



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONSULTATION UNDERWAY FOR AIRPORT CORPORATION

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON SAID HONG KONG WAS ENGAGING IN A GENUINE CONSULTATION ABOUT THE BEST WAYS OF ORGANISING THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY OR CORPORATION IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I THINK EVERYBODY RECOGNISES THAT WE'VE GOT TO STRIKE A BALANCE.

"ON THE ONE HAND, WE WANT TO HAVE AS AFFECTIVE A COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION AS POSSIBLE, MEETING CUSTOMERS' DEMANDS IN A COMPETITIVE AND FLEXIBLE WAY.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE ORGANISATION THAT WE SET UP WHERE IT SPENDS PUBLIC MONEY IS PROPERLY ACCOUNTABLE."

ASKED ABOUT LOCALISATION OF THE PROPOSED ORGANISATION, MR PATTEN SAID: "I AM SURE THAT IN ESTABLISHING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATION OR AUTHORITY, THE DIRECTION OF THE CORPORATION OR AUTHORITY WILL WANT TO AND HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE TALENTS AVAILABLE AND WILL WANT TO HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE INJECTION OF LOCAL TALENT.

"BUT I DON'T THINK THAT IN ANY OF OUR PUBLIC CORPORATIONS OR AUTHORITIES, ANYBODY WANTS TO TOTALLY EXCLUDE EXPATRIATE EXPERTISE."

ASKED TO RESPOND TO A STATEMENT BY THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY ISSUED THIS AFTERNOON, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAVEN'T YET AGREED ON, LET ALONE STARTED TO CONSIDER ALL THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1995, FOR INSTANCE, HOW THEREFORE CAN THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE SAY THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE AGAINST THE BASIC LAW.

"SECONDLY, THE POSITION AS FAR AS DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IS PERFECTLY CLEAR.

"NOTHING THAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED IS AGAINST THE BASIC LAW."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1994

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GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO PRESS AFTER VISITING TV CITY

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GOVERNOR: GOOD AFTERNOON. I AM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO VISIT TVB TODAY FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. FIRST OF ALL, HONG KONG HAS TURNED ITSELF INTO THE MEDIA CAPITAL OF THE REGION. A NUMBER OF COMPANIES INCLUDING TVB HAVE SET THE PACE AND BLASE THE TRAIL AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT IN THE YEARS AHEAD, WE CAN BUILD ON THAT FOUNDATION. IT'S IMPORTANT TO OUR POSITION IN THE REGION. IT'S IMPORTANT TO OUR DEVELOPMENT AS A REGIONAL CENTRE. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US COMMERCIALY AND ECONOMICALLY AS WELL. SECONDLY, I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO VISIT ONE OF OUR LEADING MEDIA ORGANISATIONS. AS YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF OUR OPEN AND PLURAL SOCIETY IS A FREE PRESS AND PRESS MEDIA. I THINK IN AN OPEN SOCIETY WHERE YOU HAVE A FREE MARKET AND PRODUCTS, YOU INEVITABLY HAVE A FREE MARKET IN IDEAS AS WELL AND I THINK FREE PRESS, FREE MEDIA ARE AS IMPORTANT TO OUR WAY OF LIFE IN MANY WAYS AS A FAIRLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE AND INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY. THEY ALL CONNECT AND ALL MAKE UP PART OF THE FIBRIC OF OUR WAY OF LIFE. THEY ALL HELP TO SUSTAIN THE RULE OF LAW. JOURNALISTS ASKING DIFFICULT QUESTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS HELP TO MAKE SURE THAT GOVERNMENTS STAY CLEAN AND STAY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CITIZENS OF A COMMUNITY. AS YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN PRESSED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE WON'T ABUSE ANY OF THE EXISTING LAWS ON THE STATUTE BOOK TO TRY TO UNDERMINE THE FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA. I MAKE THAT PLEDGE AGAIN BUT I ALSO REMIND YOU THAT ENCOURAGED BY PEOPLE LIKE THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION, WE ARE REVIEWING AND AMENDING MUCH OF OUR LEGISLATION, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ORDINANCES ON TELECOMMUNICATION, BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, TELEVISION AND SO ON, TO ENSURE THAT THEY DON'T, IN ANY WAY, INFRINGE ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS WHICH I THINK THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE US TO LOOK AT AND WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT THEM AND, I HOPE, HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION ABOUT THEM. THERE'VE ALSO BEEN FROM TIME TO TIME, AS YOU KNOW, CRITICISMS OF ATTEMPT TO EXERT BACKDOOR PRESSURE ON THE PRESS AND THE MEDIA. THERE'VE BEEN SUGGESTIONS OF SELF-CENSORSHIP. WHEN THE NEWSPAPER SOCIETY GAVE EVIDENCE TO THE RELEVANT LEGCO PANEL IN SEPTEMBER, THAT WAS A POINT WHICH WORRIED THEM. I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE TO BE FEARLESS ABOUT AND KEEP OUR EYES OPEN TO PREVENT HONG KONG AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION HAS SAID, IS ONE OF THE OASES OF PRESS FREEDOM IN THIS REGION AND WE WANT TO KEEP THINGS THAT WAY AND THE BEST WAY OF PREVENTING THAT BEING ERODED, THE BEST WAY OF PREVENTING SELF-CENSORSHIP CREEPING IN IS BY PUBLICISING IT WHENEVER IT HAPPENS AS WAS DONE IN THE CASE OF THE EVIDENCE TO THE LEGCO PANEL IN SEPTEMBER. SO, AGAIN, I REPEAT, I'M DELIGHTED TO VISIT ANOTHER OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT MEDIA ORGANISATIONS, ONE WHICH IS DOING A GREAT DEAL FOR OUR ECONOMY AND A GREAT DEAL FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE. AND I'VE BEEN DELIGHTED TO SEE SO MUCH GOING ON TODAY AND PARTICULARLY DELIGHTED NOT TO TAKE PART, NOT TO BE ASKED TO TAKE PART IN A MARTIAL ART DEMONSTRATION OR A VIDEO FOR A POP SONG. BUT IT WAS ALL VERY INTERESTING.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE THE COMMENT THAT MAKING THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY BECOME AN AIRPORT CORPORATION IS TOO COMMERCIALISED, HOW DO YOU THINK THAT AND HAVE YOU MADE ANY DECISION ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP BOARD OF THE ...?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: WHAT WE'RE DOING, AS YOU KNOW, IS ENGAGING IN A GENUINE CONSULTATION ABOUT THE BEST WAYS OF ORGANISING THE AUTHORITY OR CORPORATION IN THE YEARS AHEAD. I THINK EVERYBODY RECOGNISES THAT WE'VE GOT TO STRIKE A BALANCE. ON THE ONE HAND, WE WANT TO HAVE AS AFFECTIVE A COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION AS POSSIBLE, MEETING CUSTOMERS' DEMANDS IN A COMPETITIVE AND FLEXIBLE WAY. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE ORGANISATION THAT WE SET UP WHERE IT SPENDS PUBLIC MONEY IS PROPERLY ACCOUNTABLE. NOW WITH THE MTRC, WE'VE CALLED IT A "C", A CORPORATION RATHER THAN AUTHORITY AND IN SOME EXTENT IN HONG KONG, WE USE THE WORD "AUTHORITY" WHEN WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT REGULATORY BODIES AND "CORPORATION" WHEN WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT A HANDS-ON ORGANISATION WHICH IS ACTUALLY AS IT WERE DRIVING A FUNCTION. I DON'T FEEL AT THE MOMENT, AT THIS STAGE OF THE DEBATE, ANY PARTICULAR PASSION ABOUT ONE WORD OR THE OTHER. BUT I DO HOPE THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE CAN FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE TWO FUNCTIONS, BETWEEN ON THE ONE HAND, HAVING A GOOD, EFFECTIVE COMMERCIAL OPERATION AND ONE THE OTHER HAND, HAVING ONE WHICH IS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE PUBLIC FUND THAT IT USES.

QUESTION: TVB HAS CONFIRMED THAT IT HAS THE BBC DOCUMENTARY ON MAO ZEDONG, DID YOU ASK THEM WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE GOING TO SHOW IT? ISN'T THIS THE KIND OF FILM WE LIKE TO SEE SHOWN HERE?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT'S, WITH RESPECT, THAT IS A QUESTION FOR TVB WHICH I AM SURE THEY WILL ANSWER AFTERWARDS. BECAUSE THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF INTEREST IN IT, I'VE ASKED ABOUT IT. I HAVEN'T SEEN THE PROGRAMME. I THINK THAT IT'S BEEN A SUBJECT OF SOME CONTROVERSY. IN MY EXPERIENCE, IT IS PART OF THE BUSINESS OF RUNNING A TELEVISION COMPANY TO FIND YOURSELF DRAWN INTO CONTROVERSIES. POLITICIANS ON THE WHOLE AND POLITICAL LEADERS APPEAR MORE ON TELEVISION THAN WATCH IT BUT THEY HAVE PARTICULAR SENSITIVITIES ABOUT WHAT GOES ON TELEVISION AND I HAVE TO SAY, HAND ON HEART, THAT THEY ARE NOT ON THE WHOLE SHARED BY THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG. I THINK IN POLITICS AND IN GOVERNMENT, YOU HAVE TO TAKE AS IT WERE THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH BUT I THINK THAT IT'S REALLY A QUESTION FOR TVB OR THE BBC WHO MADE THE PROGRAMME IN THE FIRST PLACE.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WILL YOU GUARANTEE THAT ... ?

GOVERNOR: I'M AFRAID TO SAY, APART FROM OF COURSE THE OCCASIONAL TVB PROGRAMME I HAVEN'T MANAGED TO WATCH VERY MUCH TELEVISION EVEN OVER CHRISTMAS.

QUESTION: WILL YOU GUARANTEE THAT MEMBERS OF THE AC BOARD SHOULD BE MORE LOCALISED, THAT'S WHAT THE CHINESE SIDE IS WORRIED ABOUT?

GOVERNOR: I AM SURE THAT IN ESTABLISHING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATION OR AUTHORITY, THE DIRECTION OF THE CORPORATION OR AUTHORITY WILL WANT TO AND HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE TALENTS AVAILABLE AND WILL WANT TO HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE INJECTION OF LOCAL TALENT. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT IN ANY OF OUR PUBLIC CORPORATIONS OR AUTHORITIES, ANYBODY WANTS TO TOTALLY EXCLUDE EXPATRIATE EXPERTISE. PART OF HONG KONG'S ATTRACTION AS A COMMUNITY AND PART OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS IS THAT WE BRING IN EXPATRIATES FROM TIME TO TIME TO DO PARTICULAR JOBS AND I THINK THAT HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE A GOOD MIX OF ALL SORTS OF TALENT.

QUESTION: THE SAR PRELIMINARY WORKING COMMITTEE IS INTENSIFYING ITS ROLE IN TRANSITIONAL MATTERS AND IT HAS OPENED ITS TALKS IN BEIJING TODAY, HOW IS THIS GOING TO AFFECT YOUR PREPARATIONS PERHAPS FOR YOUR TRIP TO LONDON THIS MONTH?

GOVERNOR: NOT AT ALL.

QUESTION: ARE YOU AFRAID THAT THE OUTCOME, I MEAN THE OUTCOME IS GOING TO AFFECT PERHAPS YOUR STRATEGY, AND SPEAKING WITH MR MAJOR SHOULD IT COME UP WITH OTHER PLANS FOR THE ELECTIONS, IF ANY AT ALL?

GOVERNOR: NO, NO. I THINK THAT THE IMPORTANT THING FOR THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG IS TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT IN THE LONG-TERM INTEREST OF HONG KONG AND TO ABIDE BY THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION. THE CAUSE OF THE PRESENT ARGUMENT WHICH I THINK IS UNFORTUNATE IS THAT WE WANT TO PUT IN PLACE FAIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS AND SOME OTHER PEOPLE DON'T.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THE NEW NCNA STATEMENT ISSUED THIS AFTERNOON, SAYING THAT THE ACCUSATIONS YOU MADE LAST WEEK AGAINST THE STATEMENT FROM THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE ARE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED?

GOVERNOR: WELL, I THINK THAT LIFE IS TOO PRECIOUS AND TOO SHORT TO SPEND EVERY HOUR AND EVERY DAY RESPONDING TO EVERY NCNA STATEMENT. BUT THERE IS AN EXPRESSION IN ENGLISH LITERATURE: ME THINKS THEY DO PROTEST TOO MUCH. I THINK THAT THE POSITION IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR AND I REPEAT IT. WE HAVEN'T, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAVEN'T YET AGREED ON, LET ALONE STARTED TO CONSIDER ALL THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1995, FOR INSTANCE, HOW THEREFORE CAN THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE SAY THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE AGAINST THE BASIC LAW. SECONDLY, THE POSITION AS FAR AS DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IS PERFECTLY CLEAR. NOTHING THAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED IS AGAINST THE BASIC LAW. SO I REALLY DO THINK THAT OTHERS SHOULD READ THE BASIC LAW AS CAREFULLY AS THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG HAS DONE.

QUESTION: LU PING SAYS THAT YOU ARE NOT CO-OPERATIVE BECAUSE YOU DO NOT LET THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH PWC MEMBERS, SO DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE?

GOVERNOR: YES I DO. THE BEST WAY OF ENSURING THE STABILITY OF HONG KONG, THE BEST WAY OF ENSURING THAT WE CO-OPERATE, THE BEST WAY OF SECURING OUR PROSPERITY IS TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT RATHER MORE IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE EXISTING CHANNELS FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA. I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, SO WOULD THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG. I'D LIKE TO SEE US MAKE MORE PROGRESS ON THE AIRPORT, SO WOULD EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG. THOSE ARE THE CHANNELS THAT WE'VE GOT TO MAKE WORK AND I HOPE THAT DIRECTOR LU PING'S STATEMENT MEANS THAT HE IS REALLY NOW COMMITTED TO GETTING IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR GUO TO ENSURE THAT WE GET TO MOVE ON IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. AS FOR THE PARTICULAR POINT ABOUT THE PWC, I AM AFRAID THE CHARGE IS MIS-DIRECTED BECAUSE WE'VE SAID THAT WE ARE CONTENTED FOR GOVERNMENT TO INFORM THE PWC ABOUT MATTERS THAT INTEREST THEM JUST AS WE INFORM OTHER OUTSIDE GROUPS. WE ARE A VERY OPEN GOVERNMENT AND WE BELIEVE IN KEEPING PEOPLE INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON. IF MEMBERS OF THE PWC HAVE QUESTIONS WHICH THEY WANT US TO ANSWER FOR THEM WE'LL BE DELIGHTED TO DO IT.

QUESTION: WHAT'S YOUR OBJECTIVE FOR THE TRIP TO LONDON?

GOVERNOR: WELL, ONE OBJECTIVE, THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS TO MEET AND GIVE EVIDENCE TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WHICH IS TAKING EVIDENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA AND HONG KONG. IT'S DOING A REPORT. AS YOU KNOW, MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE WERE HERE NOT VERY LONG AGO AND THEY'VE GOT TWO MORE WITNESSES, I THINK, TO HEAR FROM. ONE IS THE 28TH GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG AND THE OTHER IS THE, WHATEVER IT IS, FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHO IS GIVING EVIDENCE THE WEEK AFTER I AM. BUT WHILE I'M IN LONDON I WILL BE TALKING TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND OTHER MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS AS YOU WOULD EXPECT, TALKING TO THEM BOTH BECAUSE THEY TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HONG KONG PARTICULARLY AT THIS JUNCTURE IN OUR AFFAIRS, AND TALKING TO THEM AS WELL AS THEIR PERSONAL FRIENDS.

QUESTION: IS THIS TRIP THE FEARS OF LOSING PUBLIC SUPPORT NOW, OR HONG KONG SUPPORT OR ALSO LOSING PARTY SUPPORT IN LONDON?

GOVERNOR: NO.

QUESTION: IN THE TRIP IN LONDON, WILL YOU DECIDE WHEN WILL YOU PUT THE REST PART OF THE REFORM BILL TO LEGCO?

GOVERNOR: WE ARE OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERING THE TIMETABLE. OUR POSITION IS THAT WE PUBLISHED THIS PARTIAL LEGISLATION, INTRODUCED IT INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN ORDER TO TRY TO GIVE US MORE TIME TO DEAL WITH THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. THE BILL IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY LEGCO IN THE SORT OF RATIONAL AND SENSIBLE WAY THAT YOU EXPECT. I AM SURE THAT WHEN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAVE FINISHED CONSIDERING THIS BILL, WHICH IS THE SECOND OF THE BILL WE BROUGHT FORWARD, THE FIRST WAS THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL, I AM SURE THAT AFTER THIS THEY'LL WANT TO GET ON TO THE FINAL BILL. I STILL HOPE THAT THAT CAN BE ON THE BASIS OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA. WE WANT TO GO ON TALKING AND I AM SORRY THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS APPEAR TO HAVE RULED THAT OUT. BUT I THINK IT'S A QUESTION OF, AS WE HAVE DONE ALREADY, PROCEEDING IN AN ORDERLY WAY, ONE STEP AT A TIME AND WE ARE TAKING THE SECOND STEP, THE THIRD STEP WILL COME A BIT LATER. EACH OF THE STEPS WE'VE TAKEN, IF I MAY SAY SO, HAS ENJOYED AN ASTONISHING LEVEL OF SUPPORT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT IN HONG KONG. I CAN'T THINK OF A PERIOD IN THE LAST 10 OR 15 YEARS, PERHAPS EVEN LONGER, WHEN THERE HAS BEEN A BROADER BASIS OF SUPPORT IN BRITAIN FOR WHAT'S BEING DONE. IT DOESN'T MEAN THERE AREN'T SOME WHO ARE CRITICAL, IT DOESN'T MEAN THERE AREN'T SOME WHO THINK THAT THINGS SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY. UNITED KINGDOM IS AN OPEN SOCIETY LIKE HONG KONG AND YOU WOULD EXPECT THAT. BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANOTHER ISSUE AT THE MOMENT WHICH HAS, BROADLY SPEAKING, THE SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR PARTY, AND THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AS WELL AS THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY. ONE LAST QUESTION.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, LAST WEEK SECRETARY SO SAID THAT HE COULD NOT THINK OF A SINGLE EXAMPLE IN WHICH CHINA HAD ACTUALLY INTIMIDATED THE PRESS HERE IN HONG KONG. ALL OF US HERE OBVIOUSLY CAN THINK OF QUITE A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES, PARTICULARLY SOME JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN HELD IN JAIL IN CHINA WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY A VERY GOOD INTIMIDATION TACTIC. IS THAT YOUR FEELING AS WELL, SIR?

GOVERNOR: BOW TO THE EXPERTS, YOU'RE THE EXPERTS. IF THERE ARE EXAMPLES I HOPE THAT JOURNALISTS WHO ARE AS COMMITTED AS I AM TO A FREE PRESS WILL MAKE CLEAR WHAT THOSE EXAMPLES ARE. WHAT I RECALL AS I SAID EARLIER IS THE EVIDENCE GIVEN BY THE NEWSPAPER SOCIETY TO THE LEGCO PANEL. I'VE READ INTERESTING SPEECHES AND ARTICLES BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION. I'VE HEARD GOSSIP ON THE GRAPEVINE AS YOU'VE DONE. I THINK THAT WE WANT TO PREVENT OUR FREE PRESS BEING ERODED BY OUTSIDE INFLUENCE OR OUTSIDE PRESSURES. I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING WHICH ALL OF US SHOULD TAKE AS A COMMON CAUSE. HONG KONG IS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE AND A FREE PRESS IS PART OF OUR UNIQUENESS AND OUR ATTRACTION. RTHK, A SHORT WHILE AGO, DID WITH SOME OF OUR TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS A POLL ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN WHICH A LOT OF PEOPLE EXPRESSED ANXIETY ABOUT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DECLINING IN THE FUTURE. WE ONLY STOP THAT HAPPENING IF WE ARE ALL ABSOLUTELY ON OUR GUARD TO PREVENT IT HAPPENING AND THAT'S WHAT I HOPE YOU IN PARTICULAR WILL BE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED. I AM SORRY THIS HAS GONE ON SO LONG AND HAS KEPT YOU FROM YOUR TEA. I AM PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL ONCE AGAIN TO TVB FOR GIVING ME SUCH AN ENTERTAINING AND INFORMATIVE AFTERNOON AND FOR INTRODUCING ME ONCE AGAIN TO THE WONDERS OF THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION.

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INDUSTRY CHANGING TO HK'S ADVANTAGES: STI

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THE CLOSE ECONOMIC INTER-DEPENDENCE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA HAS ENABLED HONG KONG TO BECOME THE NERVE CENTRE FOR MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN CHINA, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HE SAID SINCE THE OPENING OF CHINA IN 1979, HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIALISTS HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE USE OF THE LOWER LABOUR AND LAND COSTS IN SOUTHERN CHINA FOR LOW COST, HIGH VOLUME AND LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES AND FOR THE OUTWARD PROCESSING OF GOODS.

NOTING THAT THE MOVEMENT OF INDUSTRIES TO SOUTHERN CHINA HAD SOMETIMES BEEN VIEWED IN NEGATIVE TERMS, HE SAID THIS MISCONCEPTION COULD NOT BE MORE WRONG.

"MANUFACTURING IS IMPORTANT AND IS GOING STRONG. IT IS THE PRODUCTION IN OUR FACTORIES HERE IN HONG KONG AND IN SOUTH CHINA THAT KEEPS OUR TRADERS SO BUSY, OUR PORT SO FULL AND OUR SERVICES SECTOR SO BUOYANT," HE SAID.

/MR CHAU

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE DECLINE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF MANUFACTURING TO THE GDP, THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS TODAY PRODUCING, IN REAL TERMS, 80 PER CENT MORE THAN IT DID 10 YEARS AGO.

"INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG ARE MOVING UP-MARKET THROUGH IMPROVEMENT IN LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY, AUTOMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MORE CAPITAL INTENSIVE, HIGHER TECHNOLOGY AND HIGHER VALUE ADDED MANUFACTURING," HE SAID.

THE RESTRUCTURING OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE HAD UNLEASHED VALUABLE LAND AND MANPOWER RESOURCES IN HONG KONG FOR INDUSTRIES THAT REMAINED IN THE TERRITORY TO CONCENTRATE ON MORE INNOVATIVE, HIGHER VALUE ADDED, BETTER QUALITY AND MORE PROFITABLE PRODUCTS, HE ADDED.

"WE HAVE LOST LABOUR INTENSIVE, LOW VALUE ADDED PROCESSES, BUT HAVE GAINED SOPHISTICATED BUSINESSES THAT CAN COMPETE WITH THE WORLD ON THE BASIS OF QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THE NEED TO SUPPORT THE MUCH ENLARGED PRODUCTION BASE IN SOUTHERN CHINA HAD RESULTED IN RAPID ADVANCES IN OTHER SECTORS OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY, SUCH AS TRADING, TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCING AND EVEN TOURISM.

HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THESE STRUCTURAL CHANGES HAD DONE ANYTHING TO DIMINISH HONG KONG'S PRICE COMPETITIVENESS IN THE WORLD MARKET.

"OVERALL, OUR INDUSTRY HAS BEEN CHANGING TO OUR ADVANTAGES," MR CHAU SAID.

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STUDY ON LANDFILL RESTORATION CONTRACTS

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANT TO LOOK INTO ISSUES COMMON TO ALL LANDFILLS IN HONG KONG AND TO PRODUCE A DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATE (DBO) CONTRACT DOCUMENT FOR THEIR RESTORATION.

THE DOCUMENT WILL BE USED AS THE BASIS OF INDIVIDUAL LANDFILL RESTORATION CONTRACTS FOR THE VARIOUS SITES.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE STUDY WAS SIGNED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BETWEEN EPD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR MIKE STOKOE, AND A DIRECTOR OF SCOTT WILSON KIRKPATRICK, MR SIMON DAVIES.

THE DBO CONTRACTS, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO LAST FOR 10 TO 15 YEARS, WILL REQUIRE THE CONTRACTORS TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT THE RESTORATION WORKS AND, FOLLOWING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE, THE CONTRACTORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE WORKS BEFORE EVENTUALLY RETURNING THE SITES TO THE GOVERNMENT ONCE THE REQUIRED STANDARDS HAVE BEEN ATTAINED.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID: "THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT EACH SITE WILL HAVE ONLY ONE COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESTORATION AND THUS MAKE CERTAIN THE WORKS ARE CARRIED OUT IN A SAFE AND EFFICIENT MANNER."

A SIMILAR APPROACH WAS SUCCESSFULLY USED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS.

THE CONTRACTORS WILL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE USE OF THE SITES FOR SPECIFIED CATEGORIES OF RECREATIONAL LAND USES DURING THE CONTRACT PERIOD.

THIS STUDY IS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME TO RESTORE LANDFILLS TO A SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE CONDITION SO THAT THE LAND CAN BE RETURNED TO BENEFICIAL USE.

THERE ARE 13 EXISTING LANDFILL SITES IN HONG KONG OCCUPYING AN AREA OF ABOUT 300 HECTARES.

NINE OF THE LANDFILLS HAVE CEASED OPERATION AND THE REMAINING FOUR WILL BE CLOSED IN PHASES WHEN THE THREE NEW STRATEGIC LANDFILLS ARE COMMISSIONED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED: "MOST OF THESE LANDFILLS HAVE BEEN LEFT AS DERELICT SITES SINCE THEY WERE CLOSED BUT LANDFILL GAS AND LEACHATE, THE PRODUCTS OF WASTE BIODEGRADATION, ARE CONTINUOUSLY RELEASED AND CAUSE CONSIDERABLE IMPACT TO THE ENVIRONMENT."

NOTING THAT THESE SITES, ORIGINALLY SITED IN REMOTE AREAS, ARE NOW MUCH CLOSER TO DEVELOPED URBAN AREAS, HE SAID THE RESTORATION OF LANDFILLS WAS NECESSARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY REASONS.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY COMMISSIONED A SERIES OF STUDIES TO ASSESS THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEMS GENERATED FROM THE LANDFILLS, RECOMMEND MITIGATION MEASURES AND IDENTIFY POSSIBLE FUTURE LAND USE OPTIONS FOR THE SITES.

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CALENDAR CARDS PROMOTE CHILD CARE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED 150,000 COPIES OF CALENDAR CARDS IN AN EFFORT TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF HOME SAFETY.

THE CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICES OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

FAI CHUNS OF FIVE DIFFERENT DESIGNS WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT APPEALED TO PARENTS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE.

"FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S SAFETY, THEY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE AT HOME, EVEN FOR A SHORT WHILE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS PROVIDING SUCH SERVICE IN 75 CHILD CARE CENTRES ACROSS THE TERRITORY WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING THE RISK OF HAVING YOUNG CHILDREN LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME.

THE NURSERIES OFFER TEMPORARY CARE AT TWO-HOUR OR QUARTER-DAY BASIS, CHARGING FEES FROM \$10 TO \$15 PER ADMISSION.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE SERVICE MAY CALL THE HOTLINE 343 2255 OR THE DEPARTMENT'S CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ON 836 3114.

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BOOKLET ON HISTORY OF HK DEFINITIVE STAMPS

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT TO COMMEMORATE THE HONG KONG '94 STAMP EXHIBITION, A PRESTIGE STAMP BOOKLET "A HISTORY OF HONG KONG DEFINITIVE STAMPS, 1862-1992" WILL BE ISSUED ON JANUARY 12.

IT WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE. THE SELLING PRICE IS HK\$38 A COPY.

A RESTRICTION OF FIVE BOOKLETS PER CUSTOMER WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE.

THIS PRESTIGE STAMP BOOKLET, WHICH IS PRINTED IN FULL COLOUR BY LEIGH-MARDON PTY LTD OF AUSTRALIA, CONTAINS THREE DEFINITIVE STAMP SHEETLETS, NUMBERED A HONG KONG CLASSICS SERIES NO. 3, 4 AND 5.

THE SHEETLETS ARE PRINTED ON CROWN AGENTS WATERMARKED PAPER.

THE SERIES NO. 3 SHEETLET CONTAINS FIVE \$2 STAMPS AND ONE 10-CENT STAMP. THE SERIES NO. 4 SHEETLET CONTAINS FIVE \$1.80 STAMPS AND ONE \$1.70 STAMP. THE SERIES NO. 5 SHEETLET CONTAINS FIVE \$1 STAMPS AND ONE \$5 STAMP.

MR PAGLIARI SAID THIS BOOKLET GAVE FOOD VALUE FOR MONEY.

APART FROM GIVING A BRIEF HISTORY OF HONG KONG DEFINITIVE STAMPS ISSUED SINCE 1862, IT ALSO CONTAINS MORE THAN 30 ILLUSTRATIONS OF HISTORICAL PAINTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, OLD COINS AND BANK NOTES.

FURTHERMORE, ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE DEFINITIVE STAMPS ISSUED SINCE 1862 AND THE VARIOUS CROWN AGENTS WATERMARKS USED IN THESE ISSUES ARE ALSO INCLUDED.

NO OFFICIAL FIRST DAY OR SOUVENIR COVERS WILL BE ISSUED. NO ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED.

HOWEVER, HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE FOR PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING THE "FIRST DAY" INDICATION AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1994

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,300
REVERSAL OF LAF	+700
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,907
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,093
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 127.7 *-0.1* 5.1.94

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.86 PCT	14 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.25	3.62
1 MONTH	2.93 PCT	17 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.93	3.84
3 MONTHS	3.05 PCT	20 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.97	4.04
6 MONTHS	3.19 PCT	23 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.90	4.25
12 MONTHS	3.50 PCT	34 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.82	4.71

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,007 MN

CLOSED 5 JANUARY 1994

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