



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1987

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MINISTER LOOKS AT REFUGEES, BORDER FACILITIES

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THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, LORD GLENARTHUR, SPENT HIS FOURTH AND FINAL DAY IN HONG KONG VISITING TWO VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMPS, THE BORDER AT MAN KAM TO AND THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT DEPOT AT FANLING.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, LORD GLENARTHUR WENT TO THE KAI TAK OPEN REFUGEE CENTRE AT KOWLOON BAY IN THE MORNING.

THEY WERE MET ON ARRIVAL BY OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES WHICH RUNS THE CENTRE, AND SAW THE VARIOUS FACILITIES THERE. THE CAMP WAS OPENED IN JULY 1979 AND IS CURRENTLY HOUSING MORE THAN 3,000 REFUGEES.

THE MINISTER AND SIR DAVID THEN FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO THE TUEN MUN CLOSED CENTRE AND WERE MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK. THE CENTRE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE BOWRING CLOSED CENTRE, WAS OPENED IN MARCH 1985.

DURING THE TOUR OF THE CENTRE, WHICH AT PRESENT HOLDS 1,500 REFUGEES, LORD GLENARTHUR AND SIR DAVID SAW VARIOUS FACILITIES INCLUDING DORMITORIES, A HOSPITAL, A TUCK SHOP AND A CANTEEN.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE VISIT, LORD GLENARTHUR SAID THAT DESPITE THE PRESSURE THAT THE VR'S HAD BROUGHT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, "THEY ARE BEING EXCEEDINGLY WELL LOOKED AFTER".

HE SAID THE STAFF OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHOM HE SPOKE TO THIS MORNING WERE CLEARLY DEDICATED TO MAKING THE VERY BEST OF THE RATHER DIFFICULT LIVES THAT PEOPLE HAD TO LIVE IN VR CAMPS.

"I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD AND I PARTICULARLY WANTED TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT THE CONDITIONS WERE, TO TALK TO PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE CAMPS, TALK TO THE CHILDREN EVEN, SEE PEOPLE LEARNING ENGLISH, LEARNING ALL SORTS OF THINGS, LEARNING FRENCH, BEING GENERALLY EDUCATED, AND BROUGHT ALONG AND LOOKED AFTER VERY CARINGLY BY THE OTHER WELFARE AGENCIES, SUCH AS ON THE MEDICAL SIDE," HE SAID.

"MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE CONDITIONS ARE EXTREMELY GOOD, GIVEN THE CONSTRAINTS THAT OBVIOUSLY MUST EXIST IN A CLOSED CAMP," HE ADDED.

LORD GLENARTHUR LATER FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO THE BORDER. HE WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT MAN KAM TO BY THE COMMANDER OF THE 48 GURKHA INFANTRY BRIGADE, BRIGADIER RAY PETT, THE POLICE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, MR GEORGE HINDHAUGH; AND THE POLICE DEPUTY REGIONAL COMMANDER, NEW TERRITORIES, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN GOULDSMITH.

/BEFORE TRYING

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BEFORE TRYING OUT SOME OF THE ARMY'S LATEST SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, LORD GLENARTHUR WAS BRIEFED ON THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION SITUATION BY THE ACTING POLICE FRONTIER DISTRICT COMMANDER, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK CHEUNG, AND THE MILITARY DEPLOYMENT ALONG THE BORDER BY BRIGADIER PETT.

HE WAS TOLD THAT ABOUT 18,000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND REPATRIATED TO CHINA SO FAR THIS YEAR.

THE MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, THEN FLEW TO THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT DEPOT AT FANLING.

THERE HE SAW A DEMONSTRATION BY MEMBERS OF THE UNIT AND WAS BRIEFED BY THE COMMANDANT OF THE TRAINING CENTRE, MR VINCENT CHAPMAN, ON POLICE INTERNAL SECURITY TRAINING.

IN THE AFTERNOON, LORD GLENARTHUR WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE LEAVING FOR MANILA TO CONTINUE HIS ASIAN TOUR.

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QUARTERLY TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS FIGURES RELEASED

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ABOUT 42 PER CENT OF THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WERE ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST QUARTERLY REPORT RELEASED BY TCU TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE REPORT, WHICH COVERS THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, SHOWED THAT OUT OF 1,733 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY TCU DURING THE PERIOD, 719 WERE ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES. THEY ARE STILL THE LARGEST SINGLE GROUP OF COMPLAINTS HANDLED BY TCU.

TCU WAS SET UP UNDER THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AND MONITOR COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON TRANSPORT MATTERS.

COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF 1,556 RECORDED IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, THERE WAS AN 11 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS. IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF THE PRECEDING YEAR, A TOTAL OF 1,734 COMPLAINTS WERE REGISTERED.

OF THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, 170 WERE ON THE ADEQUACY OF SUCH SERVICES. THEY AROSE FROM PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE EXISTING FREQUENCY OF SERVICE OR TO INTRODUCE NEW ROUTES AND EXTEND EXISTING ROUTES.

^THERE WERE

THERE WERE 14 COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF BUS SERVICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND WHICH WERE MAINLY FROM COMMUTERS USING THE BUS ROUTES ALONG THE NORTHERN SHORELINE OF THE ISLAND.

IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE 96 COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF BUS SERVICE WERE MAINLY RELATED TO MTR OR KCR FEEDER BUS ROUTES AND EXPRESS BUS ROUTES, MANY OF WHICH ARE SERVING THE NEW TOWNS OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, TAI PO, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE STANDARD OF SERVICE OF THE VARIOUS MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT MADE UP 519 CASES OR 72 PER CENT OF THE CASES INVOLVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES. THESE COMPLAINTS WERE TAKEN UP INDIVIDUALLY WITH THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS CONCERNED (NAMELY THE BUS COMPANIES, FERRY COMPANIES AND RAILWAY CORPORATIONS) OR THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES (NAMELY TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN RESPECT OF IRREGULARITIES IN GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES AND THE POLICE IN RESPECT OF TAXI MALPRACTICES).

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ERRATIC BUS SERVICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND WERE MAINLY DIRECTED AT BUS ROUTES SERVING THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT AND THE EAST-WEST ROUTES ON THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND. IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, COMPLAINTS ABOUT BUSES NOT KEEPING TO SCHEDULED FREQUENCY WERE MAINLY LEVELLED AT EXTERNAL BUS ROUTES IN KOWLOON EAST AND SHA TIN, YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN.

REGARDING GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES, THE MAIN COMPLAINTS WERE MINIBUSES NOT ADHERING TO APPROVED SCHEDULE OR ROUTEING AND THE MISCONDUCT OF DRIVERS.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT TAXI SERVICE RECEIVED BY TCU IN THE QUARTER TOTALLED 237 CASES AS COMPARED WITH 207 CASES RECORDED IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

AS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, MOST OF THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT TAXI SERVICE WERE CONCERNED WITH MALPRACTICES AND MISCONDUCT OF TAXI DRIVERS, NAMELY TAXI DRIVERS REFUSING HIRE OR SOLICITING PASSENGERS, NOT TAKING THE MOST DIRECT ROUTEING, FAILING TO DRIVE TO DESTINATIONS AND OVERCHARGING.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING ROUTES OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY, TOTALLING 13, WERE ONE MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. THERE WAS ONE COMPLAINT AGAINST THE STAR FERRY CO. LTD. AND ANOTHER THREE AGAINST THE OPERATOR OF THE DISCOVERY BAY-CENTRAL FERRY SERVICE.

THE MAIN AREAS OF COMPLAINT WERE REGULARITY OF SERVICE, CLEANLINESS OF VESSELS AND PASSENGER FACILITIES.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ROAD CONGESTION TOTALLED 365 CASES, DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS : 66 CASES ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 181 CASES IN KOWLOON, 77 CASES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND 41 CASES IN TUNNELS AND AREAS AFFECTED BY LRT WORKS.

/FACTORS WHICH

FACTORS WHICH WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ROAD CONGESTION INCLUDED LOADING AND UNLOADING ACTIVITIES AT KERBSIDE, TRAFFIC ENGINEERING MATTERS, INADEQUATE ROAD CAPACITY AND ROAD WORKS. OF ALL CASES CONCERNING VEHICLE OBSTRUCTION CAUSING CONGESTION, 34 PER CENT AND 39 PER CENT WERE DIRECTED AT LORRIES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES RESPECTIVELY.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES DROPPED FROM 117 TO 95. THE MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN INCLUDED THE OBJECTION TO THE 'NO RIGHT-TURN' ARRANGEMENT FROM FORTRESS METRO TOWER AND FORTRESS GARDEN TO FORTRESS HILL ROAD AND TRAFFIC LIGHT PHASING AT THE JUNCTION OF FO TAN ROAD AND MIN FONG STREET IN SHA TIN.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND ROAD FURNITURE HAD INCREASED FROM 114 CASES IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER TO 159 THIS QUARTER. THE MAJOR AREAS OF COMPLAINT WERE DEFECTIVE ROAD SURFACES, MALFUNCTIONED TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND DAMAGED TRAFFIC SIGNS/AIDS.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CASES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 178 CASES. THEY WERE MAINLY RELATED TO REQUESTS FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL PARKING, ABANDONED VEHICLES AND OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME EFFECTIVE IN CRIME PREVENTION

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THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING CRIME AND STRENGTHENING NEIGHBOURHOOD TIES SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION TO WAN CHAI IN 1985, WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALLAN CHOW, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE FOURTH PHASE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IN THE DISTRICT, MR CHOW SAID THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAMME REFLECTS ITS POPULARITY WITH RESIDENTS.

HE CALLED ON AREA COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES TO GIVE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE SCHEME.

SIX BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE LATEST PHASE OF THE PROJECT. THEY ARE KING TAO BUILDING, DIAMOND BUILDING, EMPIRE COURT, TSUI MAN COURT AND GOLD KING AND GOLD NING BUILDINGS.

PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO SEPT UP COMMUNICATIONS WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS, TO INSTALL BURGLARY ALARM SYSTEMS AND TO MARK THEIR PROPERTIES.

/MORE THAN

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MORE THAN 1,000 RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN 12 BUILDINGS IN WAN CHAI HAVE JOINED DURING OTHER PHASES OF THE SCHEME, AND HAVE ALL EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR SECURITY CONDITIONS, POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR LAU TO-YEE, SAID AT THE CEREMONY.

ANOTHER OUTCOME OF THE PROJECT WAS A CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIP AMONG NEIGHBOURS, ACCORDING TO CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR CHENG HOK-YIN.

THE CONCEPT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME WAS TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN LOOKING AFTER THE HOMES AND PROPERTIES OF THEIR NEIGHBOURS WHEN THEY WERE OUT, HE SAID.

WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME, THE FORMER APATHETIC ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY SOME PEOPLE TOWARDS THOSE WHO LIVE NEXT TO THEM HAVE IMPROVED, HE ADDED.

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PLAY TO SPREAD KEEP CLEAN MESSAGE

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MEMBERS OF THE MONG KOK ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE TODAY (SATURDAY) APPEALED TO RESIDENTS TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT IN A PLAY TO MARK THE LAUNCHING OF THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN.

FOCUSSING ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT, THE PLAY WAS STAGED AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS BRENDA FUNG, SAID "THE SPIRIT OF THE CAMPAIGN IS TO PROMOTE CLEAN AND HAPPY HOMES."

"THIS IS NOT ONLY IN LINE WITH THE THEME OF THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT FESTIVAL, BUT ALSO SUPPORTS THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL."

TO DRIVE HOME THE KEEP CLEAN MESSAGE, A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING TRAINING COURSES IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT, DEMOLITION OF ABANDONED SIGNBOARDS, CLEAN BUILDING COMPETITION AND YEAR-END CLEAN-UP WOULD BE ORGANISED.

MRS FUNG SAID SHE HOPED THAT THE PUBLICITY DRIVE COULD ENHANCE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN STRIVING FOR A BETTER HOME AND A CLEANER COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

/SHE ALSO

SHE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT'S SIX AREA COMMITTEES, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND RESIDENTS FOR THEIR CONCERTED EFFORTS IN LAUNCHING THE CAMPAIGN.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR LAU TAK-KI, SAID THE CAMPAIGN WAS ORGANISED ANNUALLY TO REMIND RESIDENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEANLINESS AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

HE SAID HE HOPED THE KEEP CLEAN MESSAGE WOULD BE SPREAD THROUGH THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE CAMPAIGN.

ALSO TAKING PART AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY WERE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI; CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, MR TAO KWOK-LAU AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR HO KWANG-HUNG.

THE CAMPAIGN, TO LAST UNTIL FEBRUARY, IS SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD.

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TUEN MUN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CLOSED

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THE 71-DAY SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT, CAME TO AN END TONIGHT (SATURDAY) FOLLOWING A CLOSING CEREMONY AND A VARIETY SHOW AT THE DISTRICT'S TOWN HALL.

FEATURING A NUMBER OF POPULAR SONGS BY THE EQUATOR BAND AND CHINESE FOLK DANCES BY THE TUEN MUN ARTS PROMOTION ASSOCIATION, THE VARIETY SHOW WAS ONE OF THE 500 EVENTS OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME PARTICIPATED BY SOME 20,000 LOCAL YOUTHS.

THE SUMMER PROGRAMME WITH A THEME OF "SHARE THE FUN, SERVE THE COMMUNITY" COMPRISED A VARIETY OF EVENTS RANGING FROM DANCING AND MUSIC CLASSES, FILM SHOWS, PICNICS, VISITS, CAMPING TO GAMES DAY.

THE BUDGET FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME WAS \$256,000 WITH \$187,000 SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND THE REST FUNDED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD.

THE OFFICIATING GUESTS AT TONIGHT'S CLOSING CEREMONY INCLUDED TUEN MUN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDWARD YAU; REGIONAL COUNCILLOR, MR NG MING-YUM; CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN ARTS PROMOTION ASSOCIATION, MR TANG TUNG-CHIU; DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER, MR TAM CHUN-KIT; AND POLICE COMMUNITY RELATION OFFICER, MR HO HON-CHEUNG.

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NEW WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND ACCESS ROAD
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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND SERVICE RESERVOIR AT AU TAU, YUEN LONG, TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN DISTRICTS.

A WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SATURDAY) SAID PRESENT FACILITIES SERVING THE TWO DISTRICTS WOULD BE FULLY COMMITTED BY 1989.

INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT IS CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-METRE WIDE ACCESS ROAD LINKING THE TREATMENT WORKS WITH THE SERVICE RESERVOIR.

OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS INCLUDE RETAINING WALLS, DRAINAGE AND PASSING BAYS.

ABOUT 450,000 CUBIC METRES OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL WILL BE REMOVED TO ACCOMMODATE THE RESERVOIR PLUS AN AREA FOR ITS FUTURE EXTENSION.

THE INITIAL CAPACITY OF THE RESERVOIR WILL BE 30,000 CUBIC METRES AND POTABLE WATER WILL BE CONVEYED TO AND FROM THE RESERVOIR THROUGH THE RESERVOIR'S INLET AND OUTLET PIPELINES, EACH 1.4 METRES IN DIAMETER.

THE ACCESS ROAD, WHICH WILL BE THREE METRES WIDE AND ABOUT 780 METRES LONG, WILL BE USED TO FACILITATE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SERVICE RESERVOIR.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MID-1988 AND TAKES 20 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED WORK SHOULD REACH THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT BEFORE NOVEMBER 10.

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FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE SUCCESSFUL

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THE NUMBER OF JOB VACANCIES REPORTED TO THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT INCREASED STEADILY ACROSS THE BOARD IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

A TOTAL OF 86,719 VACANCIES WERE NOTIFIED TO THE DIVISION, AN INCREASE OF 39.4 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

OF THE TOTAL, 44,968 WERE IN THE NON-MANUFACTURING SECTOR, 38,131 IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, AND 3,620 IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, SOME 17,951 JOB-SEEKERS WERE SUCCESSFULLY PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT BY LES. THEY INCLUDED 8,614 IN THE CLERICAL AND RELATED JOBS, 5,272 IN THE PRODUCTION AND RELATED WORK, 2,926 IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND THE REST IN THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY LES -- WHETHER ASSISTING EMPLOYERS IN RECRUITING STAFF OR JOB-SEEKERS IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT -- IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE.

IT OPERATES 15 BRANCH OFFICES IN MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"BUT THE SERVICE ITSELF CANNOT AND DOES NOT CREATE JOBS ANY MORE THAN IT CAN CREATE PEOPLE IN TIMES OF LABOUR SHORTAGE," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"WHAT IT CAN DO IS TO MATCH JOB-SEEKERS WITH VACANCIES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

"THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ULTIMATELY DEPENDS ON THE TYPE AND CONDITIONS OF VACANCIES OFFERED BY EMPLOYERS AS WELL AS ON THE QUALITY AND NUMBER OF JOB-SEEKERS REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT."

TO ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROCESSING VACANCY ORDERS, LES IS EQUIPPED WITH A FACSIMILE SYSTEM TO TRANSMIT PARTICULARS FROM ONE OFFICE TO ANOTHER SO THAT SUITABLE CANDIDATES CAN BE SELECTED FROM THE COMBINED POOL OF JOB-SEEKERS AND INTRODUCED TO THE EMPLOYERS WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE WORK OF LES WAS KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT ANY IMPROVEMENT OR EXPANSION OF ITS SERVICE WAS GEARED TO THE NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS, JOB-SEEKERS AND THE ECONOMY AT LARGE.

HE URGED BOTH EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICE BY CONTACTING ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF LES IN THEIR DISTRICTS.

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TRANSPORT GUIDE ON SALE

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A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE ON HONG KONG'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES COMPILED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, CENTRAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

THE ENGLISH PUBLICATION, ENTITLED "PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG - A GUIDE TO SERVICES 1987", COMPRISES TWO PARTS. THE FIRST PART GIVES THE ROUTES, FARES, FREQUENCY RANGE AND JOURNEY DISTANCE OF ALL SCHEDULED PUBLIC TRANSPORT, INCLUDING GREEN MINIBUS AND "KAITO" SERVICES, IN HONG KONG. THE SECOND PART IS AN AREA INDEX, WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION GROUPED ON AN AREA BASIS.

"BY CROSS-REFERRING THE TWO PARTS, IT IS POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THE MOST CONVENIENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR ANY PARTICULAR JOURNEY," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

HE ADDED THAT THE GUIDE, AT \$16 PER COPY, GENERALLY INDICATES THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK IN APRIL THIS YEAR. AS THE NETWORK IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING, THE GUIDE ALSO GIVES ENQUIRIES HOTLINES OF MAJOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO ENABLE COMMUTERS TO GET THE LATEST INFORMATION.

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ANTI-DRUG KITE DESIGN COMPETITION RESULTS

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A SIMPLE BUT ARTISTICALLY DESIGNED KITE CARRYING AN EXPLICIT ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE SUBMITTED BY MR YIP KAM-SHING BECAME THE WINNER OF THE ANTI-DRUG KITE DESIGN COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) TODAY (SATURDAY).

MISS LAM TIN-SUM AND MISS CHOI CHING-YEE WON THE SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES. THE THREE WINNERS WILL EACH RECEIVE BOOK COUPONS OF \$500, \$300 AND \$200 RESPECTIVELY WHILE FIVE CONSOLATION PRIZES WILL GO TO MISS CHAN LAI-NGOR AND MESSRS LAM MAN-KIN, CHAN KIN-CHI, LAM SIU-WAH AND CHOW WING-KAI.

TO ADD MORE COLOUR TO THIS EVENT, A "KITE FLYING FUN DAY" WILL BE HELD AT THE SAP SZ HEUNG, SAI KUNG, ON OCTOBER 25 (SUNDAY) WHERE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO FLY THE AWARD WINNING KITES TO HELP DISSEMINATE THE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE.

APPLICATION FORMS TO TAKE PART IN THE EVENT WHICH IS FREE OF CHARGE ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL CNTA DISTRICT OFFICES AND SUB-OFFICES AND THE NARCOTICS DIVISION AT 23RD FLOOR, HIGH BLOCK, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS OCTOBER 3, 1987. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8622762.

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SCHOOL INVITED VISITS TO ROYAL OBSERVATORY

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WILL JOINTLY ORGANISE A SERIES OF SCHOOL VISITS TO THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IN TSIM SHA TSUI FOR ADVANCED LEVEL GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICS STUDENTS BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1987 AND JUNE NEXT YEAR.

THERE WILL BE SEPARATE ORIENTATION SESSIONS FOR TEACHERS OF THE TWO SUBJECTS ON OCTOBER 21 AND FEBRUARY 9 NEXT YEAR TO FAMILIARISE THEM WITH THE WORKING OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND INSTRUMENTS IN WEATHER STUDIES BEFORE THE VISITS START.

AFTER ATTENDING THE ORIENTATION SESSIONS, TEACHERS WILL BE EXPECTED TO TAKE THEIR OWN STUDENTS TO VISIT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AT A DATE TO BE FIXED, WITH MINIMAL SUPERVISION BY ITS STAFF.

SCHOOL HEADS WHO WOULD LIKE THEIR ADVANCED LEVEL GEOGRAPHY AND/OR PHYSICS STUDENTS TO VISIT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE OCTOBER 10.

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RACE AT TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE

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ABOUT 200 RESIDENTS OF YAU MA TEI DISTRICT WILL BE TAKING PART IN A SPECIAL DISTRICT FESTIVAL RACE TOMORROW (SUNDAY) ALONG THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE.

COMPETITORS WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE A DISTANCE OF 2,100 METRES. THEY WILL START AT A POINT NEAR THE REGENT HOTEL, RUN ALONG THE PROMENADE TO THE HONG KONG COLISEUM BEFORE RETURNING TO THE STARTING PLACE.

AMONG THOSE TO OFFICIATE AT THE START OF THE RACE WILL BE YAU MA TEI ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS MARY CHOW.

THE EVENT IS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CURRENT DISTRICT FESTIVAL AND IS ORGANISED BY THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE RACE TO START AT 9.45 AM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE (NEAR THE REGENT HOTEL).

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SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS SALE BY AUCTION

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FORTY SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS MORNING (SATURDAY) FOR A TOTAL OF \$924,000 WHICH WILL GO INTO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION HELD AT RECTIAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, 8TH FLOOR, SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER CP1 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$190,000.

NUMBERS BM1 AND 2623 WERE SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$120,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 EACH FOR DP486, DP3811.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

	\$		\$		\$		\$
DR218	8,500	BM1	120,000	AA6616	7,500	2623	120,000
DP765	4,500	AS3882	8,500	DN8777	6,000	DP668	38,000
DC123	23,000	DP821	4,500	AG321	10,000	DP6638	22,000
DP102	5,000	DP1328	8,500	CP1	190,000	DP3811	1,000
DN6637	WITHDRAWN	DL8877	10,000	AW233	24,500	DP99	45,000
DP982	3,000	DP609	3,000	DR3368	5,000	DP930	5,000
BJ3218	8,500	DR998	11,500	DP365	3,000	DP1945	WITHDRAWN
CH111	21,000	DP486	1,000	DB25	30,000	DR226	5,500
DR288	15,500	DP3800	12,000	DP5725	WITHDRAWN	BY4	40,000
DP2881	6,500	DP9	80,000	AE1969	4,000	DR7888	10,000

THREE NON-SPECIAL REGISTRATION MARKS DN6637, DP5725 AND DP1945 WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE AUCTION. A DEPOSIT OF \$3,000 WAS FORFEITED TO THE TOTAL.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE NUMBERS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 117TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR CHARITY REALISED SO FAR TO \$47,286,432.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TAI KOK TSUI

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TAI KOK TSUI FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR FROM MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 21).

WITH EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON THAT DAY, LARCH STREET BETWEEN TONG MEI ROAD AND FIR STREET AND FIR STREET BETWEEN LARCH STREET AND TONG MEI ROAD WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHWEST BOUND.

MEANWHILE, TONG MEI ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN LARCH STREET AND BEDFORD ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM SEPTEMBER 22 TO OCTOBER 4 BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM.

VEHICLES ON TONG MEI ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LARCH STREET AND FIR STREET.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND WATERLOO ROAD

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LEFT TURNING TRAFFIC FROM KWAI CHUNG ROAD ON TO WO TONG TSUI STREET WILL BE BANNED FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FOR ROAD WORK FROM 8 AM ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 21).

VEHICLES ON KWAI CHUNG ROAD INTENDING TO TURN LEFT ON TO WO TONG TSUI STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWAI ON ROAD, HING FONG ROAD, KWAI HING ROAD AND TURN RIGHT ON TO WO TONG TSUI STREET.

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM ON SEPTEMBER 22, THE BANNING OF THE RIGHT TURN MOVEMENT FROM WATERLOO ROAD NORTHBOUND TO PUI CHING ROAD WILL BE LIFTED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA.

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RESTRICTED ZONES IN SHAM SHUI PO AND KWUN TONG

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FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 21), THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD LEADING FROM HOI YUEN ROAD SOUTHBOUND TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE FACTORY BUILDING AT HOUSE NOS. 72-80 HOI YUEN ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE 24 HOURS DAILY.

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM ON SEPTEMBER 22, THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONES ON BERWICK STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE EXTENDED TO COVER THE ENTIRE SECTION OF THE STREET BETWEEN NAM CHEONG STREET AND PAK TIN STREET TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW THERE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING GOODS VEHICLE METERED PARKING SPACES ON PAK TIN STREET EASTBOUND WILL BE CONVERTED TO A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STAND.

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CLOSURE OF CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL EXIT ROAD

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TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE, THE EXIT ROAD LEADING FROM CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TO CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE CLOSED DAILY BETWEEN 1 AM AND 6 AM FROM TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 22) TO THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 24).

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES LEAVING THE TUNNEL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA NORTH POINT EXIT ROAD, GLOUCESTER ROAD AND THE FLYOVER TO CAUSEWAY BAY.

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FANLING BRIDGE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC

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THE FANLING BRIDGE AT ITS ACCESS ROAD OFF SHA TAU KOK ROAD NEAR SAN WAI CAMP WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 21) TO FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 25) BETWEEN 11 PM AND 5 AM DAILY FOR REPAIR WORK.

HOWEVER, PEDESTRIAN ACCESS WILL BE MAINTAINED DURING THE CLOSURE.

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SAU MAU PING WATER CUT

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES AT SAU MAU PING WILL BE TURNED OFF ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 22) FROM 9.30 AM TO 5 PM FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT SAU MAU PING, LAM TIN, CHOI WAN, SHUN LEE, SHUN TIN, SHUN ON, AND LOK WAH ESTATES. IT WILL ALSO AFFECT SHUN CHI COURT, KUNG LOK ROAD, HONG NING ROAD, HONG LEE ROAD AND UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN – SUPPLEMENT

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1987

PRESS CONFERENCE BY LORD GLENARTHUR,
MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR HONG KONG

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1987

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PRESS CONFERENCE BY LORD GLENARTHUR,
MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR HONG KONG
* * * * *

FOLLOWING IS THE OPENING STATEMENT BY LORD GLENARTHUR:

"GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CAN I START BY SAYING HOW GLAD I AM TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET MANY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS. IT IS ALSO NICE TO SEE AMONGST YOU ONE OR TWO FACES WHO HAVE BECOME QUITE FAMILIAR OVER THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS AS I HAVE GONE ROUND HONG KONG.

AS YOU KNOW, I WAS APPOINTED MINISTER WITH A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION. THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG IS ONE WHICH IT IS A PARTICULAR PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO HAVE AND IT IS ONE TO WHICH I SHALL DEVOTE PARTICULAR ENERGY.

ONE OF THE FIRST DECISIONS I MADE ON BEING APPOINTED TO MY NEW JOB WAS THAT I SHOULD COME TO HONG KONG BEFORE GOING ANYWHERE ELSE WITHIN MY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY AND I AM VERY GLAD THAT, IN FACT, I HAVE NOW BEEN ABLE TO DO SO. THE FACT THAT I HAVE DONE SO REFLECTS NOT ONLY MY OWN PRIORITIES BUT ALSO THE VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ATTACH TO THEIR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG AND TO ITS PEOPLE. A KEY OBJECTIVE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IS TO ENSURE THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION IS IMPLEMENTED IN FULL AND TO SECURE THE CONTINUING PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

I HAD, OF COURSE, BEEN EXTENSIVELY BRIEFED ABOUT HONG KONG BEFORE I CAME HERE BUT THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR SEEING THINGS FOR YOURSELF. THE SPLENDID PROGRAMME WHICH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS ARRANGED FOR ME OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS HAS CERTAINLY ENABLED ME TO DO THAT. I HAVE BEEN IMMENSELY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT I HAVE SEEN AND ABOVE ALL BY THE SHEER PACE OF PHYSICAL CHANGE IN HONG KONG; AND BY THE RAPIDLY IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE; BY THE VITALITY AND ENTERPRISE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE; AND BY THEIR POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE CHANGES CONFRONTING THEM.

AS YOU WILL IMAGINE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MANY ISSUES HAVE BEEN RAISED WITH ME DURING MY VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS. I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY A WORD ABOUT THREE OF THEM. FIRST THERE IS THE REVIEW OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. THE PERIOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE GREEN PAPER WILL SHORTLY COME TO AN END AND THE SURVEY OFFICE WILL PRODUCE ITS REPORT. IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR ME TO TRY TO FORECAST THE CONTENTS OF THAT REPORT OR TO PRE-JUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW AS A WHOLE. I WOULD SIMPLY LIKE TO STATE ONCE MORE THAT THE REVIEW IS GENUINE; NO DECISIONS CAN OR WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL THE REVIEW PROCESS IS COMPLETE. WHEN DECISIONS ARE TAKEN FULL WEIGHT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE VIEWS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

/SECONDLY, THERE

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SECONDLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

I AM ACUTELY AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH HONG KONG FACES OVER THE CONTINUING INFLUX OF PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM. I HAVE DISCUSSED THESE PROBLEMS WITH THE GOVERNOR, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND WITH OMELCO MEMBERS. ALL HAVE IMPRESSED ON ME THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PRESSURE ON HONG KONG. I HAVE ALSO TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE VISIT HERE OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO HANOI TO OBTAIN HIS FIRST HAND VIEWS. THIS MORNING I VISITED TWO VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMPS. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE REALISTICALLY CAN TO ASSIST HONG KONG FIND SOLUTIONS TO THESE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

FIRSTLY, WE ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO FIND RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFUGEES NOW IN HONG KONG. WE HAVE TAKEN NEARLY 13,000 REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG OURSELVES IN THE PAST 12 YEARS; AND WE ANNOUNCED A FURTHER QUOTA OF OVER 450 EARLIER THIS YEAR. WE ARE VIGOROUSLY ENCOURAGING OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES TO TAKE MORE.

SECONDLY, WE RECOGNISE THAT RESETTLEMENT ALONE IS NOT THE ANSWER. WE ARE WORKING IN CLOSE CONCERT WITH UNHCR AND WITH OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES TO FIND A LASTING AND PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE INTENSIFIED OUR CONTACTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES ON THIS ISSUE, AND MORE RECENTLY STILL HAVE DIRECTLY EXPLORED WITH THEM THE POSSIBILITY OF REPATRIATING REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG ON ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS. BUT I HAVE TO SAY THAT THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO SIGN OF VIETNAMESE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE PEOPLE BACK EXCEPT ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS ON ALL THESE FRONTS, IN PARTICULAR, I HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM TO MAKE A FURTHER APPROACH TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WHEN HE RETURNS TO HANOI.

A THIRD ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN RAISED WITH ME FREQUENTLY IS THE QUESTION OF BN(O) PASSPORTS. AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE BN(O) STATUS AND PASSPORT IS DESIGNED TO LAST THROUGH AND BEYOND 1997. THE NEW PASSPORTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED NOW TO GIVE HONG KONG PEOPLE, AS WELL AS IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES AROUND THE WORLD, PLENTY OF TIME TO GET USED TO THEM. I WANT TO STRESS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MOUNTED A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHY THE NEW STATUS WAS BEING INTRODUCED AND THE SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE NEW PASSPORTS. THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN GOOD. NO GOVERNMENT HAS SAID IT WILL NOT ACCEPT THE PASSPORT AND I HAVE NOT HEARD OF A SINGLE CASE IN WHICH A HOLDER OF THE NEW PASSPORT HAS ENCOUNTERED PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES FROM IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. NATURALLY THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW TEETHING TROUBLES. WHERE THESE HAVE OCCURRED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE ACTED PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO OVERCOME THEM. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IF ANY NEW PROBLEMS SHOULD ARISE. I AM ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THAT THE NEW PASSPORT WILL BE AS WIDELY ACCEPTED AS IS THE BDTC PASSPORT.

IN CONCLUSION LET ME SAY THAT IN ALL I HAVE SEEN I HAVE BEEN GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE QUALITY AND DYNAMISM OF THE TERRITORY'S ADMINISTRATION. IT PROVIDES THE ESSENTIAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE ENTERPRISE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN FLOURISH. AND FLOURISH IT DOES.

I HAVE ENJOYED MY VISIT AND I LOOK FORWARD TO RETURNING SOON. THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

/THE FOLLOWING

THE FOLLOWING IS A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE:

Q. (SALLY BLYTH, RTHK): YOU HAVE JUST REITERATED BRITAIN'S COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997. WILL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOW DEMONSTRATE ITS RESPONSIBILITY BY TAKING SOME NEW INITIATIVE TO SOLVE HONG KONG'S VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM? FOR EXAMPLE, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT BRITAIN SHOULD HELP MAINTAIN THE COSTS OF RUNNING THE REFUGEE CAMPS HERE. AND WILL BRITAIN PERHAPS REVIEW ITS QUOTA AND AGREE TO TAKE MORE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG FOR RESETTLEMENT?

A: WELL, OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE GOT TO CONTINUE TO KEEP OUR EYE ON WHAT, I APPRECIATE, IS A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION. BUT I THINK, IN MY OPENING REMARKS, I MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE INSTRUCTED TO HAPPEN IS THAT OUR AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM SHOULD MAKE A FURTHER APPROACH TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, TO TAKE FORWARD VERY MUCH THE CONCERNS WHICH YOU REGISTER.

ON THE SECOND POINT ABOUT COSTS, THE SITUATION AT THE MOMENT IS THAT WE, THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT, FUND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AND WE CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR FUNDS AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES PAYS COSTS TOWARDS THE EFFORT OF KEEPING PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS THAT THEY ARE IN HERE. SO THE COSTS MATTER IS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF.

Q. (SALLY BLYTH): WHAT ABOUT THE SHORTER-TERM SOLUTION THOUGH OF ACCEPTING MORE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG FOR RESETTLEMENT?

A: I THINK YOU HAVE GOT TO LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF IT ALL. AS I SAID, WE'VE ACCEPTED SOME NEARLY 13,000 OVER THE LAST 12 OR SO YEARS. WE ARE, IN FACT, ABOUT THIRD IN THE LEAGUE TABLE OF COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ACCEPTED THEM AND THE IDEA OF TAKING THESE EXTRA, MORE THAN 450, IS TO TRY AND STIMULATE OTHER COUNTRIES TO BEAR THEIR SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS THESE REFUGEES.

Q. (STUART PALLISTER, ATV): YOU SAID THAT BRITAIN HAS TAKEN 13,000 BUT THAT'S FAIRLY NEGLIGIBLE COMPARED TO THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA AND CANADA. AUSTRALIA AND CANADA HAVE TAKEN 180,000 BETWEEN THEM. AMERICA MORE THAN HALF A MILLION. IS IT NOT TIME FOR BRITAIN TO TAKE A LEAD ON THIS ISSUE?

A: WELL, I THINK YOU'VE GOT TO GET IT INTO PROPORTION. DO REMEMBER THAT THEY ARE, BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, - AND AUSTRALIA - ARE CONSIDERABLY LARGER COUNTRIES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. SECONDLY, WE DO HAVE A MAJOR IMMIGRATION ISSUE OURSELVES TO CONTEND WITH AND WE HAVE TO LOOK AT THIS MATTER IN THE ROUND. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON OUR OWN IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND THESE REFUGEES, AND THE NUMBERS WE'VE TAKEN, I THINK ARE NOT REALLY QUITE AS BAD A PICTURE AS YOU PAINT. THIRD IN THE LEAGUE TABLE IS NOT A BAD POSITION TO BE IN. NEARLY 13,000 IS A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER.

Q. (STUART PALLISTER): BUT NOW THAT THE GENERAL ELECTION IS OUT OF THE WAY, WOULD THIS NOT BE A GOOD TIME TO BASICALLY TAKE MORE REFUGEES?

/A: WELL,

A: WELL, IT'S AN INTERESTING POINT OF VIEW TO HOLD. I THINK THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE REALLY ON THIS. THE WAY THAT WE ARE GOING TO SORT IT OUT IN THE END IS BY PERSUADING THE VIETNAMESE THAT THEY ARE NOT DOING GOOD TO THEIR PEOPLE IF THEY CONTINUE TO PUT THEM IN SUCH POSITION AS THEY LEAVE VIETNAM IN THE FIRST PLACE AND COME TO HONG KONG OR COME TO ANYWHERE ELSE. THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING TO SOLVE AND THAT'S WHERE I THINK WE MUST REALLY TURN OUR ATTENTION TO IN THE WAY THAT I'VE DESCRIBED.

Q. (BERNAND FONG, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST): INSTEAD OF TALKING ABOUT 9,000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES LET'S TALK ABOUT 5.5 MILLION HONG KONG PEOPLE. IN THE 1984 WHITE PAPER IT SAYS NO CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, NOR ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM AND THESE MATTERS WILL BE CONSIDERED AT A LATER STAGE. NOW THE "LATER STAGE", WE SUPPOSE, IS THE PRESENT GREEN PAPER IN WHICH MYSTERIOUSLY THE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN OMITTED. COULD YOU, SIR, EXPLAIN THE REASON, OR THE REASONS, FOR THE OMISSIONS?

A: WELL, I AM NOT SURE THAT IT IS REALLY USEFUL TO CONCENTRATE TOO MUCH ON HISTORY IN ALL THIS. THE PRESENT REVIEW, WHICH IS TAKING PLACE NOW, CONCENTRATES ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT POINTS INCLUDING THOSE ON WHICH A COMMITMENT WAS GIVEN IN 1984 TO REVIEW THEM IN 1987, THAT IS WHERE WE STAND.

Q. (BERNAND FONG): BUT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS NOT BEING REVIEWED AT THE PRESENT STAGE?

A: WELL, I THINK I HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU, WITH RESPECT, THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT ISSUES BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT WHEN WE WERE APPROACHING THE 1987 REVIEW, THAT REVIEW WOULD CONCENTRATE ON CERTAIN ISSUES, NOT ON EVERY SINGLE ISSUE THAT WAS FEATURED IN THE 1984 REVIEW, AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE MOMENT.

Q. (AGNES LAM, HONG KONG STANDARD): I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP HAS SUGGESTED THE BRITISH TO GIVE THEM MORE FREEDOM TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH OTHER FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRIES, SO DO YOU THINK THAT THIS IS FEASIBLE?

A. IF I HAVE GOT YOUR QUESTION RIGHT, YOU ARE ASKING WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES?

Q. (AGNES LAM, HONG KONG STANDARD): NO, NO.

/A: OH,

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A: OH, THE LEGCO, I SEE. OH SORRY, I MISUNDERSTOOD YOUR QUESTION. WELL, IF THEY WISH TO DO SO ANYBODY CAN VISIT HANOI AS FAR AS I KNOW, PROVIDING OF COURSE THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN A VISA TO DO SO. I THINK THOSE CONCERNED HAVE TO ASK THEMSELVES, IF THEY DO, TWO THINGS; FIRST OF ALL, WOULD THE VIETNAMESE AGREE TO IT AND SECONDLY, IF THEY DID, WOULD IT ACTUALLY ACHIEVE WHAT THEY WANTED TO ACHIEVE. I AM NOT SURE NECESSARILY IT WOULD ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULTS. I THINK IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO CONCENTRATE ON THE WAY I HAVE DESCRIBED IN APPLYING CONTINUING PRESSURE ON THE VIETNAMESE IN ALL THE FORA THAT WE CAN DO SO TO TRY TO ACHIEVE THE RESULT THAT YOU WANT.

Q. (AGNES LAM, HONG KONG STANDARD): I AM SORRY, MY QUESTION IS, THEY SUGGESTED THE BRITISH TO GIVE THEM MORE FREEDOM TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH OTHER FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRIES, NOT VIETNAM.

A: OH, I SEE.

Q. (AGNES LAM, HONG KONG STANDARD): SO I JUST WANT TO ASK WHETHER IT IS FEASIBLE FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO GIVE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT THE FREEDOM TO DO THAT.

A: WELL, I THINK YOU HAVE GOT TO REMEMBER THAT WHILST THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON THIS ISSUE ARE WELL KNOWN, BRITAIN REMAINS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AND I THINK THAT REALLY IS THE WAY TO MAINTAIN IT AND IT'S A PARTICULARLY VALUABLE PART OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND HONG KONG. AS I SAID, THERE HAS BEEN TALK THAT OTHERS MAY WANT TO GO THERE. IF THEY DO THEN THAT IS A MATTER FOR THEM TO TAKE THE CHOICE ON, BUT I THINK WE MUST CONCENTRATE FIRST OF ALL ON THE WIDER FORA WHICH I THINK WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL. I HOPE IT WILL BE. WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT IT IS.

Q. (WILSON WONG, TVB. NEWS): A STRAIGHT QUESTION FOR A STRAIGHT ANSWER, I HOPE. AFTER YOUR FOUR DAYS VISIT IN HONG KONG, DO YOU THINK THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE DIRECT ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR?

A: THERE IS A REVIEW GOING ON AT THE MOMENT. THAT REVIEW - THE CONSULTATIVE PERIOD IS COMPLETED AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. UNTIL THAT REVIEW IS COMPLETED AND WE KNOW WHAT THE RESULT IS, I REALLY AM IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON WHAT THE OUTCOME OF IT MIGHT BE OR WHAT SHOULD TRANSPIRE AFTERWARDS. WE REALLY HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE. I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN; I APPRECIATE THE INTEREST AND I APPRECIATE THE IMPATIENCE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS. BUT REALLY THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A LITTLE BIT MORE PATIENCE. YOU HAVEN'T GOT TO WAIT ALL THAT LONG.

Q. (WILSON WONG): CAN I ASK A FOLLOWING QUESTION? AFTER YOUR FOUR DAYS VISIT, THERE MAY BE A SITUATION WHEN HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE GOING TO RUN FOR ELECTION NEXT YEAR, WHILE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT MAY OPPOSE IT. IF IN THAT CASE, HOW WOULD YOU TRY TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE?

/A: WELL,

A: WELL, WE'RE GOT TO AWAIT THE RESULT, THAT'S THE FIRST THING. I THINK THAT IT IS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT TO SAY THAT A CLEAR MAJORITY VIEW OF ANY OF THE OPTIONS IN THE GREEN PAPER WOULD BE A POLITICAL FACT TO WHICH IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE NECESSARY TO GIVE FULL WEIGHT. NOW, BEYOND THAT I REALLY DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS PRUDENT OR POSSIBLE TO SAY ANY MORE, I AM AFRAID.

Q. (WILSON WONG): ANY COMMUNICATIONS THAT WOULD GUARANTEE HONG KONG PEOPLE'S WILL WOULD BE LOOKED AFTER?

A: LET US - DON'T PUSH ME TOO MUCH ON THAT. LET'S WAIT AND SEE. WE HAVEN'T GOT LONG TO WAIT. THERE IS NOTHING I CAN SAY. IT IS PERFECTLY A GENUINE REVIEW. WE WISH TO MAKE SURE THAT IT IS A REVIEW THAT TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE GOOD BREADTH OF OPINION IN HONG KONG. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE WAITING FOR AT THE MOMENT. WE HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.

Q. (WONG LAI-KWAN, ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS): WOULD THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT EXERT PRESSURE OR INFLUENCE EXCO'S DECISIONS ON THE POLITICAL REVIEW AND WHAT ROLE WILL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PLAY IN THIS ASSESSMENT EXERCISE OF THE CONSULTATIONS ON THE GREEN PAPER?

A: WELL, I THINK I HAVE JUST REALLY ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION. WE HAVE TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW, BUT IF THERE IS A CLEAR EXPRESSION OF A MAJORITY VIEW ON ANY OF THE OPTIONS IN THE GREEN PAPER, THEN THAT WOULD BE A POLITICAL FACT TO WHICH IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE NECESSARY TO GIVE FULL WEIGHT. NOW BEYOND THAT I THINK I HAVE REALLY ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION IN ANSWERING THE GENTLEMAN'S EARLIER ONE.

Q. (WONG LAI-KWAI): BUT WOULD THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL GET AN INDEPENDENT HAND TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION?

A: WHEN THE RESULT OF THE REVIEW IS KNOWN AND THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IS COMPLETE, THEN OBVIOUSLY BOTH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONSIDERING AND LOOKING AT IT, TO SEE WHAT THAT RESULT IS. UNTIL WE HAVE GOT THAT FAR, I AM AFRAID THERE IS NOTHING ELSE I CAN SAY.

Q. (MARGARET NG, INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST): YOU HAVE BEEN AROUND HONG KONG FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS; IS IT YOUR PERSONAL IMPRESSION THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT MATTERS TO BE GIVEN A VOTE?

A: I HAVE FOUND IN ALL THE TALKS I HAVE HAD WITH PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON ALL SORTS OF THINGS. I WOULD BE THE LAST PERSON TO SAY THAT THEY LACK KNOWLEDGE ON ANY PARTICULAR POINT.

/Q. (KRIS CHAN,

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Q. (KRIS CHAN, HONG KONG STANDARD): YOU HAVE ALWAYS STRESSED THAT THERE HAS TO BE A MAJORITY BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A DECISION ON ANY ISSUES IN THE REVIEW OF THE GREEN PAPER. BUT BY "MAJORITY" WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT HAS TO BE OVER 50 PER CENT? OR DO YOU THINK 40 PER CENT IS ENOUGH? WHAT IS THE BENCH-MARK YOU HAVE?

A: I DON'T THINK IT REALLY WOULD BE WORTHWHILE GOING INTO THE FINE DETAIL OR SEMANTICS ON THAT. WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID IS THAT A CLEAR MAJORITY VIEW ON ANY OF THE OPTIONS IN THE GREEN PAPER WOULD BE A POLITICAL FACT TO WHICH IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE NECESSARY TO GIVE FULL WEIGHT. NOW, I CAN'T ANSWER IN ANY GREATER DETAIL THAN THAT, I AM SORRY.

Q. (KENNETH MAK, MING PAO): HAVE YOU HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE DEFENCE COSTS AND IF YOU HAVE, WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

A: WELL, I HAVE OBVIOUSLY DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF MATTERS WITH THE GOVERNOR, WITH EXCO AND WITH OTHERS. DEFENCE COSTS, YES, IT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO AND ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT BOTH TEAMS ON THIS MATTER ARE WORKING TO SECURE AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS FAIR TO BOTH SIDES AND MEETS THE NEEDS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO FULL ROUNDS SO FAR AND THOSE HAVE BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AND WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS.

Q. (LORNA WORKMAN, RTHK): IF AS YOU SAID BRITAIN IS IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR HONG KONG, WILL IT IN THAT CASE TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO SPONSOR A REGIONAL OR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO INCLUDE A RE-DEFINITION OF THE TERM "REFUGEE", THE LIFTING OF THE BURDEN OF FIRST ASYLUM AND SEEKING A LASTING SOLUTION TO VIETNAM'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS?

A: WELL, THIS IS AGAIN FEATURED AND I AM NOT SURE THAT THE CONFERENCE YOU SUGGESTED IS ONE THAT IS NECESSARILY LIKELY TO ATTRACT WIDE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO ME IF THE CONFERENCE IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THAT IS WHAT IT HAS GOT TO ACHIEVE. NO, I THINK REALLY THAT THE WAY FORWARD HERE LIES THROUGH OUR CONTACTS WITH UNHCR AND THE MAIN RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES, AND THOSE TWO ROUTES OFFER THE BEST HOPES OF FINDING A LONG TERM SOLUTION COUPLED, OF COURSE, WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT I MADE WHEN I MADE MY OPENING REMARKS.

Q. (LORNA WORKMAN): BUT AS LONG AS THE TERM "REFUGEE" AND THE COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM RULE APPLIES TO HONG KONG, THAT IT MUST ACCEPT ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BE A PLACE OF FIRST ASYLUM, THEN IT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO DO SO, OR FACE INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION. NOW, WHAT IS BRITAIN GOING TO DO TO HELP HONG KONG OUT OF THAT?

/A: WELL,

A: WELL, I APPRECIATE THE POSITION THAT HONG KONG IS IN. I THINK TOO THAT IF YOU LOOK AT IT SLIGHTLY MORE WIDELY, YOU WOULD REALISE THAT YOU ARE SUGGESTING A CHANGE WHICH GOES MUCH WIDER THAN JUST THE NARROW INTERESTS OF HONG KONG. NOW, THAT IS PERHAPS A VIEW THAT IS HELD BY SOME, MAY BE BY SEVERAL, BUT I AM NOT SURE THAT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WOULD ACHIEVE WHAT YOU AND OTHERS THINK THAT IT MIGHT. I THINK THAT IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT CHANGE IN DEFINITIONS, THAT IS SOMETHING THAT GOES MUCH WIDER THAN THE PARTICULAR CASE OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG.

Q. (LORNA WORKMAN): WHAT ABOUT HELPING VIETNAM WITH ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THEREBY STOPPING THE FLOW OF PEOPLE LEAVING THE COUNTRY?

A: I THINK THAT IF WE ARE GOING TO TURN THE ATTENTION OF THIS CONFERENCE INTO A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POLITICS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AND THOSE SURROUNDING ISSUES, THEN I THINK WE ARE GETTING A VERY LONG CONFERENCE BUT I THINK THE IMPORTANT THING IS WE HAVE GOT TO CONCENTRATE, IN THE WAY THAT I HAVE DESCRIBED, IN PERSUADING THE VIETNAMESE - IT IS NOT GOING TO BE AN EASY POSSIBILITY NOR, AND I HAVE SAID THIS QUITE CLEARLY, DO I HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE SUCCESS, BUT WE HAVE GOT TO CONTINUE TO TRY, AND WE HAVE GOT TO THINK OF NEW WAYS OF DOING SO, AND THAT IS WHAT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO.

Q. (NANCY LANGSTON, THE NEWS AND WORLD REPORT): WHAT SORT OF CONDITIONS WOULD BRITAIN LIKE TO HAVE MET BEFORE ACCEPTING A REPATRIATION PROGRAMME FROM VIETNAM? DOES THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE ANY CONDITIONS FOR A REPATRIATION PROGRAMME? I MEAN IF VIETNAM SAID, FINE, WE WILL TAKE THEM BACK, WOULD THAT BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?

A: I THINK ONE THING THAT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ABOUT ANY REPATRIATION AND THAT IS THAT IT HAS GOT TO BE DONE IN A WAY THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THOSE REPATRIATED. IT IS NO GOOD PEOPLE GOING BACK TO VIETNAM TO FACE THE SORT OF CONDITIONS WHICH THEY MIGHT FACE IF THOSE ARE UNSATISFACTORY WHICH WOULD CAUSE THEM TO LEAVE AGAIN. THAT IS SOMETHING WHICH OBVIOUSLY IN ITS WIDEST SENSE HAS GOT TO PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS FOR THEM.

Q. (NANCY LANGSTON): SO IT WOULD HAVE TO BE VOLUNTARY ON THE REFUGEES HERE IN HONG KONG?

A: WELL, I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT THE CONDITIONS AT THE OTHER END WHEN THEY GO BACK. ON THE QUESTION OF REPATRIATION GENERALLY, I THINK WE HAVE REALLY GOT TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT ANY PROGRESS THAT CAN BE MADE WITH VIETNAM IS MADE AND THE ACTUAL TERMS FOR IT ARE STILL SOME WAY DOWN THE ROAD.

Q. (JAMES TAM, SING PAO): YOU SAID THERE HAS BEEN TALKS BETWEEN THE UK AND THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, COULD YOU TELL US WHY WE IN HONG KONG WERE NOT INFORMED ABOUT THE TALKS GOING ON AND THE LEGCO MEMBERS ARE DISCUSSING THE ISSUE ON THE ONE HAND AND THERE IS TALKS GOING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD?

/A: WELL,

A: WELL, YES, I AM AFRAID THAT A WRONG IMPRESSION MAY HAVE BEEN CREATED BY THIS. WE HAVE IN FACT BEEN DISCUSSING FOR SOME TIME WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM WITH THE AIM OF A CONCERTED, COLLECTIVE APPROACH. AS FOR THE DISCREPANCY OF INFORMATION, I CAN ONLY SAY THAT THIS WAS A PIECE OF OUT-OF-DATE NEWS THAT WAS PROVIDED BY A PRESS OFFICER - PROBABLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHEN HE WAS RUNG UP - AND IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THAT OCCURRED. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS THAT THE ISSUE HAS BEEN STRAIGHTENED OUT AND I HAVE MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR TO YOU THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING THESE DISCUSSIONS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME AND WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WITH A VIEW TO TRYING TO ACHIEVE THE ENDS WHICH WE ALL WANT.

Q. (JAMES TAM): SO WOULD YOU INFORM US MORE FREQUENTLY ON THE PROGRESS OF APPROACHES?

A: WELL, IF THERE IS ANY MATTER UPON WHICH WE CAN ENSURE THAT MORE REGULAR INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED, THEN CERTAINLY WE CAN DO SO. I DON'T ACTUALLY DETECT THERE IS IN GENERAL TERMS A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AMONGST EITHER THE PRESS OR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SPHERES.

Q. (EMILY LAU, FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW): LORD GLENARTUR I WANT TO ASK YOU A QUESTION ON BRITISH NATIONALITY. WHEN YOU SPOKE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS DEBATE IN JANUARY 1986 ON THE HONG KONG ACT 1985, YOU SAID SOME HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS MAY BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR BRITISH NATIONALITY UNDER SECTION 4 (5) OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1981. IS IT TRUE THAT AT THAT TIME THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT GAVE AN UNDERTAKING TO THE 300-ODD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS IN HONG KONG THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR BRITISH NATIONALITY UNDER THAT PROVISION AND ALSO HOW MANY HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE APPLIED FOR BRITISH NATIONALITY AND HOW MANY HAVE BEEN GRANTED?

A: WELL, I RECALL THAT PARTICULAR DEBATE AND A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT THINGS THAT WE DISCUSSED IN IT. CERTAIN PEOPLE, YES, WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY UNDER 4 (5). I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE NUMBERS AND I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO GREATER DETAIL THAN I STATED DURING THE DEBATE WHICH WAS HELD THEN, THOSE WORDS HOLD JUST AS MUCH WATER AS THEY DID ON THAT OCCASION. I CAN'T GO INTO SPECIFIC DETAILS, I AM AFRAID.

Q. (EMILY LAU,): BUT DO YOU NOT OWE IT TO THE 300 ODD AOS AND ALSO TO THE HONG KONG PEOPLE TO TELL US WHO EXACTLY WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR BRITISH NATIONALITY BECAUSE THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT SUBJECT TO HONG KONG PEOPLE?

A: WELL, I REALISE THAT BUT I THINK YOU HAVE GOT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ASSURANCE THAT I GAVE WAS A VALID ASSURANCE. THAT ASSURANCE STANDS. BUT I AM AFRAID I CAN'T GO INTO THE DETAILS IN THE WAY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO.

/Q. (EMILY LAU):

Q. (EMILY LAU): BUT YOU MENTIONED THAT IN CONSIDERING THESE APPLICATIONS, ONE KEY FACTOR WOULD BE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, LORD GLENARTHUR?

A: IT MEANS PRECISELY WHAT IT SAYS.

Q. (EMILY LAU): I AM SORRY, WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS "QUALITY OF SERVICE." DOES IT MEAN WORKING AS AN AO? OR WORKING IN THE SPECIAL BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG POLICE OR JUST WORKING FOR ANY OTHER -- THE USD OR WHATEVER DEPARTMENT? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

A: I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT "QUALITY OF SERVICE" WAS SELF-EXPLANATORY. I AM SORRY THAT YOU ASK ME TO EXPLAIN IT. I CAN'T ADD ANY WORDS TO THAT AT ALL, I AM AFRAID. THOSE WORDS ARE QUITE CLEAR TO MY MIND, QUITE CLEAR WHEN THEY WERE PRONOUNCED IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND I REST ON THAT.

Q. (RUBY ONG, WEN WEI PO): REGARDING THE REVIEW ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, SIR S.Y. CHUNG HAS SAID YESTERDAY THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HOLDING OPPOSING VIEWS. HOW WILL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HANDLE THE PROBLEM SO THAT THE PROBLEM OF OPPOSING VIEWS WILL NOT AFFECT THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG?

A: ONE THING THAT WE ARE ALL DETERMINED TO DO IS TO ENSURE THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE. THE REVIEW IS GOING ON AT THE MOMENT; THE CONSULTATION PERIOD IS NOT YET COMPLETE AND, AS I SAID IN ANSWER TO EARLIER QUESTIONS, I THINK WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT THAT CONSULTATION PERIOD COMES UP WITH. WHEN WE HAVE SEEN THE RESULTS OF IT, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER HOW TO TAKE IT FORWARD. I ALSO NOTE THE POINT ABOUT THE CLEAR MAJORITY VIEW WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE EXPRESSED.

Q. (STUART PALLISTER, ATV): CAN I JUST TRY TO PIN YOU DOWN ON THIS "CLEAR MAJORITY VIEW", AND ON THIS RATHER VAGUE STATEMENT THAT YOU MADE ABOUT POLITICAL FACT. DOES THIS MEAN THAT IF MOST PEOPLE WANT DIRECT ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR, THERE WILL BE DIRECT ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR?

A: WELL, HOW MANY DIFFERENT WAYS I WOULD BE SAYING THE SAME THING, THE ANSWER IS THIS.

Q. (STUART PALLISTER): PLEASE CAN YOU GIVE A STRAIGHT ANSWER TO A STRAIGHT QUESTION?

A: I THINK YOU ARE ASKING ME AGAIN TO PRE-JUDGE AN ISSUE WHICH IS NOT YET BEEN... WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE ANSWER YET. LET US WAIT AND SEE WHAT THE OUTCOME IS. THEN, IF AS I SAID, THERE IS A CLEAR MAJORITY VIEW ON ANY OF THE OPTIONS THEN THAT WOULD BE A FACT, A POLITICAL FACT WHICH IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE NECESSARY TO GIVE FULL WEIGHT TO. I CAN'T GO BEYOND THAT HOWEVER MUCH YOU TRY TO PIN ME DOWN, BUT THAT IS THE FACT. YOU REALLY HAVE GONE AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO, I THINK, ON THAT PARTICULAR ONE.

/Q. (WILSON WONG,

Q. (WILSON WONG, TVB NEWS): AT THE END OF YOUR SPEECH, YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU WOULD BE COMING BACK TO THE TERRITORY SOON. DOES THAT MEAN THERE'S A PLAN FOR YOU TO GO TO CHINA AS WELL, OR AS A CONTINUATION OF, OR AS A FOLLOW-UP OF, THE WORK THAT YOU HAD IN HONG KONG, SUCH AS A CONTINUATION OF THE TALKS ON POLITICAL REFORM IN HONG KONG?

A: WELL, I CERTAINLY DO WANT TO COME BACK TO HONG KONG IN DUE COURSE, I HOPE, BEFORE TOO LONG. I CAN'T SAY PRECISELY WHEN, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN REGULARLY. I DO HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AS WELL. CHINA IS ONE OF THEM AND I HOPE TO VISIT CHINA SOME TIME. I HAVEN'T ANY FIRM PLANS TO DO SO AT THE MOMENT BUT I AM SURE THAT I WILL VISIT CHINA IN DUE COURSE.

Q. (WILSON WONG): WILL YOU FOLLOW UP THE WORK IN HONG KONG SUCH AS THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE POLITICAL REVIEW?

A: I HAVE NOT GIVEN ANY THOUGHT AT ALL TO WHAT I MIGHT DO IN CHINA OTHER THAN.....I HAVE OBVIOUSLY GOT TO GO TO CHINA AT SOME POINT BECAUSE THAT IS PART OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN GIVEN A SECOND THOUGHT TO WHAT YET MIGHT BE THE SORT OF THINGS THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED WHEN I GET THERE.

Q. (WILSON WONG): WELL, HOW ABOUT WHEN?

A: I DON'T KNOW, I GENUINELY DON'T KNOW.

Q. (AMY LAM, SING TAO): RIGHT AFTER YOUR MEETING WITH THE URBAN COUNCILLORS, ONE OF THEM REVEALED DURING THE MEETING YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU WOULD COME BACK NEXT MONTH. COULD YOU CONFIRM THAT?

A: WELL, I DIDN'T SAY THAT AND SOMEBODY GOT THE WRONG END OF THE STICK. I AM SORRY, I'D LOVE TO COME BACK NEXT MONTH BUT I'VE GOT OTHER PLACES TO GO TO. SO I'M AFRAID THAT WAS WRONG INFORMATION AND I NEVER SAID IT. SO I DON'T KNOW WHY THAT GOT OUT. FALSE NEWS.

Q. (LORNA WORKMAN, RTHK TELEVISION): LORD GLENARTHUR, THE HONG KONG PUBLIC IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CYNICAL ABOUT MINISTERS OF THE CROWN PAYING FLYING VISITS TO THE TERRITORY, GIVING RATHER SHALLOW AND EVASIVE ANSWERS TO MATTERS OF GENUINE AND DEEP CONCERN. I MEAN, IS THIS INDICATIVE OF BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE TO, INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG?

A: WELL, I AM SORRY IF YOU FEEL THAT ANY ANSWERS I'VE GIVEN HAVE BEEN SHALLOW AND INSINCERE BECAUSE THAT'S NOT HOW I FEEL.

Q. (LORNA WORKMAN): NO, I SAID 'SHALLOW AND EVASIVE'.

A: OR EVASIVE EITHER. THE FACT IS THAT I HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN UP MY RESPONSIBILITIES I REGARD MY RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS HONG KONG AS OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE. THAT IS WHY I PARTICULARLY ASKED, THE VERY FIRST DAY I ARRIVED IN THE OFFICE, THAT MY FIRST VISIT BE TO HONG KONG. I AM NOW HERE. I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO HAVE FILLED IN FOR ME MUCH OF THE INFORMATION THAT COULD ONLY REALLY BE OBTAINED BY A VISIT HERE. IT IS CERTAINLY NOT THE INTENTION TO PROVIDE EITHER EVASIVE ANSWERS, APPEAR TO BE SHALLOW OR ANYTHING ELSE. I AM HERE TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND I WILL DO ALL I CAN TO DO PRECISELY THAT.

/Q. (LORNA WORKMAN):

Q. (LORNA WORKMAN): WHAT ABOUT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG?

A: WELL, I THINK I DESCRIBED THAT QUITE CLEARLY AT THE BEGINNING SO I THINK, IF YOU READ INITIAL STATEMENT, YOU'LL SEE THAT I MADE THAT PERFECTLY CLEAR.

Q. (LORNA WORKMAN): 'COMMITMENT' PERHAPS, BUT NOT 'INTEREST'.

A: NO, YOU ARE QUITE WRONG. I AM SORRY. THERE IS A VERY KEEN INTEREST AND I CERTAINLY HAVE NOT DETECTED ANY LACK OF INTEREST FROM THE MANY DEBATES WE'VE HAD IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, LET ALONE IN OTHER PARTS OF GOVERNMENT.

Q. (BERNARD FONG): NO ONE IS DENYING OR DOUBTING YOUR INTEGRITY, SIR. WE TRUST YOU IN FULL AND WE TRUST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN FULL. BUT I THINK WE MUST REGISTER ONE FACT, THAT HONG KONG INTEREST IN THE EYE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS SECONDARY TO RELATIONS WITH THE MAINLAND, WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. AND THAT'S ONE REALITY WE MUST ADDRESS BECAUSE WE HAVE 5.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN A CRUCIAL STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, FACING AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

A: NO, WHAT YOU SUGGEST IS NOT SO AT ALL. OBVIOUSLY THERE HAS TO BE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES BUT OUR COMMITMENT TO THE TERRITORY OF HONG KONG AND TO ITS PEOPLE REMAINS A KEY PART OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO.

Q. (ROBIN MACPHERSON, AFP): COULD YOU REPEAT AGAIN - I KNOW YOU ADDRESSED IT EARLIER - JUST REPEAT AGAIN, WHAT IS IT EXACTLY YOU ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO HANOI TO BRING UP WITH THE VIETNAMESE AGAIN?

A: WHAT I ASKED OUR AMBASSADOR, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO HANOI, TO DO IS TO MAKE A FURTHER APPROACH TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, WHEN HE RETURNS TO HANOI, TO CONTINUE DEVELOP THE EFFORTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE, BOTH BY HIM BEFORE AND THROUGH OTHER MEANS. IT IS IN ORDER TO TRY AND STRENGTHEN WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE BY WAY OF MAKING REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS DIFFICULT ISSUE.

Q. (SALLY BLYTH): COULD I JUST FOLLOW-UP? DOES THAT MEAN EXTRA PRESSURE ON THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT?

A: WELL, I MEAN, I SUPPOSE YOU CAN INTERPRET IT AS SUCH -- IF AN AMBASSADOR GOES IN TO SEE A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN THE CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE HERE TO ME AND TO OTHERS ON THIS DIFFICULT ISSUE, THEN YOU CAN CALL THAT PRESSURE, WHETHER OR NOT, I SAID, THE VIETNAMESE WOULD ACTUALLY RESPOND POSITIVELY, I AM NOT SURE. I HAVE TO SAY THAT I DON'T HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE AT THE MOMENT THAT IT WILL NECESSARILY BE SUCCESSFUL BUT WE'VE GOT TO CONTINUE THROUGH ANY CHANNEL WE CAN TO APPLY WHAT YOU TERMED 'PRESSURE', AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE VIETNAMESE TO TRY AND SOLVE THE DIFFICULT ISSUE WHICH THESE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES PROVIDE FOR YOU.

/Q. (MARGARET NG,

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Q. (MARGARET NG, INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST): SORRY, I AM A BIT CONCERNED ABOUT THE BREAKDOWN OF INFORMATION AND ALL THAT. COULD YOU TELL US WHEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT MADE THE FIRST APPROACH TO THE HANOI GOVERNMENT ABOUT THESE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHEN YOU SAID THERE WAS AN OUTDATED PIECE OF INFORMATION, WHEN DID YOU START TO MAKE THAT APPROACH?

A: I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN ABSOLUTE DATE. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE IN FACT MAINTAIN CONTACT AND HAVE DONE FOR YEARS. I KNOW OF NO DATE IN MIND.

Q. (MARGARET NG): YES, PERHAPS I SHOULD MAKE MYSELF CLEAR WHY I AM CONCERNED. BECAUSE THE QUESTION WAS ASKED OF THE HONG KONG ADMINISTRATION IN LEGCO ABOUT WHETHER AN APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE WITH THE HANOI GOVERNMENT AND WE WERE TOLD QUITE CLEARLY, 'NO, NO APPROACH HAS YET BEEN MADE'. SO EITHER IT CAN BE A PIECE OF OUT-DATED INFORMATION OR WE ARE BEING DELIBERATELY KEPT IN THE DARK. THAT IS WHY I AM ASKING YOU THE DATE.

A: YOU ARE NOT DELIBERATELY BEING KEPT IN THE DARK. I CAN'T PROVIDE A SPECIFIC DATE BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES ON A WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING, AS I HAVE SAID, FOR SOME TIME WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND WITH THE UNHCR, LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM AND WE HAVE INTENSIFIED OUR CONTACTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES ON THE ISSUE OF THEIR REFUGEES AND WE HAVE DIRECTLY -- BY DOING SO -- WE HAVE DIRECTLY SOUGHT THEIR VIEWS ON THE WHOLE ISSUE, INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF REPATRIATION.

Q. (MARGARET NG): WELL, IF SO, COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHY WE WERE TOLD NO APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE?

A: WELL, THE SIMPLE REASON IS - I KNOW IT SOUNDS UNBELIEVABLE BUT SOMETIMES THE UNBELIEVABLE HAPPENS - I THINK, PRESUMABLY, WHAT HAPPENED WAS THAT SOMEBODY WAS RUNG UP IN THE PRESS OFFICE IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN LONDON, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, AND QUITE ACCIDENTALLY, AND I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR IT. WELL, I REALLY DO APOLOGISE, WHAT ELSE ONE CAN SAY - HE GAVE A BIT OF OUT-OF-DATE INFORMATION. WHY HE GAVE IT, I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW. I WISH HE HADN'T DONE IT, IT WOULD MAKE MY LIFE A LOT EASIER IF HE HADN'T.

Q. (MARGARET NG): BUT IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE OUT-OF-DATE IF YOU HAVE BEEN MAKING CONTINUING CONTACT. I MEAN, AT ANY ONE POINT, THE ANSWER WOULD BE 'YES'. IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE 'NO'.

A: WELL, CONTINUING CONTACTS MEANS EXACTLY WHAT IT SAYS.

Q. (MARGARET NG): SO HOW CAN THE ANSWER BE 'NO' TO A QUESTION OF WHETHER YOU HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON REFUGEES?

/A: WELL,

A: WELL, I MEAN, I AM NOT TRYING TO BE EVASIVE. PERHAPS I AM MISUNDERSTANDING THE POINT YOU ARE TRYING TO RAISE. THERE HAVE BEEN EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN MADE RECENTLY HERE AND THAT IS WHY WE, IN RESPONSE TO THOSE EXPRESSIONS, WE HAVE INTENSIFIED OUR CONTACTS. BUT THE CONTACTS THAT HAVE INTENSIFIED ARE CONTACTS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

Q. (MARGARET NG): LIKE THREE YEARS? OR TWO MONTHS OR FIVE MONTHS? WHAT SORT OF TIMING ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

A: I CAN'T GIVE A PARTICULAR TIME BUT, I MEAN, IT IS NOT TO BE SUPPOSED FOR A MOMENT THAT WE DON'T HAVE REGULAR CONTACTS THROUGH OUR AMBASSADOR IN VIETNAM WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, SO IT IS CERTAINLY NOT MONTHS, IT IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

Q. (KENNETH MAK, MING PAO): YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT CONTINUOUS PRESSURE ON THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. BESIDES CONTINUING CONTACT, WHAT ARE THOSE PRESSURES?

A: SORRY. CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOURSELF? WHAT PRESSURES, WHO?

Q. (KENNETH MAK): WELL, YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT CONTINUING PRESSURE ON THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, AND BESIDES CONTINUING CONTACT, WHAT ARE THE CONCRETE SIGNS OF THE PRESSURE YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?

A: WELL, I THINK 'PRESSURE' WAS A WORD THAT WAS USED BY SOMEBODY ELSE HERE BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE OR ANYTHING ELSE, AMOUNTS TO AN EXPRESSION OF VIEWS, STRONG VIEWS, ABOUT THE NEED TO TRY AND SOLVE A PARTICULAR PROBLEM. NOW, IN THE CASE OF VIETNAM AND THE REFUGEES, OBVIOUSLY PART OF OUR, A VERY LARGE PART OF OUR EFFORTS AND CONCERNS AND CONTACTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATES ON THAT VERY ISSUE, BECAUSE WE WANT TO SEE IT RESOLVED AS MUCH AS YOU DO.

Q. (KENNETH MAK) YOU MEAN, DIPLOMATIC CONTACT IS ENOUGH?

A: WHAT SORT OF OTHER PRACTICAL THINGS ARE YOU SUGGESTING?

Q. (CAROL BOGERT, NEWSWEEK): AS YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED, THERE IS AN EMOTIONALLY CHARGED OVERLAP BETWEEN QUESTIONS ONE AND TWO THAT YOU BROUGHT UP, NAMELY, HONG KONG'S SELF-GOVERNMENT AND THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE QUESTION. YOU SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE ARDENT DESIRE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO HAVE TO TAKE SOME PART IN THE SOLUTION OF THIS REFUGEE QUESTION, THAT BRITAIN REMAINS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF HONG KONG. DOES THAT MEAN THAT, UNDER YOUR ADMINISTRATION, THERE WILL BE NO ATTEMPT OR NO ALLOWANCE FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HERE, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OR OTHER PARTS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, TO TAKE MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES?

/A: WELL,

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A: WELL, WE LIVE IN A PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT IS THAT HONG KONG IS A DEPENDENT TERRITORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THROUGH THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS THROUGH THE UNITED KINGDOM. BUT DON'T THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, THE CONCERNS WHICH ARE REPRESENTED BY MANY OF THE COMMENTS I HAVE HEARD OVER THE LAST DAY OR TWO, ARE NOT FED BACK TO THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT TO MAKE CLEAR SO FAR AS THOSE FOREIGN RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED. SO IT IS TAKEN CARE OF.

Q. (TAM MAY-FUNG, TA KUNG PAO): LORD GLENARTHUR, COULD YOU GIVE US YOUR OPINION ON CONVERGENCE OF THE BASIC LAW AND THE POLITICAL REFORM?

A: WELL, I THINK THAT WE HAVE GOT TO WORK TOWARDS THE FUTURE IN AS A PRAGMATIC AND SENSIBLE WAY AS WE CAN. I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO CONDUCT THE VERY THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE GOING ON ON THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE WITH AT THE SAME TIME THE CONSIDERATION THAT IS GOING ON -- THAT WILL STEM FROM THE WORK -- ON THE REVIEW WHICH IS TAKING PLACE AT THE MOMENT. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THOSE TWO SHOULD GO IN PARALLEL AND I HAVE EVERY HOPE THAT THEY IN FACT WILL DO SO. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE THE RESULT OF THE REVIEW BUT I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT WE WILL END UP WITH A PRACTICAL SOLUTION AT THE END.

Q. (SA NI HARTE, SUNDAY MORNING POST): THE 1984 WHITE PAPER STATED THAT THERE WAS A POLITICAL REVIEW THIS YEAR. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME INDICATION WHETHER THERE WILL BE ANOTHER POLITICAL REVIEW AFTER THIS?

A: I AM IN NO POSITION TO TALK ABOUT REVIEWS BEYOND 1987. I THINK WE HAVE GOT TO GET THIS ONE OVER FIRST AND THEN WE WILL HAVE THE RESULT IN DUE COURSE FOLLOWED BY THE WHITE PAPER BEYOND THAT. AND I AM AFRAID I HAVE NO FURTHER PLANS FOR A REVIEW. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

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