



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1992

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1992

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PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR  
THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN  
AFTER HIS POLICY SPEECH TO LEGCO  
ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1992  
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GOVERNOR: THE PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY WILL BE QUITE A SHORT ONE, FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE THERE IS GOING TO BE NO SHORTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES OF ASKING ME QUESTIONS OVER MY SPEECH OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. I'VE GOT AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF SESSION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW, AND THEN I'VE GOT PUBLIC MEETINGS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY EVENINGS, AND ANOTHER PUBLIC MEETING ON FRIDAY LUNCHTIME WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. SO FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE GOOD AT MARATHONS, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO HEAR MY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT MAY CONCEIVABLY ARISE AS A RESULT OF THE SPEECH THAT I'VE JUST GIVEN. SO THAT IS JUST A FRIENDLY INDICATION THAT I WILL ONLY BE ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR 20-25 MINUTES, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WHO WOULD LIKE TO START? PERHAPS IF WE COULD HAVE THE NORMAL RULES: IF YOU COULD JUST GIVE YOUR NAME AND NEWSPAPER OR TELEVISION STATION OR RADIO STATION AND THEN ASK ONE QUESTION, BECAUSE IT'S ONLY FAIR ON THE OTHERS.

YAU SING-MO (HK ECONOMIC TIMES): IF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES OUTLINED IN YOUR SPEECH, FOR EXAMPLE WITH RESPECT TO THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND THE CREATION OF A NEW ELECTORAL COLLEGE, WILL YOU GO AHEAD ELECTORALLY AND REGARDLESS OF CHINESE OBJECTIONS?

GOVERNOR: I THINK, INEVITABLY, AFTER ONE HAS MADE A SPEECH SETTING OUT PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION, LARGE NUMBERS OF THE QUESTIONS ARE HYPOTHETICAL. BUT THE FIRST LESSON I WAS TAUGHT WHEN I GOT INVOLVED IN POLITICS WAS NOT TO ANSWER HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS. WHAT I LOOK FORWARD TO DOING IS DISCUSSING MY SPEECH, AND OTHER MATTERS, WITH MR LU PING AND OTHER CHINESE OFFICIALS. I ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING MY SPEECH WITH MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT I HAVE THEIR THOUGHTS ON IT AS WELL AS THE THOUGHTS OF CHINESE OFFICIALS. IN DUE COURSE, WHAT THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG WILL OF COURSE BE REQUIRED TO DO IS TO PRESENT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THAT IS, AS IT WERE, THE END-GAME IN THIS PARTICULAR DISCUSSION AND I'M SURE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, LIKE THE GOVERNOR, WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF EVERYONE'S POINT OF VIEW WHEN THEY COME TO A CONCLUSION ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 1995.

ALICE LAI (MING PAO): IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH YOU SELDOM MENTIONED THE SINO-HONG KONG RELATIONSHIP BUT WHEN YOU WERE FIRST IN HONG KONG YOU SAID THAT THE SINO-HONG KONG RELATIONSHIP WILL BE THE TOP PRIORITY. IS THERE ANY CHANGE IN YOUR PRIORITIES AND WHAT IS THE RATIONALE BEHIND THAT?

/GOVERNOR: THERE .....

GOVERNOR: THERE IS NO CHANGE IN PRIORITY AND I DID REFER SEVERAL TIMES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. I THINK THAT IT SHOULD GO WITHOUT NEEDING TO BE SAID, THAT WE WANT TO HAVE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. I SAID THAT THIS AFTERNOON AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN, BUT I THINK THAT IF THAT WERE TO BE THE CONTENT OF EVERY PAGE OF EVERY SPEECH I MADE, PEOPLE MIGHT THINK THAT I'D GOT MY GRAMAPHONE NEEDLE STUCK - IF GRAMAPHONE NEEDLES STILL EXIST.

CATHERINE ONG (BUSINESS TIMES): BY SLASHING REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES FROM YOUR EXCO APPOINTMENTS, AREN'T YOU AFRAID THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY GETTING SUPPORT IN PASSING GOVERNMENT BILLS IN THE LEGCO?

GOVERNOR: I HOPE NOT. I SET OUT THE RATIONALE BEHIND MY DECISION AT SOME LENGTH IN MY SPEECH AND I'VE DISCUSSED IT WITH PARTY GROUPS AS WELL. I HAVE TO SECURE A MAJORITY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, WITH MY SENIOR OFFICIALS, IN WHATEVER WAY I CAN. I TALKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY I HAVE TO ARGUE MY CASE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND I HOPE BE CONVINCING ABOUT IT, THAT'S WHAT ACCOUNTABILITY MEANS.

ANDREW BROWN (TVB): I THINK THAT FELICE LIEH-MAK WAS A MEMBER OF THE CO-OPERATIVE RESOURCES CENTRE UNTIL VERY RECENTLY. ISN'T THERE A CONFLICT OF INTERESTS HAVING HER ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WHEN HER POLITICAL INTERESTS ARE SO OPENLY DECLARED?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T BELIEVE SO. SHE HAS LEFT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE LOOSE POLITICAL GROUPING OF WHICH SHE WAS A MEMBER. I THINK SHE HAS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SHE'S ENORMOUSLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES, PARTICULARLY IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE FIELDS, AND I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT HER APPOINTMENT WOULD BE WELCOMED BY MOST OF HER COLLEAGUES OR FORMER COLLEAGUES ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

LAURENCE ZUCKERMAN (INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE): I WAS WONDERING - THE PREMISE OF YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS SEEMS TO BE BASED ON THE FACT THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WANT MORE DEMOCRACY WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED LIMITS OF THE BASIC LAW - I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU CAME TO THAT CONCLUSION WHEN LAST SEPTEMBER'S ELECTIONS WERE SWEEPED BY THE UDHK WHICH CAMPAIGNED ON THE IDEA THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE, INCREASED DEMOCRACY BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE BASIC LAW?

/GOVERNOR: IN .....

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GOVERNOR: IN THE COMMUNITY AND MY IMPRESSION AFTER THREE MONTHS, RATHER MORE, BECAUSE I MET QUITE A LOT OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS BEFORE I CAME TO HONG KONG AND HAD DONE A LOT OF READING. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT PEOPLE WANT TO SEE DEMOCRACY TAKEN FORWARD BUT THEY WANT TO SEE IT TAKEN FORWARD IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY AND MOST OF THEM WOULD DEFINE THAT AS TAKEN FORWARD IN A WAY WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW; SO, WHAT I LOOKED FOR TODAY WAS WAYS IN WHICH I COULD DO THAT. LET'S CONSIDER WHAT THE PARAMETERS ARE. THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN POWER WISHES TO SEE THE PACE OF DEMOCRATISATION QUICKENED. THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWER HAS SAID NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE WHICH INVOLVES A CHANGE IN THE BASIC LAW. THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WITH A GREAT DEAL OF INHERENT WIT AND WISDOM, HAVE REACHED THE CONCLUSION, IN MY JUDGEMENT, OF WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING IS WAYS OF INCREASING, ENHANCING DEMOCRACY BUT THAT WILL LAST AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF HONG KONG'S MINI CONSTITUTION AFTER 1997. THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TRIED TO DO BUT DOUBTLESS IF I'VE GOT THE BALANCE WRONG PEOPLE WILL TELL ME BOTH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND IN THE PUBLIC MEETINGS THAT I AM ABOUT TO ATTEND. I THINK I'VE GOT IT ABOUT RIGHT BUT WE'LL SEE.

LEUNG YIU-WING (UNITED DAILY NEWS HK): SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY CRITICISED THAT YOU SET OUT YOUR POLITICAL REFORM WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION WITH THEM. THEN HOW ARE YOU GOING TO WIN THE BACKING OF THE CHINESE SIDE FOR YOUR POLITICAL REFORM?

GOVERNOR: LET'S BE CLEAR WHAT HAS ACTUALLY HAPPENED. WE GAVE NOTICE IN NEW YORK AND IN PEKING ABOUT PRECISELY WHAT I INTENDED TO DO, ALMOST TWO WEEKS AGO. WE SET OUT CONFIDENTIALLY IN TERMS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS WHAT MY PROPOSALS ON CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WOULD AMOUNT TO AND I THINK THAT THAT WAS A PROPER THING TO DO, TO GIVE CHINA AND CHINESE OFFICIALS DUE NOTICE OF WHAT I WAS INTENDING TO SAY. SECONDLY, THERE WAS THE ISSUE OF WHETHER I SHOULD SAY ANYTHING BEFORE I REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS. IF I MAY SAY SO WITHOUT BEING PROVOCATIVE, I HAVEN'T NOTICED THE REVERSE VERY OFTEN BEING THE CASE. I THINK CHINESE OFFICIALS, FOR EXAMPLE, DELIVERED THEIR VIEWS ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF EXCO WITHOUT AT ANY STAGE SAYING WE MUST TALK TO THE BRITISH FIRST AND SEE IF WE CAN GET SOME AGREEMENT ON THIS. BUT I AM IN A DILEMMA ON THIS MATTER. WHEN IT COMES TO THE AIRPORT, CHINESE OFFICIALS SAY, IN MY VIEW, QUITE RIGHTLY TO US, YOU MUST SAY WHAT YOUR PROPOSALS ARE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. YOU MUSTN'T BE SECRETIVE ABOUT YOUR PROPOSALS. SO WHY SHOULD ONE BE OPEN ABOUT ONE'S PROPOSALS ON THE FINANCING OF AN AIRPORT BUT SECRETIVE ABOUT ONE'S PROPOSALS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE. THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO ME TO SHOW A VERY SENSIBLE BALANCE IF I WAS TO DO THAT.

/THERE IS .....

THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE. IF I HAD SAID IN MY SPEECH TODAY, AND WHEN IT COMES TO 1995, I AM NOT GOING TO TELL ANY OF YOU WHAT MY THOUGHTS ARE, I AM GOING TO GO TO PEKING A FEW TIMES AND THEN WHEN WE'VE REACHED AN AGREEMENT I AM GOING TO COME BACK AND TELL YOU WHAT WE'VE DECIDED. IF I'D SAID THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY DE-STABILISING POLITICALLY, THE NEXT MONTH WOULD HAVE BEEN FULL OF RUMOUR - MUCH OF IT UNFOUNDED ABOUT THIS OR THAT THING WHICH CHINA OR BRITAIN WAS GOING TO DO - SO I THINK IT IS BETTER FOR ME TO SAY WHAT MY PROPOSALS ARE. I REPEAT, THEY ARE PROPOSALS. THEY ARE PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED HERE IN HONG KONG, THEY ARE PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PEKING. PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED. AND I THINK IT IS BETTER AND SEEING THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IMMENSELY IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DO IT IN A SPIRIT OF FRANKNESS, IN A SPIRIT OF OPENNESS, SO PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY KNOW WHAT WE ARE DISCUSSING AND WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT. SO I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS WON'T FEEL TOO STRONGLY, AS YOU SUGGESTED, BECAUSE I THINK THERE ARE GOOD ARGUMENTS WHICH I HAVE TRIED TO PUT TO YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.

FANNY WONG (SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST): DO YOU AGREE THAT YOUR SPEECH IS SO DESIGNED THAT IT WILL AMOUNT TO A CHALLENGE TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN UP TWO KEY AREAS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO UPSET CHINA; NAMELY, THAT YOU ARE SPEEDING UP DEMOCRACY IN SUCH AN UNPRECEDENTED MANNER AND THEN YOU ARE SPENDING SO EXPENSIVELY ON VARIOUS SOCIAL POLICIES WHICH IS LIKELY TO INCREASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE SAR GOVERNMENT?

GOVERNOR: LET ME DEAL WITH THE LAST POINT FIRST. WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN FIELDS LIKE SOCIAL WELFARE ABOVE ALL BECAUSE, THANKS TO THEIR OWN EFFORTS THIS YEAR, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE EARNED A WINDFALL. WHEN WE STARTED OUT, AS YOU WILL RECALL, WE WERE PREDICTING A BUDGET SURPLUS FOR THIS YEAR OF ABOUT 7-1/2 BILLION HONG KONG DOLLARS. BECAUSE OUR REVENUES HAVE CONTINUED TO BE AS BUOYANT DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR AS THEY WERE IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, AND FOR ONE OR TWO OTHER REASONS, OUR SURPLUS WAS GOING TO OVERSHOOT THIS YEAR BY A FURTHER 6 BILLION. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT IT WOULD HAVE NOT MADE GREAT SENSE TO HAVE A CUSHION AS SUBSTANTIAL AS 13-1/2 BILLION BUT IT WOULD NOT BE SENSIBLE TO FRITTER AWAY THE 6 BILLION, BUT THE SENSIBLE THING TO DO WAS, AS IT WERE, TO CAPITALISE THE 6 BILLION. PUTTING IT THROUGH THE LOTTERIES FUND AND INTO, AND MAINLY, INTO OUR PROPOSALS ON SEWAGE SO THAT IT WENT TO MEET OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS SOME OF OUR LONGER TERM TARGETS: I THINK THAT IS A WHOLLY PRUDENT AND SENSIBLE WAY OF US BEHAVING. WE WILL STILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITH A VERY SUBSTANTIAL SURPLUS AND WE WILL LEAVE IN 1997 A VERY SUBSTANTIAL SURPLUS. AS I RECALL, LAST YEAR WE WERE BEING CRITICISED BECAUSE WE ANNOUNCED THE SURPLUS FOR 1997 WAS GOING TO BE MUCH GREATER THAN WE PREVIOUSLY PREDICTED. THE SURPLUS IN 1997 WILL STILL BE VERY LARGE. IT WILL BE A TRIBUTE TO THE VERY SENSIBLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THIS COMMUNITY'S AFFAIRS AND TO THE HARD WORK OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. IF YOU LOOK AROUND THE WORLD, THERE AREN'T, FRANKLY, MANY FINANCE MINISTERS ANYWHERE WHO CAN POINT TO THE SORT OF SURPLUSES THAT WE RUN IN HONG KONG AND THAT IS HOW IT IS GOING TO STAY. OUR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE PROGRAMMES WILL CONTINUE TO GROW LESS FAST THAN THE RISE IN OVERALL GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY.

/AS TO .....

AS TO THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION, WHAT I HAVE DONE IS TO TRY VERY HARD TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN ACCOMMODATE THE UNDERSTANDABLE ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG FOR MORE SAY IN THE CONDUCT OF THEIR AFFAIRS WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW.

EVERYTHING I SAID THIS AFTERNOON - IF THAT IS CHINA DOES NOT ACCEPT THE ARGUMENTS FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS- EVERYTHING I SET OUT THIS AFTERNOON IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW.

HUGO GURDON (DAILY TELEGRAPH): COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE DANGER OF THE CHINESE RIGHT TO CONSULTATION BECOMING A POSSIBLE VETO ON YOUR PROPOSALS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE ONLY PROPOSALS, YOU PUT A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT INTO THEM AND YOU THINK THAT THEY ARE RIGHT. COULD YOU SUGGEST HOW YOU ARE GOING TO ENSURE THAT THE RIGHT TO CONSULTATION DOESN'T BECOME A RIGHT TO OBSTRUCT?

GOVERNOR: THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF LINGUISTICS AS WELL AS ACTION BETWEEN A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AND THE EXERCISE OF A VETO. I GO INTO CONSULTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH PEKING AND WITH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN GOOD FAITH. I WISH, IF WE CAN DO SO, TO FIND AGREEMENT ALL ROUND. I AM THAT SORT OF CHAP. I LOVE IT IF WE CAN FIND A POSITION WHICH EVERYONE WILL SUPPORT AND I WILL WORK FOR THAT. BUT WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IN PUBLIC LIFE, AT THE END OF ANY DISCUSSIONS, IS TO COME TO A CONCLUSION ABOUT WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD GIVEN WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID TO YOU; AND AS I MENTIONED AT THE OUTSET, SOONER OR LATER, AND PROBABLY RATHER SOONER, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ITSELF IS GOING TO HAVE TO VOTE ON THE WAY THE 1995 ELECTIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED.

BARBARA BASLER (NEW YORK TIMES): SO THESE PROPOSALS THAT YOU'VE SET FORTH TODAY WILL GO BEFORE LEGCO, NO MATTER WHAT BEIJING SAYS?

GOVERNOR: NO, I DIDN'T SAY THAT AT ALL, WHAT I SAID IS THAT THE END-GAME, AFTER I'VE DISCUSSED THESE PROPOSALS WITH THE COMMUNITY, AFTER I'VE DISCUSSED THEM WITH LEGCO, AFTER I'VE DISCUSSED THEM WITH PEKING, IS THAT WE WILL HAVE TO PUT PROPOSALS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND I HOPE GET THEM SUPPORTED. BUT I REPEAT THAT I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT EVERYBODY WILL FIND THE PROPOSALS THAT I'VE PUT FORWARD AS SENSIBLE AND COHERENT A PACKAGE AS I DO. AND SINCE THE OBJECTIVE, WHICH I THINK IS PRETTY COMMON IN HONG KONG TO ALL OF US, IS TO PUSH FORWARD DEMOCRACY IN A WAY WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW, I HOPE THAT THE IDEAS I'VE ADVANCED WILL GET A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT.

CHRIS ROBERTS (METRO NEWS): THE CREATION OF THE GOVERNMENT-LEGCO COMMITTEE WOULD APPEAR TO BE A KIND OF HALF-WAY HOUSE IN A WAY, TO APPEASE THE UNITED DEMOCRATS - THEY ARE STILL NOT GETTING ON TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. AREN'T YOU DENYING THE PARTY WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY FOR, A VOICE IN THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT?

/GOVERNOR: NO .....

GOVERNOR: NO, WHAT WE HAVE IS A SYSTEM IN WHICH PEOPLE VOTE FOR A LEGISLATURE WHICH MONITORS GOVERNMENT, TO WHICH GOVERNMENT IS ACCOUNTABLE. WE DON'T HAVE A SYSTEM, NOR IS IT INTENDED THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A SYSTEM, IN WHICH WE HAVE AS IT WERE, CABINET GOVERNMENT OR THE WESTMINSTER MINISTERIAL MODEL, AND THERE'S A CLEAR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM. WHAT I WANT TO SEE IS THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEVELOPING RESPONSIBLY ITS ROLE AS A MONITORING BODY OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE PROPOSALS THAT I'VE PUT FORWARD IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE, ARE MEANT TO HELP ME RATHER THAN TO HELP ANYONE ELSE. WE DO NEED TO FIND AN EFFECTIVE HINGE BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE. WE DO, IN MY VIEW, NEED TO FIND AN EFFECTIVE FORUM IN WHICH WE CAN DISCUSS WITH LEGISLATORS, DISCUSS WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HANDLING OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, THE HANDLING OF LEGISLATION AND FINANCIAL MATTERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND THAT IS WHAT I AM PROPOSING WE SHOULD DO.

I'LL BE ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, FOR ANYONE WHO CAN GET A TICKET. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH INDEED.

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PRIME MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS

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THE PRIME MINISTER HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

"ALL OF US KNOW THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"THE GOVERNOR HAS CONSULTED WIDELY IN HONG KONG ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS - AN AGENDA WHICH HE HAS SET OUT IN HIS SPEECH TO THE HONG KONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

"I FULLY ENDORSE HIS APPROACH, WHICH I AM CERTAIN REPRESENTS THE BEST WAY FORWARD FOR HONG KONG.

"I COMMEND IT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY AND TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL."

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF THE FOLLOWING NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

MR ALLEN LEE, CBE, JP  
MRS RITA FAN, CBE, JP  
PROFESSOR WANG GUNGWU, CBE  
MRS SELINA CHOW, OBE, JP  
MR EDWARD HO, OBE, JP  
MR HUI YIN-FAT, OBE, JP  
MR ANDREW WONG, OBE, JP

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENTS:

MR DENIS CHANG, QC, JP  
PROFESSOR EDWARD CHEN  
DR RAYMOND CH' IEN  
MR ANDREW LI, QC, JP  
PROFESSOR FELICE LIEH MAK, OBE, JP  
MR C H TUNG  
MS ROSANNA WONG, OBE, JP

IN ANNOUNCING HIS APPOINTMENTS, MR PATTEN SAID: "AS I SAID TODAY IN MY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, I HAVE DECIDED THAT AT THIS STAGE OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY OVERLAPPING MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

"I INTEND THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO BE A NON-PARTY POLITICAL BODY TO WHICH I CAN LOOK FOR SOUND, IMPARTIAL ADVICE ON THE WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES THAT COME BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATION.

"THE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS WHOM I AM APPOINTING TO EXCO ARE RESPECTED AND DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE WHO I BELIEVE CAN GIVE ME SOUND AND THOUGHTFUL ADVICE WITHOUT THE CONFLICTING LOYALTIES OF ACTIVE DAY-TO-DAY POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT.

"PROFESSOR CHEN AND PROFESSOR LIEH MAK HAVE RESIGNED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND PROFESSOR LIEH MAK HAS RESIGNED FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE RESOURCES CENTRE."

MR PATTEN PAID A WARM TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND THANKED THEM FOR THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION THAT THEY HAD MADE TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL DURING THEIR PERIOD OF MEMBERSHIP.

"AS I SAID THIS AFTERNOON, HONG KONG IS IN THEIR DEBT FOR THE SINCERITY AND GOODWILL THEY SHOWED IN SHOULDERING AN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT POLITICAL BURDEN OVER THE PAST YEAR."

/THE GOVERNOR .....

THE GOVERNOR ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT, AGAIN WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY, MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN FOLEY (COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES) AND MR BARRIE WIGGHAM (SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE) WILL STEP DOWN AS MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THAT MRS ANSON CHAN (SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES), MR JOHN CHAN (SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER) AND MR MICHAEL SZE (SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS) WOULD BE APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL.

MR PATTEN SAID THESE CHANGES WERE IN NO WAY A REFLECTION OF MAJOR-GENERAL FOLEY'S OR MR WIGGHAM'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL, WHICH HAD BEEN EXEMPLARY.

"BUT IT IS CLEARLY IMPORTANT THAT OUR OUTSTANDING SENIOR LOCAL OFFICERS SHOULD INCREASINGLY ASSUME KEY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR PREPARATION FOR 1997."

DETAILS OF THE NEW MEMBERS OF EXCO ARE:

MR DENIS CHANG, QC, JP  
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AGED 48. ONE OF HONG KONG'S LEADING BARRISTERS. NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW (INLAND REVENUE). A FORMER MEMBER OF THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

PROFESSOR EDWARD CHEN KWAN-YIU  
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AGED 47. DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE OF ASIAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL. A MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION. FORMER MEMBER OF THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

DR RAYMOND CH' IEN KUO-FUNG  
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AGED 40. MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE LAM SOON HONG KONG GROUP. VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TRADE ADVISORY BOARD.

MR ANDREW LI KWOK-NANG, QC, JP  
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AGED 43. ONE OF HONG KONG'S LEADING BARRISTERS. CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE AND A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION.

/PROFESSOR FELICE .....

PROFESSOR FELICE LIEH MAK, OBE, JP  
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AGED 51. PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WORK TRAINING AND MANPOWER PLANNING AND A MEMBER OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

MR C H TUNG  
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AGED 55. CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAND NAVIGATION CORPORATION INTERNATIONAL LIMITED. MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST OF HONG KONG AND OF THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD. ONE OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S ADVISERS ON HONG KONG.

MS ROSANNA WONG YICK-MING, OBE, JP  
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AGED 40. FORMER APPOINTED MEMBER OF EXCO AND LEGCO. GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS. FORMER CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION ON YOUTH.

MRS ANSON CHAN, CBE, JP  
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AGED 52. JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1962. SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES SINCE 1987. PREVIOUS POSTS INCLUDE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

MR JOHN CHAN, LVO, OBE, JP  
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AGED 49. JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1964. SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER SINCE 1991. PREVIOUS POSTS INCLUDE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY AND SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

MR MICHAEL SZE, ISO, JP  
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AGED 47. JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1969. SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS SINCE 1991. PREVIOUS POSTS INCLUDE DIRECTOR OF TRADE AND DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1992

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF THE FOLLOWING NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 8 THIS YEAR:

PROFESSOR EDWARD CHEN

PROFESSOR FELICE LIEH MAK, OBE, JP

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENTS:

MISS CHRISTINE LOH

MR ROGER LUK KOON-HOO

IN ANNOUNCING HIS APPOINTMENTS, MR PATTEN PAID A WARM TRIBUTE TO THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION THAT PROFESSOR CHEN AND PROFESSOR LIEH MAK HAD MADE TO THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE PAST YEAR.

"TO REPLACE THEM, I HAVE APPOINTED TWO YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WHO I BELIEVE WILL BE ABLE TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES THAT COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL IN AN INTELLIGENT AND OPEN-MINDED WAY.

"I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL BOTH MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL."

MISS LOH'S AND MR LUK'S APPOINTMENTS WILL RUN FROM OCTOBER 8, 1992 UNTIL THE NEXT DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DETAILS OF THE NEW MEMBERS OF LEGCO ARE:

MISS CHRISTINE LOH

-----

AGED 36. DIRECTOR OF CIM COMPANY LIMITED. A MEMBER OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF HONG KONG, THE BOARD OF REVIEW - LONG TERM PRISON SENTENCES AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE.

MR ROGER LUK KOON-HOO

-----

AGED 41. ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF THE HANG SENG BANK LIMITED. A MEMBER OF THE STATISTICS ADVISORY BOARD.

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WIGGHAM TO HEAD WASHINGTON OFFICE

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IT IS INTENDED THAT THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, WILL BE POSTED TO HEAD THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN WASHINGTON DC, USA, LATE NEXT YEAR.

THE POSTING OF A HIGHLY EXPERIENCED SECRETARY GRADE OFFICER TO THE OFFICE WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGTHEN THE LEVEL OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATION IN NORTH AMERICA.

THE WASHINGTON OFFICE CLOSELY MONITORS ECONOMIC AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS, PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND OTHER MATTERS IN THE USA AND CANADA THAT MIGHT AFFECT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN GENERAL AND BILATERAL TRADE WITH THESE TWO COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR.

AS WITH THE NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO OFFICES, THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ALSO ASSISTS WITH THE RECRUITMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS FOR HONG KONG.

MR WIGGHAM IS EXPECTED TO STEP DOWN AS SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE SOMETIME IN SPRING NEXT YEAR.

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GUANGDONG DELEGATION VISITS HK ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

\* \* \* \* \*

THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DR K S PUN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HELD A MEETING WITH A GUANGDONG DELEGATION TO CONSIDER THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE "TECHNICAL REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF DEEP BAY AND ITS CATCHMENTS".

THE DRAFT WAS PREPARED BY THE TECHNICAL SUB-GROUP OF THE HONG KONG - GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LIAISON GROUP.

THE DOCUMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE LIAISON GROUP FOR CONSIDERATION AND ENDORSEMENT TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG SIDE INCLUDE OFFICIALS FROM THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH; ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

THE GUANGDONG SIDE IS LED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE SHENZHEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU, MR FAN JUNJUN.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SOUTH CHINA SEA BRANCH OF THE STATE OCEANIC ADMINISTRATION, GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU AND SHENZHEN PLANNING AND LAND BUREAU.

THE DELEGATION WILL STAY IN HONG KONG FOR TWO DAYS AND VISIT THE MAI PO MARSHES NATURE RESERVE, OYSTER CULTURE ACTIVITIES IN LAU FAU SHAN AND VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INSTALLATIONS.

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OTTAWA DECLARES FESTIVAL HK WEEK

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THE MAYOR OF OTTAWA, MRS JACQUELINE HOLTZMAN, HAS DECLARED OCTOBER 6-19 TO BE "FESTIVAL HONG KONG WEEK" IN CANADA'S CAPITAL CITY.

THE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT DELIGHTED THE LARGE AUDIENCE, INCLUDING CANADIAN AND HONG KONG OFFICIALS, GATHERING IN BRIGHT AUTUMN SUNSHINE IN THE AMPHITHEATRE OF THE WORLD EXCHANGE PLAZA TO WATCH THE OPENING OF FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92 IN THE CITY.

IN HER OPENING SPEECH, CANADA'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MISS BARBARA MCDUGALL, OFFERED HER HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE ORGANISERS FOR THE SUCCESS IN LAUNCHING THE FESTIVAL IN OTTAWA.

ALSO ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID: "WITH SUCH CLOSE AND GROWING TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COMMUNITIES, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE DO OUR BEST TO STRENGTHEN AND BUILD ON THEM FURTHER SO THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS GREATER PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC RIM."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE AIM OF THE FESTIVAL WAS TO BUILD A BRIDGE ACROSS THE PACIFIC AND, TO ACHIEVE THIS, IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR CANADA AND HONG KONG TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S LIFESTYLE.

"WE HOPE THAT BY ENABLING CANADIANS TO FEEL THE HEARTBEAT OF HONG KONG, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MAKES HONG KONG TICK," HE SAID.

AMONG THOSE ATTENDING THE CEREMONY WAS THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA, MR NICHOLAS BAYNE, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE, TORONTO, MR STEPHEN LAM.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WAS A WORLD WAR II VETERAN, MR ALFRED S HOE, WHO TOOK PARTICULAR NOTE OF MR SO'S REFERENCE TO HONG KONG'S CLOSE AND FRIENDLY LINKS WITH CANADA, GOING BACK OVER A CENTURY.

MR HOE, FORMERLY OF NO. 3 VICKERS MACHINEGUN COY. HONG KONG VOLUNTARY DEFENCE CORPS (NOW THE VOLUNTEERS), RECALLED HOW HE HAD FOUGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE TWO REGIMENTS OF CANADIAN SOLDIERS SENT BY THEIR GOVERNMENT TO HELP IN THE DEFENCE OF HONG KONG IN DECEMBER 1941.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1992

- 13 -

TWO SITES IN KWAI CHUNG, SHAU KEI WAN TO LET

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES ON TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN KWAI CHUNG AND SHAU KEI WAN.

THE FIRST SITE IS IN AREA 26D, KWAI CHUNG AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,325 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS INTENDED FOR A FEE-PAYING CAR PARK FOR CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE OTHER PIECE OF LAND IS AT HING MAN STREET, SHAU KEI WAN.

OCCUPYING AN AREA OF ABOUT 320 SQUARE METRES, THE LAND IS DESIGNATED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF THE TENANT'S GOODS (EXCLUDING CONTAINERS AND DANGEROUS GOODS) AND/OR USE AS A COMMERCIAL GARDEN.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

TENDER OFFERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON OCTOBER 23.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON OR THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES.

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267 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME

\* \* \* \* \*

A GROUP OF 267 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 84 MEN, 64 WOMEN, 55 BOYS AND 64 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 126TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 9,081 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 22,960 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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/14 .....

UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN NORTH POINT TO BE CLOSED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON A BUILDING IN NORTH POINT SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE ON THE ROOF OVER FLAT B, SECOND FLOOR, MAY KA MANSION, 21-23 FORT STREET.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JANUARY 7, 1993 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

|                                | \$ MILLION |
|--------------------------------|------------|
|                                | -----      |
| OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 1,300      |
| REVERSAL OF LAF                | +200       |
| BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF  | 1,500      |
| NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY | NIL        |
| EFFECT OF LAF TODAY            | +1,000     |
| CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 2,500      |

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 110.0 \*+0.1\* 7.10.92

/HONG KONG .....

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

| TERMS     | YIELD    | TERM      | ISSUE | COUPON | PRICE  | YIELD |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 WEEK    | 2.46 PCT | 14 MONTHS | 2311  | 6.25   | 103.32 | 3.21  |
| 1 MONTH   | 2.48 PCT | 17 MONTHS | 2402  | 5.50   | 102.88 | 3.34  |
| 3 MONTHS  | 2.50 PCT | 20 MONTHS | 2405  | 5.502  | 102.90 | 3.66  |
| 6 MONTHS  | 2.65 PCT | 23 MONTHS | 2408  | 4.375  | 101.01 | 3.84  |
| 12 MONTHS | 3.17 PCT |           |       |        |        |       |

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,158 MN

CLOSED 7 OCTOBER 1992

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN – SUPPLEMENT

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1992

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN  
AT THE OPENING OF THE  
1992/93 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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GOVERNOR OUTLINES POLICY PRINCIPLES

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) OUTLINED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOUR KEY PRINCIPLES ON WHICH GOVERNMENT POLICIES WILL BE BASED.

IN HIS FIRST POLICY ADDRESS, OPENING THE 1992/93 LEGCO SESSION, MR PATTEN SAID THESE PRINCIPLES WERE:

- \* FIRST, WE MUST CONTINUE TO GENERATE THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS THAT HAS MADE HONG KONG ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD: GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO BUSINESS WILL REMAIN ONE OF MINIMUM INTERFERENCE AND MAXIMUM SUPPORT;
- \* SECONDLY, WE MUST LEAVE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES FREE TO RUN THEIR OWN LIVES, WHILE PROVIDING PROPER HELP FOR THOSE WHO - OFTEN THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN - ARE IN GENUINE NEED;
- \* THIRDLY, WE MUST GUARANTEE THE RULE OF LAW, WITH AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY ENFORCING LAWS DEMOCRATICALLY ENACTED, AND WITH CRIME AND CORRUPTION UNDER UNREMITTING ATTACK;
- \* FOURTHLY, WE MUST MAKE POSSIBLE THE WIDEST DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN THE RUNNING OF THEIR OWN AFFAIRS, WHILE REINFORCING CERTAINTY ABOUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

MR PATTEN SAID IF THE GOVERNMENT HELD TO THESE PRINCIPLES, HONG KONG SHOULD MAINTAIN AN ECONOMY WHICH CONTINUED TO THRIVE AND PROSPER, GENERATING THE WEALTH REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE STANDARDS OF PUBLIC SERVICE THAT PEOPLE RIGHTLY DEMANDED.

BESIDES, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SECURE A COMMUNITY WHOSE FREEDOMS AND WAY OF LIFE WERE PROTECTED, AND WHOSE INSTITUTIONS WERE VIGOROUS AND EFFECTIVE, DRAWING THEIR STRENGTH FROM THEIR DEEP ROOTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ITSELF.

"WE SHALL HAVE A GOVERNMENT WHICH GIVES A CLEAR LEAD, AND WHICH RESPONDS PROMPTLY TO HONG KONG'S CHANGING NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE SAID IN A LITTLE UNDER FIVE YEARS, BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG WOULD COME TO AN END.

"ONE CHAPTER WILL CLOSE; A NEW ONE WILL BEGIN. NOW IS THE TIME TO SET OUT WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

"NOW IS THE TIME TO BE CLEAR ABOUT THE KIND OF HONG KONG WE WANT TO SEE.

"NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW HOW WE MEAN TO PREPARE FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE UNDER THAT FAR-SIGHTED CONCEPT, 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS'."

MR PATTEN SAID HIS GOAL WAS SIMPLY TO SAFEGUARD HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE.

"THIS WAY OF LIFE NOT ONLY PRODUCES IMPRESSIVE MATERIAL AND CULTURAL BENEFITS; IT ALSO INCORPORATES VALUES THAT WE ALL CHERISH.

"OUR PROSPERITY AND STABILITY UNDERPIN OUR WAY OF LIFE."

BUT, EQUALLY, HE SAID HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE WAS THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH WE MUST BUILD OUR FUTURE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY. THANKS TO THIS COMBINATION, HONG KONG HAD ACHIEVED MORE THAN ANYONE COULD EVER HAVE PREDICTED.

"PRIDE IN OUR PAST AND PRESENT SHOULD HELP MAKE US CONFIDENT ABOUT OUR FUTURE," HE SAID.

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#### GOVERNOR OPTIMISTIC OVER GROWTH PROSPECTS

\* \* \* \* \*

DESPITE THE ECONOMIC GLOOM IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, HONG KONG HAS EVERY REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ITS GROWTH PROSPECTS, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DELIVERING HIS POLICY ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR PATTEN SAID HONG KONG WAS AT THE CENTRE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC'S RAPID DEVELOPMENT - A HISTORIC PROCESS WHICH WAS LIFTING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY.

"THIS IS A 'TRADE WIND' THAT PROMISES TO SWEEP THE WHOLE REGION INTO AN ECONOMIC REVOLUTION AS GREAT AS ANY SEEN IN EUROPE OR NORTH AMERICA SINCE THE VERY START OF INDUSTRIALISATION."

MR PATTEN SAID HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC FUTURE WAS INEXTRICABLY BOUND UP WITH CHINA, AND WITH GUANGDONG PROVINCE IN PARTICULAR.

CHINA'S EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH RATES HAD HELPED TO PROTECT HONG KONG AGAINST THE RECESSIONARY CONDITIONS WHICH HAD PLAGUED MUCH OF THE WORLD ECONOMY IN RECENT YEARS.

"AS A RESULT, WE ARE PROJECTING THAT HONG KONG'S ANNUAL GDP GROWTH BETWEEN NOW AND 1997 WILL AVERAGE 5% IN REAL TERMS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ADDED THAT HONG KONG INEVITABLY FACED DANGERS AS WELL AS GREAT OPPORTUNITIES.

"SOME ARE DANGERS WHICH WE CANNOT OURSELVES DIRECTLY CONTROL - THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE USA AND CHINA ON MARKET ACCESS, FOR EXAMPLE, OR THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE EXTENSION OF MFN STATUS FOR CHINA.

"ON BOTH THESE ISSUES WE HAVE PUT OUR CASE WITH VIGOUR.

ULTIMATELY, THE GOVERNOR SAID, TRADE WARS BENEFITTED NOBODY AND ENDED UP HURTING EVERYBODY.

/"THEY CUT .....

"THEY CUT GROWTH, DESTROY JOBS AND RAISE PRICES."

"I HOPE THAT CHINA AND THE USA CAN SETTLE THEIR TRADE DIFFERENCES IN A WAY WHICH ENHANCES RATHER THAN DIMINISHES PROSPECTS FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMY," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE ECONOMY WAS CENTRAL TO ALL OUR HOPES.

"OUR PRESCRIPTION FOR PROSPERITY IS STRAIGHTFORWARD.

"WE BELIEVE THAT BUSINESSMEN NOT POLITICIANS OR OFFICIALS MAKE THE BEST COMMERCIAL DECISIONS.

"WE BELIEVE THAT LOW AND PREDICTABLE TAXES ARE THE BEST FORM OF INVESTMENT INCENTIVE.

"WE BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT SPENDING MUST FOLLOW NOT OUTPACE ECONOMIC GROWTH. WE BELIEVE IN COMPETITION WITHIN A SOUND, FAIR FRAMEWORK OF REGULATION AND LAW," HE SAID.

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#### GOVERNOR SETTING UP A BUSINESS COUNCIL

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE IS ESTABLISHING A GOVERNOR'S BUSINESS COUNCIL AND WAS INVITING DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO JOIN IT.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR PATTEN SAID THE COUNCIL'S MANDATE WOULD BE TO ADVISE HIM ON:

- \* FIRST, HOW TO KEEP HONG KONG THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY LOCATION IN ASIA;
- \* SECONDLY, THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON BUSINESS, SO AS TO MODIFY OR ABOLISH THOSE THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF PROGRESS;
- \* THIRDLY, HOW TO MAXIMISE THE POTENTIAL OF ALL OUR RESOURCES AND OF OUR POSITION AT THE HEART OF THE ASIAN ECONOMY; AND
- \* FOURTHLY, HOW BEST TO PROMOTE HONG KONG'S TRADE AND INDUSTRY, INCLUDING INWARD INVESTMENT.

MR PATTEN SAID HE WANTED TO MOBILISE THE VERY BEST TALENT AND EXPERIENCE THAT HONG KONG HAD TO OFFER TO ADVISE HIM ON HOW BEST HONG KONG COULD SUSTAIN ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH, NOW AND INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

"DESPITE OUR TRACK RECORD OF SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH, WE CANNOT TAKE FUTURE SUCCESS FOR GRANTED," HE SAID.

HONG KONG'S POSITION WAS STRONG; BUT IT WAS NOT IMPREGNABLE.

"I AM ANXIOUS THAT WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP - AND NOTHING TO HINDER - THE BUSINESSES ON WHOSE SUCCESS IN THE MARKET-PLACE WE ALL DEPEND."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WOULD ASK HIS BUSINESS COUNCIL TO PUT AT THE TOP OF ITS AGENDA THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE COMPETITION POLICY FOR HONG KONG.

"HONG KONG LIVES BY TRADE. OUR GOODS AND SERVICES MUST, THEREFORE, BE COMPETITIVE IN WORLD MARKETS."

HE SAID WE COULD NOT AFFORD TO SUBSIDISE THE INEFFICIENT OR BAIL OUT THE INCOMPETENT.

"COMPETITION IS ALSO OUR BEST DEFENCE AGAINST INFLATION. OUR BUSINESSES HAVE DEFENDED THEMSELVES AGAINST RISING PRICES BY SEARCHING FOR NEW PRODUCTION LOCATIONS, NEW SOURCES OF EFFICIENCY AND NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES."

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS PROUD OF ITS FREE AND COMPETITIVE MARKETS. BUT A MORE SOPHISTICATED AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY UNWILLING TO ACCEPT UNFAIR AND DISCRIMINATORY BUSINESS PRACTICES.

THE PUBLIC HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO VOICE ALARM AT THE USE OF MARKET POWER BY SUPPLIERS IN AREAS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE ORDINARY FAMILY'S WELL-BEING.

IN SOME INSTANCES, HE SAID, SUCH AS FLAT SALES, SELF-REGULATION OF THE SORT ENVISAGED BY REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS WAS PART OF THE ANSWER.

"BUT, ACROSS THE BOARD, THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, AS WELL AS WITH YOU, THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TO DEFEND FREE MARKETS AND TO GIVE CONSUMERS THE FULL REDRESS AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS BUSINESS PRACTICES TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED."

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GOVT FIRMLY COMMITTED TO LINKED EXCHANGE RATE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE WITH THE US DOLLAR, THE PREDOMINANT CURRENCY IN HONG KONG'S TRANSACTIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

DELIVERING HIS POLICY SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR PATTEN SAID THE POLITICAL RISKS OF TAMPERING WITH THE LINK WOULD BE ENORMOUS.

"THE RISKS TO OUR ECONOMIC STABILITY WOULD BE EQUALLY DAUNTING. THE LINK MUST AND WILL REMAIN," HE SAID.

/THE GOVERNOR .....

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT MANAGE THE ECONOMY, NOR DID IT SET PRICES, FIX WAGES OR DETERMINE PROFITS.

THESE MATTERS WERE RIGHTLY LEFT TO MARKET FORCES, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD, HOWEVER, TRADITIONALLY ACCEPTED A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING A STABLE EXCHANGE RATE.

"THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NEED IN HONG KONG'S UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES TO GIVE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE THE REASSURANCE OF A STABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR PRINCIPAL EXTERNAL CURRENCY," HE SAID.

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TIME FOR A HK MONETARY AUTHORITY: GOVERNOR

\* \* \* \* \*

THE TIME HAS COME TO ESTABLISH A HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXECUTIVE-LED GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN ESSENCE, MR PATTEN SAID THE AUTHORITY WOULD BRING TOGETHER THE EXISTING OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND AND THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THESE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD ENHANCE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN MONETARY STABILITY IN THE YEARS TO COME, AND MAINTAIN THE DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND CONTINUITY NECESSARY TO COMMAND THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY.

HE SAID THE AUTHORITY WOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

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IMPROVED EFFICIENCY - KEY TO CURB INFLATION: GOVERNOR

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT OUR MOST USEFUL WEAPON IN THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION IS IMPROVED EFFICIENCY.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR PATTEN SAID HE WANTED THE GOVERNMENT TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE:

- \* WE SHOULD BE VIGOROUS IN OUR SEARCH FOR SAVINGS AND IN OUR EFFORTS TO ROOT OUT WASTE AND INEFFICIENCY;
- \* WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW GROWTH IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE TO EXCEED GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY;

/\* WE SHOULD .....

\* WE SHOULD, THROUGH THE NEW EFFICIENCY UNIT, WORK ENERGETICALLY TO ACHIEVE LEVELS OF EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT WHICH MATCH THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

MR PATTEN SAID WHILE WE WERE CONSTRAINED IN OUR ABILITY TO FIGHT INFLATION, WE WERE CERTAINLY NOT POWERLESS.

"OUR INFLATION, UNLIKE THAT IN MOST PARTS OF THE WORLD, IS PART OF THE PRICE WE ARE PAYING FOR SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH.

"THAT EXPLAINS INFLATION; IT DOES NOT EXCUSE IT."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE SHARED THE COMMUNITY'S CONCERN ABOUT THE THREAT OF DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION.

"AND THE HARDER WE WORK TOGETHER, WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND OUTSIDE IT, TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR ECONOMY IS COMPETITIVE, THE TOUGHER WE SHALL BE ON INFLATION."

AS ALWAYS, HE SAID, WE MUST KEEP INCREASES IN WAGES AND SALARIES IN LINE WITH THE HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY THAT EFFICIENCY BROUGHT.

"BUT AS LONG AS WE HAVE INFLATION, THERE MUST BE PROPER PROTECTION FOR THOSE MOST VULNERABLE TO PRICE INCREASES. THE ELDERLY. THE WIDOWED. THOSE UNABLE TO HOLD REGULAR JOBS THROUGH DISABILITY OR INFIRMITY.

"I WANT TO MAKE THIS PLAIN: WE SHALL NOT PERMIT THE VALUE OF THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS TO BE GNAWED AWAY BY INFLATION," HE SAID.

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\$300M INJECTION INTO SPECIAL RETRAINING FUND  
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE INJECTION OF \$300 MILLION INTO A SPECIAL RETRAINING FUND FOR WORKERS, OVER AND ABOVE THE INCOME FROM THE LEVY PAID BY EMPLOYERS FOR PERMISSION TO IMPORT WORKERS.

THAT INJECTION, BY ITSELF, SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETRAIN MORE THAN 15,000 WORKERS OVER THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS: MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NUMBER ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, IN HIS POLICY SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"I HOPE EMPLOYERS WILL MAKE FULL USE OF THOSE WHO HAVE ACQUIRED NEW SKILLS THROUGH THIS PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID THE RELEVANT BILL FOR THE SPECIAL FUND WAS BEING EXAMINED BY THE LEGCO.

"WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THIS SCHEME," HE SAID.

/"WE MUST .....

"WE MUST NOT LET OUR WORKERS BE MAROONED BY THE DECLINE OF ESTABLISHED INDUSTRIES OR BECOME THE CASUALTIES OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTIONS."

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE A START WITH AN EMPLOYEE RETRAINING SCHEME SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO HELP WORKERS GAIN NEW SKILLS.

HONG KONG'S WORKFORCE WAS GROWING FAR MORE SLOWLY THAN THE ECONOMY ITSELF - FEW OTHER ECONOMIES SHARED THAT PROBLEM, HE SAID.

SINCE 1986, THE WORKING POPULATION HAD RISEN BY LESS THAN 1% A YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF YOUNGSTERS FINISHING THEIR EDUCATION AND TAKING UP WORK HAD ACTUALLY DECLINED BY 20% IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

THIS PUT VERY SERIOUS PRESSURE ON HONG KONG'S MANPOWER RESOURCES, MR PATTEN SAID.

HE SAID THE SHORTAGE HAD BEEN EASED SOMEWHAT BY LOOKING ABROAD FOR ADDITIONAL WORKERS.

THE GOVERNMENTS HAD APPROVED THE EMPLOYMENT OF NEARLY 25,000 FOREIGN WORKERS UNDER THE GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME.

"AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO MAKE GOOD THE SHORTFALLS IN PARTICULAR OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS BY IMPORTING TALENT AND SKILLS FROM ELSEWHERE WITHOUT DAMAGING THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG'S OWN WORKERS."

THE GOVERNOR ALSO STRESSED THAT THERE MUST BE NO ABUSES IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

TO MAKE THIS MESSAGE CLEAR, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO INTRODUCE NEW MEASURES TO HIT OUT AT THOSE WHO TRIED TO PROFIT FROM ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND AT THOSE WHO EMPLOYED THEM.

"WE MUST TACKLE THE ROOT OF THIS PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY ON CONSTRUCTION SITES."

HE SAID MANY GOOD EMPLOYERS, INCLUDING PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS, AND THE UNIONS HAD PROPOSED A NUMBER OF IMAGINATIVE DETERRENTS, INCLUDING A REQUIREMENT FOR WORKERS TO DISPLAY THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AT ALL TIMES, POSSIBLY ON THEIR SAFETY HELMETS.

"WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP THIS AND OTHER PROPOSALS WITH VIGOUR," HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1992

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CASH NEEDED FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WITH THE CASH THEY NEED TO ENCOURAGE THEIR STAFF AND GRADUATE STUDENTS TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH PROJECTS, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS POLICY SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR PATTEN SAID THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, THROUGH THE RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL, ALREADY ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

MR PATTEN SAID THESE WOULD BE INCREASED FROM \$122 MILLION THIS YEAR TO \$144 MILLION NEXT YEAR, AND TO ABOUT \$180 MILLION IN 1994/95 - A REAL INCREASE OF OVER 20% A YEAR.

"THE NEED FOR FURTHER INCREASES BEYOND 1994/95 WILL BE CONSIDERED SYMPATHETICALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FUNDING REQUIREMENT FOR THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FOR THE 1995-98 TRIENNIUM," HE SAID.

THE RAPID EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION HAD PROVIDED HONG KONG WITH A NEW POOL OF HIGHLY-TRAINED TALENT.

"WE MUST USE THEIR EXPERTISE TO BRIDGE A MAJOR GAP IN HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE: OUR ABILITY TO DEVELOP AND ADAPT NEW TECHNOLOGY."

"WE CANNOT EXPECT TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL ON THE CHEAP," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THESE PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS SEED MONEY.

"WE EXPECT THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PLAY ITS PART."

AS HONG KONG'S ACADEMICS ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AS WELL AS IN TEACHING, THEY WOULD BE WELL PLACED TO ATTRACT COMMERCIAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR PROJECTS.

SO THE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED ACADEMICS WOULD INCREASE AT A TIME WHEN THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WERE LOOKING TO RECRUIT AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 TEACHERS IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

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BEST EDUCATION SOUGHT FOR ALL CHILDREN

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THE GOVERNMENT WANTS, AND WILL WORK FOR, THE BEST EDUCATION FOR ALL THE CHILDREN OF HONG KONG.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, IN HIS POLICY SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR PATTEN SAID AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT HAD BEEN DONE OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

/"THIS WILL .....

"THIS WILL CONTINUE. BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, WE PLAN TO INCREASE RECURRENT SPENDING ON EDUCATION BY 15.8% IN REAL TERMS."

HE SAID THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE THE PLANS FOR THE DRAMATIC EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION WHICH WERE STARTED IN 1989 BY HIS DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR, LORD WILSON.

BUT THIS INCREASE IN QUANTITY AT THE TOP MUST BE MATCHED BY AN INCREASE IN QUALITY AT THE EARLIER LEVELS.

RAISING STANDARDS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS MUST NOW BE THE TOP PRIORITY, HE SAID.

THE LAST TWO REPORTS OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION PROVIDED CLEAR AND POSITIVE ADVICE ON HOW THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED.

MR PATTEN SAID THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT STEP MUST BE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE HARD-PRESSED TEACHERS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD.

"WE ALL KNOW THAT, WHATEVER ELSE THEY ARE, CHILDREN ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST INDIVIDUALS.

"THEY DO NOT ALL LEARN AT THE SAME SPEED. SOME ARE BETTER AT READING THAN AT MATHS. SOME ARE BETTER AT DAY-DREAMING THAN EITHER. SOME ARE BUDDING EINSTEINS FROM THEIR FIRST DAY IN THE CLASSROOM," HE SAID.

OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM MUST BRING OUT THE VERY BEST IN ALL OF THEM. TO DO THAT, TEACHERS - WITH BETTER TRAINING AND MORE RESOURCES - MUST HAVE THE TIME TO SPUR ON THE ABLE AND TO ENCOURAGE THE LESS ABLE.

"THE BRIGHTEST CHILDREN MUST BE FREE TO EXCEL; THE LESS BRIGHT MUST BE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND SUPPORT," HE SAID.

ON CLASSROOM QUALITY, MR PATTEN SAID WE MUST RECOGNISE THAT TEACHERS, TOO OFTEN, HAD TO TEACH TOO MANY PERIODS AND TOO MANY PUPILS.

TO HELP TEACHERS RAISE STANDARDS:

- \* "FIRST, WE SHALL PROVIDE MORE TEACHERS FOR ALL STANDARD-SIZE SCHOOLS - UP TO THREE MORE IN EACH PRIMARY SCHOOL, ONE A YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER 1993; AND UP TO TWO MORE IN EACH SECONDARY SCHOOL, ONE A YEAR FROM 1994;
- \* "SECONDLY, WE SHALL REDUCE THE SIZE OF SCHOOL CLASSES TO 35 PUPILS EACH, STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1993 WITH PRIMARY ONE, AND EXTENDING IT TO HIGHER LEVELS A YEAR AT A TIME;
- \* "THIRDLY, WE SHALL ENSURE THAT, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ALL NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS OPERATE ON A WHOLE-DAY BASIS FROM SEPTEMBER 1993 - IN ADDITION TO THE 39 EXISTING BISESSIONAL SCHOOLS WHICH ARE ALREADY DUE TO BECOME WHOLE-DAY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS."

AS A RESULT OF THESE MEASURES, MR PATTEN SAID THERE WOULD BE ABOUT 780 ADDITIONAL TEACHERS NEXT YEAR AND A FURTHER 1,420 BY 1997.

THIS INCREASE WOULD REDUCE THE RATIO OF PUPILS TO TEACHERS:

- FROM 27 TO 24 IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND
- FROM 22 TO 20 IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS,

BETWEEN NOW AND 1997.

TO IMPROVE TEACHERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION, MR PATTEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SET UP A PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR THE PROPOSED NEW INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND MAKE OTHER INTERIM IMPROVEMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE NEW YEAR.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD BE GIVEN THE TASK OF PLANNING THE INSTITUTE'S DEVELOPMENT INTO AN INDEPENDENT BODY OFFERING CERTIFICATE AND, IN DUE COURSE, DEGREE QUALIFICATIONS.

"AND WE WILL ENCOURAGE THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO DEVELOP COURSES TO ENABLE SERVING TEACHERS TO UPGRADE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS," HE SAID.

THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE HAD A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THIS PROCESS, AND THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO PROVIDE A CAPITAL GRANT OF \$150 MILLION TO HELP IT ACQUIRE ITS OWN BUILDING.

"WE SHALL ALSO BE TAKING STEPS TO INCREASE THE PROPORTION OF QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN KINDERGARTENS BY IMPROVING THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME," HE ADDED.

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DELAY IN NEW AIRPORT A PITY FOR HK AND CHINA: GOVERNOR  
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ANY DELAY IN THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW AIRPORT WOULD BE A GREAT PITY FOR HONG KONG AND FOR CHINA, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, MR PATTEN SAID HE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THE LATEST DIFFICULTIES IN SHORT ORDER.

"I WILL WORK MY HARDEST TO DO SO," HE SAID.

"IF IN THE EVENT WE CANNOT ACHIEVE THE BREAK-THROUGH WE NEED, AND IF BECAUSE OF THAT THE TIMETABLE SLIPS, THE COSTS RISE AND I HAVE TO FLY OUT OF KAI TAK OR LEAVE ON THE LADY MAURINE, IT WILL NOT BE FOR WANT OF EFFORT OR INGENUITY IN SEEKING OUT A TIMELY SOLUTION," HE SAID.

"I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT IF WE DISCUSS THE AIRPORT ON ITS MERITS, THEN OUR VERY ABLE NEGOTIATORS ON BOTH SIDES COULD SORT THINGS OUT IN A MORNING, PERHAPS EVEN WITH A BREAK FOR COFFEE."

/THE GOVERNOR .....

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE AIRPORT WOULD CONFIRM HONG KONG'S POSITION AT THE CROSSROADS OF ASIA.

FROM TIME TO TIME, HE SAID HE HAD HEARD IT SAID THAT HONG KONG DID NOT REALLY NEED A NEW AIRPORT.

TO THOSE WHO ENTERTAIN SUCH DOUBTS, HE WOULD SAY:

- IF HONG KONG IS TO CONTINUE AS ASIA'S PREMIER BUSINESS CITY, WE NEED A NEW AIRPORT;
- IF HONG KONG IS TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND ECONOMICALLY WHEN KAI TAK REACHES CAPACITY BY 1995, WE NEED A NEW AIRPORT;
- IF WE ARE TO WELCOME MORE VISITORS TO HONG KONG AFTER KAI TAK HAS REACHED CAPACITY, THEN WE NEED A NEW AIRPORT;
- IF WE ARE TO RELIEVE THE LONG-SUFFERING RESIDENTS OF KOWLOON WHO HAVE AIRCRAFT FLYING IN AND OUT OF THEIR LAUNDRY ALL DAY, THEN WE NEED A NEW AIRPORT;
- IF WE ARE TO REMAIN AN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTRE OF AVIATION, AS PROMISED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, THEN WE NEED A NEW AIRPORT;
- AND THE NEW AIRPORT AND ITS RELATED PROJECTS WILL OPEN UP A THOUSAND HECTARES OF LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT - A DEVELOPMENT BOOM THAT COULD ADD 1% TO OUR ANNUAL GDP GROWTH.

MR PATTEN SAID THE CASE FOR A NEW AIRPORT WAS OVERWHELMING.

"IT WILL BE AN AIRPORT, NOT FOR BRITAIN, BUT FOR HONG KONG AND FOR SOUTHERN CHINA. IT DESERVES TO BE BUILT. AND IT WILL BE BUILT. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET OUT ITS PLANS AND SPELT THEM OUT IN DETAIL.

"WE HAVE EXPLAINED HOW WE WILL FINANCE THEM. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TOO THAT THE AIRPORT WILL NOT BE FINANCED AT THE EXPENSE OF KEY SOCIAL PROGRAMMES: AS YOU WILL REALISE FROM THIS SPEECH, WE HAVE BEEN AS GOOD AS OUR WORD ON THIS."

TOGETHER THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND MTRC WOULD RAISE LOANS ON WORLD MARKETS IN ORDER TO RELIEVE THE BURDEN ON PUBLIC FUNDS.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT WITHOUT GOOD REASON THAT THE MTRC HAD EARNED ITSELF A WORLDWIDE REPUTATION AS A RESPONSIBLE BORROWER WITH A STRONG CREDIT RATING.

"IN HONG KONG, WE KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT THESE MATTERS. WE WILL PLOUGH THE FRUITS OF DEVELOPMENT BACK INTO CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECTS THEMSELVES.

"AND WE SHALL BE DRAWING ON OUR OWN CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN COMPLETING SUCH PROJECTS ON TIME AND IN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER POSSIBLE."

THE GOVERNOR SAID A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE HONG KONG SUCCESS STORY WAS THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE AND DEVELOP HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

"EVERYWHERE I GO I SEE THE FRUITS OF THIS PARTNERSHIP - FROM NEW INDUSTRY TO NEW HOSPITALS, FROM THE TOLO HIGHWAY TO THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

"EVERYWHERE I GO I SEE PROJECTS BUILT, IN TRUE HONG KONG STYLE, WITHIN COST AND ON, OR AHEAD OF, TIME. AND OF COURSE THERE ARE THE NEW TOWNS, STAGGERING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT."

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

"THE GOVERNMENT ALONE PLANS TO SPEND SOME \$78 BILLION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS - GETTING ON FOR HALF AS MUCH AGAIN AS WE SPENT OVER THE PREVIOUS FIVE, AND AN ASTONISHING \$1.8 MILLION DOLLARS AN HOUR.

"AND THAT IS IN ADDITION TO OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS.

"AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THIS MONEY WILL PAY FOR A NEW INFIRMARY AT TAI PO, THE RECLAMATION OF 69 HECTARES OF LAND AT TSEUNG KWAN O FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, MAJOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NORTH-WEST NEW TERRITORIES, AND THE RECLAMATION OF 55 HECTARES OF LAND IN TUEN MUN FOR SPECIAL INDUSTRIES."

MR PATTEN SAID THESE PROJECTS MIGHT NOT SOUND AS GLAMOROUS AND EXCITING AS THE NEW AIRPORT, BUT THEY WERE VITAL COMPONENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

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GOVERNOR PLEDGES TO INCREASE SOCIAL WELFARE SPENDING  
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PLEDGED THAT BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INCREASE ITS RECURRENT SPENDING ON SOCIAL WELFARE BY 26% IN REAL TERMS, SUBJECT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO LEGCO, MR PATTEN SAID WITH THIS EXTRA MONEY, WE COULD MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY TO ACHIEVE TARGETS WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS IN REHABILITATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY.

"WE WILL UPDATE THE TARGETS REGULARLY TO ENSURE THAT THEY MATCH THE CHANGING NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS OF CLIENTS," HE SAID.

TO REMOVE ALL ANXIETY ABOUT FUNDING, MR PATTEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PUT BEFORE THE LEGCO SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SECURE FUNDING OF A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S WELFARE SERVICES BETWEEN NOW AND 1997.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE AN IMMEDIATE CAPITAL INJECTION INTO THE LOTTERIES FUND OF \$2.3 BILLION, HE SAID.

HONG KONG IS A THRIVING TERRITORY. THAT IS WHAT HARD WORK HAS ACHIEVED. BUT IT IS NOT WITHOUT ITS DARKER SIDE.

"EVEN IN THE MIDST OF PROSPERITY, SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SUFFER FROM POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS OUR DUTY TO USE A PROPER SHARE OF THE WEALTH WE GENERATED TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE NOT FORGOTTEN, AND HAD THE EDUCATION, THE SKILLS AND THE ASSISTANCE THEY NEEDED TO COPE WITH CHANGE.

"HONG KONG IS NOT A WELFARE STATE, BUT WE ARE A SOCIETY THAT CARES DEEPLY ABOUT THE STATE OF WELFARE."

HE SAID WELFARE SERVICES MUST BE MORE THAN JUST A SAFETY NET THAT ALLOWED THE FORTUNATE MAJORITY TO ENJOY ITS PROSPERITY WITH AN EASY CONSCIENCE.

HE SAID HONG KONG COULD TAKE PRIDE IN THE WAY IT HAD IMPROVED ITS WELFARE SERVICES IN BOTH SCOPE AND QUALITY OVER THE LAST DECADE.

BUT MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE TO HONOUR OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE DEPRIVED AND THE DISABLED.

ON THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME, THE GOVERNOR CONFIRMED THAT THE NECESSARY FUNDS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE KEY TARGETS SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION.

HE SAID AN ADDITIONAL 3,930 RESIDENTIAL PLACES WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED AND THOSE WHO HAD SUFFERED FROM MENTAL ILLNESS.

MR PATTEN SAID THIS WAS AN INCREASE OF JUST OVER 100%. AS A RESULT, THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH RESIDENTIAL PLACES FOR ALL WHO NEEDED THEM BY 1997.

HE SAID THE DEMAND FOR DAY SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED WOULD ALSO BE MET IN FULL.

THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED WOULD HAVE AN ADDITIONAL 2,110 PLACES IN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS AND AN EXTRA 1,650 PLACES IN DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES, HE SAID.

WITH THIS EXPANSION, THERE SHOULD NO LONGER BE ANY NEED, OR ANY EXCUSE, FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED TO BE LEFT TO LANGUISH AT HOME.

ON SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, MR PATTEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO END THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ITS COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS SET BY LAST YEAR'S WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE.

HE SAID HE WAS DETERMINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACHIEVE ALL THE KEY TARGETS FOR 1997.

HE SPELT OUT WHAT THIS SHOULD MEAN FOR THE PEOPLE CONCERNED:

- \* THE ELDERLY WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL PRIORITY. WE WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH AN ADDITIONAL 5,000 PLACES IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES AND HOMES FOR THE AGED. WE WILL ALSO ESTABLISH 14 MORE MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES AND 70 SOCIAL CENTRES.
- \* FOR CHILDREN, WE WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 5,600 NURSERY PLACES; AN EXTRA 1,200 DAY CRECHE PLACES; 200 MORE FOSTER CARE PLACES; AN ADDITIONAL 45 SMALL GROUP HOMES; AND AN EXTRA 60 SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS.
- \* WE WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 44 HOME HELP TEAMS.

"THESE IMPORTANT MEASURES WILL DO MUCH TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MANY OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILIES," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH OVERHAUL OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

"WE WILL INTRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO IMPROVE MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS.

"THIS PACKAGE WILL PROVIDE, AS A CONSOLIDATED SUM, INCOME SUPPORT FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF PARTICULAR GROUPS."

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS IN THE FORM OF A SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE WHO WERE ELDERLY OR DISABLED BUT WHO WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE NEW MEANS-TESTED COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS.

"AND I CAN ASSURE THEM THAT THEIR LEVEL OF BENEFITS WILL BE MAINTAINED UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS."

HE SAID BASIC RATES UNDER THE EXISTING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME RANGED BETWEEN \$600 A MONTH FOR AN INDIVIDUAL IN A FAMILY TO \$825 A MONTH FOR A SINGLE PERSON LIVING ALONE.

THESE CREATED ANOMALIES AND UNFAIR DIFFERENCES IN LEVELS OF EXISTING PAYMENTS.

THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME, HE SAID, WOULD REMOVE THESE DEFECTS.

"THE NEW SCHEME WILL ENSURE THAT THOSE MOST IN NEED WILL BE BETTER OFF," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO HOPED THAT LEGCO MEMBERS WOULD APPROVE THE FUNDING FOR AN EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE ABILITY OF BENEFICIARIES TO RECEIVE SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

THE CURRENT RULE, ALLOWING 45 DAYS ABSENCE FROM THE TERRITORY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS AND 119 DAYS ABSENCE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS BEFORE BENEFITS WERE SUSPENDED, WOULD BE CHANGED TO 180 DAYS FOR ALL ELDERLY AND DISABLED RECIPIENTS.

"AS A RESULT, OUR ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THEIR RELATIVES IN SOUTHERN CHINA, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO MORE EASILY THAN IN THE PAST," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WOULD PROVIDE LEGCO MEMBERS WITH FULL DETAILS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM ON SATURDAY.

THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATIONS TO COMPLETE. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD COME INTO EFFECT FROM JULY 1, NEXT YEAR, SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO THE LEGCO'S APPROVAL OF THE FUNDING.

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#### MEDICAL CLINIC WAITING TIMES TO BE REDUCED

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO PROVIDE MORE MEDICAL FACILITIES AND AT THE SAME TIME IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE FOR PATIENTS, ESPECIALLY IN REDUCING WAITING TIMES AT CLINICS, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"NO ONE SHOULD DOUBT THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO GO ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE MEDICAL SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY," MR PATTEN SAID IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID: "IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR, SUBJECT TO THIS COUNCIL'S APPROVAL, WE SHALL INCREASE THE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BY 4% IN REAL TERMS. THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL RECEIVE CLOSE TO 8% EXTRA.

"BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, WE PLAN TO RAISE RECURRENT SPENDING ON HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING HOSPITAL SERVICES, BY 22% IN REAL TERMS.

"THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WILL ENABLE US TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 4,200 HOSPITAL BEDS, TO OPEN 13 NEW CLINICS AND TO EXPAND 11 EXISTING CLINICS."

MR PATTEN SAID WHILE THIS AMOUNTED TO A REAL AND SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING OUR GENERAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, THE GOVERNMENT MUST DO MORE THAN SIMPLY INCREASE THE QUANTITY OF THE SERVICES AVAILABLE.

"WE MUST ALSO RAISE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE WE OFFER OUR PATIENTS. WE INTEND TO START WITH PATIENT CARE.

/"THE FIRST .....

"THE FIRST MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IS TO MAKE SURE THAT PATIENTS DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT AN EXCESSIVE LENGTH OF TIME FOR TREATMENT, PARTICULARLY IN EMERGENCY CASES.

"NEXT YEAR, WE AIM TO REDUCE THE AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CASES IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS FROM ONE HOUR AT PRESENT TO LESS THAN 30 MINUTES.

"WE WILL ALSO CUT THE WAITING TIME AT GENERAL CLINICS FOR 300,000 PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC DISEASES BY GIVING THEM ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS.

"WHERE WE CANNOT ELIMINATE THE NEED TO WAIT, WE CAN AT LEAST MAKE THE EXPERIENCE MORE COMFORTABLE BY INSTALLING AIR-CONDITIONERS IN WAITING ROOMS, AND BY PROVIDING DRINKING FOUNTAINS AND BETTER EQUIPPED AND CLEANER TOILETS."

MR PATTEN ALSO SAID DOCTORS MUST HAVE ACCESS TO ACCURATE AND RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THEIR PATIENTS.

"MEDICAL RECORDS WILL BE STANDARDISED IN GENERAL CLINICS. WITHOUT THIS BASIC INFORMATION, WE CANNOT HOPE TO ACHIEVE HIGHER STANDARDS AND ENSURE CONTINUITY OF CARE.

"AND PATIENTS NEED TO KNOW WHAT MEDICINES HAVE BEEN PRESCRIBED IF THEY ARE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN MANAGING THEIR OWN TREATMENT. ALL DRUGS PRESCRIBED AT GENERAL CLINICS ARE NOW LABELLED.

"THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TO EXTEND DRUG LABELLING TO ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND SPECIALIST CLINICS," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID THESE MEASURES MIGHT NOT SOUND DRAMATIC BY THEMSELVES, BUT, OVERALL, THEY WOULD BRING ABOUT A MARKED AND VISIBLE IMPROVEMENT.

"THEY REFLECT OUR DETERMINATION TO INTRODUCE A MORE RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT SERVICE THROUGHOUT OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

"THEY ALSO DEMONSTRATE THE STYLE OF MANAGEMENT WHICH THE NEW HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO DEVELOP," HE ADDED.

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#### TARGETTING HEALTH NEEDS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

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NEW TARGETS NEED TO BE SET TO MEET THE SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS OF SPECIFIC GROUPS WHO ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE, WITH THE FOCUS BEING ON EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT.

IN ADDITION, MORE WILL BE DONE IN PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS.

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THIS IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/"WE MUST .....

"WE MUST PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE TREATMENT FOR THOSE WHO FALL ILL. BUT IT IS MUCH BETTER TO HELP THEM AVOID FALLING ILL IN THE FIRST PLACE," MR PATTEN SAID.

HE SAID BETWEEN NOW AND 1997 THE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- \* ESTABLISH SEVEN HEALTH CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY TO PROVIDE SCREENING AND OTHER PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR 700,000 PEOPLE AGED 65 AND ABOVE;
- \* ESTABLISH THREE "WELL-WOMAN" CLINICS TO PROVIDE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING GYNAECOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS AND SCREENING, TO WOMEN, ESPECIALLY SOME 320,000 AGED 45 AND ABOVE.

IN MAKING A PLEDGE ON TREATING MENTAL ILLNESS, MR PATTEN SAID SUCH PATIENTS WERE, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, TOO OFTEN NEGLECTED OR ABANDONED.

HE SAID: "MENTAL ILLNESS IS A MARKED FEATURE OF URBAN LIFE IN THIS CENTURY. IN HONG KONG WE MUST TRY TO DO BETTER FOR THIS VULNERABLE GROUP OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS.

"THE DOCTORS AND NURSES WHO HAVE MADE IT THEIR VOCATION TO SERVE THE MENTALLY ILL, TOGETHER WITH THE PATIENTS THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES, MUST BE GIVEN THE FACILITIES THEY NEED FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS."

HE SAID BETWEEN NOW AND 1997:

- \* WE WILL ATTACK THE INTOLERABLE OVERCROWDING AT CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL. WITH THE GENEROUS HELP OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, 800 NEW BEDS WILL BE PROVIDED;
- \* ALMOST 900 ADDITIONAL BEDS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS IN OTHER HOSPITALS;
- \* DEMAND FOR PLACES IN HALF-WAY HOUSES AND LONG-STAY CARE HOMES WILL BE MET IN FULL;
- \* PROFESSIONAL TEAMS WILL BE SET UP TO TREAT THE MENTALLY ILL IN THE COMMUNITY. THEY WILL ENABLE US TO HALVE THE CURRENT WAITING TIME FOR PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION. THE FIRST TEAM WILL BE SET UP NEXT YEAR, AND WILL SPECIALISE IN CARING FOR ELDERLY MENTAL PATIENTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

## HOUSING SCHEME FOR 'SANDWICH CLASS'

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A NEW MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING SCHEME FOR THE 'SANDWICH CLASS', SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SCHEME WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE PRESENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, WITH THE FIRST LAND SITES INTENDED TO BE ALLOCATED IN 1993/94.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, MR PATTEN DESCRIBED THE SANDWICH CLASS AS ONE GROUP IN THE COMMUNITY WHOSE HOUSING PROBLEMS CAUSED HIM PARTICULAR CONCERN AND HE SHARED LEGCO MEMBERS' VIEWS THAT THE BURDEN MUST BE EASED.

OUTLINING HIS PROPOSALS FOR THE NEW SCHEME, HE SAID:

"BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, THESE PROPOSALS WILL BENEFIT ABOUT 13,000 FAMILIES.

"AS A RESULT, A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THE SANDWICH CLASS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROPERTY SPECULATORS TO EXPLOIT THEIR MARKET WILL BE REDUCED."

MR PATTEN SAID THE LAND FOR THE SCHEME WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE LAND REQUIRED FOR THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME.

"BECAUSE OF THE TIME LAG IN DEVELOPING NEW HOUSING PROJECTS, THE FIRST UNITS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 1995/96.

"OBVIOUSLY, TO WAIT ANOTHER THREE YEARS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THIS SCHEME IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

"SO, I PROPOSE THAT, IN THE MEANTIME, WE SHOULD BUY FLATS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SELL TO THE SANDWICH CLASS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES. WE HOPE TO OFFER 1,000 FLATS DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION.

"THIS INTERIM PLAN WILL BE DISCONTINUED AS SOON AS FLATS FROM THE LONG TERM SCHEME BECOME AVAILABLE," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID HOUSING CONTINUED TO BE A MAJOR CLAIM ON THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCES, WITH MORE AND MORE FAMILIES WANTING TO PROGRESS FROM BEING RENT-PAYING TENANTS TO OWNER-OCCUPIERS.

OUTLINING ACTION TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM THE HOUSING SQUEEZE, HE SAID:

"ON AVERAGE, WELL OVER 100 NEW FLATS WILL BE BUILT EVERY SINGLE DAY BETWEEN NOW AND 1997 BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE HOUSING SOCIETY.

"ALL URBAN SQUATTERS ON GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE REHOUSED BY MARCH 1996.

/"ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS .....

"ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN EXISTING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS WILL HAVE BEEN REHOUSED BY 1997.

"JUST UNDER 60% OF FAMILIES WILL OWN THEIR OWN HOMES BY 1997, ONE OF THE HIGHEST PROPORTIONS IN THE WORLD."

MR PATTEN ADDED: "THESE IMPRESSIVE FIGURES SHOW OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE HOUSING PROGRAMMES WHICH - THANKS TO THE FORESIGHT OF LORD MACLEHOSE AND SOME OF MY OTHER PREDECESSORS - HAVE TRANSFORMED THE LIVING STANDARDS OF SO MANY OF OUR FAMILIES.

"AND WE WILL NATURALLY CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ENSURE THAT THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SUPPLY OF ACCOMMODATION COMES ONTO THE MARKET AT COMPETITIVE PRICES."

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TIME TO STOP ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

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MEASURES TO CONTROL ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, INCLUDING A PROPOSAL THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF SEWAGE SERVICES, WERE OUTLINED BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN ADDITION, MR PATTEN SAID ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION HAD TO STOP, AND HE WAS DETERMINED THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SET 'A GOOD, GREEN EXAMPLE'.

AND, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT WILL BE INCLUDED IN POLICY PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, MR PATTEN SAID BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, \$7.3 BILLION WOULD BE SPENT ON MEASURES TO HANDLE PROPERLY THE SOLID AND TOXIC WASTES WHICH HONG KONG PRODUCED EVERY DAY.

THESE INCLUDED SANITARY LANDFILLS IN REMOTE AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, STRATEGICALLY LOCATED REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS FOR THE BULK TRANSFER OF SOLID WASTE TO THE NEW LANDFILLS, AND A CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY FOR TOXIC WASTES.

"ALL THESE FACILITIES WILL COME INTO OPERATION WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

"THEY WILL ENABLE US TO CLOSE THE OLDER URBAN LANDFILLS AND INCINERATORS; TO COPE WITH OUR SOLID WASTE FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS; AND TO DEAL PROPERLY WITH THE 100,000 TONNES OF TOXIC WASTE INDUSTRY PRODUCES EVERY YEAR," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD, HOWEVER, ALWAYS RECOGNISED THAT PLANS TO CONTROL WATER POLLUTION WOULD TAKE LONGER TO IMPLEMENT, AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE EASY TO PAY FOR THE MANY, COSTLY SEWAGE PROGRAMMES THAT WERE NECESSARY.

THE ENTIRE SEWAGE STRATEGY PROGRAMME WOULD REQUIRE SOME \$17.8 BILLION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, WITH \$7.3 BILLION OF THIS REQUIRED BETWEEN NOW AND 1997.

IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FUND THIS FROM THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND IN THE NORMAL WAY. EVEN IF BUDGETARY GUIDELINES WERE IGNORED AND ALL OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS PRE-EMPTED, FINANCING ON THIS SCALE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE.

"BUT WE CANNOT SIMPLY SHRUG OUR SHOULDERS AND ACCEPT DEFEAT. THE PROBLEM WILL NOT GO AWAY. SO HOW DO WE FIND THE RESOURCES WE NEED?" HE SAID.

"ONE WAY FORWARD IS FOR THE COMMUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF SEWAGE SERVICES WHICH EVERYONE USES.

"THE BROAD PRINCIPLE IS THAT AS WE ALL CONTRIBUTE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO WATER POLLUTION, IT IS RIGHT WE SHOULD ALL WORK TOGETHER TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

"PEOPLE HAVE SAID TO ME THAT THEY WOULD NOT OBJECT TO MAKING SOME MODEST CONTRIBUTION THEMSELVES, PROVIDED THEY WERE CONVINCED THAT THE TERRITORY'S APPALLING WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS WOULD BE PROPERLY SORTED OUT AS A RESULT.

"BUT IT WOULD BE UNFAIR FOR THE BURDEN TO FALL PRIMARILY ON ORDINARY FAMILIES.

"SO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL IS THAT THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLDS SHOULD INDEED BE MODEST.

"WE WILL BE LOOKING IN MORE DETAIL AT THESE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS OVER THE PERIOD AHEAD AND, IN DUE COURSE, CONSULTING WIDELY ON THEM," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID IT WAS CLEARLY IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF SHOULD ALSO SHOW ITS COMMITMENT TO SOLVING THIS PROBLEM IN A FAIR AND REASONABLE WAY.

"I AM PROPOSING, THEREFORE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTRIBUTE NOT LESS THAN \$3 BILLION FROM ITS CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND TO ENABLE THE STRATEGY TO GET OFF THE GROUND QUICKLY.

"THIS INJECTION WILL REDUCE VERY CONSIDERABLY THE LEVEL OF CHARGES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE NECESSARY.

"I WANT TO EMPHASISE THAT THE FIRST \$7.3 BILLION PHASE OF THE SEWAGE STRATEGY, ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING, CAN AND WILL BE FINANCED BY HONG KONG BEFORE 1997; FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY WILL BE A MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SAR IN THE YEARS BEYOND.

"I BELIEVE THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY I HAVE DESCRIBED, GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE WILL BE ABLE TO CLEAN UP OUR WATERS AND MAKE OUR AMBITIOUS SEWAGE STRATEGY A REALITY.

/"I SHALL ...

"I SHALL BE LOOKING FOR SUPPORT FROM ALL WHO ARE SERIOUSLY COMMITTED TO A CLEANER, GREENER HONG KONG IN CARRYING THIS THROUGH."

MR PATTEN SAID THERE WERE OTHER THINGS THAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

"I AM DETERMINED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SET A GOOD, GREEN EXAMPLE. I WANT CONCERN FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT TO ENTER EVERY CORNER OF GOVERNMENT.

"ONE ACTION I HAVE ASKED TO BE TAKEN WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT IS FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. CURRENTLY, THIS RULE APPLIES ONLY TO MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

"FROM NOW ON, I WANT THIS PRACTICE TO BE EXTENDED TO ALL POLICY PROPOSALS WHERE THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A SIGNIFICANT COST OR BENEFIT TO THE ENVIRONMENT. WHERE THERE IS LIKELY TO BE LITTLE OR NO IMPACT, THAT MUST BE CLEARLY STATED.

"I HAVE ASKED MY OFFICIALS TO LOOK AT OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES IN THE COMING MONTHS. I ALSO WANT TO TALK FURTHER TO THOSE OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT WHO TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS, AND WILL, IN DUE COURSE, ANNOUNCE THE FURTHER MEASURES THAT WE PROPOSE TO TAKE," HE SAID.

STRESSING THAT ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION HAD TO BE STOPPED, MR PATTEN SAID:

"WE HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM. WE CANNOT PASS THE BUCK TO GENERATIONS TO COME. IF YOU WILL EXCUSE THE PUN, THE MUCK STOPS HERE."

"WE CANNOT ESCAPE THE ACCUSATION THAT THE ENVIRONMENT IS THE ONE STRIKING FAILURE BY HONG KONG'S NORMAL STANDARDS OF SUCCESS."

HE SAID THE LEVEL OF POLLUTION IN HONG KONG WAS PARTICULARLY SURPRISING BECAUSE, UNLIKE MANY OTHER CITIES, THIS COMMUNITY DID NOT VANDALISE ITS PUBLIC HOUSING, ITS MTR, OR ITS OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES. WE VALUED THESE PUBLIC ASSETS.

"WHY, THEREFORE, DO WE GO ON VANDALISING OUR ENVIRONMENT?"

HE SAID THERE WAS LITTLE POINT IN HAVING MORE AND MORE COMFORTABLE HOMES IF WE ALLOWED THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE LIVED TO CONTINUE ON A DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF NEGLECT AND DEGRADATION.

"WE CANNOT GO ON POISONING THE AIR WE BREATHE AND THE FOOD WE EAT. WE CANNOT GO ON DUMPING FILTH INTO THE WATER WHICH WE DRINK AND IN WHICH WE SWIM."

CITING JUST TWO OF THE SOBERING STATISTICS, MR PATTEN SAID:

\* "WE MAY HAVE THE TALLEST AND FINEST BUILDINGS IN ASIA, BUT RIGHT NEXT TO THEM, WE HAVE A HARBOUR INTO WHICH WE DISCHARGE 1.5 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF UNTREATED SEWAGE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE EVERY DAY;

\* "WE MAY HAVE SOME OF THE BEST NATURAL PARKS IN THE WORLD, BUT WE DUMP 1,200 CUBIC METRES OF LIVESTOCK WASTE INTO OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS EACH DAY."

THIS DAILY DISCHARGE OF FILTH HAD POISONED OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS, ALMOST EXTINGUISHED MARINE LIFE IN THE HARBOUR AND HAD BECOME A SERIOUS HAZARD TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

MR PATTEN SAID THE SCALE OF THE TASK WAS BIG, BUT FOR A CITY LIKE HONG KONG IT WAS HARDLY OVERWHELMING.

"WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO ACT. WE HAVE THE RESOURCES REQUIRED. WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE, AND SWIFTLY, IF WE CHOOSE.

"AND THEN, WHEN WE HAVE CLEANED UP HONG KONG, WE WILL HAVE A NEW PRODUCT FOR EXPORT. ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY IS GOING TO BE A 'GROWTH AREA' FOR MANY YEARS TO COME."

MR PATTEN SAID WE HAD, OF COURSE, MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN RECENT YEARS.

"WE ARE STEADILY MOVING AHEAD WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1989 WHITE PAPER, WHICH ENVISAGED A 10-YEAR PROGRAMME TO MAKE HONG KONG MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY.

"I AM HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT ALREADY 73 OF ITS 118 TARGETS HAVE BEEN MET.

"THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENTS; SULPHUR DIOXIDE LEVELS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BEEN CUT BY 40% SINCE 1990 - AND UP TO 80% IN THE AREAS WORST AFFECTED.

"BUT THERE IS MUCH MORE TO BE DONE," HE STRESSED.

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#### MORE POLICE ON STREETS TO DETER CRIME

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DESCRIBING LAW AND ORDER AS A PERMANENT PRIORITY AREA, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE COMMUNITY'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE AGAINST CRIME IS A SUBSTANTIAL AND VISIBLE POLICE PRESENCE ON THE STREETS.

"NOTHING DETERS THE POTENTIAL LAW-BREAKER, PARTICULARLY VIOLENT CRIMINAL GANGS, MORE THAN A HIGH RISK OF COMING FACE-TO-FACE WITH FULLY-TRAINED, WELL-EQUIPPED AND THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL POLICE TEAMS," MR PATTEN SAID IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS.

HE SAID THE CRIMINAL AND THE CORRUPT THREATENED OUR WAY OF LIFE, AND WE NEEDED TO DETER POTENTIAL LAWBREAKERS, TO PURSUE CRIMINALS RUTHLESSLY AND TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE BROUGHT SWIFTLY TO JUSTICE.

"THE COMMUNITY LOOKS TO OUR BRAVE POLICE FORCE, TO THE ICAC AND TO THE JUDICIARY TO PROTECT ITS MEMBERS AND THEIR PERSONAL RIGHTS AND PROPERTY," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID HONG KONG HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED A HIGH LEVEL OF POLICING WITH 460 OFFICERS PER 100,000 OF THE POPULATION (COMPARED WITH 400 IN LONDON AND 350 IN TOKYO).

"BUT WE WANT TO MAINTAIN THESE LEVELS, AND OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS WE WERE LOSING MORE OFFICERS FROM THE FORCE THAN WE WERE ABLE TO RECRUIT.

"FORTUNATELY, THE PACKAGE ANNOUNCED IN MAY TO BOOST THE RECRUITMENT OF JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAS WORKED.

"THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS RECRUITED SO FAR THIS YEAR STANDS AT 1,261: 78% HIGHER THAN THE FIGURE FOR THE EQUIVALENT PERIOD IN 1991.

"MORE RECRUITS AND BETTER DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE MEAN THAT WE CAN PUT MORE POLICE OFFICERS ON TO THE STREETS WHERE IT COUNTS.

"OUR PLAN IS TO HAVE AROUND 800 EXTRA POLICE OFFICERS ON THE STREETS NEXT YEAR."

MR PATTEN SAID TRIAD AND ORGANISED CRIME CONTINUED TO MENACE THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE COMMUNITY.

"WE ARE DETERMINED TO COMBAT THEM. THE ORGANISED AND SERIOUS CRIMES BILL NOW BEFORE THIS COUNCIL WILL BE A MAJOR WEAPON IN THIS BATTLE," HE SAID.

THERE WAS STILL A SERIOUS PROBLEM WITH CROSS-BORDER CRIME.

"I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH SMUGGLING, INCLUDING CAR THEFT, AND I AM DETERMINED THAT THE PENALTIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY.

"I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY CROSS-BORDER TRIAD ACTIVITIES AND THE VIOLENT CRIME WHICH THIS HAS BROUGHT TO OUR STREETS.

"I WELCOME THE CO-OPERATION OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN POSTING HERE TWO SENIOR PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU OFFICERS TO ASSIST WITH ANTI-CRIME LIAISON.

"THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN A NUMBER OF SUCCESSES AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES: THE RETURN OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS TO HONG KONG, FOR EXAMPLE, AND THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID A RASH OF RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS INCURSIONS BY CHINESE VESSELS INTO HONG KONG'S TERRITORIAL WATERS HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION.

HE SAID: "IF CHINA IS WORRIED ABOUT SMUGGLING, I CAN SAY WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION - 'SO ARE WE'. BUT THE RIGHT WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM IS THROUGH PLANNED, SENSITIVE AND EFFECTIVE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PROPERLY CONTROLLED FORCES, ACTING WITHIN THEIR OWN BOUNDARIES.

"I AM .....

"I AM GLAD THAT THE VERY SERIOUS INCIDENT OF 25 SEPTEMBER WAS QUICKLY RESOLVED. I WANT TO END SMUGGLING, AND I WANT TO DO MORE TO AVOID PUTTING THE LIVES OF OUR POLICEMEN AT RISK IN OUR OWN WATERS.

"SO I SHALL PROPOSE TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THAT WE PLAN AND PUBLICLY IMPLEMENT A JOINT ANTI-SMUGGLING DRIVE. I FEEL SURE THEY WILL WELCOME THIS. IT WILL SHOW STRONG, EXECUTIVE-LED GOVERNMENT ON BOTH SIDES IN DEFENCE OF OUR COMMON PROSPERITY AND STABILITY."

REFERRING TO THE SPECTRE OF CORRUPTION, MR PATTEN SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT HONG KONG REMAINED A SOCIETY WHICH WOULD NOT TOLERATE CORRUPTION, NO MATTER WHO MIGHT BE INVOLVED, AND NO MATTER WHAT THE CRIMINALS' HIGH-PLACED CONNECTIONS, ACCESS TO POWER OR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

"CORRUPTION IS A MENACE TO US ALL. THE ICAC, WITH MY SUPPORT, WILL WORK TO ENSURE THAT THE EVILS OF CORRUPTION ARE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPTION ARE MINIMISED, AND THE CHANCES OF BEING CAUGHT AND PUNISHED ARE RECOGNISED TO BE TOO GREAT TO BE WORTH THE RISK.

"THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG REQUIRE A RELENTLESS ASSAULT ON CORRUPTION BEFORE AND AFTER 1997," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID ONE ASPECT OF LAW AND ORDER ABOUT WHICH HE HAD HEARD A GREAT DEAL SINCE HIS ARRIVAL WAS PUBLIC ORDER AND THE POWERS WHICH POLICE OFFICERS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN IT.

THIS ISSUE WAS ALWAYS DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE CONFLICTING VALUES WHICH WERE INVOLVED.

"ON ONE SIDE, WE HAVE THE RIGHT OF MEN AND WOMEN TO COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS PUBLIC AFFAIRS, TO MAKE THEIR CONCERNS KNOWN TO THE RULING INSTITUTIONS DIRECTLY AS WELL AS TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

"THE GOVERNMENT MUST ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC HAS GENUINE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROTEST PEACEFULLY - EVEN WHERE THE TARGET IS THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS A PARAMOUNT DUTY TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY, AND TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND DISORDER. THE POLICE, IN OTHER WORDS, MUST HAVE EFFECTIVE POWERS TO PROTECT PUBLIC ORDER.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT IN OUR CURRENT REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE, WE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND THE CORRECT BALANCE BETWEEN THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN A MODERN SOCIETY AND THE PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS OF POLICE OFFICERS IN UPHOLDING THE LAW IN A CIVILISED COMMUNITY.

"WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT IN ORDER TO PRESERVE LIBERTIES, THEY NEED TO BE EXERCISED WITH RESTRAINT."

TURNING TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, MR PATTEN SAID ANY SOCIETY BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW MUST ENSURE THAT ITS LAWS REFLECTED THE REALITIES OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE AND THOUGHT.

"I THINK IT WRONG IN PRINCIPLE TO LEAVE LAWS ON THE STATUTE BOOK WHICH ARE OUT OF DATE, WHICH WE DO NOT USE AND WHICH WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF USING. I AM REFERRING HERE TO THE LAW ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

"ON 26 JUNE LAST YEAR, THIS COUNCIL VOTED FOR A MOTION IN FAVOUR OF THE REPEAL OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

"IN THE DEBATE, MANY MEMBERS RECOGNISED THAT LAWS WHICH ARE NOT USED OR ARE OUT OF DATE SHOULD BE REPEALED.

"WE HAVE THEREFORE PREPARED DRAFT LEGISLATION TO REPLACE THE PENALTY OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT WITH LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

"THIS AMENDING LEGISLATION WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL DURING THIS NEW SESSION," HE SAID.

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AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES THE SOCIAL DIVIDEND OF SUCCESS  
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE AMBITIOUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES HE HAD PROPOSED FOR WELFARE SERVICES WERE THE SOCIAL DIVIDEND OF A HARD-WORKING, SUCCESSFUL AND ENTERPRISING COMMUNITY.

DELIVERING HIS POLICY ADDRESS, HE SAID THESE PROPOSALS WOULD INCREASE THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL SPENDING ON THESE KEY AREAS BY OVER \$8 BILLION BY 1997.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE IN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF 21% IN REAL TERMS OVER THIS PERIOD.

"WE WILL STILL BE HOLDING SPENDING GROWTH TO FIGURES THAT CAN BE SUSTAINED BY OUR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO MAINTAIN OUR TRADITIONALLY PRUDENT LEVEL OF RESERVES."

HE SAID HE WAS DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW HONG KONG TO MAKE THE MISTAKE MADE IN SOME OTHER SOCIETIES AND START SPENDING MONEY THAT WE HAD NOT EARNED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE MAIN AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE VARIOUS KEY PROGRAMMES WOULD BE PRESENTED TO LEGCO MEMBERS LATER THIS WEEK BY THE RESPECTIVE POLICY SECRETARIES.

IN ADDITION, FURTHER WORK WOULD NEED TO BE DONE TO FLESH OUT THE DETAILS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 1993/94 BUDGET, OR IN SOME CASES FOR EARLY SUBMISSION TO LEGCO'S FINANCE COMMITTEE.

ON WAYS TO MEET THE BILL, MR PATTEN SAID: "WE HAVE ENJOYED AN UNEXPECTEDLY GOOD REVENUE SITUATION IN THE RECENT PAST AND WE EXPECT THIS TO CONTINUE FOR THE REST OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR - HENCE MY PROPOSAL TO MAKE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL CAPITAL INJECTION INTO THE LOTTERIES FUND.

"THIS WILL ENABLE THE FUND TO MAKE RECURRENT GRANTS TO SUBVENTED WELFARE AGENCIES TO MEET THE TARGETS FOR THE KEY SERVICES SET OUT IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME, INCLUDING REHABILITATION."

IN THIS WAY, HE SAID, WE COULD ENSURE THAT OUR TARGETS FOR SOCIAL WELFARE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE SECURELY FUNDED BETWEEN NOW AND 1997.

"THIS IS THE SOCIAL DIVIDEND OF A HARD-WORKING, SUCCESSFUL AND ENTERPRISING COMMUNITY."

HE SAID THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR FUNDING IMPROVEMENTS IN MOST OF THE OTHER KEY PROGRAMMES WHICH HE HAD OUTLINED WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MET THROUGH THE GENERAL REVENUE.

"GIVEN OUR EXCELLENT TRACK RECORD AND OUR ROBUST BUSINESS PROSPECTS, I BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE THESE PLANS, CONFIDENT THAT FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH WILL FINANCE THEM AND WITHOUT IN ANY WAY WEAKENING OUR LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO A LOW-TAX POLICY."

MR PATTEN SAID HE WAS DUTY BOUND TO WARN THAT THESE AMBITIONS WERE SUBJECT TO UNEXPECTED REVERSALS IN OUR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FORTUNES.

"BUT, LET ME GIVE MEMBERS AN UNEQUIVOCAL ASSURANCE: LOW AND PREDICTABLE TAXES HAVE BEEN THE BEDROCK OF OUR ECONOMIC POLICY. AND SO THEY WILL REMAIN," HE SAID.

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'PERFORMANCE PLEDGES' FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

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ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS PROVIDING SERVICES DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC WILL ADOPT PERFORMANCE PLEDGES AIMED EVENTUALLY AT ENGENDERING A CULTURE OF SERVICE AMONG STAFF.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THESE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES WOULD:

- \* SET OUT IN PLAIN TERMS THE STANDARDS OF SERVICE WHICH THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT;
- \* INCLUDE PROVISION FOR EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF ACTUAL PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE STANDARDS PLEDGED;
- \* ESTABLISH A RIGHT OF APPEAL FOR DISSATISFIED CLIENTS;
- \* GUARANTEE A RIGHT TO A FULL AND PROMPT EXPLANATION WHEN THESE STANDARDS ARE NOT ACHIEVED; AND
- \* ENSURE DISCLOSURE OF THE CRITERIA WHICH DETERMINE THE INDIVIDUAL'S ENTITLEMENTS TO BENEFITS AND SERVICES.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE CIVIL SERVICE WAS TALENTED AND COMMITTED, AND IN THE LAST 30 YEARS HAD DONE A GREAT DEAL TO PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY WITH GOOD PUBLIC SERVICES. BUT GOOD COULD ALWAYS BE MADE BETTER.

"AND I NOW WANT TO ASK THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE RESPONDED SO WELL TO THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS IN THE PAST TO RESPOND TO THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

"WE HAVE NOW TO GO ONE STEP FURTHER, AND SEEK TO ENGENDER IN OUR PUBLIC SERVICES A CULTURE THAT GOES BEYOND THE PROVISION OF THE BARE MINIMUM; A CULTURE THAT RECOGNISES THE PUBLIC AS THE PAYING CUSTOMER AND TREATS HIM OR HER ACCORDINGLY.

"WE HAVE TO SET OUT PRECISELY WHAT STANDARDS OUR CUSTOMERS SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICES; HOW TO JUDGE WHETHER THOSE STANDARDS ARE BEING MET; AND WHAT TO DO WHEN THEY ARE NOT."

MR PATTEN SAID GOOD GOVERNMENT WAS ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY FINDING THE WHEREWITHAL TO UPGRADE OUR PROGRAMMES, TO IMPROVE OUR SOCIAL SERVICES OR ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.

AN INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS AND SOPHISTICATED COMMUNITY QUITE RIGHTLY DEMANDED GREATER OPENNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR WHICH IT PAID FOR - AND AN OFFICIAL ATTITUDE OF MIND WHICH REGARDED THE PUBLIC AS CLIENTS NOT SUPPLICANTS.

MR PATTEN SAID IT MADE SENSE TO BEGIN WITH THOSE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS WHICH HAD THE MOST CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC AND THE GREATEST IMPACT ON THEIR DAILY LIVES.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PUBLISH THE FIRST PERFORMANCE PLEDGES BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, AND THEY WOULD SET OUT TARGETS FOR:

- \* WAITING TIMES FOR TREATMENT AT HOSPITAL AUTHORITY SPECIALIST CLINICS;
- \* WAITING TIMES FOR CONSULTATIONS AT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GENERAL CLINICS;
- \* RESPONSES BY THE POLICE, FIRE AND AMBULANCE SERVICES TO CALLS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE;
- \* PROCESSING TIME AT IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT CONTROL POINTS SUCH AS THE AIRPORT;
- \* REPLIES TO TAXPAYERS' ENQUIRIES AT THE INLAND REVENUE; AND
- \* PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCES BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

NOTING THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE THE MORE COMPLEX APPLICATION, THE UNUSUAL REQUEST, WHICH MEANT DELAYS IN THE SPEED OF SERVICE, THE GOVERNOR SAID IN THOSE CASES THE SERVICE IN QUESTION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO KEEP ITS CLIENTS INFORMED OF THE REASONS FOR DELAYS.

MR PATTEN SAID EVENTUALLY EVERY PART OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR WHICH PROVIDED ITS SERVICES DIRECTLY TO THE COMMUNITY WOULD COMMIT ITSELF PUBLICLY TO PERFORMANCE PLEDGES.

BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH WAS STARTING WORK ON THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE NEW CLIENT-BASED CULTURE WHICH SHOULD INFUSE EVERY AREA OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY:

- \* CIVIL SERVANTS DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC WILL IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BY NAME;
- \* CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC WILL RECEIVE AT LEAST AN INTERIM REPLY WITHIN 10 DAYS;
- \* GOVERNMENT FORMS AND DOCUMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY, SIMPLE AND TOTALLY USER-FRIENDLY. WE WILL ABOLISH AS MANY AS WE CAN;
- \* TRAINING COURSES WILL BE RUN TO HELP THE CIVIL SERVICE ESTABLISH NEW STANDARDS OF COURTESY AND HELPFULNESS.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THESE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES WOULD BE THE FIRST STAGE IN A PROGRAMME WHICH HE INTENDED TO MAKE A PERMANENT FEATURE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

BUT HE ALSO WANTED THE PUBLIC TO HAVE A GREATER SAY IN THE RUNNING OF SERVICES PROVIDED IN THEIR NAME - AND TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PUBLIC COULD BE CONFIDENT THAT THEIR VIEWS WERE FULLY REPRESENTED.

HE INTENDED THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN OVERSEEING PERFORMANCE PLEDGES THROUGH 'USERS' COMMITTEES' WHERE THESE WOULD HELP TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE MONITORING.

MR PATTEN SAID HE HAD ASKED THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO TAKE DIRECT CHARGE OF THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE PROGRAMME, AND TO KEEP HIM CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH ITS PROGRESS.

"HE WILL ENSURE THAT THE SUCCESS OF THIS INITIATIVE IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND FOR THE EFFICIENCY UNIT WE ESTABLISHED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

"I AM IMPRESSED BY THE WAY IN WHICH THE CIVIL SERVICE, ESPECIALLY ITS MANAGERS, HAVE RESPONDED TO THE CALL FOR A NEW APPROACH.

"FOR OUR PUBLIC SERVANTS, THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THEIR MAJOR PROFESSIONAL GOAL - TO SERVE THE PUBLIC WHETHER AS THEIR PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS, THEIR SOCIAL WORK CLIENTS, THEIR SCHOOL STUDENTS OR THEIR CONSTITUENTS IN GENERAL.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE'S CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE A NEW STYLE AS WELL AS NEW STANDARDS OF SERVICE TO OUR PEOPLE," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID THE PROFESSIONALISM, INTEGRITY AND COMMITMENT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE WOULD BE VITAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAMME HE HAD SET OUT FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

"THESE QUALITIES WILL ALSO BE VITAL FOR HONG KONG'S CONTINUED SUCCESS AFTER 1997.

"AS THE CIVIL SERVICE PREPARES FOR THE TRANSITION, WE SHALL HAVE TO DEVELOP THE MOMENTUM OF OUR LOCALISATION PROGRAMME, NOT LEAST TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW.

"IN DOING SO, WE WILL NOT, OF COURSE, LOSE SIGHT OF THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION WHICH OVERSEAS OFFICERS WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE TO HONG KONG'S PUBLIC SERVICE," HE SAID.

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EXCO'S ADVICE TO BE SOUGHT ON PRESS FREEDOM CONCERNS

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL ASK THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ADVISE HIM, BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, ON WHAT ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS CONCERNS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

MR PATTEN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), WHEN DEALING WITH PRESS FREEDOM IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS.

HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THE ARGUMENTS FOR A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ORDINANCE AND FOR A REVIEW OF CURRENT LAWS WHICH MIGHT HAVE A BEARING ON PRESS FREEDOM.

"I UNDERSTAND THESE IMPORTANT CONCERNS. IN A FREE SOCIETY, THEY MERIT SERIOUS ATTENTION. WE CANNOT TAKE PRESS FREEDOM FOR GRANTED.

"BUT I SHOULD MAKE CLEAR AT THE OUTSET MY SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE VALUE OF GENERAL DECLARATORY LEGISLATION. SUCH LEGISLATION FREQUENTLY HAS THE OPPOSITE OF THE INTENDED EFFECT.

"BUT, HAVING LISTENED CAREFULLY TO THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO ME, I AM PREPARED TO LOOK AGAIN AT WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO EXTEND ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND TO REVIEW LAWS WHICH MIGHT INFRINGE PRESS FREEDOM.

"A REVIEW HAS BEEN UNDER WAY SINCE AUGUST," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WAS ONE ASPECT OF HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE WHICH HE THOUGHT DESERVED PARTICULAR ATTENTION, AND HE NOTED THE ISSUE WAS DEBATED IN LEGCO COUNCIL EARLIER THIS YEAR.

"HONG KONG IS BLESSED WITH A DIVERSE, VIGOROUS AND FREE PRESS. WITH 70 DAILY NEWSPAPERS, 600 MAGAZINES, THREE TELEVISION STATIONS AND THREE RADIO STATIONS, WE ARE NOT WANTING FOR VEHICLES OF EXPRESSION FOR THE FULL RANGE OF PUBLIC OPINION.

"EVERY ONE OF OUR NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS IS FREE TO REPORT ON ANY ISSUE THEY WISH AND TO CRITICISE, QUESTION AND CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT AS THEY SEE FIT," HE SAID.

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DIRECT ACCESS TO COMAC PROPOSED

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THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS (COMAC) UNDER PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR PATTEN PROPOSED THREE CHANGES TO COMAC:

- \* AT PRESENT, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ONLY ASK THE COMMISSIONER TO INVESTIGATE THEIR COMPLAINTS THROUGH A NON-OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL. IN FUTURE, THE PUBLIC SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE COMPLAINTS DIRECTLY TO THE COMMISSIONER;
- \* AT PRESENT, THE COMMISSIONER IS UNABLE TO PUBLICISE HIS INVESTIGATION REPORTS. THIS RESTRICTION SHOULD BE LIFTED. BUT, OF COURSE, WE MUST CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED;
- \* THE COMMISSIONER'S JURISDICTION SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE COMPLAINTS AGAINST STATUTORY BODIES SUCH AS THE MTRC AND THE KCRC.

HE SAID WITH THESE CHANGES, THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE WOULD PROVE A MORE EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARD AGAINST MALADMINISTRATION AND THE ARBITRARY USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE POWER.

MR PATTEN SAID COMAC WAS ONE ADDITIONAL ELEMENT IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENSURING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY FOR ITS DECISIONS AND ACTIONS, WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS UNDERDEVELOPED.

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LEGCO/EXCO TO BE SEPARATED

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SEPARATE, FOR THE TIME BEING, THE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, IN HIS POLICY SPEECH TO LEGCO TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THAT AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT HE HAD CONCLUDED THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY OVERLAPPING MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

"I INTEND, FOR THE TIME BEING, TO SEPARATE THE NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE TWO BODIES.

/"THIS SHOULD .....

"THIS SHOULD ALLOW BOTH COUNCILS TO PLAY THEIR PROPER ROLES. IN FUTURE WITHIN THIS COUNCIL, POLITICAL PARTIES AND GROUPS WILL BE FREE TO DEVELOP THEIR PROGRAMMES AND PLATFORMS, WITHOUT THE CONSTRAINTS THAT MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MUST IMPOSE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG HAD A VIGOROUS AND EFFECTIVE EXECUTIVE-LED GOVERNMENT THAT WAS PROPERLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE BELIEVED THERE WAS A DANGER OF CONFUSION AND MUDDLE IN THE ROLES WHICH WOULD BOTH UNDERMINE THE COMPETENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE AND INHIBIT THE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE AS AN INDEPENDENT CHECK ON GOVERNMENT.

"AS THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW BOTH MAKE PLAIN, IT IS THE LEGISLATURE WHICH IS THE MAIN CONSTITUTIONAL ELEMENT THAT MUST BE DEVELOPED. THAT IS, THEREFORE, MY MAJOR CONCERN."

MR PATTEN SAID THAT WITH A CHANGED AND MUCH MORE REPRESENTATIVE LEGISLATURE THERE SEEMED ONLY TWO CREDIBLE OPTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXCO AND ITS ADVISORY ROLE - A COALITION EXCO OR COMPLETE SEPARATION OF EXCO AND LEGCO.

HE SAID THAT TO SOME DEGREE THE COALITION APPROACH WAS ATTEMPTED AFTER THE 1991 LEGCO ELECTIONS, BUT IT FAILED TO GET FULLY OFF THE GROUND.

BESIDES PRACTICAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES, HE BELIEVED THERE WAS A MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM WITH THE COALITION APPROACH.

"IT WOULD RESULT IN THE TRANSFER OF POLITICAL DEBATE FROM THE OPEN FORUM OF LEGCO TO THE CLOSED COUNCIL OF EXCO.

"IN ADDITION, A COALITION EXCO IMPLIES THE APPOINTMENT OF SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPOINTED TO LEGCO. IT IS NO DISRESPECT TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SERVED ON EXCO WITH SUCH DISTINCTION TO SAY THAT THIS 'DOUBLE APPOINTMENTS' APPROACH WOULD IN THE FUTURE MAKE A NONSENSE OF OUR ATTEMPTS TO STRENGTHEN OUR REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS," MR PATTEN SAID.

THE GOVERNOR PAID TRIBUTE TO THE JOINT MEMBERS WHO WERE STEPPING DOWN TODAY FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

"I GREATLY ADMIRE THE WAY IN WHICH SO MANY OF THEM ATTEMPTED TO ACCEPT NEW AND IMPORTANT PARTY POLITICAL OBLIGATIONS WHILE MAINTAINING THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF AN EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

"HONG KONG IS IN THEIR DEBT FOR THE SINCERITY AND GOODWILL THEY SHOWED IN SHOULDERING AN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT POLITICAL BURDEN OVER THE LAST YEAR," HE ADDED.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD BE A NON-PARTY POLITICAL BODY PROVIDING IMPARTIAL ADVICE ON THE WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES COMING BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATION.

"I AM, THEREFORE, APPOINTING TO EXCO INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, DISTINGUISHED IN THEIR OWN WALKS OF LIFE, WHO CAN GIVE ME ADVICE WITHOUT THE CONFLICTING LOYALTIES OF ACTIVE DAY-TO-DAY POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT.

"THERE WILL ALSO BE A NUMBER OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE COUNCIL," MR PATTEN SAID.

IT WAS INTENDED THAT EXCO SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME ON STRATEGIC ISSUES, AND LESS ON THE "MINUTIAE OF GOVERNMENT".

"I SHALL BE ASKING ITS NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS FROM TIME TO TIME TO DEVELOP POLICIES WITH THE ADMINISTRATION IN THOSE FIELDS WHERE THEY HAVE PARTICULAR EXPERTISE.

"THOSE WILL BE THE POLICIES WHICH IT WILL THEN BE THE ADMINISTRATION'S TASK TO EXPLAIN TO THIS COUNCIL, AND TO PERSUADE THIS COUNCIL TO ADOPT AND DEVELOP.

"WHAT ACCOUNTABILITY MEANS IN PRACTICE IS CREATIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND YOU," HE SAID.

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LEGCO PRESIDENT TO BE ELECTED

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TOLD LEGCO MEMBERS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE WISHED TO HAND OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRESIDING OVER THE COUNCIL TO A PRESIDENT ELECTED BY THEM AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES COULD BE COMPLETED.

"THIS WILL MEAN THAT, IN FUTURE, I WILL BE ANSWERABLE AS THE HEAD OF THE EXECUTIVE TO THIS COUNCIL RATHER THAN BEING RESTRICTED TO THE ROLE OF PRESIDENT," HE SAID IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS.

PUTTING THIS INTO PRACTICE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT IF MEMBERS AGREED, HE PROPOSED TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO ANSWER MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND TO DISCUSS GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROPOSALS, ON AT LEAST ONE THURSDAY EVERY MONTH WHEN LEGCO WAS IN SESSION.

"I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE MYSELF AVAILABLE TO THIS COUNCIL TO REPORT ON MAJOR TRIPS ABROAD - LIKE MY TRIP TO CHINA - AND ON OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS. WE WILL OBVIOUSLY NEED TO WORK OUT TOGETHER EXACTLY HOW THESE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BEST BE MADE TO WORK."

MR PATTEN EXPLAINED THAT SEPARATING THE NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP OF EXCO AND LEGCO IMPLIED THAT "LEGCO MUST BE LEFT FREE TO RUN ITS OWN AFFAIRS AND, IN THE PROCESS, TO DEVELOP FURTHER ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT".

"THAT IS THE POSITION NOW LAID DOWN IN THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS, AND WILL BE THE POSITION, SET OUT IN ARTICLE 75 OF THE BASIC LAW, IN THE FUTURE."

THE GOVERNOR BELIEVED THAT HANDING OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRESIDING OVER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS AN IMPORTANT MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION.

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OMELCO TO BE WOUND UP?

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY IT SEEMED SENSIBLE TO WIND UP THE OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (OMELCO).

AND HE HAS PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW NON-STATUTORY GOVERNMENT-LEGCO COMMITTEE TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEGCO AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

IN HIS POLICY SPEECH, MR PATTEN SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO GO STILL FURTHER IN ENSURING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD THE INDEPENDENCE IT NEEDED TO REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY EFFECTIVELY.

"YOU MUST HAVE CLEAR AND SEPARATE MANAGEMENT OF YOUR OWN AFFAIRS. IT WOULD SEEM SENSIBLE TO WIND UP THE OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (OMELCO), WHOSE FUTURE I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING.

"WE ARE READY TO WORK ACTIVELY WITH MEMBERS IN DEVELOPING FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL AUTONOMY IN ORGANISING YOUR OWN ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT FACILITIES. WE WELCOME YOUR PROPOSALS," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID THE COUNCIL ALREADY HAD THE POWERS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN COMMITTEE STRUCTURE.

"I ASSUME YOU WILL WISH TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM THAT ENABLES YOU TO ENSURE THE EXECUTIVE IS FULLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE, AS LAID DOWN IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, AND THAT THIS PROCEDURE WORKS EFFECTIVELY AND OPENLY."

HE ALSO SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO DEVELOP THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED EFFICIENTLY.

"I PROPOSE THAT A GOVERNMENT-LEGCO COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHERE THE ADMINISTRATION CAN DISCUSS WITH MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL THE HANDLING OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S LEGISLATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROGRAMMES.

"THIS NEW NON-STATUTORY BODY WILL BE CHAIRED BY ME OR BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY OR FINANCIAL SECRETARY ACCORDING TO THE SUBJECT UNDER DISCUSSION," MR PATTEN SAID.

THE GOVERNOR INVITED THE COUNCIL TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF THE MEMBERS THAT SHOULD BE ASKED BY HIM TO JOIN THE NEW BODY.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO DISCUSS THE PRECISE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE.

"BUT ITS MAIN PURPOSE WILL BE THE VITAL TASK OF CREATING AN EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS COUNCIL AND THE ADMINISTRATION, SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF MEMBERS' CONCERNS, AND SO THAT THIS COUNCIL IS FULLY BRIEFED ON THE PROPOSALS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT," MR PATTEN SAID.

WIDE-RANGING ELECTORAL PACKAGE PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY UNVEILED A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS TO DEVELOP HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW.

THE PROPOSED ELECTORAL PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- \* LOWERING THE VOTING AGE TO 18
- \* INTRODUCTION OF SINGLE SEAT, SINGLE VOTE CONSTITUENCIES
- \* EXTENDING THE ELECTORATE OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES
- \* EXPANDING THE ROLE OF DISTRICT BOARDS
- \* DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO BE DIRECTLY ELECTED
- \* ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION
- \* MEMBERS OF THE 1995 ELECTION COMMITTEE TO BE DRAWN FROM DIRECTLY ELECTED DBS

IN OUTLINING HIS PROPOSALS TO LEGCO MEMBERS, MR PATTEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD REQUIRE SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH PEKING.

"LET US BE CLEAR WHY WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ALL THESE ISSUES RELATING TO THE 1995 ELECTIONS.

"THE COMMUNITY WANTS MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. BUT I THINK IT IS EQUALLY PLAIN THAT A MAJORITY WANTS CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS TO BE COMPATIBLE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE BASIC LAW AND, ACCORDINGLY, TO TRANSCEND 1997.

"AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE OPINIONS OF BOTH THE PRESENT AND FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWERS. FOR THIS REASON, THE PROPOSALS I AM PUTTING FORWARD THIS AFTERNOON WILL REQUIRE SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH PEKING," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID WHAT HE WAS OUTLINING WAS THE BROAD SHAPE OF THE UNDERSTANDING WHICH HE HOPED COULD BE ACHIEVED BOTH WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

LOWER VOTING AGE  
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THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WISHED TO SEE THE VOTING AGE REDUCED FROM 21 TO 18, AS THE COUNCIL ITSELF HAD RECOMMENDED, AND WHICH WAS REGARDED IN CHINA AND BRITAIN AND COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD AS A SENSIBLE VOTING AGE.

HE SAID YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN HONG KONG WERE JUST AS ABLE TO EXERCISE THEIR JUDGMENT AS CITIZENS AS THEIR AGE GROUP ELSEWHERE.

SINGLE VOTE, SINGLE SEAT  
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MR PATTEN SAID THE 1991 SYSTEM OF DOUBLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES HAD BEEN CRITICISED BECAUSE OF THE "COAT TAIL" EFFECT.

"TO AVOID THIS PROBLEM WHILE PRESERVING A STRAIGHTFORWARD SYSTEM, THE BEST OPTION IN MY VIEW IS TO GIVE EACH ELECTOR A SINGLE VOTE FOR A SINGLE DIRECTLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE IN A SINGLE SEAT CONSTITUENCY."

HE SAID THE METHOD WAS WELL KNOWN FROM MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND IT ALSO REFLECTED THE VIEWS OF MOST MEMBERS OF LEGCO.

#### FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY REVISIONS

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THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO LOOK BOTH AT THE EXISTING 21 FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND AT THE NINE NEW ONES TO BE CREATED.

IN RELATION TO THE PRESENT ONES, MR PATTEN SAID HE PROPOSED THAT ALL FORMS OF CORPORATE VOTING SHOULD BE REPLACED BY INDIVIDUAL VOTERS. THUS, CORPORATE VOTERS IN THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE REPLACED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN OR CONTROL THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CORPORATIONS CONCERNED.

FOR EXAMPLE ALL DIRECTORS OF COMPANIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE, INSTEAD OF JUST THE COMPANIES THEMSELVES.

"ACCORDING TO THE SAME PRINCIPLE, VOTES WOULD BE GIVEN TO DESIGNATED OFFICE BEARERS OF TRADE UNIONS IN THE LABOUR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY; AND REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS WOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE ALONGSIDE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF WELFARE AGENCIES IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES CONSTITUENCY," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID THAT TAKEN TOGETHER THESE MEASURES WOULD EXPAND THE FRANCHISE IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES CONCERNED BY MORE THAN FIVE TIMES, AND ALSO DEAL WITH SOME OF THE CRITICISMS LEVELLED AT THE EXISTING SYSTEM.

FOR THE NINE NEW CONSTITUENCIES, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE SIMPLEST AND FAIREST APPROACH WOULD BE TO DEFINE THEM SO THAT THEY INCLUDED THE ENTIRE WORKING POPULATION.

HE SAID THIS COULD BE DONE BY FOLLOWING THE EXISTING CLASSIFICATION OF OUR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS, IN EACH OF WHICH EVERY WORKER WOULD HAVE A VOTE:

- PRIMARY PRODUCTION, POWER AND CONSTRUCTION;
- TEXTILES AND GARMENTS;
- MANUFACTURING;
- IMPORT AND EXPORT;
- WHOLESALE AND RETAIL;
- HOTELS AND CATERING;
- TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS;
- FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE, AND BUSINESS SERVICES; AND
- COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES.

/"SUCH A .....

"SUCH A STEP WOULD HAVE TWO MAIN EFFECTS. FIRST IT WOULD GIVE EVERY SINGLE WORKER IN HONG KONG THE OPPORTUNITY TO ELECT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL A MEMBER TO REPRESENT HIM OR HER AT THE WORKPLACE. SECONDLY, BY ENCOMPASSING ALL OCCUPATIONS, WE WILL ENSURE BROAD REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"THESE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD RESULT IN THE FRANCHISES OF THE 30 FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES BEING EXTENDED TO ALL ELIGIBLE WORKERS IN OUR WORKING POPULATION OF 2.7 MILLION. NATURALLY EACH VOTER WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO VOTE IN ONE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY," MR PATTEN ADDED.

#### STRONGER LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

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THE GOVERNOR SAID THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ALREADY HAD EXTENSIVE EXECUTIVE POWERS, BUT THE VERY VALUABLE DISTRICT BOARDS WERE FAR TOO LIMITED IN THEIR FUNCTIONS.

HE SAID HE INTENDED TO EXPAND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, FUNCTIONS AND BUDGETS IN 1993 TO "GIVE THEM GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE RESIDENTS OF THEIR PARTICULAR DISTRICTS".

DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD BE GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY IN MANAGING FUNDS FOR MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES. THEY WOULD ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING COMMUNITY HALLS AND FOR MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO A VARIETY OF LOCAL BODIES, SUCH AS SCHOOL AND INDUSTRIAL LIAISON COMMITTEES AND CIVIC EDUCATION COMMITTEES.

MR PATTEN HAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT FROM 1994 ALL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD BE DIRECTLY ELECTED, EXCEPT EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SIMILARLY THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS ON THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS SHOULD ALSO BE INCREASED.

"WHILE CONTINUING TO ALLOW THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK TO ELECT THEIR EXISTING NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THESE COUNCILS, WE SHOULD ABOLISH THE APPOINTED SEATS."

#### BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION

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MR PATTEN SAID THE ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED WOULD INVOLVE A GOOD DEAL OF WORK IN DEFINING THE BOUNDARIES FOR THE NEW AND EXISTING CONSTITUENCIES.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE FAIRNESS, HE HAS PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION WHICH WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR.

#### THE 1995 ELECTION COMMITTEE

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MR PATTEN SAID THAT IF THERE WAS TO BE AN ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR 1995, THE IDEAL WOULD BE ONE GENUINELY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY.

"THE SIMPLEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE FORMULA TO ACHIEVE THIS FOR ANY 1995 BODY WOULD BE TO DRAW ALL OR MOST OF ITS MEMBERS FROM THE DIRECTLY-ELECTED DISTRICT BOARDS; THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE FOR ANY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE AND NOT JUST MEMBERS OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF MORE DIRECTLY ELECTED LEGCO SEATS FOR 1995, MR PATTEN SAID THE CASE HAD BEEN MADE TWO WEEKS AGO BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY (MR HURD) TO THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER.

WHILE THE CHINESE POSITION WAS THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE BASIC LAW, THE GOVERNOR SAID "THE CASE FOR MORE DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS IN 1995 WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE WITH VIGOUR".

MR PATTEN BELIEVED THE ELECTORAL PACKAGE HE HAD OUTLINED TODAY WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE BASIC LAW. "WHAT THESE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD GIVE US, THEREFORE, IS A 'THROUGH TRAIN' OF DEMOCRACY RUNNING ON THE TRACKS LAID DOWN BY THE BASIC LAW."

REFERRING TO THE BENEFITS WHICH A MORE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM WOULD BRING TO HONG KONG, MR PATTEN SAID: "THIS PROCESS WILL ONLY SUCCEED IF HONG KONG'S POLITICIANS DISPLAY GOOD SENSE AND RESTRAINT AND DEMONSTRATE THE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH GREATER DEMOCRACY CAN MAKE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG, THE WELL-BEING OF ITS RESIDENTS AND THE CONFIDENCE OF ITS COMMUNITY."

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HK CONTRIBUTES TO A MORE PROSPEROUS CHINA: GOVERNOR  
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE GOAL "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" MEANT A PROSPEROUS CHINA, MADE MORE PROSPEROUS STILL BY THE CONTRIBUTION OF A VIGOROUS, TOLERANT AND OPEN HONG KONG.

"WE SHOULD LOOK TOWARDS THE FIFTY YEARS BEYOND 1997. THEY WILL BE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THE FIFTY THAT WENT BEFORE."

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, MR PATTEN SAID THEY WOULD SEE OUR OWN SYSTEM AND OUR OWN WAY OF LIFE SURVIVING AND FLOURISHING BECAUSE IT WORKED SO WELL, BECAUSE IT EMBODIED VALUES WE ALL HELD DEAR, AND BECAUSE OF THE EXAMPLE OF DECENCY AND SUCCESS THAT IT OFFERED TO THE REST OF HUMANITY.

SELECTING A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE RESULTS WHICH WOULD BE PRODUCED BY THE PROGRAMMES HE HAD OUTLINED, MR PATTEN SAID ON PRESENT INDICATIONS, BY 1997:

- OUR GDP PER HEAD WILL HAVE REACHED US\$30,500, COMPARABLE TO ITALIAN AND DUTCH NATIONAL INCOME LEVELS TODAY, AND WITHIN 12 PERCENT OF FRANCE;

/- THE VALUE .....

- THE VALUE OF OUR TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE WILL BE US\$548 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO THE TOTAL EXTERNAL TRADE OF FRANCE TODAY, AND SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN THAT OF ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS;
- WE WILL BE SPENDING AT TODAY'S PRICES \$22 BILLION A YEAR EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN, \$9.4 BILLION A YEAR HELPING THE DEPRIVED, DISABLED AND DISADVANTAGED, \$15.3 BILLION A YEAR PROMOTING OUR HEALTH AND TREATING DISEASE, AND \$1.4 BILLION A YEAR PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT;
- WE SHOULD - IF THE WILL IS THERE - HAVE CONSTRUCTED ASIA'S MOST MODERN AIRPORT, WITH A CAPACITY ON OPENING OF 35 MILLION PASSENGERS A YEAR AND THE POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION TO A CAPACITY OF 87 MILLION PASSENGERS A YEAR; AND
- WE WILL HAVE ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONTAINER PORTS, WITH A CAPACITY OF 9.2 MILLION CONTAINERS.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO SAID WE WOULD BE A COMMUNITY IN WHICH:

- ALMOST 6 OUT OF 10 FAMILIES OWN THEIR OWN HOMES;
- ALMOST ONE IN FIVE OF THOSE AGED 17 TO 20 WILL BE STUDYING FOR DEGREES.

"THIS IS WHAT STABILITY AND PROSPERITY ARE ALL ABOUT IN PRACTICAL TERMS.

"THIS IS WHAT THE HONG KONG WAY OF LIFE IS CAPABLE OF DELIVERING, GIVEN MUTUAL TRUST AND CO-OPERATION FROM ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN SAID WE ALL RECOGNISED THE TROUBLED LEGACY OF HISTORY AND WE MUST MOVE BEYOND THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS INHERITED FROM THE PAST.

ON HIS VISIT TO PEKING LATER THIS MONTH, THE GOVERNOR SAID HIS GOAL THERE WOULD BE TO PUSH FORWARD THE PROCESS OF TRUST.

HE SAID THIS RELATIONSHIP MUST BE BASED ON FRANK DISCUSSIONS OF MUTUAL DIFFICULTIES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SOLUTIONS WHICH REFLECTED OUR COMMON GOALS.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN DO SO BECAUSE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN A FIRM COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING HONG KONG AS A UNIQUE COMMUNITY, A COMMUNITY WITH MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS STILL TO MAKE TO CHINA'S OWN DEVELOPMENT, AT THE SAME TIME AS IT PROVIDES AN ATTRACTIVE FUTURE FOR ITS OWN PEOPLE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WOULD BE HOLDING DETAILED DISCUSSIONS THERE ABOUT SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES WHICH WOULD DETERMINE THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE, INCLUDING OUR PROPOSALS FOR THE 1995 ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS AND THE BEST WAY TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION OVER FINANCING THE NEW AIRPORT.

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AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE AN UNDERLYING MESSAGE TO CONVEY TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, A THEME WHICH WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR ALL THAT HE HAD TO SAY.

MR PATTEN SAID HE WOULD BE EMPHASISING:

- THE WORK THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE BETWEEN NOW AND 1997;
- THE AMBITIOUS PLANS WE HAVE FOR THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THIS TERRITORY;
- THE PICTURE OF THE HONG KONG, CREATED BY THIS COMMUNITY'S OWN ENDEAVOURS, WHICH I WILL LEAVE IN 1997.

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