



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1992

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GOVERNOR'S BUSINESS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCED.

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THE MEMBERSHIP OF HIS BUSINESS COUNCIL, ONE OF THE NEW INITIATIVES HE ANNOUNCED IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 7.

EIGHTEEN DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL FROM TODAY UNTIL THE END OF 1994.

THEY ARE:

MR CHRISTOPHER CHENG WAI-CHEE
MR PAUL CHENG MING-FUN
MR MIKE CLANCY
DR VICTOR FUNG KWOK-KING
MR MICHAEL GALE
MR JOHN GRAY
MR WALTER KWOK PING-SHEUNG
MR CHARLES LEE YEH-KWONG
SIR Q W LEE
MR VICTOR LI TZAR-KUOI
MR VINCENT LO HONG-SUI
MR NIGEL RICH
MR PETER SUTCH
MR ALLAN WONG CHI-YUN
MR DAVID WONG SHOU-YEH
MR PETER WOO KWONG-CHING
MR GORDON WU YING-SHENG
MR LARRY YUNG CHI-KIN

THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO APPOINTED THREE OFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL - THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

"THE OBJECTIVE OF THE COUNCIL IS TO EXPAND THE RANGE OF ADVICE ON BUSINESS AND RELATED MATTERS AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNOR," SAID THE INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON.

"AMONGST OTHER THINGS, MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON HOW TO KEEP HONG KONG THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY LOCATION IN ASIA AND HOW TO MAXIMISE THE POTENTIAL OF HONG KONG'S POSITION AT THE HEART OF THE ASIAN ECONOMY."

THE GOVERNOR WILL ALSO ASK MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE COMPETITION POLICY FOR HONG KONG.

"THE INTENTION IS TO HAVE BIMONTHLY MEETINGS," MR HANSON ADDED.

"THE DATE FOR THE FIRST MEETING HAS NOT BEEN FIXED BUT IT IS LIKELY TO BE IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER."

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THE GOVERNOR THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN'S
LUNCHEON SPEECH TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1992

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PAUL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FIRST OF ALL I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT EXTREMELY WELL OF MOTHERS-IN-LAW. I HAVE, AS SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED, BEEN SPEAKING RATHER A LOT RECENTLY, SO TODAY I WANT TO SHOW PERHAPS UNCHARACTERISTIC VERBAL RESTRAINT AND JUST MAKE A FEW REMARKS AT THE OUTSET, SO THAT YOU THEN HAVE THE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO THROW QUESTIONS AT ME - OR CHAIRS OR WHATEVER COMES TO HAND.

THERE ARE THOUGH, A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY AT THE OUTSET. IN MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPEECH ON WEDNESDAY, I STARTED WITH A STATEMENT OF THE BLINDINGLY OBVIOUS, NAMELY THAT ECONOMIC SUCCESS, CONTINUING ECONOMIC SUCCESS, IS THE KEY TO ALL ELSE THAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE IN HONG KONG. WE KNOW SOME OF THE REASONS FOR THAT ECONOMIC SUCCESS IN THE PAST AND WHAT I WANT TO ENSURE IS THAT WE DON'T FORGET ANY OF THE LESSONS THAT WE'VE APPLIED SO WELL OVER THE LAST DECADES.

ONE REASON WHY I AM SETTING UP A BUSINESS COUNCIL IS TO ENSURE THAT THE LEADERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY CAN REMIND ME, VIGOROUSLY FROM TIME TO TIME, JUST WHAT THOSE LESSONS HAVE AMOUNTED TO. I'LL BE ANNOUNCING THE NAMES OF THAT COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE WHO'VE AGREED TO SERVE ON IT AND TO ADVISE ME ON HOW WE CAN ENSURE THAT HONG KONG REMAINS THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY IN ASIA. THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE.

I MENTIONED IN MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPEECH SOME OF WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE THE REASONS FOR OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS. THE FIRST OF THEM - AND I MENTION THIS WITH ENTHUSIASM - THE FIRST OF THEM, LOW AND PREDICTABLE TAXES. I THINK THE BEST INVESTMENT INCENTIVE IS LOW AND PREDICTABLE TAXES. I NOTICE ONE OR TWO PEOPLE, PERHAPS ILL ADVISEDLY, HAVE ASKED ABOUT MY VIEWS ON TAX, AND I JUST WONDER IF WHEN THEY ASK THAT QUESTION THEY HAVE ANY NOTION AT ALL OF WHERE IT IS I CAME FROM. ALL OF US HAVE A PAST, AND MY PAST INCLUDED BEING CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN A GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, WHICH WE WON LARGELY BECAUSE WE ARGUED THE CASE FOR LOW TAXES. I AM NOT ABOUT TO COME TO HONG KONG AND CHANGE MY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY ON TAXATION.

SECOND, ANOTHER CRUCIAL LESSON WHICH WE'VE GOT TO REMEMBER: PRUDENT CONTROL OF PUBLIC SPENDING. ONE OR TWO PEOPLE HAVE ASKED WHETHER THE PROPOSALS I OUTLINED ON WEDNESDAY WERE EXTRAVAGANT. I'VE EVEN HEARD IT SUGGESTED BY ONE OF MY FUTURE IN-LAWS, THAT MAYBE I'M A SOCIALIST. I'M NOT SURE WHETHER, GIVEN THE SOURCE, THAT WAS A TERM OF ENDEARMENT OR A TERM OF ABUSE. BUT I WANT TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY PLAIN TO YOU THAT IN MY OWN VIEW THE PROPOSALS THAT WE BROUGHT FORWARD WERE PRUDENT AND SENSIBLE. JUST LET ME GIVE YOU TWO FACTS WHICH ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THIS ARGUMENT.

/THE FIRST

THE FIRST IS THAT NOTHING I ANNOUNCED ON WEDNESDAY WILL REDUCE THE FORECAST LEVEL OF RESERVES FOR 1997 THAT WE'VE ANNOUNCED. I INTEND, AS I SAID TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY, TO CONTINUE TO RUN HONG KONG'S FINANCES ON THE BASIS OF A PRUDENT AND SUBSTANTIAL LEVEL OF RESERVES. THAT, I BELIEVE, IS VERY IMPORTANT IN HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYBODY PERSUADE ME TO REDUCE OUR ELBOW-ROOM ON THAT FRONT.

WHY WAS I ABLE TO ANNOUNCE BIG INCREASES IN SOME SPENDING PROGRAMMES? FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE OF HONG KONG'S GROWTH RATE, THOUGH WHAT I HAVE MADE CLEAR ONCE AGAIN IS THAT ANY INCREASE IN PUBLIC SPENDING MUST STAY BEHIND RATHER THAN OUTPACE THE RATE OF GROWTH IN OUR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE THAT OTHER COMMUNITIES HAVE MADE AND SPEND MONEY THAT WE HAVEN'T EARNED. BUT THIS YEAR WE FIND OURSELVES IN AN EXTREMELY ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION, WE FIND OURSELVES, I'M PLEASED TO SAY, WITH REVENUES WHICH ARE MORE BOUYANT THAN WERE EXPECTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. WE WERE PREDICTING EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT WE WOULD HAVE A SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR OF SEVEN-AND-A-HALF BILLION. I WAS BROUGHT FIGURES SHORTLY AFTER I BECAME GOVERNOR, WHICH SHOWED THAT THANKS TO THE BUOYANCY OF OUR REVENUES ABOVE ALL, WE WERE LIKELY TO SEE NOT A SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR OF SEVEN-AND-A-HALF BILLION, BUT A SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR OF THIRTEEN-AND-A-HALF BILLION AND RISING.

NOW PRUDENT AS I AM, IT DIDN'T SEEM TO ME THAT WE NEEDED A SURPLUS OF THAT SIZE WHEN THERE WERE SO MANY THINGS WHICH THE COMMUNITY WANTED TO DO. WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTRAVAGANT, IN MY JUDGMENT, WOULD HAVE BEEN TO FRITTER THAT ADDITIONAL 6 BILLION WINDFALL AWAY IN ADDITIONAL SPENDING THIS YEAR, AND WHAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO DO IS IN EFFECT TO CAPITALISE THAT WINDFALL, USING 3 BILLION TO GIVE A KICK-START TO OUR SEWAGE STRATEGY - COME TO THINK OF IT, I THINK ONE COULD FIND BETTER WORDS; I FOUND MYSELF THE OTHER DAY TALKING ABOUT "GETTING SEWAGE OF THE GROUND" - ANYWAY, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

SECONDLY, TO PUT 2.3 BILLION THROUGH THE LOTTERIES FUND TO MEET SOME OF OUR SOCIAL WELFARE OBLIGATIONS AND TARGETS, IN ADDITION, AS I THINK YOU KNOW, WE'VE SPENT 300 MILLION ON RE-TRAINING, WHICH I BELIEVE IS CRUCIAL TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE SUCCESS AND CRUCIAL TO SOME OF OUR LABOUR MARKET PROBLEMS. SO THE SECOND POINT I WANTED TO MAKE IS, WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO PRUDENT CONTROL OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

THIRDLY, INFLATION. WE ALL KNOW THAT BECAUSE OF THE NECESSARY, CONTINUING, NOT TO BE CHANGED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, LINK BETWEEN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THE US DOLLAR - I JUST WANT TO GET THAT ON THE RECORD IN CASE THERE ARE ANY BROKERS HERE - THAT BECAUSE OF THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE CAN USE MONETARY POLICY. THOUGH LET'S REMEMBER WHAT USING MONETARY POLICY TO CONTROL INFLATION ACTUALLY MEANS. IT DOES HAVE SOME CONSEQUENCES, YOU'LL ALL RECALL, FOR LEVELS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT. BUT THERE ARE CONSTRAINTS ON US, SO WE FIND OURSELVES COPING WITH INFLATION WHICH IS LARGELY A STRUCTURAL CONSEQUENCE OF AN ECONOMY WHICH IS EXPANDING VERY RAPIDLY, WITH LABOUR CONSTRAINTS AND LAND CONSTRAINTS. IT PUTS THE ONUS ON US TO WORK EVEN HARDER, IN GOVERNMENT AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT, TO USE OUR RESOURCES AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

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THANK HEAVENS, BECAUSE OF YOUR INVESTMENTS AND EXPANSION INTO THE MAINLAND, OUR EXPORT PRICES ARE ONLY GOING UP MARGINALLY. SO WE ARE REMAINING COMPETITIVE, THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. BUT WE DO CONTINUE TO HAVE TO WORK ON THOSE SUPPLY SIDE ISSUES, ABOVE ALL LABOUR, IN ORDER TO FIGHT INFLATION AS VIGOROUSLY AS WE CAN. I REPEAT, THAT I HOPE THAT MY COMMITMENT TO INCREASING RE-TRAINING IN HONG KONG WILL ASSIST IN THAT RESPECT.

FOURTH, THE FOURTH LESSON. WE KNOW, AGAIN PERHAPS BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, THAT FREE TRADE IS THE GREATEST FRIEND OF PROGRESS AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS. I WILL, YOU'LL FIND, BE THE MOST VIGOROUS LOBBYIST FOR FREE TRADE, FROM, IF IT'S NECESSARY, WASHINGTON TO WYOMING AND ANYWHERE ELSE AS WELL, I WILL BE THE MOST ACTIVE, PASSIONATE ADVOCATE OF FREE TRADE, I HOPE THAT YOU COULD WANT TO SEE. I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT IT IS A TERRIBLE ERROR TO TRY TO POLITICISE TRADE. I THINK THAT FREE TRADE IS THE BEST FRIEND OF PROGRESS. I THINK THAT TRADE DISPUTES, TRADE RESTRICTIONS, CUT JOBS, CUT GROWTH, PUT UP PRICES, SO YOU WILL FIND ME TODAY AND FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE, ARGUING THAT WE CONTINUE TO SEE FREE TRADE, AND I HOPE, A BENIGN TRADING ENVIRONMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES.

I JUST WANT, IN ADDITION TO SAYING THAT ABOUT ECONOMIC ISSUES, ABOUT THE REAL WORLD, TO SAY ONE THING ABOUT POLITICS. BECAUSE IT'S UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE THAT ANOTHER OF THE REASONS FOR OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS HAS BEEN BY AND LARGE POLITICAL STABILITY. THE ISSUES THAT I ADDRESSED ON WEDNESDAY, RELATING TO POLITICS, WEREN'T RAISED OUT OF THE BLUE BY THE NEW GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, THEY'RE ALL THERE ALREADY, REQUIRING SOMEBODY TO ADDRESS THEM AND SOMEBODY TO BRING FORWARD PROPOSALS ABOUT THEM. I'M VERY CLEAR WHAT THE PARAMETERS ARE AND I'VE SET THEM OUT ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS. THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN POWER, THE UNITED KINGDOM, HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO PRESS FORWARD THE PACE OF DEMOCRATISATION.

THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWER, CHINA, HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT WHILE DEMOCRATISATION WILL INCREASE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, ANY DEMOCRATISATION SHOULD BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THOSE TWO DOCUMENTS. AND WHERE, IN MY JUDGMENT, DO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG STAND? MY JUDGMENT, AS I'VE SAID -AND I SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS - MY JUDGMENT IS THAT PEOPLE, WISELY, WANT RATHER MORE SAY IN THE CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN AFFAIRS, BUT DO WANT IT IN A WAY THAT WILL LAST, AND DO WANT IT THEREFORE IN A WAY WHICH COMPLIES WITH THE BASIC LAW. THAT'S MY JUDGMENT OF WHERE THE POINT OF BALANCE IN THE COMMUNITY STANDS AT THE MOMENT AND THAT IS, THEREFORE, WHAT I AM GOING TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE. BUT I WANT TO ADD ONE OR TWO POINTS ABOUT THIS ISSUE OF POLITICAL STABILITY.

FIRST, I WANT TO GET THESE ISSUES OUT OF THE WAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL. I DON'T WANT THEM HANGING AROUND, I DON'T WANT THEM ERODING CONFIDENCE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A DEBATE, A DISCUSSION, I WANT TO HAVE IT NOW AND I WANT TO PUT IT BEHIND US.

/SECONDLY, I

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SECONDLY, I SIMPLY DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD HELP TO CREATE POLITICAL STABILITY FOR ME TO SAY, "WELL OF COURSE I'VE GOT SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS BUT I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT THEY ARE UNTIL WE'VE ACTUALLY COME TO SOME DECISIONS." WE'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT OF THAT, IN THE PAST. MOUNTAINS OF SPECULATION, HUGE QUANTITIES OF EXEGESIS OF EVERY COMMA, OF EVERY PUNCTUATION MARK, IN EVERY COMMUNIQUE. I HAVEN'T NOTICED THAT THAT POLITICS BY OBFUSCATION AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCES HAS BEEN EXACTLY CONDUCIVE TO POLITICAL STABILITY WHEN WE'VE BEEN SUBJECTED TO IT.

AND THIRDLY, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD HELP TO PROMOTE POLITICAL STABILITY, TO SAY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, "WE'RE GOING TO STAND FOUR-SQUARE AGAINST ANY AMBITIONS, ANY ASPIRATIONS, YOU MAY HAVE FOR A MODEST INCREASE IN YOUR CONTROL OVER YOUR OWN AFFAIRS. I THINK TO BLOCK OFF ANY FURTHER PROGRESS IN THAT WAY, WOULD BE FAR MORE LIKELY TO INCREASE INSTABILITY THAN TO PROMOTE STABILITY.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS I CAN CONVINCED THOSE WHO MAY NEED TO BE CONVINCED, THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE SOPHISTICATED, MATURE, RESPONSIBLE, RESTRAINED, SENSIBLE ENOUGH, TO LOOK AFTER A RATHER GREATER SHARE OF THEIR OWN DESTINY IN A WAY WHICH THREATENS NO ONE BUT DOES ENSURE THAT THIS COMMUNITY BECOMES MORE PROSPEROUS, MORE STABLE AND MORE CAPABLE, OF MAKING A SPECTACULAR CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION. I THINK IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF A COMMUNITY WHICH HAD BEEN SO CONFIDENT AND SUCCESSFUL IN EVERY MARKET IN THE WORLD, WASN'T ALSO IN A MODEST, RESTRAINED WAY, ABLE TO TAKE A SLIGHTLY LARGER PART IN SHAPING ITS OWN FUTURE.

I SAID I'D BE REASONABLY RESTRAINED, AND NOW I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU, OR INVITE YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS - IT'S NOT OBLIGATORY. BUT IF THERE ARE ANY OF YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO ASK QUESTIONS, THERE ARE FOUR MICROPHONES, HELPFULLY NUMBERED, "1", "2", "3" AND "19", AND IF YOU COME FORWARD TO A MICROPHONE, I'LL TAKE YOU IN ORDER.

QUESTION: SIR, YOU HAVE MENTIONED TWO PRINCIPLES, ONE IS TO DEFEAT INFLATION, IF YOU CAN, AND THE SECOND IS TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CRITICISED IN THE PAST FOR LEADING THE SALARIES RACE AND THEREFORE CONTRIBUTING TO INFLATION. I'D LIKE TO HEAR, ON BEHALF OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, YOUR VIEWS ON HOW THAT CAN BE ARRESTED?

SECONDLY, YOUR PARTY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS REDUCED GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE BY PRIVATISATION. COULD WE HEAR YOUR VIEWS ON PRIVATISATION, PLEASE?

/GOVERNOR: YES

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GOVERNOR: YES. LET ME OFFER YOU ANOTHER PIECE OF AUTOBIOGRAPHY. I PLAYED QUITE A PROMINENT PART AS THE THEN DIRECTOR OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S RESEARCH DEPARTMENT IN DRAFTING OUR MANIFESTO IN 1979, IN WHICH WE FIRST TALKED ABOUT PRIVATISATION AND ROLLING BACK THE BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE, AND THAT HAD CONSIDERABLE RELEVANCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BECAUSE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE, THE BOUNDARIES OF STATE ACTION, LAY FAR OUT IN THE ECONOMY. AND PRIVATISATION, IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, HAS MOVED FORWARD ON THAT BASIS, HAULING BACK THE BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE. IF THE UNITED KINGDOM KEEPS AT IT FOR A FEW MORE YEARS IT WILL GET THE BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE MORE OR LESS BACK TO WHERE THEY ARE IN HONG KONG. BECAUSE FORTUNATELY, FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY, YOU DIDN'T GO THROUGH THE RASH OF NATIONALISATIONS AND INCREASES IN THE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR WHICH SO AFFLICTED SO MANY EUROPEAN ECONOMIES IN THE 1940'S AND 50'S. SO THE FIRST POINT I MAKE IN RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTION IS, THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE AS MUCH PRIVATISATION BECAUSE THERE ISN'T AS MUCH TO PRIVATISE.

WHERE THERE IS SCOPE FOR PRIVATISATION, I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN PERSUADE THE IN-LAWS THAT IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG'S LONG TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DOES NOT CONSIST OF FLOGGING-OFF THE FAMILY SILVER. WE HAVE SHOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR, MUCH GREATER IMAGINATION AND FLAIR THAN MOST OTHER COMMUNITIES. LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE. I THINK THAT BY AND LARGE BOT PROJECTS HAVE WORKED BETTER IN HONG KONG THAN ANYWHERE ELSE THAT I HAD EXPERIENCE OF WHEN I WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, BRITAIN'S DEVELOPMENT MINISTER. SO I THINK THAT WE COULD DO MORE TO PRIVATISE AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE OUR COLLEAGUES IN PEKING THAT THAT IS A SENSIBLE FOUNDATION FOR POST 1997, BUT I REPEAT, THERE WON'T BE AS MUCH SCOPE AS THERE WAS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

I WAS DELIGHTED - I THINK I CAN SEE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY THERE - I WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR THE OTHER DAY THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ARE LOOKING AT NEW WAYS IN WHICH THEY CAN ENCOURAGE TENANTS TO MOVE TO HOME OWNERSHIP. I THINK THAT IS A PERSONAL SORT OF PRIVATISATION WHICH IS VERY WELCOME, WITHOUT IN ANY WAY TAKING AWAY FROM THE DRIVE TO PROVIDE DECENT HOUSING FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

YOUR FIRST QUESTION IS A QUESTION WHICH I TOUCHED ON IN MY SPEECH WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT IT'S IMPERATIVE IF WE REMAIN COMPETITIVE, BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, TO ENSURE THAT WE DON'T PAY OURSELVES MORE THAN WE'VE EARNED THROUGH PRODUCTIVITY, IMPROVEMENTS AND GREATER EFFICIENCY. AND I REPEAT, THAT HAS TO GO FOR THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTORS. I KNOW THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION FROM TIME TO TIME BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE FOR INSTANCE, ON THE QUESTION OF PAY-BARGAINING. I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE ONE OF THE ISSUES WHICH THE BUSINESS COUNCIL INTEREST US IN. I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF IT'S NOT, SINCE I DON'T THINK I'VE YET BEEN TO LUNCH WITH A COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION IN HONG KONG WHERE IT HASN'T FEATURED ON THE MENU LONG BEFORE THE PISTACHIO FLAN.

/QUESTION: SIR

QUESTION: SIR, THIS IS FURTHER TO AN OPEN LETTER IN MAY WHICH I ADDRESSED TO YOU BUT WHICH THE LOCAL, ALLEGEDLY FREE PRESS, REFUSED TO PUBLISH, BUT SINCE ENGLISH IS NOT MY FIRST LANGUAGE, PLEASE PERMIT ME TO READ OUT THE QUESTION.

"WOULD YOUR EXCELLENCY BE PLEASED TO FAVOURABLY CONSIDER ENACTING APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE USED AS A PROPAGANDA BASE TO CHANGE OR OTHERWISE UNDERMINE THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM IN THE PRC, THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF WHICH IS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE 'ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS' CONCEPT EMBODIED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION?"

GOVERNOR: THANK YOU. MY STRONG CONVICTION IS THAT, TO QUOTE EDMUND BURKE, "LIBERTY MUST BE LIMITED IN ORDER TO BE POSSESSED", AND THAT ONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ALL OF US HAVE IN A FREE SOCIETY WHERE THERE IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, AND FREEDOM TO DEMONSTRATE, FREEDOM TO PUT OUR VIEWS AS VIGOROUSLY AS POSSIBLE, IS TO EXERCISE THOSE FREEDOMS IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY. "ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS" MEANS WHAT IT SAYS. IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, HONG KONG HAS BEEN GUARANTEED ITS LIBERTIES AND ITS WAY OF LIFE. I THINK WE SHOULD STAND ON THAT, AND SPEAKING FOR MYSELF AS LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMUNITY, I WILL ALWAYS EXERCISE RESTRAINT ABOUT THE OTHER SYSTEM WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN THAT HISTORIC CONCEPT. I DON'T SEEK TO LECTURE OTHERS BUT I THINK THAT IT'S QUITE WISE ADVICE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW AS WELL. BUT THAT SAID, I REPEAT, WE LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY WHICH BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS RESPONSIBILITIES.

QUESTION: GOVERNOR, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT YOU HAVE REMARKED THAT IF THE WORST COMES TO THE WORST YOU WOULD LEAVE ON THE 'LADY MAUREEN' BY THE TIME OF 1997. I'M VERY GLAD TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET A DIFFERENT TREATMENT FROM MOST OF THE OTHERS IN HONG KONG WHO HAVE GOT TO REMAIN HERE, BUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE REST OF THE PEOPLE WHO PROBABLY COULD NOT EVEN LEAVE THE PLACE BY BICYCLE? AND IS YOUR PROPOSAL GOING TO HEAD FOR A CONFRONTATION OR ARE YOU GOING TO BACK DOWN WHEN CHINA OBJECTS? AS FAR AS THE EFFECT ON CHINA, YOU SEEM TO BE SAYING THAT YOU MIGHT CHANGE WHEN YOU MEET THE CHINESE OFFICIALS ON THE MAINLAND, BUT IN THAT CASE WHY ARE YOU MAKING THE PROPOSALS? THIS IS YOUR FORMAL REPORT AND I THINK IT'S GOT TO BE A RESPONSIBLE REPORT.

GOVERNOR: TWO QUESTIONS, I THINK, THERE. FIRST OF ALL, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO AND WHAT AM I GOING TO SAY AFTER I'VE HAD DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING? SECONDLY, WHAT DO I THINK OF THE FUTURE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AFTER 1997?

I MUST SAY THAT I HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. I THINK THAT THIS IS AN ASTONISHINGLY SUCCESSFUL AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY AND IT'S PARTLY SUCCESSFUL, LARGELY SUCCESSFUL, BECAUSE OF THE WAY THAT ITS WAY OF LIFE AND ITS PROSPERITY AND STABILITY ARE INTERTWINED, AND IT'S MY CONCERN AND MY ENTHUSIASM TO ENSURE THAT THAT CONTINUES TO BE THE CASE.

/ON YOUR

ON YOUR OTHER QUESTION, AFTER I'VE DISCUSSED MATTERS IN PEKING ON THIS AND ON FUTURE OCCASIONS, I WILL REPORT THE OUTCOME TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND REPORT THE OUTCOME TO THE COMMUNITY. THERE WILL COME A MOMENT, HAPPILY, SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, WHEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS AND THE GOVERNOR WILL HAVE TO COME TO A DECISION ABOUT THE BEST WAY FORWARD. IT WILL HEAVILY INVOLVE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BECAUSE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO PASS ANY LEGISLATION NECESSARY - AND THERE WILL BE LEGISLATION NECESSARY WHATEVER HAPPENS - FOR THE 1994 AND 1995 ELECTIONS. SO THAT WILL BE THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS.

I JUST ADD ONE OTHER THING. I'VE PUT PROPOSALS FORWARD; I DON'T THINK IT'S ENOUGH IN TALKING ABOUT IMPORTANT PUBLIC EVENTS TO CRITICISE PROPOSALS THAT ARE PUT FORWARD UNLESS ONE'S PREPARED TO PUT FORWARD ONE'S ALTERNATIVES. SO I HOPE THAT IF ANYBODY THINKS THAT THE PROPOSALS I HAVE PUT FORWARD ARE WRONG OR ILL-JUDGED, THEY WILL PUT FORWARD THEIR OWN PROPOSALS AS AN ALTERNATIVE. WHAT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR IS THAT THERE ARE DECISIONS, NOT OF MY MAKING, WHICH WE HAVE TO COME TO, ABOUT A NUMBER OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE 1995 ELECTIONS AND THE SOONER WE COME TO THOSE DECISIONS, IN MY JUDGMENT, THE BETTER.

QUESTION: GIVEN THAT MANY COMPANIES, FOREIGN MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES, HAVE THEIR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OFFICES LOCATED IN HONG KONG, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ON BEHALF OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO HELP PROMOTE LONG TERM INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG? SPECIFIC PLANS OR PROGRAMMES THAT YOU HAVE COME UP WITH FOR LONG TERM INVESTMENT POST-1997.

GOVERNOR: WELL THE FIRST THING I'D LIKE TO DO - AND I'M MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST POLITICAL LEADERS IN ASIA IS IN TOWN AND THEREFORE I'LL BE SLIGHTLY MORE RESTRAINED IN WHAT I SAY BECAUSE I'M GOING TO SEE HIM TOMORROW MORNING - BUT I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO A RECENT REPORT IN 'THE ECONOMIST' MAGAZINE WHICH WAS A DIGEST OF A PIECE OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH, DONE I THINK BY MIT, COMPARING SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG AS BUSINESS LOCATIONS, COMPARING THEM AS LOCATIONS FOR MULTI-NATIONALS, AND COMPARING THEIR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OVER THE YEARS. AND I THINK IF I WAS TRYING TO PERSUADE MULTI-NATIONALS TO BASE THEMSELVES IN HONG KONG IN AS UNPROVOCATIVE A WAY AS POSSIBLE, I'D POST THEM, IN A PLAIN ENVELOPE, A COPY OF THAT 'ECONOMIST' MAGAZINE ARTICLE BECAUSE I THINK IT TOLD AN EXTREMELY CONVINCING STORY.

BUT THERE IS ONE OTHER THING WHICH I THINK IS IMPERATIVE AND WHICH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH, OR EVERYTHING TO DO WITH, ECONOMICS. WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN REASONS FOR THIS ASTONISHING SUCCESS IN HONG KONG?. WELL, VERY LARGELY OF COURSE, THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILL AND ENERGY AND HARD WORK OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING. SECONDLY, A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS ALLOWED THOSE PEOPLE TO GET ON WITH WHAT INDIVIDUALS DO BEST. THIRDLY, THE RULE OF LAW; THIRDLY, THE CERTAINTY THAT EVERYBODY WAS PLAYING BY THE SAME RULES, THE CERTAINTY THAT THE MARKET WAS REGULATED CLEANLY FOR EVERYONE, WHETHER GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTOR. AND I THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT GUARANTEE FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE IS THE CERTAINTY THAT WE'LL CONTINUE TO SEE THE APPLICATION OF THE RULE OF LAW.

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THE MOMENT THAT INTERNATIONAL BANKERS OR MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES BECAME WORRIED THAT THE RULE OF LAW MAY BE ERODED, THE MOMENT THAT HAPPENED, THEY'D START TO LOOK ELSEWHERE TO PUT THEIR MONEY, AND THAT IS SOMETHING ALL OF US - WHATEVER THE DIFFERENCES OF OUR POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW - THAT IS SOMETHING WHICH ALL OF US HAVE TO STAND ABSOLUTELY ROCK FIRM BEHIND, IN MY VIEW. THAT IS THE REAL GUARANTEE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC FUTURE, FOR MULTI-NATIONALS, FOR BANKS, FOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, FOR EVERYONE WHO'S EMPLOYED IN THIS GREAT COMMUNITY.

QUESTION: SIR, THERE WERE STRONG CRITICISMS FROM CHINA THIS MORNING IN REACTION TO YOUR WEDNESDAY SPEECH. THEY ARE INDICATING THAT THE CHANGES YOU INTEND TO MAKE IN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS DO NOT CONFORM TO THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW AND IF THESE CHANGES ARE INDEED CARRIED OUT, THAT THEY WOULD DEMOLISH THEM AND START OVER AGAIN. SINCE YOU'VE MADE THOSE PROPOSALS YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT THEY DO CONFORM TO THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION, SO WHEN YOU VISIT BEIJING HOW DO YOU INTEND TO CONVINCING THEM THAT THEY ARE ACTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY AND THEY DO CONFORM TO THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION?

GOVERNOR: WELL, THE FIRST THING I'D LIKE TO SAY IS THIS, THAT I FOUND MYSELF ON WEDNESDAY, BEING VARIOUSLY ATTACKED. ON THE ONE HAND THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO SAID THAT I'D BEEN EXCEEDINGLY CAUTIOUS, ON THE OTHER HAND THERE WERE THOSE WHO SAID THAT I'D BEEN RECKLESS. IT MAY JUST BE THAT I GOT THINGS JUST ABOUT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE, BUT WE WILL HAVE TO SEE. IT MAY JUST BE, AS WELL, THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WHEN THEY CRITICISE ME OR CONSIDER WHAT I DO, THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO CHANGE THE GOAL POSTS FROM TIME TO TIME. THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

I HAVE OBSERVED OR HEARD SOME OF THE REMARKS THAT YOU'VE SAID, THOUGH I VERY MUCH AGREE WITH WHAT A FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID IN PEKING YESTERDAY, THAT THESE ARE ISSUES THAT WE MUST TRY TO DEAL WITH THROUGH CONSULTATION, AND I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO MY DISCUSSIONS WITH MR LU PING AND ANYBODY ELSE WHO WANTS TO DISCUSS MY PROPOSALS WITH ME. BUT IF PEOPLE SAY THAT WHAT I'VE SET OUT ISN'T IN CONFORMITY WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, IF THEY SAY THAT, I THINK IT'S INCUMBENT UPON THEM TO EXPLAIN WHY, TO INDICATE WHY WHAT I'VE SAID ISN'T IN CONFORMITY WITH THE BASIC LAW, WHICH PROVISIONS. I'VE NOTICED ALL SORTS OF SUGGESTIONS BUT HAVEN'T YET SEEN THE CASE ARGUED VERY CLEARLY.

/I HAVE

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I HAVE READ THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, I GUESS, NOW, MORE THAN I'VE READ ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS IN MY LIFE. I SAY, TO MY SHAME AS A PRACTISING CHRISTIAN, THAT I'VE READ THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION MORE FREQUENTLY THAN I'VE READ THE 'NEW TESTAMENT'. THEY ARE, FOR ME, WELL KNOWN AND IMPORTANT TEXTS AND I WOULD JUST BE INTERESTED TO KNOW, NOT A GENERAL BLAST OF CRITICISM, BUT WHERE EXACTLY I AM SUPPOSED TO HAVE INFRINGED. BUT I HOPE WE CAN CARRY FORWARD THOSE DISCUSSIONS SWIFTLY AND CALMLY AND RATIONALLY. BECAUSE, AS I WAS SAYING TO PAUL AND OTHERS AT LUNCH, WE'VE GOT AN AWFUL LOT OF OTHER VERY, VERY BIG ISSUES TO DEAL WITH TOGETHER.

AND I SAY ONE OTHER THING AS WELL. I DO MEAN IT WHEN I SAY THAT I WANT TO HAVE A CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HEAD OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE. I ADMIRE HIS RESTRAINT IN RECENT WEEKS WHEN DOUBTLESS OFFERED ON MANY OCCASIONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MUTTER A FEW WORDS INTO A PASSING MICROPHONE OR INTO A PASSING REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK. I HOPE THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH, EVEN WHEN WE DISAGREE, WE CAN SPEAK FRANKLY AND FREQUENTLY ONE TO THE OTHER. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IF THAT IS THE CASE, AS I HOPE IT WILL BE, THE MEMBERS OF HIS OFFICE, AND MR LU PING HIMSELF, WILL FIND THAT I AM VERY FRANK WITH THEM AND VERY CANDID, AND I HOPE, PRETTY PREDICTABLE IN MY DEALINGS.

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THE GOVERNOR THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN'S
PUBLIC MEETING AT SHA TIN TOWN HALL
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GOVERNOR: MICHAEL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FIRST OF ALL, WELCOME AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR COMING THIS EVENING. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE BEEN TO SHA TIN. I CAME HERE TO VISIT A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON MY FIRST DAY, FULL DAY, IN HONG KONG. I'VE BEEN TO THE SPORTS INSTITUTE AND I WENT TO THE LIBRARY JUST OVER THE ROAD AND I CAME HERE FOR THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL WITH MY FAMILY. BUT I HAVEN'T YET BEEN TO THE RACES AND I HAVEN'T YET BEEN TO THE PIGEON RESTAURANT. SO, I HOPE IF THE OWNER OF THE PIGEON RESTAURANT IS HERE, HE WILL TAKE NOTE OF THAT.

THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE, THERE WERE A LOT OF YOUNG BALLET DANCERS ON THE STAGE BUT TONIGHT THERE'S GOING TO BE NO DANCING. TONIGHT IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ME, AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT, AS THE GOVERNOR, TO ASK ME WHATEVER QUESTIONS YOU WANT.

/I'M

I'M QUITE SURPRISED THAT THERE'S BEEN SOME CONTROVERSY ABOUT THE IDEA THAT I SHOULD HOLD QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS LIKE THIS. AFTER ALL, THE SPEECH THAT I MADE ON WEDNESDAY WAS CONCERNED WITH YOUR FUTURE, THE FUTURE OF YOUR FAMILIES AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND I THINK YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO QUESTION ME ABOUT MY PROPOSALS, BECAUSE IT IS YOUR FUTURE. IT'S ALSO SOMETIMES SAID THAT FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT, OR FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, TO COME OUT IN PUBLIC AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR POLICIES SOMEHOW WEAKENS THE GOVERNMENT. I THINK THAT IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE TRUTH. I THINK THAT IF YOU KNOW, AS A POLITICAL LEADER, THAT YOU ARE GOING TO GO OUT AND HAVE TO EXPLAIN AND DEFEND YOUR POLICIES TO THE PUBLIC IT MAKES YOU THINK AN AWFUL LOT HARDER ABOUT THE POLICIES THAT YOU BRING FORWARD. YOUR DISTINGUISHED LEGISLATORS IN SHA TIN, EMILY LAU AND ANDREW WONG, ALLOW YOU TO ASK THEM QUESTIONS AND I THINK THE GOVERNOR SHOULD ALLOW YOU TO ASK HIM QUESTIONS TOO.

THE SECOND THING I'D LIKE TO SAY VERY BRIEFLY IS THAT, WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO IN MY SPEECH ON WEDNESDAY WAS TO RESPOND TO THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN SAYING TO ME, WHICH POLITICAL GROUPS HAVE BEEN SAYING TO ME, WHICH COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE BEEN SAYING TO ME OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

FIRST OF ALL, I THINK YOU WANT US TO MAKE SURE THAT WE CONTINUE THE POLICIES WHICH HAVE MADE HONG KONG SO SUCCESSFUL ECONOMICALLY. WE HAVE TO REMAIN THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY PLACE IN ASIA. WE HAVE TO GO ON ENSURING THAT WE KEEP TAXES VERY LOW.

NEXT, I THINK THAT YOU WANT US, WITHOUT BEING EXTRAVAGANT, TO BE AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE IN OUR SOCIAL POLICIES. I THINK YOU WANT US, WITHOUT ALLOWING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE TO GET OUT OF CONTROL, TO SPEND WHAT WE CAN AFFORD ON HELPING THE ELDERLY, ON HELPING THE NEEDY, ON HELPING THE DISABLED, ON IMPROVING OUR EDUCATION AND OUR RE-TRAINING.

NEXT, IN MY JUDGEMENT, YOU WANT US TO EXTEND DEMOCRACY, YOU WANT US TO DO SO IN A WAY WHICH IS LIKELY TO LAST, AND THE JUDGEMENT THAT I REACHED WAS THAT YOU WANTED ME TO LOOK FOR WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD EXTEND DEMOCRACY IN A WAY THAT WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW. AND ABOVE ALL, I THINK YOU WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO SECURE YOUR WAY OF LIFE FOR THE FUTURE, BECAUSE THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE, A GOOD PLACE TO WORK, A GOOD PLACE TO BRING UP A FAMILY AND YOU WANT TO KEEP IT LIKE THAT. SO THAT'S WHAT I TRIED TO SET OUT ON WEDNESDAY AND THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN NOW ASK ME QUESTIONS ABOUT; BUT CAN I JUST - BEFORE THE FIRST QUESTION - CAN I JUST FOLLOW SOMETHING THAT MICHAEL SAID EARLIER. LAST NIGHT WE HAD THE FIRST OF THESE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS IN THE CITY HALL IN CENTRAL AND, IN MANY RESPECTS, IT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. ABOUT 30 QUESTIONS WERE ASKED, BUT ABOUT 30 QUESTIONS WERE ASKED BY ONLY 11 PEOPLE. NOW, IT MAKES IT MUCH EASIER FOR ME IF ONE PERSON ASKS A VERY LONG QUESTION OR A LOT OF QUESTIONS BECAUSE I'VE BEEN A POLITICIAN FOR A LONG TIME, AND THE LONGER YOU GIVE ME TO THINK OF THE ANSWER.

/QUESTION: MR

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QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR POLICY SPEECH FROM WHICH WE KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO PUT IN A LOT OF MONEY INTO SOCIAL WELFARE, ESPECIALLY TO LOOK AFTER THE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, TO PROVIDE THEM WITH RESIDENTIAL PLACES AND SHELTERED WORKSHOPS. WE ARE VERY HAPPY ABOUT THAT. I AM PHYSICALLY-HANDICAPPED AND MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE DIFFICULTY TO GO ON TO THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO MOVE ABOUT, SO WOULD YOU PROMISE TO DISCUSS WITH THE MTRC AND THE BUS COMPANIES TO TAKE CARE OF OUR NEEDS IN THIS RESPECT, SO THAT WE CAN MOVE ABOUT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND WE CAN BE INTEGRATED INTO SOCIETY AGAIN?

GOVERNOR: I THINK YOU RAISE WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS WHICH PEOPLE WITH A HANDICAP, LIKE YOU, FACE, AND THAT IS HOW YOU CAN AVOID BEING DEPENDENT ON OTHERS, HOW YOU CAN EXERCISE YOUR INDEPENDENCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT OF COURSE IS VERY LARGELY DEPENDENT ON YOUR MOBILITY, WHETHER YOU CAN GET AROUND. I SAW JUST HOW MOBILE SOME PEOPLE IN CHAIRS CAN BE, AT THE SPORTS INSTITUTE FOUNDATION A FEW WEEKS AGO, WHEN I SAW SOME OF OUR EXTREMELY GOOD DISABLED TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS WHO WERE GOING OFF TO THE PARALYMPICS. THEY WOULD HAVE ALL BEATEN ME WITH THE VERY GREATEST EASE. BUT OBVIOUSLY, PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRESENTS PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FOR THE DISABLED AND I WILL CERTAINLY TAKE UP WITH THE RAILWAY COMPANIES AND THE BUS COMPANIES THE POINTS THAT YOU'VE RAISED, AND IF YOU LIKE, WE'LL TRY TO ORGANISE A MEETING WITH THEM AT WHICH YOU CAN ACCOMPANY ME.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, I HAVE ONE QUESTION TO ASK WHICH I THINK THE SOCIETY AND THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE ALL ALONG NEGLECTED; IT'S THE QUESTION OF DRUG-ABUSE. A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY ARE ABUSING COUGH-DROPS, MARIJUANA, HEROIN, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE ABUSING SLEEPING-PILLS AND TRANQUILISERS, AND THEIR METHODS OF DRUG-ABUSE ARE BECOMING VERY DIFFERENT NOW AND THERE ARE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE DOING THIS. SO MAY I ASK YOU, AFTER YOU HAVE SETTLED THE ISSUES ABOUT THE AIRPORT AND THE POLITICAL SYSTEM - SO I'M NOT ASKING FOR THE FIRST PRIORITY - AFTER YOU HAVE RESOLVED THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES, WILL YOU PUT YOUR ATTENTION TO TACKLE THIS SITUATION?

GOVERNOR: I THINK, PERHAPS, I SHOULD GIVE IT EVEN EARLIER ATTENTION. I'M SURE THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO -- I HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO SETTLE THE AIRPORT REASONABLY SOON. BUT WHAT YOU WILL ALL KNOW, WHEN YOU FLY INTO THE NEW AIRPORT IN THE FUTURE, IS THAT IT IS BUILT ON MORE WORDS AND MORE NEGOTIATING MEETINGS AND MORE PROPOSALS AND MORE DISAGREEMENTS, THAN ANY AIRPORT IN THE WORLD. IT'S GOING TO BE THE MOST FAMOUS AIRPORT THERE'S EVER BEEN.

DRUG-ABUSE IS AN APPALLING PROBLEM FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST OF ALL, STRANGELY, AS SOCIETIES ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE BECOME MORE PROSPEROUS, AND AS THEORETICALLY, YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE HAD MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEMSELVES, SO MORE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ABUSED THEIR BODIES AND THEIR MINDS WITH DRUGS. AND WHAT THAT DOES FIRST OF ALL, IS TO DESTROY THEIR LIVES.

/SECONDLY, THERE

SECONDLY, THERE IS A VERY CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN DRUG-ABUSE BY YOUNG PEOPLE AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY YOUNGER AND OLDER PEOPLE, SO IT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR US TO TACKLE IT. WE HAVE TO TACKLE IT BY BETTER EDUCATION ABOUT DRUG-ABUSE, WE HAVE TO TACKLE IT BY SENDING MORE TEAMS OF SOCIAL WORKERS INTO AREAS WHERE THERE IS A HIGH LEVEL OF YOUTH CRIME, AND WE HAVE TO TACKLE IT BY WORKING WITH THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH TO MAKE SURE, NOT ONLY THAT YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW THE DANGERS OF DRUGS TO THEMSELVES, BUT THEY EXPLAIN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUGS TO THEIR PEER GROUP. AND WE'VE ALSO GOT TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE ENOUGH FACILITIES, THROUGH OUR YOUTH SERVICES, SO THAT THEY DON'T FETCH UP SITTING UNDER A ROAD IN THE EVENING ABUSING THEIR BODIES WITH DRUGS.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE DEMOCRATISATION YOU INTRODUCED IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH, BUT I WONDER IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT OF DEMOCRATISING THE HOUSING AUTHORITY. RIGHT NOW, MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSING AUTHORITY ARE ALL APPOINTED BY YOU.

GOVERNOR: CAN I ASK A QUESTION IN RETURN? AS A MATTER OF INTEREST, DO YOU THINK THE BEST WAY OF DEMOCRATISING THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WOULD BE BY DIRECTLY ELECTING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OR, DO YOU THINK THAT WE SHOULD APPOINT MEMBERS FROM DISTRICT BOARDS, WHO ARE DIRECTLY ELECTED, TO SIT ON THE HOUSING AUTHORITY?

QUESTIONER: ACTUALLY, WE HAVE ALREADY PUT IN OUR RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND WE THINK THAT REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED FROM THE GRASSROOTS CAN BETTER REFLECT THE OPINION AND THE NEEDS OF THE GRASSROOTS. IF YOU LIKE, WE CAN SUBMIT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO YOU AGAIN.

GOVERNOR: I'D CERTAINLY BE VERY HAPPY TO SEE THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS. CAN I SAY A COUPLE OF THINGS, ONE OF WHICH MAY BE MORE POPULAR THAN THE OTHER. THIS IS JUST TO DEMONSTRATE THAT GOVERNMENT CAN BE ABOUT HARD CHOICES. FIRST OF ALL, I THINK IT IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE IN GOOD MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS EXTREMELY CLOSE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE TENANTS IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY. BUT THERE ARE DECISIONS WHICH HOUSING MANAGERS HAVE TO TAKE WHICH CAN INVARIABLY BE UNPOPULAR. ALLOCATING FLATS CAN BE UNPOPULAR. DARE I MENTION INCREASING RENTS, WHICH IS SOMETIMES IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY, CAN BE UNPOPULAR. SO, IF ONE IS TALKING ABOUT GREATER DEMOCRATIC CONTROL ONE HAS TO REMEMBER THAT GREATER DEMOCRATIC CONTROL DOESN'T NECESSARILY MAKE IT EASIER TO TAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS. NOW, AT THE MOMENT, THERE ARE SLIGHTLY MORE PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE WANTING TO ASK QUESTIONS THAN THERE IS AN AUDIENCE, THAN THERE ARE IN THE AUDIENCE, BUT WE'LL MOVE AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN.

/QUESTION: MR

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR VERY APPROACHABLE STYLE AND I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU IMPLEMENT ALL THE PROPOSALS IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO DO ONE THING. WILL YOU TRY TO LIVE ON THE AMOUNT OF \$950 WHICH IS THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE THAT PEOPLE ARE GETTING NOW? CAN YOU TRY TO LIVE ON \$950 FOR ONE MONTH? AT THE PRESENT RENT LEVEL, WITH THE PRESENT LIVING STANDARDS?

GOVERNOR: CAN I REFER TO THE PROPOSALS I MADE YESTERDAY ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS THE PROPOSALS I MADE ON OTHER THINGS. AND IN DOING SO, CAN I SAY THAT, WHEN I SPOKE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, I THINK THE FIRST QUESTION WAS FROM ONE OF THE COUNCILLORS WHO SUGGESTED THAT MY PROPOSALS YESTERDAY HAD BEEN EXTRAVAGANT. I SAID THAT IF HE THOUGHT I'D BEEN EXTRAVAGANT, HE SHOULD START LISTENING TO SOME OF THE MEETINGS LIKE THIS WHEN I WAS SURE THAT PEOPLE WOULD BE TELLING ME THAT WE HAVEN'T SPENT ENOUGH. AS WELL AS THE PROPOSALS WE MADE YESTERDAY ON SOCIAL WELFARE, EDUCATION, THE HANDICAPPED AND DISABLED, THE MENTALLY ILL AND SO ON, I ALSO BROUGHT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR A COMPLETE RE-ORGANISATION OF OUR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES. AND, AT THE HEART OF THOSE PROPOSALS, WERE TWO THINGS. FIRST OF ALL, INCREASES IN BASIC RATES FOR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN GETTING BETWEEN 600 AND 620 DOLLARS A MONTH, WE'VE PUSHED THE FIGURE UP TO 820, WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF, I THINK, JUST OVER 30%. FOR THOSE, AS YOU SAID, LIVING ON THEIR OWN ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, WE PUSHED UP THE INCREASE FROM - WE PUSHED UP THE FIGURE - FROM 825 TO 950, WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 15%. FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR WITH OTHER ALLOWANCES, TOTAL INCOME ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND THOSE OTHER ALLOWANCES AND SUPPLEMENTS, WILL BE ABOUT 5,500 A MONTH, JUST OVER. IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE RELAXED THE ABSENCE RULE WHICH WILL ALLOW A LOT MORE ELDERLY PEOPLE, FOR INSTANCE, TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN SOUTHERN CHINA, WHICH IS NOT A VERY EXPENSIVE CONCESSION, BUT I THINK AN IMPORTANT ONE. SO, WE DID TRY TO PUSH FORWARD IN PROVIDING MORE SOCIAL SECURITY, MORE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. I RECOGNISE THAT WE'LL GO ON BEING PRESSED TO DO MORE, BUT I HOPE THOSE WHO PRESS US TO DO MORE WILL ALWAYS THINK ABOUT WHERE, PERHAPS, WE SHOULD CUT OTHER PROGRAMMES, OR WHETHER WE SHOULD INCREASE TAXES TO PAY FOR HIGHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

/QUESTION: MR

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QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CONCERN ON THE REHABILITATION, ESPECIALLY YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE SEVERELY MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED PEOPLE ARE NOT LOOKED AFTER IN THE LAST 10 YEARS. I AM NOT TRYING TO DO SOME SHOE-SHINING HERE.

GOVERNOR: I WAS VERY PLEASED THAT YESTERDAY WE WERE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED, AMONG OTHER GROUPS, AND THE FACT THAT WE WERE ABLE TO DO THAT IS NO CREDIT TO ME. WE WERE ABLE TO DO THAT BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY, AND THAT MEANS BECAUSE OF YOUR SUCCESS. I'VE ONLY BEEN GOVERNOR FOR THREE MONTHS, IT'S YOU THAT'S DONE THE WORK AND YOU THAT'S EARNED THAT SOCIAL DIVIDEND.

BUT LET ME TELL YOU THIS STORY, WHICH WILL BE FAMILIAR TO MANY OF YOU. ON ONE OF MY VISITS I WENT TO SEE A WOMAN WHO WAS LOOKING AFTER EIGHT CHILDREN, ONE OF WHOM WAS MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED. SHE WAS HOPING THAT HER SON WHO WAS IN HIS LATE TEENS, WOULD BE ABLE TO GET A PLACE IN A SHELTERED WORKSHOP OR IN A DAY CENTRE, AND THAT EVENTUALLY HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET A RESIDENTIAL PLACE BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HER TO CARE FOR HIM AT HOME. IT WAS A GREAT BURDEN AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FAMILY AND SHE COULD SEE NO END TO THE WAITING FOR THE SORT OF PLACE WHICH HER SON REQUIRED.

I THINK THAT PARENTS AND FAMILIES WHO LOOK AFTER HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE AMONG THE HEROES, THE HEROES WHO AREN'T GIVEN ENOUGH APPLAUSE IN OUR SOCIETY, AND I THINK IT SHOULD BE ONE OF OUR PRIORITIES TO BRING THEM MORE ASSISTANCE SO THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TO BEAR THE SORT OF BURDEN THEY'VE BORNE IN THE PAST FOR THE WHOLE OF THE FUTURE.

QUESTION: I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR OPINION ON SHELTERED PLACES AND THE BOUGHT PLACES SYSTEM.

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT WE NEED MANY MORE SHELTERED PLACES. I'M PLEASED THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DAY SERVICE PLACES BY ALMOST 4,000, THAT'S RATHER MORE THAN 50%, AND I HOPE THAT WILL ENABLE US OVER THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS TO MEET ALL THE KEY TARGETS IN THE VERY IMPORTANT GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION THAT WAS PRODUCED A FEW MONTHS AGO.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH I THINK YOU HAVE LEFT OUT ONE VERY IMPORTANT POINT, THAT IS ABOUT THE BASIC LIVELIHOOD OF PEOPLE: CLOTHING, FOOD, HOUSING AND TRANSPORT. YOU PROMISED TO SPEND \$73 BILLION TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE, INCLUDING TO IMPROVE THE SEWAGE STRATEGY, BUT YOU HAVE NEGLECTED THE PROBLEM OF CONNECTING NEW TERRITORIES NORTH-WEST WITH THE URBAN AREAS. I HOPE YOUR ADVISERS CAN GIVE YOU SOME INFORMATION: HOW MUCH TIME HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE WASTING EACH DAY IN TRAFFIC CONGESTION. AND THIS, I THINK, HAS A LOT OF EFFECT ON THE PRODUCTIVITY AND THE RESOURCES OF THE SOCIETY.

MR GOVERNOR, I AM NOT GOING TO INVITE YOU TO ENJOY THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION ALONG TUEN MUN TRUNK ROAD BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO SPEND MORE TIME ON YOUR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

/GOVERNOR: IT'S

GOVERNOR: IT'S A VERY FAIR QUESTION TO ASK SOMEBODY LIKE ME, BECAUSE ON THE WHOLE, AS YOU VERY WELL KNOW, PEOPLE LIKE CHIEF EXECUTIVES TEND TO GET FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER RATHER MORE EASILY THAN AN AUDIENCE LIKE YOU. BUT WHEN I WAS A MINISTER IN ENGLAND, AND AFTER I WAS A MINISTER IN ENGLAND, I VERY OFTEN USED TO SURPRISE PEOPLE BY TRAVELLING ON BUSES AND TRAINS. THEY ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS A MAN IN THE CARRIAGE WHO LOOKS LIKE CHRIS PATTEN. THERE ARE, I THINK, TWO CRUCIAL ISSUES, AND I'M SORRY THAT I DIDN'T TALK ABOUT THEM IN MY SPEECH. TO BE HONEST, MY SPEECH TOOK TWO HOURS AS IT WAS, AND IF I'D PUT A LOT MORE IN, FOR EXAMPLE ABOUT TRANSPORT, I'D STILL BE SPEAKING.

THE TWO KEY ISSUES, I THINK, ARE FIRST OF ALL, THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE SHOULD BE A NEW RAIL-LINK BETWEEN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE MAIN URBAN AREAS, AND THAT IS BEING LOOKED AT AS YOU KNOW, BY A STUDY GROUP AT THE MOMENT. AND SECONDLY, WHEN AND WHETHER WE SHOULD BUILD ROUTE 3. BUT EVEN WITH THOSE DEVELOPMENTS THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY CROSSING THE HARBOUR, AND I DON'T THINK THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THOSE UNTIL WE HAVE BUILT THE NEW WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING. IN THE MEANTIME, UNTIL WE'VE COMPLETED THOSE PROJECTS, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE, FIRST, THAT WE HAVE MORE FERRY-CROSSINGS, SECONDLY, THAT WE HAVE MORE BUS SERVICES. AND I WHOLLY AGREE WITH YOU THAT ALL THOSE TRANSPORT ISSUES HAVE TO BE RESOLVED, PARTICULARLY AS WE FURTHER DEVELOP HOUSING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU. FIRST OF ALL, MAY I ASK YOU TO TURN AROUND AND LOOK AT THE PICTURE BEHIND YOU? THERE IS ONE BIG BOAT AND SEVERAL SMALL BOATS. IF YOU SEE, THE BIG BOAT IS HEADING TOWARDS HONG KONG HARBOUR, THEN I WILL HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT YOUR POLITICAL ATTENTION IN COMING TO HONG KONG, BUT IF THE BOAT IS HEADING AWAY FROM HONG KONG, THEN THERE'S STILL FIVE MORE YEARS TO GO. IF YOU CARRY ON BEING SO APPROACHABLE TO THE PEOPLE LIKE THIS, I DON'T THINK YOU NEED THOSE SMALL BOATS ESCORTING YOU WHILE YOU GO AWAY, BECAUSE YOU WILL BE VERY SAFE, YOU CAN WALK WITH ME IN THE STREET. AND THE QUESTION I WANT TO ASK IS ON POLITICS. ACTUALLY, YOU CAN ASK THE QUESTION AND ANSWER THE QUESTION YOURSELF, BECAUSE YOU ARE THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, YOU ARE NOT A GOVERNOR IN AFRICA. YOU ASKED US IF WE WANT FREEDOM. OF COURSE, WE DO. YOU ASKED US IF WE WANT DEMOCRACY. OF COURSE, WE DO. YOU ASK IF WE WANT MORE BENEFITS. OF COURSE WE DO. SHALL I CONTINUE?

/GOVERNOR: DO

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GOVERNOR: DO I GET THE RIGHT OF REPLY? DO YOU WANT TO SAY ANOTHER WORD? I THINK EVERYBODY IS ENJOYING IT.

QUESTION: I HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION TO ASK. I WAS IN CITY HALL LAST NIGHT AND ACTUALLY I WAS THE FIRST TO RAISE MY HAND, BUT THEN I HAVE TO COME HERE AGAIN TO RAISE MY QUESTIONS. I AM A TEACHER. DURING THE RIOTS IN 1967, I TAUGHT IN MRS ELSIE TU'S SCHOOL. WHEN THE CURFEW STARTED AT 4.30 PM, I TOOK SEVERAL HUNDRED STUDENTS AROUND KOWLOON TO TAKE EACH ONE OF THEM HOME AND ALL OF THEM WERE CRYING. AS I TOLD YOU, I AM A TEACHER BUT I LOST MY JOB THREE YEARS AGO AND I DON'T KNOW WHY. I ASKED TO SEE MR Y T LEE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. HE SAID HE HAD NO INTEREST IN SEEING ME, BUT I AM A TEACHER. OF COURSE I CAN MAKE HIM SEE ME AT LAST, BUT THERE WAS NO RESULT FROM OUR MEETING. I THINK ALL THE GOVERNMENT DO NOW IS TO PROCRASTINATE.

GOVERNOR: IF YOU GIVE US - HOLD ON A MINUTE, THERE'S 500 PEOPLE HERE. IF YOU GIVE US THE PAPERS ABOUT YOUR CASE, WE'LL LOOK AT THEM AND RESPOND TO YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR THAT QUESTION.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, AS PROPOSED IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH, A NUMBER OF NON-STATUTORY BODIES ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE BUSINESS COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT LEGCO COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL CONTAIN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF POWER. HOW WILL YOU GUARANTEE THERE'LL BE NO ABUSES OF POWER, GIVEN THAT THERE'LL BE NO CORRESPONDING SUPERVISORY BODY? THANK YOU.

GOVERNOR: THE FIRST THING THAT, PERHAPS, I SHOULD SAY IS THAT I THINK THE EXPRESSION NON-STATUTORY BODY WAS TRANSLATED WRONGLY IN THE TEXT OF MY SPEECH, SO THAT IT ACTUALLY SAYS IN THE TEXT, "ILLEGAL", WHICH IS NOT AT ALL WHAT WE HAD IN MIND. LET ME EXPLAIN THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TWO BODIES THAT I'VE TALKED ABOUT. FIRST OF ALL, I WANT THE BUSINESS COUNCIL TO ENABLE SOME OF THE LEADERS OF OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO GIVE ME THEIR ADVICE AND THEIR OPINIONS ON THE STRATEGY WE SHOULD FOLLOW TO MAKE SURE THAT HONG KONG CONTINUES TO BE A VERY SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS CENTRE.

SECONDLY, THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT LEGCO COMMITTEE IS TO ENABLE ME TO MEET LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS OR MY SENIOR COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT SO THAT WE CAN PLAN THE GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS PROGRAMME THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. IT WON'T BE AN EXECUTIVE BODY, IT WON'T BE A DECISION-MAKING BODY IN GOVERNMENT, BUT IT WILL I HOPE IMPROVE THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGISLATURE.

/QUESTION: MR

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, MAY I ASK YOU ONE QUESTION. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DEAL WITH THE SINO-HONG KONG RELATIONS? YOU ARE NOT LIKE YOUR PREDECESSOR, YOU HAVEN'T MENTIONED ANYTHING ABOUT THIS IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH. THERE ARE 4 YEARS 8 MONTHS AND 21 DAYS BEFORE YOU LEAVE HONG KONG. MR PATTEN, IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH IN PARAGRAPH 36 AND PARAGRAPH 150 THERE ARE SOME CONTRADICTIONS. IN PARAGRAPH 36 YOU SAID IT'S NOT VERY IMPORTANT WHETHER WE HAVE A NEW AIRPORT OR NOT BUT IN PARAGRAPH 150 YOU SAID, IN 1997 WE'LL HAVE THE BEST AIRPORT IN HONG KONG. AND MOREOVER, IN PARAGRAPH 119, WHEN YOU QUOTE THE BASIC LAW YOU HAD THE WRONG PARAGRAPH NUMBER.

SO I THINK YOUR VERY APPROACHABLE IMAGE AND YOUR CONDUCT ARE NOT IN KEEPING WITH EACH OTHER. MAY I ASK YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE: ARE YOU GOING TO LEAD THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO FIGHT AGAINST CHINA? AND IF WE LOSE THE BATTLE WILL YOU TAKE ALL OF US ON THE 'LADY MAUREEN' TO GO BACK TO THE UK? AND ON THE 1ST OF JULY 1997, WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO BE LIKE - DYING SWANS OR FRESHLY FRIED PIGEONS?

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, IF I MAY SAY SO, YOU SHOULD QUOTE MORE ACCURATELY AND GET YOUR FACTS RATHER NEARER TO THE TRUTH. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU SAY THAT IN ARTICLE 119 I HAVE GOT THE ARTICLE OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH REFERS TO THE POWERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WRONG. YOU'RE WRONG, I'VE GOT IT RIGHT. IT IS ARTICLE 75 OF THE BASIC LAW WHICH REFERS TO THE ABILITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO RUN ITS PROCEDURES AS IT WANTS. IT'S ALSO ARTICLE 23 OF THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH SAYS THE SAME THING. SO WHAT I SAID IN MY SPEECH IS ABSOLUTELY ACCURATE.

SECONDLY, BY A LITTLE CAREFUL EDITING, YOU CHANGE WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE AIRPORT IN THE LATTER PART OF MY SPEECH. I'D SAID EARLY ON THAT I VERY MUCH HOPED WE'D BE ABLE TO COMPLETE IT BY 1997 BUT IT WASN'T ENTIRELY IN MY HANDS. IN PARAGRAPH 150 I SAY, AND I QUOTE, AND YOU MAY NOTICE THE WORDS THAT YOU LEFT OUT:

"WE SHOULD, IF THE WILL IS THERE, HAVE CONSTRUCTED ASIA'S MOST MODERN AIRPORT."

SO PERHAPS IT WAS AN OVERSIGHT THAT YOU LEFT OUT THE WORDS, "IF THE WILL IS THERE".

ONE MORE THING, I SAID AT THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, HELD BY THE NCNA, OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THAT I WANTED THE CLOSEST AND BEST RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. I SAID THAT WHAT HURTS CHINA HURTS HONG KONG, AND WHAT IS GOOD FOR HONG KONG IS GOOD FOR CHINA. I THINK, TO GIVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG A RATHER GREATER SAY IN SHAPING THEIR OWN DESTINY IS GOOD FOR HONG KONG, AND I THINK THEREFORE, SINCE IT WOULD STRENGTHEN HONG KONG IT WOULD ALSO, IN DUE COURSE, STRENGTHEN CHINA. AND ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH I HAVE TO PERSUADE MY COLLEAGUES, OFFICIALS IN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, OF IS THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE RESPONSIBLE AND MATURE AND SOPHISTICATED, AND CAN VERY SENSIBLY TAKE A RATHER LARGER SHARE IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN FUTURE, WITHOUT BEING A THREAT TO ANYONE.

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QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, IN 1973, WHEN THE THEN GOVERNOR LORD MACLEHOSE, MADE THE 10-YEAR HOUSING POLICY, IT WAS VERY CLEARLY LAID DOWN THAT PUBLIC HOUSING WAS PART OF SOCIAL WELFARE. BUT AFTER 1988, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WAS RE-ORGANISED AND ALL THE LAND BECAME THE PERMANENT ASSET, BELONGING TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE AUTHORITY HAD TO PAY THE GOVERNMENT 5% DIVIDEND EVERY YEAR. IN A FEW YEARS' TIME, A TOTAL OF 4.2 BILLION DOLLARS HAVE BEEN PAID AND IN 1997, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL HAVE ALREADY PAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT 17 BILLION DOLLARS. SO, MAY I ASK YOU ONE QUESTION. PUBLIC HOUSING IS SOCIAL WELFARE OR A MEANS TO MAKE MONEY? DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE GRASSROOTS PEOPLE, OR DO YOU WANT TO FRY US LIKE DUCKS?

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, YOU ARE OF COURSE RIGHT. THAT HONG KONG NEEDS GOOD PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMMES AND I AM SURE YOU'D ALSO ACCEPT THAT GOOD PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMMES COST MONEY AND THAT IS WHY, WE ARE PROPOSING TO SPEND, ON HOUSING AUTHORITY AND HOUSING SOCIETY PROGRAMMES, 41 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THAT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ABOUT 40,000 UNITS A YEAR. THAT MEANS THAT, OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, ABOUT A 190,000 FAMILIES WILL RECEIVE HOMES. THAT'S ABOUT 650,000 PEOPLE. THAT IS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENT TO TRYING TO DEAL WITH HONG KONG'S HOUSING NEED. YOU ARE ENTIRELY RIGHT TO SAY THAT, JUST BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF HOUSING THAT'S BEEN PROVIDED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE CAN RELAX OUR EFFORTS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO DO SO AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO COMMIT SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES TO A GOOD HOUSING PROGRAMME FOR THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, ALTHOUGH MY SPEECH HAS BEEN DELAYED ONCE AGAIN, BUT I AM VERY GLAD THAT FINALLY YOU GAVE ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU. YOU HAVE A LOT OF - I HOPE THAT WHAT YOU HAVE PROMISED US, IF THERE IS ANY DELAY, AND AT THE END YOU CAN STILL FULFILL THEM. NOW, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK MY QUESTION. IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH, THOUGH THERE IS NO INDEPENDENT CHAPTERS AND PARAGRAPHS ON SINO-HONG KONG RELATIONS, BUT ACTUALLY THE RELATION HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN SEVERAL PLACES. REGARDING A LOT OF YOUR PROGRAMMES ON SOCIAL WELFARE, ON THE AIRPORT, ON LAW AND ORDER AND ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT FROM CHINA. SO I DOUBT VERY MUCH, WHEN YOU GO TO PEKING LATER, HOW CAN YOU RESOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS IN ONE MORNING AND, PERHAPS, WITH COFFEE BREAKS TOO? I WANT TO KNOW IF THERE IS A STRONG RESISTANCE FROM CHINA, WHAT IS YOUR BOTTOM LINE? WHAT CAN YOU GIVE UP?

/GOVERNOR: WELL

GOVERNOR: WELL, YOU MENTIONED THE QUESTION OF COFFEE. WHAT I SAID WAS THAT, IN MY VIEW, WE COULD, IF WE TACKLED THEM ON THEIR MERITS, DEAL WITH THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES OVER THE AIRPORT IN THE MORNING, WITH A COFFEE BREAK. BUT THERE ARE OTHER ISSUES WHICH ARE MORE COMPLICATED AND WHICH WILL TAKE LONGER. I THINK IT'S CONCEIVABLE THAT WE MAY HAVE TO SPEND A LITTLE LONGER TALKING ABOUT POLITICAL ISSUES, BUT TAKE AN ISSUE WHICH I THINK WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH QUITE SIMPLY AND WITHOUT TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM. AND THAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CO-OPERATING TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF SMUGGLING AND THE PROBLEM OF CROSS-BORDER CRIME. I THINK THAT EVERYONE KNOWS SOME OF THE CENTRES FOR SMUGGLING BEYOND OUR BORDERS. SO, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WILL SAY TO MY COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS THAT I AM VERY MUCH IN FAVOUR OF STRONG, EXECUTIVE-LED GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG AND I AM IN FAVOUR OF STRONG, EXECUTIVE-LED GOVERNMENT ELSEWHERE AS WELL; SO THAT, WE CAN CO-OPERATE AND SUCCESSFULLY DEAL WITH PROBLEMS LIKE SMUGGLING AND CROSS-BORDER CRIME.

WHAT IS MY BOTTOM LINE, YOU ASKED. MY BOTTOM LINE IS TO GOVERN HONG KONG FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AS HONOURABLY AND HONESTLY AS POSSIBLE; MY BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THE ELECTIONS IN 1995 SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN A WAY WHICH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY REGARDS AS FAIR AND EQUITABLE AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT, AFTER I HAVE DEPARTED, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WILL, AFTER HIS FIRST POLICY SPEECH, COME TO THE TOWN HALL IN SHA TIN AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ON IT.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH YOU HAVE SAID A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT SOCIAL WELFARE BUT MOST OF THEM WERE ABOUT THE ELDERLY, THE NEEDY AND THE DISABLED. THERE IS NOTHING DEVELOPMENTAL AND PREVENTIVE EXCEPT FOR THE MENTION OF 60 MORE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS. BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS' WORK IS CHIEFLY REMEDIAL RATHER THAN DEVELOPMENTAL. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE EVENING, ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HERE MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF DRUG-ABUSE AND YOU SAID IN RESPONSE THAT THERE WILL BE MORE SOCIAL WORKERS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM BUT THERE IS NO MENTION ABOUT DEVELOPMENTAL AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH. DO YOU THINK THESE ARE NOT NECESSARY?

GOVERNOR: NO, I THINK THEY ARE NECESSARY. I DO SAY QUITE A BIT, I THINK YOU'LL AGREE, ABOUT PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN THE HEALTH FIELD. I DIDN'T SAY VERY MUCH ABOUT PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD, BUT YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT. I REFERRED EARLIER TO SOME OF THE TEAMS THAT WE'VE BEEN SENDING INTO AREAS WHERE THERE IS A HIGH INCIDENCE OF JUVENILE CRIME, THAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SORT OF IMPORTANT PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT HAVE TO BE TAKEN.

I HAVE TO SAY, IF I CAN ADD ONE FURTHER POINT, THAT I THINK THE PROPOSALS THAT WE'VE PUT FORWARD ON EDUCATION, FOR PROVIDING MORE TEACHERS, FOR CUTTING CLASS SIZES AND FOR GIVING TEACHERS MORE TIME TO SPEND WITH PUPILS AND MORE TIME TO SPEND PREPARING FOR LESSONS, I THINK THOSE THINGS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT WE PREVENT SOME OF THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE ARISE.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH, IN THE PART ON EDUCATION, YOU SAID THERE WILL BE SMALLER CLASSES - THE CLASS SIZE WILL BE REDUCED TO 35 AND IT WILL START FROM PRIMARY 1. SO WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE GENEROUS AND PUT THE SAME RESOURCES INTO SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND DO THE SAME FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, OR DO YOU THINK THAT SECONDARY EDUCATION IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN PRIMARY EDUCATION?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT BOTH ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, THOUGH I SHOULD ADMIT AT THIS POINT, THAT MY GRANDPARENTS, BOTH MY GRANDMOTHER AND MY GRANDFATHER, WERE HEAD TEACHERS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS. I SAID IN MY SPEECH THAT WE WOULD BE EMPLOYING OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AN ADDITIONAL 2,200 TEACHERS, THAT WE WOULD BE BEGINNING TO REDUCE CLASS SIZES FROM 40 TO 35, AS YOU SAY, STARTING IN PRIMARY 1 AND WORKING OUR WAY THROUGH THE SYSTEM. BUT I ALSO SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO RECRUITING NEW TEACHERS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS BEGINNING FROM SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR, WE'D ALSO, AS FROM THE FOLLOWING YEAR, START TO RECRUIT NEW TEACHERS, ADDITIONAL TEACHERS, FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AS WELL, BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNISE THE BURDEN ON TEACHERS AT ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION.

A RESULT OF THE PROPOSALS THAT I'VE PUT FORWARD IS THAT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, THE RATIO OF PUPILS TO TEACHERS WILL FALL FROM 27-1 TO 24-1, AND IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM 22-1 TO 20-1. SO I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THE SORT OF OBJECTIVES WHICH YOU'VE SET, EVEN IF WE CAN'T DO IT QUITE AS QUICKLY AS YOU WANT IT.

I AM SORRY THAT WE HAVE TO CLOSE THE MEETING NOW. IT IS GENUINELY THE CASE THAT WE HAVE TO BE OUT OF THE HALL - WE HAVE TO BE OUT OF THE HALL BY FIVE MINUTES AGO. BUT THERE ARE TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO THANK. FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE INTERPRETERS. I APOLOGISE FOR THE FACT THAT I CANNOT SPEAK CANTONESE BUT YOU HAVE BEEN VERY PATIENT WITH ME THIS EVENING. SECONDLY, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU, BOTH FOR COMING THIS EVENING AND FOR, ON THE WHOLE, ASKING SUCH BRIEF QUESTIONS, WHICH HAS ENABLED US TO INCLUDE MANY MORE QUESTIONERS THAN HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.

I HOPE THAT YOU'LL ALLOW ME TO COME TO YOUR COMMUNITY AGAIN TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. WHEN I NEXT COME, ANY OF YOU WHO WERE HERE TONIGHT AND WEREN'T ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS, WILL OF COURSE BE CALLED FIRST, PROVIDED WE BELIEVE YOU. IN CASE ANYONE DOUBTED IT, YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED THIS EVENING HOW SENSIBLY AND RESPONSIBLY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG CAN DEBATE POLITICAL ISSUES AND THAT IS SOMETHING WHICH I CAN ASSURE YOU, MAKES ME FEEL MUCH MORE CONVINCED THAT IT'S RIGHT TO TRY TO GIVE YOU A BIGGER SHARE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF YOUR OWN FUTURE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. - AND DON'T FORGET TO TELL THE OWNER OF THE PIGEON RESTAURANT!

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS: GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THAT THE MORE PEOPLE WERE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND IN DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE, THE MORE EVERYBODY WOULD RECOGNISE IT.

HE WAS RESPONDING TO A PRESS QUESTION AFTER APPEARING ON A TELEVISION PROGRAMME ABOUT WHAT HE LEARNT FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S SERIES OF PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSIONS.

"WHAT I'VE LEARNT, PARTICULARLY AT THE PUBLIC MEETING I HAD THIS EVENING IS WHAT A RESPONSIBLE, INTELLIGENT COMMUNITY THERE IS IN HONG KONG," MR PATTEN SAID.

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MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 GAZETTED
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THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WHICH ENABLES SURVEYS TO BE CONDUCTED ON FOREIGN REGISTERED PASSENGER SHIPS ENGAGED IN NON-INTERNATIONAL VOYAGES WHICH BEGIN AND END WITHIN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG WITHOUT CALLING AT ANOTHER PORT WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE BILL ALSO ENABLES THE INSPECTION OF CERTIFICATES OR OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF CARGO SHIPS NOT COVERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA 1974 (SOLAS).

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE (SHIPPING), MR JOHN TSE YAN-CHI, SAID:

"FOREIGN REGISTERED PASSENGER SHIPS BASED IN HONG KONG AND PLYING ON NON-INTERNATIONAL VOYAGES ARE OFTEN REMOTE FROM THE CONTROL OF THEIR FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATIONS.

"THE LATTER MAY THEREFORE FIND IT DIFFICULT IN SOME CASES TO ENSURE THAT THE SAFETY STANDARDS OF THESE SHIPS ARE MAINTAINED FULLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOLAS CONVENTION."

"SINCE SUCH SHIPS ROUTINELY CARRY LARGE NUMBERS OF HONG KONG PASSENGERS, THEIR SAFETY IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO US.

"THE BILL ADDRESSES THIS CONCERN BY PROVIDING POWERS FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE TO CONDUCT SURVEYS OF SUCH FOREIGN REGISTERED PASSENGER SHIPS JUST AS IF THEY WERE HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS," HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S POWERS IN THIS REGARD HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CHALLENGED IN THE COURTS, MR TSE STRESSED THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S MAIN CONCERN WAS THE SAFETY OF PASSENGERS WHO GO ON SUCH SHIPS.

/MR TSE

MR TSE SAID: "THE MAJORITY OF PASSENGERS ARE HONG KONG RESIDENTS. WE HAVE A CLEAR DUTY OF CARE TOWARDS THEM. THE PROPOSAL IN THE BILL WILL ALLOW US TO FULFIL THIS DUTY IN A MANNER ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE."

TURNING TO THE SAFETY OF CARGO SHIPS, MR TSE SAID THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WOULD ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE TO :

- * REQUIRE FOREIGN CARGO SHIPS WHICH ARE UNDER 500 GROSS TONNAGE AND SHIPS OF OVER 500 GROSS TONNAGE REGISTERED IN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT A PARTY TO THE SOLAS CONVENTION TO CONFORM TO THE HONG KONG STANDARDS AND CONVENTION STANDARDS RESPECTIVELY BEFORE BEING GRANTED CLEARANCE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL VOYAGE;
- * PROHIBIT HONG KONG REGISTERED CARGO SHIPS UNDER 500 GROSS TONNAGE FROM PROCEEDING TO SEA ON ANY VOYAGE UNLESS THEY COMPLY WITH THE RELEVANT REGULATIONS, AND TO REQUIRE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF SUCH COMPLIANCE WHEN REQUESTING CLEARANCE FOR ANY VOYAGE;
- * ACCEPT CERTIFICATES OF ANY SHIPS WHICH ARE NOT IN THE PRECISE FORMAT OF THE SOLAS CONVENTION, FOR THE PURPOSES OF GRANTING CLEARANCE FOR ANY VOYAGE WHERE THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE IS SATISFIED THAT THE STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR THE ISSUE OF SUCH CERTIFICATES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THOSE REQUIRED FOR A HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIP.

UNDER THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) ORDINANCE SHIPS TO WHICH SOLAS APPLIES ARE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE VALID SOLAS SAFETY CERTIFICATES BEFORE OBTAINING A CLEARANCE TO SAIL FROM HONG KONG ON INTERNATIONAL VOYAGES.

HOWEVER THE SOLAS CONVENTION DOES NOT APPLY TO CARGO SHIPS UNDER 500 GROSS TONNAGE OR SHIPS REGISTERED IN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT PARTY TO THE CONVENTION.

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SIXTH FLIGHT TO ORDERLY REPATRIATE VIETNAMESE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT A SIXTH GROUP OF ABOUT 60 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES WILL RETURN TO VIETNAM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) UNDER THE CONTINUING ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME.

THIS IS THE SIXTH REPATRIATION FLIGHT UNDER THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME AGREED WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON OCTOBER 29 LAST YEAR.

/IT FOLLOWS

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IT FOLLOWS THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION FLIGHTS ON NOVEMBER 9 AND DECEMBER 10 LAST YEAR, AND FEBRUARY 12, JUNE 19 AND AUGUST 4 THIS YEAR.

SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 221 NON-REFUGEES HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO FACILITATE MEDIA COVERAGE:

A FIXED POSITION WILL BE SET UP INSIDE THE AIRPORT WHERE JOURNALISTS WILL BE ABLE TO PHOTOGRAPH THE RETURNEES BOARDING THE PLANE THAT TAKES THEM BACK TO VIETNAM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THE FACILITY SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM IN THE ARRIVAL HALL NO LATER THAN 8.45 AM. TELEPHOTO LENSES WILL BE NECESSARY.

EDITORS ARE REMINDED THAT THEIR REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS MUST BE ABLE TO PRODUCE PROOF THAT THEY ARE BONA FIDE JOURNALISTS BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO USE THE FACILITY.

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VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JULY

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR INCREASED BY 1%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 30% OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 21%. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 23% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES WITH THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES BEING DISCOUNTED.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY 1%. IMPORT PRICES REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

PRICE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED BY CHANGES IN UNIT VALUE INDEXES, WHICH ARE COMPILED BASED ON AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OR, FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, BASED ON SPECIFIC PRICE DATA.

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX IS THE RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX. IT INCREASED BY 1% IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

/COMPARING JULY

COMPARING JULY 1992 WITH JULY 1991, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 25%. THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 17%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 22%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 1% WHILE THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. IMPORT PRICES ROSE BY 1%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING JULY 1992 WITH JULY 1991, COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+39%); AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+12%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-44%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-41%); AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-36%).

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS RECORDED FOR TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES, BY 7%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS RECORDED A CONSIDERABLE DECREASE OF 5% IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES. THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD; AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP BOTH DECLINED BY 2%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 8% IN JULY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JULY 1991.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEA AND COFFEE; FRUIT; MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS; AND ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES.

HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SUGAR; WHEAT AND FLOUR; SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD; AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 24%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; WATCHES; AND CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 12% IN JULY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JULY 1991.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR RAW COTTON; LEATHER AND DRESSED FUR SKINS; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; AND THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS.

HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MAN-MADE FIBRES; CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND SO ON EXCEPT GLASS; AND YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 21% IN VOLUME IN JULY 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JULY 1991.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 41% IN JULY 1992 OVER JULY 1991.

NOTABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY (OTHER THAN TEXTILE MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY); AND SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS.

THE IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN JULY 1992 OVER JULY 1991: CAPITAL GOODS (+4%); CONSUMER GOODS (+4%); FOODSTUFFS (+1%) AND FUELS (+1%).

HOWEVER, THE IMPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 2%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS HAD GROWN SUBSTANTIALLY IN JULY 1992 COMPARED WITH JULY 1991 (BY 61%).

THAT OF CONSUMER GOODS; RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND FOODSTUFFS ALSO REGISTERED INCREASES, BY 25%, 12% AND 4% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 32%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS, CONSUMER GOODS AND CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 5%, 2% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY.

THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 3% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY.

DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 1992 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT, AT \$6 A COPY, WILL BE ON SALE AROUND OCTOBER 14 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4918).

Table 1 : Changes in domestic exports by principal commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing JUL 1992 with JUL 1991			Comparing JAN-JUL 1992 with JAN-JUL 1991		
	Value	Unit	Volume	Value	Unit	Volume
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Clothing	5	3	2	3	3	*
Textile fabrics	-8	2	-10	2	2	*
Textile yarn and thread	-19	-2	-17	-6	-3	-3
Textile made-ups and related articles	-37	7	-41	-17	7	-22
Radios of all kinds	-36	*	-36	-38	-1	-38
Electronic components	7	-5	12	18	-5	24
Footwear	-4	3	-7	-26	3	-28
Metal manufactures	5	1	5	9	4	5
Metal ores and scrap	36	-2	39	-8	-5	-4
Watches and clocks	2	1	1	-11	-1	-10
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	-13	*	-13	3	2	2
Domestic electrical appliances	-44	*	-44	-34	1	-35
ALL COMMODITIES	1	1	*	2	1	1

* less than 0.5%

/TABLE 2

Table 2 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing JUL 1992 with JUL 1991			Comparing JAN-JUL 1992 with JAN-JUL 1991		
	Value %	Unit Value %	Volume %	Value %	Unit Value %	Volume %
Foodstuffs	9	1	8	12	1	11
Consumer goods	28	4	24	29	3	26
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	9	-2	12	14	-2	17
Fuels	21	1	21	6	-14	23
Capital goods	47	4	41	36	2	33
ALL COMMODITIES	23	1	22	23	*	23

* less than 0.5%

Table 3 : Changes in re-exports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing JUL 1992 with JUL 1991			Comparing JAN-JUL 1992 with JAN-JUL 1991		
	Value %	Unit Value %	Volume %	Value %	Unit Value %	Volume %
Foodstuffs	3	-1	4	7	2	5
Consumer goods	28	2	25	33	3	29
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	8	-3	12	23	-2	25
Fuels	-28	5	-32	6	-10	18
Capital goods	63	1	61	50	1	49
ALL COMMODITIES	25	*	25	31	1	30

* less than 0.5%

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TUEN MUN DB BY-ELECTION TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY

* * * * *

REGISTERED VOTERS OF TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S TAI HING CONSTITUENCY ARE URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORTHCOMING BY-ELECTION ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 11).

TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER LEUNG, REMINDED THE 12,000 VOTERS THAT THEIR POLLING STATION, LOCATED AT TAI HING COMMUNITY HALL, WILL BE OPEN FROM 7.30 AM TO 10.30 PM.

"AS ONLY ONE SEAT IN THE CONSTITUENCY IS VACANT, ELECTORS MAY VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CANDIDATE," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ELECTORS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR POLL CARDS AND IDENTITY CARDS.

THE THREE VYING CANDIDATES FOR THE SEAT ARE MISS HO HANG-MUI, MR LAM TAK-LEUNG AND MISS SO LAI-WAH.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE BY-ELECTION.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, WILL VISIT THE POLLING STATION AT TAI HING COMMUNITY HALL, TAI HING ESTATE, TUEN MUN AT 10.45 AM.

HE WILL MEET THE PRESS OUTSIDE THE STATION AFTER THE VISIT.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), MR ALBERT LAM, WILL ALSO MEET THE PRESS AFTER VISITING THE POLLING STATION AT 3.55 PM.

MR LAM WILL ALSO ROUND UP THE BY-ELECTION TO THE PRESS AT THE LOBBY OF TUEN MUN TOWN HALL AT 11 PM.

TO FACILITATE PRESS COVERAGE, A PRESS CENTRE WILL BE SET UP IN THE LECTURE ROOM 1, GROUND FLOOR, TUEN MUN TOWN HALL FROM 9.30 AM UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF VOTE COUNTING.

GIS OFFICER ON DUTY AT THE CENTRE CAN BE CONTACTED ON TEL 441 4185.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN HALL CAR PARK.

PARKING LABELS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS AT THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S NEWS AND PUBLICITY DIVISION ON 30TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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DISTRICT BOARDS TO PLAY A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE

* * * *

THE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL ASSUME A MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN FUTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1992 WAN CHAI FESTIVAL AT THE HAPPY VALLEY SPORTS GROUND, MR SUEN SAID APART FROM INCREASES IN DISTRICT BOARD FUNDINGS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOW BOARD MEMBERS TO TAKE UP MORE RESPONSIBILITIES IN LOCAL AFFAIRS.

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, IN HIS MAIDEN POLICY ADDRESS ON WEDNESDAY, PROPOSED THAT APPOINTED MEMBERS TO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND DISTRICT BOARDS BE ABOLISHED IN 1994.

"THE PROPOSAL IS A NATURAL STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WHICH MEANS AN INCREASE IN THE DISTRICT BOARDS' REPRESENTATIVE ROLE," MR SUEN SAID.

MR SUEN SAID THE BOARDS HAD, OVER THE PAST DECADE, FULLY PLAYED AN INTERMEDIARY ROLE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC.

"THEY REFLECTED LOCAL RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT, AND CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SO ON.

"AND THE ADMINISTRATION ALL ALONG REGARDED THE BOARDS AS A VERY REPRESENTATIVE ADVISORY BODY AT DISTRICT LEVEL," HE SAID.

MR SUEN ADDED THAT THE BOARDS HAD MADE MUCH CONTRIBUTION TO VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

CITING WAN CHAI AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE DISTRICT BOARD, UNDER A "GREENING" CAMPAIGN, HAD PLANTED 600 TREES IN A FEW YEARS GIVING THE COMMERCIAL AREA A MORE COMFORTABLE AND FRESHER OUTLOOK.

THE BOARD ALSO SPONSORED FUNCTIONS ORGANISED BY LOCAL GROUPS AS WELL AS CO-ORGANISED ACTIVITIES WITH AREA COMMITTEES.

HE SAID THE TRIENNIAL WAN CHAI FESTIVAL PROVIDED LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH A CHANCE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT AND ITS LATEST DEVELOPMENT AND TO AROUSE THEIR CONCERN OVER LOCAL ISSUES.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME WAS KICKED OFF BY A GRAND PARADE ALONG THE 'EQUI TRACK" BY MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS, KAIFONG ORGANISATIONS AND SPONSOR COMPANIES.

A 45-METRE "DANCING" DRAGON AND THE CHEUNG CHAU-TYPE FLOAT TEAMS WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS.

IN A FOLLOWING CEREMONY, MR SUEN, TOGETHER WITH A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR ALLEN LEE, WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR STEVEN LIU, RELEASED FOUR GIANT BALLOONS INTO THE AIR.

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A BANNER WAS HUNG TO EACH BALLOON WITH SLOGANS ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION. ONE WAS ON THE THEME OF THE FESTIVAL: "TO LIVE AND WORK BETTER IN WAN CHAI".

THERE WAS ALSO A SWITCH-ON CEREMONY WHICH WAS BROADCAST LIVE ON TVB JADE CHANNEL.

SOME 10,000 SPECTATORS WERE TREATED TO A MUSIC-PACKED AND STAR-STUDED CONCERT EXTRAVAGANZA FEATURING SINGERS ANDY LAU AND SALLY YEH.

THE FESTIVAL WILL LAST UNTIL NOVEMBER 14. HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE THE LOCKHART ROAD FESTIVAL, THE CAUSEWAY BAY CENTRAL ARTS CARNIVAL AND THE JOINT SCHOOL CULTURAL NIGHT.

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GOVT DOCKYARD RECLAMATION WORKS ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO CONSTRUCT ABOUT 630 METRES OF SEAWALL AND RECLAIM AN AREA OF ABOUT SIX HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED INSIDE THE BASIN AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

THE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE LAND AND A TYPHOON SHELTER TO SERVE THE REPLACEMENT GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD.

WORK WILL START NEXT JANUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN JUNE 1995.

CONSTRUCTION IS ALREADY UNDER WAY ON THE LAND TO THE WEST OF THE BASIN AND ON SEVERAL OTHER SITES ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND TO PROVIDE A REPLACEMENT NAVAL BASE FOR HMS TAMAR. THIS WILL BE COMPLETED IN MARCH 1993.

ONCE THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD IS COMPLETED, THE BASIN WILL BE JOINTLY USED BY THE BRITISH FORCES AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FLEET.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE INJURIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE UNDERTAKING MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 8 NEXT YEAR.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER) AND AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, SIXTH FLOOR, WEST COAST INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, 290-296 UN CHAU STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON.

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FEEES REVISED FOR USING COUNTRY PARK FACILITIES

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FEEES FOR USING CERTAIN AMENITIES OR FACILITIES IN COUNTRY PARKS OR SPECIAL AREAS IN THE TERRITORY FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES WILL BE REVISED FROM TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE REVISION, SET OUT IN THE COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1992, HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND IS GAZETTED TODAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THE FEEES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1989 ON A FULL COST RECOVERY BASIS.

HOWEVER, THE REVISION THEN ONLY REFLECTED THE COST LEVEL OF 1987-88, HE SAID.

HE SAID CURRENT REVISION WAS IN LINE WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE DEFLATOR SINCE 1987-88, ADDING THAT IT WAS ENDORSED BY THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD'S PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE REVISED FEEES WILL BE APPLIED TO THE FOLLOWING PERMITS:

- * TO SELL OR LET ON HIRE ANY COMMODITY OR ARTICLE;
- * TO DISPLAY ANY SIGN, NOTICE, POSTER, BANNER OR ADVERTISEMENT;
- * TO CONSTRUCT OR ERECT ANY BUILDING, HUT OR SHELTER OR EXCAVATE ANY CAVE;
- * TO HOLD ANY PUBLIC MEETING OR SPORTING COMPETITION, MAKE ANY PUBLIC SPEECH OR ADDRESS ANY PUBLIC MEETING;
- * TO HOLD ANY FUND-RAISING EVENT; AND
- * TO CARRY ON ANY ACTIVITY FOR BUSINESS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT MANY OTHER FACILITIES OR AMENITIES IN COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS WILL REMAIN FREE OF CHARGE FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF THE PUBLIC.

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SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN STUDY COMMISSIONED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS COMMISSIONED A STUDY TO ASSESS THE EXTENT OF THE POLLUTION PROBLEM RESULTING FROM THE IMPROPER DISCHARGE OF DOMESTIC SEWAGE AND INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENT TO STORMWATER DRAINS AND WATER COURSES IN ABERDEEN, AP LEI CHAU AND POK FU LAM.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE STUDY WAS SIGNED TODAY (FRIDAY) BETWEEN EPD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (WASTE AND WATER POLICY), MR MIKE STOKOE AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE PYPUN-HOWARD HUMPHREYS LIMITED, MR D IVOR-SMITH.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE STUDY WOULD ASSESS THE ADEQUACY AND PERFORMANCE OF THE EXISTING SEWERAGE SYSTEMS AND BASED ON THE RESULTS, SCHEMES FOR REMEDIAL WORKS WOULD BE FORMULATED TO ENSURE THAT ALL SEWAGE WOULD BE PROPERLY COLLECTED AND DISPOSED OF IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER.

HE SAID: "A SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN WILL BE DEVELOPED AND A PRIORITISED PROGRAMME FOR PROGRESSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NECESSARY ENGINEERING WORKS WILL BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FOR SHORT- AND LONG-TERM MEASURES TO REDUCE THE POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN STAGES.

"EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO ACHIEVING EARLY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, PARTICULARLY AT ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER," HE ADDED.

THE STUDY, AT A COST OF \$10 MILLION, WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO PHASES AND BE COMPLETED IN 21 MONTHS.

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TIN SHUI WAI SPORTS GROUND SURFACING WORKS

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND LAYING OF ALL-WEATHER ATHLETIC SURFACING FOR THE SPORTS GROUND IN AREA 12, TIN SHUI WAI, YUEN LONG.

WORKS WILL START EARLY NEXT YEAR AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED NEXT JUNE.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON NOVEMBER 6.

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NEW SEAFRONT ROAD IN TSUEN WAN

* * * *

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD CONNECTING HOI HING ROAD AND THE EXISTING CASTLE PEAK ROAD AT MILESTONE 10 IN TSUEN WAN.

THE NEW 1,200-METRE SEAFRONT ROAD WILL BE A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY.

UPON COMPLETION, THE NEW ROAD WILL PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT RELIEF TO THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION CURRENTLY EXPERIENCED ON THE ADJACENT SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

WORKS WILL START IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE FIRST SECTION OF THE ROAD, ABOUT 650 METRES LONG FROM BELVEDERE GARDEN TO HOI HING ROAD, WILL TAKE ABOUT 13 MONTHS TO COMPLETE WITH THE REMAINING SECTION SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN SEPTEMBER 1994.

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DREDGING PROJECT IN TAI TAM BAY

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT DREDGING WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 1.7 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT TAI TAM BAY.

THE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A CHANNEL FOR THE FLOATING OUT OF CONCRETE TUNNEL UNITS FROM A CASTING YARD AT THE SHEK O QUARRY.

WORK WILL START IN EARLY 1994 AND BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 8.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE BOUGHT ON ORDER) AND AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, SHOP 25, GROUND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, HONG KONG.

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1) AIDS EXHIBITION STALL SET UP AT REPULSE BAY FLEA MARKET
* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT'S PUBLICITY STRATEGY ON AIDS ARE INVITED TO VISIT A STALL BEING PUT UP AT THE REPULSE BAY FLEA MARKET THIS WEEKEND (OCTOBER 10 AND 11).

THE STALL, SET UP BY THE PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP UNDER THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS, IS A PILOT SCHEME TO EXPLORE NEW PUBLICITY AVENUE TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF AIDS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID: "ANYBODY WHO WISHES TO KNOW MORE ABOUT AIDS ARE ALSO INVITED TO VISIT OUR STALL AND TO GET PUBLICATIONS ON THE SUBJECT."

SOUVENIRS WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS WHO MAY BE ASKED TO FILL IN A SIMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE.

"FROM THE DATA COLLECTED, WE HOPE TO GAUGE PUBLIC RESPONSE TOWARDS OUR LATEST 'CONDOM' ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ON TELEVISION AND PUBLICITY STRATEGY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT HOW FAR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC KNOW ABOUT AIDS."

MEMBERS FROM THE PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP WHICH INCLUDE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

THE STALL WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 5.30 PM ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO VISIT STALL NO 27 IN REPULSE BAY FLEA MARKET AT 3 PM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 10). GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP.

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TOLO HARBOUR SWIMMING RACE
* * * * *

ABOUT 1,035 ATHLETES WILL JOIN A SWIMMING RACE ACROSS TOLO HARBOUR IN TAI PO ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 11).

OF THEM, 860 ARE MEN AND 175 WOMEN. THE YOUNGEST ENTRANT IS 12 YEARS OLD AND THE OLDEST AGED 73.

THE RACE, IN ITS 24TH YEAR, IS ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD.

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IT WILL START AT 10.30 AM AT SHA LAN BEACH IN SHUEN WAN AND FINISH AT THE TAI MEI TUK WATER SPORTS CENTRE, COVERING A 2,400-METRE COURSE.

TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PO PUI-LEONG, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO START OFF THE RACE.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), MR ALBERT LAM, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS AT 12.10 PM AT THE WATER SPORTS CENTRE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 24TH CROSS TOLO HARBOUR SWIM IN TAI PO ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 11).

A PRESS COACH WILL LEAVE FOR SHA LAN BEACH FROM THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION'S LI FOOK LAM INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE, 2 ON CHEUNG ROAD, TAI PO, AT 9 AM.

THOSE MAKING THEIR OWN WAY THERE SHOULD GATHER AT THE PIER NEAR THE ROUNDABOUT OF SAM MUN TSAI ROAD, NEAR THE LUEN YICK SEAFOOD HOUSE IN THE LUEN YICK FISHERMEN VILLAGE BY 9.15 AM.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+1,180
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,680

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 110.6 *+0.2* 9.10.92

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.56 PCT	14 MONTHS	2311	6.25	103.24	3.26
1 MONTH	2.61 PCT	17 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.78	3.40
3 MONTHS	2.62 PCT	20 MONTHS	2405	5.502	102.82	3.70
6 MONTHS	2.71 PCT	23 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.93	3.88
12 MONTHS	3.20 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,372 MN

CLOSED 9 OCTOBER 1992

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