DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor
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Following is the Governor's media session after visiting factories in Tsuen Wan:

Governor: Despite what some people suggest wrongly, manufacturing remains one of the key strengths of the Hong Kong economy, contributing about 12 per cent on the United Nations' formula to our overall economy. It is extremely important to our prosperity that we can continue to have a vibrant and profitable manufacturing sector. Today, I've been pleased to see two very different firms, both doing extremely well in competitive markets. First of all, ACL in the printed circuit boards field also manufacturing DISKExpress. Secondly, Central Textiles here in the spinning sector, one of the crucial parts of the textile industry, doing an extraordinary job. Like the rest of the industry a great deal of labour has been shredded over the years while we still manage to go on producing the same quantity of output. Both firms have shown very clearly what we need to do here in Hong Kong which is to ensure that we keep on going for higher technologies, more productive ways of manufacturing, applying as much knowledge and intelligence to the manufacturing process as possible. It is imperative that we do that if we are going to stay competitive in manufacturing which we all want to see happen. I've been very pleased to see two such excellent firms this afternoon. They both got different challenges and problems. I've been pleased to hear from the management about the particular difficulties and problems and opportunities which they face. But I've been extremely impressed by the quality of the management that I have managed to see and the quality of, of course, the workforce as well.

Question: The Chinese and British foreign ministers will meet in New York this month. You expect what kind of Hong Kong issues they will discuss ?

Governor: They meet reasonably regularly. They have a dialogue on a whole range of issues of common interest. I'm sure that as ever they'll have a broad agenda, touching on international issues which are of common concern to both China and Britain and of course touching on Hong Kong as well.

Question: It is a bit earlier than we expected. I mean is it a signal of any change in the relationship ?

Governor: I hope it's signalling a determination of both sides to work together to accomplish what as Douglas Hurd said is a shared interest.

Question: Would the government table the draft bill of the Court of Final Appeal if the current JLG meeting can't reach an agreement ?

Governor: I very much hope that we will sooner rather than later get an authoritative and comprehensive response from the Chinese side to the legislation to implement an agreement, I underline an agreement, reached between Britain and China in 1991. A bill was given, as you know, to the Chinese side last May. A few technical amendments were passed to the Chinese in January. I think it's difficult for people who hear what Chinese officials say about their attachment to the rule of law to understand what is taking so long, to understand that why it's taking so long for Chinese officials to confirm that the bill is totally, absolutely in line with the 1991 agreement.

Question: .... more specific as to what Hong Kong issues will be discussed in the meeting between Douglas Hurd and Qian Qichen ?

Governor: No. Obviously, Mr Qian and Mr Hurd are going to discuss the range of issues which are of concern to both sides. They're always, both of them, exceptionally well briefed about the subject in which they both take a close personal interest. So I'm sure that they will want to cover all issues in their normal way.

Question: Concerning incursion matters, one Chinese official has commented that they're going to try the two men arrested in Chinese court. How do you comment on that ?

Governor: We've made our position absolutely plain when we're pursuing through diplomatic channels. And I hope that we will get a positive response from Chinese officials. This after all is a good example of whether or not one is supportive of the rule of law.

Question: Do you think that the meeting of the two foreign ministers can help in .. the CFA ... approval of the Chinese side ?

Governor: I very much hope that the meeting between the two foreign ministers will help improve co-operation on all issues.

Question: Will Mr Hurd mention about the problem of the CFA....

Governor: Mr Hurd as I said earlier will I'm sure want to cover the whole range of issues which are of concern to Britain and China.

Question: A recent survey conducted by the Federation of Trade Unions showed that illegal workers in Hong Kong, especially from the Philippines and Thailand is very serious. What will you do more to tackle this problem and to improve this situation ?

Governor: We've been taking as you know tough measures to deal with both employers who take on illegal workers knowingly and to deal with illegal workers as well. But one of the difficulties as you know that we face with illegal workers is that they're invariably working in substandard health and safety conditions, in sometimes fly-by-night industries or sectors of the economy. So we do have to take a tough line. Very often, you find where there is illegal worker there is exploitation, and they're very often on the edge of other sorts of crime as well. So we take a very serious view about it and we'll go on pursuing it as vigorously as possible. It's reasonable for the trade union movement to take such a considerable interest in the issue and I can assure you that interest is shared by the government and shared by all good employers.

Question: .... go ahead with tabling the Court of Final Appeal Bill .....

Governor: I have answered questions on that There's limit, the number of ways in which I can say the same thing Clearly from our side, we're disappointed when JLG talks don't go better than they appear to be going this week. Though I say "appear to be going" because there is still some more time left and I hope that better progress will be made I'm afraid that the message isn't a new one. It's not just the last year or two or three that we haven't seen as much progress as we would like in the JLG The story goes back a very long way and I think that when people look at the effort made by Hong Kong government officials, they know that there shouldn't be any criticism of what we've been trying to do. Sometimes. we are extremely puzzled in why it is that it takes so long to make progress on issues which are of importance to Hong Kong's future and also if I may say so of some importance to China as well. But we remain hopeful and we continue to work very hard to achieve as much progress as we can. I hope that if progress hasn't been made in the first couple of days of the JLG, there will be some more progress tomorrow But that's a matter which I'm sure Chinese officials will want to answer about in due course. The CFA is one of the issues on which we would like to see greater progress. I said earlier that we were very puzzled about why an issue which is of such fundamental importance to Hong Kong seemed to be taking so much time on the Chinese side. There's all sort of speculations that I've read in the newspapers and heard talked about on the radio and television. I don't know whether any of that speculation is true or not What I do know is that whenever Chinese officials are asked by business leaders or by foreign audiences or here in Hong Kong about the rule of law, they put their hand on their heart and promised that they're absolutely committed to it. One can show how committed one is to the rule of law and by the progress that's been made on the Court of Final Appeal.

Question: This assassination of the ICAC witness in Singapore. Do you think this is time to ... the witness protection programme?

Governor: Well I think as the ICAC have made clear protection was offered to this particular witness who was in Singapore I don't want to comment on the details of the case though it is a case we have been pursuing extremely seriously. And what appears to have happened will I think underline the fact that we have been right to take this particular case very seriously. But obviously it would not be helpful to the ICAC. or to the Police either here or in Singapore for me to comment in any more detail on that point.

Just say once again that all of us will, I am sure, be pleased that Mr Qian and Mr Hurd are meeting once again. This is one of their regular series of meetings. And we hope that the meeting will bring in due course good news for Hong Kong and good news for elsewhere in the region and in the world where Britain and China have their shared concerns and shared interests. The important thing is that the Foreign Ministers are meeting, are talking, are discussing matters which concern both sides. Thank you very much.

Question: What can you say about the smuggling into China .....

Governor: No. I think you are a little confused there . We are of course discussing the exact delineation of territorial waters. But I don't think that is remotely relevant to the case the other day. There is no argument I think put forward by the Chinese side relating to the exact line in the territorial waters. The Chinese side have offered several explanations of what happened. But I don't think any of those explanations suggested that somehow there was confusion about which territorial water the incident took place in. The truth is every body I think is fairly clear in their own minds what happened. We are glad that there has been a reduction in this sort of incidents over the years. We don't want to see any more incidents like this. The best way of bringing this incident to a close and the best way of ensuring that this incident does not make it more difficult to establish the sort of harmonious relationship we would like is to return the vessels and the Hong Kong residents forthwith, not at some indefinite time in the future but immediately. There is no question about the jurisdiction in this case. So I hope that we will have through diplomatic channels which is how very properly and moderately we have been pursuing it . I hope that we will have a response through diplomatic channels as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

End/Thursday, April 6, 1995

Secretary of State & Chinese Foreign Minister to meet in New York

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The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt Hon Douglas Hurd, and the Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen, have agreed to meet in the margins of the NPT Review Conference in New York on April 18, 1995.

End/Thursday, April 6, 1995

Japan gives full support to HK promotion

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The Japanese Government has pledged full support to a plan by the Hong Kong Government to stage a major promotion in the country to strengthen the already close business, economic and cultural links.

The message was conveyed by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Tomiichi Murayama, to the Hong Kong Government's Principal Representative in Japan, Mr David Lan, yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon when Mr Lan called on Mr Murayama to brief him about the latest developments in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong promotion in Japan scheduled to take place from September 25 to 29 this year.

The Hong Kong promotion will target at Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka. The core programme in each city will include a business seminar, social functions and cultural events to highlight and further enhance the Hong Kong-Japan partnership.

The promotion will be presented in conjunction with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Hong Kong Tourist Association with private sector participation.

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, will be leading a delegation comprising senior government officials and businessmen to visit the three cities and take part in the major events.

Noting that Japan is Hong Kong's third principal trading partner, the second largest foreign investor and the largest foreign investor in the manufacturing industry, Mr Murayama agreed that it was important that this partnership should continue and, indeed, be strengthened.

In the context of closer co-operation, the Prime Minister told Mr Lan that the Japanese Government would be very happy to give the Hong Kong promotion in Japan its maximum support.

Yesterday's meeting was the first of a series of courtesy calls by Mr David Lan on senior government officials and business leaders in Japan to muster their support for the Hong Kong promotion.

End/Thursday, April 6, 1995

Bilingual glossary of legal terms

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A bilingual glossary of legal terms containing some 4,600 Chinese terms or expressions was published by the Legal Department today (Thursday).

Launching the English-Chinese Glossary of Legal Terms at a press conference today, the Acting Law Draftsman, Mr Tony Yen, said the terms and expressions contained in the glossary were extracted from legislation which was either enacted bilingually or in respect of which there was an authenticated Chinese text.

He said these terms or expressions were either legal terms themselves or expressions which were frequently used in legislation or legal documents.

"The Glossary therefore should be a useful reference material for the legal profession, legal academics, legal translators, linguists, law or language students and anyone who is interested in the bilingual legal system," Mr Yen said.

"It would also make a significant contribution in the use of Chinese in the law," he added.

The Glossary will be on sale from tomorrow at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway, at $68 a copy.

Mr Yen said the Glossary reflected bilingual legislation as at November 30 last year. In view of the increasing number of bilingual legislation, further editions would be issued from time to time to reflect progress in the bilingual laws programme.

He said in order to preserve an accurate reflection of legislation, the terms and expressions were produced in the Glossary largely in the form as they appeared in the relevant legislation.

Mr Yen added: "Also, for some English terms or expressions there may be a number of Chinese equivalents to suit different contexts, therefore it may be necessary to refer to the sources of such terms or expressions to appreciate how a particular Chinese rendition was produced in its present form and how it should be used.

"Moreover, the Glossary is intended to be an easy and introductory reference for readers to locate particular texts in bilingual legislation, and for this purpose the source of each Chinese term or expression is cited in the Glossary," he said.

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Induction programme for immigrant children from China

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New immigrant children from China between six and 15 years of age and having arrived in Hong Kong for less than six months are invited to attend a four-week induction programme on social adjustment and educational support.

A spokesman for the Education Department said: "The programme is aimed at helping new immigrant children from China to adapt to the local social and school environment, promoting inductive learning of Chinese and English languages among new immigrant children who have not yet enrolled in school and providing homework guidance to those who have already enrolled."

The programme, sponsored by the Education Department, is operated by non-profit-making voluntary agencies.

A newly-produced leaflet containing addresses and telephone numbers of these organisations is available for collection at the District Education Offices, the District Offices and the District Social Welfare Offices throughout the territory.

Single journey children also receive the leaflet when arriving at the Lo Wu Immigration Checkpoints, the spokesman said.

"The course is free of charge and the contents include social adjustment and educational support.

"The objectives are to explain to the participants the rules and regulations in school and the community, the use of public amenities in the community and public transport, to provide them with guidance in learning Chinese and English languages and to teach them study skills," the spokesman said.

He advised parents to contact the organisations in their district for the time and venue offering the courses in the leaflets.

End/Thursday, April 6, 1995

Governor's factory visit in Tsuen Wan

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Thursday) visited two factories, ACL Electronics (Hong Kong) Ltd and Central Textiles (Hong Kong) Ltd in Tsuen Wan.

Accompanied by the Director-General of Industry, Miss Denise Yue, Mr Patten first visited ACL Electronics (Hong Kong) Ltd. Mr Patten was briefed by Managing Director of ACL Electronics Mr Michael Gardiner on the factory's production and toured the company's printed circuit board manufacturing lines and research and development department.

Founded in 1985, ACL Electronics (Hong Kong) Ltd is one of Hong Kong's leading manufacturers and suppliers of speciality printed circuit board.

Its innovative superpower data transceiver DISKExpress won the 1994 Governor's Award for Industry in Consumer Product Design.

In recognition of its efforts in environmental control (including the installation of waste water treatment and exhaust-air scrubber systems), ACL was awarded the 1994 Governor's Award for Industry in Environmental Performance.

The Governor next visited a major cotton spinning mill, Central Textiles (Hong Kong) Ltd.

At Central Textiles, Mr Patten was briefed by the company's Deputy Chairman Mr Alexander Woo on the factory's production, and toured its production lines in respect of rotor spinning and ring spinning.

Established in 1953, Central Textiles is a pioneer in the field of rotor spinning, and specialises in the manufacture of quality yarns for local weaving, knitting and dyeing factories.

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Weakened fresh water supply in Tsuen Wan

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Tsuen Wan will be weakened from 11 pm on Saturday (April 8) to 5 pm the following day to facilitate water mains connection.

The affected areas include Texaco Road, Yeung Uk Road, Hoi Hing Road, Tsuen Wan MTR station, Luk Yeung Sun Tsuen, Riveria Garden and those along the section of Castle Peak Road from Tsuen Wan to Ting Kau.

End/Thursday, April 6, 1995

Post offices closed during Easter

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The Postmaster General, Mr Mike Pagliari, announced today (Thursday) that all post offices would be closed during the Easter holidays from April 14 to 17.

A special mail delivery would be provided on April 14 (Friday), but no delivery would be made on April 15, 16 and 17.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change ($million)
Opening balance in the account	1,413	0930	+1,204
Closing balance in the account	2,558	1000	+1,204
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,191
Money market activity	+1,166	1200	+1,191
LAF today	-21	1500	+1,176
		1600	+1,166

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 119.1 *-0.3* 6.4.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

Terms	Yield
1 week	5.19
1 month	5.17
3 months	5.43
6 months	5.68
12 months	6.09

EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
14 months	2605	6.35	100.29	6.16
23 months	2702	7.50	101.63	6.66
28 months	3707	6.95	100.46	6.84
34 months	3801	8.00	102.62	7.07
60 months	5003	7.75	101.13	7.61

Total turnover of bills and bonds - $28,861 million

Closed April 6, 1995

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