



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**Saturday, September 21, 1996**

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Transcript of CS's media session

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Following is the transcript (English) of the media session given by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, at the Central Government Offices today (Saturday):

CS: Good afternoon everyone. I leave for Australia this evening to begin a one-week promotion tour of Australia. I shall be visiting Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. This will be our first Hong Kong promotion in Australia and one of the main purposes of the visit would be to open our new Economic and Trade Office in Sydney. This building will house not only the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, but will also house the Trade Development Council office and also an office of the Hong Kong Tourists Association.

During my visit, I hope to meet with senior government officials, Australian politicians and leading members of the Australian business community. As part of our activities, we will also be bringing a taste of Hong Kong cuisine and an introduction of Hong Kong culture. I will be returning on Sunday week.

Question: Up to now, some people run for competitions for the post of Chief Executive Hong Kong. You've won very high reputation of Hong Kong people. The opinions say that you are the most representative of Hong Kong people. So do you intend to run for competitions for Chief Executive?

CS: I'm very grateful and extremely encouraged by the degree of support that the community of Hong Kong has given me. But my answer to this question has always been and will always be that I hope very much that if circumstances permit that I will be able to continue to work for the people of Hong Kong after 1997.

Question: ... the specific question this gentleman asked about the Chief Executive ... Tung Chee-hwa came out recently to end speculations about himself. Do you think it's time that you came out to end speculations ...?

CS: I refer to the answer I gave just now. I do wish to be able to continue to serve with the Hong Kong Government after 1997. And I would be delighted if that will happen after 1997. The selection of the Chief Executive is of course a responsibility of the Selection Committee and it is not for me to say who will be the Chief Executive after 1997. But I think the entire community and the civil service are looking for a Chief Executive who has clearly demonstrated leadership qualities, who will defend and stand up for Hong Kong's autonomy and for Hong Kong's interests, and who will be a person acceptable to the community of Hong Kong and respected and supported by the civil service.

Questions: Can you tell us if there is any substance to reports about the possibility of the Governor taking long leave?

CS: I do not think there is any substance to this rumour. The Governor has made it very very clear on many occasions in the past that he will remain the Governor of Hong Kong until June 30, 1997.

End

Parents agree to implementation of sex education in schools

\* \* \* \* \*

A recent survey commissioned by the Committee on Home-School Co-operation revealed that parents generally agreed to the implementation of sex education in schools.

Entitled "Parents' view on Sex Education", the survey was conducted by the City University of Hong Kong. A total of 500 parents from a sample of 41 secondary schools were interviewed.

The survey was a follow-up action of a book review on obscene comics by members of Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) last year.

The review showed that young people obtained negative sex materials through various channels such as comics and computer.

Members of PTA urged the Education Department to review the curriculum of sex education and provide students with updated knowledge in order to tie in with the changes of information technology.

End

### Pharmacists registration examinations results announced

\* \* \* \* \*

Results of the registration examinations for pharmacists held in June were announced by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong today (Saturday).

Sixty-three, 86 and 72 candidates had sat for the examinations in Pharmacy Legislation in Hong Kong, Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacology respectively with corresponding passing rates of 60.3, 52.3 and 47.2 per cent.

Apart from meeting other conditions set by the Board, a pharmacy graduate returning from overseas who intends to be registered as a pharmacist in Hong Kong is required to pass all the three subjects.

The Board conducts its examinations twice a year, normally in June and December.

End

### Chief Secretary departs for Australia

\* \* \* \* \*

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, will leave Hong Kong this (Saturday) evening for a seven-day visit to Australia to launch the first Hong Kong promotion in the country.

The Chief Secretary is leading a delegation to Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne and will return to Hong Kong on September 29. The delegation comprises more than a dozen of Hong Kong leading businessmen and senior government officials.

The visit is aimed at strengthening the already flourishing ties between the two communities, enhancing trade partnership and boosting Australian confidence in Hong Kong's future. The promotion is co-organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA).

During the visit, Mrs Chan will meet senior Australian politicians, government officials, business and community leaders.

Mrs Chan will first visit Sydney where she will officially open the Hong Kong Economic Trade Office on September 23. The office has been in operation since October last year to strengthen Hong Kong's economic and trade links with Australia and New Zealand.

At the same occasion, Mrs Chan will sign the Hong Kong/Australia Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

While in Sydney on September 24, Mrs Chan will deliver a keynote speech at a business luncheon organised by HKTDC, visit a children's hospital and meet Hong Kong student groups.

In the evening, Mrs Chan will attend a pop concert featuring leading Hong Kong Television Broadcasts Ltd singers and artistes at Sydney Town Hall. About 1,500 spectators will attend the concert. The programme will be televised in Australia and Hong Kong.

The Chief Secretary will visit Canberra on September 25. In the Australian capital, She will meet members of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and other parliamentarians. She will also deliver a keynote speech at a luncheon hosted by the National Press Club.

On the following day, Mrs Chan will set off for the last leg of the visit, Melbourne. There, she will call on the Premier of Victoria, Mr Jeff Kennett, the Governor of Victoria, Mr Richard Elgin; and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor Ivan Deveson.

She will deliver keynote speeches at a HKTDC business luncheon and a dinner hosted by the Asialink Centre of Melbourne University on September 26.

In Sydney and Melbourne, the business delegates will join Mrs Chan in roundtable discussions with local business leaders. The Chief Secretary will also be conducting media interviews and having editorial board meetings with leading Australian newspapers.

Mrs Chan will return to Hong Kong on September 29.

End

Monitors' report submitted to CS

\* \* \* \* \*

The monitors appointed to observe the Tai A Chau Detention Centre decantation operation this (Saturday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The three monitors comprised a non-official Justice of the Peace, Mr Lam Hang-fai; and representatives from two non-government organisations, Mr Tai Kie-ying from Christian Action and Ms Mabel Au from Oxfam.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\* \* \* \* \*

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time</u> <u>(hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>change</u> <u>(\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,331	09:30	-175
Closing balance in the account	1,816	10:00	-175
Change attributable to:		11:00	-175
Money market activity	-175	11:30	-175
LAF today	-340		

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 \*+0.0\* 21.9.96

End

### Ma On Shan Water Treatment Works near completion

\* \* \* \* \*

Work on the one-billion-dollar Ma On Shan Water Treatment Works at Kwun Hang, New Territories, is on schedule and will be ready for operation by the end of this year.

This is the newest water treatment works in Hong Kong built to meet the anticipated demand generated from the residential and industrial developments in Ma On Shan and parts of Sha Tin, a spokesman for the Water Supplies Department said today (Sunday).

"It will also be used to relieve the existing Sha Tin Water Treatment Works by providing additional capacity to meet the increasing demand from many other parts of the territory.

"The project includes the construction of a treatment plant, a pumping station, a primary service reservoir and the laying of nine kilometres of water mains of diameter ranging from 1,000 millimetres to 1,400 millimetres.

"The majority of the building work for the principal structures is nearing completion and the electrical and mechanical work is well advanced," he said.

The water mains for transferring water from the treatment works to Sha Tin have also been substantially completed.

Construction of the treatment work started in May 1994 and when commissioned will add a capacity of 227,000 cubic metres per day to the Water Supplies Department's overall treatment capacity.

End

Monitors' report submitted to CS

\* \* \* \* \*

The monitors appointed to observe the Tai A Chau Detention Centre decantation operation this (Sunday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary today.

The three monitors comprised a non-official Justice of the Peace, Dr Tam Wing-kun; and representatives from two non-governmental organisations, Ms Harriet Sewell from Christian Action and Mr Thierry Taveaux from Medecins Sans Frontieres.

End

Fresh water cut in Yau Tong

\* \* \* \* \*

The fresh water supply to some premises in Yau Tong will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (September 25) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect:

- \* Blocks 1-9, Yau Tong Estate,
- \* both sides of Lei Yue Mun Road between Kwun Tong (Lei Yue Mun Road ) Estate and Yau Tong Road,
- \* Blocks 1-17, Sceneway Garden,
- \* Lam Tin MTR Station, and
- \* Lam Tin Ambulance Depot.

End