



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1984

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RIGHT FOR PEOPLE TO COMMENT ON ACCORD -- BRAY  
\* \* \* \*

IT WAS RIGHT THAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT FORMALLY ON THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY.

+PARLIAMENT, AND THE HONG KONG PEOPLE THEMSELVES WOULD EXPECT NO LESS,+ HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR BRAY WAS SPEAKING ON THE MOTION BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON LYDIA DUNN -- WHICH HE SAID OFFICIAL MEMBERS SUPPORTED -- WELCOMING GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE TO TEST THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNMENT, MR BRAY SAID, WOULD DO ITS PART TO ENSURE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE AGREEMENT WERE WIDELY KNOWN AND WOULD CREATE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

+IT IS UP TO THEM TO DO SO. THEREAFTER A CAREFUL AND IMPARTIAL ASSESSMENT WILL BE PREPARED AND PUBLISHED FOR ALL TO SEE,+ HE SAID.

A DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD BE FIRST PUT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG +WITH A CLEAR EXPLANATION OF ITS IMPLICATIONS+, AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT IS PUBLISHED IN THE U.K. AS A WHITE PAPER.

IT WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH A STATEMENT, AND WOULD BE OPEN TO DEBATE.

MR BRAY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S WIDE-RANGING AND SYSTEMATIC MECHANISM FOR MAINTAINING CLOSE AND CONSTANT TOUCH WITH OPINION WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY +TO ASSESS CURRENT VIEWS ON KNOWN PROPOSALS.+

REFERRING TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE, WHICH HE SAID WOULD OPERATE ENTIRELY INDEPENDENTLY OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND ITS ORGANISATION, MR BRAY SAID IT WOULD ACT AS A RECEIVER OF VIEWS.

+WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT MACHINE WILL BE ACTIVE, TRANSMITTING INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND STIMULATING COMMENT AND DISCUSSION, THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WILL BE PASSIVE, ACTING AS A RECEIVER FOR THE VIEWS THAT WILL EMERGE.

+ITS PRIME FUNCTION WILL BE TO RECEIVE AND ANALYSE ALL EXPRESSIONS OF VIEWS UPON THE INITIALLED AGREEMENT.

THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE, MR BRAY SAID, WOULD +COLLATE, SUMMARISE, ANALYSE AND ASSESS ALL THOSE VIEWS.+

/+BUT IT .....

+BUT IT WILL NOT REACH OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY TO OBTAIN OR SOLICIT THEM,+ HE SAID.

THE OFFICE WOULD BE MANNED BY EXPERIENCED CIVIL SERVANTS AND ITS HEAD WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR.

WHEN THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE HAD COMPLETED ITS VIEWS, IT WOULD BE REQUIRED BY A GIVEN DATE TO REPORT IN WRITING TO THE GOVERNOR UPON THE VIEWS IT HAD RECEIVED, MR BRAY SAID.

THESE VIEWS WOULD BE IN A FORM THAT COULD READILY BE ASSIMILATED BY THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN LONDON TO WHOM IT WOULD BE PRESENTED BY MINISTERS.

THE COLLATION OF THE VIEWS WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IN A WAY NO REFERENDUM COULD BE.

+THE METHODS PROPOSED WILL MAKE POSSIBLE NOT ONLY AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE AGREEMENT BUT WILL ALSO POINT TO AREAS WHICH CAUSE CONCERN.

+ALTHOUGH THE AGREEMENT ITSELF WILL NOT BE OPEN TO AMENDMENT THESE CONCERNS WILL PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FUTURE,+ MR BRAY SAID.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS'S SPEECH:

+I AM GRATEFUL TO MISS DUNN FOR GIVING THIS COUNCIL A CHANCE TO DEBATE THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT. THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL SUPPORT THE MOTION WHICH SHE HAS SO ABLY ARGUED WITH THE SUPPORT OF OTHER MEMBERS. I THOUGHT MR SO'S PARABLE OF THE ANXIOUS GARMENT BUYER PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR THE WORLD'S LARGEST GARMENT EXPORTING TERRITORY.

+AS HONG KONG MOVES TOWARDS A CRUCIAL DECISION ON ITS FUTURE IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT WE DO SO WITH SOME TREPIDATION. SOMETIME LATER THIS YEAR WE EXPECT TO SEE THE PUBLICATION OF AN INITIALLED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. HMG HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS SEEKING AN AGREEMENT THAT IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THE AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE SIGNED UNTIL PARLIAMENT HAS AGREED AND BEFORE THEY TAKE A DECISION PARLIAMENT WILL WISH TO KNOW WHETHER THE AGREEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+IT IS TO ASSIST PARLIAMENT TO COME TO A CONCLUSION ON THIS MATTER THAT SPECIAL MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN IN HONG KONG BETWEEN THE PUBLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE DECIDING DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT.

/+TO THOSE .....

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+TO THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH HONG KONG THE TASK SEEMS TO BE IMPOSSIBLE. THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BUT DERIVES ITS AUTHORITY FROM APPOINTMENT BY BRITAIN. HOW CAN ACCEPTABILITY BE MEASURED IN A PLACE WHICH HAS ONLY HAD UNIVERSAL FRANCHISE FOR TWO YEARS, WHERE ONLY A THIRD OF THE ELECTORATE IS ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL AND ONLY ONE THIRD OF THIS VOTED WHEN LOCAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD? TO THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH HONG KONG THE QUESTION IS UNANSWERABLE.

+TO THOSE WHO LIVE HERE THE ABSENCE OF FORMAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS IS LESS WORRYING. GOVERNMENTS EVERYWHERE HAVE TO ACT TO A GREATER OR LESSER DEGREE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THEIR PEOPLE. THE MORE OPEN THE SOCIETY, THE GREATER THE ARRAY OF FREEDOMS, THE CLOSER MUST GOVERNMENT ACTIONS CONFORM WITH THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE. IF THEY DEPART FROM THESE WISHES DISSENT EMERGES. THE VOLUME OF DISSENT DEPENDS ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS GONE WRONG BUT ALSO ON THE FREEDOM WITH WHICH THE PEOPLE FEEL THEY CAN EXPRESS THEMSELVES.

+ANYONE WHO HAS FOLLOWED RECENT DEBATES IN THIS COUNCIL WILL BE IN NO DOUBT AS TO THE FREEDOM WITH WHICH DISSENT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN HONG KONG. THE MEANS ARE AVAILABLE AND, WHEN REQUIRED, THEY ARE USED. IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PURSUING POLICIES WHICH WERE GENERALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THEN THE MAKE UP OF HONG KONG SOCIETY IS SUCH THAT IT WOULD HAVE PRODUCED CONTINUOUS TURMOIL. THIS WE HAVE NOT HAD. OUR POLICIES HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED. WHEN THEY HAVE DEVELOPED UNACCEPTABLE TRENDS THIS HAS BEEN BROUGHT OUT AND CORRECTED.

+NOW THIS SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT POLICIES HAS NOT HAPPENED BY ACCIDENT. IT HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF RETAINING PUBLIC CONSENT IN SUCH AN OPEN SOCIETY. BUT PUBLIC CONSENT CANNOT BE RETAINED WITHOUT AN INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF PUBLIC OPINION ITSELF. THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE OVER THE YEARS DEVELOPED A WIDE RANGING AND SYSTEMATIC MECHANISM FOR MAINTAINING CLOSE AND CONSTANT TOUCH WITH OPINION. WITHOUT SUCH A MECHANISM IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO FRAME POLICIES TO MEET PEOPLE'S NEEDS.

+THIS MECHANISM IS REQUIRED TO SERVE TWO DISTINCT PURPOSES. FIRST IT IS REQUIRED TO HELP IN FORECASTING OPINION ON POLICY OPTIONS - GREAT AND SMALL. SECOND IT IS REQUIRED TO ASSESS CURRENT OPINION ON THE IMPACT OF POLICIES ALREADY IN TRAIN.

/+THROUGHOUT THE .....

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+THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG THIS OPINION SOUNDING MECHANISM HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT ITS FIRST ROLE, THAT OF JUDGING REACTIONS TO POSSIBLE OPTIONS. THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE TALKS - ALTHOUGH JUSTIFIED IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATION - HAS INEVITABLY LIMITED THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. BUT THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAVE BEEN FULLY CONSULTED. THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY, IN HIS STATEMENTS IN THE TERRITORY ON APRIL 20 AND AUGUST 1, HAS ALSO DONE ALL HE JUDGED POSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN THE APPROACH OF HMG TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR LIKELY OUTCOME. MOREOVER MANY OF THE ISSUES TO WHICH PEOPLE ATTACH IMPORTANCE HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION BOTH PUBLICLY IN THE MEDIA AND PRIVATELY. POINTS HAVE EVEN BEEN MADE TODAY BY MRS CHOW AND MR YEUNG PO KWAN: BOTH MRS CHOW AND MR PETER C. WONG EMPHASISED THE NEED TO SPEAK UP WITHOUT DELAY. IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE, ULTIMATELY THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, TO FORMULATE ADVICE ON WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT THOUGHT TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO HONG KONG. ALL MANIFESTATIONS OF THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE FULLY AND SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY HMG AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

+BUT IT IS RIGHT THAT THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION SHOULD NOT END THERE, AND THAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT FORMALLY ON THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. PARLIAMENT, AND THE HONG KONG PEOPLE THEMSELVES WOULD EXPECT NO LESS.

+IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT THE SECOND FUNCTION OF OUR MECHANISM FOR ASSESSING OPINION IS BROUGHT INTO PLAY - THAT IS THAT PART WHICH ASSESSES CURRENT VIEWS ON KNOWN PROPOSALS. FROM THE SPEECHES OF MR PETER WONG, MR BILL BROWN AND MRS PAULINE NG OUR OBJECTIVES AND REASONS ARE UNDERSTOOD THOUGH PERHAPS WE HAVE NOT EXPLAINED THE DIVISION OF WORK PRECISELY ENOUGH. ON THIS OCCASION IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE TASKS OF STIMULATING AND ASSESSING COMMENT BE SPLIT INTO FOUR PARTS. THESE FOUR PARTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- \* THE GOVERNMENT WILL DISSEMINATE AND EXPLAIN THE AGREEMENT, URGING THE PUBLIC TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS.
- \* IT WILL BE UP TO THE PEOPLE TO EXPRESS VIEWS.
- \* THE VIEWS WILL BE ASSESSED IN THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE.
- \* THE OPERATION OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WILL BE SCRUTINISED BY MONITORS.

/+THE FIRST .....

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+THE FIRST PART OF THIS OPERATION WHICH FALLS TO THE GOVERNMENT IS TO PUT A DRAFT AGREEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WITH A CLEAR EXPLANATION OF ITS IMPLICATIONS. THE AGREEMENT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE U.K. AS PART OF A WHITE PAPER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER IT HAS BEEN INITIALLED. THE AGREEMENT WILL BE PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY HERE. THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION WILL INCLUDE AN ACCOUNT OF THE BACKGROUND TO THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS. THE GOVERNOR WILL INTRODUCE IT TO THIS COUNCIL WITH A STATEMENT.

+THESE DOCUMENTS - THAT IS TEXT OF HMG'S WHITE PAPER, INCORPORATING THE AGREEMENT AND THE TEXT OF GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT - WILL THEN BE VERY WIDELY DISTRIBUTED BY THE GOVERNMENT HERE. THIS COUNCIL WILL BE FREE TO DEBATE THE MATTER. THE PAPERS WILL BE SENT TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AND TO DISTRICT BOARDS WITH AN INVITATION TO THEM TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN. COPIES WILL BE SENT TO SELECTED REPRESENTATIVE BODIES INCLUDING TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS, PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC BODIES AND OTHER GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS OF STANDING IN THE COMMUNITY WITH AN INVITATION TO COMMENT. IF ANY ORGANISATION IS MISSED OUT IT WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE DOCUMENTS AT NUMEROUS OUTLETS. WE SHALL DO OUR BEST TO PUBLICISE THE TEXTS IN THE MEDIA - WHO HAVE ACTED VERY RESPONSIBLY IN THESE MATTERS IN THE PAST - AND COPIES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

+WHEREVER THE GOVERNMENT CAN IT WILL URGE PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. NO DOUBT MANY VIEWS WILL ALSO BE EXPRESSED SPONTANEOUSLY THROUGH THE MEDIA. DURING THIS DEBATE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY MR CHAN YING LUN, MRS PAULINE NG AND MR YEUNG PO KWAN AS TO HOW THE EXPRESSION OF VIEWS CAN BE STIMULATED. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THESE PROPOSALS. RATHER THAN MAKE IMMEDIATE COMMENTS I SHALL UNDERTAKE THAT THEY WILL BE EXAMINED CLOSELY DURING OUR DETAILED PLANNING.

+I TURN NOW TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WHICH WILL OPERATE ENTIRELY INDEPENDENTLY OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND ITS ORGANISATION. WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT MACHINE WILL BE ACTIVE, TRANSMITTING INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND STIMULATING COMMENT AND DISCUSSION, THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WILL BE PASSIVE, ACTING AS A RECEIVER FOR THE VIEWS THAT WILL EMERGE. ITS PRIME FUNCTION WILL BE TO RECEIVE AND ANALYSE ALL EXPRESSIONS OF VIEWS UPON THE INITIALLED AGREEMENT. IT WILL TAKE NOTE OF THE VIEWS OF THE MEDIA. IT WILL TAKE NOTE OF THE VIEWS OF ANY ORGANISATION OR INDIVIDUAL THAT WRITES TO IT. IT WILL TAKE NOTE OF ANY VIEWS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT MAY RECEIVE THROUGH ITS ORDINARY PROCESSES OF CONSULTATION AND WHICH ARE HANDED OVER TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE. IT WILL TAKE NOTE OF ANY SURVEYS OF OPINION THAT MAY BE COMMISSIONED IN HONG KONG BY ANY INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION. ITS JOB WILL BE TO COLLATE, SUMMARISE, ANALYSE AND ASSESS ALL THOSE VIEWS. BUT IT WILL NOT REACH OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY TO OBTAIN OR SOLICIT THEM. ITS EARS AND ITS EYES WILL BE OPEN TO ALL VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE COMMUNITY.

/+THE ASSESSMENT .....

+THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WILL BE MANNED BY EXPERIENCED CIVIL SERVANTS. ITS HEAD WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR. GIVEN THE TIME CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH IT WILL BE OPERATING, AND THE NOVELTY AND COMPLEXITY OF ITS TASK, IT IS OBVIOUSLY PREFERABLE THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO HEAR VIEWS ORALLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR FROM GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT WISH TO ATTEND AT THE OFFICE. COMMUNICATIONS IN WRITING WILL BE FAR EASIER TO ASSIMILATE. IF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ORALLY, THEN THERE ARE OTHERS IN GOVERNMENT SUCH AS DISTRICT OFFICERS WHO CAN BE RELIED UPON TO TAKE NOTE OF THEIR VIEWS AND TO PASS THEM ON TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE. SIR, WITH YOUR CONSENT I PROPOSE THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE, WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN DECIDED, BE INCLUDED IN THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS COUNCIL.

+MISS DUNN AND MR CHAN YING LUN HOPE THAT EVEN AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE INITIALLED AGREEMENT THERE WILL BE SCOPE FOR FURTHER AMENDMENT IN DETAIL. I AM AFRAID I CANNOT HOLD OUT ANY HOPE OF THIS. AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID ONLY A WEEK AGO IN THIS CHAMBER IN ANY INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS OF THIS KIND BOTH SIDES NEGOTIATE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WHICH HAS TO BE CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE. IF EITHER SIDE WERE TO SEEK TO RESERVE THE RIGHT, HAVING REACHED THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AS IT WERE TO START AGAIN, THEN THE OTHER SIDE WOULD, UNDERSTANDABLY, SEEK TO OBTAIN THE SAME RIGHT. THE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE EVEN AN AGREEMENT THAT COULD BE INITIALLED. SO BOTH SIDES ARE WORKING TOWARDS THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE AND IT THEN HAS TO BE CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE.

+MR YEUNG PO KWAN HAS SPOTTED THE DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE HAD WITH THE CHINESE NAME FOR THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE. MY ADVISERS HAVE EXPLAINED THE PROBLEM TO ME AND I SHALL TRY TO RETAIL THEIR WISDOM. THE FIRST SUGGESTION AS MR YEUNG SAYS WAS (MAN JI PING GU TSY). (MAN JI) IS A PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE PHASE FOR PEOPLE'S WISHES, PEOPLE'S VIEWS. THIS IS WHAT WE ARE AFTER. (PING GU) IS ALSO A PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE CHINESE WORD WITH NO REALLY UNDESIRABLE OVERTONES. IT IS USED FOR ASSESSING RATEABLE VALUES OR INCOME, FOR GIVING OF AN OPINION OR FOR JUDGING A BEAUTY CONTEST. BUT WE ARE A CANTONESE CITY AND CANTONESE USAGE CAN TURN THE MOST SOLEMN PHRASES INTO RIBALDRY. THE WORD (GU) CAN INVOLVE THE CONNOTATION OF GUESS WORK AND SPECULATION. WE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT WISH THE REPORT OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE TO BE DESCRIBED AS A (KAU GU) OR WILD GUESS. SO THE PREFERABLE WORD (SAM HAT) HAS BEEN DECIDED ON - (SAM) BEING THE WORD USED FOR JUDGEMENT EXERCISED IN COURTS AND (HAT) IMPLYING A CAREFUL SCRUTINY OF DATA AS IN AUDITING OR TAKING AN INVENTORY. ALAS NOTHING IS PERFECT AND EVEN THIS DIGNIFIED PHRASE IMPLYING THE EXERCISE OF JUDGEMENT AFTER A METICULOUS EXAMINATION OF DATA COULD BE DESCRIBED AS BEING SLIGHTLY AUTHORITARIAN - AS IF THE OFFICE WAS JUDGING WHAT OPINION SHOULD BE RATHER THAN GIVING A BALANCED ACCOUNT OF THE REPRESENTATIONS ACTUALLY RECEIVED - THE POINT MADE BY MISS DUNN AND MR YEUNG. I AM ADVISED BY THE BEST AUTHORITIES THAT WHILE THERE MIGHT BE A MINUTE AMOUNT OF FORCE IN SUCH AN OBJECTION IT SHOULD NOT OUTWEIGH THE NEED TO AVOID OUR CANTONESE WAGS FROM MOCKING THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE AS A GUESSING GAME. SO (MAN JI SAM HAT DZYN JYN BAN SI TSY) IT IS.

+WHEN THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE HAS COMPLETED ITS WORK, IT WILL BE REQUIRED BY A GIVEN DATE TO REPORT IN WRITING TO THE GOVERNOR UPON THE VIEWS IT HAS RECEIVED. THIS WILL NOT CONSIST OF A SHORT STATEMENT OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO THE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT. RATHER IT WILL GATHER THE EXPRESSIONS OF VIEWS IN A FORM THAT CAN READILY BE ASSIMILATED BY THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN LONDON TO WHOM IT WILL BE PRESENTED BY MINISTERS AND WHO WILL FORM THEIR OWN VIEW UPON THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS.

+IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH BEYOND ANY DOUBT THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE. IT IS PROPOSED THAT A MONITORING TEAM SHOULD BE APPOINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THIS IS LIKELY TO CONSIST OF TWO MONITORS, ONE A DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC FIGURE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE OTHER A DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC FIGURE IN HONG KONG. IT IS NOT THOUGHT THAT A THIRD MEMBER FROM SOME OTHER COUNTRY AS SUGGESTED BY MR YEUNG PO KWAN IS NECESSARY. THEIR TASK WILL BE TO OBSERVE THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. IT WILL SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ITS OWN REPORT INDEPENDENTLY OF THE REPORT OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE, STATING WHETHER IT IS SATISFIED THAT THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE HAS PROPERLY, ACCURATELY AND IMPARTIALLY DISCHARGED ITS DUTIES AND FAITHFULLY FOLLOWED THE PROCEDURES PRESENTED IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE. THIS REPORT TOO WILL BE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY MINISTERS.

+THE MONITORS WILL NOT COLLECT OR ASSESS OPINION THEMSELVES. THEY WILL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL MATERIAL USED IN THE ASSESSMENT AND BE FREE TO WITNESS SUCH ASPECTS OF THE EXERCISE OF CONSULTATION AND OF THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE AS THEY MAY WISH. AGAIN WITH YOUR HONOUR'S CONSENT I PROPOSE THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MONITORING TEAM BE INCLUDED IN THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS COUNCIL AS THESE TOO HAVE JUST BEEN APPROVED.

+THESE METHODS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THEY WILL GIVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN THAN ANY OF THE MORE MECHANICAL WAYS OF REFERENDUM OR SURVEY. THE ASSESSMENT OF OPINION CAN NEVER BE MECHANICAL. THE RESULTS OF ANY SURVEY OR REFERENDUM ALTHOUGH PRESENTED IN A TIDY STATISTICAL FORM ARE BOUND TO BE OPEN TO QUESTION. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY MISS DUNN, MR BROWN AND MR PETER WONG THAT IF THE REPORT OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE IS INCONCLUSIVE A REFERENDUM COULD BE CONSIDERED. I AM AFRAID THIS WOULD NOT HELP. A REFERENDUM COULD NOT BE CONDUCTED FOR MONTHS FOR FIRST IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER THOSE NOT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL. TWO THIRDS OF THOSE ELIGIBLE NOW ARE NOT REGISTERED AND THERE IS NO KNOWING HOW MANY WOULD REGISTER. IN THE INTERVENING PERIOD FACTIONAL DISPUTE WOULD BE CERTAIN TO DEVELOP. AT THE END OF THE DAY NOBODY COULD BE CONFIDENT WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD MEAN, DIVIDED AS IT WOULD BE BETWEEN +YES+, +NO+, +DON'T KNOW+, DID NOT VOTE, AND DID NOT REGISTER TO VOTE.

+MUCH HAS BEEN SAID IN THIS DEBATE ABOUT THE WISHES OF THE SILENT MAJORITY. IF THEY REALLY WISH TO REMAIN SILENT THAT IS THEIR PREROGATIVE. THE GOVERNMENT WILL, AS I HOPE I HAVE SHOWN, GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO CREATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO EXPRESS VIEWS. BEYOND THIS IT CANNOT GO. PEOPLE MUST EXPRESS VIEWS THEMSELVES. IF THEY HESITATE TO EXPRESS VIEWS IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THEY ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO DO SO TO PEOPLE THEY KNOW IN THEIR MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE, THEIR RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION, THEIR TRADE ASSOCIATION, THEIR DISTRICT BOARD, THEIR TRADE UNION AND SO FORTH RATHER THAN MAKE USE OF THE UNFAMILIAR BALLOT BOX. BODIES SUCH AS THE URBAN COUNCIL WARD OFFICES AND, INDEED, THE UMELCO OFFICE ITSELF ARE CHANNELS WELL KNOWN AND WELL USED BY MANY. VIEWS CAN ALSO BE MADE KNOWN DIRECTLY TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE.

+THE COLLATION OF VIEWS WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IN A WAY NO REFERENDUM COULD BE. THE METHODS PROPOSED WILL MAKE POSSIBLE NOT ONLY AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE AGREEMENT BUT WILL ALSO POINT TO AREAS WHICH CAUSE CONCERN. ALTHOUGH THE AGREEMENT ITSELF WILL NOT BE OPEN TO AMENDMENT THESE CONCERNS WILL PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FUTURE.

+ON PUBLICATION OF THIS AGREEMENT THE GOVERNMENT WILL DO ITS PART. IT WILL ENSURE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE WIDELY KNOWN AND IT WILL CREATE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. ONLY THE PEOPLE CAN EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. IT IS UP TO THEM TO DO SO. THEREAFTER A CAREFUL AND IMPARTIAL ASSESSMENT WILL BE PREPARED AND PUBLISHED FOR ALL TO SEE.+

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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE  
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THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE HAS BEEN SET UP UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG. IT IS SEPARATE FROM THE ORDINARY MACHINERY OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND IS UNDER THE CHARGE OF A SENIOR OFFICIAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE COMMISSIONER, ASSESSMENT OFFICE, WHO WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE OFFICE IS TO PROVIDE HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT, THROUGH THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, WITH AN ACCURATE ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF OPINION IN HONG KONG ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, AND ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WHICH IT WILL SET OUT.

TO THIS END THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS: AFTER PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION IN HONG KONG BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OF A WHITE PAPER CONTAINING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, AND OF AN INVITATION TO COMMENT ON ITS CONTENTS, THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WILL:

/(A) RECEIVE .....

- (A) RECEIVE ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT IN WRITING DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE, OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH WELL ESTABLISHED AND FAMILIAR CONSULTATIVE CHANNELS IN HONG KONG AND THE MEDIA;
- (B) COLLATE, SUMMARISE, ANALYSE AND ASSESS ALL SUCH VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT;
- (C) SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR A REPORT WHICH WILL INCLUDE FACTUAL SUMMARIES OF ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED AND AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTENT OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT;
- (D) CARRY OUT SUCH DIRECTIONS AS THE GOVERNOR MAY FROM TIME TO TIME GIVE TO EFFECT THESE PURPOSES.

THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE SHALL ALLOW ACCESS TO EVERY ASPECT OF ITS WORK BY THE MONITORING TEAM APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MONITORING TEAM  
\* \* \* \*

THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING TEAM HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS. ITS ROLE IS TO MONITOR THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG TO ASSESS AND REPORT ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THE TASKS OF THE MONITORING TEAM ARE:

- (A) TO OBSERVE THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE IN ALL ITS ASPECTS
- (B) TO SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE A REPORT INDEPENDENTLY OF THE REPORT OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE, STATING WHETHER IT IS SATISFIED THAT THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE HAS PROPERLY, ACCURATELY AND IMPARTIALLY DISCHARGED ITS DUTIES AND FAITHFULLY FOLLOWED THE PROCEDURES PRESENTED IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE.

THE MONITORING TEAM WILL NOT ITSELF RECEIVE EXPRESSIONS OF PUBLIC VIEWS OR SEEK IN ITS REPORT TO ASSESS PUBLIC OPINION.

TO ENABLE IT TO CARRY OUT ITS TASK THE MONITORING TEAM WILL AT ALL TIMES:

- (A) HAVE ACCESS TO ALL MATERIAL USED IN THE ASSESSMENT; AND
- (B) BE FREE TO WITNESS SUCH ASPECTS OF THE EXERCISE OF CONSULTATION AND OF THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE AS IT MAY WISH.

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GOVERNMENT TOLD TO +REACH OUT FOR REACTION+  
\* \* \* \*

AN APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO ACTIVELY SEEK TO INFORM AND EXPLAIN THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND REACH OUT FOR REACTION RATHER THAN WAIT FOR VIEWS TO FILTER UP WAS MADE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE MOTION STANDING IN HER NAME - THAT THE COUNCIL WELCOMED GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE TO TEST THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE AGREEMENT - THE HON MISS LYDIA DUNN STRESSED SHE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEEK TO INFLUENCE OPINION.

+IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS IF THERE WAS THE SLIGHTEST SUGGESTION OF THAT,+ SHE TOLD COUNCILLORS, +BUT WHAT I AM SUGGESTING IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE MULTIPLICITY OF CONTACT POINTS AVAILABLE TO IT, MUST MAKE SURE THAT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND EXPLANATORY MATERIAL AND IS MADE AWARE OF THEIR RIGHT - I WOULD SAY THEIR DUTY - TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE AND IS ENCOURAGED TO DO SO.+

MISS DUNN SAID SHE ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE SHOULD CONSIDER COMMISSIONING SOME INDEPENDENT SURVEYS WHICH WOULD AT LEAST VALIDATE OR CAST SOME - +I REPEAT SOME+ - DOUBT ON THE SUBJECTIVE JUDGEMENTS OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE.

SHE SAID SHE UNDERSTOOD THE POINT MADE BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, THAT ONCE THE AGREEMENT WAS PUBLISHED IT COULD NOT BE CHANGED, BUT SHE URGED THAT IF AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT A CRITICAL ELEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT BOTH THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS MUST BE PREPARED TO RECONSIDER IT.

ON THE HOLDING OF A REFERENDUM, MISS DUNN SAID WE WERE ALL AWARE OF THE DRAWBACKS OF THIS TECHNIQUE AND OF THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF USING IT IN HONG KONG'S SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME THAT IF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WAS UNABLE TO ARRIVE AT A DEFINITIVE VIEW AS TO PUBLIC REACTION TO THE AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE OR, WORSE, THERE APPEARED TO BE A SERIOUS DIVISION OF OPINION THEN THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER HOLDING ONE ON A SIMPLE +YES+ OR +NO+ BASIS.

+I HOPE THAT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE SUCH AS TO RESULT IN AN AMBIGUOUS LET ALONE SPLIT REACTION, FOR ALL OF US IN HONG KONG WANT AN AGREEMENT,+ MISS DUNN STRESSED.

+BUT IT MUST BE SEEN TO BE CLEARLY AN ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT, BRINGING A NEW CHAPTER IN OUR HISTORY, PRESENTING NEW CHALLENGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES.+

/EARLIER, MISS .....

EARLIER, MISS DUNN SAID LIKE THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY SHE WELCOMED GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE IN SETTING UP THE INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OFFICE, NOT ONLY AS EVIDENCE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ITS UNDERTAKING THAT ANY AGREEMENT MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT PROVIDED ONE FOCAL POINT TO WHICH ALL OPINIONS COULD BE CHANNELLED.

HOWEVER, SOME VALID QUESTIONS HAD BEEN RAISED ABOUT THE PURPOSE AND WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE AND MISS DUNN HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY HOW IT WOULD OPERATE.

MANY PEOPLE HAD ASKED WHAT WAS THE POINT OF TESTING ACCEPTABILITY IN VIEW OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT, ONCE INITIALLED, COULD NOT BE ALTERED AND WAS THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE SIMPLY A MEANS OF ENABLING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO SAY THAT IT HAD KEPT ITS PLEDGE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG? SOME CYNICS HAD GONE EVEN FURTHER TO SUGGEST THAT THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WOULD SEEK TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION AND INTERPRET THAT OPINION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENABLE PARLIAMENT TO APPROVE IT, THUS ENABLING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED TO RATIFICATION.

+I DO NOT SHARE THESE DOUBTS AND AM CONFIDENT THAT THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WILL BE QUITE INDEPENDENT EVEN OF THE OPINION-COLLECTING MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT, BUT IN THE LIGHT OF THE MISGIVINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXPLAIN PRECISELY THE ARRANGEMENT ENVISAGED FOR EXPRESSIONS OF PUBLIC OPINION TO BE SOUGHT BY THE ADMINISTRATION, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, AND THEN FED INTO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE AGAIN, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FOR COLLATION AND ANALYSIS,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

+ALTHOUGH I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WILL FAITHFULLY REPORT ITS FINDINGS NO MATTER HOW EMBARRASSING OR CONTROVERSIAL THEY MAY TURN OUT TO BE A MONITORING TEAM IS TO EXERCISE SURVEILLANCE OVER THE WAY IN WHICH THE MATERIAL FLOWING INTO THE OFFICE IS HANDLED AND THAT WILL BE REASSURING BOTH TO THE HONG KONG PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENT,+ SHE SAID.

SEVEN OTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF MISS DUNN'S MOTION.

THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID HONG KONG HAD A WELL-ESTABLISHED AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF DISCOVERING AND ASCERTAINING THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE WHICH WAS EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE THAN AN ELECTORAL SYSTEM WHICH COULD ONLY REALLY TEST PUBLIC OPINION EVERY FEW YEARS.

IN FINDING OUT WHAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE THOUGHT OF THE AGREEMENT FULL USE SHOULD BE MADE OF THE CONSULTATIVE SYSTEM AND THE FEEDBACK FROM THIS, PLUS ALL THE SUBMISSIONS MADE DIRECTLY TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE.

IT WOULD THEN BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SPECIAL AND INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OFFICE TO PUT TOGETHER ALL THESE MATERIALS AND PRESENT THEM IN THE FORM OF A REPORT, ACCURATELY AND IMPARTIALLY.

+THIS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE TO THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY TO PARLIAMENT, THAT OUR FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE MULTI-CHANNELLED CONSULTATIVE SYSTEM CAN FULLY AND IMPARTIALLY FIND OUT AND REFLECT WHAT HONG KONG PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE,+ MR WONG SAID.

HE SAID AN ASSESSMENT OFFICE WAS PERHAPS A GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO A REFERENDUM, BEARING IN MIND THAT THE ISSUE WAS EXTREMELY COMPLEX.

HE SAID A SIMPLE +YES+ OR +NO+ ANSWER WOULD NOT REALLY BE HELPFUL.

IN HIS VIEW A REFERENDUM SHOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED WHEN ALL ELSE HAD FAILED TO PRODUCE SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

THE HON ANDREW SO, IN SUPPORTING THE MOTION, LIKENED THE SITUATION FACING HONG KONG TO A MAN HAVING TO CHANGE HIS APPAREL.

THE HON W.C.L. BROWN SAID ALL SIGNS AT THE MOMENT POINTED TO THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG CONTAINING ALL THE ELEMENTS TO MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE.

HE SAID THE NEED FOR THE AGREEMENT TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WAS NOT IN DISPUTE, BOTH CHINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVING EXPRESSED THIS REQUIREMENT TO BE ONE OF THEIR COMMON OBJECTIVES.

HOW TO TEST ACCEPTABILITY, HOWEVER, WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUES ON WHICH TO REACH AGREEMENT - NOT PERHAPS AS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, BUT RATHER AS BETWEEN THOSE PARTIES AND HONG KONG.

MR BROWN ASKED WERE WE WASTING OUR TIME WORRYING ABOUT HOW THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR AGREEMENT - PARTICULARLY BEARING IN MIND THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE AGREEMENT BEING CHANGED AS A RESULT OF ANY FURTHER VIEWS THE PEOPLE HERE MAY WISH TO PUT FORWARD?

HE DID NOT THINK WE WERE WASTING OUR TIME FOR TWO REASONS.

FIRSTLY, THE NEED TO HONOUR THIS COMMITMENT WAS IMPORTANT TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IT WAS A REASONABLE ASSUMPTION THAT THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WAS KEEPING BOTH NEGOTIATING TEAMS ON THEIR TOES, AND PREVENTING AN AGREEMENT WHICH MERELY REFLECTED THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA.

SECONDLY, THE NEED FOR TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD BE IMPORTANT WHEN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT WAS CALLED UPON TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT.

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SO THERE WAS A +BACK STOP+, THAT WAS TO SAY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MAY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO INSIST ON CHANGES IN THE AGREEMENT, BUT THEY ALWAYS HAD THE OPTION OF REJECTING IT AND ACCEPTING THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES.

HE SAID THE NEED TO HAVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WAS PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PROCESS OF ACTUALLY GETTING IT.

THE HON SELINA CHOW SAID IT WAS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK UP NOW ON WHAT ELEMENTS THEY REGARDED AS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO CONSTITUTE AN ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT AS THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ONCE THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER THERE WOULD BE NO CHANCE OF AMENDING ANY PART OF IT AND HONG KONG WOULD HAVE TO EXPRESS ITS ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THE AGREEMENT AS AN ENTIRE PACKAGE.

SHE CONSIDERED IT OF VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR HONG KONG TO BE ASSURED OF THE CONTINUITY OF THE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM, THE CENTRAL CORE OF ALL HONG KONG'S SYSTEMS.

SHE SAID IT SHOULD BE STATED IN THE AGREEMENT AND EVENTUALLY ENSHRINED IN THE BASIC LAW THAT THE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE IN PLACE BY 1997 WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ADOPTED BY THE AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AND WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN OR BEYOND 1997 WITHOUT THE INITIATION AND APPROVAL OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE.

THE HON CHAN YING-LUN SAID EVERY CITIZEN HAD THE OBLIGATION TO TAKE UP THE ISSUE OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

+IF WE WANT THE CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN BY THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE TO BE ACCURATE AND REPRESENTATIVE, WE MUST ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE,+ HE SAID.

AS, AT THIS STAGE, WE DEFINITELY COULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING SOME OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ANNEXES, WE SHOULD, THEREFORE, GRASP THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK OUT.

NOT ONLY SHOULD WE STUDY THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, BUT WE SHOULD ALSO LOOK INTO THE DETAILS OF THE ANNEXES.

WITH THE BELIEF THAT +NO DIFFICULTY IS INSURMOUNTABLE IF ONE SETS ONE'S MIND ON IT+, WE SHOULD POINT OUT BOTH THE GOOD POINTS AND THE BAD ONES.

OTHERWISE, IF WE WERE TO CHOOSE ONLY BETWEEN THE OPTION OF +YES+ AND +NO+, IT WOULD BE FAR MORE CLEAR-CUT TO HOLD A REFERENDUM.

/+THEREFORE, I .....

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+THEREFORE, I CONSIDER IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATION IN RESPECT TO EVERY DETAIL OF THE ANNEXES, TO SUM UP ALL THE VIEWS, AND TO MAKE AN HONEST REPORT, BEFORE IT CAN JUSTIFY ITS WORK BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE THOUGHT IF IT TURNED OUT THAT THE PUBLIC HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT CERTAIN DETAILS OF THE ANNEXES, IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE FOR THE CHINESE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS ACCORDING TO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

THE HON MRS PAULINE NG SAID THAT THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WAS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR EXISTING CHANNELS FOR REFLECTING PUBLIC OPINION.

SHE EMPHASISED THAT THE WORK OF THE OFFICE MUST BE SEEN TO BE OPEN AND UNBIASED IN ORDER TO CONVINCING THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, ESPECIALLY THE SILENT MAJORITY, AND PARLIAMENT THAT IT TRULY REPRESENTED THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

SHE SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO COLLECT THE OPINIONS OF PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT LEVELS, IN PARTICULAR THE WISHES OF THE SILENT MAJORITY.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD BE RESPECTED AND THEY SHOULD BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL, SHE ADDED.

THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN SAID THE PRUDENT ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO GET TO KNOW THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE WERE BENEFICIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE IN SO FAR AS THE LINK AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA WERE CONCERNED, AND DESERVED THE SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC.

THE SUCCESS OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE, HE SAID, DEPENDED ON THE SUPPORT OF SOCIETY AS A WHOLE AND TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC WE MUST FIRST HAVE GOOD PUBLICITY.

HE SUGGESTED THAT BEFORE THE OFFICE STARTED COLLECTING VIEWS FROM THE PUBLIC THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT, THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA, GIVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE TERMS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT, ANNOUNCE THE METHODS AND CRITERIA TO BE ADOPTED IN TESTING AND ASSESSING VIEWS RECEIVED AND EXPLAIN THE WAYS AND PROCEDURES OF COLLECTING OPINIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

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ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MONITORING TEAM, MR YEUNG DESCRIBED IT AS +ESSENTIAL AND A POSITIVE STEP+ AS IT WOULD ENSURE THE FAIRNESS AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE.

HE ENVISAGED THAT THE TEAM SHOULD COMPRISE TENTATIVELY THREE MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG INDEPENDENT, DETACHED AND WIDELY RESPECTED PERSONS, ONE RESPECTIVELY FROM BRITAIN, HONG KONG AND ANOTHER ADVANCED COUNTRY.

HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT AFTER THE RESPECTIVE REPORTS OF THE OFFICE AND THE TEAM WERE PUBLISHED THERE WOULD BE PUBLIC RESPONSE AND THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE SHOULD CONTINUE TO COLLECT RELEVANT OPINIONS FOR REFERENCE IN THE LATER STAGES.

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THANKS FOR MEMORABLE SESSION, SAYS SIR PHILIP  
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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, PRESIDING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY, THANKED ALL MEMBERS AT THE CLOSE FOR THEIR WORK IN +A MOST THOUGHT-PROVOKING+ 1983-84 SESSION.

MEMBERS, HE ALSO SAID, COULD PROCEED ON THEIR ANNUAL RECESS TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR +A SESSION TO COME WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO BE LESS INTERESTING OR LESS DEMANDING+ THAN THE ONE WHICH CLOSED TODAY.

SIR PHILIP SAID:

+HONOURABLE MEMBERS, THAT ENDS THE FORMAL BUSINESS OF THIS SESSION.

+IT HAS BEEN A SESSION FULL OF INTEREST THROUGHOUT: FROM ITS DRAMATIC START IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR TO DEAL WITH THE HANG LUNG BANK CRISIS THROUGH TO THIS AFTERNOON'S DEBATE ON WHAT ONLY CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A SUBJECT OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.

+THIS SESSION HAS CONSISTED OF 27 SITTINGS, AN INCREASE OF FIVE OF OVER THE 22 SITTINGS OF THE LAST SESSION AND DURING THIS SESSION 86 BILLS HAVE BEEN PASSED AND 37 RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE= MEMBERS ASKED 181 QUESTIONS, AND THESE WERE FOLLOWED UP WITH 279 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS.

/+THESE NUMBERS .....

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+THESE NUMBERS - AND I CAN QUOTE OTHERS, FOR INSTANCE OF THE 86 BILLS PASSED 24 WERE SUBJECT TO 175 AMENDMENTS, 91 OF WHICH WERE MOVED BY UNOFFICIALS - THESE NUMBERS DO NOT ADEQUATELY REFLECT THE WORK WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS TAKEN UPON ITSELF THIS SESSION.

+THIS SESSION MUST RANK AMONG THE MOST THOUGHT-PROVOKING SESSIONS THIS COUNCIL HAS EVER HAD, AND INNOVATORY TOO IN THAT THE SESSIONS OF FINANCE COMMITTEE DEVOTED TO AN EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES WERE HELD, SUCCESSFULLY I THINK, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PUBLIC.

+APART FROM DEALING WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE PRESENT, THE ISSUE OF THE FUTURE, BOTH IN THE SHORT AND LONG TERM, HAS BEEN A MAJOR PRE-OCCUPATION. WE HAVE SEEN AND DISCUSSED IMPORTANT PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD CHANGE THE COMPOSITION OF THIS COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE HAVE ALSO HELD SIGNIFICANT DEBATES AS WE HAVE TODAY OVER THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE MINDS OF THE PUBLIC BY 1997.

+TO BEGIN WITH THERE WAS THE MOTION MOVED BY MR LOBO ON MARCH 14, FOLLOWED SUCCESSIVELY BY DEBATES ON THE UMELCO VISITS TO LONDON, ON THE LEGAL SYSTEM, ON THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM, ON THE SOCIAL SYSTEM, ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND FINALLY, TODAY'S DEBATE ON THE TEST OF ACCEPTABILITY.

+IT HAS BEEN A VINTAGE YEAR FOR DEBATES, AND NO ONE CAN DENY IN MY VIEW THAT THE EFFORT PUT INTO THEM REFLECTS MEMBERS' PERCEPTION OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY AND DOES THEM CREDIT.

+SO WE CAN NOW PROCEED TO OUR ANNUAL RECESS TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR A SESSION TO COME WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO BE LESS INTERESTING OR LESS DEMANDING THAN THE ONE WHICH NOW DRAWS TO A CLOSE.

+ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR, ON MY OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF COUNCIL'S BRANCH, IT IS MY PLEASANT DUTY TO THANK MEMBERS FOR THIS, DARE I SAY IT, USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE SESSION, AND TO WISH THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE GOING ABROAD HAPPY 'HOLS'.

+I NOW DECLARE THE 1983-84 SESSION OF THE COUNCIL TO BE AT AN END.

+THE FIRST SITTING OF THE 1984-85 SESSION WILL BE ON THURSDAY 4TH OF OCTOBER NEXT, WHEN THE GOVERNOR WILL ADDRESS COUNCIL.+

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GOVERNOR RETURNING TOMORROW  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL RETURN FROM PEKING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTER ATTENDING THE LATEST ROUND OF SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE TRAVELLING ON FLIGHT BA 20, ETA 7.45 PM.

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HK ACTS FURTHER ON U.S. TEXTILE MOVE  
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HONG KONG'S COMMISSIONER IN NEW YORK, MR WILLIAM DORWARD, HAS GONE TO WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH CONGRESSMEN ABOUT THE PROPOSED AMERICAN ORIGIN RULES ON TEXTILES IMPORTS WHICH, IF IMPLEMENTED ON SEPTEMBER 7, WILL CAUSE GREAT HARDSHIP IN HONG KONG.

WHILE IN WASHINGTON, MR DORWARD WILL ALSO HAVE TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RETAIL INDUSTRY TRADE ACTION COALITION, AN ORGANISATION OF THE RETAIL TRADE GROUPS FORMED TO PRESS FOR FREER INTERNATIONAL TRADE. THE COALITION COMPRISES CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF RETAIL FIRMS AND NATIONAL RETAIL ASSOCIATIONS.

MR DORWARD WILL PRESENT HONG KONG'S CASE AND SEEK TO OBTAIN THEIR SUPPORT.

HE WILL ALSO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS, AND WILL SPEND JUST OVER A WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR ROBERT FOOTMAN THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON CHAIRED A BRIEFING SESSION FOR FIVE ORGANISATIONS WHICH ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF HONG KONG ORIGIN.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WERE BRIEFED ON THE PROPOSED U.S. ORIGIN RULES AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT LATER MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION TO BRIEF THEM ABOUT THE POSITION.

THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD (TEXTAB) WILL HOLD A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS AND TO ADVISE ON THE FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG TRADE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND AMERICAN TEXTILE NEGOTIATORS.

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TEXTILE TALKS WITH U.S.  
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A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CONFIRMED THAT HONG KONG'S DELEGATION TO TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON WILL BE LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN ON AUGUST 15.

THE DELEGATION WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON AUGUST 18 FOR THE TWO-DAY CONSULTATIONS BEGINNING ON AUGUST 20.

THE TALKS WILL BE ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS ON EXPORT AUTHORISATION CALLS AND THE NEW ORIGIN RULES PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THIS DID NOT RULE OUT CONSULTATIONS ON THE NEW RULES AT AN EARLIER DATE.

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EPCOM BACKS POLLUTION CONTROL PLANS  
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MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) INDICATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR A BUSY PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING YEAR TO CONTROL POLLUTION.

AT THEIR FIRST MEETING IN THE CURRENT SESSION TODAY, EPCOM MEMBERS ENDORSED A PROGRAMME OF WORK TO TACKLE THE FOUR MAJOR AREAS OF AIR, NOISE, WATER, AND SOLID WASTE POLLUTION. DETAILED PROPOSALS WILL BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR ITS FURTHER ADVICE IN THE COMING MONTHS.

IN THE AREA OF LEGISLATIVE CONTROL, THE COMMITTEE'S ADVICE WILL BE SOUGHT ON REGULATIONS PREPARED UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR THE CONTROL OF POLLUTION IN THE TOLO HARBOUR WATER CONTROL ZONE. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON THE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF TOXIC, HAZARDOUS AND DIFFICULT WASTES, AND REGULATIONS TO CONTROL INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES WHICH CONSTITUTE POTENTIAL MAJOR SOURCES OF AIR POLLUTION AS WELL AS SPECIFIC AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES, WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE.

THE NOISE CONTROL BILL, WHICH WILL REPLACE EXISTING CONTROLS AND EXPAND THEIR SCOPE, IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO EPCOM FOR ADVICE IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

EPCOM WILL BE CONSULTED ON ACTION PLANS TO REDUCE POLLUTION IN STREAMS WHICH FEED INTO COASTAL WATERS, ON A REVIEW OF SEWAGE TREATMENT STANDARDS, AND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, TERRITORY-WIDE POLICY FOR DETERMINING THE LEVELS OF SEWAGE TREATMENT. THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO SEEK THE COMMITTEE'S ADVICE ON ANIMAL WASTE DISPOSAL PROPOSALS AND ON AN ACTION PLAN TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM OF FLOATING REFUSE.

/IN THEIR .....

IN THEIR MEETING TODAY, EPCOM MEMBERS STUDIED REPORTS ON POLLUTION LEVELS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AND ON THE QUALITY OF WATER MONITORED IN VICTORIA HARBOUR. THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT, EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN DEEP BAY, AND DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DREDGING SEDIMENTS FROM THE KOWLOON BAY TYPHOON SHELTER.

THEY NOTED A PAPER ON THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERNAL ORGANISATION FOR THE TASK OF POLLUTION CONTROL. AT THE TOP OF THIS ORGANISATION IS A HIGH LEVEL POLLUTION CONTROL POLICY COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE AND ATTENDED BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS. IT IS REQUIRED, UNDER THE FIRST OF ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE, TO OVERSEE, COORDINATE AND ENSURE PROGRESS ON THE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMME.

MEMBERS CONFIRMED THE VIEW OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE THAT, WHILE IT WOULD BE RECEIVING REPORTS ON THE RESULTS OF BACKGROUND RADIATION MONITORING IN HONG KONG, IT WAS NOT EPCOM'S BUSINESS TO MONITOR OR APPRAISE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT DAYA BAY IN CHINA.

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MEETING HELD WITH CONTAINER TRACTOR OWNERS, DRIVERS  
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MET YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF CONTAINER TRACTOR OWNERS AND DRIVERS.

THE INCREASE IN THE LICENCE FEE FOR TRAILERS WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE FEE HAD NOT BEEN REVIEWED SINCE TRAILERS WERE FIRST INTRODUCED INTO HONG KONG IN THE LATE 1960'S AND THAT THE SCALE OF THE INCREASE WAS LOWER THAN INCREASES IN LICENCE FEES FOR OTHER TYPES OF GOODS VEHICLES OVER THE SAME PERIOD. THE REPRESENTATIVES NEVERTHELESS REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO PHASE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW FEE OR TO REDUCE THE RATE OF INCREASE. OFFICIALS UNDERTOOK TO REVIEW TO GIVE A REPLY TO THE REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE AUGUST 14.

THE NEW PARKING REGULATION THAT REQUIRES TRAILERS TO BE PARKED IN PARKING PLACES DESIGNATED SPECIFICALLY FOR THAT PURPOSE UNLESS ATTACHED TO A TRACTOR WAS ALSO DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW REGULATION WAS TO PREVENT UNATTACHED TRAILERS BEING PARKED INDISCRIMINATELY ON THE ROAD IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE SERIOUS OBSTRUCTION OR DANGER TO OTHER ROAD USERS. THE POLICE CAN BE RELIED UPON TO USE THEIR COMMON SENSE TO ENFORCE THE NEW REGULATION.

THE REPRESENTATIVES RAISED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE GENERAL SHORTAGE OF LEGAL PARKING SPACES FOR CONTAINER VEHICLES. THEY WERE ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT APPRECIATED THE PROBLEM AND WOULD BE CONTINUING ALL ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF PARKING SPACES BY MAKING VACANT CROWN LAND AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. IT WAS STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE OF THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF LAND AND COMPETING DEMANDS ON IT, THE PROBLEM COULD NOT BE SOLVED QUICKLY.

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CAMP FUN, HELP FOR 'YOUTHS ON BRINK'  
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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR G.L. MORTIMER TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED A TRAINING CAMP FOR +ADOLESCENTS ON THE BRINK+ HELD IN SHA TIN.

THE CAMP IS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH SOCIAL SERVICE FOR A SELECTED GROUP OF BOYS BETWEEN THE AGE OF 13 AND 16 AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

THE AIM OF THE CAMP IS TO HELP THE YOUNGSTERS, THROUGH GROUP GAMES, OUTINGS, GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND CO-OPERATIVE WORK SESSIONS, TO UNDERSTAND THEMSELVES BETTER, TO ACQUIRE SOCIAL SKILLS, AND TO LEARN ABOUT INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONS.

ARRIVING AT THE SHA TIN YOUTH CENTRE RECREATION CAMP SITE AT TAI SHUI HANG NEAR THE FOOTHILL OF MA ON SHAN AT 11.30 AM, MR MORTIMER WAS MET BY MR CHEUNG CHI-YUEN, DIRECTOR OF SHA TIN CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE; MR CHOY KAN-PUI, ACTING CHAIRMAN, SHA TIN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE- MR NG TSE-LEUNG, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE SHA TIN YOUTH CENTRE RECREATION CAMP AND MRS JESSIE HAU OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE.

MR MORTIMER WAS TOLD BY THE CAMPERS THAT DURING THE THREE-DAY CAMP, THEY WOULD HAVE A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS AND SPECIAL NEEDS WITH SOCIAL WORKERS.

THEY WILL ALSO HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN HEALTHY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BALL GAMES, ARCHERY, CHINESE BILLIARDS, TABLE-TENNIS, OUTINGS, HANDICRAFT WORK AND COOKING.

MR MORTIMER LATER WATCHED YOUNGSTERS TAKING PART IN A HANDICRAFT COMPETITION AND PRESENTED PRIZES TO THE WINNERS, BEFORE LEAVING THE CAMP AT 12.30 PM.

MORE THAN 10 000 ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME FROM A TOTAL BUDGET OF \$13 MILLION, OF WHICH \$5 MILLION WAS CONTRIBUTED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

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BOARDS TO DISCUSS GREEN PAPER  
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TUEN MUN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE GREEN PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AT THEIR MEETINGS ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 10).

IN THE MORNING, TUEN MUN DB MEMBERS WILL STUDY THE FINDINGS OF A REVIEW OF THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

/THE REVIEW .....

THE REVIEW IS UNDERTAKEN BY THE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT'S WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE IN MARCH AND SEPTEMBER TO ASSESS THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND BASED ON THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CATCHMENT AREAS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE WORK DONE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF RIVERS IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS DEPARTMENTAL PROVISIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS FOR TUEN MUN IN 1984-85, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STEEL FOOTBRIDGE AT TO YUEN WAI.

IN THE AFTERNOON, SOUTHERN DB MEMBERS WILL STUDY A REVIEW ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISTRICT BOARDS, AREA COMMITTEES AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE ALLOCATION OF DB FUNDS FOR MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS, AND PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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COMPUTERS TO CONTROL AREA TRAFFIC  
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A \$34.5-MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF A COMPUTERISED AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, COVERING THE ENTIRE NORTH SHORE FROM KENNEDY TOWN TO SHAU KEI WAN, HAS BEEN AWARDED TO GEC TRAFFIC AUTOMATION LIMITED.

A CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY WAS HELD TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BETWEEN THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR PETER LEEDS, AND MR JOHN HOWITT, COMPANY DIRECTOR.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE SYSTEM WOULD TAKE ABOUT 2-1/2 YEARS TO BE COMPLETED.

THE PROJECT IS BASED ON GEC TRAFFIC AUTOMATION'S LATEST PRODUCT CALLED +TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM+ (TMS) AND WHEN COMPLETED, WILL PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING FACILITIES FOR URBAN TRAFFIC CONTROL.

A NEW CONTROL CENTRE MANNED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE DIVISION, WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT HARBOUR BUILDING IN CENTRAL TO TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE 90 SIGNAL JUNCTIONS IN THE EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND WHICH ARE AT PRESENT UNDER COMPUTER CONTROL FROM THE KOWLOON CENTRE.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, 115 SETS OF NEW COMPUTERISED TRAFFIC LIGHTS WILL BE INSTALLED IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICTS AND OTHER COMPATIBLE CONTROLLERS WILL BE CONNECTED ONTO THE SYSTEM.

/THE SYSTEM .....

THE SYSTEM HAS AN ULTIMATE CAPABILITY OF CONTROLLING ABOUT 500 SIGNALLED ROAD JUNCTIONS. IT WILL PROVIDE PRIORITY FACILITIES FOR FIRE ENGINES AND OTHER EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV SYSTEM UNDER A SEPARATE CONTRACT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HONG KONG BECAME THE FIRST USER OF COMPUTERISED TRAFFIC CONTROL IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA WHEN THE WEST KOWLOON TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM CAME INTO OPERATION IN 1977, CONTROLLING ABOUT 80 JUNCTIONS IN THE WESTERN CORRIDOR BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND LAI CHI KOK.

THE SYSTEM HAS SINCE BEEN EXPANDED AND NOW CONTROLS OVER 300 JUNCTIONS IN KOWLOON AND THE NORTH-EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

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#### PLB LICENCES READY FOR COLLECTION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (AUGUST 8) THAT PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES AND CERTIFICATES FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES (NON-SCHEDULED SERVICE) ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION.

NOTIFICATION LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS BY BATCHES. APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO PAY THEIR FEES EITHER AT THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE, 2 MURRAY ROAD, HONG KONG OR THE KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE, 9TH FLOOR, PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE.

AFTER PAYMENT, THEY SHOULD APPROACH THE PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION TOGETHER WITH THE PAYMENT RECEIPT FOR COLLECTION OF THEIR LICENCES AND CERTIFICATES.

+PLB OPERATORS WHO HAVE NOT YET RETURNED THEIR APPLICATION FORMS FOR PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE SHOULD DO SO BEFORE AUGUST 15, OTHERWISE IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ISSUE THEM WITH PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES BEFORE THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION COMES INTO FORCE LATER THIS MONTH,+ A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

+NEW PLB OPERATORS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ISSUED WITH ANY APPLICATION FORMS FOR PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY APPROACH THE HONG KONG PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION AT ROOMS 906-909, HUTCHISON HOUSE, BRINGING THEIR REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS OF THEIR PLBS,+ HE SAID.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, CALL TEL. NO. 5-249418 OR 5-228624.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1984

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JOB AGENCIES REMINDED ABOUT FEES  
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED OPERATORS OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES THAT FEES AND COMMISSIONS THEY CHARGE ARE PRESCRIBED BY THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS.

THIS FOLLOWED A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH THE LICENSEE OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WAS FINED BY A MAGISTRATE FOR CHARGING A JOB-SEEKER MORE THAN THE PRESCRIBED FEE AND COMMISSION.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS, THE FEE PAID BY JOB-SEEKERS FOR FIRST REGISTRATION AND FOR RENEWAL AFTER THREE MONTHS IS LIMITED TO \$3 ON EACH OCCASION, AND THAT THE COMMISSION FOR A SUCCESSFUL JOB PLACEMENT IS LIMITED TO 10 PER CENT OF THE FIRST MONTH'S RECEIVED SALARY.

THE REGULATIONS ALSO LIMIT THE FEE THAT CAN BE CHARGED BY AN AGENCY TO AN EMPLOYER TO A MAXIMUM OF \$10 FOR EACH TYPE OF VACANCY REGISTERED ON FIRST REGISTRATION AND \$5 FOR RENEWAL OF SUCH REGISTRATION. THE COMMISSION TO BE PAID BY AN EMPLOYER ON SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINING FOR HIM AN EMPLOYEE BY AN AGENCY IS A MATTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT CHARGING MORE THAN THE PRESCRIBED FEES AND COMMISSIONS IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS AND THE LICENSEE OF THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY CONCERNED IS LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF \$10 000.

ENQUIRIES ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES MAY BE MADE TO THE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON TELEPHONE NUMBERS 5-767420 AND 5-767311.

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MORE TIME FOR MARRIAGES  
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THE MARRIAGE REGISTRY AT RAWLINSON HOUSE, VICTORIA BARRACKS, COTTON TREE DRIVE, CENTRAL, WILL BE EXTENDING ITS SERVICE HOURS TO SUNDAY AFTERNOONS, FROM 2 PM TO 4.45 PM.

THIS WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM THE COMING SUNDAY (AUGUST 12).

THE ARRANGEMENT IS TO MEET POPULAR DEMAND FOR MARRIAGE SERVICE ON SUNDAYS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

FROM SUNDAY, THE WORKING HOURS OF THE REGISTRY WILL BE:

/MONDAY .....

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1984

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MONDAY - FRIDAY : 8.45 AM - 12.45 PM AND  
2.00 PM - 4.45 PM

SATURDAY : 9.00 AM - 11.45 AM

SUNDAY : 9.00 AM - 1.00 PM AND  
2.00 PM - 4.45 PM

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE ENQUIRIES MAY TELEPHONE  
3-7333111.

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LICENSING OF SWIMMING POOLS  
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A SWIMMING POOL WHICH IS BEING MANAGED OR OPERATED BY A COMPANY, CLUB, ASSOCIATION OR OTHER ORGANISATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE TENANTS IN BUILDINGS IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A LICENCE ISSUED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL OR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

A CIRCULAR LETTER TO THIS EFFECT WILL SHORTLY BE SENT TO MANAGEMENT COMPANIES OF ALL UNLICENSED SWIMMING POOLS.

UPON RECEIPT OF THE LETTER, THE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES SHOULD APPLY FOR A SWIMMING POOL LICENCE WITHIN THREE MONTHS, FAILING WHICH LEGAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM.

THEY ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF THE LETTER OF REQUIREMENTS.

THE ANNUAL FEE OF A SWIMMING POOL LICENCE FOR BOTH THE URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW TERRITORIES IS \$1 680.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE SWIMMING POOLS BY-LAWS AND THE SWIMMING POOLS (NEW TERRITORIES) REGULATIONS CAP. 132, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE NTSD ARE RESPECTIVELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HYGIENE AND SAFETY ASPECTS OF SWIMMING POOLS IN THE URBAN AREAS AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+IMPROPERLY DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED SWIMMING POOLS ARE LIABLE TO BECOME NUISANCES, ACCIDENT-PRONE OR EVEN POTENTIAL SOURCES FOR THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED,+ HE SAID.

APPLICATIONS FOR SWIMMING POOL LICENCES SHOULD EITHER BE SENT TO THE COUNCIL'S LICENSING OFFICE AT NO. 59 JARDINE'S BAZAAR, TANG LUNG CHAU MARKET BUILDING, CAUSEWAY BAY, OR TO THE NTSD'S LICENSING OFFICE ON THE 7TH FLOOR OF GOLDEN GATE COMMERCIAL BUILDING, NO. 136-138 AUSTIN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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