



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Thursday, July 4, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Governor's question-and-answer session in LegCo	1
Governor to visit London and Brussels	17
Hong Kong attracts high-tech manufacturing	18
Further textiles talks with US fail to reach agreement	20
Trade Marks (Amendment) Rules 1996	21
Results of 1994 survey of industrial production	22
Fees for aircraft noise certificates revised	25
Grading of beach water quality	26
Public briefing session on quality school education	30
Schools reminded of teacher recruitment service	31
Video tape on teaching General Studies	32
Promotion of factory inspectorate	32
Port users advised to proceed with extra care	33
Chance to see water quality improvement in action	34
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	35

Governor's question-and-answer session in LegCo

* * * * *

Following is a transcript of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's question-and-answer session in the Legislative Council today (Thursday):

Mr Albert Ho (in Chinese): I have a question that is very current, it's not within the four topics, and that is the freedom of entry into China. I'm sure the Governor would be willing to answer the question.

The President: It is in order.

Mr Albert Ho (in Chinese): Thank you. Mr governor, I'm sure you are aware of the fact that a number of legislative councillors, together with representatives of local organisations, attempted to go back to China to express their views in a peaceful manner. But, unfortunately they were denied entry at the airport and their home return permits were confiscated.

Now with the coming of 1997, there is increasing contact between China and Hong Kong. There are a lot of people who work in China and they also invest in China. They get married and raise a family in China. And so there are people who are going back to China and coming back to Hong Kong every day. So if the Chinese Government can arbitrarily make use of the regulations and deny entry to Hong Kong people and even confiscate their home return permits, a lot of worry will be with us.

So my question for the governor is this; what can the Hong Kong Government do on our behalf? For instance, clarifying with the Chinese authorities their policies in relation to entering China. Now China in fact is our country and how can we have freedom of entry to China and protect our rights?

Governor: First of all I can assure the honourable member that the question does come under those subjects which are suggested for today. I think it comes under safety at work!

The President: For people with a disability though!

Governor: I think that would get me into trouble with the Equal Opportunities Commission if I was to say anything like that.

I think the whole community has been shocked by what happened this week. Some may not have been surprised but I think most have been shocked. A group of legislators, carrying a petition and more important, carrying what I understand to be perfectly valid travel documents were stopped from entering China, their country after 1997, and had their travel documents removed. I'm not quite sure under what law or under what regulation. I'm sure that there would be a local and international outcry if the Government in Hong Kong was simply to take away peoples' travel documents in a similar way. It would be intolerable because we have the rule of law in Hong Kong. It's the spine of our system.

So we, I think understandably, expressed our concern to the New China News Agency and asked what the reason for this course of action was and I think the New China News Agency declined to add to the comments made by officials in Peking that this was because the Legislators in question or may be the petition in question represented some sort of threat to state security. Now sometimes I disagree with honourable members, but I've never thought of them as being terribly threatening and we know perfectly well that other people have carried petitions to Peking before and have been very courteously received, even when officials haven't agreed with the terms of the petition. We know that Greenpeace protesters, none of them I think about to become Chinese citizens, recently had their petition accepted perfectly courteously by Chinese officials. So I do think this was most unfortunate and I think that inevitably it had a rather bad taste on a day when people were thinking about what lies ahead in a year's time. It's another example of confidence being disturbed, not by the present Government, not by the British Government, but by Chinese officials.

Now I always think that it's better to talk to people rather than to anathematise them. I came back from a visit to the United States recently and was greeted by a crowd of friends of the New China News Agency, gathered in from the highways and byways of Mong Kok, to salute my re-emergence in Hong Kong society. I didn't regard that as being threatening, I regarded it as being, even though I disagreed with what they were saying, one of the aspects of living in a free and open society. And I do think it would be better for China's reputation internationally and better for China's image as we approach the transition in Hong Kong for Chinese officials to talk to people, even when they disagree with them rather than try to reject their views out of hand.

Nothing is going to change the fact that the majority of public opinion in Hong Kong supports the continuance of a free, open, democratic society and that isn't going to be changed by the calendar and it's not going to be changed by taking away people's valid travel documents.

There's a limit to what the present Hong Kong Government can do about it except to make its views clear, as I've made my views clear today and as other officials have made their views clear in the last few days.

It's inconceivable, I assume, that the same thing could happen after 1 July, 1997, when those concerned would all, of course, be in a real sense citizens of one country, of China, and in those circumstances if anything like that was even contemplated, I'm sure that the SAR Government would want to make sure that a decision like that was reversed. I assume that it's only because they've been waiting for a meeting in order to express their point of view, that members of the preparatory committee will want to say some of these things, though they may wish to say them in private rather than in public because I don't think this has been a very happy episode in the transition. People may disagree with those who went to Peking, they may disagree with what they were saying in their petition, but I don't honestly think that anybody regards them as a horrendous threat.

Mr Albert Ho (in Chinese): Yes I fully agree with what the Governor has said but what concerns us most actually is what can we do at this point? Whether it be this side of '97 or after '97, the Hong Kong Government has the responsibility to, on behalf of us, protect our rights. We have people in Hong Kong, including Legislators, their travel documents have been arbitrarily taken away from them and their entry has been arbitrarily denied. And then of course there are also cases when people who are denied exit and they have to remain in China.

So would the Government consider taking it up at the JLG level and as to understanding, could there be a sort of memorandum of understanding, some sort of arrangement, things made clear. Because when we have people investing in China, people go to work in China, they should be prepared, they should be fully aware of what is going to happen. So could the Governor be more specific as to what can be done?

Governor: To be honest with the honourable member, I'm not quite sure what the subject would be on the JLG agenda. Would the subject be that those with Chinese travel documents should be able to travel around the world on them? I mean, of course that must be what Chinese travel documents mean and I presume there is some law in China which should govern these matters and there may be legal remedies available to honourable members at some time in China. I'm not sure but we know that there are slightly odd things that sometimes happen to people with travel documents with a Chinese chop on them. We have living in our midst a Chinese trade unionist who even though he had a valid Chinese passport is refused re-entry to China on it. Presumably because he too is regarded as some sort of threat.

All I can say to the honourable gentleman is that I very much hope that there won't be similar incidents like this because they not only raise concerns in this community but they raise concerns outside this community about issues like freedom of travel for people in Hong Kong in the future. And those are concerns which it's in nobody's interest to raise.

Mr Edward Ho (in Chinese): Thank you Mr President. Mr Governor I would like to ask you a question about the Western Corridor Railway.

Now recently we had quite some meetings on the Western Corridor Railway and yesterday we had a motion debate on this. So I don't want to dwell on the details, but of course we all find it very regrettable that to this day it seems like the completion date of the Western Corridor Railway is about to be delayed and we don't know when and we don't even know the commencement date of the construction.

So I would like to know, now originally the Chinese Government seemed to be in favour of this project but all along the Chinese Government has expressed its dissatisfaction about the information provided by the Hong Kong Government. It's lacking and you seem to be unwilling to provide information to the Chinese side, including the study report. And actually now recently there was a report about 2,000 pages and you furnished a report to LegCo and I think that report can be published to the public. Now if you are to co-operate with the Chinese Government, if you want to strike a dialogue with the Chinese Government so that these major infrastructural projects could be constructed, or could be studied further, but if at the same time you do not provide such details to the Government, of course I must add that such information needs to be further looked into because you haven't made a final decision on this project, but anyhow such information has already been published. So strategically speaking, or tactically speaking, if you do not provide such information to the Chinese side what benefits can we get? Of course, I understand that next week the Secretary for Transport is going to visit Beijing but I'd like to know, strategically speaking, why was it that in the past you did not provide such information to the Chinese side?

Governor: But we did. We briefed the Chinese side in the Joint Liaison Group consistently and I think the honourable gentleman is raising a very large red herring. On the one hand he says that he wants us to get on with the Western Corridor Railway. On the other hand he stirs up again an argument about whether somehow we're failing to inform the preparatory committee or Chinese officials and must do so and get their chop before we take any further steps.

I think things have been said in the context of the preparatory committee discussions in the last few weeks which have been extremely unfortunate and unhelpful and perhaps have more to do with the dynamics of the preparatory committee than they do with the dynamics of public transport in Hong Kong.

Let's be clear what I think the community is agreed about. I think the community has made up its mind that it wants the Western Corridor Railway and the other associated elements in the railway development strategy. I don't think, there is, as it were, a whether question. The issues are how we best build the railway, how much its going to cost, how we can do it in the most expeditious and financially sensible way and that's what we're trying to examine at the moment. We're undertaking a number of studies. Now some Honourable Members say that the studies are too expensive, that there are too many of them. I have to say that in proportion to the total likely cost of the project, the cost of the studies isn't out of line. We've just come to this Legislative Council and got approval for \$90 million in order to undertake studies for electronic road pricing, which we reckon will cost in all about a billion. So almost 10% is going in consultancy fees, in studies to make sure that the project is as efficient as possible and by and large that sort of percentage figure, of a total project, isn't out of order. We need those studies and we will keep honourable members wholly informed as we have in the past about the studies we're going to do and about the results of those studies. Now the sooner those studies, particularly on the alignment of the Western Corridor Railway, give us the opportunity to reach decisions, we'll reach those decisions. But it must be perfectly obvious to honourable members that the Western Corridor Railway is going to be built by the SAR Government and it will be a matter within the SAR Government's autonomy. The Government of Hong Kong will reach decisions as soon as it can. If those decisions have to be arrived at before July 1, 1997, we would of course need to have the enthusiastic agreement of my successor. Otherwise it would make no sort of sense whatsoever. If the main decisions are taken on the other side of July 1, 1997, I want to make sure that my successor has the best possible and most informed basis on which to take those decisions. But I really don't think that we should allow this important discussion to get distorted by arguments about whether or not we've given China enough information. Particularly, as I repeat, since when it comes to building this project, it should be a matter wholly within the autonomy of the SAR.

The President: Mr Ho, do you have a follow-up?

Mr Edward Ho: Yes, thank you Mr President. Maybe the translation was not very good, so I will just have to follow-up in English, because I mean I think the Governor probably has a prepared answer but that was not the question I asked. First of all I didn't raise any question about the costs of studies and so on and so forth, because I'm not in a position to comment on the cost you know until all the figures are known and all that.

And I'm certainly not trying to stir up something. I'm merely asking a simple question as far as how to co-operate with the Chinese. I mean during this period, I fully agree after 1997, this is the kind of project that Hong Kong SAR Government should do on its own, should decide on its own. But unfortunately at this time we do have to co-operate with the Chinese and I'm merely asking the question whether, you know, he agrees that the flow of information would be beneficial?

Governor: Totally, totally and we have provided a great deal of information to Chinese officials, both inside the JLG and outside and will continue to do so.

The only point that I was seeking to make is that the decisions taken about the Western Corridor Railway, in many cases, will be taken either on the brink of the transition or after the transition and they'll be about a project which lies wholly within the autonomy of the SAR. Now that doesn't mean that Chinese officials shouldn't be kept fully informed. Of course they should be kept fully informed but I don't think we should think that we have to negotiate each element as we try to put together the information, out of which a decision will be shaped, with Chinese officials. I don't think that would be in the interests of Hong Kong and I don't think it would be in the interests of getting on with the project as quickly as possible.

So I'm all for giving maximum information. I'm also all for ensuring that we have all the information that we need in order to make a decision as soon as we can.

The honourable member actually mentioned two issues which I didn't touch on. One issue, namely the commencement date. We'll obviously want to start the project if it's agreed to go ahead with it, as soon we can. The problems, not unique, but the problems that we particularly face with the Western Corridor Railway are those of land resumption in the New Territories which will both take time and be fairly costly. We'll be coming to this Council later in the year with legislative proposals which would enable us to resume land, not just for the Western Corridor Railway, but for other rail projects as well and I hope that members will deal with that legislation expeditiously. I can assure the honourable member and others tie their hands as far as the Western Corridor Railway is concerned but it will make it possible to go ahead with the Western Corridor Railway rapidly, if honourable members here and others decide that that should happen.

Dr Yeung Sum (in Chinese): Thank you Mr President. I'm more concerned about the disabled and job opportunities for them. How could the Government take the lead and provide job opportunities for them? And how would the Government go about encouraging employers to employ these disabled people?

Governor: We had what I thought, and I believe those present thought, was a third interesting and useful summit on the issue of disability and employment last week. Certainly one member of the Council who's here at the moment was there and played a distinguished part in the proceedings.

I think that those meetings, like the ones we've held on disability and transport, have helped to push things forward and though in the area of disability and employment there's, I still think, much further to go. It's been perhaps particularly difficult over the last year because of the tightening in the labour market generally, but we've still managed to place about 1400, just over 1400 people with disabilities through our own Labour Department services. We've still managed to increase the number of people with a disability employed in Government to about 4,200 and we managed to do better than our target of 500 in creating new job opportunities elsewhere for people with disabilities. We actually got to about 550.

Now we've increased those targets for the coming year, for example the last target from 550 to 700 and I hope that we will make it.

My impression is that that most important thing that we have to do is to encourage employers to understand that they're doing themselves a favour by employing somebody with a disability rather than doing the person with a disability a favour. I think we have a real problem of education and it's interesting how, in some sectors, one or two firms employ a lot of people with disabilities and others hardly any. Let me give one example which may not be well taken by those that I don't mention. In the area of the media and broadcasting, ATV have an outstandingly good record. We appealed to a number of organisations during the course of this year to take on more people with a disability ATV, I think I'm right in recalling, took on an extra 14. Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting took on an extra couple. None of the other people that we contacted replied.

So it's an indication of how employers, individual firms, if they focus on the issue, if they make a real effort, can actually help and help themselves by getting loyal, hard working and dedicated members of staff, even if those members of staff have a disability.

Mr Zachary Wong (in Chinese): Thank you Mr President. Mr Governor, last year in your policy address you stressed one point, that is one of the top priority items is external transport means for NT North-West. And you, and your Government have time and again stressed that you would try your level best to complete WCR before 2001 and yet recently you've said that that's to be decided on by the SAR Government. So that would mean that the project will not be completed by 2001 and we don't know when that will be completed and so in NT North-West the residents in Yuen Long and Tuen Mun are extremely disappointed, they don't know how many more years they will have to suffer traffic congestion.

So do you actually feel guilty about it? And what other commitments are you prepared to put in in relation to their problem?

The President: May I suggest that as this is the last sitting for Governor's Question Time for this session, at this rate I think we can only take five, six questions. May I suggest that Members keep their questions succinct and the Governor keeps his answers succinct too.

Governor: The Governor will try to be only a little longer than the questions in his answers.

Let me make it clear again what I've said. I don't think the Honourable Member disputes the fact that the Western Corridor Railway, if it's decided to build it, will be built by the SAR Government. Now, the initial decision may be taken, if we get all the studies we have to do completed in time, may be taken before July 1, 1997. But we would obviously need, in those circumstances, to take those decisions with the agreement of my successor. Otherwise we'd be in a ridiculous position and we'd be in a position which was extremely unfair to the SAR Government.

That's not an attempt to cop out of the importance of getting ahead with this project as rapidly as possible. I share the Honourable gentleman's commitment to this project, and the other elements in it. I know from my visit to Tuen Mun the other day how much concern there is in that community about getting on with the project. We have, as the Honourable gentleman knows, agreed to extend the Western Corridor Railway from the outskirts of Tuen Mun to the centre and the sooner the project can be completed the better.

I hope the Honourable Member and other Honourable Members are out there supporting the Government when we start having arguments about land resumption when we find ourselves dealing with the problem of 1,000 graves in the New Territories and all those other issues. We'll need support from Honourable Members then and I hope we get it.

Mr Zachary Wong (in Chinese): Very briefly, actually my question is, now you won't be able to complete by 2001, so will there be fresh commitments on the Government side in order to ease the traffic congestion problem?

Governor: I can't tell the Honourable gentleman exactly when we'll be able to complete it. It may be that the decision will be taken to do the project in phases and, for example, to complete the passenger railway system to the North-West New Territories which will generate financial flows, before other parts of the project. It's very difficult to know whether, how to take those decisions and when to take them, but I can assure the Honourable gentleman that we understand as well as he does the transport problems in the North-West New Territories. The main answer to them is the Western Corridor Railway in my judgement, though I'm not pre-empting later debate, but we also have to continue to do things like improve the road system and the ferry system to the North-West New Territories and particularly Tuen Mun.

Mrs Selina Chow: Governor, if we can now make the decision on the second runway for it to be completed by the end of 1998. Why can't the decision on the west rail be made in the same way and would the Governor do anything or everything he can to expedite this very important and urgent decision in the same way that he has resolved the question on the second runway?

Governor: Well, can I just say once again that I am delighted now that the questions are all about pressing us to complete the Western Corridor as rapidly as possible rather than questions focusing on some of the intestines of consultants' reports. I think that's a very helpful development in the debate. In the case of the second runway, we were dealing with a proposal that came to us from the Airport Authority, a proposal which clearly added to the economic and transport viability of the project which is nearing completion. It's a project which doesn't need any resumption of land and in relation to the rest of the project, it is, well, not cheap, but it's not as expansive as something like the Western Corridor Railway. In the case of the Western Corridor Railway, we are talking about the need to deal about 400 hectares of land. We are dealing with a project which at present prices is likely to cost 75 billion and we are dealing with a lot of queries not least reasonable ones from some honourable members about whether this or that alignment is right, about whether this or that particular proposal for the railway is the right one. So it is a rather more complicated business but I assure the honourable lady that we will try to complete the whole business of coming to a decision as rapidly as we can and then get on with the project as rapidly as we can and I hope we can complete it in Hong Kong time.

Selina Chow: I entirely take the Governor's point. But the gist of my question lies with the point as to why we should be taking into consideration the appointment of the Chief Executive Designate. Why can't we just press ahead and do whatever is necessary to expedite that decision whenever that Chief Executive Designate is appointed...

Governor: I can assure the honourable lady that if we can come to the decision next week or the week after that or within a couple of months we in Government would want to make that decision. We would of course in those circumstances want to go to the Chinese officials in the Preparatory Committee and say that we intended that, we wanted to go ahead in that way. I was merely seeking to be realistic and I am sure the honourable lady would be very shocked if we are in a position after the appointment of a Chief Executive Designate has been announced if we are in a position to make the decision and we didn't consult the Chief Executive Designate about it. We are now trying to shovel off our responsibilities. We are merely trying to ensure that the Government of Hong Kong and the development of some of the biggest infrastructure projects in Hong Kong represents a seamless transition as far as possible.

Mr Law Chi-kwong (in Chinese): Mr Governor, just now you said there are 4,200 civil servants in the government who are disabled but actually about 950 of them are colour-blind and usually we would not include colour-blind people under the category of disabled. So, actually, if we take that out only about 2% or less than 2% of the civil servants are disabled persons. I would like to know whether you have any plans to set an employment target, for example 4% or 5% of the civil service to be filled up by people with a disability? And I would also like to know whether you are going to request or direct statutory bodies or subvented organisations to set a similar employment target?

Governor: Let me be helpful straight away to the honourable gentleman. We have been asked this question so many times before that the Secretary for the Civil Service has decided we will put ourselves in the position in which we no longer have to answer it next year. So, we are going to redefine the figures and we are going to take out those who are colour-blind and set a new and appropriate target.

But let me tell the honourable gentleman what the consequence of that is. At present there are 70 grades in the civil Service where you need to have the ability to distinguish between colours. Some of those grades are obvious, for example the Fire Service - and not just to see the red fire-engines. If you take out the number of people employed in those grades from the total number of civil servants, and if you then take away from the figure of those civil servants with a disability those whose disability is colour-blindness, the proportion of disabled civil servants in the figure that is left goes up not down. So in a sense the government's position in percentage terms looks better if we remove the figure for those with the impairment that the honourable gentleman mentioned, an impairment which - and I won't embarrass him - is shared by one of the honourable gentleman's honourable friends.

So we will, from next year, present the figures differently. We will give an aggregate figure which includes those with a colour-blindness but we will give a separate figure removing both the grades which need full colour on the one hand and those among the disabled with colour-blindness too. And then we will have to set ourselves on the basis of that new baseline, we will have to set ourselves a new and higher target year on year. This year we did rather better than our target and I hope we can do so in the future.

I am loathe to direct bodies outside government but we have encouraged bodies outside government to pursue the same sort of employment policy that we have been following, and some - the Housing Authority is a case in point - have done pretty well in providing opportunities for people with a disability and we are very grateful to them. But I do think that if you set up organisations to run a sector of public administration you should be a little bit careful about how many things you direct them to do.

Mr Law Chi-kwong (in Chinese): A simple suggestion. Could you consider that for certain fire-engines and ambulances they could be green in colour, because I have seen them before?

Governor: I would consider anything. It may disappoint quite a lot of children.

The president: The industrial safety-cross is certainly green in colour.

Governor: Perhaps it will be more environmentally-friendly if we change the colour.

Mr Sin Chung-kai (in Chinese): Mr President, recently we've got a group of people going to Beijing and they've been denied entry and they were checked against a name list. So we are concerned. Now where people use a Hong Kong ID and also the BN(O) to enter or go out of Hong Kong, now we've got this list, whether it be white or black, and then when they go through the immigration control point, would that scenario occur? That is, either our BN(O) or our identify cards be taken away. So there wouldn't be anywhere else in the world that would take us and then people in this Chamber and at least 20 people are on that list, if not 30. So what would the Government do?

Governor: Well, I attempted to answer this question at some length earlier, or a related question. I think the point the honourable gentleman is making is what would happen if, presumably after 1997, people with valid documents to go in and out of Hong Kong had them taken away. Is that the point the honourable gentleman is making?

Mr Sin Chung-kai (in Chinese): It's very simple. Now a lot of us want to go out of Hong Kong and travel as much as possible before 1997, because we fear that we might not be re-admitted to Hong Kong after 1997. Now that list might very well apply to people in Hong Kong later on.

Governor: I see why the events on Monday raise that anxiety in people's minds but it is, of course, I think I can say this with confidence, far fetched. Immigration is one of the issues that comes within the responsibilities of the Hong Kong SAR Government and it will be for the Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Government to apply the law and operate under the rule of law and under the rule of law it is simply inconceivable that the events that the honourable gentleman described could happen in Hong Kong, either before or after 1997. If that were to happen, it would mean that the rule of law had simply been trampled underfoot.

The President: But the list, if the list exists, it's not the responsibility of the Hong Kong Government is it?

Governor: Well, I think it was the question of a list was a sort of sub-text to the honourable gentleman's main anxiety, but certainly we have no list which contains the name of Legislators who we think represent a threat to the security of this astonishingly stable community.

Mr Henry Tang: Mr President, Governor, I'd like to ask a question regarding employment of the disabled. I was very encouraged to hear that the Governor is prepared to commit the Hong Kong Government to taking a leading role in employing disabled persons.

After the last summit I must say that I was overwhelmed by the response I received, especially from disabled groups that they do not see themselves as a burden on the society, they do not like to receive welfare and they like to be able to contribute to the community as much as anybody else.

So as far as what I proposed in the last summit, if the Government were to be able to co-operate together with the disabled people then I'm prepared to co-ordinate, to open convenience stores in Government institutions such as schools, hospitals and other Government institutions. Now judging from the overwhelming response, I think it is something that they'd very much like to pursue.

I'd like the Governor to clarify for me today whether you are prepared to commit the Education and Manpower Branch or the Health and Welfare Branch, that those facilities would become available if I can come up with the capital and the disabled groups who are prepared to do that and employ predominantly disabled people?

Governor: The honourable gentleman's response last week to that point when it was put, I think by Sir Harry Fang, was extremely encouraging and of course we would want to give that initiative a fair wind. I suggest that perhaps the Secretary for Education and Manpower should get in touch with the honourable member with perhaps the Secretary for Health and Welfare. There may be a number of ways in which we can help, not just by the provision of facilities but also by trying to target supported employment places on a scheme like that. But I'm very grateful for the positive response which the honourable gentleman has made.

I know that there are other employers, like the MTR who have been extremely positive in the view they've taken of the employment of people with a disability and the MTR like the honourable gentleman, and like other employers, I mention ATV again, find the truth of what disability groups have said to the honourable member. That is, that people with a disability are tremendous contributors to the work-force and to the rest of society whenever they're given the opportunity.

The President: Mr Tang, short follow-up please.

Mr Henry Tang: Yes it will be a very short follow-up. If I may make a suggestion Governor that actually the Civil Service Branch does not strip out the colour blindness away from the statistics because I don't want to go into these micro arguments about which job really requires full colour awareness or which job you can get away with some degree of colour blindness. So that this way the figures will be even more esoteric and difficult to decipher in the future.

Governor: I think what we should do is to give an aggregate figure as we do today, but then give the doubting Thomas' the other figure as well so that people don't simply think that we're, as it were, employing people with colour blindness as though they had greater disabilities than they do.

Mr Cheng Ka-fu (in Chinese): Mr Governor, I would like to ask you a question about the ICCPR. We all understand that the British Government firmly opposes the establishment of a Provisional Legislature, even to this day. For the United Front Against the Provisional Legislature, we encountered some difficulties and problems and you are aware of it. For some journalists, they have to sign some letters of repentance and in the letters of repentance they have to acknowledge that the United Front was an illegal organisation before they were released.

If the United Front is going to be considered an illegal organisation after 1997, for the ICCPR I understand that you are going to present a report before 1997 but the Chinese Government has refused to do so after 1997, so I would like to know, in your last report would you include the experience that we had on Monday, in the concluding report and reflect it fully to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights so that for the Democrats, after July 1, 1997, we will still enjoy our civil liberties?

Governor: First of all can I say that I can't conceive of how the organisation to which the honourable gentleman belongs could be regarded as an illegal organisation either before or after 1997. I can't conceive of how that could be the case if the Bill of Rights and the International Covenants were still being applied to Hong Kong. Hong Kong, if that were to happen, would not only be a much less agreeable place in which to live, it would be a much less successful place and a much less prosperous place in which to live, because that sort of Hong Kong would not attract international investment like today's Hong Kong does. So I don't believe that could conceivably be on anybody's agenda and I am sorry that the events of Monday give the impression that it might be on the agenda.

I think the UN Commission on Human Rights is fully aware of our position on democratic development in Hong Kong. I am not sure whether a reference in our report to the treatment of honourable members in China would be relevant. It might be more relevant if China itself was a signatory to the International Covenants and that, of course, is the most important way in which China could underline its commitment to the application of those covenants in Hong Kong. At present there are undertakings in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law that the International Covenants should be applied to Hong Kong and within the International Covenants themselves there are specific references to the reporting obligation. So there is no question in my mind, in the mind of the UN Human Rights Commission, in the mind of the European Union or in the mind of the International Commission of Jurists, that China has an obligation to report under the International Covenants after 1997.

Mr Cheng Ka-fu (in Chinese): A simple follow-up. So far I have not heard that there will be any appropriate avenues from the British Government that can help us. At least five of the members of this Council had Home Visit Permits confiscated. We are the United Front Against the Provisional Legislature, I think the Hong Kong Government and the British Government share our views. We used this status to visit Beijing and our Home Visit Permits are confiscated, I would like to know what avenues you can use to help us recover our Home Visit Permits?

Governor: I have said to the honourable member earlier that if the Chinese Government confiscate a valid Chinese document from a post-97 citizen who is travelling, there is a limit to what either the Hong Kong Government or the British Government can do to make them change their mind and disgorge the document. We, as the honourable gentleman knows, raised the issue with the New China News Agency vigorously. It has been referred to by the Chief Secretary during her visit to London. I have referred to it this afternoon. And unfortunately, the authorities in Peking persist in believing that the honourable gentleman represents some sort of threat to state security. I am not quite sure that I have ever regarded him in that alarming light and I am not sure that many other people around the world would be quite so worried about the honourable gentleman. He seems like a perfectly amiable fellow to me.

Mr Lawrence Yum Sin-ling (in Chinese): Mr Governor, I would like to know whether you are going to go through the JLG to reflect our treatment in Beijing, because our Home Visit Permits have been confiscated? This may undermine the acknowledgement of the future SAR passport by other countries in future.

Governor: I answered the question on the JLG earlier, saying that I was not sure under what heading we would deal with the confiscation of Chinese travel documents by the Chinese authorities. But we can certainly consider the matter before the next JLG in September. I hope that what happened on Monday won't raise doubts about the SAR travel document and the returnability of people with the SAR travel document because if that was to happen it would send an extremely bad signal around the world. Let me emphasise again why it should have no bearing, reprehensible as it was, on the question of greater ease of travel for people with the SAR travel document.

Immigration is a matter which falls to the SAR Government within the terms of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, so it will be for the Immigration Department of the SAR Government to determine policy and frontier controls and I cannot conceive of circumstances, I repeat, in which the Immigration Department of an SAR which was operating within the Basic Law and applying the rule of law, denied returnability to people with valid travel documents.

Dr John Tse Wing-ling (in Chinese): Mr President, a question in relation to the disabled and employment. I've always been very concerned about this issue. I've said here before that the number employed by this Government is not really that many. We have over 200,000 and now the total employed is only 34 and mentally, mentally handicapped that it, only employ 34.

Now when you talk about employment for the disabled, you want to educate the employers and in the UK and in Japan they use a percentage and they talk about positive discrimination. That is, well certain sizes of a company will have to employ a certain percentage of the disabled. And so will that sort of legislation be put in place in Hong Kong?

Governor: I think the honourable member isn't strictly correct about the position in the UK, though it is sometime since I've been there, but I don't think that's a completely accurate reflection of the position in the UK but I think that he has described the position in Japan.

I'm not, I have to say, very much in favour of statutory quotas which I think give employers or some employers the impression that somehow their doing something which isn't in their interest. I think we have to get employers to understand that employing people with a disability is in their interest and we have to make sure that there are other services available in society like better transport for the disabled which make it possible for people with a disability, having got a job, to get to it.

In Government I realise that we must go further. We have made substantial progress in the last couple of years, since we began these summit meetings. We intend to continue to make progress. We recognise that we have to give a lead but we hope, as well, that some of those who lecture us on doing better, like the media, will themselves do better and employ more people with a disability.

Dr John Tse Wing-ling (in Chinese): Mr President, well I don't believe the Governor would like to talk about the UK and the Governor doesn't want to talk about that. I do know about UK legislation and they want the companies to have 2% of their people disabled, but usually it's about one point something per cent, in other words the legislation is not really adhered to.

Now coming back to the point about transport and we don't really have good enough means to resolve the problems here because if you're in a wheelchair you can't get on to a bus. Now I don't want to talk about the transport issue.

My question is, would the Administration consider setting up a fund to help the disabled to become self-employed?

Governor: I'm certainly prepared to look at that. I think it's an issue which has been examined in the past when sometimes it's been suggested that it's not only people with a disability who should be helped with Government support to become self-employed. There are, of course, some existing financial mechanisms which could be used, including I assume supported employment which could assist to some extent. But I'll look at the honourable gentleman's question and come back to him on it.

Ms Chan Yuen-han (in Chinese): I'm happy that I'm able to get my question in. And my question is on industrial safety.

Let me give you my story Mr Governor. Last year in San Po Kong there was a boulder falling onto a bus and somebody was killed and we went around the construction site in San Po Kong and I found something that was really surprising. Now when we talk about private development, I was told that it's under the Labour Department and then I saw some scaffolding and there were some problems and I was told that that particular site was actually under the Housing Department. And somebody unfortunately fell into the water because he was on a gateway trying to get on shore and therefore it was between two departments. It was sort of a grey area.

So is this one of the reasons why we are not good enough in industrial safety? So can you do something to deal with cases like that?

Now of course you talk about Labour Department inspectors. What I wish to tell the Governor is, you are doing something that is very much window-dressing and you haven't really asked the OSHC to play a co-ordinating role. Now, I'm not saying the OSHC is totally powerless but they haven't performed their full role. Now we have a lot of such incidents.

Now I have got a very long pre-ambule. Now here comes my question: why isn't there a central co-ordinating body?

Governor: I honestly think that if the problem in Hong Kong on industrial safety was just a question of central co-ordination we'd have no difficulties. I think the problem is much more difficult than that and much more tragic than that and I would, without reservation, like to say to the honourable lady and other representatives of trade unions in this Legislative Council, that they've done as much as anybody to focus the community's attention on this, one of the worst blots on Hong Kong's record.

Our figures on industrial safety, though they have been coming down slightly, are still appallingly high for a civilised community like this and we do have to work to bring them down much more. There are a lot of things we could do and are trying to do, following the report that we produced in 1995. One of them is to co-ordinate things within Government better and the group of colleagues under the Chairmanship of the Secretary for Education and Manpower, which met about three weeks ago, is meeting again next week to continue to try to ensure that we get a grip in Government on the various aspects of our responsibility for dealing with the problem.

I think we have to continue to increase the amount of inspection and regulation that we do. I have to say that we've actually increased the number of factory inspectors on the ground six and a half fold since 1992. Six and a half times as many factory inspectors now in place as there were in 1992. We're increased penalties, we've increased regulation. I hope that the two bills which are at present in the Legislative Council which have a bearing on these matters will be passed as quickly as possible. We will be bringing at least four or five further measures to the Legislative Council later in the year.

But after doing all this, at the end of the day, the real issue is whether we can get employers and employees to recognise that they have to work within a wholly different concept of safety than that which tends to have prevailed in the last few years. I hope we can make that breakthrough. So long as we fail to do so, there will alas be too many widows, too many fatherless children, as a result of accidents which are preventable and should be prevented in a civilised society like Hong Kong.

The President: In accordance with Standing Orders I now adjourn the Council until 2.30 pm, Wednesday, July 10, 1996.

End

Governor to visit London and Brussels

* * * * *

The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will leave Hong Kong tomorrow (Friday) on a regular duty visit to London to brief ministers of the latest developments in the territory and to visit Brussels to meet senior officials of the European Union.

Mr Patten will be in Brussels on July 8 and 9. He will have separate meetings with the President of the European Commission, Mr Jacques Santer, and the Commission's vice-presidents, Sir Leon Brittan and Mr Manuel Mairn, as well as the President of the European Parliament, Mr Klaus Hansch, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Belgium, Mr Philippe Maystadt.

The Governor will deliver a speech at a lunch hosted by the Royal Institute of International Relations and the Belgium Hong Kong Society.

In London, Mr Patten will discuss the Hong Kong situation with Prime Minister, Mr John Major, Foreign Secretary, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials. He will also attend a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons.

He will give a speech to the Centre of Policy Studies and will take the salute at the Royal Tournament.

The Governor will arrive back in Hong Kong on July 15.

End

Hong Kong attracts high-tech manufacturing

* * * * *

Hong Kong is an attractive location for high-technology manufacturing in the Asia Pacific region, offering a competitive package of support services to industry as well as excellent infrastructure for technology-based production.

Speaking at the Motorola-Mosel Vitelic TMOS Foundry Co-operation Agreement Signing Ceremony today (Thursday), the Director-General of Industry, Mrs Regina Ip, also said: "The agreement marks a perfect match between two key players in the semiconductor industry in Hong Kong, and a significant breakthrough to local wafer fabrication."

Under the agreement, Motorola will bring 'front-end' wafer processing technology to Hong Kong and will for the first time fabricate silicon wafers in the territory.

"This agreement should generate considerable technological spin-offs to our semiconductor industry, and should contribute enormously towards propelling the semiconductor industry forward," Mrs Ip said.

"Today's agreement is therefore a significant development for our semiconductor industry, and provides ample evidence that Hong Kong remains as attractive a location for high-tech manufacturing as any others in the region.

"Apart from boasting a thriving, domestic population of over six million consumers with ever growing demand for quality electronic products, Hong Kong is the gateway to the biggest emerging market of the world, the People's Republic of China; and located at the hub of the most dynamically growing region in the world, the Asia Pacific region.

"Hong Kong offers excellent infrastructure for all those engaged in high-tech production; a level playing field for all investors; a simple, predictable, low taxation system; and a stable environment for external investors characterised by the rule of law."

Mrs Ip said notwithstanding the relocation of many assembly-type industrial operations across the border, the electronics industry had been one of the fastest growing and best-performing sectors of Hong Kong's manufacturing industry in terms of output, exports, and value added per person.

"Within the electronics industry itself, the electronic parts and components sector has performed particularly well: in terms of gross output the electronic parts and components sector grew at a much higher rate than the electronic finished product sector between 1983 and 1993 (7.7% per annum in the case of the former and 4.9% in the case of the latter), with the result that the gross output of the electronic parts and components sector rose to 28% of the electronics industry in 1993," she said.

Mrs Ip said, short of directly providing cash to businessmen to start businesses in Hong Kong, the Government was actively promoting the further development of the manufacturing industries.

The support measures the Government provides for the industries include the readily available serviced land at development cost in the Industrial Estates, and abundant skilled workforce, from among the 4000-plus graduates in engineering, science and technology from the seven degree-conferring institutions.

The Government also offers financial assistance for supporting applied R and D, under the Applied R and D Scheme and Co-operative Applied R and D Scheme and financial assistance towards training of staff in new technologies, under the New Technology Training Scheme.

End

Further textiles talks with US fail to reach agreement

* * * * *

The second round of bilateral consultations between Hong Kong and the United Kingdom held in Washington D C in the last two days over the additional import measures imposed unilaterally by the US has failed to reach an agreement despite Hong Kong's offer to enhance the effectiveness of the cooperation between the two sides against illegal transshipment.

"We are disappointed that after two days' consultations, the two sides have not been able to come to an agreement," a government spokesman said today (Thursday).

"It is particularly regrettable since we have put forward a package of proposals that would enhance the two sides' effectiveness in combating illegal transshipment, in place of the unilateral measures that the US has imposed on us."

The Hong Kong delegation to the second round was led by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Lawrence Li, and members comprised the Deputy Director-General of Trade, Mrs Rebecca Lai, and other officials from the Customs and Excise Department and the Trade Department.

The US side was led by the Deputy Commissioner for US Customs, Mr Michael Lane.

The spokesman said during the consultations, the two sides also discussed Hong Kong's views on the US measures.

"We maintained our fundamental objections to these discriminatory measures which have been introduced unilaterally without any prior consultations and discussions with us to seek to establish the facts about the perceived problem of transshipment in Hong Kong," he said.

"The two sides have a better understanding of each other's position after the consultations but it is regrettable that the two sides have not been able to reach a resolution.

"We have therefore made clear to the US side that we would seriously consider taking the matter to the World Trade Organisation."

Hong Kong will now review its position, taking into account the discussion, before deciding on the way forward, the spokesman said.

End

Trade Marks (Amendment) Rules 1996

* * * * *

The Trade Marks (Amendment) Rules 1996, which seek to add a new rule on the notice of conversion of a trade mark application and prescribe the form and fee for filing such notice, will be gazetted tomorrow (Friday).

A spokesman for the Trade and Industry Branch said: "The Trade Marks Rules need to be amended as a consequence of the amendments made to the Trade Mark Ordinance by the Intellectual Property (World Trade Organisation Amendments) Ordinance 1996 (TRIPS Ordinance), which was enacted on May 3, 1996.

"The TRIPS Ordinance amends the Trade Marks Ordinance, among others, to bring it in line with the TRIPS standards. The relevant provisions are expected to come into operation before the end of 1996.

"As required by the TRIPS Agreement, transitional provisions were included in the TRIPS Ordinance to allow trade mark applicants whose applications are pending on the day the amendments come into operation to elect or opt to have their applications determined in accordance with the Trade Marks Ordinance, as amended by the TRIPS Ordinance."

The spokesman said: "The option would, in effect, allow an applicant to claim the enhanced protection afforded by the TRIPS Agreement.

"The option is exercised by filing a conversion notice in a prescribed form and paying an appropriate fee to the Registrar of the Trade Marks.

"The option must be exercised within six months after the amendments to the Trade Marks Ordinance come into operation," he said.

"The Rules will come into effect on a day, before the end of this year, to be appointed by the Secretary for Trade and Industry by notice in the Gazette," he added.

End

Results of 1994 survey of industrial production

* * * * *

The gross output of the manufacturing sector in 1994 amounted to \$296 billion, representing a decrease of 5% when compared with 1993.

Net of total operating expenditure, the gross surplus amounted to 11.3% of the gross output in 1994. This was 0.2 of a percentage point lower than in 1993.

The value added of the manufacturing sector, which is a measure of its contribution to Hong Kong's gross domestic product, amounted to \$87 billion in 1994. This represented a decrease of 5.1% when compared with 1993.

These are some of the major findings of the 1994 Survey of Industrial Production conducted from April 1995 to early 1996 and released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

All dollar figures are in terms of current prices. The percentage changes derived from these figures have not been adjusted for price changes. Caution should therefore be taken in interpreting the survey results.

In terms of percentage share of gross output, the operating expenditure incurred by manufacturing establishments amounted to 88.7% in 1994. This comprised 16.8% for compensation of employees; 60.2% for consumption of materials, supplies, and industrial work/services; and 11.7% for other expenses.

Compared with 1993, the percentage share of consumption of materials, supplies and industrial work/services decreased by one percentage point while that of compensation of employees and other expenses increased by 0.2 of a percentage point and one percentage point respectively.

The value added content of the gross output of the manufacturing sector amounted to 29.2%, comprising 16.8% for compensation of employees and 11.3% for gross surplus. Compared with 1993, the proportion for compensation of employees was up by 0.2 of a percentage point while that for gross surplus was down by 0.2 of a percentage point.

The survey results also showed that there were some 32,000 manufacturing establishments operating in 1994.

In terms of value added, the five largest broad industry groups in 1994 were (1) basic metals, fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment, accounting for 22.2% of the total value added of the manufacturing sector; (2) wearing apparel, 15.6%; (3) electrical and electronic products, 14.6%; (4) paper products, printing and publishing, 13.8%; and (5) textiles, 13.4%.

Moderate increases in value added in 1994 were recorded in the chemical, rubber and non-metallic mineral products industry (+15.2%) and the electrical and electronic products industry (+7.7%).

On the other hand, decreases were recorded in the plastic products industry (-34.4%), the wearing apparel industry (-15.6%) and the textile industry (-12%).

The principal statistics for the manufacturing sector, with breakdowns by broad industry group, are shown in the annexed table.

Apart from manufacturing establishments, the survey also enumerated establishments engaged in (1) mining and quarrying; and (2) supply of electricity, gas and water.

Details of the survey results will be published in a full report available around August/September.

Enquiries regarding these survey results may be directed to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department, Tel 2882 4208.

Summary results of the 1994 Survey of Industrial Production
classified by broad manufacturing industry group

Broad industry group	Number of establishments	Number of persons engaged	Compensation of employees (\$ Mn)	Consumption of materials, supplies & industrial work/services (\$ Mn)	Other expenses (\$ Mn)	Gross surplus (net of "textile export transfer receipts") (\$ Mn)	Gross output (\$ Mn)	Value added (\$ Mn)
Food, beverages and tobacco	714 (-5)	24 461 (-5)	3,319 (3)	9,752 (6)	3,377 (22)	3,797 (2)	20,245 (7)	7,191 (3)
Wearing apparel, except knitwear and footwear	3 745 (-20)	104 620 (-20)	9,609 (-10)	30,021 (-17)	5,885 (-9)	2,512 (-34)	48,027 (-16)	13,515 (-16)
Leather, wood and cork products	1 210 (-6)	5 843 (-20)	501 (-11)	1,832 (-2)	391 (*)	292 (3)	3,017 (-3)	808 (-6)
Textiles (including knitting)	3 466 (-4)	68 149 (-17)	7,642 (-10)	29,826 (-5)	5,320 (-1)	3,066 (-20)	45,854 (-7)	11,595 (-12)
Paper products, printing and publishing	5 768 (-3)	52 060 (-3)	6,935 (13)	15,470 (*)	4,258 (18)	4,752 (-11)	31,414 (3)	11,921 (1)
Chemicals, rubber & non-metallic mineral products	908 (-10)	11 727 (1)	1,784 (14)	9,745 (31)	2,028 (12)	1,864 (20)	15,421 (25)	3,725 (15)
Plastic products	2 041 (-14)	15 503 (-31)	1,502 (-29)	4,896 (-18)	1,082 (-19)	980 (-38)	8,460 (-23)	2,495 (-34)
Basic metals, fabricated metal products, machinery & equipment	10 709 (-5)	91 887 (-12)	11,126 (-4)	42,671 (*)	6,778 (8)	7,894 (-3)	68,468 (*)	19,249 (-4)
Electrical & electronic products	593 (-13)	39 974 (-13)	5,357 (-1)	26,063 (-14)	4,458 (8)	6,898 (15)	42,775 (-7)	12,621 (8)
Other manufacturing industries	2 835 (5)	19 447 (-13)	2,023 (-5)	8,045 (-20)	1,063 (-10)	1,378 (-3)	12,510 (-16)	3,417 (-5)
All manufacturing industries	31 988 (-7)	433 672 (-14)	49,797 (-4)	178,323 (-7)	34,638 (4)	33,432 (-6)	296,190 (-5)	86,536 (-5)

Notes : (1) There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items and the total as shown in the table due to rounding.

(2) Figures in brackets represent percentage changes in 1994 over 1993.

(3) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an industry to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product.

(4) The "Number of person engaged" are 'full-year equivalent' figures, i.e. for an establishment which operated for only part of 1994, the number of persons engaged as at the end of the quarters during which the establishment operated are summed up and divided by 4.

* Changes within +/- 0.5%

Fees for aircraft noise certificates revised

* * * * *

A Government spokesman announced today (Thursday) that the fees payable in respect of application for the grant of aircraft noise certificates and the issue of duplicate aircraft noise certificates under the Civil Aviation (Aircraft Noise) Ordinance would be increased from November 1.

The spokesman said: "An aircraft noise certificate is required under the Convention on International Civil Aviation to be carried on board the aircraft on international flights as evidence of compliance with international standards of noise emission.

"Under the Civil Aviation (Aircraft Noise) (Certification) Regulation, the owner or operator of an aircraft registered in Hong Kong may apply to the Director of Civil Aviation for the grant of an aircraft noise certificate in relation to that aircraft."

He said: "The existing fees for the air noise certificates were introduced in 1987 based on a very rough estimate of the time required in vetting technical documentation. A recent costing exercise shows that they are substantially below cost.

"As it is Government's policy that fees should in general be set at levels sufficient to recover the full cost of providing the services, we therefore propose to revise the fees based on the costing results.

"The new fees will have minimal impact on the operating cost of airlines as an aircraft noise certificate is issued only to owner or operator of an aircraft registered in Hong Kong and only once in the lifetime of an aircraft. The general public will not be affected," the spokesman added.

Details of the revised fees, to be published in the Gazette tomorrow (Friday) under the Civil Aviation (Aircraft Noise) (Certification) (Amendment) Regulation 1996, are as follows:

<u>Items</u>	<u>Existing Fee Level</u>	<u>Revised Fee Level</u>
1. Grant of a noise certificate limited to a combination or combinations of aircraft and engine types, where a noise certificate has previously been granted in respect of the identical combination or combinations	\$150	\$1,105

2.	Grant of a noise certificate other than in the circumstances referred to in item 1	\$770	\$1,105
3.	Issue of duplicate noise certificate	\$ 65	\$ 580

End

Grading of beach water quality

* * * * *

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Thursday) announced the latest gradings of Hong Kong's beaches, based on the bacteriological water quality, for the 1996 swimming season.

The purpose of the grading system is to inform swimmers and the general public about the state of bacteriological pollution at various beaches.

The grading, based on the most recent E coli data obtained by EPD in its routine monitoring programme, will be announced biweekly during the bathing season to coincide with the frequency at which beach waters are usually sampled.

As with last year, the grading also includes an estimate of the risk of suffering some minor skin or gastrointestinal complaints as a result of swimming at a beach which has some degree of pollution.

The estimate is based on a large body of statistical information gathered in Hong Kong in recent bathing seasons.

The grading of some beaches may vary during the summer. This represents a natural fluctuation in the bacteriological quality of bathing waters in most cases, as rain and tides bring more or less pollution to the beaches.

However, the grades give a good general picture of the water quality at bathing beaches at the time of reporting and form the best available forecast for the immediate future.

Beaches with highly developed hinterlands are likely to be more polluted than the grades suggested during and after heavy rain.

"Bathers should avoid such beaches for two or three days after a storm, longer if the weather remains overcast or less if there is strong sunshine", acting Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Dr Lawrence Wong, said.

The system for grading beach water quality is as follows:

Grade "1" indicates that the water quality is good. The E coli count is no more than 24 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected risk of minor illness to swimmers is undetectable.

Grade "2" indicates that the water quality is fair. The E coli count is no more than 180 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 10 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "3" indicates that the water quality is poor. The E coli count is no more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "4" indicates that the water quality is very poor. The E coli count is more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

The decision whether or not to close a beach to swimmers is based on a judgement of what degree of pollution is acceptable.

Normally, the closure of a beach would only be considered by the Urban or Regional Council if a grade "4" occurred repeatedly, so that the average health risk over the bathing season exceeded 15 cases per 1,000 swimmers.

At present five gazetted beaches, namely Anglers', Approach, Castle Peak, Rocky Bay and Ting Kau, are closed to swimmers, while Old Cafeteria is re-opened.

The decision to open or close the beaches has been made by the Regional and Urban Councils on the basis of beach water quality monitoring data for 1995. The public are advised not to swim at the closed beaches. They are identified by an "X" in the following list.

The grades of the bacteriological water quality of various beaches in Hong Kong today are listed below:

<u>Beach</u>	<u>Previous Grading</u> (as at 20.6.96)	<u>Present Grading</u> (as at 4.7.96)
<u>Hong Kong South</u>		
Big Wave Bay (S)	3	3
Chung Hom Kok (S)	1	1
Deep Water Bay (S)	1	1
Hairpin (S)	2	2
Middle Bay (S)	2	2
Repulse Bay (S)	1	1
Shek O (S)	2	2
South Bay (S)	1	1
St Stephen's (S)	3	2
Turtle Cove (S)	1	2
Stanley Main (S)	2	2
Rocky Bay	X	X
<u>Tuen Mun District</u>		
Golden Beach	2	2
Old Cafeteria	3	3
New Cafeteria	2	2
Castle Peak	X	X
Kadoorie (S)	3	3
Butterfly (S)	3	3
<u>Sai Kung District</u>		
Clear Water Bay 1st Beach (S)	2	2
Clear Water Bay 2nd Beach (S)	2	2
Hap Mun Bay (S)	1	1
Kiu Tsui (S)	1	1
Silverstrand (S)	2	2
Trio (Hebe Haven) (S)	2	2

Islands District

Cheung Sha Upper	1	1
Cheung Sha Lower	3	3
Discovery Bay*	2	2
Hung Shing Yeh	1	1
Kwun Yam Wan	2	2
Tong Fuk	1	1
Lo So Shing	1	1
Pui O	1	1
Silvermine Bay	2	2
Tung Wan, Cheung Chau (S)	1	2

Tsuen Wan District

Anglers'	X	X
Approach	X	X
Casam (S)	3	3
Gemini	4	3
Hoi Mei Wan	3	3
Lido (S)	3	3
Ting Kau	X	X
Tung Wan, Ma Wan	2	2

Note: "X" The beach has been closed for swimming purposes.

* Non-gazetted beaches.

(S) The beach has a shark-prevention net installed.

The following beaches have changed grading on this occasion:

St Stephen's from "3" to "2", Gemini from "4" to "3"; Tung Wan on Cheung Chau and Turtle Cove from "1" to "2".

The changes are within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of these beaches.

End

Public briefing session on quality school education

* * * * *

Members of the public are invited to take part in a briefing session on July 13 (Saturday) to give their views on how to develop a quality culture in school education.

The briefing, to be held at Queen's College in Causeway Bay at 10 am, is one of the many sessions organised by the Education Commission during its six-week consultation to solicit public views on quality school education. The views expressed will form the basis of the Commission's Report No 7.

Similar briefing sessions have been organised for Legislative Councillors, principals, teachers, school councils and sponsors, advisory boards and committees and district board members in the last few weeks.

A spokesman for the Commission today (Thursday) reminded the public to forward their views before the consultation period ends on July 31.

"Their views will help ensure that the No 7 report contains concrete proposals which would address the genuine needs of the school community and the concerns of the public at large," the spokesman said.

To facilitate the public to consider the issue, the Commission's Task Group on School Quality and School Funding published a consultation pamphlet on the issue last month.

The pamphlet describes briefly the present school system, the roles of the key players in the system and the present funding arrangements.

It also identifies the main constraints of the system including the lack of flexibility and accountability in the funding and school management systems, the lack of appropriate indicators to assess the performance of schools, school sponsoring bodies, school management committees, principals and teachers, and the absence of incentives for schools to take initiatives and accept responsibility for the achievement of quality education.

The pamphlet proposes a new quality culture with clear goals and incentives for improvement, and invites views on:

- * goals and targets of quality school education;
- * ways to relate school funding to performance; and
- * the roles of key players in the school system and the relationship between them.

Copies of the pamphlet are available at all district offices and the sub-offices of the Education Department. It is also available at the following E-mail address: embinfo@emb.gcn.gov.hk.

Interested parties are welcome to forward their views to the Education Commission Secretariat, ninth floor, Central Government Offices (West Wing), 11 Ice House Street, Central (Fax: 2537 4591).

End

Schools reminded of teacher recruitment service

* * * * *

Government-subsidized and private primary and secondary schools are encouraged to make use of the Education Department's computer databank of 2,500 current applicants to help fill teaching vacancies in the 1996-97 school year.

Principal Education Officer, Mr C K Tam, said there were more than 2,500 applicants in the databank of the department's Teacher Recruitment Information Office (TRIO), who had so far this year registered their intention to join the teaching profession in the school year starting in September.

Among them, some 1,550 are degree holders from local and overseas universities. About 580 are graduates from the Hong Kong Institute of Education and another 150 have diplomas from approved post-secondary colleges.

To enlist the assistance of the TRIO databank, all that schools have to do is complete and return to the Education Department a request form specifying their teacher requirements.

Their request will be matched against the qualifications of individual applicants in the TRIO's databank. A list of matching applicants will then be provided to the school.

"Schools will have discretion in arranging interviews with matching applicants and in offering them teaching posts," said Mr Tam.

The relevant forms have been sent to schools via the department's Administration Circular. They are also available upon request from all district education offices and TRIO on 2892 6305 and 2892 5784 or by fax 2892 6304.

End

Video tape on teaching General Studies

* * * * *

To provide training to teachers on teaching General Studies, a video tape and a teacher's manual had been delivered to all primary schools.

A principal inspector of the Education Department, Miss Bau Wai-ngun, said: "The self-learning video on the Teaching of General Studies is produced by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, commissioned by the Curriculum Development Institute.

"It covers the rationale, aims and objectives, organisation of the syllabus, teaching strategies, teaching resources and assessment of students' performance."

Teachers are encouraged to view the video and discuss its contents at occasions like General Studies panel meetings, orientation day for new teachers and staff development day.

General Studies will be fully implemented this September as a core subject in the primary curriculum integrating the subjects of Social Studies, Primary Science and Health Education as recommended in the Education Commission Report No 4.

The syllabus of this new subject had been issued to all primary schools in August 1994.

Further enquiries should be directed to the Humanities Unit of the Curriculum Development Institute on 2892 5858.

End

Promotion of factory inspectorate

* * * * *

The Commissioner for Labour, Miss Jacqueline Willis, today (Thursday) presented promotion letters to Deputy Chief Factory Inspectors Mr Mak Hung-kae and Mr Tse Ming-sing who were both elevated to Chief Factory Inspector with effect from May 29 and June 17, respectively.

Mr Mak is the head of the Support Services Division which is responsible for providing technical support to policy formation and law enforcement, and organising safety promotion activities.

Mr Tse is currently in charge of the Operations Division which is responsible for providing field services to workplaces. It operates on a regional basis so that services to the users can be delivered efficiently.

Another six Divisional Factory Inspectors were recently promoted to Superintendent of Factory Inspectors with effect from June. They are Mr Ng Yuk-loi, Mr Chung Ping-wor, Mr Chung Yiu-cho, Mr Tso Sing-hin, Mr Kwan Ping-kwun and Mr Li Pak-keung.

A group of 32 Factory Inspectors II were also promoted to Factory Inspectors I with effect from June.

End

Port users advised to proceed with extra care

* * * * *

A Marine Department spokesman appealed to masters of all vessels to proceed with extra care in Victoria Harbour tomorrow (Friday) morning when the Public Cargo Working Areas Joint Committee (PCWAJC) stages a procession.

He also advised ferry commuters including those going to Macau and China to plan their journeys well in advance as ferry services may be disrupted because of the procession.

The PCWAJC informed the Marine Department they intend to stage a two-hour procession in Victoria Harbour starting at 8 am tomorrow to protest Marine Department's management reform at the Public Cargo Working Areas.

"To minimise disruption to port users and ferry commuters, the Marine Department has proposed to the committee to start the procession at 10 am," the spokesman said.

"The Marine Department has reminded the tug masters taking part in the procession to observe Marine Department Notice No. 33 of 1996 which advises masters, owners and operators of all vessels engaged in towing within Hong Kong waters the safety regulations," the spokesman said.

They are also reminded of their obligations under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea to keep a proper lookout at all time.

"The department has asked the protesters to keep the tugs and barges in a single file and maintain to the starboard limit of the fairways to minimise disruption to other port users," he said.

The Marine Department and the Marine Police will deploy extra patrol boats to direct the marine traffic.

The Marine Department has informed the Hong Kong Pilots Association, Star Ferry, Hong Kong Ferry, Discovery Bay Transportation Services Limited, and via the management of the Macau Ferry Terminal and China Ferry Terminal, the shipping companies using the terminals of the procession.

The Vessel Traffic Centre will broadcast a message of the procession on the very high frequency radio tomorrow.

End

Chance to see water quality improvement in action

* * * * *

Members of the public will have a chance to see how sewage is treated to improve water quality in the harbour by visiting the three sewage treatment plants of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) this Saturday (July 6).

They can also take the opportunity to understand more about the department's drainage services for the community, its organisation and functions of various branches.

The three sewage treatment plants, which will be opened to public for free admission from 10 am to 5 pm, are:

- * Cheung Sha Wan Sewage Pumping Station, located at the junction of Fat Tseung Street and Tung Chau Street (near Cheung Sha Wan MTR Station);
- * North Point Sewage Screening Plant, located at the junction of Java Road and Man Hong Street (near North Point MTR Station);
- * Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works at Shui Chong Street, Sha Tin (free shuttle bus service from Sha Tin Centre Street fronting Sha Tin Plaza).

Visitors can see the actual operation of the sewage treatment process by joining the tours organised on site.

There will be video shows, demonstrations, panel and model displays with explanations by DSD staff to enable the public to have a better understanding of how DSD is charged with the task of engineering the flow of wastewater and stormwater in the territory.

The public may also have a chance to win souvenirs by taking part in the educational games at the stalls during the visit.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

* * * * *

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,630	0930	+324
Closing balance in the account	1,953	1000	+324
Change attributable to :		1100	+328
Money market activity	+323	1200	+328
LAF today	NIL	1500	+328
		1600	+323

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.4 *-0.0* 4.7.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.24	2 years	2805	6.30	100.13	6.32
1 month	5.20	3 years	3904	6.30	99.22	6.71
3 months	5.26	5 years	5106	7.23	100.13	7.33
6 months	5.47	7 years	7305	7.60	100.57	7.63
12 months	5.79	5 years	M502	7.30	99.75	7.50

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$6,524 million

Closed July 4, 1996

End