



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1984

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BIG RUSH FOR COPIES OF WHITE PAPER
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THE RUSH HAS BEEN ON FOR COPIES OF THE WHITE PAPER ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE SINCE THE DOCUMENT WAS RELEASED AT 7 PM YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

BY NOON TODAY, ABOUT 627 000 COPIES IN CHINESE AND OVER 200 000 COPIES IN ENGLISH HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO THE GIS OUTLETS, DISTRICT OFFICES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO MEET AN UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH DEMAND.

COMING UNDER THE HEAVIEST PRESSURE WAS THE GIS HEADQUARTERS IN BEAONSFIELD HOUSE WHERE THE QUEUE FOR MOST OF THIS MORNING STRETCHED FROM THE COUNTER ON THE FOURTH FLOOR TO A POINT ON QUEEN'S ROAD OPPOSITE THE CHARTERED BANK. THIS IS THE ONLY OUTLET THAT HAS OPERATED ROUND THE CLOCK, AND IT WILL STAY OPEN THROUGHOUT TONIGHT.

SO FAR ONE MILLION COPIES IN CHINESE AND 250 000 COPIES IN ENGLISH HAVE BEEN PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK SINCE MONDAY.

+IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY DEMAND, PARTICULARLY FOR ENGLISH COPIES, WE HAVE ORDERED AN ADDITIONAL PRINT RUN OF 300 000 CHINESE COPIES AND 550 000 ENGLISH COPIES.

+AS THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER HAS BEEN WORKING FLAT OUT, IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST TWO DAYS TO FULFIL THIS ORDER,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING DEMAND, SUPPLIES IN DISTRICT OFFICES WERE EXHAUSTED WITHIN 90 MINUTES OF PUBLICATION. BUT STOCKS THERE WERE REPLENISHED IN TIME FOR DISTRIBUTION TO START AGAIN THIS MORNING. BUT BY THIS AFTERNOON, MOST DISTRICT OFFICES HAD AGAIN EXHAUSTED THEIR SUPPLIES.

FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), THE WHITE PAPER WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE DURING OFFICE HOURS AT POLICE STATIONS, POST OFFICES AND HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES.

+HOWEVER, OWING TO EXCEPTIONAL DEMAND, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DELAY THE PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED EARLIER FOR A GRADUAL EXPANSION OF DISTRIBUTION OUTLETS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ADDITIONAL CENTRES, SUCH AS IMMIGRATION, LABOUR AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT COUNTERS, WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTING COPIES UNTIL SOME TIME NEXT WEEK.

ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO OBTAIN MORE THAN FIVE COPIES OF THE WHITE PAPER CAN COLLECT THEM AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS STORE, 665 KING'S ROAD, NORTH POINT DURING OFFICE HOURS.

A HOTLINE, NO 5-250025, HAS BEEN INSTALLED TO ADVISE ON DISTRIBUTION OUTLETS.

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BOARDS COLLECTING VIEWS ON WHITE PAPER
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THE DISTRICT BOARDS OF YAU MA TEI AND MONG KOK HAVE BEGUN COLLECTING PUBLIC VIEWS ON THE WHITE PAPER ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE THROUGH A SERIES OF CONTACTS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL LEADERS AND ORGANISATIONS.

BOARD MEMBERS HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETINGS AND FORUMS TO DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER, AND HAVE MADE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS WHO WANT TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD WILL ORGANISE AN OPEN FORUM ON THE WHITE PAPER IN MID-OCTOBER, AND WILL SEND LETTERS TO ALL ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDING YOUTH GROUPS, THE ELDERLY AND WELFARE ORGANISATIONS INVITING THEM TO ATTEND THE FORUM.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER AT THEIR REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 26.

THIS EVENING (THURSDAY) DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE ATTENDING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE YAU MA TEI KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION TO DISCUSS THE DOCUMENT. MEANWHILE, MEMBERS OF THE FOUR AREA COMMITTEES HAVE BEGUN GATHERING VIEWS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS AND WILL REPORT BACK TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES.

IN MONG KOK, THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS ARRANGED A SPECIAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8 (THURSDAY) AT 3 PM TO DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER.

PRIOR TO THIS, THE BOARD WILL BE COLLECTING VIEWS AND OPINIONS THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS WITH ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO ATTEND A JOINT MEETING OF THE FIVE AREA COMMITTEES WHICH HAS BEEN ARRANGED TO COLLECT VIEWS FROM MEMBERS. RESIDENTS, MEMBERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS INCORPORATIONS AND KAIFONGS WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALSO ARRANGED FOR A MEET THE PUBLIC SESSION TO COLLECT PUBLIC OPINION. RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN URGED TO CONTACT ELECTED MEMBERS OF THEIR CONSTITUENCIES OR ANY APPOINTED MEMBER IF THEY WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

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COUNCILLORS TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON JOINT AGREEMENT

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APPOINTED AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT AGREEMENT AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON OCTOBER 9 AND 11.

THIS WAS DECIDED AT THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE URBAN COUNCIL THIS MORNING.

THE PLATFORM FOR THE OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT WILL BE A MOTION TO BE INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, ON OCTOBER 9 WHEN HE WILL MOVE +THAT THE COUNCIL WELCOMES THE WHITE PAPER ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG+.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL 30 COUNCILLORS WILL SPEAK ON THE SUBJECT ON THESE TWO DAYS, WITH EACH COUNCILLOR LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 30 MINUTES.

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BLUEPRINT FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

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THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT WHICH WAS INITIALLED YESTERDAY WAS A BLUE PRINT FOR A NEW STAGE IN HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A FUNCTION ORGANISED BY THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE (HONG KONG SECTION) THIS EVENING, MR BRAY SAID THE AGREEMENT TOOK ACCOUNT OF HONG KONG'S NEEDS AND THE REALITIES OF HISTORY, AND PROVIDED A SOUND BASIS ON WHICH THE COMMUNITY COULD BUILD ITS FUTURE.

+WITH HONG KONG'S WIDELY RECOGNISED ABILITY TO ADAPT TO CHANGE AND OPPORTUNITY I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN MAKE IT WORK, AND THAT WE CAN BUILD A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE FOR OURSELVES,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY NOTED THAT THE AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR HONG KONG'S UNIQUE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, LEGAL AND OTHER SYSTEMS FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997, AND FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO HONG KONG'S NEW STATUS AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

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WOMAN DIES OF RABIES
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A 26-YEAR-OLD WOMAN DIED IN PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL OF RABIES RECENTLY, A MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE WOMAN, WHO DID NOT CARRY A HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD, WAS MARRIED TO A LOCAL FISHERMAN AND LIVED ON BOARD A FISHING BOAT MOORED AT CASTLE PEAK BAY. THE BOAT SAILS REGULARLY BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG.

LEUNG LAI-FONG, NINE MONTHS PREGNANT, HAD COMPLAINED OF ABDOMINAL PAIN ON SEPTEMBER 19, AND WAS SENT TO A PRIVATE DOCTOR. SHE WAS LATER REFERRED TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, AND WAS ADMITTED. SHE DIED THE NEXT DAY.

A POST-MORTEM PERFORMED ON THE WOMAN ON SEPTEMBER 25 SHOWED THAT SHE HAD DIED OF RABIES, AND THAT HER BABY HAD DIED BEFORE SHE DID.

INVESTIGATIONS SHOWED THAT THE WOMAN HAD NOT COME ASHORE WHILE THE BOAT WAS IN HONG KONG.

SHE ALSO HAD NO HISTORY OF ANIMAL BITE.

HER HUSBAND SAID THEY HAD NO ANIMAL ON BOARD AND THAT HIS WIFE HAD NOT BEEN BITTEN BY ANY ANIMAL WHILE IN CHINA.

MEANWHILE, AS A PRECAUTION, ALL MEMBERS OF THE WOMAN'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY HAVE BEEN VACCINATED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

AG TO SPEAK ON DRAFT AGREEMENT
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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, WILL SPEAK ON THE AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE, AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG PERSONS' ASSOCIATION, TOMORROW.

MR THOMAS WILL BE PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE AGREEMENT AND ITS BINDING NATURE.

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HE WILL START HIS SPEECH AT 1.15 PM AT THE EAST WEST ROOM OF THE MANDARIN HOTEL AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES MAY ATTEND. COPIES OF THE TEXT WILL ALSO BE ISSUED BY GIS.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION COMPRISE 74 PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 21 AND 40 WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG PERSONS AWARD, ORGANISED BY THE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SINCE 1970. THOSE HONOURED HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS IN WORK OR COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGH PERSONAL EFFORT.

GIS STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL SURVEY IN OCTOBER
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY NEXT MONTH (OCTOBER).

THIS SURVEY IS CONDUCTED QUARTERLY AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN HONG KONG, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE COMING SURVEY COVERS ABOUT 82 000 ESTABLISHMENTS DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS, INCLUDING THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS) AND THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES), WITH FULL ENUMERATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS).

INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1984 WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH ESTABLISHMENT.

SOME 10 000 ESTABLISHMENTS ARE SELECTED FROM THE SAMPLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF JULY - SEPTEMBER 1984.

ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE MAJOR KIND OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE ESTABLISHMENTS.

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 (LEGAL NOTICE NO. 69 OF 1982, GAZETTED ON MARCH 5, 1982), ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING THE QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY COMPLETING THE FORMS ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AT 5-436551, 5-444301, 5-455661 OR 5-455668. THESE NUMBERS ARE PRINTED AT THE BACK OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT DURING JULY - SEPTEMBER 1984 WILL ALSO BE ENUMERATED TO MAKE THE SURVEY RESULTS COMPLETE.

FIELD OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, EACH BEARING A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD, WILL CALL ON THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO SOLICIT INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, EXISTING VACANCIES, TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, NATURE OF BUSINESS AND DATE ON WHICH BUSINESS COMMENCED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE FIELD VISITS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AT 5-444364.

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FIGHTING COUNTRY FIRES THROUGH EDUCATION
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HONG KONG'S ANNUAL PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT COUNTRYSIDE FIRES WILL BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) WITH FIRE-FIGHTING AND +WATER BOMBING+ DISPLAYS, AND A NUMBER OF COMPETITIVE EVENTS.

TAKING PART IN THE EVENTS WILL BE YOUNG FINALISTS OF A COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION COMPETITION, THE +CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME+, ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THEY WILL COMPETE IN AN ORIENTEERING PROGRAMME AND IN THREE OTHER EVENTS WHICH WILL REQUIRE THEM TO IDENTIFY PLANTS, MAKE FIRE BEATERS AND FILL KNAPSACK WATER PUMPS, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE WINNER OF THESE EVENTS WILL GAIN THE GRAND PRIZE OF A CAMPING TRIP TO AUSTRALIA BY AIR.

MAKING THE PRESENTATION - AND A SPEECH LAUNCHING THE DRIVE - WILL BE DR LAWRENCE LEE, ACTING DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MP TO MEET PRESS

CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MR DAVID HEATHCOAT-AMORY, WILL MEET THE PRESS TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 2.45 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

MR HEATHCOAT-AMORY WILL LEAVE HONG KONG THE NEXT DAY, AFTER A SEVEN-DAY VISIT.

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STANDARDS LAB TO BOOST INDUSTRY

HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY WILL BE GIVEN A FURTHER BOOST TOMORROW (FRIDAY), WITH THE OPENING OF THE GOVERNMENT STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY BY DR KEITH LEGG, DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

MAINTAINED AT OPERATED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THE LABORATORY PROVIDES ACCURATE MEASUREMENT AND CALIBRATION SERVICES AND WILL BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES, SUCH AS THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE LABORATORY WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS ON OCTOBER 1, AND WILL EXTEND THE SCOPE OF ITS SERVICES AS MAY BE NEEDED.

HE SAID THE LABORATORY WILL BE WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH OVERSEAS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA.

GUESTS AT THE OPENING ON FRIDAY WILL BE WELCOMED BY THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY, AND WILL BE SHOWN AROUND THE LABORATORY, AFTER THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY.

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ANTI-DRUGS DRIVE FOCUSES ON SCHOOLS
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IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR (1985), THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS ARE JOINTLY ORGANISING A +STUDENTS AGAINST DRUGS MOVEMENT+.

CIRCULARS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL SCHOOLS DRAWING THE PRINCIPALS' ATTENTION TO THE MOVEMENT AND URGING THEM TO ENCOURAGE THEIR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MOVEMENT ARE:

- * TO CREATE AMONG THE STUDENTS A GENERAL AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE;
- * TO ENHANCE THE STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING ABOUT DRUGS AND THEIR HARMFUL EFFECTS; AND
- * TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-DRUG EFFORTS THROUGH THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO, AND GENERATED BY, THE MOVEMENT.

THE MOVEMENT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO STAGES.

STAGE 1 WILL BE THE QUALIFYING ROUND CONSISTING OF AN ANTI-NARCOTICS QUIZ, A POSTER AND SLOGAN DESIGN AND AN ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION.

STAGE 2 WILL CONSIST OF AN ANTI-NARCOTICS LYRIC ON OLD MELODIES COMPOSITION AND SINGING COMPETITION, TELEMATCH GAMES, AND AN EXHIBITION STALL DESIGN COMPETITION.

SCHOOLS SHOULD ORGANISE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN TEAMS OF SIX MEMBERS WITH TWO RESERVES.

BUT STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO JOIN MORE THAN ONE TEAM.

THERE WILL BE A JUNIOR DIVISION COMPRISING TEAMS FROM FORM/MIDDLE 1 TO 3 AND A SENIOR DIVISION COMPRISING TEAMS FROM FORM/MIDDLE 4 TO FORM UPPER 6. EACH SCHOOL CAN SEND THREE TEAMS FOR EACH DIVISION.

THE 10 BEST TEAMS IN EACH DIVISION SELECTED FROM STAGE 1 WILL QUALIFY FOR STAGE 2. THE TEAM WHICH SCORES THE HIGHEST TOTAL MARKS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES IN THE TWO STAGES WILL BE THE OVERALL CHAMPION.

THE TOP PRIZE FOR THE CHAMPION TEAM IN BOTH THE JUNIOR AND THE SENIOR DIVISION WILL BE A MICRO-COMPUTER WORTH OVER \$5 700 FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE TEAM, EXCLUDING THE RESERVES.

FOR THE RUNNERS-UP THERE WILL BE CAMERAS AND SPORTSWEAR.

SCHOOLS SHOULD FORWARD THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, 4TH FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, BY OCTOBER 20, 1984.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CYC SECTION ON 5-8392376.

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SEMINAR ON CIVIC EDUCATION
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A SEMINAR ON CIVIC EDUCATION WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL, STARTING AT 2.30 PM.

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN, WILL TALK ON THE ROLE OF EDUCATIONALISTS IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR OF ECONOMICS, PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGION-ETHICAL EDUCATION, MR LUK MO-PING, WILL DISCUSS THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND ITS RELATION TO THE PRESENT POLITICAL SYSTEM.

MORE THAN 70 HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR.

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COMFORT TERRACE IMPROVED
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REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT WORK TO COMFORT TERRACE IN NORTH POINT HAS BEEN COMPLETED UNDER A PILOT SCHEME TO RESUME AND REPAIR SEVEN PRIVATE STREETS IN THE URBAN AREAS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT REPAIR WORK INCLUDED THE RECONSTRUCTION OF PART OF THE ROAD AND FOOTPATHS, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

THE WORK WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AT A COST OF ABOUT \$35 000.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAD, FOR MANY YEARS, RECOGNISED THAT PRIVATE STREETS POSE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS.

+DUE TO MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP, MOST OF THE PRIVATE STREETS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WERE NOT PROPERLY MANAGED AND WERE IN SEVERELY DILAPIDATED CONDITIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+TO ALLEVIATE SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AND HYGIENE PROBLEMS, THE GOVERNMENT EMBARKED ON AN EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME TO RESUME SEVEN PRIVATE STREETS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE STREET MANAGEMENT,+ HE ADDED.

APART FROM COMFORT TERRACE AND YUET YUEN STREET IN NORTH POINT, THE OTHER PRIVATE STREETS COVERED BY THE SCHEME ARE SAM PAN STREET IN WAN CHAI; AND HOK LING STREET, SHIM LUEN STREET, TSUN FAT STREET AND YIN ON STREET IN KOWLOON CITY.

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SELF-HELP IN FACTORY SAFETY WORK URGED
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FACTORY PROPRIETORS AND MANagements WERE TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED TO LOOK MORE TOWARDS THEMSELVES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND SERIOUS HAZARDS IN INDUSTRY.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR T.K. CHAN IN A SPEECH ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH.

MR CHAN SAID IT WOULD BE WASTEFUL AND DAMAGING IF INDUSTRY WERE TO UNLOAD ON GOVERNMENT THE TASK OF FINDING ANSWERS TO ALL THE SAFETY AND HEALTH PROBLEMS CREATED BY INDUSTRY ITSELF.

HE SAID IT WAS INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREVENTING ACCIDENTS AT WORK LAY WITH THOSE WHO CREATE THE RISKS AND THOSE WHO WORK WITH THEM.

UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, TOO MANY MANagements WERE CONTENT 'TO LEAVE IT TO THE FACTORY INSPECTORS' TO TELL THEM WHAT TO DO ABOUT SAFETY.

MANY MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED PLANTS PRESENTED FEW OBVIOUS RISKS DURING ROUTINE INSPECTION, BUT MIGHT CAUSE SERIOUS HAZARDS ON OCCASIONS, SUCH AS LOADING OR CLEANING, OR FROM BREAKDOWNS IN THE PRODUCTION PROCESS.

+ONLY TOO OFTEN, THESE HAZARDS RECEIVE ATTENTION ONLY AFTER THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR ACCIDENT OR DISASTER,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT SAFETY STANDARDS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS, MIDDLE-MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIVES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WHOLE CYCLE OF PRODUCTION, AND POSSIBLE EMERGENCIES AND DEVIATIONS.

+TOP MANagements MUST THEREFORE REALISE THE NEED TO SUPPLEMENT FACTORY INSPECTOR'S SURPRISE VISITS WITH ORGANISED METHODS OF INSPECTION WHICH CAN PROBE MORE DEEPLY INTO TECHNIQUES, PROCESS AND SYSTEMS OF WORK,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE SUBJECT OF FIRE HAZARDS, MR CHAN SAID THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE HAD TAKEN OUT 132 SUMMONSES IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR ON OBSTRUCTION OF DOORWAYS, STAIRWAYS AND PASSAGeways WITHIN FACTORY PREMISES, AS OPPOSED TO THE 80 SUMMONSES FOR SIMILAR OFFENCES FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE EXISTING STATUTORY PROVISIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN REGISTRABLE WORKPLACE) REGULATIONS 1981 WAS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THOROUGH ANALYSES AND UNDERSTANDING BY THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INFLAMMABLE MATERIALS USED AND ADVANCED PLANNING FOR THEIR SAFE STORAGE AND USE.

ONCE FACTORY PROPRIETORS RECOGNISE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR TACKLING THEIR OWN SAFETY PROBLEMS, A FACTORY INSPECTORATE CAN DO MUCH +TO HELP INDUSTRY TO HELP ITSELF+, AND SO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BROADER EFFORT FOR SAFETY AT WORK, MR CHAN CONCLUDED.

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ALDRICH BAY SEAWALL TO BE COMPLETED

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WORK HAS STARTED ON THE REMAINING LENGTH OF A SEA WALL AT THE EASTERN END OF ALDRICH BAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE THIRD STAGE OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR PROJECT.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$7 MILLION CONTRACT TO UNIVERSAL DOCKYARD LTD TO CONSTRUCT THE SEAWALL WHICH WILL ENABLE RECLAMATION TO BE COMPLETED.

TO DATE 90 METRES OF THE SEAWALL HAVE BEEN BUILT AND WORK ON THE REMAINING 200 METRES IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

RECLAMATION WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 1.3 HECTARES OF LAND, PART OF WHICH WILL BE FOR CONSTRUCTING A SECTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND CHAI WAN.

THE REST OF THE AREA WILL BE FOR INDUSTRIAL USE, PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE AND SEWAGE FACILITIES.

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DB MEMBERS TO VISIT COLISEUM

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MEMBERS OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL VISIT THE KO SHAN THEATRE AND THE HONG KONG COLISEUM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO SEE THE OPERATION OF THEIR MODERN CULTURAL FACILITIES.

THEY WILL BE BRIEFED ON VARIOUS PRODUCTION METHODS AT BOTH PLACES AND WATCH A BALLET REHEARSAL AT THE KO SHAN THEATRE.

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PARKING METERS

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PARKING METERS WILL BE IN OPERATION IN TUEN MUN TOWN TOMORROW.

THEY WILL BE INSTALLED AT HO PONG STREET AND THE CAR PARKS AT LUK YUEN STREET, TAK CHING COURT, KIN ON STREET AND SAN ON STREET.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN - SUPPLEMENT

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1984

GOVERNOR MEETS PRESS ON WHITE PAPER * * * * *

FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE,
AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON.

+I AM VERY GLAD TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS PRESS CONFERENCE. NO DOUBT YOU ARE FINDING IT A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO MAKE ANY LONG INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT. YOU WILL HAVE ALL SEEN AND SOME OF YOU WILL HAVE HEARD THE STATEMENT I MADE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST NIGHT, BUT IT MAY BE USEFUL IF I WAS TO REMIND YOU OF SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS WHICH I MADE IN THAT STATEMENT. AND IN IT I EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE THE 1997 DEADLINE EXISTED IT HAD TO BE DEALT WITH, AND IT HAD TO BE DEALT WITH NOW BECAUSE I BELIEVED IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN RIGHT TO LEAVE THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY IN CONTINUING DOUBT ABOUT ITS FUTURE.

+I EXPLAINED IN THE STATEMENT THAT IN THE VIEW OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ANY AGREEMENT HAD TO MEET TWO ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS. IT HAD TO PROVIDE IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL AND IN FAMILIAR LANGUAGE FOR THE CONTINUITY OF THOSE SYSTEMS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG REGARD AS ESSENTIAL. MOREOVER, IN ORDER TO GIVE CONFIDENCE BOTH IN HONG KONG AND TO THE WORLD AT LARGE, IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT THERE HAD TO BE A BINDING COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED TO IMPLEMENT ALL ITS PROVISIONS.

+I EXPLAINED MY VIEW THAT THE AGREEMENT MET SQUARELY THOSE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS. I ALSO SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT REMOVED AN OBSTACLE. UNCERTAINTY ABOUT 1997 HAD BECOME A DETERRENT TO CONFIDENCE AND PROGRESS. NOW HONG KONG CAN MOVE AHEAD ONCE MORE.

/+AND FINALLY,

+AND FINALLY, LET ME REMIND YOU OF THE SUMMING UP WHICH I MADE IN THAT STATEMENT. I SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH TAKES ACCOUNT OF HONG KONG'S NEEDS AND OF THE REALITIES OF HISTORY. IT FORSEES THAT CHANGE MUST COME BUT IN PROVIDING FOR THAT CHANGE IT PROVIDES ALSO FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN OUR SOCIETY. IN AS FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENTS TODAY TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE IT REMOVES THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH EXISTED BECAUSE OF THE 1997 DEADLINE. IT CONSTITUTES A BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW STAGE IN HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AND, AS SUCH, I COMMENDED IT TO THE COMMUNITY AND I EXPRESSED MY FIRM CONVICTION THAT WITH THEIR WIDELY RECOGNISED ABILITY TO ADAPT TO CHANGE AND TO RESPOND TO OPPORTUNITY THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG COULD MAKE IT WORK AND COULD BUILD FOR THEMSELVES A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.

+THOSE WERE THE MAIN POINTS WHICH I MADE LAST NIGHT AND I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THEM AGAIN TODAY.+

GOVERNOR MEETS ON WHITE PAPER

FOLLOWING ARE THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q. NICK BEACROFT, RTHK: REFERRING TO THE WHITE PAPER, SIR EDWARD, THEY SAY THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT SAYS THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF AN AMENDED AGREEMENT AND THE ALTERNATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT IS TO HAVE NO AGREEMENT AT ALL.

THEREFORE, WHY BOTHER TO HAVE AN ASSESSMENT OFFICE? IS IT LIKE SOME LABOUR MP'S HAVE SAID, WHO HAVE VISITED THE TERRITORY, JUST 'WINDOW DRESSING'.

A. THE REASON FOR HAVING AN ASSESSMENT OFFICE IS VERY SIMPLE. IT IS, THAT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN STATED THAT THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO FIND AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. IT IS, THEREFORE, IN MY MIND ESSENTIAL TO BE SURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THEIR VIEW ON THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE AGREEMENT, AS A WHOLE. AND THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE IS A VERY GOOD WAY OF GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT. I CANNOT THINK WHY ANYBODY WOULD WISH TO DENY THEM THAT OPPORTUNITY.

Q. AND IF THEY SAY 'NO', WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

A. I COMMENDED THE AGREEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT IS A GOOD AGREEMENT, AND IT IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH I BELIEVE THEY WILL FIND ACCEPTABLE. SO, THE QUESTION IS HYPOTHETICAL.

Q. JIM BIDDULPH, BBC: COULD I PURSUE THIS? WHAT IF PEOPLE SAY IT'S NOT AGREEABLE? IF YOU SAY IT'S HYPOTHETICAL, BUT SURELY YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY 'YES', OR 'NO'. WHAT IF THEY SAY 'NO'?

...AND FINALLY...

/A. WELL,

A. WELL, THE ANSWER IS SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER WHERE THE UK GOVERNMENT MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT THERE IS TO BE A TRANSITION IN 1997. IT CAN BE A TRANSITION ON THE BASIS OF WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE A GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT, OR A TRANSITION WITHOUT THAT AGREEMENT. I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT AS TO WHICH IS THE BETTER COURSE.

Q. WEN WEI PO: AS YOU HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE THAT THIS IS A GOOD AGREEMENT THAT YOU WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THEN WHAT WILL THE GOVERNMENT DO IN THE COMING 13 YEARS ON WHICH TO BUILD WITH CONFIDENCE?

A. I THINK THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALL ALONG BEEN QUITE CLEAR ON WHAT IT PROPOSED TO DO DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG. I SAID AT ONE OF THE VERY EARLY STATEMENTS I MADE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT WE INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO GOVERN THIS TERRITORY EFFICIENTLY AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ITS PEOPLE. WE INTENDED TO CONTINUE OUR INVESTMENT IN ITS FUTURE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR THOSE ESSENTIAL SERVICES WHICH PEOPLE NEED. SO, THE SHORT ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS THAT WE INTEND TO GO ON GOVERNING THIS TERRITORY IN THE INTERESTS OF ITS PEOPLE.

Q. CLAUDIA MO, TVB NEWS: SIR, WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS RESERVES WHICH AMOUNT TO BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, BEFORE AND AFTER 1997?

A. WELL, IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE EXCHANGE FUND, YOU WILL FIND A CLEAR PROVISION IN THE AGREEMENT WHICH MAKES QUITE CLEAR THAT THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL CONTINUE TO BE MANAGED BY HONG KONG, AND THE HONG KONG SAR.

Q. UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER: SIR, IT IS OFTEN THE CASE THAT COUNTRIES WHO HAVE A LOT OF CLOUT WITH EACH OTHER WHO HAVING NEGOTIATED A TREATY, WILL TRY TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF THAT TREATY OR GET OUT OF IT. NOW, THIS IS NOT UNCOMMON, ONE COULD QUOTE PERHAPS THE EEC COUNTRIES. HONG KONG IS NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY MUSCLE OR CLOUT. HOW WOULD YOU SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD BE CONVINCED BY THE SIGNATORIES TO THIS AGREEMENT OR TO THIS JOINT DECLARATION THAT THEY ARE GOING TO STAND BY IT AND HONG KONG HAS NO CLOUT? HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE ARE THE ONES AFFECTED.

A. I THINK THE EEC COUNTRIES WOULD DISAGREE RATHER VIOLENTLY WITH YOUR PROPOSITION THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO GET OUT OF IT. IN FACT, I THINK, WHAT ALL OF THEM ARE TRYING TO DO IS TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT THAT THEY CAN AND THAT THEY ARE ALL COMMITTED TO IT. IN THE CASE OF THIS AGREEMENT, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF THE AGREEMENT IS THAT IT IS FREELY NEGOTIATED= THAT IT WILL STAND BECAUSE IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THOSE INVOLVED THAT IT SHOULD STAND, AND AS LONG AS IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THOSE CONCERNED THAT IT SHOULD STAND, AND IT IS FREELY NEGOTIATED, AND THAT THEY HAVE COMMITTED THEIR INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE TO IT — AND THERE IS NO DOUBT FROM THE REACTION AROUND THE WORLD TODAY, THAT IT IS REGARDED INTERNATIONALLY AS A VERY IMPORTANT ARRANGEMENT, ALL THOSE THINGS SEEM TO ME TO ARGUE IN FAVOUR OF THE COMMITMENT BEING HONOURED BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENTS. I SEE NO REASON AT ALL WHY THEY SHOULD WISH TO DO OTHERWISE.

Q. SO FAR IT'S BEEN MADE VERY CLEAR THAT THROUGHOUT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE AGREEMENT CANNOT BE DEBATED PIECEMEAL NOR CAN IT BE AMENDED AS IT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED. THAT IS VERY CLEAR. SO I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS SOMETHING SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. IF IN THE COURSE OF PREPARING FOR 1997 OR OVER THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD AFTER 1997, THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP DISCOVERS THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTATION, CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE AGREEMENT COULD BE ADDED TO, OR SUPPLEMENTED, IN ORDER TO EASE ITS IMPLEMENTATION?

A. WELL, STARTING FROM THE PROPOSITION THAT THE AGREEMENT CANNOT BE AMENDED, I DON'T THINK ANYBODY WOULD CLAIM THAT WE HAVE BEEN SO PRESCIENT AS TO FORESEE EVERYTHING THAT MIGHT NEED TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE NEXT 13 YEARS, AND IT WOULD BE PERFECTLY NATURAL THAT IF IT WAS NECESSARY IN ANY WAY, AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID LAST NIGHT, FOR THE AGREEMENT TO BE AMPLIFIED OR CLARIFIED, THAT WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF PRACTICAL AND FRIENDLY COOPERATION IN WHICH THE AGREEMENT ITSELF HAS BEEN DRAWN UP.

Q. NG TING KWONG, COMMERCIAL RADIO, HONG KONG. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT QUITE A LOT OF THE CONTENTS ARE NOT CLEAR AS FAR AS THE LOCAL PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED. SO IS THE GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO SEND OUT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL PEOPLE?

A. I THINK THAT, IN FACT, IF YOU READ THE AGREEMENT VERY CAREFULLY, YOU WILL FIND IT IS REASONABLY CLEAR. BUT NEVERTHELESS IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THESE THINGS TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT THEY IMPLY. IN AS FAR AS WE CAN GIVE ANY CLARIFICATION THAT IS NECESSARY WE WILL, INDEED, BE VERY READY TO DO SO.

Q. SIMON FUNG, RADIO HONG KONG. I WANT TO COME BACK ALSO TO THE QUESTION OF CONSULTATION AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF IT. TIME AND AGAIN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATION. BUT WHY WAS IT IN THE WHITE PAPER THERE WAS NO ASSURANCE AT ALL THAT THE FUTURE IMPORTANT LAND COMMISSION AND ALSO THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL HAVE HONG KONG PEOPLE REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THESE TWO COMMITTEES?

A. WELL, THE CONSULTATION PROCEDURE, OF COURSE, WAS A VERY WIDE ONE. YOU ARE REFERRING TO ONE SPECIFIC ASPECT WHICH IS MENTIONED IN THE AGREEMENT WHICH IS WHO WILL BE SITTING ON THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND WHO WILL BE SITTING ON THE LAND COMMISSION. WELL, THESE TWO GROUPS ARE, OF COURSE, GROUPS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS BUT YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT ON THE BRITISH SIDE THERE WILL BE THE APPROPRIATE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

HALIMA GUTERRES, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST:

Q. MANY PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED FEARS THAT HOWEVER GOOD THE AGREEMENT MAY BE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT IS ADHERED TO BY THE CHINESE SIDE DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN CHINA. GIVEN THESE FEARS, CAN THE GOVERNMENT GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT SHOULD THE CHINESE SIDE GO BACK ON ITS PROMISES CONTINGENCY PLANS EXIST TO RESETTLE THOSE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WISH TO LIVE UNDER COMMUNISM?

/A. I THINK

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A. I THINK THE BEGINNING OF YOUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME REASON WHY CHINA WOULD GO BACK ON THIS AGREEMENT. I SEE NO REASON TO MAKE THAT ASSUMPTION. THIS IS A FREELY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THEY HAVE COMMITTED THEIR PRESTIGE. AND ON THESE OCCASIONS WHAT WE HAVE TRIED TO DO IN THE AGREEMENT IS TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS IN WHICH PEOPLE WILL FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN STAY IN HONG KONG AND LIVE THEIR LIVES AS THEY HAVE BEEN LIVING ALREADY. SO I THINK THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO STAY AND HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING FOR ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD WANT THEM TO LEAVE. THIS IS, I THINK, THE KIND OF AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO ALLAY ANXIETIES AND WHICH I FIRMLY EXPECT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WILL ADHERE TO.

TA KUNG PAO:

Q. FROM NOW UNTIL 1997 WITH THAT TRANSITIONAL PERIOD FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE, WHAT KIND OF PARTICIPATION CAN PEOPLE HAVE TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR FUTURE IN THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

A. WELL, I AM ONE OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE GET VERY FIRMLY INVOLVED IN ALMOST EVERY QUESTION IN HONG KONG THAT COMES UP FOR DISCUSSION. I HAVE NEVER FOUND THEM BACKWARD IN EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS. BUT AGAIN I THINK WE SHOULD BE DOING OUR UTMOST TO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN DOING UP TO THE PRESENT TIME, WHICH IS THEY CAN EXPRESS THE VIEWS THEY WISH TO EXPRESS ON ANY SUBJECT AND, OF COURSE, ONE OF THE THINGS WE ARE AIMING TO DO IN OUR GREEN PAPER IS TO EXTEND THE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG.

EMILY LAU, FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW:

Q. SIR EDWARD, IT IS STATED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION THAT THE CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT SHALL BE ABLE TO ENJOY ALL KINDS OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS SUCH AS FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OF THE PRESS, ETC. MANY CHINESE IN CHINA RIGHT NOW ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE MANY OF THESE RIGHTS ALTHOUGH THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO EXERCISE THEM. SO IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP UNDERSTAND WHAT THESE TERMS MEAN TO THE HONG KONG PEOPLE?

A. YES. I BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS THAT THERE WAS VERY FULL UNDERSTANDING - AFTER ALL WE WERE TALKING FOR TWO YEARS ON THESE SUBJECTS - OF WHAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG VALUE - THE RIGHTS THAT THEY VALUE AND WHAT THEY UNDERSTAND BY THOSE RIGHTS. AND OF COURSE, IT IS STATED IN THE AGREEMENT THAT THOSE RIGHTS WHICH ARE ENJOYED IN HONG KONG UNDER THE LAW WILL CONTINUE AND WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE PROTECTION OF THE LAW.

/LAWRENCE

LAWRENCE MACDONALD, ASIAWEEK:

Q. I HAVE A QUESTION REGARDING NATIONALITY AND THE TWO MEMORANDA WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE AGREEMENT. FIRST OF ALL, THEY DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN CHINESE NATIONALS AND NON-CHINESE NATIONALS IN HONG KONG AND I WONDER IF YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN FOR LONG-TIME HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO ARE NOT ETHNIC CHINESE, EXACTLY WHAT THEIR STATUS WOULD BE. AND IN RELATION TO THAT I WONDER IF HONG KONG CHINESE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO BECOME CITIZENS OF THE PRC WILL HAVE SOME OPTION OPEN TO THEM OR WILL THEY BECOME STATELESS PERSONS?

A. FIRST OF ALL, THE STATUS OF A CHINESE NATIONAL OF COURSE IS EXPLAINED UNDER THE CHINESE NATIONALITY LAW - WHO IS OR MAY BECOME A CHINESE NATIONAL. BUT ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH THIS DOES IS, IT ADOPTS A PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THOSE WHO ARE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS CAN HAVE A NEW STATUS WHICH ENTITLES THEM TO A BRITISH PASSPORT. I CAN UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE SOME WHO MAY WONDER WHETHER THEY WOULD BE LEFT STATELESS BUT YOU MAY BE SURE THAT FOR THE NON-HONG KONG CHINESE WHO WOULD NOT BECOME CHINESE NATIONALS IF THERE IS ANY QUESTION OF STATELESSNESS AN APPROPRIATE PROVISION WILL BE MADE FOR THEM IN BRITISH LEGISLATION.

Q. BING WONG, OF TIME MAGAZINE: I AM REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO TWO THINGS, TWO PERSONS, ONE IS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE OTHER ONE IS THE CHIEF JUSTICE, FOR INSTANCE. WILL THERE BE ANYTHING DONE IN THE FUTURE TO PREVENT THESE TWO PERSONS BEING PULLED DOWN IF THEY DO THINGS THAT INVITE PEKING'S DISPLEASURE?

A. WELL, THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHALL BE A LOCAL INHABITANT AND IT MAKES PROVISION IN AS FAR AS IT'S POSSIBLE TO MAKE PROVISION THIS FAR AHEAD FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. BUT, WHAT WE WILL BE DEALING WITH IS PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO HONG KONG -- AND, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE, THERE ARE VERY CLEAR PROVISIONS COVERING BOTH HIS SELECTION AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH HE MIGHT BE REMOVED. SO, THE ASSURANCE IN THAT REGARD IS IN THE AGREEMENT.

Q. PHILIP HO, FINANCIAL DAILY: HOW WOULD THE FUTURE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE STATED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE IDEA OF A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT?

A. I'M NOT QUITE SURE I FOLLOW THE LAST BIT, BUT IF YOU MEAN 'HOW WILL THE ARRANGEMENT IN THE AGREEMENT AFFECT THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT' -- WELL, AS I SAID LAST NIGHT THE ARRANGEMENTS SET OUT IN THE AGREEMENT ARE THE MAIN ESSENTIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE AND THERE IS NOTHING THAT WE ARE PLANNING TO DO WHICH IS INCONSISTENT WITH THAT, AND INDEED, THEY WILL, THOSE ARRANGEMENTS, WILL ALLOW SCOPE FOR THE KIND OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH WE HAVE EMBARKED UPON.

Q. WEN WEI PO: SIR, DO YOU THINK THAT THE CONCEPT OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS' WILL WORK= AND WHAT'S YOUR COMMENT ON THIS?

A. THE ANSWER IS: YES, I THINK IT WILL WORK. AND INDEED, THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF THIS AGREEMENT IS TO SET OUT A WAY IN WHICH IT CAN WORK -- AND ALSO TO SET IT OUT IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL AND IN A MANNER WHICH I HOPE WILL GIVE OTHER PEOPLE THE SAME CONFIDENCE AS WE HAVE THAT IT WILL WORK.

Q. JOHN GITTINGS, THE GUARDIAN: WHY WAS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA ON THE QUESTION OF NATIONALITY RATHER THAN HAVING THEIR EMBODIED IN THE AGREEMENT, AND DOES IT IMPLY A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA ON THE SUBJECT?

A. WELL, I THINK WE HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA, IN FACT YOU WILL FIND IN THE AGREEMENT THAT THERE IS THE JOINT DECLARATION, THERE IS THE ANNEXES, WITH TWO OTHER SUBJECTS DEALT WITH IN ANNEXES OF THEIR OWN -- THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND LAND -- BECAUSE THAT WAS FOUND TO BE THE BEST FORM IN WHICH TO DEAL WITH IT AND THEN THE EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA WERE DESIGNED IN THAT WAY, AGAIN, BECAUSE THAT WAS THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY OF SETTING OUT IN A WAY ACCEPTABLE TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS THE SITUATION AND THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THEY WISHED TO MAKE. THEY ARE FORMAL STATEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON EACH SIDE. THE WORDING OF EACH OF THE MEMORANDA WAS KNOWN TO AND ACCEPTED BY THE OTHER SIDE. I THINK THAT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

Q. (IN CHINESE) HONG KONG ECONOMIC JOURNAL: IF FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AND BRITAIN, HONG KONG WILL HAVE TO FIGHT ITS OWN BATTLE. NOW, HAS THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT PROMISED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT IN THE FUTURE IF SIMILAR CASES OCCUR WHEN THERE IS A CONFLICT OF INTERESTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, AND CHINA WILL STAND ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG?

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES: THE QUESTION OF MISS CHOW OF THE ECONOMIC JOURNAL WAS: IN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, HONG KONG IS CURRENTLY REPRESENTED THROUGH THE UK AND WHERE THERE'S A CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UK, THE UK WILL FIGHT FOR HONG KONG'S INTERESTS. WHEN CHINA TAKES OVER SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG, WHEN THERE IS SUCH A CONFLICT IN ANY INTERNATIONAL FORUM, WILL HONG KONG HAVE TO FIGHT THE BATTLE ALONE, OR WILL CHINA BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT HONG KONG AS THE UK DOES?

A. WELL, I THINK YOUR ACCOUNT OF THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ON ECONOMIC MATTERS MIGHT BE TAKEN AS A SLIGHTLY SIMPLIFIED ONE. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, WHICH IS ALREADY THE CASE WHERE HONG KONG'S INTERESTS, SHALL WE SAY, ARE DISTINCT FROM THOSE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN FOUND POSSIBLE FOR HONG KONG TO BE ABLE TO STATE ITS OWN VIEW AND FIGHT ITS OWN CORNER, AS YOU MIGHT SAY, ON THE BASIS OF ITS OWN INTERESTS. AND I THINK THAT ONE OF THE ENCOURAGING THINGS WHICH IS IN THIS ARRANGEMENT IS THE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY WHICH IS BEING GIVEN TO HONG KONG IN OUR ECONOMIC

MATTERS= THE DEGREE TO WHICH HONG KONG CAN PARTICIPATE ON ITS OWN IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHICH DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS. SO, I WOULD EXPECT THE GOOD SENSE, SHALL WE SAY, WHICH HAS GOVERNED THESE ARRANGEMENTS AS LONG AS THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH WAS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UK, WILL CONTINUE AFTER THAT TIME. IT REALLY IS QUITE A GOOD ARRANGEMENT SET OUT IN THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH YOU HAVE, ON THE AUTONOMOUS NATURE OF HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATION OF ITS OWN INTERESTS AND THE WAY IN WHICH IT CAN PARTICIPATE IN THESE ORGANISATIONS.

Q. FONG YUEN-AH, THE NEW EVENING POST: (IN CHINESE) SIR EDWARD, BEFORE 1997, FOR THE TOP-LEVEL POSTS WITHIN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, WOULD THERE BE ANY CHANGES, OR WOULD THERE BE ANY ADDITIONS? FOR INSTANCE, WOULD THERE BE A DEPUTY-GOVERNOR?

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES: MISS FONG OF THE NEW EVENING POST: BEFORE 1997, ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE HIGHER RANKS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT? IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION TO ESTABLISH THE POST OF A DEPUTY-GOVERNOR?

A. THERE IS NOTHING AT THE PRESENT TIME, NO PLAN AT THE PRESENT TIME TO ESTABLISH A DEPUTY GOVERNOR -- IF YOU MEAN BY THAT A SEPARATE POST OF DEPUTY-GOVERNOR, BECAUSE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR ALREADY HAPPENS, SIMPLY BY THE GOVERNOR GOING AWAY. BUT, NO, THERE IS NO PLAN AT THE PRESENT TIME TO CHANGE THE HIGHER RANKS OF THE GOVERNMENT. WHICH NO DOUBT WILL BE A COMFORT TO THOSE WHO OCCUPY THOSE POSTS.

Q. CATHERINE ANTOINE, LE MATIN, PARIS: IN THE PAST TWO YEARS YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO CONDUCT OPINION POLLS TO FIND OUT WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WISH FOR THEMSELVES. NOW THAT THERE IS AN AGREEMENT THEIR OPINIONS ARE BEING ASSESSED BUT THEY WON'T HAVE ANY BEARINGS ON THE FINAL DRAFT OF THIS AGREEMENT. HOW CAN WE TRUST TODAY WHEN WE READ IN THE GREEN PAPER THAT THE REFORMS ARE AIMED TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE THAT YOU REALLY MEAN WHAT YOU SAY.

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH CONDUCT OPINION POLLS TO ESTABLISH THE ACCEPTABILITY OR OTHERWISE OF ITS POLICIES. WHAT WE DO DO IN HONG KONG AND I THINK WE DO IT REMARKABLY WELL IS THAT WE HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY WE CONSULT VERY WIDELY THROUGH A VERY WIDE RANGE OF ORGANISATIONS WITH ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY ON BOTH GOVERNMENT POLICY AND WE HAVE DONE OUR UTMOST OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS TO ENSURE THAT THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTRE AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG WERE COMPLETELY OPEN. I KNOW OF NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD WHERE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ANY MORE, OR WHERE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ANY EASIER, FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN AND, INDEED, THE VOLUME OF OPINION AND COMMENT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED OVER THE LAST YEAR HAS BEEN ENORMOUS. SO THAT FOR THE FUTURE THOSE CHANNELS WILL REMAIN OPEN AND ANYBODY WHO WISHES TO EXPRESS A VIEW ON ANYTHING IN HONG KONG WILL CERTAINLY HAVE A VERY FREE CHANNEL IN WHICH TO DO SO.

Q. KARINA LEUNG, ATV NEWS. I WOULD LIKE PURSUE AN EARLIER QUESTION. WHY IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AS THE NATIONALITY ISSUE COVERED IN THE FORM OF A MEMORANDUM WHICH IS NOT LEGALLY BINDING INSTEAD OF THE ANNEXES OR IN THE JOINT DECLARATION? AND THE FACT THAT THE GRANTING OF THE NEW STATUS WILL STILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT. ISN'T THERE A POSSIBILITY THAT THIS NEW STATUS MIGHT, AFTER ALL, NOT COME INTO BEING AT ALL?

A. YOU CAN BE QUITE SURE THAT WITH REGARD TO THE LAST PART OF YOUR QUESTION THAT IT IS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S STATED INTENTION TO PUT THIS TO PARLIAMENT. IT IS SIMPLY A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT YOU CANNOT SAY IN THE UK THAT YOU COMMIT PARLIAMENT. BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT GIVEN THE DEGREE OF COMMENDATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PUT BEHIND THIS ARRANGEMENT THAT PARLIAMENT WILL GIVE IT THE MOST SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. WITH REGARD TO WHY IS AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT IN AN EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA? THE ANSWER TO THAT IS, AS I HAVE EXPLAINED BEFORE, EACH OF THESE SUBJECTS IS DEALT WITH IN THE FORM IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENTS FELT IT WAS BEST DEALT WITH. AND THE FACT THAT IT IS IN AN EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA DOES NOT IN ANY WAY MEAN THAT IT IS NOT REGARDED AS AN IMPORTANT ONE. ON THE CONTRARY THERE WAS AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF TENSION AND CARE GIVEN TO DEVISING THIS VERY PRACTICAL ANSWER TO A PRACTICAL PROBLEM.

Q. HO MAN CHEUNG, ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS: I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW -- THE AGREEMENT DOESN'T COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, IS THERE ANY GUARANTEE THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INTERFERE OR TAKE OVER HONG KONG BETWEEN NOW AND THE VALIDATING DATE?

A. THE QUESTION ALMOST LEAVES ME BREATHLESS! I CAN SEE NO REASON WHATSOEVER WHY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT TO DO OTHER THAN PUT THIS AGREEMENT INTO EFFECT.

Q. I HAVE A FOLLOWING QUESTION. JUST BECAUSE CHINESE LEADERS HAVE EARLIER SAID THAT IF THERE ARE DISTURBANCES IN HONG KONG THEY WILL TAKE OVER HONG KONG. IF THERE IS NO GUARANTEE, AND WE HAVE THIS KIND OF UNEXPECTED THINGS HAPPENING, THEN WHAT CAN WE DO?

A. I HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT, AND I AM SURE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT, THAT THERE WILL BE ANY DISTURBANCES IN HONG KONG. AND, INDEED, AFTER IF THERE EVER WAS ANY SUGGESTION OF THAT WHICH I DON'T THINK THERE WAS, THERE WILL BE EVEN LESS, IT SEEMS TO ME, OF THAT POSSIBILITY NOW THAT A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT HAS BEEN INITIALLED IN PEKING. I ACCEPT THAT THAT IS NOT QUITE LOGICAL - IF YOU SAY THAT IT WASN'T GOING TO HAPPEN ANYWAY, THE CHANCES OF ITS HAPPENING ARE NOW EVEN LESS. BUT I THINK MY MEANING WILL BE REASONABLY CLEAR.

Q. AL PESSIN, VOICE OF AMERICA: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK ABOUT THE BALANCE OF POWER IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997 BETWEEN THE SAR AND PEKING. PEKING WILL APPOINT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DEPARTMENT HEADS BUT THE PEOPLE WILL ELECT THE LEGISLATURE. THERE ARE MANY COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ELECTIONS BUT NOT DEMOCRACY IN THE BRITISH OR WESTERN SENSE. IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THERE WILL BE MORE THAN ONE POLITICAL PARTY ALLOWED IN HONG KONG FOR EXAMPLE, OR JUST WHAT FORM THESE QUOTE UNQUOTE ELECTIONS WILL TAKE.

/A. THERE HAS

A. THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT AS TO WHAT FORM THE ELECTIONS WILL TAKE. THE PERIOD IS, OF COURSE, SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME AHEAD AND WE ARE JUST STARTING OUT HERE IN HONG KONG IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND THAT IS SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER. SO I THINK THE SHORT ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS THAT HOW THE STRUCTURE WILL DEVELOP BETWEEN NOW AND 1997 WILL DEPEND TO A GREAT DEAL ON HOW THE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG WANT IT TO DEVELOP.

Q. BUT CHINA IS NOT NECESSARILY BOUND TO FOLLOW WHATEVER DEVELOPS BETWEEN NOW AND THEN, IS IT?

A. WHAT CHINA HAS UNDERTAKEN TO DO IS TO RESPECT CERTAIN PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE THAT THERE WILL BE AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE, THAT THERE WILL BE AN EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABLE TO THAT LEGISLATURE AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE WILL BE BOUND BY THE LAW. THOSE SEEM TO ME TO BE QUITE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES.

Q. DINAH LEE, WASHINGTON POST: THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF REPORTS IN THE LOCAL PRESS THAT SPECIAL PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ALLOW THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UK TO HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS OR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY WORK OR SOME OTHER SENSITIVE CAPACITY. THIS ISN'T MENTIONED IN THE WHITE PAPER AND I WONDER IF YOU COULD CONFIRM OR DENY THESE REPORTS?

A. IT CERTAINLY IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE WHITE PAPER BECAUSE IT CERTAINLY WASN'T COVERED. THE WHOLE OBJECT OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS WAS TO GIVE CONFIDENCE AND TO REMOVE ANXIETIES AND I THINK I CAN DO NO BETTER THAN READ TO YOU WHAT SIR GEOFFREY HOWE SAID LAST NIGHT: 'IT WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE' HE SAID, THIS IS SPEAKING OFFICIALLY FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, 'TO PLAN FOR MASS EMIGRATION OR MASS DEPARTURE. IN CERTAIN VERY LIMITED CASES CERTAIN RIGHTS WILL EXIST UNDER THE DISCRETION OF THE HOME SECRETARY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM BUT THAT WILL BE ON A VERY LIMITED BASIS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND SPECIAL FACTORS'. THE WHOLE OBJECT OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO NEED FOR PEOPLE TO BE ANXIOUS BECAUSE WE HAVE SET UP ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH THEIR RIGHTS WILL BE PROTECTED AND THEY WILL HAVE THE PROTECTION OF THE COURTS OF HONG KONG.

Q. LI CHAN-YIU, HONG KONG TIMES. THE AGREEMENT ITSELF IS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS, IN OTHER WORDS THAT IS THE MAIN EMPHASIS OF THE WHITE PAPERS. BECAUSE THIS IS A RATHER IMAGINATIVE CONCEPT AND THERE IS NO PRECEDENT, DO YOU FORESEE ANY DIFFICULTIES IN THE IMPLEMENTING OF THE CONCEPT AND IF THERE ARE CONFUSIONS WHAT SORT OF MEASURES ARE THERE TO PROTECT THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG. WHAT I AM REALLY TRYING TO ASK IS WHAT OTHER MEASURES DO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE? DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES: (TRANSLATION) MR LEE OF HONG KONG TIMES. THE QUESTIONS IS: GIVEN THAT THE MAIN FEATURE OF THE AGREEMENT IS THE ONE-COUNTRY TWO-SYSTEM CONCEPT WHICH SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING RATHER IMAGINATIVE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW UK IS GOING TO PROTECT HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY. DOES UK HAVE ANY OTHER INSTRUMENT TO PROTECT HONG KONG OTHER THAN JUST THE AGREEMENT ITSELF?

A. THE CONCEPT OF ONE-COUNTRY TWO-SYSTEM IS INDEED AN IMAGINATIVE ONE BUT IT IS NOW MORE THAN AN IMAGINATIVE ONE, BECAUSE HOW IT WILL WORK IN THE CASE OF HONG KONG IS NOW SPELLED OUT IN VERY SUBSTANTIAL DETAIL IN THIS AGREEMENT AND, I THINK, THAT, CERTAINLY THE REACTIONS WHICH I GET TODAY IS THAT MANY PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED AT THE DEGREE TO WHICH IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO SPELL OUT THESE ARRANGEMENTS, AND THE FACT THAT THEY ARE SPELLED OUT GIVES THEM CONFIDENCE THAT IT WILL WORK. BUT AS REGARDS THE UK, THE UK WILL, OF COURSE, BE RELYING ON THE SAME BASIC ELEMENTS WHICH I HAVE OUTLINED AT THE BEGINNING WHICH IS THAT IT IS A FREELY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT AND IT IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH, I REPEAT, REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF ALL THOSE INVOLVED. AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT IS A COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS WHICH IS THE BEST GUARANTEE OF SUCH AGREEMENTS.

Q. LI WING-ON FROM RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG. YOU SAID IN YESTERDAY'S LEGCO MEETING AND REPEATED EARLIER TODAY THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION JUST INITIALLED HAD CLEARED THE UNCERTAINTY ARISING FROM 1997 AND ALSO PROVIDED A SOUND BASE FOR US TO KNOW OUR FUTURE. WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MOST ESSENTIAL FACTORS FROM NOW ON TO HELP US TO STEER OUR COURSE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

A. I THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS FOR PEOPLE IN HONG KONG IS TO HAVE THE SAME CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES AS I HAVE IN THEM. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH, I HAVE SAID IT LAST NIGHT, WHICH THEY CAN MAKE WORK AND ON WHICH THEY CAN BUILD A FUTURE. AND I THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE THIS AGREEMENT DOES OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY AS WELL AS AN ASSURANCE TO MAKE THE BEST OF THAT OPPORTUNITY FROM NOW ON AND TO BE INVOLVED IN THAT ENTERPRISE.

Q. MICHAEL BRUNSON, ITN. CAN I JUST RETURN TO THIS CONCEPT OF 100 PER CENT TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT SITUATION OVER THE AGREEMENT. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU FOUND THAT THERE WAS OVERWHELMING UNHAPPINESS IN HONG KONG OVER ONE SPECIFIC POINT, PERHAPS, SAY, NATIONALITY, WHY SHOULDN'T THERE BE AN ATTEMPT AT A RENEGOTIATION OF A VERY SPECIFIC POINT IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THERE IS VERY GREAT DISQUIET ABOUT A SPECIFIC POINT.

A. I WOULD SIMPLY SAY THAT IT IS THE NORMAL AND ESTABLISHED PRACTICE THAT WHEN YOU NEGOTIATE AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, THAT AGREEMENT ENSHRINES WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND IF ONE SIDE TRIES TO UNSTITCH IT, AND THE OTHER SIDE THEN STARTS TO UNSTITCH IT, THEN YOU END UP WITH THE WHOLE THING BECOMING UNSTITCHED. AND I KNOW OF NO PRECEDENT, BUT I DON'T PRETEND TO BE ENCYLOPEADIC, IN WHICH IT HAS EVER BEEN SUGGESTED THAT INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE RENEGOTIATED ALL OVER AGAIN. NOW THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED OVER TWO YEARS. IT IS A VERY CAREFULLY DRAWN UP AGREEMENT AND I THINK IT WOULD BE QUITE WRONG NOT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF WHAT IS SAID IN THE WHITE PAPER - THAT IT MUST BE TAKEN AS A WHOLE.

/Q. I WAS

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Q. I WAS SURPRISED THAT YOU HAVE SKIRTED VARIOUS QUESTIONS ON NATIONALITY OVER THE COURSE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE. SURELY THE FACT THAT THE NATIONALITY ISSUE IS STATED IN A MEMORANDUM IS BECAUSE IT ISN'T PART OF THE AGREEMENT. IT ISN'T PART OF THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO DISAGREE AND BRITAIN HAS TO MAKE THE BEST OF WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A BAD JOB IN THAT AREA.

A. NO. I THINK WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO AGREE ON A PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES. THERE IS IN THAT EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA A VERY PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH GIVES THOSE WHO WILL BE AFFECTED - THE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS - A NEW STATUS WHICH WILL ALLOW THEM TO TRAVEL AS THEY WOULD WISH, OR AS MANY AS WOULD WISH, ON BRITISH PASSPORTS AND THE SAME ARRANGEMENTS STILL GIVE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG A RIGHT OF ABODE. SO FAR FROM BEING AN AGREEMENT TO DISAGREE IT SEEMS TO ME TO BE SPECIFICALLY AN AGREEMENT TO AGREE ON A PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT.

Q. TSUI MING-YUEN, WEN WEI PO. DURING THESE TWO YEARS MOST OF YOUR TIME WAS SPENT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. CAN YOU TELL US YOUR FEELINGS AND WHAT WILL YOU DO IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

A. I MIGHT HOLD A FEW MORE PRESS CONFERENCES! I MUST SAY IT IS A VERY SATISFACTORY FEELING THAT AFTER TWO YEARS OF QUITE HARD AND INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WE HAVE EMERGED WITH AN AGREEMENT OF THIS KIND. BUT MY ATTITUDE INDEED HAS ALL ALONG BEEN THAT IT IS THE VERY NATURAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG TO APPLY HIS MIND TO THOSE SUBJECTS WHICH ARE OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE AND THE MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE. AND THAT I HAVE TRIED TO DO, BUT I AM NOT EXPECTING THIS TO BE THE END OF THE ROAD, I THINK INDEED, AS I SAID LAST NIGHT, WHAT WE HAVE IS A BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW STAGE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO DOING MY BEST TO MAKE THAT NEW STAGE AS SUCCESSFUL AS I THINK WE HAVE MANAGED TO MAKE THE LAST STAGE.

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