THEIR OWN VIEWS AND ELABORATE ON VIEWS REPRESENTED TO THEM; SOME WOULD EXPRESS RESERVATIONS.

+INEVITABLY, THERE ARE UNCERTAINTIES AND DOUBTS, AND IT IS OUR DUTY TO EXPRESS THESE FREELY,+ MR LOBO SAID.

+I WOULD ALSO URGE THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS, FAVOURABLE OR OTHERWISE, TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE.

WE ARE NOW ASSURED THESE VIEWS WILL BE KEPT UNDER SEAL PENDING RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND DESTROYED SOON THEREAFTER.

+BUT WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THE OBJECTIVE OF THE AGREEMENT, ENTERED INTO FREELY BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, NOR THE BACKGROUND TO THIS ACCORD,+ HE SAID.

+NOR SHOULD WE FORGET THAT OUR CHOICE IS TO ACCEPT THIS AGREEMENT OR FACE THE FUTURE WITHOUT ONE.+

HE SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED OUT WITH THE COMMON AIM OF SECURING A MEANS OF MAINTAINING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. THROUGHOUT THE CONFIDENTIAL TALKS WE WERE TROUBLED BY MANY WORRYING RUMOURS AND STORIES.

/IT WAS .....

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IT WAS WITHIN CHINA'S POWER TO BREAK OFF THE NEGOTIATIONS OR TO ANNOUNCE HER PLANS FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE UNILATERALLY. BUT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. THE TWO SIDES PERSEVERED TO PRODUCE THE DETAILED DRAFT AGREEMENT BEFORE US.

+MANY WILL RECALL OUR CONTROVERSIAL VISIT TO LONDON AND IT IS GRATIFYING TO SEE THAT IT ALSO SETS OUT THE MANY CONSTITUENT FREEDOMS AND FACTORS WHICH WE STRESSED IN OUR MISSION TO LONDON AS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG,+ MR LOBO CONTINUED.

+THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES INTERNATIONALLY TO AN AGREEMENT IN SUCH DETAIL, THAT THE PRC SHOULD EVOLVE AND COMMIT ITSELF TO THE MAINTENANCE OF TWO SYSTEMS WITHIN ONE STATE, AND THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS SHOULD SEE THE AGREEMENT AS A BLUEPRINT FOR MAINTAINING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG -- ALL THESE FACTORS PERSUADE ME THAT THE NEGOTIATORS HAVE DONE THEIR BEST TO SECURE HONG KONG'S FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

IT REMAINED -- AND WAS NO LESS IMPORTANT -- TO DETERMINE THE BASIC LAW IN THE SAME SPIRIT.

BUT THERE WAS A VITAL FACTOR THAT NO WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR NEGOTIATIONS COULD PROVIDE. IF WE WERE SATISFIED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD REACHED THIS AGREEMENT IN GOOD FAITH -- AND HOW COULD WE SEE SUCH A DETAILED INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT IN ANY OTHER WAY? -- WHAT REMAINED WAS THE NEED FOR PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.

+WE HAVE A GOOD AGREEMENT AND IT IS NOW UP TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND INDEED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO MAKE IT WORK,+ MR LOBO SAID.

+THE END RESULT MUST BE A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS HONG KONG. ANYTHING LESS WILL ERODE THE BASIS FOR THE AGREEMENT AND THE CASE FOR PRESERVING HONG KONG AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

+IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES -- NOT LEAST BEING THE CHOICE OF ACCEPTING THE AGREEMENT OR FACING THE FUTURE WITHOUT ONE -- THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BEFORE US IS A GOOD AGREEMENT AND ONE WHICH CAN BE COMMENDED TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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TIME NOW FOR ECONOMIC ACTION, TIEN URGES  
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WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT COMPLETE WE SHOULD TURN OUR ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE HON FRANCIS TIEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (MONDAY).

MR TIEN, SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE HON ROGER LOBO'S MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, SAID NOW THAT THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WERE OVER, AND WHILE WAITING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE FINAL FORMALITIES, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN SO THAT THE AGREEMENT BECAME A SPRING-BOARD FOR OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

+FIRST, STEPS MUST BE TAKEN URGENTLY TO ENSURE THE HEALTH OF THE PROPERTY MARKET IN THE INTEREST OF STABILITY,+ HE SAID.

+SECOND, STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO ATTRACT MORE CHINESE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.+

ATTEMPTS WERE BEING MADE TO INDUCE HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN TO INVEST IN CHINA, AND THIS WAS MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF CHINA IN TURN INVESTED IN HONG KONG, THUS STIMULATING CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL FUTURE.

THE FUTURE WOULD NO DOUBT BE 'EVER BRIGHT'.

+THIRD, ON A RELATED POINT, I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PLAYING A BIGGER ROLE IN ENCOURAGING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN OUR INDUSTRY,+ MR TIEN SAID.

+THE TDC IS WELL PLACED TO INCREASE ITS EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD AND MUST BE CALLED UPON TO DO SO.

+FINALLY, ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO MAINTAIN THE IMPETUS GIVEN TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO SUSTAIN THE GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY. MANPOWER TRAINING IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND OUR EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD MUST BE MAINTAINED. WITH SUCH TRAINING, HONG KONG CAN STILL WALK TALL,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP WHICH IS TO BE SET UP, MR TIEN SAID HE WAS IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL, BUT NOTED THAT THE EXACT ROLE WHICH HONG KONG PEOPLE MIGHT PLAY IN THE GROUP WAS NOT MENTIONED.

+I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ONCE THE PRINCIPAL BASE OF THE GROUP MOVES TO HONG KONG IN 1988 IT SHOULD INCLUDE MEMBERS DRAWN FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

+IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO INCLUDE SOME HONG KONG PEOPLE RIGHT FROM ITS ESTABLISHMENT NEXT YEAR.

+IN ADDITION, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A STRONG REPRESENTATION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE ON THE COMMITTEE WHICH IS TO DRAFT THE BASIC LAW,+ MR TIEN SAID.

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BASIC LAW MUST HAVE LOCAL PARTICIPATION - ALEX WU  
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THE BASIC LAW SHOULD HAVE THE PARTICIPATION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE AND BE DRAFTED AT AN EARLY DATE, THE HON ALEX WU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IF THESE TWO POINTS COULD BE CLARIFIED, THEN IT WOULD HELP GREATLY IN PUTTING PEOPLE'S MINDS AT EASE, MR WU SAID, NOTING THAT NO DATE FOR THE BASIC LAW HAD BEEN GIVEN IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, HE MADE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE BASIC LAW.

+WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE IN THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, IT CAN BE SAID THAT WE ARE ON THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS 'HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG',+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXTEND, THROUGH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO CHINA, OPEN INVITATIONS TO CHINESE LEADERS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WHO WERE LESS FAMILIAR WITH HONG KONG, TO COME HERE FOR VISITS, SO THAT THEY MIGHT SEE THE ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES HERE AND GET AN INSIGHT INTO HONG KONG'S POLITICAL SYSTEM, LIFE STYLE AS WELL AS THE BASIC LAW THAT THE PEOPLE HERE EXPECTED.

HE APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW AS FAR AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO BASE ON.

+WE SHOULD VOICE OUR VIEWS WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR HAVING RESPONDED SWIFTLY TO THE QUESTION OF HOW TO KEEP THE VIEWS CONVEYED CONFIDENTIAL.

HE BELIEVED IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT STRESSED THAT THE LIFE STYLE OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

HE SAID THE IMAGINATIVE CONCEPT OF +ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS+ HAD PROVIDED A BREAKTHROUGH FOR THE TALKS AND HE HAD HIGH HOPES IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

+I SINCERELY HOPE THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN TRULY GOVERN HONG KONG SO THAT EVEN AFTER 2047, WE CAN STILL ENJOY LIFE UNDER THIS UNIQUE SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BROUGHT AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT THEY MUST CHANGE THEIR PAST ATTITUDE OF BEING A +PASSENGER+ AND LEARN TO BECOME A GOOD +NAVIGATOR+ RIGHT NOW.

+I HOPE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL FACE SQUARELY THE INEVITABLE REALITY AND DEAL WITH THE AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IN A POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC MANNER,+ HE SAID.

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ROLE IN DRAFTING BASIC LAW VITAL - S.L. CHEN  
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IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR HONG KONG THAT THE PEOPLE HERE SHOULD HAVE A PLACE IN DRAFTING THE BASIC LAW, THE HON S.L. CHEN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE HON ROGER LOBO'S MOTION, ENDORSING THE AGREEMENT, MR CHEN SAID THIS WAS NECESSARY SO AS TO ENSURE THAT DETAILS NOT INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY REFLECTED IN THE BASIC LAW.

+TO THIS END, I URGE THE PUBLIC TO COME FORWARD AND BE POSITIVE IN AIRING THEIR VIEWS ON WHAT THE BASIC LAW SHOULD CONTAIN AND WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN ITS DRAFTING,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEN SAID SOME MAY SAY THAT ALTHOUGH THE DRAFT AGREEMENT HAD PROVIDED ON PAPER ALL THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS FOR THE CONTINUITY OF OUR EXISTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AND LIFE-STYLE, THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING STILL REMAINED IN THE EATING.

+TO SUCH PEOPLE I WOULD SAY THAT IT IS POINTLESS TO TALK ABOUT PROOF UNLESS WE HAVE THE PUDDING FIRST.

+I BELIEVE WE NOW HAVE ALL THE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS FOR THE PUDDING.

+THE ONLY THING WHICH REMAINS IS WHO SHOULD DO THE COOKING?

+TO THIS END, I BELIEVE BOTH THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY.+

MR CHEN SAID A GOOD AGREEMENT ALONE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN OUR PROSPERITY AND STABILITY.

GIVEN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG COULD RIGHTFULLY EXPECT FROM BOTH THE CHINESE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY RESTED SQUARELY ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG.

+NOW THAT THE LONG SHADOW OVER OUR LIVES HAS BEEN REMOVED, WE MUST MOVE AHEAD AGAIN AND GET BACK TO DOING WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING SO WELL RIGHT UP TO 1982, WHICH IS TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG AS A STRONG AND HEALTHY ECONOMIC COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

+A STRONG AND HEALTHY ECONOMY IS THE SUREST GUARANTEE FOR OUR FUTURE SURVIVAL.+

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SIX REASONS WHY AGREEMENT WILL STICK -- LYDIA DUNN  
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THERE WERE AT LEAST SIX REASONS WHY THE TERMS OF THE SINO-BRITISH DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD BE FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENTED, THE HON LYDIA DUNN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (MONDAY).

MISS DUNN, SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, SAID THE ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED FOR HONG KONG AS AN SAR UNDER CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY PROVIDED GOOD GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING THAT THERE WOULD BE A CONTINUITY OF ESTABLISHED SYSTEMS AND A PRESERVATION OF HONG KONG'S FAMILIAR LIFE-STYLE.

THEY SHOULD SECURE SOCIAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

BUT SHE SAID THE QUESTION REMAINED WHETHER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT.

+AFTER ALL, THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES UNDERLYING CAPITALISM AND SOCIALISM ARE ESSENTIALLY INCOMPATIBLE- AND, IN SAYING THAT, I AM NOT MAKING ANY VALUE JUDGEMENT AS TO THE RELATIVE MERITS OF EITHER PHILOSOPHY,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

AS IMAGINATIVE AS THE +ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS+ CONCEPT MIGHT BE, IT WAS A UNIQUE AND UNTRIED CONCEPT DEVELOPED BY THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP IN CHINA.

GIVEN THE MANY DISCONTINUITIES WHICH HAD CHARACTERISED THE POLICIES PURSUED BY SUCCESSIVE LEADERSHIPS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, WHAT GUARANTEE WAS THERE THAT A FUTURE LEADERSHIP WOULD HONOUR THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT? SHE ASKED.

+SO THIS RESIDUAL QUESTION, BASED AS IT IS ON LEGITIMATE DOUBTS, IS A FAIR QUESTION AND DESERVES TO BE ANSWERED,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

+BUT I BELIEVE,+ SHE WENT ON, +THERE ARE AT LEAST SIX REASONS WHY THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WILL BE FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENTED.

+FIRST: IT IS A FORMAL AND LEGALLY BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT FREELY NEGOTIATED, AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF FRIENDSHIP, BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN STATES.

+IT MAY NOT BE LEGALLY ENFORCEABLE BUT, WHEN THE JOINT DECLARATION IS SIGNED, BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE FORMALLY AGREED TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ITSELF AND ITS ANNEXES.

+THE HONOUR AND REPUTATION OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL THEN BE COMMITTED INTERNATIONALLY.

/+THE WORLD .....

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+THE WORLD AT LARGE WILL BE WATCHING WITH INTEREST AND THAT PROVIDES A REAL ASSURANCE THAT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

+THE WORLD AT LARGE WILL ALSO BE WATCHING DURING THE NEXT 12 YEARS OR SO FOR ANY SIGNS THAT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WILL BE DISREGARDED,+ SHE SAID.

+SECOND: THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP WOULD SURELY NOT HAVE COMMITTED SO MUCH NEGOTIATING EFFORT INTO REACHING AN AGREEMENT WITH HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND WHY SHOULD THEY HAVE AGREED TO SET OUT THEIR INTENDED POLICIES FOR THE HONG KONG SAR AFTER 1997 IN SUCH DETAIL IF THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF ADHERING TO THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT?

+THIRD: THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAVE STATED WITH CONVICTION, AND WITH APPARENT SINCERITY, AND CERTAINLY IN EXPLICIT TERMS, THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

+THEY HAVE THEREBY PUBLICLY STAKED THEIR PERSONAL PRESTIGE AND REPUTATION IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD.

+FOURTH: THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HAVE STATED THAT IT IS IN CHINA'S NATIONAL INTEREST TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.

+WHY?

+BECAUSE HONG KONG'S CONTINUED STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IS IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HISTORIC TASK OF CHINA'S REUNIFICATION AND THE FOUR MODERNISATIONS PROGRAMME.

+TO REPEAT, IF CHINA HAS NO INTENTION OF IMPLEMENTING THIS AGREEMENT, WHY SHOULD THEY HAVE SPENT TWO YEARS NEGOTIATING IT?

+AFTER ALL, 92 PER CENT OF HONG KONG REVERTS TO CHINA ON JULY 1, 1997, WITH OR WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT.

+INDEED, I SUBMIT THAT THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP NEGOTIATED LONG AND HARD IN THE LAST TWO YEARS SO THAT THE TERMS AGREED WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM AND WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS AND SO THAT THOSE TERMS CAN REALISTICALLY BE IMPLEMENTED.

+IN SO DOING THEY HAVE IN EFFECT SAID THAT THOSE ARE THE TERMS OF A SETTLEMENT WHICH WE PERCEIVE TO BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

+THIS BRINGS ME TO A FIFTH REASON WHY I BELIEVE THE CHINESE SIDE WILL FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT: HAVING TASTED THE FRUITS OF POST-CULTURAL REVOLUTION POLICIES, THE CHINESE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WILL NOT EASILY ACCEPT ANY MOVE WHICH IS LIKELY TO DIMINISH THE BENEFICIAL IMPACT OF THOSE POLICIES, INCLUDING A FAILURE OF THE HONG KONG SAR TO FULFIL ITS DESTINY, THAT IS TO SAY, TO HELP IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CHINA.

/+FINALLY: THE .....

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+FINALLY: THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP, PREOCCUPIED AS THEY ARE AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL POLICY WITH THE REUNIFICATION OF CHINA, CANNOT AFFORD TO PREJUDICE THE ULTIMATE ACHIEVEMENT OF THAT OBJECTIVE BY FAILING TO OBSERVE THE TERMS OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG WITH ALL THE DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES FOR CHINA'S REPUTATION ABROAD OF A DECLINE IN HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.+

MISS DUNN SAID APART FROM THE INTENTIONS OF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP, THERE WAS STILL THE QUESTION OF THE LIKELY ATTITUDE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP.

WOULD THEY IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT, HOWEVER LEGALLY BINDING IT MIGHT BE AND WHATEVER THE INTENTIONS OF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP?

NO COUNTRY -- NOT EVEN THE GREATEST DEMOCRACIES -- COULD GUARANTEE THE POLITICAL PERSUASIONS OF FUTURE GOVERNMENTS.

INDEED, THE HISTORIAN AND POLITICAL SCIENTIST MIGHT ARGUE THAT THE RISKS HONG KONG FACED WERE LESS THAN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES, SHE SAID.

HONG KONG HAD NEVER HAD ANY GUARANTEE FOR ITS CONTINUING EXISTENCE, GIVEN THAT NO CHINESE GOVERNMENT SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF THE CH'ING DYNASTY HAD RECOGNISED THE TREATIES THAT PROVIDED FOR HONG KONG'S PRESENT STATUS.

YET NOT ONLY HAD HONG KONG SURVIVED AND PROSPERED, ITS TERRITORIAL AND POLITICAL INTEGRITY WAS NOT BREACHED DURING EVEN THE WORST EXCESSES OF CHINA'S POLITICAL UPHEAVALS.

+THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTE GUARANTEES IN LIFE,+ MISS DUNN CONTINUED.

+THERE ARE ONLY WEAK OR STRONG INDICATIONS OF WHAT LIFE'S EXPECTATIONS MAY BE.

+IN THIS CASE THE INDICATIONS CLEARLY ARE GOOD: CHINA'S MODERNISATIONS POLICIES ARE WORKING; REAL INCOMES IN CHINA ARE RISING= PURELY IDEOLOGICAL PRECEPTS ARE BEING TEMPERED BY PRAGMATIC CONSIDERATIONS.+

THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP, COLLECTIVELY, HAD EMBARKED ON A PATH WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO RAISE THE RISING STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE NATION ONCE AND FOR ALL.

TO STRAY FROM THIS PATH WOULD BE FRAUGHT WITH DANGERS FOR THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP AND SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS.

IT FOLLOWED THAT THEY WERE MOST UNLIKELY TO OVERLOOK THE CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL PROSPERITY OF A STABLE HONG KONG.

+AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT IS AN ACT OF FAITH, BUT IT IS ONE WHICH HAS A SOUND BASIS,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

/+THE BEST .....

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+THE BEST WAY TO MINIMISE THE RISKS OF CHANGE IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO PLAY THEIR PART IN MAINTAINING THE DYNAMISM OF HONG KONG.

+SOME CHANGES THERE WILL BE WITHIN THE LIMITS DEFINED IN THE AGREEMENT AND, OF COURSE, THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO CHINA IS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN ITSELF INASMUCH AS THE COURSE OF HONG KONG'S HISTORY IN THE FUTURE WILL TEND TO REFLECT CHINA'S, THE SAR STATUS OF HONG KONG NOTWITHSTANDING.

+WHAT WE MUST NOW DO, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, IS TO ERECT A SUITABLE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT WELL BEFORE 1997 WHICH WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME AFTER 1997.

+IT MUST BE AT LEAST AS EFFECTIVE AS THE PRESENT STRUCTURE, ALBEIT WITH DIFFERENT ROOTS.

+IT MUST BE FOUNDED IN THE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE, ENERGY, TALENTS, INDUSTRIOUSNESS AND NATURAL CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE.

+THERE MUST BE NO OPTING OUT, FOR ANY REDUCTION IN HONG KONG'S USEFULNESS TO CHINA WILL PUT AUTONOMY AT RISK.

+LET IT NOT BE SAID THAT, BY THEIR HESITATION AND INEPTITUDE AND LACK OF VISION, HONG KONG PEOPLE BROUGHT ABOUT THE VERY SITUATION THEY FEARED AS A MERE POSSIBILITY,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

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CONCERNS TO BE EXPECTED -- PETER WONG  
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CONCERNS AND RESERVATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WERE TO BE EXPECTED, THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, MR WONG SAID, HOWEVER, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE JUDGED AS A WHOLE AND VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL AND POLITICAL REALITIES.

+ADMITTEDLY, THE AGREEMENT IS NOT PERFECT= NOR DOES IT ANSWER EVERY QUESTION OR SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM RELATING TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

+REGRETTABLY, THERE IS NO REALISTIC POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THE TEXT.

+IT MUST BE TAKEN AS A WHOLE.

/+REJECTING IT .....

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+REJECTING IT WOULD MEAN THAT CHINA WILL MAKE ITS OWN UNILATERAL DECLARATION WHICH WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INCLUDE ALL THE ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT, NOR WOULD IT HAVE THE SAME STATUS AS A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT.

+IN MY VIEW THE AGREEMENT IS A GOOD ONE AND I STRONGLY RECOMMEND IT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ MR WONG SAID.

IT PROVIDED A WORKABLE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO PRESERVE ITS UNIQUE ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND WAY OF LIFE.

IT MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR HONG KONG.

+IT IS NOW UP TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS FREELY NEGOTIATED ACCORD AND BUILD FOR THEMSELVES A PROSPEROUS AND DEMOCRATIC REGION IN WHICH THEY WILL BE PROUD AND HAPPY TO LIVE AND WORK AND ALSO A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.+

MR WONG SAID SOME CONCERN HAD BEEN EXPRESSED AS TO WHETHER THE AGREEMENT WAS IN FACT LEGALLY BINDING, BUT LEGAL EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW WERE OF THE OPINION THAT IT WAS.

THERE WAS NO REASON TO THINK OTHERWISE.

THE EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA DEALT WITH THE SINGLE ISSUE OF PASSPORTS AND SINCE IT WAS A FORMAL EXCHANGE AND ASSOCIATED WITH THE AGREEMENT THERE WAS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT THE CONTENTS WOULD NOT BE HONOURED, HE SAID.

ON NATIONALITY, HE SAID REACTION TO THIS ISSUE +IS LESS THAN FAVOURABLE+, AND ONE WOULD HAVE HOPED THAT A BETTER SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND.

HE SAID THE BASIC LAW, YET TO BE DRAFTED, WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

CHINA'S BASIC POLICIES AS SET OUT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND ELABORATED IN ANNEX I WOULD ALL BE STIPULATED IN THE BASIC LAW.

IN THIS RESPECT, THERE WAS ROOM FOR FLEXIBILITY WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE STATED POLICIES.

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD STATED THAT IT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+TO THAT EXTENT, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO STATE POSITIVELY OUR PREFERENCES IN THE HOPE THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER THEM SYMPATHETICALLY,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS A MATTER OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD SPARE NO EFFORT IN ESTABLISHING A GOOD AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON ITS GOODWILL AND ASSISTANCE.

/+CO-OPERATION, MUTUAL .....

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+CO-OPERATION, MUTUAL TRUST AND RESPECT ARE THE KEY FACTORS TO A SUCCESSFUL HONG KONG, CHINA,+ MR WONG SAID.

IN CONCLUSION, MR WONG SAID IN THE DAYS AHEAD, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF INTERESTED PARTIES WOULD HAVE TO TRANSLATE THE AGREEMENT INTO REALITY.

+WHATEVER THE ODDS, WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO MAKE IT WORK,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

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HOW PEOPLE SHOULD HANDLE THE FUTURE -- WONG LAM  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD HANDLE THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE BY MAKING PROPOSALS TO FOUR PARTIES, THE HON WONG LAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (MONDAY).

+THE FIRST IS TO BOTH UK AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS JOINTLY; THE SECOND IS TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT; THE THIRD IS TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT; AND THE FOURTH IS TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THEMSELVES,+ HE SAID WHEN SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

MR WONG SUGGESTED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD ASK BOTH THE UK AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL THAT, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY MEANS OF AN EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDUM WITH CERTAIN POINTS WHICH MIGHT EMERGE AS A RESULT OF POLITICAL CHANGES OR NEW DEVELOPMENTS SO LONG AS THEY WERE NOT CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT AND PRILE OF THE AGREEMENT.

+TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD ASK THAT. IN THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, IT SHOULD HAVE AN OPEN MIND AND TRY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT THE OPINION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT IN DRAFTING THE BASIC LAW, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT COULD INVITE LEGAL EXPERTS FROM HONG KONG TO TAKE PART SO THAT THEY MIGHT MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION WITH THEIR RICH EXPERIENCE.

HE ADDED THAT, GIVEN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NON-INTERVENTION POLICY, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER INSTITUTIONALISING IT IF POSSIBLE.

/TO THE .....

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TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD ASK FOR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLITICAL STRUCTURE TO USHER THE ERA OF +HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG+.

+TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THE SAYING 'GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES' IS RELEVANT AND THEY SHOULD SET STRICT DEMANDS ON THEMSELVES.

+FIRST, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD FACE REALITY WITH A COURAGEOUS AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

BEING OVER OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC WAS NOT THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TO TAKE IN RESOLVING THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE, HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THE HANDLING OF ECONOMIC MATTERS, BUT SHOULD BE EXTENDED ALSO TO POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

HE SAID THE ABLE AND TALENTED LEADERS SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD STRENGTHEN THEIR POLITICAL AWARENESS ON THE OTHER.

ON THE AGREEMENT ITSELF, HE FELT THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE CLARIFIED.

+I PERSONALLY CONSIDER THAT THE AGREEMENT (OR THE ANNEXES) SHOULD GIVE MORE DETAIL TO THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF APPOINTING A CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CLEARLY DEFINE UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BE SELECTED BY CONSULTATION, UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL HE BE ELECTED, WHETHER THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO VETO SUCH APPOINTMENTS AND IF SO UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO BELIEVED IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE AGREEMENT MUST CLEARLY DEFINE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE AND HOW THE LATTER CAN PERFORM THE FUNCTION OF MONITORING THE FORMER.

HE SAID THE AGREEMENT SHOULD CLARIFY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LAWS ALREADY IN FORCE IN HONG KONG, THE BASIC LAW AND THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION.

HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD THE CHOICE OF ACCEPTING THE AGREEMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY OR NOT ACCEPTING IT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE 13 YEARS BEFORE THE MAIN PARTS OF THE AGREEMENT WERE IMPLEMENTED, NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR NEW FACTORS MIGHT EMERGE; SOME MIGHT EVEN BE ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED BY BOTH PARTIES AT THE TIME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

+THIS CALLS FOR NECESSARY ADDITIONS TO THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT PROVIDED THESE ARE IN LINE WITH THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS REACHED.

/+FURTHERMORE, I .....

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+FURTHERMORE, I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MAY NOT ASK FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT, BUT SEEK TO STRIKE A COMPROMISE, SAY, BY WAY OF EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDUM ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES IN ORDER TO SUPPLEMENT ON CERTAIN IMPORTANT ISSUES.

+TO ALLOW THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THE ALTERNATIVE OF NO CHOICE CAN EASILY ROUSE THEM TO ADOPT A HELPLESS AND INDIFFERENT ATTITUDE,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG CONSIDERED SETTING UP THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE +A WASTE OF HONG KONG TAXPAYERS' MONEY+ AS THERE WERE ALREADY MANY CHANNELS WHEREBY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR ORGANISATIONS COULD MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN, SUCH AS THROUGH THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE UMELCO OFFICE.

HE BELIEVED THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD NOT FEEL WORRIED AND SCARED.

+I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AND INTRICATE BASIC LAW, WITH THE SINCERITY OF THE UK AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, WITH CHINA ACTIVELY PURSUING THE NON-INTERVENTION POLICY, WITH MANY OTHER COUNTRIES LENDING SUPPORT TO THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT AND CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN AND EXTEND THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH HONG KONG, WITH THE HONG KONG PEOPLE TAKING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO FACE THE FUTURE, THERE IS REALLY NO NEED FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE TO FEEL WORRIED AND SCARED,+ HE SAID.

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PEOPLE'S CONCERN OVER CONSCRIPTION RAISED BY K.F. HO  
\* \* \* \* \*

PROVISIONS SHOULD BE MADE FOR OVERSEAS CHINESE OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION TO SERVE ON THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND FOR PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY TO BE REPRESENTED ON ITS SPECIALIST SUB-GROUPS, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE AGREEMENT, HE SAID IT WAS INADEQUATE TO RELY ON MERE CONSULTATION WITH HONG KONG PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING THE BASIC LAW.

HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR) AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO BE DEFINED IN MORE UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS, HE SAID.

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID PEOPLE WERE ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHETHER CONSCRIPTION IN THE HONG KONG SAR WOULD BE ADMINISTERED AT ALL.

HE APPEALED FOR THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF PROVIDING SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, INCLUDING THE FUNDING OF SERVICES, THE ROLE PLAYED BY GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SOCIAL SYSTEMS TO BE ENSHRINED IN THE BASIC LAW.

+IN ADDITION, I WOULD LIKE TO SEEK SOME CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE EXTENT OF LEGAL BINDING EFFECTS ON THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE NATIONALITY ISSUE, WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN THE EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA,+ HE SAID.

DR HO ANALYSED THE DRAFT AGREEMENT FROM THREE ASPECTS -- CONTENT, IMPLICATION OF ACCEPTANCE AND ENFORCEABILITY.

+TO ME,+ DR HO SAID, +THE DRAFT AGREEMENT IS ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY AND FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR LIFESTYLE.

+IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO MAKE THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WORK, AND IT IS UP TO US TO TAKE OPTIMUM ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE CREATED BY THIS HISTORIC DOCUMENT,+ HE ADDED.

HE STRESSED IT WAS VITAL THAT PEOPLE AIR THEIR VIEWS AS THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD AFFECT EVERYONE IN HONG KONG FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

+OUR SUGGESTIONS ABOUT DEFICIENCIES OR OMISSIONS WILL BE MONITORED BY THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE AND WILL SERVE AS SOURCES OF REFERENCE FOR THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE.

+THESE VIEWS WILL EVENTUALLY BE RELAYED TO THE CHINESE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, WHICH I AM SURE WILL CONSIDER THEM IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION,+ HE SAID.

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BE POSITIVE, ALLEN LEE URGES HK PEOPLE  
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WE MUST CONTINUALLY REMIND OURSELVES OF CHINA'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS +ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS+, SAID THE HON ALLEN LEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT WE SHOULD BE POSITIVE AND DETERMINED TO STRIVE FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE.

+WE SHOULD VOICE OUR OPINIONS CLEARLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY AND ESTABLISH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST,+ HE ADDED.

MR LEE SAID HE WOULD BE DISHONEST IF HE WERE TO SAY THAT ALL HIS CONCERNS ABOUT THIS CONCEPT HAD BEEN ALLEVIATED BY THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AND HE BELIEVED THAT MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG SHARED THE SAME VIEW.

HOWEVER, HAVING LISTENED TO AND OBSERVED WHAT CHINESE LEADERS HAD BEEN SAYING ON THIS SUBJECT AND WHAT PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG TOLD THE DELEGATION LED BY SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, OF WHICH HE (MR LEE) WAS A MEMBER, HE BELIEVED THAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE MUST VIEW IT POSITIVELY AND CONTRIBUTE OUR PART TO ASSURE THAT HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW IN THE FUTURE.

ON THE ISSUE OF MAINTAINING HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY ANDM STABILITY, MR LEE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S PAST SUCCESS WAS DUE FIRST TO THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES, SECOND, TO AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY THAT GUARANTEED THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE; AND, THIRD, TO INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THEIR CONTINUED INVESTMENT AND IN TURN PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

HE STRESSED THAT THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG MUST HAVE CREDIBILITY IN THE EYES OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE AND MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THEM.

+EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE BEIJING GOVERNMENT.

+IN MY OPINION, IT IS NOT EASY TO ACHIEVE A CREDIBLE GOVERNMENT UNLESS WE CONSCIENTIOUSLY AND GRADUALLY EVOLVE INTO A GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM THAT IS TRULY SERVING THE PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER THE OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

AS FOR THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997, HE SAID A FRIEND OF HIS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION BELIEVED THAT THE LEGAL PROFESSION WOULD ACCEPT THIS DRAFT AGREEMENT.

/ON THE .....

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ON THE QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE, HE CONCEDED THAT HE COULD NOT CLAIM THAT CONFIDENCE OF LOCAL INVESTORS WOULD RETURN IMMEDIATELY AND BELIEVED THAT WE SHOULD HAVE TO OBSERVE FOR THREE TO SIX MONTHS BEFORE WE COULD SEE ANY SIGNS OF RECOVERY IN INVESTMENT.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, I BELIEVE THOSE WHO ARE NOT WILLING TO INVEST FURTHER IN HONG KONG WOULD NOT INVEST ANYWAY.

+BUT THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO MAKING A DECISION OF INVESTING IN HONG KONG SHOULD FIND THIS DRAFT AGREEMENT ENCOURAGING,+ HE SAID.

HE THEN LISTED THE RELEVANT PARAGRAPHS IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND SAID: +ALL IN ALL, I BELIEVE THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS OF MAINTAINING HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY CAN BE ACHIEVED PROVIDED THAT THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT IS A CREDIBLE GOVERNMENT WHICH CAN BE RELIED UPON TO CARRY OUT THESE POLICIES.+

TURNING TO THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, MR LEE MENTIONED THE FOUR BASIC REQUIREMENTS WHICH WERE CONSIDERED TO BE ESSENTIAL TO THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE AGREEMENT SET OUT IN THE UMELCO STATEMENT OF MAY THIS YEAR.

HE SAID HE PERSONALLY CONSIDERED THE FOUR REQUIREMENTS HAD BEEN MET, THOUGH SOME PEOPLE MIGHT WISH TO SEE MORE DETAILS IN CERTAIN AREAS.

+THERE ARE SUFFICIENT DETAILS IN THIS DRAFT AGREEMENT ON WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN PLAN AND BUILD THEIR FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

MR LEE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY SIR S.Y. CHUNG, THE GOVERNOR, TO THE MANY LOCAL DELEGATIONS WHICH HAD GONE TO BEIJING TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS AND TO THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP FOR THEIR PATIENCE IN HEARING REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+THIS DRAFT AGREEMENT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A NEW HONG KONG.

+IT IS UP TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO MAKE FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS OUR FUTURE.

+I SUPPORT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH CLEAR CONSCIENCE AND I SUPPORT THE MOTION BEFORE THIS COUNCIL TODAY,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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REMAIN COOL AND FIRM, SAYS ANDREW SO  
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THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD REMAIN COOL AND FIRM TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE, THE HON ANDREW SO SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG.

+WE MUST DEVOTE OUR EFFORTS TO MANAGING OUR AFFAIRS IN THE USUAL MANNER.

+I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE LEADERS IN CHINA AND BRITAIN WILL BE CAUTIOUS IN DEALING WITH AFFAIRS RELATING TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL DO THEIR BEST TO STRIVE FOR THE CONTINUAL PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

MR SO BORROWED A STORY TOLD BY DR SUN YAT-SEN ABOUT A COOLIE WHO BOUGHT A LOTTERY TICKET TO DRAW AN ANALOGY ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

IN THE STORY, THE COOLIE BECAME SO OVERJOYED WHEN HE DISCOVERED HE HAD WON THE FIRST PRIZE THAT HE THREW AWAY THE BAMBOO POLE AND ROPES IN WHICH HE HAD HIDDEN THE TICKET.

MR SO SAID: +THE AGREEMENT IS LIKE THE LOTTERY TICKET. THE NUMBER IS 1997. LIKE A LOTTERY TICKET, THE AGREEMENT MAY BECOME THE KEY TO PROSPERITY.

+SIMILARLY, THE BAMBOO POLE AND ROPES ARE LIKE THE EXISTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AND THE WAY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG. THEY ARE OUR MEANS OF MAKING A LIVING.

+ALTHOUGH TO BE OPTIMISTIC IS A NORMAL AND HEALTHY ATTITUDE, WE MUST NOT BE IMPULSIVE OR BE BLINDED BY GREED.

+IT MUST BE NOTED THAT STABILITY AND PROSPERITY ARE THE RESULTS OF INCESSANT HARD WORK,+ HE SAID.

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F.K. HU URGES SINCERITY THROUGH PERFORMANCE  
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IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVE ITS SINCERITY BY ACTUAL PERFORMANCE IN THE NEXT 13 YEARS IN ORDER TO REINFORCE HONG KONG PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN THE AGREEMENT ON THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE HON F.K. HU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

HE SAID THERE WERE SOME DOUBTS IN THE MIND OF CERTAIN PEOPLE AS TO WHETHER CHINA WOULD IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT TO THE FULL AND IN GOOD SPIRIT.

HE SAID HE HAD FULL CONFIDENCE THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD FULFIL THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE POLITICALLY IT WOULD ENABLE CHINA TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF UNIFICATION AND UPHOLD ITS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION OF HONOURING AGREEMENTS; AND ECONOMICALLY IT WOULD ASSIST ITS FOUR MODERNISATIONS PROGRAMME THROUGH THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ITSELF, HE SAID THAT CERTAIN POINTS NEEDED CLARIFICATION.

HE SUGGESTED THAT CHINESE MILITARY FORCES SHOULD ONLY BE STATIONED IN THE REMOTE BORDER AREAS AWAY FROM CONCENTRATIONS OF POPULATION TO ENSURE MINIMUM POSSIBLE DISTURBANCES OR CLASH WITH HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

+ IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SHOULD HAVE THE FULL AUTHORITY TO COMMAND THE FORCES AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-ORDINATION WITH THE POLICE IN NECESSARY ACTIONS REQUIRED TO MEET THE SITUATIONS, + HE ADDED.

MR HU SAID THAT DURING THEIR STAY IN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, MILITARY PERSONNEL SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO HONG KONG LAWS ON CIVIL AND CRIMINAL MATTERS AND THAT HONG KONG SHOULD RETAIN ITS OWN VOLUNTEER REGIMENT WHICH WOULD HELP TO MAINTAIN ORDER TOGETHER WITH THE POLICE WHENEVER NECESSARY.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO CONSCRIPTION, BUT THEY COULD VOLUNTEER TO SERVE IN THE HONG KONG REGIMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER IN HONG KONG.

ON THE POINT THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATURE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WOULD BE COMPOSED OF LOCAL INHABITANTS, HE SAID: + I WOULD SUGGEST THAT LOCAL INHABITANTS SHOULD BE DEFINED AS THOSE WHO WERE BORN IN HONG KONG OR HAVE BEEN LIVING CONTINUOUSLY HERE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 20 YEARS. +

/ON THE .....

ON THE ARRANGEMENTS ABOUT LAND LEASES, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

- \* LAND LEASES NOT HAVING THE RIGHT OF RENEWAL AND EXPIRING AFTER JUNE 30, 1997, SHOULD ALSO BE EXTENDED FOR A PERIOD EXPIRING NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2047, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL PREMIUM, BUT AT AN ANNUAL RENT EQUIVALENT TO THREE PER CENT OF THE CURRENT RATEABLE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY FROM THE DATE OF EXTENSION;
- \* THE PRACTICE THAT LEASES WHERE THE LAND IS ZONED FOR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTIONAL, COMMUNITY USE OR AS OPEN SPACE ON TOWN PLANS ARE NOT REGRANTED SHOULD CONTINUE, BUT INSTEAD OF GOVERNMENT TAKING SUCH PROPERTIES INTO MANAGEMENT ON EXPIRATION OF THE LEASES, EXTENSIONS SHOULD BE GRANTED WHICH WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEED OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND THAT SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD ALSO BE ADOPTED AFTER 1997;
- \* THERE SHOULD BE A COMMITMENT FOR 'LEASES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES' TO BE FURTHER EXTENDED UPON EXPIRY EVEN BEYOND 1997 IN ORDER TO GIVE THE LEASE HOLDERS CONCERNED AN ASSURANCE OF CONTINUITY SO THAT THEY MAY CARRY OUT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT BEFORE 1997 IF NECESSARY, PROVIDED THEY CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE LEASES WERE ORIGINALLY GRANTED; AND
- \* THE LIMIT OF NEW LAND TO BE GRANTED EACH YEAR SHOULD BE APPLIED WITH REASONABLE FLEXIBILITY.

MR HU CALLED ON THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO HAVE FAITH IN THEIR FUTURE BECAUSE THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG WAS IN THEIR HANDS.

+AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT NEW CHALLENGES IN OUR POLITICAL STRUCTURE WHICH WILL GRADUALLY EVOLVE TOWARDS REPRESENTATIVE LINES.

+HOWEVER, WE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT IN ANY EVENT, PROSPERITY AND STABILITY CANNOT BE SACRIFICED FOR ACHIEVING DEMOCRACY IN A HURRY AS IT MIGHT DAMAGE A GOOD INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT.

+HONG KONG WILL ONLY BE OF USE TO CHINA IF IT REMAINS PROSPEROUS AND STABLE,+ HE SAID.

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ENTREPRENEURS SHOULD ACT NOW - WONG PO-YAN  
\* \* \* \* \*

STEPS MUST BE TAKEN BEFORE 1997 TO SEEK AGREEMENT AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE TERRITORIES AND COUNTRIES WHICH ARE OR WILL BE ASSOCIATED WITH HONG KONG REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE POLICIES LISTED IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN WHEN SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+UNDOUBTEDLY THIS IS NOT ONLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRESENT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP WHICH IS SHORTLY TO BE FORMED, BUT IS ALSO THE OBJECTIVE WHICH EVERY LOCAL INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION, AND INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE BODY SHOULD STRIVE FOR,+ HE SAID.

+I APPEAL TO THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS OF HONG KONG, BESIDES CONCENTRATING ON THE OPERATION OF THEIR ENTERPRISES, ALSO TO STUDY CAREFULLY THE CORRESPONDING CHANGES RESULTING FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD AND IN THE FUTURE, SO THAT THEY CAN PROCEED WITH THEIR WORK SMOOTHLY AND ENABLE THEIR TRADE COUNTERPARTS TO HAVE A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

IN THE DAYS TO COME, MR WONG SAID, WE MUST MAINTAIN THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND KEEP ON MAKING FURTHER PROGRESS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY.

HE SAID THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO INJECT NEW INVESTMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT, TO MAKE UP FOR THE DEFICIENCY IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

+FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT, AND TO KEEP THEIR STATUS IN THE COMPETING MARKET, LOCAL MANUFACTURERS MUST GIVE UP THE WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE AND PURSUE ACTIVELY THE BOOSTING OF THEIR COMPETITIVE STATUS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE CONSIDERED THE COMING YEAR AND THE ONE FOLLOWING TO BE A CRITICAL PERIOD. OUR ENTREPRENEURS SHOULD POSITIVELY KEEP UP THEIR ENERGIES AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE CORRESPONDING MEASURES TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS.

HE ADDED THAT LOCAL AND FOREIGN ENTREPRENEURS IN HONG KONG WOULD HAVE +A NEW AND WIDE SPHERE+ FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES SINCE CHINA WAS PURSUING A +FOUR MODERNISATIONS+ POLICY.

HE BELIEVED THAT AS A RESULT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHINA WOULD REQUIRE RESOURCES TO REFORM TRADE AND ENTERPRISE, AS WELL AS THE IMPORT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BEYOND WHAT HONG KONG HAD.

/+IN THIS .....

+IN THIS RESPECT, HONG KONG MAY, APART FROM UTILISING ITS OWN RESOURCES, ACT AS A GUIDE AND BRIDGE USING THE CONNECTIONS WHICH IT HAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE WORLD OVER THE LAST 20 TO 30 YEARS,+ HE SUGGESTED.

+THROUGH THIS PROCESS, THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUCCESSES MADE BY LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WILL SURELY BE BIGGER THAN THEIR OWN RESOURCES CAN POSSIBLY PRODUCE.+

COMMENTING ON THE FEAR THAT +THIS ESSENTIALLY SOUND AGREEMENT+ MIGHT NOT BE FULLY REALISED AND FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENTED, MR WONG SAID: +IN MY OPINION, JUDGING FROM THE COURSE OF HISTORY AND FROM CHINA'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGES SINCE 1979, I BELIEVE THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT WILL BE FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENTED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS, AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR OVER-ANXIETY.

+AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS OF ANXIETY AND INSTABILITY, IT IS NOW TIME FOR US TO CLEAR OUR MINDS AND TO SEEK A BETTER FUTURE BY MAINTAINING, SENSIBLY AND CALMLY, THE PERSEVERANCE ALWAYS SHOWN BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+WE DO NOT NEED SENSATIONAL SLOGANS, BUT WE MUST HAVE STEADFAST DETERMINATION AND EVERYONE MUST TRY HIS BEST IN ALL SPHERES TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND ENHANCE ITS PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

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TIME FOR WISE JUDGEMENT, BILL BROWN SAYS  
\* \* \* \*

THE MOST DIFFICULT QUESTION TO ANSWER ON THE DRAFT SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT HAS BEEN WHETHER WE ARE COMMENDING IT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BECAUSE WE REALLY BELIEVE IT TO BE ACCEPTABLE OR WHETHER WE ARE COMMENDING IT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO OPTION TO DO OTHERWISE, THE HON W.C.L. BROWN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

MR BROWN WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, WHICH HE SUPPORTED.

+THIS HISTORIC DOCUMENT - AND WHATEVER ONE'S VIEWS OF ITS CONTENTS THE WORD HISTORIC IS SURELY A MOST DESERVED DESCRIPTION - THIS HISTORIC DOCUMENT IS REMARKABLE BOTH FOR ITS DETAIL AND ITS HONESTY,+ MR BROWN SAID.

+IN THIS LATTER CONTEXT I REFER TO THE QUITE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO REALISTIC POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING ITS TEXT, AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE IN FACT FACED WITH A HOBSON'S CHOICE OF EITHER ACCEPTING IT OR REJECTING IT.

/+IN REALITY .....

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+IN REALITY THIS IS NO CHOICE AT ALL, SO IT IS PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING THAT MOST COMMENT HAS ENDORSED THE PROPOSALS.+

HE SAID NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, HOWEVER, AND BEARING IN MIND OSCAR WILDE'S OBSERVATION THAT WHEN MOST PEOPLE AGREED WITH HIM HE FELT HE MUST BE WRONG, HE DID FIND HIS OWN VIEWS COINCIDING WITH THOSE OF MANY WHO HAD INDICATED SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF A GENERAL FEELING IT WAS REASONABLE AND SENSIBLE, AND A PARTICULAR BELIEF THAT IT ADDRESSED ALL OF THE ISSUES RAISED IN THIS COUNCIL, AND ELSEWHERE, WHILE THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS.

+IT IS A TRUISM THAT ONLOOKERS OFTEN SEE MORE OF THE GAME THAN THE PLAYERS, AND IT HAS BEEN BOTH INTERESTING AND ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT THE AGREEMENT HAS MET WITH ALMOST UNIVERSAL APPLAUSE FROM PARTIES OVERSEAS WHO HAVE PLAYED NO PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT WHO, NONETHELESS, ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE AS TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE ISSUES INVOLVED,+ MR BROWN SAID.

+IT IS OF COURSE ALWAYS EASIER TO SAY A THING THAN TO DO IT, AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE AGREEMENT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WILL BE DETERMINED BY HISTORY MUCH MORE ACCURATELY THAN THE WISEST PROPHET CAN FORECAST IN 1984,+ HE SAID.

+ARE WE WISE, THEREFORE, TO COMMEND THIS AGREEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TODAY?+

IT WAS THEODORE ROOSEVELT WHO SAID THAT NINE-TENTHS OF WISDOM IS TO BE WISE IN TIME.

+FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THIS IS THE TIME FOR WISE JUDGEMENT, AND FOR THE MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL IT IS CRUCIAL THAT WE OURSELVES READ ARIGHT THE PRESENT.

+MY OWN READING OF THE PRESENT IS THAT THE AGREEMENT MARKS THE POINT IN OUR HISTORY WHEN WE CAN LEAVE ASIDE THE UNCERTAINTIES AND THE WORRIES OF THE RECENT PAST, AND GET BACK TO WHAT WE ALL REALLY WANT TO DO.

+THAT IS TO CONTINUE BUILDING A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY THAT WE CAN BE PROUD TO HAND TO THE NEXT GENERATION.

+THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DESERVE A GOOD AGREEMENT.

+THEY HAVE NOT GOT A PERFECT AGREEMENT, AS I THINK IS OBVIOUS FROM THE VARIOUS RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY MY COLLEAGUES THIS AFTERNOON, WHICH I ENDORSE, BUT NOTHING IN LIFE IS PERFECT AND I BELIEVE THE AGREEMENT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE GOT IS THE BEST POSSIBLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

+IN SUPPORTING THE MOTION I COMMEND IT TO THEM,+ MR BROWN STATED.

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'BEST OF A BAD DEAL' - JOHN SWAINE SAYS  
\* \* \* \* \*

DOUBTS ABOUT HOW HARD BRITAIN NEGOTIATED ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG'S 5.5 MILLION PEOPLE DURING THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS WERE EXPRESSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (MONDAY).

THE HON JOHN SWAINE, WHO ABSTAINED FROM VOTING ON THE MOTION ENDORSING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, SAID THE PEOPLE HERE LOOKED TO BRITAIN TO NEGOTIATE FOR THEM, BUT HOW HARD DID BRITAIN TRY ON THEIR BEHALF, HE ASKED?

+I AM NOT PERSUADED THAT SHE DID ALL IN HER POWER FOR HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+I THINK SHE WENT TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH ONE ARM TIED BEHIND HER BACK.+

SHE DISABLED HERSELF A LONG TIME AGO WHEN SHE CLOSED THE DOOR TO HONG KONG.

SHE DID THIS BY A SERIES OF IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACTS WHICH TURNED THE HONG KONG PASSPORT HOLDER INTO A SECOND-CLASS CITIZEN.

+IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM, HOW HARD WILL YOU NEGOTIATE ON THEIR BEHALF?

+JUST AS IMPORTANT, WHAT IS THE CHINESE PERCEPTION OF YOUR NEGOTIATING STANCE?+

WITHIN THESE LIMITS, HE BELIEVED BRITAIN OBTAINED THE BEST DEAL POSSIBLE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IT WAS THE BEST OF A BAD DEAL.

+I CANNOT SEE THE OCCASION AS ONE FOR REJOICING,+ HE SAID.

THE THING NOW WAS TO MAKE THE AGREEMENT WORK.

WE MUST ENSURE THAT WHEN THE TIME CAME THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY PROMISED WAS NOT AN EMPTY PHRASE, MR SWAINE SAID.

HE WELCOMED THE ASSURANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, FOR THEY MUST BE THE WATCHDOGS OF THE PERSONAL FREEDOMS THAT HAD BEEN PROMISED.

HE ALSO WELCOMED THE PROVISION WHICH WOULD PERMIT JUDGES FROM OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS TO BE RECRUITED, AND INVITED TO SIT IN THE HONG KONG COURT OF APPEAL.

+WHEN THE TIME COMES, WILL THEY BE SO RECRUITED OR INVITED?+ HE ASKED.

/POWER STARTED .....

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POWER STARTED AT THE TOP, HE SAID, AND THE JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDED FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT ON THE BASIS OF ELECTIONS OR CONSULTATIONS HELD LOCALLY. THESE TERMS WERE NOT DEFINED AND WE HAD NO ASSURANCE THAT THE CHINESE PERCEPTION OF THEM WAS THE SAME AS OURS.

THE LEGISLATURE WOULD BE CONSTITUTED BY ELECTIONS, BUT WHERE WERE THE SAFEGUARDS THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE FREE AND GENUINE?

+INFILTRATION OF THE SYSTEM AND SUPPRESSION OF DISSENT BY PRESSURE OR FEAR IS OUR GREATEST DANGER,+ HE SAID.

+DESPITE THE DETAIL CONTAINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE STILL BEING ASKED TO TAKE A LOT ON TRUST.

+I DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE IS PACKING HIS BAGS BECAUSE OF THE AGREEMENT: HE WILL CONTINUE TO WAIT AND SEE, BUT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF CHOICE.

+I CANNOT ENDORSE THE AGREEMENT OR COMMEND IT TO THEM IN THE FACE OF THESE RESERVATIONS. I WILL THEREFORE ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON THE MOTION,+ MR SWAINE DECLARED.

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### JOB SECURITY GUARANTEE STRESSED

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THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG PROVIDED A SOLID GUARANTEE THAT JOB SECURITY, EMPLOYMENT TERMS AND THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WOULD BE PRESERVED, AND THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE WOULD CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY AT THE OPENING OF A CIVIL SERVICE CAREER EXHIBITION AT THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE TODAY (MONDAY).

A SPECIAL ARTICLE IN ANNEX I TO THE JOINT DECLARATION SPECIFIED THAT SERVING OFFICERS WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE IN EMPLOYMENT WITH THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT, MR BRAY SAID.

THEIR EMPLOYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS, INCLUDING PAY AND PENSIONS, WOULD BE NO LESS FAVOURABLE THAN BEFORE JULY 1, 1997, AND THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONS DEALING WITH PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WOULD BE RETAINED, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS WOULD BE MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND ON THE BASIS OF QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY.

+AN IMPARTIAL, STABLE AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE SUCH AS WE HAVE TODAY IS AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN ENSURING HONG KONG'S FUTURE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

THE CAREER EXHIBITION IS THE TENTH JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE APPOINTMENT SERVICE OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, PROVIDING A PREVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGE.

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### POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

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MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY CONSIDERED A PAPER ON THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERNAL ORGANISATION FOR POLLUTION CONTROL. THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH HAS REAPPRAISED THE EXISTING ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CONCLUDED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SHOULD PLAY A BIGGER AND MORE CENTRAL ROLE AND ASSUME MORE RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL LEGISLATION.

THE COMMITTEE SUPPORTED THESE CONCLUSIONS AND NOTED THAT RESERVATIONS HAD BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE LIKELY DISRUPTION WHICH WOULD BE CAUSED BY REORGANISATION. MEMBERS THOUGHT THAT THE DISADVANTAGES WOULD BE OUTWEIGHED IF MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER HONG KONG'S GROWING POLLUTION PROBLEMS COULD BE ACHIEVED.

/AT THE .....

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AT THE SAME MEETING A CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE SAFE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS WASTES WAS SUBMITTED TO MEMBERS FOR THEIR VIEWS.

THE CODE WILL BE ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE AND ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT LEGALLY BINDING IN ITSELF, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ITS RECOMMENDATIONS MAY PUT A DEFENDANT AT DISADVANTAGE IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

THE CODE WILL IDENTIFY THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ASBESTOS WASTES, ACCORDING TO THE DEGREE OF HAZARD, AND LAYS DOWN DIFFERENT PROCEDURES FOR THEIR SAFE HANDLING. THESE PROCEDURES WILL ENSURE THAT ASBESTOS WASTES AND ANY OTHER WASTE MATERIAL CONTAINING ASBESTOS ARE PROPERLY IDENTIFIED, SECURED AND TRANSPORTED TO DISPOSAL SITES.

A SEPARATE CODE, ENTITLED CONTROL OF ASBESTOS AT WORKS PUBLISHED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, GIVES GUIDANCE ON HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTECTION MEASURES FOR WORKERS WHO HANDLE ASBESTOS OR PRODUCE ASBESTOS WASTES.

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME SET UP BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITIES IN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG, TO MONITOR THE AIR AND WATER QUALITIES IN THE DEEP BAY AREA.

THEY ALSO RECEIVED A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR A REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER NEXT YEAR IN HONG KONG ON THE SUBJECT OF POLLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT. THE CONFERENCE IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY EPCOM AND THE HK INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS.

PROFESSOR BRIAN MORTON OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO DISPOSE OF THE FISHERIES RESEARCH VESSEL +TAI SHUN+. MEMBERS NOTED PROFESSOR MORTON'S VIEWS AND SUGGESTED THAT THEY BE PASSED ON TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

ANOTHER MEMBER, MR S.L. WAN, RAISED THE QUESTION OF EXTREME LEVELS OF NOISE NUISANCE BEING EXPERIENCED AT LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN IN TSUEN WAN IN ORDER TO ILLUSTRATE A GENERAL PROBLEM OF NOISE POLLUTION AND DIFFICULTIES OF CONTROL AS WELL AS THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE PUBLIC IN OBTAINING SATISFACTION WHEN MAKING COMPLAINTS.

MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE REMEDY IN THE CASE IN QUESTION WAS NOT A MATTER WHICH CALLED FOR THEIR ADVICE BUT THEY URGED MOST STRONGLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXAMINE PLANNING PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT GUIDELINES EXISTED TO PREVENT RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT TO HIGH NOISE LEVELS.

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KWUN TONG LAW COURTS OPENED

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THE JUDICIARY WAS IMPLEMENTING AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME OF CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MAGISTRACIES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS, THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE KWUN TONG LAW COURTS AT LEI YUE MUN ROAD, SIR DENYS SAID THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW COURT HOUSE MARKED THE FIRST STEP IN THE PROGRAMME.

HE SAID, +THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUMMARY MATTERS DEALT WITH BY MAGISTRATES IN 1961 WAS 124 920 AND 40 994 CHARGE SHEETS WERE ISSUED. BY 1983, THE EQUIVALENT FIGURES WERE 986 839 AND 163 436. THUS SUMMARY MATTERS HAVE INCREASED ALMOST EIGHT TIMES AND CHARGE SHEETS BY FOUR TIMES.+

MAGISTRACIES SUCH AS SAN PO KONG, FANLING, TSUEN WAN AND NORTH KOWLOON, HAD BEEN PATCHED, SUB-DIVIDED AND ALTERED TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT COURTS TO DEAL WITH THE HEAVY INCREASES IN POPULATION AND CASELOAD.

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID, +IT HAS BEEN APPARENT FOR SOME YEARS THAT WE WERE CLOSE TO THE LIMITS WHICH COULD BE ACHIEVED IN THIS MANNER AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO BUILD NEW MAGISTRACIES TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS, SINCE WE MUST EXPECT THAT BOTH THE WORK OF MAGISTRATES WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.

+THE NEW KWUN TONG LAW COURTS WILL CONTAIN EIGHT COURTS, ONE OF WHICH WILL BE USED AS A JUVENILE COURT, ONE AS A SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL AND FOUR AS MAGISTRATES COURTS. TWO WILL BE AVAILABLE AS DISTRICT COURTS, IF IT IS DECIDED TO STATION DISTRICT JUDGES IN KWUN TONG.+

ON OTHER NEW COURT-HOUSES, HE SAID THE ONE IN WAN CHAI WAS EXPECTED TO BE READY IN JUNE 1986, ACCOMMODATING 20 DISTRICT COURTS, 11 MAGISTRATES COURTS, FOUR LABOUR TRIBUNALS AND FOUR SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, NEW MAGISTRACIES CONTAINING EIGHT COURTS EACH WOULD BE BUILT IN SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THESE AREAS WITH THEIR FAST-GROWING POPULATION. THEY WOULD BE READY BY THE END OF 1986.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE PRESENT CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY IS TO BE PULLED DOWN WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, AS PART OF THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THAT AREA.

SIR DENYS SAID, + WHEN THIS OCCURS, WE HOPE THAT RATHER THAN REOCCUPY A COURT-HOUSE ON THE SAME SITE, WE WILL MOVE TO A NEW BUILDING IN THE SHAU KEI WAN AREA, DESIGNED TO SERVE THE NORTH EASTERN AREA OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

/+WE BELIEVE .....

+WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PROGRAMME WILL MEET MOST OF OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW MAGISTRACIES IN THE TERRITORY FOR THE NEXT DECADE, THOUGH THE REPLACEMENT OF THE OUT-OF-DATE BUILDING IN SOUTH KOWLOON IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

+IN ADDITION TO THE COURT-ROOMS, EACH OF OUR NEW BUILDINGS WILL CONTAIN COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR MAGISTRATES, STAFF, COUNSEL AND SOLICITORS, AND FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO USE THEM,+ HE ADDED.

AFTER THE SPEECH, SIR DENYS UNVEILED A PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW COURT BUILDING.

THE CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 100 PEOPLE INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND DIGNITARIES IN THE DISTRICT.

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AGEING THA'S TO BE REDEVELOPED  
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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL REDEVELOP ALL AGEING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS IN ITS LATEST EFFORT TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR TENANTS.

A REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IS NOW ON HAND FOR EXISTING THA'S, SOME OF WHICH WILL BE CLEARED FOR PERMANENT DEVELOPMENT.

THIS WAS REVEALED TODAY BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (OPERATIONS), MR H.H.T. BARMA, WHO OUTLINED THE WORK OF THE OPERATIONS BRANCH AT A MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES.

+THE STANDARD OF THA'S IN FUTURE WILL BE MUCH BETTER WITH SELF-CONTAINED UNITS IN FULLY CLADDED STRUCTURES,+ MR BARMA SAID.

IN FACT, MR BARMA POINTED OUT, THE STANDARDS AND PROVSIONS IN THA'S HAD BEEN ALL ALONG IMPROVING IN RECENT YEARS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, SPACE ALLOCATIONS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REVISED= FAMILY UNITS NOW HAVE THEIR OWN SHOWERS AND COOKING FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

+ALSO, INSTALLATION OF AIR-CONDITIONERS IN THA'S IS NOW FORMALLY PERMITTED WHILE FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN UPGRADED.

+SHOPPING FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED ON THA'S, MOST OF WHICH ARE WITHIN EASY ACCESS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.+

/MR BARMA .....

MR BARMA SAID TEMPORARY HOUSING WAS A STEPPING STONE TOWARDS PERMANENT HOUSING FOR PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS BY CLEARANCES OR NATURAL DISASTERS WHO WERE NOT INSTANTLY QUALIFIED FOR REHOUSING TO ESTATES.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 47 THA'S ACCOMMODATING OVER 40 000 FAMILIES OR 133 000 PERSONS.

AS THE QUALITY OF PERMANENT HOUSING WAS ALWAYS IMPROVING, MR BARMA SAID THE BENEFIT OF THA TENANTS HAD NOT BEEN NEGLECTED.

+FROM TIME TO TIME, THA RESIDENTS CAN APPLY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING THROUGH 'TRAWLING' EXERCISES WHICH ARE HELD WHEN ESTATE FLATS ARE AVAILABLE.

+IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, NEARLY 50 000 THA RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED PUBLIC HOUSING AND IT IS EXPECTED ANOTHER 13 000 WILL BE PERMANENTLY REHOUSED THIS YEAR.+

HE SAID THE RECENTLY APPROVED NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICIES PAID SPECIAL CARE TO THA RESIDENTS.

+UNDER THE NEW ALLOCATION POLICIES, THE 16 000 SINGLETONS AND 9 000 TWO-PERSON FAMILIES IN THA'S WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN REHOUSING TO PUBLIC HOUSING.

+IN ADDITION, THA TENANTS, WHO HAVE SEVEN YEARS RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG, ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR GREEN FORM STATUS FOR APPLYING HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS.+

ON SQUATTING ACTIVITIES, MR BARMA SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOW TOTALLY EFFECTIVE SQUATTER CONTROL WHEREBY ALL NEW ILLEGAL STRUCTURES WERE DEMOLISHED FORTHWITH UPON DETECTION.

+THIS IS ACHIEVED UNDER AN OPERATIONAL SYSTEM WHICH DIVIDES THE WHOLE TERRITORY INTO 329 AREAS TO WHICH DIFFERENT DEGREE OF EXTENSIVE PATROLS ARE CARRIED OUT.+

AS REGARDS THE IMPACT AND VOLUME OF WORK OF THE CLEARANCE DIVISION, HE SAID IT COULD BE ILLUSTRATED BY SOME BASIC STATISTICS.

+IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, WE HAVE CLEARED AND REHOUSED AN AVERAGE OF 60 000 PERSONS ANNUALLY WHILST A TOTAL OF \$111 MILLION IN EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION PER ANNUM HAS BEEN PAID OUT.

+ALL THIS REQUIRES A LOT OF FIELD WORK WHICH IS TIME-CONSUMING BUT THOROUGH,+ MR BARMA SAID.

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HIGHWAY CHIEF OFF TO RIO CONFERENCE  
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THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, MR HAROLD BEATON, LEAVES FOR LONDON TONIGHT (MONDAY) ON HIS WAY TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, FROM OCTOBER 20.

MR BEATON WILL BE PRESENTING A PAPER ON +BALANCING COST AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT IN ROAD PLANNING FOR HONG KONG+.

HE WILL DESCRIBE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT AROSE IN PLANNING AN IMPROVED ROAD FACILITY TO SERVE RESIDENTIAL AND RECREATIONAL AREAS ON THE SCENIC AND MOUNTAINOUS SOUTH SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

DELEGATES TO THE WEEK-LONG CONFERENCE WILL ALSO BE TOLD OF HONG KONG'S SECOND HARBOUR CROSSING AND THE EXPERIMENTAL ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING SCHEME.

WHILE IN LONDON, MR BEATON WILL MEET DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF AN AXLE WEIGHT SURVEY TO BE CARRIED OUT IN HONG KONG NEXT YEAR. HE WILL ALSO BE INSPECTING A NUMBER OF ROAD TUNNEL PROJECTS ON THE M25 HIGHWAY.

MR BEATON WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 2.

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BUILDING FOR BEACH GOERS  
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A BEACH BUILDING OCCUPIES A SITE OF 230 SQUARE METRES, WILL BE BUILT AT KIU TSUI BEACH, SAI KUNG.

IT WILL HAVE CHANGING, SHOWER AND TOILET FACILITIES, AN OFFICE, A FIRST-AID ROOM, A STOREROOM, A REFRESHMENT KIOSK AND A KITCHEN.

WORK ON THIS SINGLE STOREY CONCRETE BUILDING WILL START IN NOVEMBER AND BE COMPLETED IN JULY NEXT YEAR.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE BEING INVITED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THEY MUST BE SENT IN BEFORE NOON ON NOVEMBER 2.

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WATER MAINS WORKS IN FOUR AREAS  
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FRESH AND SALT WATER SUPPLY TO VARIOUS AREAS IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS FROM THURSDAY (OCTOBER 18) FOR WATER MAINS WORKS.

IN WAN CHAI, THE FRESH WATER SUPPLY WILL BE CUT FROM 11 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY FENWICK STREET, JOHNSTON ROAD, FLEMING ROAD AND LOCKHART ROAD, INCLUDING 1-31 AND 93-149 THOMSON ROAD AND 25-61 AND 183-211 JOHNSTON ROAD.

IN ABERDEEN, THE FRESH WATER TAPS WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT 40-100 AND 45-103 SHEK PAI WAN ROAD, 234-244 AND 223-227 ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD, ABERDEEN FISHERIES AND MARINE OFFICES AND ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET.

ALSO AFFECTED IS THE AREA BOUNDED BY TIN WAN HILL ROAD, HING WO STREET, TIN WAN CLOSE, KA WO STREET, TIN WAN STREET, TANG FUNG STREET, YUE WOK STREET, YUE LEI STREET AND YUE KO STREET.

MEANWHILE, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO KWUN TONG AND VARIOUS AREAS IN KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, ALSO ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 18) FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

IN KWUN TONG, THE SALT WATER SUPPLY WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING, CHOI WAN ESTATE, SHUN LEE ESTATE, SHUN TIN ESTATE, SHUN ON ESTATE AND PART OF KWUN TONG, INCLUDING HONG LEE ROAD, HONG NING ROAD AND KUNG LOK ROAD.

IN KOWLOON, SALT WATER SUPPLY WILL BE CUT IN VARIOUS AREAS FROM 10 AM TO 10 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AREAS ARE HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON CITY, LOK FU, FUNG WONG SUN CHUEN, TSZ WAN SHAN, KAI TAK, KOWLOON TONG, HAMMER HILL, DIAMOND HILL, WANG TAU HOM, TUNG TAU ESTATE, WONG TAI SIN, SAN PO KONG AND NGAU TAU KOK ESTATE BLOCKS 8-14.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURES  
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 84.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 493.897 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 581.052 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 99.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES  
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FROM NOON TOMORROW (TUESDAY), THE SECTION OF STREET J BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TUEN MUN POLYCLINIC WILL BE REROUTED INTO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

VEHICLES ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD WISHING TO ENTER STREET J CAN TRAVEL VIA STREET H AND STREET F.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PROHIBITED RIGHT-TURNING MOVEMENT FROM AUSTIN ROAD EASTBOUND INTO NATHAN ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE RESCINDED.

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