



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,  
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Dear DIB Clients

I write to thank you for your support over the past years in subscribing to the Daily Information Bulletin (DIB).

In the meantime, I am glad to inform you that DIB has now been uploaded onto the Hong Kong Government Home Page on the Internet (<http://www.info.gov.hk/isd/news/index.htm>) from April 1, 1997.

This arrangement has ensured that existing DIB subscribers as well as the general public can have quicker access to the press releases issued daily by the Hong Kong Government through the Information Superhighway.

Following the upgrading of services, the DIB will no longer be printed in hard copies and distributed by post to subscribers with effect from May 1, 1997.

This decision will do good to the community at large in terms of environmental protection as 3.1 million sheets of A4-size paper will be saved each year, not to mention the saving of postage and large quantity of ink for printing.

If you wish to have the DIB sent directly to your Internet e-mail account, please complete and return the attached slip to GIS, 8th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, before May 1, 1997 or by fax through 2845 9078. You can, of course, provide your e-mail account to us through our Internet mail account : [isdnews@isd.gcn.gov.hk](mailto:isdnews@isd.gcn.gov.hk).

It is the policy of this department that we should aim at running a paperless office in the long run, but if you have difficulties in the new arrangements, please contact the undersigned at 2842 8738.

*Robert Yip*

(Robert YIP)

for Director of Information Services

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**Return Slip**

To : GIS, 8th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong  
(Attn : Robert Yip)

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Sunday, April 20, 1997

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The Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

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Following is the text of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on RTHK's "Letter to Hong Kong" this (Sunday) morning:

Last weekend, with my work finished and with the rain outside discouraging any more athletic entertainment, I settled down to read a book written at the end of the 1980s by an American called Francis Fukuyama. It's entitled "The End of History", and it's been pretty widely panned since publication by those who've pointed out that there still seems to be quite a bit of History going on.

Actually, this is a rather unfair reaction to a book the title of which is a lot more easy to read than the contents. Too easy, maybe. What the author actually says is that there'll still be plenty of action around the globe, not least the result of ethnic and nationalist tensions, but that with the collapse of totalitarian ideologies the intellectual field has been left open to those who believe in liberal democratic values. The future, he says, belongs to these values and to those who espouse and practise them.

Broadly speaking I'd go along with that, but not on the assumption that all is now settled, that there's no more to say or do. Actually, there's a lot to say and do to make sure that as many people as possible enjoy political and economic liberty. And the words which argue for that, and the actions which help to achieve it, will be the stuff of history - unending history - in the years ahead.

You see, people can and do make a difference. Let me explain.

In the last few weeks, we've witnessed a vigorous debate about civil liberties in Hong Kong. Chinese officials decided that Hong Kong has too much freedom and that it needs to be curtailed. Not because the laws which protect our freedoms infringe the Basic Law. They don't. Not because they have undermined our stability. They haven't - even some of those who advocate the changes seem to be admitting at the same time that Hong Kong is a very stable, moderate place. Nor can it be said that exercising our civil liberties as we do has made us less prosperous. That proposition is absurd. No, the decision seems to be based on their wish to have a tighter control over life here. They don't - they should but they don't - they don't yet trust Hong Kong.

Now the community didn't simply take that lying down. It didn't react violently or irrationally or irresponsibly. But people spoke-up. In newspaper columns. In petitions and letters. In radio phone-ins. And Hong Kong's lawyers and some of Hong Kong's politicians gave a lead. The message was crystal clear, and more persuasive because it was put so rationally and calmly.

The result is that Hong Kong was promised a consultation exercise, and the document to launch that dialogue was published last week. Now we must all assume that the consultation is genuine. That it's not just a political tactic. So if people still feel strongly about the issue, as they seem to do, I hope they'll speak up. And I hope they'll be listened to. Unless the community has suddenly undergone a complete conversion, we know what the message will be.

And then what? Some people say, "It doesn't matter what we say. Minds are made up. Chinese officials have laid down the law and we've just got to make the best of it."

You know I'm not sure that's true. Indeed it mustn't be true. Chinese officials are forever saying that it's for Hong Kong to decide how to manage these things. So if Hong Kong decides that it wants things to remain as they are, then Hong Kong's future government should relay that unequivocal message to Peking. It should say, very simply, "You may not like this, but we have to tell you that Hong Kong wants things to stay as they are. Do please trust Hong Kong to behave sensibly and responsibly. If you trust Hong Kong to do that, I'm sure it will."

If no one is prepared to say that, then what are we to conclude about the consultation, and what are we to conclude about Hong Kong's autonomy and about the promises that Hong Kong's way of life will be preserved?

I wonder, incidentally, what the results would have been if there had been a proper consultation about whether, and if so how, our arrangements for electing the Legislative Council should be changed. Record numbers of people registered for those elections and voted in them. They know that the elections were fair. As do the candidates who stood in them - winners and losers. Some of those defeated candidates - now members of the provisional legislature - admitted at the time that the rules of the game had been fair and they were content to abide by the outcome.

So would people in Hong Kong have pressed for change? No, the changes proposed are China-driven not Hong Kong driven, that's why the Preparatory Committee is in the driving seat. Why is change necessary? Not because there are any breaches of the Joint Declaration or Basic Law. Not because the present arrangements threaten the good administration of Hong Kong. But because these arrangements produce what some people regard as the wrong results.

We know more or less without all the meetings in Peking what will emerge from these discussions. I've said for months that the package of proposals will be similar to the sort of arrangements that we refused to accept in the negotiations in 1993. The Election Committee will be a body which officials have already selected. There will be a sharp reduction in the number who can vote in the functional constituencies. And most important there will be a multi-member single vote system in the geographical constituencies.

Why you may ask will they do that? Some people say that it's to introduce a bit more proportionality into our system. That might be a relevant argument if all our seats were directly elected. But only a third of these are directly elected. And look at the way in which the functional constituencies and the election committee ensure the representation - some would say over-representation - of particular interest groups.

The real reason for advocating a multi member single seat system is, as I said in 1993, to reduce the number of pro-democracy candidates who can get elected. Today 17 out of the 20 geographical constituencies are represented by pro-democracy candidates. For some that is the beginning and the end of the argument. I do hope that Hong Kong will be given the chances to speak out on this, and that it will do so with the same eloquent confidence it has shown in recent weeks.

Above and beyond these controversies, every week something happens in Hong Kong to remind us all what a great place this is. Next weekend we'll be opening the bridges to Lantau and all the roads and tunnels associated with them. That's a reminder of how much Hong Kong can do, at a spectacular pace, when we're left to get on with things ourselves. With so much good happening here, with so much good to show about ourselves, why embroil Hong Kong in these unnecessary arguments which so worry our friends and partners overseas, as well as worrying us?

In any event, how much difference will any of these mistaken changes really make? If you try to turn the clock back, you have to recognise that there is a price to pay, and that sooner or later, whatever you do, the hour hand and the minute hand will move relentlessly forward again. History hasn't ended in Hong Kong. There are men and women here who will write an even more successful next chapter in our story.

End

### Industry Department delegation visits Beijing and Xi'an

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The Director-General of Industry, Mr Francis Ho, leaves today (Sunday) for a seven-day visit to Beijing and Xi'an. He is joined by officers of the Industry Department.

The delegation will be meeting officials from the Science & Technology Commission, the Planning Commission, the Commission of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade at the state, provincial and municipal levels. It will be briefed on the latest economic and industrial development of China and the two cities.

The delegation will also visit high and new technology development zones and a number of factories.

"Given the close ties between Hong Kong and China, contacts with Chinese officials and enterprises will help foster a better mutual understanding and facilitate further co-operation between the two places," Mr Ho said.

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### Applications invited for the Music Training Scheme

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The Education Department invites secondary principals and music teachers to nominate students to participate in the Centralised Scheme of Music Training for Senior Secondary Students.

An inspector of the Music Section of the Advisory Inspectorate, Education Department, Mrs M L Lam, said the aim of the scheme is to provide an opportunity for full-time students who will include music in their senior secondary and sixth form studies.

Organised by the Education Department, the scheme will offer Certificate of Education Music Course, Advanced Supplementary Level Music Course and Advanced Level Music Course.

The Certificate of Education Music Course follows the syllabus requirement of the Certificate of Education Examination in Music. Enrolment will be restricted to full-time students presently studying in Secondary 3.

The Advanced Supplementary Level and Advanced Level Music Courses also follow syllabus requirement of the respective examinations. Enrolment will be restricted to full-time students starting their sixth form studies this September.

The two-year music courses will be held at selected government schools outside school hours, Mrs Lam said.

Prospective nominees should seek the prior consent from parents, she added.

"No fees will be charged but students are expected to purchase prescribed study scores, related recordings and resource materials for private study," she said.

Applicants for the Certificate of Education Music Course will be invited to sit for a selection test in mid-July, and those apply for the two other courses may also be required to pass an admission test.

The closing date for application is May 17. For enquiries, please dial 2892 6507.

End

#### Water cut in Mong Kok and Yuen Long

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Mong Kok will be suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (April 23) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Lai Chi Kok Road, Cedar Street, Ki Lung Street and Boundary Street.

Meanwhile, fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Yuen Long will also be suspended during the same period.

The suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Yuen Long On Ning Road, Tung Lok Street, Castle Peak Road and Shan Piu River, including Tai Kiu Tsuen and Yuen Long Estate.

End