



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR TO PRESENT FIRST POLICY ADDRESS .....	1
CONSULTATION ON ANTI-SMOKING PROPOSALS DUE TO END .....	2
IMPACT OF U.S.-CHINA TRADE TIES ON HONG KONG .....	2
TRADE OFFICIALS TO VISIT TAIPEI .....	4
PROPER LABELLING REQUIRED FOR PREPACKAGED FOOD .....	4
NEW PUBLIC LIGHT BUS ROUTE IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN .....	5
STUDENTS INVITED TO JOIN READING AWARD SCHEME .....	5

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1992

- 1 -

GOVERNOR TO PRESENT FIRST POLICY ADDRESS  
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL PRESENT HIS FIRST POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 7) WHEN HE OPENS THE 1992-93 SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.

MR PATTEN WILL BEGIN HIS ADDRESS AT 2.30 PM. THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON ALL FOUR TELEVISION CHANNELS, AS WELL AS ON RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG 1 AND 5, COMMERCIAL RADIO AND METRO RADIO.

COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM 4 PM THAT DAY AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

A SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.

IN THE EVENING, MR PATTEN WILL GIVE A FIVE-MINUTE BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TELEVISION ON THE MAIN AREAS OF HIS POLICY ADDRESS.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

A SPECIAL CLOSED WORKING SESSION WILL BE ARRANGED ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 7) IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELDS HOUSE TO ENABLE MEDIA MEMBERS TO WORK ON ADVANCE COPIES OF THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS. THE SESSION WILL START AT NOON AND WILL LAST UNTIL 4 PM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WORKING ON ADVANCE COPIES OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM WITH THEIR COPIES UNTIL THE GOVERNOR HAS DELIVERED HIS SPEECH.

YOU ARE REMINDED THAT CONTENTS OF THE POLICY ADDRESS ARE ALSO EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AT THE CLOSED WORKING SESSION. SOUND FEED IS AVAILABLE INSIDE THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM.

THE SAME AFTERNOON, THE GOVERNOR WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 4.30 PM IN THE MULTI-PURPOSE HALL AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE. PRESS MEMBERS SHOULD ARRIVE BY 4 PM.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1992

- 2 -

CONSULTATION ON ANTI-SMOKING PROPOSALS DUE TO END

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED TO SEND IN THEIR VIEWS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS TO FURTHER RESTRICT THE USE, SALE AND PROMOTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

A CONSULTATION PAPER CONTAINING FURTHER PROPOSALS ON ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES WAS PUBLISHED IN AUGUST THIS YEAR TO GAUGE PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS FUTURE POLICY DIRECTION.

THE PROPOSALS INCLUDE BANNING THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO MINORS, THE PROHIBITION OF TOBACCO ADVERTISING IN PRINTED PUBLICATIONS AND FOR DISPLAY ON BILLBOARDS AND SIGNS, AS WELL AS THE PROHIBITION IN CERTAIN MEDIA ANY ADVERTISEMENT THAT WOULD RECALL A TOBACCO BRAND NAME.

THE CONSULTATION PAPER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY SIX DISTRICT BOARDS OR THEIR COMMITTEES.

"SO FAR, WE HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT 100 SUBMISSIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS, MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, MEDICAL BODIES, ADVERTISING COMPANIES AND VARIOUS OTHER ORGANISATIONS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

OF THE VIEWS RECEIVED, MOST HAD ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE THE GOVERNMENT'S GOAL TO DISCOURAGE SMOKING.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING MORE SUBMISSIONS AS THE CONSULTATION IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE," HE SAID.

COPIES OF THE CONSULTATION PAPER ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES, PUBLIC HOSPITALS, CLINICS, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICES AND THE OFFICE OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH AT 266 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.

VIEWS IN WRITING SHOULD BE SENT TO THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, SEVENTH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 31.

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IMPACT OF U.S.-CHINA TRADE TIES ON HONG KONG

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, LOOKED AT THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WITH ITS TWO LARGEST TRADING PARTNERS - CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES - IN HIS SPEECH AT THE CHICAGO COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TODAY (MONDAY).

THESE ECONOMIC TIES WERE IMMENSELY VALUABLE TO HONG KONG, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THEY MADE THE TERRITORY VULNERABLE TO U.S.-CHINA TRADE FRICTION, HE SAID.

/MR CHAU .....

MR CHAU NOTED THAT HONG KONG WAS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE PROGRESS OF MARKET ACCESS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA - THE SO-CALLED SECTION 301 ACTION.

"HONG KONG AND AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS WOULD BE HURT BY ANY U.S. RETALIATION AGAINST CHINA, AND BY ANY CHINESE COUNTER-RETALIATION," HE SAID.

HE SAID HONG KONG HOPED THAT CHINA AND THE U.S. COULD REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT LIKE THEY DID EARLY THIS YEAR, ON THE PROTECTION OF U.S. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN CHINA.

"THE ISSUE OF WHETHER CHINESE PRODUCTS WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM MOST-FAVoured-NATION (MFN) RATES OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS WHEN IMPORTED INTO THE U.S. HAS BEEN A THORNY ONE IN RECENT YEARS," HE SAID.

MFN IS CLEARLY THE WRONG TOOL FOR SOLVING TRADE OR NON-TRADE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF 1997 FOR HONG KONG, MR CHAU SAID MANY HONG KONG EMIGRANTS WERE NOW RETURNING.

AT THE SAME TIME, PRACTICAL STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF TALENT, INCLUDING SCHEMES FOR PRACTICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND FOR COMPANIES TO BRING IN TALENT FROM ABROAD.

HE EMPHASISED THAT HONG KONG WAS APPROACHING THE FUTURE FROM A POSITION OF IMPRESSIVE FINANCIAL STRENGTH, THANKS TO THE STRONG GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY AND TO PRUDENT MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC PURSE.

THE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY MADE PUBLIC A FIGURE THAT HAD HITHERTO BEEN ONE OF HONG KONG'S BEST KEPT SECRETS - THE SIZE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND WHICH HOLDS THE BULK OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL ASSETS, INCLUDING FISCAL RESERVES AND THE BACKING TO THE NOTE AND COIN ISSUE.

AT THE END OF 1991, THE FUND STOOD AT ABOUT \$30 BILLION, OF WHICH \$29 BILLION ARE FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS.

"THE MUTUAL BENEFIT WHICH HONG KONG AND CHINA DERIVE FROM EACH OTHER IS ONE OF THE BEST GUARANTEES OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE AS A HIGHLY AUTONOMOUS SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CHINA," HE ADDED.

"THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION GUARANTEES THAT AFTER 1997, HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE TRADE AND ECONOMIC DECISIONS ON ITS OWN.

"I BELIEVE THAT IT IS BY REMAINING AS AN AUTONOMOUS TRADING PARTNER AND A SEPARATE ECONOMIC ENTITY THAT HONG KONG CAN RETAIN ITS VITALITY AND DYNAMISM AND THEREBY CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS CURRENT ROLE," HE SAID.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF FREE TRADE AND FREE ENTERPRISE LONG AFTER 1997 HAS PASSED INTO HISTORY," HE ADDED.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1992

- 4 -

TRADE OFFICIALS TO VISIT TAIPEI

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THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR JOHN C TSANG, AND TRADE OFFICER MR ALLEN PANG WILL LEAVE FOR TAIPEI TOMORROW (TUESDAY) FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT.

"THE VISIT, CONDUCTED UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC), IS PART OF HONG KONG'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO INTENSIFY CONTACTS WITH OTHER APEC PARTICIPANTS ON TRADE-RELATED MATTERS," A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"DURING THE VISIT, WE HOPE TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CHINESE TAIPEI'S TRADING REGIME AND TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC TRADE BARRIERS FACING IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

THE TWO OFFICIALS WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON OCTOBER 8.

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PROPER LABELLING REQUIRED FOR PREPACKAGED FOOD

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FOOD MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS MUST PROPERLY LABEL OR MARK PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS, WHETHER COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY PACKED AS REQUIRED BY THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT OFFENDERS MAY BE FINED A MAXIMUM OF \$25,000 AND JAILED UP TO SIX MONTHS.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE FOLLOWING RECENT COURT CASES IN WHICH THREE RETAILERS PLEADED GUILTY TO CHARGES OF SELLING IMPROPERLY LABELLED PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FINED BETWEEN \$450 AND \$1,000.

THE PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS NOT PROPERLY MARKED INCLUDED ROASTED ONIONS, CHOCOLATE COOKIES, CHERRY TOMATOES, GREEN GRAPES AND PRESERVED GINGER.

THE PACKINGS DID NOT SHOW THE NAME OR DESIGNATION OF THE FOOD, THE INGREDIENTS, AN INDICATION OF THE FOODS' MINIMUM DURABILITY, THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER OR PACKER AND THE QUANTITY OR NET WEIGHT OF THE CONTENTS AS REQUIRED BY THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1992

- 5 -

NEW PUBLIC LIGHT BUS ROUTE IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT A NEW PUBLIC LIGHT BUS (SCHEDULED) ROUTE 45 RUNNING BETWEEN SAI YING PUN AND STAR FERRY (CONNAUGHT PLACE) ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL COME INTO SERVICE FROM 7 AM ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 7).

THE OPERATION HOURS WILL BE FROM 7 AM TO 7.45 PM. THE FARE WILL BE \$4 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

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STUDENTS INVITED TO JOIN READING AWARD SCHEME

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS INVITING SECONDARY STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN THE 1993 READING AWARD SCHEME.

THE SCHEME IS AIMED AT HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP A GOOD READING HABIT AND PROMOTING THE USE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY.

THE AWARDS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS: SENIOR GROUP FOR SECONDARY 4 AND 5 STUDENTS, AND JUNIOR GROUP FOR THOSE IN SECONDARY 1 TO 3.

ENTRANTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ NO LESS THAN 10 LIBRARY BOOKS, INCLUDING AT LEAST THREE ENGLISH AND THREE CHINESE BOOKS BETWEEN THIS MONTH AND APRIL 1993.

THEY ARE REQUIRED TO WRITE AN ESSAY OF 700 TO 1,000 WORDS ON ONE OF THE BOOKS FOR THE SENIOR GROUP AND 400 TO 700 WORDS FOR THE JUNIOR GROUP.

THEY MAY ALSO DESIGN THE COVER FOR ONE OF THE BOOKS THAT THEY HAVE READ AND WRITE AN ARTICLE OF 100 TO 150 WORDS EXPLAINING THE DESIGN AND ITS RELATION TO THE THEME OF THE BOOK.

BOOK COUPONS WORTH \$300 TO \$2,000 WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNING ENTRANTS.

A TOTAL OF 34,000 STUDENTS TOOK PART IN 1992.

THE SCHEME IS SPONSORED BY SHUN HING EDUCATION AND CHARITY FUND LTD.

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