



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S LECTURE

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THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE LECTURE BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, ON "THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION: AN OVERVIEW" AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TODAY (THURSDAY):

VICE CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

HONG KONG IS APPROACHING A THRESHOLD UNIQUE NOT ONLY IN ITS OWN HISTORY, BUT IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. THE SUCCESS OF ITS PASSAGE WILL DEPEND ON MANY THINGS; BUT ON NONE MORE THAN A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHALLENGES AHEAD, AND OF HOW BEST TO MEET THEM. THAT UNDERSTANDING CAN ONLY COME THROUGH THE KIND OF THOROUGH AND UNINHIBITED DEBATE WHICH HONG KONG APPLIES SO EFFECTIVELY TO EVERY NEW CHALLENGE IT ENCOUNTERS. THIS SERIES OF LECTURES EXEMPLIFIES THAT TRADITION AND HAS ALREADY ENLIGHTENED THE DEBATE. I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU, VICE CHANCELLOR, FOR INVITING ME TO ADD MY VOICE TO THOSE OF MY DISTINGUISHED FELLOW-LECTURERS OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

NO INSTITUTION HAS GIVEN MORE TO HONG KONG, OVER SO LONG, THAN THIS UNIVERSITY. FROM THE DAY IT OPENED ITS DOORS 82 YEARS AGO - INDEED BEFORE THEN THROUGH ITS PRECURSOR THE HONG KONG COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, WHICH ITSELF HAD SOME DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES - FROM THE DAY IT OPENED IT HAS BEEN TURNING OUT YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN WHO HAVE BECOME THE LEADERS OF OUR COMMUNITY, THE BUILDERS OF OUR FUTURE. NO LESS THAN 21 MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, 5 MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND 8 SECRETARIES OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT POLICY BRANCHES ARE EITHER ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OR MEMBERS OF ITS STAFF. LAST YEAR'S GRADUATES WILL BE AMONG THEIR SUCCESSORS, HELPING TO LEAD HONG KONG INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

WE KNOW THIS BECAUSE, LIKE THE GENERATIONS BEFORE THEM WHO HAVE PASSED THROUGH THIS CAMPUS, THEY HAVE LEARNED DURING THEIR TIME HERE THAT THERE IS NOTHING MORE POWERFUL THAN THE POWER OF IDEAS. THE POWER THAT IS DECIDED, ULTIMATELY, NOT BY PHYSICAL SUPERIORITY, NOR BY WHO HAS MORE BATTALIONS. THE POWER THAT COMES INSTEAD FROM THE MIND, TUNED - IN THE WORDS OF ONE GRADUATE OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE - YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF DR SUN YAT SEN, TO THE TREND IN WORLD AFFAIRS, AND TO THE URGENT NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. IT IS A TRUTH WHICH MUCH OF THE WORLD HAS HAD TO REDISCOVER DURING THE LIFETIME OF THIS UNIVERSITY THAT THOUGH THE GUN, IN THE HAND OF THE TYRANT OR MORE OFTEN HIS SECRET POLICEMEN, MAY WIN SOME ILLUSORY BATTLES, THE MIND, AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT WHICH ANIMATES IT, TRIUMPH IN THE END. THERE MAY FOR A WHILE BE DARKNESS AT NOON. BUT THE SUN ALWAYS BREAKS THROUGH THE CLOUDS.

UNIVERSITIES DEPEND ON THE UNINHIBITED EXPRESSION OF IDEAS, AND THE TUSSLE BETWEEN THEM. VICE-CHANCELLORS AROUND THE WORLD KNOW THAT ACADEMIC FREEDOM IS INDIVISIBLE. THAT YOU CANNOT SAY, IF YOU WANT A HEALTHY UNIVERSITY, "FREE EXPRESSION'S FINE FOR CHEMISTRY OR MATHEMATICS, BUT HERE IN THE HUMANITIES THERE ARE UNFORTUNATELY ONE OR TWO IDEAS WE MUST FENCE OFF, ONE OR TWO NO GO AREAS". AS SOON AS YOU DO THAT, THE NO GO AREAS SPREAD AND, BEHIND A FINE POTEMKIN FACADE, THE UNIVERSITY DIES.

THAT, TOO, HAS HAD TO BE REDISCOVERED. I WAS ALARMED TO COME ACROSS RECENTLY A STATUTE FROM MY OWN ALMA MATER, THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE. IT READS: "BACHELORS AND MASTERS OF THE ARTS WHO DO NOT FOLLOW THE PHILOSOPHY OF ARISTOTLE ARE SUBJECT TO A FINE OF FIVE SHILLINGS FOR EACH POINT OF DIVERGENCE."

I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS DRACONIAN PROHIBITION, INTRODUCED AT AROUND THE START OF THE MING DYNASTY, HAS EVER BEEN OFFICIALLY REPEALED. BUT I AM THANKFUL THAT IT WAS NOT BEING VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED WHEN I WAS AN UNDERGRADUATE.

JUST AS FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND OF EXPRESSION ARE NECESSARY IN A UNIVERSITY, SO THEY ARE FUNDAMENTAL IN ANY HEALTHY, MODERN, SOCIETY. THIS HAS NEVER BEEN CLEARER THAN TODAY AS MORE AND MORE SOCIETIES - SOCIETIES NOT ONLY IN EUROPE BUT IN ASIA, NOT ONLY IN THE NEW WORLD BUT IN AFRICA - DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF THE FREE MARKET IN IDEAS AS IN ECONOMICS. FOR THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT CAN ONLY MEET THE NEEDS OF THE GOVERNED IF THEY ARE SUBJECT TO SCRUTINY BY THE GOVERNED, AND IF GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE RATIONAL ANSWERS TO THEIR CRITICISMS. AS JOHN STUART MILL PUT IT, HOW CAN THE CRITICISMS "BE ANSWERED IF THAT WHICH REQUIRES TO BE ANSWERED IS NOT SPOKEN? HOW CAN THE ANSWER BE KNOWN TO BE SATISFACTORY IF THE OBJECTORS HAVE NO OPPORTUNITY OF SHOWING THAT IT IS UNSATISFACTORY? ..... IF ALL MANKIND WERE OF ONE OPINION, AND ONLY ONE PERSON WERE OF THE CONTRARY OPINION, MANKIND WOULD BE NO MORE JUSTIFIED IN SILENCING THAT PERSON THAN HE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN SILENCING MANKIND."

WHAT HAS ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION? AS IT HAPPENS, QUITE A LOT. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS THE CORNERSTONE OF ANY OPEN SOCIETY, AND OF NONE MORE THAN HONG KONG, HENCE, I IMAGINE, THE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF PUBLIC CONCERN HERE ABOUT THE CASE OF MR XI YANG. THE JOINT DECLARATION IS A DISTILLATION, IN THE FORM OF A BINDING INTERNATIONAL TREATY REGISTERED AT THE UNITED NATIONS, OF THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR OPEN SOCIETY.

AT THE RISK OF INCURRING A FINE FROM THE OXFORD PROCTORS FOR AN APPROACH WHICH OWES MORE TO PLATO THAN TO ARISTOTLE, LET US LOOK FURTHER AT THE CONCEPTS, SET OUT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, WHICH EMBODY THE ESSENCE OF HONG KONG. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS CERTAINLY ONE. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, AND THAT IS HONG KONG'S "HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY", THE IDEA SO ELOQUENTLY ENCAPSULATED IN THE WORDS "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS".

AS HAS BEEN SAID MANY TIMES, "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" IS A VISIONARY IDEA, AND THE KEY TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUED SUCCESS. BUT AS WITH ALL VISIONARY IDEAS, MANY DETAILED QUESTIONS NEED TO BE ANSWERED BEFORE IT CAN BE PUT INTO PRACTICE, FAITHFULLY TRANSLATED INTO EVERY ASPECT OF OUR DAILY LIVES. OUR TASK AS WE IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION IS TO PROVIDE THOSE ANSWERS, TO WORK OUT TOGETHER WHAT AUTONOMY ACTUALLY MEANS ON THE GROUND: FOR THE CIVIL SERVANT, FOR THE CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY OR FINANCE, FOR THE JUDGE AND THE LAWYER, FOR THE JOURNALIST AND THE EDITOR. FOR THE MAN OR WOMAN WHO DRIVES THE TRAM, FOR THE HOUSEWIFE AND FOR THE CHILDREN OF HONG KONG WHO WILL INHERIT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ANSWERS WE PROVIDE. ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN. HONG KONG'S "HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY" IS MORE THAN AN ABSTRACT FORMULA ARRIVED AT BETWEEN DIPLOMATS ACROSS THE BAIZE TABLE. FAR MORE THAN THAT. IT IS THE VERY REAL TEMPLATE FOR THE LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS OF SIX MILLION PEOPLE.

OF COURSE, AUTONOMY IS NOT, IN ITSELF, A NEW IDEA. NOT FOR HONG KONG, BECAUSE AS A PREVIOUS SPEAKER HAS POINTED OUT, HONG KONG UNDER BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY HAS LONG ENJOYED A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY. WE HAVE NEVER, IN THE MODERN ERA, BEEN TOLD FROM LONDON HOW TO RUN OUR ECONOMY, WHAT KIND OF LIFE WE SHOULD LEAD, OR HOW TO HOUSE AND EDUCATE OURSELVES. SOME MIGHT EVEN ARGUE THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD A THING OR TWO TO LEARN ITSELF FROM THE WAY WE DO SOME OF THOSE THINGS. AND HONG KONG HAS, FOR YEARS, PARTICIPATED FULLY AND AUTONOMOUSLY IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. IT IS A VALUED INDEPENDENT CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT. IT IS WELL RESPECTED IN MANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS. SO THERE IS NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT DOING THINGS OUR WAY AND IN OUR OWN RIGHT.

NOR IS AUTONOMY - DIFFERENT SYSTEMS UNDER THE SAME FLAG - PARTICULARLY UNUSUAL ELSEWHERE. DESPITE THE WAIL OF BAGPIPES WHICH OCCASIONALLY WAFTS SOUTH ACROSS HADRIAN'S WALL, SCOTLAND'S AUTONOMOUS LEGAL AND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS HAVE MADE THE UNITED KINGDOM MORE NOT LESS STABLE, BETTER ABLE TO BUILD A SOCIETY WHICH IS MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS COMPONENT CULTURES AND TRADITIONS. THE UNITED STATES, GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND HAVE DRAWN STRENGTH, UNITY AND NATIONAL PRIDE FROM THE DELIBERATE NURTURING OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY. AND IN MANY PLACES, IN EUROPE FOR EXAMPLE, INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM, THERE IS A NEW TIDE CARRYING THE MAKING OF DECISIONS AWAY FROM BUREAUCRATS IN CAPITALS, AND TOWARDS THE PEOPLE IN THE REGIONS WHO HAVE TO LIVE WITH THOSE DECISIONS. AS SOCIETIES BECOME MORE MODERN, MORE COMPLEX, THAT KIND OF SENSITIVITY TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES MAKES MORE AND MORE SENSE. SO AUTONOMY IS NOT A THREAT TO ANYONE'S SOVEREIGNTY BUT A SOURCE OF VITALITY.

THERE IS IN THIS AN IMPORTANT LESSON FOR HONG KONG. A LESSON WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS WELL-UNDERSTOOD. HONG KONG'S AUTONOMY IS NOT SOMETHING NEW AND MYSTERIOUS, TO BE HANDED OVER IN SWADDLING CLOTHES AT MIDNIGHT ON 30 JUNE 1997. IT IS, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN, PART OF OUR LIVES. WE WEAR IT WITH CONFIDENCE AND WE OWE MUCH OF OUR SUCCESS TO IT. INDEED, WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT MOST OF THE DECISIONS WHICH SHAPE THE LIVELIHOOD OF HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE TAKEN BY HONG KONG PEOPLE, FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE, AFTER OPEN DEBATE IN HONG KONG.

OF COURSE, THERE ARE SOME AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN AND WILL ALWAYS BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SOVEREIGN POWER. IN THOSE AREAS, HONG KONG PEOPLE ENJOY, AND WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY, THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES FRANKLY BUT NOT THE RIGHT OF FINAL DECISION. AND JUST AS WE MUST BE CONFIDENT ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DECIDE ON OUR OWN, SO MUST THE SOVEREIGN POWER. AUTONOMY MEANS THAT WE CAN RUN OUR OWN LIVES, BUT EQUALLY IT DICTATES THAT WE SHOULD NOT TRY TO RUN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

SO WHAT EXACTLY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS HONG KONG OF THOSE SOVEREIGN POWERS - THE SIGNATORIES OF THE JOINT DECLARATION - A MERE 1,173 DAYS FROM 1 JULY 1997? FIRST LET ME CLEAR UP ONCE AND FOR ALL TWO MISCONCEPTIONS.

FIRST, THERE IS SOMETIMES A TENDENCY - IT HAS BEEN ALLUDED TO BY A PREVIOUS DISTINGUISHED LECTURER WHOM I AM PLEASED TO SEE HERE THIS EVENING - THERE IS SOMETIMES A TENDENCY TO SEE BRITAIN AND CHINA AS JEALOUS AND UNCARING PARENTS SQUABBLING OVER HONG KONG, IN THE ROLE OF THE INNOCENT AND INJURED CHILD. WHILE IT IS SOMETIMES ALL TOO TEMPTING TO SEE ONESELF AS THE VICTIM OF FORCES BEYOND ONE'S CONTROL, I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS IS A HELPFUL OR REALISTIC METAPHOR - ANY MORE SO THAN THAT OF THE OFT-QUOTED, OFT-KICKED, THREE-LEGGED STOOL.

IT IS DEEPLY INSULTING TO HONG KONG, WHICH AS WE ALL KNOW IS IN MANY WAYS AS ADVANCED AS ANY COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD, TO PORTRAY IT AS A CHILD. AND IT IS ABSURD TO ARGUE THAT, IF WE FIND WE HAVE TO DISAGREE WITH OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES ABOUT SOME ISSUE OF IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG, WE ARE SOMEHOW DISREGARDING HONG KONG'S INTERESTS. IT IS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE HONG KONG'S INTERESTS TO BE WORTH STANDING UP FOR THAT WE DO SOMETIMES HAVE TO DIFFER OVER HOW BEST TO INTERPRET AND IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. BUT NO-ONE QUESTIONS THE AIM OF THE EXERCISE: THAT HONG KONG SHOULD REMAIN THE MOST DYNAMIC CITY IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, WITH ITS WAY OF LIFE, ITS FREEDOMS, ITS LEGAL SYSTEM, ITS SOCIAL ORGANISATION UNTOUCHED BY THE CHANGE OF FLAG. THAT IS SO PATENTLY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED. NOR IS THERE ANY DISAGREEMENT THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDES THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS.

THE SECOND MISCONCEPTION HAS IT THAT BECAUSE RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN DISAGREEMENT ON ONE IMPORTANT ISSUE, SOMEHOW THE JOINT DECLARATION HAS GONE OFF THE RAILS. IT IS ASSUMED BY THE PURVEYORS OF THIS VIEW THAT OUR FAILURE TO AGREE ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LAST SERIES OF ELECTIONS UNDER BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY SOMEHOW IMPLIES THE FAILURE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ITSELF AND THE EROSION OF THE COMMITMENTS ENSHRINED IN IT. THE JOINT DECLARATION SAYS ONLY THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE CONSTITUTED BY ELECTIONS, NOT HOW THOSE ELECTIONS WILL BE ORGANISED (THOUGH IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF THE SIGNATORIES HAD IN MIND ELECTIONS WHICH WERE NOT FAIR AND WERE NOT OPEN). IT DOES NOT ADDRESS - NOR WOULD IT HAVE BEEN EASY TO ADDRESS, BACK IN 1984 - THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THOSE ELECTIONS. MOREOVER, THE JOINT DECLARATION CERTAINLY DOES NOT SAY THAT WHEN THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DISAGREE ON ANY SINGLE ISSUE, THEY MUST SUDDENLY DISAGREE ON EVERYTHING ELSE.

THINK WHAT IT IS THAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE. A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY, BETWEEN TWO POWERS WITH VASTLY DIFFERENT CULTURES ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE GLOBE, IS UNUSUAL ENOUGH. TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE TERRITORY IN QUESTION IS NO LONGER PALMERSTON'S LARGELY BARREN ISLAND, BUT THE THROBbing METROPOLIS AROUND US TODAY WITH A PER CAPITA GDP EXCEEDING THAT OF BRITAIN, AND A TOTAL GDP JUST OVER A FIFTH OF CHINA'S: AN ECONOMIC GIANT IN ITS OWN RIGHT. REMEMBER THAT THE SYSTEM WE HAVE ALL AGREED TO PRESERVE IS IN MANY RESPECTS FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE INCOMING SOVEREIGN POWER (AND IN OTHER WAYS, BE IT NOTED, DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE DEPARTING SOVEREIGN POWER). IS IT REALLY ANY WONDER THAT THERE ARE SOMETIMES DISAGREEMENTS? THAT SOMETIMES, EVEN, A LITTLE CROCKERY GETS THROWN? OF COURSE NOT.

BUT IT SIMPLY DOES NOT FOLLOW THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION ITSELF IS FLAWED OR WEAKENED. DISAGREEMENTS AND THE COMPETITION OF IDEAS ARE AN INEVITABLE PART OF ADMINISTERING A COMPLEX SOCIETY, LET ALONE STEERING IT TOWARDS A CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY. WHEN WE HAVE A HEATED DEBATE HERE IN HONG KONG ABOUT SOME ISSUE INTERNAL TO HONG KONG, WE DO NOT THROW UP OUR HANDS AND SAY "THIS IS THE ROAD TO CONFRONTATION ON EVERYTHING". IT IS THROUGH DEBATE, SOMETIMES VIGOROUS DEBATE, AS JOHN STUART MILL KNEW, THAT WE ARRIVE AT THE RIGHT ANSWERS.

FAR FROM BEING WEAKENED, THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION HAVE IN FACT EMERGED FROM TEN TESTING YEARS SOLID AND INTACT. DURING THOSE YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN THOSE WHO SAID THAT, BY NOW, HONG KONG WOULD BE ON ITS KNEES: THAT CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE WOULD HAVE EVAPORATED, INVESTORS WOULD HAVE TAKEN THEMSELVES AND THEIR MONEY TO SINGAPORE OR SHANGHAI, OUR FUTURE TALENT - INCLUDING THE BRIGHTEST GRADUATES OF THIS UNIVERSITY - EMIGRATED TO CANADA OR AUSTRALIA.

HAS IT HAPPENED? ASK THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY. ANOTHER YEAR OF OVER FIVE PERCENT GROWTH, THE 28TH YEAR OF GROWTH RUNNING. MAKING POSSIBLE ANOTHER BUDGET WHICH CUT TAXES, RAISED SPENDING, AND INCREASED OUR RESERVES. VIOLENT CRIME FALLING, WHEN THE GLOOMY MEN WITH SANDWICH BOARDS PREDICTED THAT IT WOULD GO THROUGH THE CEILING. I THINK THE JOINT DECLARATION HAS SO FAR DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF PRESERVING HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

OF COURSE, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE CAN SIT BACK AND CONGRATULATE OURSELVES. THE REAL TEST IS JUST BEGINNING. THERE IS STILL AN AWFUL LOT TO DO BEFORE 1997; AND THAT WILL ONLY TAKE US TO THE END OF THE FIRST CHAPTER; THE REST OF THE BOOK WILL BE WRITTEN THEREAFTER.

IT IS FOR THOSE SUBSEQUENT CHAPTERS THAT WE MUST AND ARE PLANNING. LET ME SAY IN PASSING THAT WE WILL BE GREATLY HELPED IN THAT TASK BY THE THOROUGH AND THOUGHTFUL REPORT PUBLISHED YESTERDAY BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. I RECOMMEND IT AS REQUIRED READING FOR ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN OUR AFFAIRS. THE COMMITTEE TOOK DETAILED EVIDENCE FROM ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, INCLUDING THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS, AS WELL, OF COURSE, AS HERE IN HONG KONG. I AM DELIGHTED THAT THE SECTION ON HONG KONG FIRMLY ENDORSES THE APPROACH WE - THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT - HAVE TAKEN OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS; PARTICULARLY DELIGHTED AS THE REPORT IS UNANIMOUS AND CROSS-PARTY. I KNOW THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT - WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT - WILL CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY AND FULLY THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE MAKE.

LET ME SAY A WORD OR TWO, THOUGH, ABOUT THE KIND OF PRIORITIES WHICH I BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOW BE SETTING OURSELVES.

TO START WITH, WE NEED TO DO FAR MORE TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF OUR LAWS, AND OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM. HONG KONG OWES SO MUCH TO ITS LAWS AND TO THE RULE OF LAW, IN WHICH THE FREEDOMS AND WAY OF LIFE GUARANTEED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION ARE EMBEDDED AND BEFORE WHICH ALL CITIZENS ARE EQUAL. IT IS THANKS TO THE CERTAINTY AND STABILITY PROVIDED BY OUR LEGAL SYSTEM THAT HONG KONG HAS PROSPERED AS A PLACE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE. THERE ARE CURRENTLY NEARLY 700 US COMPANIES, TO TAKE ONE EXAMPLE, ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG; 62 MORE CAME HERE IN 1993. WHY? HONG KONG IS AFTER ALL NOT THE ONLY POINT OF ACCESS TO THE GROWING MARKETS OF EAST ASIA. COMPANIES ARE COMING HERE BECAUSE WE CAN OFFER, MORE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE, A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD KEPT LEVEL BY FAIR LAWS EFFECTIVELY AND IMPARTIALLY ENFORCED.

/WE NEED .....

WE NEED TO KEEP THAT COMPETITIVE EDGE, THAT CAPACITY TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS - NOT ONLY TO TRADE WITH AND INVEST IN CHINA (THOUGH THAT IS OF COURSE VITAL) BUT ALSO AS A BASE FOR WIDER REGIONAL ACTIVITIES, FROM WHICH TO RESPOND TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES AS THEY ARISE. TO TAKE A TOPICAL EXAMPLE, HONG KONG IS THE NATURAL GATEWAY TO A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING VIETNAM (WHERE, UNSURPRISINGLY, NO-ONE HAS BEEN QUICKER THAN OUR OWN INVESTORS TO KNOCK ON THE DOORS WHICH ARE NOW OPENING). WE NEED TO KEEP REMINDING THOSE INTERESTED IN ENTERING THIS AND OTHER REGIONAL MARKETS THAT THERE CAN BE NO BETTER SPRINGBOARD THAN HONG KONG.

WE SHALL ONLY SUCCEED IN THIS IF WE CAN ENSURE THAT THE INTEGRITY AND CREDIBILITY OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM CROSS THE THRESHOLD OF 1997 WITHOUT A BLEMISH. THAT MEANS, FOR EXAMPLE, DEMONSTRATING CLEARLY WELL BEFORE 1997 NOT ONLY THAT, AS THE JOINT DECLARATION PROMISES, THE SYSTEM OF ENGLISH COMMON LAW WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. THE BODY OF LAW WHICH CURRENTLY APPLIES MUST ALSO REMAIN IN FORCE.

LIKE MUCH OF THE BUSINESS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, THIS REQUIRES A LOT OF DRY AND UNGLAMOROUS WORK. BUT LET NO-ONE BE MISLED BY THAT. IT IS ALSO VITAL WORK. THERE ARE AT PRESENT OVER THREE HUNDRED UNITED KINGDOM LAWS WHOSE APPLICATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG. THEY COVER AREAS AS DIVERSE AS CIVIL AVIATION, SHIPPING, COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION AND COPYRIGHT. AREAS WHERE WE - WHERE HONG KONG, WHERE CHINA - CANNOT AFFORD GAPS, AMBIGUITIES, OR HOLES IN THE PLAYING FIELD. AREAS VITAL FOR OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS. LEFT TO THEMSELVES, THESE LAWS WOULD LAPSE ON 1 JULY 1997: NO COURT IN THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IS GOING TO ENFORCE UK LEGISLATION. WE THEREFORE NEED BEFORE THEN TO REPLACE MOST OF THEM, THOSE WHICH ARE NOT OBSOLETE, WITH EQUIVALENT LOCAL LEGISLATION.

WE ALSO NEED TO ADAPT MOST OF THE 600 OR SO ORDINANCES AND 1,000 ITEMS OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION ALREADY ON OUR OWN STATUTE BOOK, SO THAT THEY ARE IN A FORM CLEARLY CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW, AND WILL THEREFORE (UNDER ITS TERMS) CONTINUE TO APPLY AFTER THE TRANSITION. THIS IS PARTLY A TECHNICAL MATTER, FOR EXAMPLE OF REPLACING THE WORD "GOVERNOR" WITH "CHIEF EXECUTIVE". BUT THERE ARE ALSO MORE COMPLEX ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED, LIKE HOW TO ALIGN THE PROVISIONS IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE ON RIGHT OF ABODE WITH THOSE IN THE BASIC LAW.

LET ME REPEAT: THIS IS NOT JUST MORE EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR NUMEROUS AND WELL-NOURISHED LAWYERS. IT IS A CRUCIAL PART OF HONG KONG'S SUPERSTRUCTURE. SO FAR, WE HAVE THROUGH THE JLG REACHED AGREEMENT WITH CHINA ON THE LOCALISATION OF JUST 30 ORDINANCES. THE CHINESE SIDE ARE CONSIDERING OUR PROPOSALS ON SOME 75 OTHER UK ENACTMENTS, AS WELL AS ON 30 ORDINANCES TO BE ADAPTED. THEY HAVE BEEN STUDYING SOME OF OUR PROPOSALS FOR UP TO 3 YEARS. THERE IS THEREFORE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WORK TO GET THROUGH. SO I MAKE THIS APPEAL TO OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES. LET US REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS. WE NOW NEED, URGENTLY, TO SPEED UP THIS WORK IF WE ARE TO FINISH IT IN TIME, AND TO AVOID DAMAGING, CONFIDENCE-SAPPING, GAPS IN THE LAW.

THEN THERE IS OUR COURT SYSTEM ITSELF. AT PRESENT, THE FINAL APPEAL COURT IN HONG KONG IS THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL. THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW STATE THAT THE SAR WILL HAVE A COURT OF FINAL APPEAL BASED IN HONG KONG. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE THAT WILL AFFECT THE WHOLE OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM. THE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE, BELIEVES THAT, TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN 1997, WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH THE COURT WELL BEFORE THAT DATE; AND WE SECURED CHINESE AGREEMENT TO THIS IN 1991.

MOST OF YOU WILL BE AWARE THAT THE AGREEMENT WE REACHED WITH THE CHINESE SIDE DID NOT FIND FAVOUR WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND WITH THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN HONG KONG; AND THAT THIS HAS SO FAR HELD UP THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COURT. WE NOW NEED TO FIND A WAY FORWARD. IT IS SELF-EVIDENTLY IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG FOR THE COURT TO BE UP AND RUNNING BEFORE 1997. IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT NOT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THIS, DESPITE THE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES.

WE HAVE THEREFORE NOW PREPARED THE NECESSARY DRAFT LEGISLATION, AND WE INTEND TO CONSULT BOTH THE CHINESE SIDE AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION ON THIS BEFORE WE INTRODUCE IT INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. IT REMAINS BASED ON THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN 1991, WHICH WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IS THE BEST AGREEMENT AVAILABLE. WE WILL SPARE NO EFFORTS TO CONVINCE LEGISLATORS, AND THE COMMUNITY, THAT THE WAY FORWARD WHICH WE ARE PROPOSING REPRESENTS THE ONLY SENSIBLE OPTION.

IF WE FAIL IN THIS, THE COURT WILL HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE SAR ITSELF. THIS WOULD TAKE TIME, CERTAINLY A YEAR, PROBABLY MORE. WE WOULD HAVE TO DISCONTINUE APPEALS TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL AT LEAST A YEAR BEFORE 30 JUNE 1997, BECAUSE THAT IS THE LEAD TIME FOR APPEALS TO BE HEARD AND WE MUST OBVIOUSLY AVOID THE LEGAL COMPLICATIONS THAT WOULD OCCUR IF A CASE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING HEARD AT THAT DATE. SO WE ARE LOOKING AT A POTENTIAL VACUUM OF AT LEAST TWO OR THREE YEARS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM, WITH ALL THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH THAT WOULD CREATE, FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE AND FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS ALIKE. THAT IS WHY WE NEED TO PRESS AHEAD NOW.

THERE IS ANOTHER MATTER TO WHICH I AND MY SENIOR COLLEAGUES IN GOVERNMENT ATTACH FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE. THAT IS THE CIVIL SERVICE. THE CIVIL SERVICE IS THE BACKBONE OF HONG KONG'S ADMINISTRATION. THE COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND IN THE BASIC LAW RIGHTLY REFLECT THIS. I WELCOME THE ASSURANCES WHICH CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY GIVEN ABOUT THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE MORALE AND EFFICIENCY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. WE NEED TO BEGIN DISCUSSING SOON THE PRACTICAL MEASURES WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS, NOT LEAST ON THE QUESTION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS AND CONTINUITY OF APPOINTMENTS. WE ARE READY TO WORK WITH THE CHINESE SIDE TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG CONTINUES TO BENEFIT FROM A DEDICATED, IMPARTIAL AND EFFICIENT CIVIL SERVICE, IMBUED WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD CLEAN GOVERNMENT AND MINIMUM INTERVENTION WHICH HAVE MADE HONG KONG SO SPECIAL. THIS IS AN OBJECTIVE WHICH IS WELL WITHIN OUR GRASP, IF WE REACH OUT FOR IT TOGETHER.

THERE ARE OF COURSE MANY OTHER ISSUES ON WHICH THE SOVEREIGN POWERS WILL NEED TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, ISSUES ON WHICH NO-ONE HAS ANYTHING TO GAIN FROM FAILURE TO AGREE, AND ALL - BUT ABOVE ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG - WILL BE THE WINNERS FROM AGREEMENT. SOME OF THE ISSUES ARE FAMILIAR TO US ALL. I AM GLAD THAT WE ARE NOW AGAIN DISCUSSING THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG'S NEW AIRPORT, THE MOST DISCUSSED AIRPORT IN WORLD HISTORY, WHICH HONG KONG SO OBVIOUSLY NEEDS, BUT WHICH ALSO WILL BRING ENORMOUS BENEFITS TO SOUTH CHINA.

I AM ALSO GLAD THAT THIS WEEK WE WERE ABLE TO CARRY FORWARD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON IMMIGRATION AND RIGHT OF ABODE ISSUES. THESE ARE RIGHTLY OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE COMMUNITY. THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL BE ENTITLED TO ENJOY THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE TERRITORY AFTER 1997 AFFECTS PEOPLE BOTH OF CHINESE AND NON-CHINESE ORIGIN. IF THE JLG WERE TO FAIL TO REACH CLEAR-CUT CONCLUSIONS ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE, SOME MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WOULD FACE REAL UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THEIR FUTURE HERE. SIMILARLY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE JLG TO REACH CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE PRESERVATION OF EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISA-FREE TRAVEL OVERSEAS. EASE OF TRAVEL OVERSEAS IS A CONVENIENCE WHICH HONG KONG PEOPLE RIGHTLY ENJOY; IT ALSO FACILITATES TRADE AND TOURISM AND THEREFORE MAKES AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY.

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE RECOGNISABLE SENSITIVITIES FOR THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWER IN SOME OF THESE ISSUES, THE VITAL CONSIDERATION IS THAT BOTH THE CHINESE AND BRITISH SIDES OWE IT TO HONG KONG TO MAKE EARLY PROGRESS OVER THEM IN ORDER TO PUT IN PLACE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WELL BEFORE 1997.

SIMILARLY WE ARE NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO ENABLE HONG KONG TO RETURN FUGITIVE CRIMINALS TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND TO GET BACK CRIMINALS WHO FLEE FROM HONG KONG. THESE AGREEMENTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL CRIME. IF THEY ARE TO REMAIN VALID AFTER 1997 THEY MUST BE CLEARED THROUGH THE JLG. IF THEY ARE NOT ALL IN PLACE BY 1997, OUR ABILITY TO FIGHT INTERNATIONAL CRIME WILL BE IMPAIRED AND HONG KONG RISKS BECOMING A HAVEN FOR CRIMINALS.

I REFERRED EARLIER TO THE NEW AIRPORT. AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROSPERITY IS THE PRESERVATION OF ITS CIVIL AVIATION REGIME, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. IN THE JLG, WE ARE NEGOTIATING A NETWORK OF AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND KEY AVIATION PARTNERS TO EXTEND BEYOND 1997. WE HAVE ALREADY REACHED AGREEMENT ON SOME. THERE ARE STILL A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF INITIALLED AGREEMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE JLG, AND OTHERS STILL FOR NEGOTIATION. IF WE ARE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THIS PROGRAMME, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S EXISTING CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONSHIPS WILL SUFFER, AS WILL HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS A MAJOR CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION.

ALL IN ALL, THERE REMAINS MUCH TO BE DONE. IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT LAST MONTH THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT, WHATEVER OUR DIFFERENCES ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE, CO-OPERATION IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND OVER THE AIRPORT WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. I WELCOME THIS. IT ACCORDS ENTIRELY WITH OUR VIEW. I AM GLAD, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT AN AGREEMENT ON THE DEFENCE LANDS PORTFOLIO NOW LOOKS WITHIN REACH.

/MORE BROADLY, .....

MORE BROADLY, I AM GLAD THAT THE FLOURISHING CROSS-BORDER RELATIONSHIP IS CONTRIBUTING SO MUCH NOT ONLY TO HONG KONG BUT ALSO TO OUR NEIGHBOURS IN GUANGDONG. I AM SURE WE WILL NEED TO DO OUR BEST TO ANSWER OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH WILL ONLY BECOME APPARENT LATER ON. BUT WHATEVER THE ISSUE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK NIGHT AND DAY TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT WHEREVER IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

IN THE END, WHEN THE 28TH GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG IS LONG DEPARTED, WHEN THE FIRST CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION HAS COME, AND WHEN SHE OR HE HAS GONE FOR THAT MATTER, IT WILL BE HONG KONG PEOPLE, HERE IN HONG KONG, WHO WILL HAVE TO DIGEST THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOUR.

I AM SOMETIMES INVITED TO PROPHECY WHAT I THINK HONG KONG WILL BE LIKE, SAY, TEN YEARS FROM NOW, TWENTY YEARS INTO THE JOINT DECLARATION. BUT PROPHECY IS DANGEROUS, UNLESS DONE RETROSPECTIVELY! IT IS ALL TOO EASY TO GET CARRIED AWAY, LIKE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ZAMBIAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SPACE RESEARCH, WHO IN 1964 REPORTEDLY PROMISED THE WORLD: "I WILL HAVE MY FIRST ZAMBIAN ASTRONAUT ON THE MOON BY 1965". SO LISTEN INSTEAD, AS IT IS ALWAYS WORTH LISTENING, TO SIR KARL POPPER, WHO REMINDS US THAT "WE MAY BECOME THE MAKERS OF OUR FATE WHEN WE HAVE CEASED TO POSE AS ITS PROPHETS."

THE POINT IS, WE CANNOT JUST SIT BACK AND RELY ON HISTORY TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE. HISTORY DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT. HISTORY IS NOT MADE BY THE NORTH WIND, NOR BY ANY OTHER REMOTE FORCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL. TOMORROW'S HISTORY WILL BE THE CHRONICLE OF OUR ACTIONS TODAY. WE WRITE IT OURSELVES, AND BEFORE ITS IMPLACABLE COURT WE BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT WE WRITE.

SO WE ALL - THE GOVERNMENTS OF BRITAIN AND CHINA, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND, YES, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG - SO WE ALL ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTINY OF HONG KONG. WE ALL HAVE WORK TO DO. IF WE DO IT TOGETHER, AND DO IT WELL, THERE IS ALMOST NO LIMIT TO WHAT HONG KONG CAN ACHIEVE, POISED AS IT IS ON THE CREST OF THE ECONOMIC WAVE SURGING THROUGH EAST ASIA.

BUT IF THE JOINT DECLARATION MEANS ANYTHING, IT IS THAT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NEXT CENTURY WILL, LIKE THOSE OF THIS ONE, BE MADE HERE IN HONG KONG, BY YOU, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND THAT MEANS, DARE I SAY IT, THAT IF THE VALUES ENSHRINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION ARE TO SURVIVE, THEN HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL NEED TO STAND UP FOR THEM AND TO DEFEND THEM, EVEN THOUGH THAT MAY FROM TIME TO TIME MEAN THE ODD DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN POWER OR EVEN CONCEIVABLY WITH THE FUTURE ONE. FOR MOST OF THE REALLY BIG DECISIONS OVER THE YEARS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE, NOR EVEN IN THE CHAMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON THE STREETS OF HONG KONG, IN THE MARKETS AND BOARD ROOMS OF HONG KONG, IN THE MEETING PLACES OF HONG KONG - AND HERE TOO ON THE CAMPUSES OF HONG KONG. THAT IS WHAT HAS BUILT OUR SKYSCRAPERS, THAT IS WHAT HAS FED OUR FAMILIES. AND THAT, IF WE SUCCEED, IS EXACTLY HOW IT WILL REMAIN.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1994

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JPS TO INVESTIGATE WHITEHEAD OPERATION

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, HAD ASKED TWO JUSTICES OF THE PEACE TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE MOVE OF 1,500 PEOPLE FROM THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE TO THE HIGH ISLAND CENTRE ON APRIL 7.

THE TWO JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ARE MR ANDREW LI AND PROFESSOR DAVID TODD. BOTH HAVE AGREED TO CONDUCT THE INQUIRY AND TO START WORK IMMEDIATELY. THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE:

\* TO ENQUIRE INTO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE REMOVAL OF SOME 1,500 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS FROM THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE ON APRIL 7 AND TO REPORT IN PARTICULAR ON:

- (1) THE USE OF FORCE IN THE OPERATION, INCLUDING THE DISCHARGE OF TEAR-GAS;
- (2) THE INJURIES ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED BY SOME OF THE MIGRANTS; AND
- (3) THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC CONCERNING THE OPERATION.

\* TO ADVISE WHETHER ANY CHANGES OR IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE CONDUCT OF SUCH OPERATIONS.

\* TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE ENQUIRY'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY JUNE 10 THIS YEAR.

THE FINDINGS OF THE INQUIRY WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT JUSTICES OF THE PEACE CONDUCTED A SIMILAR INQUIRY INTO THE TREATMENT OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS AT THE HEI LING CHAU CENTRE IN JULY 1988.

THIS INQUIRY PROVED TO BE QUICK AND EFFECTIVE, AND IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO USE THE SAME APPROACH ON THIS OCCASION.

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MARRAKESH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, TODAY (THURSDAY) WELCOMED AN AGREEMENT TO HOLD AN ASIAN PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) TRADE MINISTERS MEETING IN INDONESIA IN OCTOBER.

THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT AN INFORMAL MEETING YESTERDAY AMONG TRADE MINISTERS FROM APEC ECONOMIES ATTENDING THE URUGUAY ROUND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN MARRAKESH, MOROCCO.

/"WE HAVE .....

"WE HAVE AGREED THAT A TRADE MINISTERS MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN INDONESIA IN OCTOBER TO FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENT," MR CHAU SAID.

"THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE WAY THAT APEC CAN ACT IN SUPPORT OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM."

INDONESIA HOLDS THE APEC CHAIRMANSHIP THIS YEAR AND WILL HOST THE TRADE MINISTERS MEETING.

MR CHAU ALSO HELD FOUR BILATERAL MEETINGS YESTERDAY WITH CANADA, MEXICO, THE EUROPEAN UNION AND CHINA, AS WELL AS ATTENDING A LUNCH HOSTED BY THE MOROCCAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

AT HIS MEETINGS WITH CANADA'S MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MR ROY MCLAREN AND MEXICO'S SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JAIME SERRA PUCHE, THE DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN ARISING FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENT AND ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF APEC.

"AS A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG MULTILATERAL SYSTEM, WE ARE KEEN TO WORK WITH OTHERS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO) ON JANUARY 1, 1999," SAID MR CHAU.

"WE HAVE ACHIEVED A MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE WHICH THIS MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IS HELPING TO REINFORCE. WE SHOULD CAPITALISE ON THE SENSE OF ENTHUSIASM AND GET THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION UP AND RUNNING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE."

AT MR CHAU'S MEETING WITH CHINA'S VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE MR GU YONGJIANG, HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFER TO HONG KONG'S CONCERN OVER U.S. RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MFN STATUS, THE CONSIDERABLE INTERESTS AT STAKE FOR HONG KONG, AND HONG KONG'S DETERMINATION TO REPRESENT THOSE INTERESTS TO THOSE PARTIES CONCERNED.

THEY ALSO DISCUSSED ISSUES ARISING FROM THE URUGUAY ROUND AND CHINA'S WISH TO RESUME ITS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION WAS ESTABLISHED, THUS MAKING IT AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE WTO.

MR CHAU SAID HONG KONG WOULD WELCOME THIS.

MR CHAU TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION'S TRADE COMMISSIONER, SIR LEON BRITTAN TO EMPHASISE HONG KONG'S CONCERN THAT NEW ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE WTO SHOULD NOT BECOME A VEHICLE FOR PROTECTIONISM.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED HONG KONG'S CONCERN OVER FRANCE'S LINKAGE OF HONG KONG'S NEW EXCISE DUTIES WITH HONG KONG'S APPLICATION TO BECOME AN OBSERVER OF THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) TRADE SUB-COMMITTEE.

THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING. THE FORMAL SIGNING OF THE URUGUAY ROUND FINAL ACT WILL TAKE PLACE THAT AFTERNOON.

OMBUDSMAN INFORMED OF PROJECTS  
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON FRIENDS OF THE EARTH'S (FOE) ALLEGATION THAT THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY (CPA) HAD NOT INFORMED THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS (COMAC) OF OTHER MASSIVE PROJECTS BEING PROCESSED BY THE CPA WHEN COMAC WAS INVESTIGATING A COMPLAINT LODGED BY THE FOE RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GOLF COURSE AT SHA LO TUNG AND SOUTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMISSIONER HAD NOT BEEN MISINFORMED.

"THE ADMINISTRATION HAD INDEED INFORMED COMAC IN MAY 1993 DURING THE INVESTIGATION ABOUT THE TWO PROPOSED PUBLIC UTILITY PROJECTS, NAMELY THE 400KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE FROM BLACK POINT TO TSEUNG KWAN O AND THE HIGH PRESSURE GAS PIPELINE FOR THE NEW AIRPORT, WHICH WILL PASS THROUGH TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK.

"THE PUBLIC HAD ALSO BEEN CONSULTED ON THESE TWO PROJECTS," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE ROUTE 3 COUNTRY PARK SECTION PROJECT, HE SAID THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN AT THAT TIME WAS THAT IT WAS UNDER A TUNNEL AND WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON THE COUNTRY PARK.

"THE REVISED ROUTE ALIGNMENT PROPOSAL INVOLVING 1.8 HECTARES OF COUNTRY PARK LAND WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD IN AUGUST 1993.

"THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD HAS TAKEN A PRELIMINARY VIEW THAT THE LAND AFFECTED SHOULD BE EXCISED FROM THE COUNTRY PARK AND TO BE COMPENSATED BY A LARGER AREA OF 4.5 HECTARES OF LAND NEARBY.

"PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN PARK BOUNDARY IS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY BEFORE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL IS SOUGHT TO PROCEED WITH THE BOUNDARY AMENDMENT PROCEDURE," HE SAID.

ON THE CROSS-BORDER PASSENGER FREIGHT RAIL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "IT IS STILL ONLY A PROPOSAL IN THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY."

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STATEMENT BY ICAC COMMISSIONER  
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THE FOLLOWING IS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE ICAC, A PRESS STATEMENT BY THE ICAC COMMISSIONER, MR BERTRAND DE SPEVILLE:

WE DO NOT NORMALLY COMMENT ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS BUT WE WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THOSE ALLEGATIONS BY MR ALEX TSUI CONCERNING MR K Y YEUNG AND MRS RITA FAN ARE TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. FOR THE RECORD, WE HAVE NEVER UNDERTAKEN INVESTIGATIONS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

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VIET TREATMENT FIGURES OVERSTATED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY THE BRITISH RED CROSS THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVER-STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TREATED IN THE CLINIC IN THE HIGH ISLAND DETENTION CENTRE.

REVISED FIGURES ARE AWAITED.

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SURVEY ON FILM CENSORSHIP STANDARDS

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THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CONSIDER IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WHETHER THE CURRENT FILM CENSORSHIP STANDARDS WOULD NEED TO BE TIGHTENED OR MAINTAINED, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING, MRS RITA LAU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MRS LAU TODAY BRIEFED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S PANEL ON RECREATION AND CULTURE THE FINDINGS OF A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY.

THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) COMMISSIONS A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY EVERY TWO YEARS TO EVALUATE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF STANDARDS ADOPTED IN FILM CENSORSHIP.

THE SURVEY WHICH HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED WAS CONDUCTED BY AN INDEPENDENT SURVEY FIRM, MDR TECHNOLOGY LTD. THE SAMPLE INCLUDED 544 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE SURVEY FINDS THAT 50 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS CONSIDER TELA'S PRESENT STANDARDS TOO LENIENT OR A BIT TOO LENIENT, 29 PER CENT CONSIDER THEM JUST RIGHT AND SOME 18 PER CENT FEEL THAT THEY ARE TOO STRICT OR A BIT TOO STRICT WITH THE REMAINING THREE PER CENT OFFERING NO COMMENT.

MRS LAU SAID: "THE GENERAL FEELING THAT TELA'S CURRENT CENSORSHIP STANDARDS ARE TOO LENIENT APPEARS TO BE PURELY A MATTER OF PERCEPTION.

"WHEN THE RESPONDENTS' OPINIONS ON THE 32 FILM SEGMENTS SHOWN TO THEM ARE COMPARED WITH THE ACTUAL DECISIONS MADE BY TELA IN RESPECT OF THE FILMS CONCERNED, TELA'S DECISIONS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE APPROPRIATE IN 18 CASES, STRICT IN 11 CASES AND LENIENT IN ONLY THREE CASES.

"IF THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT OUR CURRENT STANDARDS ARE TOO LENIENT IS TO BE ADDRESSED, A TIGHTENING OF CENSORSHIP STANDARDS WOULD SEEM TO BE NECESSARY.

"HOWEVER, THE FINDINGS ON THE SEGMENTS WHICH CONFIRM THE APPROPRIATENESS OF TELA'S DECISIONS NEED ALSO TO BE LOOKED AT BASING ON WHICH, ONE CAN ARGUE THAT THE CURRENT STANDARDS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED," SHE ADDED.

/MRS LAU .....

MRS LAU IS ALSO PLEASED WITH THE 73 PER CENT SUPPORT OF THE RESPONDENTS WHO CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE FOR TELA TO CARRY OUT FILM CENSORSHIP.

"THIS CLEARLY SUGGESTS THAT CENSORSHIP OF FILMS IS PERCEIVED TO BE A PROPER BUSINESS OF THE GOVERNMENT," SAID MRS LAU.

ONE SPECIFIC ISSUE COVERED BY THE SURVEY IS WHETHER THE POSTERS FOR CATEGORY III FILMS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP. EIGHTY-EIGHT PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS CONSIDER IT NECESSARY AND FEEL THAT SUCH POSTERS SHOULD BE CENSORED BEFORE THEY ARE DISPLAYED EVEN THOUGH THE SAME PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS CONSIDER CURRENT POSTERS FOR CAT. III FILMS TO BE ACCEPTABLE (21 PER CENT) OR MOST OF THEM ACCEPTABLE (67 PER CENT).

MRS LAU NOTED THAT "THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR CENSORSHIP OF CAT. III FILM POSTERS ECHOES THE PUBLIC CONCERNS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED IN THE PRESS AND VARIOUS PUBLIC FORUMS".

SHE EMPHASISED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS PROPOSAL.

"THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER AND HOW TO MEET THE STRONG PUBLIC ASPIRATION AS REFLECTED IN THE SURVEY AND ON EARLIER OCCASIONS.

"IN THE PROCESS, CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO BALANCING CENSORSHIP WITH FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND TO ENSURE THAT ANY MEASURES TAKEN ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

"OTHER RELEVANT AND PRACTICAL ISSUES WILL ALSO NEED TO BE CONSIDERED AS A PACKAGE - SUCH AS WHO SHOULD BE THE CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY AND HOW THE PRESENT ENFORCEMENT DIFFICULTIES COULD BE OVERCOME," MRS LAU SAID.

THE ENFORCEMENT DIFFICULTIES, SHE EXPLAINED, LIE IN COLLECTING SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PROVE THE PERSONS CAUSING THE DISPLAY OF ANY OFFENDING POSTER.

THE SURVEY ALSO SOUGHT OPINIONS ON WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY TO INFORM CINEMA-GOERS BRIEFLY OF THE REASONS FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF EACH FILM. SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS CONSIDER IT VERY NECESSARY (20 PER CENT) OR FAIRLY NECESSARY (55 PER CENT).

MRS LAU AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO BETTER INFORM CINEMA-GOERS ESPECIALLY PARENTS SO THAT THEY MIGHT EXERCISE APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE ON THEIR CHILDREN.

EVEN THOUGH VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS MADE FROM FILMS ARE ALREADY SUBJECT TO REGULATION UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE, 78 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS IN THE SURVEY CONSIDER IT VERY NECESSARY (27 PER CENT) OR FAIRLY NECESSARY (51 PER CENT) TO EXTEND CENSORSHIP TO ALL TYPES OF VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS RENTED OR SOLD IN THE MARKET.

COMMENTING ON THIS FINDINGS, MRS LAU SAID THAT "ANY SUGGESTION OF FURTHER EXTENSION OF CENSORSHIP WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED EXTREMELY CAUTIOUSLY".

"WHEREAS CENSORSHIP OF FILM POSTERS CAN REASONABLY BE ARGUED AS AN EXTENSION OF FILM CENSORSHIP, THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW CATEGORY OF CENSORSHIP TO COVER ALL TYPES OF VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS RENTED OR SOLD TO AN INDIVIDUAL IS A MUCH MORE SERIOUS AND SENSITIVE MATTER AND ONE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS INCLINED AGAINST," SHE ADDED.

MRS LAU REITERATED THAT NO POLICY PROPOSALS HAVE YET BEEN FORMULATED AS MORE TIME IS NECESSARY TO STUDY THE RESULTS AND TO CONDUCT CONSULTATIONS.

"WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO FORMULATE POLICY PROPOSALS IN THE SUMMER AFTER CONSIDERING VIEWS FROM THE PANEL, THE INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS," SHE SAID.

"FOR ANY POLICY PROPOSAL WHICH ENTAILS LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONAL STAFF, THE EARLIEST IMPLEMENTATION DATE WILL BE IN 1995/96," MRS LAU SAID.

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ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY LAYBYS ON TUEN MUN ROAD

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CONSTRUCTION OF SIX ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY LAYBYS ON TUEN MUN ROAD HAS RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED TO FACILITATE ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND VEHICLE RECOVERY ON THE ROAD.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCH LAYBYS TO 10 - SEVEN ON KOWLOON-BOUND AND THREE ON NEW TERRITORIES-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY. SIGNS ARE BEING PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE ROAD SAFETY AND STANDARDS DIVISION OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT MR CHING KAM-CHEONG SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT TUEN MUN ROAD WAS NOW OPERATING NEAR ITS CAPACITY.

HE NOTED TRAFFIC WAS PARTICULARLY HEAVY DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOURS IN THE KOWLOON-BOUND DIRECTION, AND DURING THE EVENING HOURS IN THE TUEN MUN-BOUND DIRECTION.

"ANY TRAFFIC ACCIDENT OR BREAKDOWN OF VEHICLES ON THE ROAD WOULD CAUSE TRAFFIC JAMS AND DELAY PROMPT RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS," MR CHING SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT THE EMERGENCY LAYBYS WAS ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT/DISTRICT BOARD WORKING GROUP ON TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE YUEN LONG/TUEN MUN/TSUEN WAN/KWAI TSING CORRIDOR WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE SITUATION.

"WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE KWAI TSING, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS, CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE SIX EMERGENCY LAYBYS STARTED IN LAST DECEMBER AND COMPLETED LAST MONTH," HE SAID.

THE \$1.6 MILLION PROJECT INCLUDED CONSTRUCTION OF SIX LAYBYS AND DRAINAGE WORKS; TRAFFIC AIDS, ROAD LIGHTING, AND EMERGENCY TELEPHONE DUCTS AND CABLES.

MR CHING SAID ANY HOLD-UP IN THE TRAFFIC DUE TO AN INCIDENT MIGHT BRING THE TRAFFIC IN THE WHOLE TUEN MUN ROAD TO A STANDSTILL AND IT WOULD TAKE HOURS BEFORE TRAFFIC RETURNED TO NORMAL.

"ACCIDENT PREVENTION IN TUEN MUN ROAD THEREFORE CONTRIBUTES TO THE REDUCTION OF ROAD CONGESTION AS WELL AS BEING CONDUCIVE TO ROAD SAFETY," HE ADDED.

THE COMMON CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS OF ACCIDENTS ON TUEN MUN ROAD ARE:

- \* DRIVING TOO CLOSE TO VEHICLE IN FRONT;
- \* DRIVING TOO FAST FOR THE PREVAILING ROAD CONDITION;
- \* CARELESS LANE CHANGING;
- \* SKIDDING AND LOST CONTROL OF VEHICLE; AND
- \* DEFECTIVE BRAKES.

MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED OF A FEW EXPRESSWAY DRIVING RULES WHICH ARE THE MOST COMMONLY RECORDED PROSECUTIONS BY THE POLICE IN TUEN MUN ROAD. THESE ARE:

- \* ALL VEHICLES MUST FOLLOW THE PRESCRIBED SPEED LIMIT AS SIGNED IN AN EXPRESSWAY. MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES, HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES AND BUSES ARE SUBJECT TO A LOWER BLANKET SPEED LIMIT OF 70 KPH IN EXPRESSWAYS.
- \* MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES, HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES AND BUSES ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE OFFSIDE LANE WHERE THE CARRIAGEWAY HAS THREE OR MORE TRAFFIC LANES.
- \* NO VEHICLE SHOULD OVERTAKE BY THE NEARSIDE OF ANOTHER VEHICLE.

IN ADDITION, MR CHING APPEALED TO MOTORISTS INVOLVED IN MINOR ACCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH DID NOT INVOLVE INJURIES OR FATALITIES AND SERIOUS DAMAGE TO VEHICLES, TO DRIVE TO THE NEAREST LAYBY.

"THIS IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED. LEAVING THE VEHICLES ON THE ROAD MAY LEAD TO EVEN MORE SERIOUS ACCIDENTS," MR CHING SAID.

"AS LONG AS MOTORISTS PAY ATTENTION TO THE ABOVE ACCIDENT CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS AND FOLLOW THE SAFE DRIVING RULES, THERE WILL BE FEWER ACCIDENTS AND HENCE FEWER INCIDENTS OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN TUEN MUN ROAD," HE ADDED.

STUDENTS ADVISED OF SUMMER JOB TRAPS AND SAFETY

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STUDENTS INTENDING TO TAKE UP TEMPORARY WORK OR SUMMER JOBS ARE REMINDED TO PAY EXTRA ATTENTION TO POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT TRAPS AND SAFETY AT WORK.

INFORMATION KITS OUTLINING SUCH INFORMATION AND ADVICE, AND CHANNELS FOR ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS PROVIDED BY THE LABOUR AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO 100 CAREERS TEACHERS AT A SEMINAR THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

THE SEMINAR, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WAS AIMED AT HELPING THEM PUT ACROSS VARIOUS ADVICE TO SUMMER JOB-SEEKERS.

DURING THE SEMINAR, A LABOUR OFFICER FROM THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, MISS CHENG LAI-FUN, GAVE A TALK ON POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT TRAPS IN VARIOUS TRADES.

MISS CHENG POINTED OUT THAT STUDENTS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FACTORS SUCH AS PERSONAL INTERESTS, AND PHYSICAL AND ACADEMIC ABILITY IN CHOOSING A SUITABLE JOB.

"THEY SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHEN FINDING JOBS THROUGH ADVERTISEMENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT REQUIRE NO SKILL NOR ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION BUT WITH A HIGH PAY.

"STUDENTS SHOULD AVOID ACCEPTING JOBS WITH IMMORAL IMPLICATION AND SHOULD PAY EXTRA CARE BEFORE SIGNING ANY CONTRACT," SHE SAID.

MISS CHENG NOTED THAT A PROPER CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT SHOULD INCLUDE PROVISIONS LIKE THE NAME OF THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE, DATE OF EMPLOYMENT, THE JOB NATURE AND DUTIES, WORKING HOURS AND PLACE, THE AMOUNT OF WAGES AND THE PAYMENT METHOD, PROBATION PERIOD, AND METHODS OF TERMINATION OF CONTRACT.

A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE LABOUR LAW WOULD BE HELPFUL TO DISTINGUISH THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT FROM OTHER CONTRACTS SUCH AS AGENCY AGREEMENT AND MANAGER'S CONTRACT.

"STUDENTS SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY BEFORE ACCEPTING ANY DEMAND FROM THE EMPLOYER IN TERMS OF MONETARY GUARANTEE, OR PAYMENT OF CASH EITHER FOR TRAINING PURPOSES OR FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS," SHE SAID.

"IF THEY HAVE DOUBTS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OFFERED OR ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEM, THEY SHOULD CONSULT THEIR PARENTS, CAREER TEACHERS OR STAFF OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE," SHE ADDED.

AT THE SEMINAR, A FACTORY INSPECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR CHU CHUN-WAH, ALSO GAVE A TALK ON WORK SAFETY, WITH EMPHASIS ON JOBS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES AND IN RESTAURANTS, AND JOBS THAT REQUIRED THE HANDLING OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES AND HEAVY MACHINERY.

"IN FACT, STUDENTS SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS JOBS AND THOSE WITH DANGEROUS WORK PROCESSES," MR CHU SAID.

"WORK ON CONSTRUCTION SITES IS A GOOD EXAMPLE AS IT INVOLVES A GREAT VARIETY OF HAZARDOUS WORK PROCESSES SUCH AS WORKING AT HEIGHT AND USING OF HEAVY MACHINERY.

"ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION PROHIBITING PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 TO WORK ON CONSTRUCTION SITES IS STILL BEING CONSIDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO TAKE UP JOBS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES DURING THEIR SUMMER VACATION."

UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY LAWS, NO PERSON UNDER 18 SHALL OPERATE ANY LIFTING APPLIANCE DRIVEN BY MECHANICAL POWER OR TO GIVE SIGNALS TO THE DRIVER OF THE APPLIANCE.

THE LAW ALSO PROHIBITS YOUNG PERSONS AND WOMEN TO CLEAN ANY DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY IN NOTIFIABLE WORKPLACES.

"OTHER JOBS REQUIRING THE OPERATION OF WOOD-WORKING MACHINES, THE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS, TOXIC SUBSTANCES OR FIRE-RELATED PROCESSES ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR SUMMER JOB-SEEKERS," MR CHU ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME STUDENTS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE UP SUMMER JOBS IN RESTAURANTS.

"HOWEVER, AS STUDENTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO USE SHARP KNIVES AND COOKING UTENSILS ON A POTENTIALLY SLIPPERY FLOOR, THEY SHOULD EXERCISE EXTRA CARE TO PREVENT WORK INJURIES," HE SAID.

ALSO GIVING TALKS AT THE SEMINAR WERE THE CHIEF COMPLAINT AND ADVICE OFFICER OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, MR CHAN WING-KAI AND CHIEF POLICE INSPECTOR TAM PING-WAH FROM THE POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

THE SEMINAR WAS HELD AT LIU PO SHAN MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN, TSUEN WAN.

ANOTHER SIMILAR SEMINAR FOR CAREERS TEACHERS WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 28.

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INSTANT REGISTRATION SERVICE FOR EMPLOYERS AND  
DISABLED JOB SEEKERS

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EMPLOYERS WISHING TO RECRUIT DISABLED PERSONS WILL RECEIVE INSTANT REGISTRATION SERVICE FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT TSIM SHA TSUI FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AN ENQUIRY COUNTER WILL BE SET UP BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION TO RECORD DETAILS OF JOB VACANCIES TO BE PROVIDED BY EMPLOYERS.

SIMILAR ON-THE-SPOT REGISTRATION SERVICE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED TO DISABLED JOB SEEKERS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1994

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SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT), MRS JENNIE CHOR, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE STAFF WOULD ARRANGE INTERVIEWS FOR BOTH PARTIES IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EXHIBITION.

"THE MAIN PURPOSE OF OUR EXHIBITION IS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF DISABLED PERSONS.

"THE EXHIBITION ALSO FORMS PART OF OUR CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED AND TO PUT RIGHT PUBLIC MISCONCEPTIONS TOWARDS THEM," SHE SAID.

VIDEO SHOWS WILL BE PRESENTED IN ADDITION TO THE DISPLAY OF 18 BOARDS INTRODUCING THE VARIOUS DISABILITIES, THE WORK DISABLED EMPLOYEES IS PERFORMING, THE FREE PLACEMENT SERVICE TO THE DISABLED AND FREE RECRUITMENT SERVICE TO EMPLOYERS BEING OFFERED BY THE DIVISION.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT STAFF MANNING THE ENQUIRY COUNTER WILL ANSWER PUBLIC ENQUIRIES AND DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS INTRODUCING THE WORK OF THE DIVISION.

THE EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN THE MAIN CONCOURSE, VENUE B, NEW WORLD CENTRE, 20 SALISBURY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM ON APRIL 15, 16 AND 17.

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117 VMS RETURN HOME  
\* \* \* \* \*

A GROUP OF 117 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (THURSDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 51 MEN, 29 WOMEN, 22 BOYS AND 15 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 207TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 3,425 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAD RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 42,038 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,755	0930	+50
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,541	1000	+50
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+56
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+56	1200	+56
LAF TODAY	-270	1500	+56
		1600	+56

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER      TWI 125.2    \*-0.2\*    14.4.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.70	16 MONTHS	2508	4.625	99.76	4.87
1 MONTH	3.01	19 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.59	5.14
3 MONTHS	3.58	22 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.37	5.41
6 MONTHS	3.89	30 MONTHS	3610	4.20	96.14	5.94
12 MONTHS	4.42	33 MONTHS	3701	4.60	96.36	6.13

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 12,498 MN

CLOSED 14 APRIL 1994

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