



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**SENIOR STAFF COURSE
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THE GOVERNMENT IS SETTING UP AN INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION TO DEVELOP AND CONDUCT A SERIES OF SENIOR STAFF COURSES FOR MID-CAREER OFFICERS TO PREPARE THEM FOR DIRECTORATE LEVEL RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE WORK OF THE ORGANISATION WILL BE GUIDED BY AN ADVISORY BOARD WHICH HAS NOW BEEN SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR LI FOOK-KOW, CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, AND COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE ORGANISATION WILL BE HEADED BY A DIRECTOR OF STUDIES ASSISTED BY FOUR FULL-TIME TUTORS AND AN ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.

THE RECRUITMENT EXERCISE HAS ALREADY BEGUN SO AS TO ENSURE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THAT THE FIRST COURSE CAN BE RUN IN SPRING, 1984.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE SENIOR STAFF COURSE WAS RECOMMENDED BY A WORKING PARTY, ALSO CHAIRED BY MR LI, WHO WERE ASKED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY IN JUNE LAST YEAR TO EXAMINE WHETHER IT WAS FEASIBLE TO SET UP A FULL-TIME COURSE ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS TO PREPARE THE OFFICERS FOR WIDER MANAGERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES, GENERALLY AT THE DIRECTORATE LEVEL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SENDING OFFICERS TO ADVANCED MANAGEMENT COURSES OVERSEAS OVER THE YEARS BUT IT CONSIDERS THAT THERE IS A STRONG CASE FOR SETTING UP FACILITIES LOCALLY IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE NUMBERS THAT CAN BE TRAINED AND TO MEET HONG KONG'S OWN REQUIREMENTS.

THE SENIOR STAFF COURSE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING PARTY, WILL COVER THREE MAIN SUBJECT AREAS: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY, PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT, AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE TRAINED TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OPERATES AND TO HAVE INCREASED COMPETENCE IN KEY AREAS OF MANAGEMENT.

IT WILL BE TRIED AS AN EXPERIMENT FOR THREE YEARS. DURING THIS PERIOD FIVE THREE-MONTH FULL-TIME COURSES AND ONE OR TWO NINE-MONTH PART-TIME COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED.

EACH COURSE WILL CATER FOR 30 TO 50 OFFICERS AT THE TOP END OF THE MASTER PAY SCALE AND THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES (OFFICERS) PAY SCALE OR IN THE LOWER DIRECTORATE, WHO WILL COME FROM A BROAD MIX OF PROFESSIONS AND DEPARTMENTS. UP TO FOUR PARTICIPANTS WILL BE INVITED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR SO THAT THERE CAN BE A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE AND COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO MANAGEMENT.

MEMBERS OF THE FULL-TIME COURSE WILL SPEND ABOUT THREE WEEKS IN RESIDENCE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND PROJECTS AND DEVELOP CLOSER INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. THEY WILL ALSO VISIT ONE OR TWO AREAS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA TO OBTAIN A BROADER OUTLOOK ON THEIR STUDY PROJECTS.

/DETAILS OF

DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE COURSE AND THE COURSE SYLLABUS AND CONTENTS, WILL BE FINALISED BY THE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES AND HIS STAFF WHO WILL WORK IN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING CENTRE AND LOCAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS.

THE EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO COST \$8.8 MILLION OVER THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD.

THE ADVISORY BOARD WILL EVALUATE THE COURSE RESULTS AND ITS USEFULNESS BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE ON WHETHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH TRAINING IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE MADE PERMANENT.

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FARE REVISION STILL PREFERRED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (MAY 20) REITERATED ITS INCLINATION FOR A GENERAL FARE REVISION FOR URBAN TAXIS RATHER THAN IMPOSING A 50-CENT SURCHARGE PER TRIP TO COVER THE INCREASE IN FUEL DUTY.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING WITH URBAN TAXI OPERATORS THIS AFTERNOON, MR PANG HAU-CHUNG, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ACCEPT THE OPERATORS' SURCHARGE PROPOSAL.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE OPERATORS COULD STILL SUBMIT A FARE INCREASE APPLICATION IF THEY CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY.

TODAY'S MEETING WAS ONE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REGULAR CONSULTATIONS HELD QUARTERLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF NINE URBAN TAXI UNIONS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE TRADE.

OTHER SUBJECTS BROUGHT UP IN THE MEETING INCLUDED URBAN CLEARWAYS, TAXI STAND PROVISION AND THE ISSUE OF NEW TAXI LICENCES.

MR PANG EXPLAINED THAT URBAN CLEARWAYS WERE INTENDED TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF ROAD CAPACITY AND ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED TRAFFIC FLOW.

+HOWEVER, THE PURPOSE WOULD BE DEFEATED IF ANY VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES IS ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES,+ HE SAID.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS TO PROVIDE NEW TAXI STANDS AT JORDAN, PRINCE EDWARD, SHEK KIP MEI AND KOWLOON BAY MTR STATIONS SHORTLY.

AS TO THE ISSUE OF NEW TAXI LICENCES, MR PANG NOTED THAT THE POLICY WAS DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL WHO HAD CONSIDERED ALL RELEVANT FACTORS.

AT PRESENT, THE GOVERNMENT ISSUES 300 NEW URBAN TAXI LICENCES EVERY QUARTER. THIS WILL BE CONTINUED UNTIL THE NUMBER OF TAXIS REACHES THE 15 000 MARK.

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STIFFER FINE SOUGHT FOR WATER POLLUTION
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THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO DOUBLE THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR PEOPLE GUILTY OF POLLUTING THE WATER FORMING PART OF THE WATERWORKS.

THE PROPOSAL IS CONTAINED IN THE WATERWORKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE EXISTING MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE CARRIES A FINE OF \$10 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS. THE BILL PROPOSES TO RAISE THE FINE TO \$20 000. BUT THE MAXIMUM PRISON TERM OF TWO YEARS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING FINE HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1974.

+IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF THE PENALTY WHICH HAS BEEN ERODED BY INFLATION OVER THE YEARS,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO DOUBLE THE EXISTING MAXIMUM FINE OF \$2 000 FOR BREACHING ANY REGULATION MADE UNDER SECTION 37 OF THE WATERWORKS ORDINANCE.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 25). IF PASSED, IT WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS TO THE WATERWORKS REGULATIONS.

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SCHEME TO IMPROVE WATER TRANSFER SYSTEM
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) APPOINTED BINNIE AND PARTNERS (H.K.) TO EXAMINE AND IMPLEMENT A SCHEME TO IMPROVE THE WATER TRANSFER SYSTEM IN THE NORTH EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT WAS SIGNED THIS MORNING BY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR TOM TOMLINSON, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS, BINNIE AND PARTNERS (H.K.).

THE SCHEME, WHICH FORMS PART OF A PROJECT FOR THE RECEPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL WATER FROM CHINA, COMPRISES AN ADDITIONAL PUMPING STATION AT TAI MEI TUK AND A PUMPING STATION AT HARBOUR ISLAND, WITH THE ASSOCIATED DELIVERY AQUEDUCTS RUNNING ACROSS TOLO HARBOUR TO PAK KONG IN SAI KUNG.

THE TRANSFER SYSTEM WILL HAVE A DAILY CAPACITY OF 682 000 CUBIC METRES OF SUPPLY TO THE PROPOSED PAK KONG TREATMENT WORK, WHILE THE ADDITIONAL PUMPING STATION IN TAI MEI TUK WILL BRING THE DRAW-OFF CAPACITY FROM PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR TO NOT LESS THAN 1 600 000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY.

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN 1984 AND WILL TAKE ABOUT THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE.

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MORE CHANGES TO DRAFT ABERDEEN PLAN
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TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

ONE AMENDMENT INVOLVES THE ZONING OF THE RECLAMATION AT TAI SHUE WAN FOR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY PURPOSE.

OTHER AMENDMENTS INVOLVE THE EXTENSION OF AN 'INDUSTRIAL' SITE FRONTING THE ABERDEEN CHANNEL TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL RECLAMATION AREA AND THE REZONING OF THREE SITES TO +GREEN BELT+.

THE AMENDED PLAN MAY BE INSPECTED AT DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG- THE TOWN PLANNING DIVISION, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 4/F., MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND DISTRICT OFFICE (SOUTHERN), SHOP 25, GROUND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, ABERDEEN.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS MAY SUBMIT HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY, TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O LANDS DEPARTMENT, 4/F., MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SURVEY DIVISION, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 5/F., MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AT \$10 FOR AN UNCOLOURED COPY AND \$60 PER COLOURED COPY.

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HOUSING AND PLANNING CONGRESS
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THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PLANNING) OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MR ARTHUR CHAN, HAS LEFT FOR LISBON, PORTUGAL, TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HOUSING AND PLANNING CONGRESS.

THE FIVE-DAY CONGRESS, STARTING ON MAY 23, WILL DISCUSS THE MAIN THEME +BETTER CITIES -- LOWER COSTS+.

THERE WILL BE FOUR MAIN WORKING SESSIONS, EACH LASTING HALF A DAY, DURING WHICH TOPICS SUCH AS HOUSING, URBAN TRANSPORT, TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURES AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURES WILL BE DISCUSSED.

THE CONGRESS WILL BE ATTENDED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED DELEGATES FROM MOST OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

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TAI HANG EYE-SORE CLEARED

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SEVEN ILLEGAL REAR-LANE STRUCTURES IN TAI HANG WERE DEMOLISHED THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE STRUCTURES, TWO FOR DOMESTIC AND FIVE FOR STORAGE PURPOSES, WERE LOCATED AT 9-16A SUN CHUN STREET.

TODAY'S WORK IS THE FIRST PHASE OF A CLEARANCE OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AND EXTENSIONS IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY TUNG LO WAN ROAD, WAN SHA STREET AND TAI HANG ROAD.

+TAI HANG HAS ABOUT 65 SUCH STRUCTURES WHICH ARE EITHER SHOP EXTENSIONS OR ARE BEING USED FOR STORAGE, DOMESTIC OR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE.

+APART FROM BEING EYE-SORES, THEY ARE ALSO CAUSING OBSTRUCTIONS AND POSING POTENTIAL FIRE AND TRAFFIC HAZARDS WHICH MAY JEOPARDIZE THE SAFETY OF LOCAL PEOPLE.

+THEREFORE, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD FEELS THAT SUCH STRUCTURES WARRANT HIGH PRIORITY IN THE DISTRICT-WIDE LIST OF CLEARANCE OPERATIONS.

+IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE A MONTH ON A STREET-BY-STREET BASIS UNTIL THE WHOLE AREA IS CLEARED,+ HE ADDED.

TODAY'S OPERATION WAS CO-ORDINATED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND JOINTLY CONDUCTED BY THE POLICE, THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION, LANDS, URBAN SERVICES, HOUSING AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS.

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CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMME IMPRESSES AMERICAN JUDGES

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A DELEGATION OF 20 AMERICAN WOMEN JUDGES AND LAWYERS TODAY (FRIDAY) VISITED TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS AND SPOKE HIGHLY OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS.

THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION, MRS JUSTICE JOAN KLEIN, SAID THAT THE INSTITUTION WAS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL MANAGED IN ALL ASPECTS AND THAT THEY WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND WORKS PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG INMATES.

ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR SUPERINTENDENTS ALOYSIUS WONG AND PETER PI, THE VISITORS TOURED THE INSTITUTION'S VARIOUS FACILITIES INCLUDING THE DORMITORY, KITCHEN, CLASSROOMS, WORKSHOPS, AND CHAPEL.

THE SUPERINTENDENT IN CHARGE OF THE INSTITUTION, MISS BONNIE WONG, ALSO BRIEFED THEM ON THE INSTITUTION'S PROGRAMME WHICH PROVIDED FOR HALF-DAY EDUCATIONAL CLASSES AND HALF-DAY VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN VARIOUS TRADES.

THE INSTITUTION'S PRECISION MARCHING TEAM AND PIPERS ALSO STAGED A PERFORMANCE FOR THE VISITORS.

EARLIER TODAY, THE VISITORS MET AND HAD TALKS WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER.

TENDERS SOUGHT FOR YUEN LONG LAND

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A PIECE OF CROWN LAND IN YUEN LONG.

THE SITE, IN SAI CHING STREET, IS ABOUT 9 839 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME AND FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING CINEMA AND GODOWN) PURPOSES.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE TENDERS OF THIS SITE IS JULY 15.

MEANWHILE, THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS ALSO INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCIES FOR TWO SITES.

THE FIRST SITE, IN YUET LUN STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN, MEASURES ABOUT 1 730 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR CONCRETE AND ASPHALT BATCHING PLANT PURPOSE.

THE OTHER SITE, SITUATED AT THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF CHOI YUEN ESTATE, SHEUNG SHUI, IS FOR FEE PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 6 000 SQUARE METRES.

THE TENANCIES FOR BOTH SITES ARE FOR THREE YEARS AND THEREAFTER QUARTERLY.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF BOTH TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 3.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND PLANS INSPECTED AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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SUNDAY FUN TREAT AT KOWLOON PARK

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VISITORS TO THE KOWLOON PARK ON SUNDAY (MAY 22) WILL BE IN FOR A DOUBLE TREAT.

FOR THERE WILL BE MUSIC AND SONGS BY LOCAL CELEBRITIES, AND AN INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE CLEAN HONG KONG DISPLAY.

ALL OF THIS IS BEING PRESENTED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, AS PART OF ITS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

THE DISPLAY WILL BE A REPEAT OF THE ONE HELD AT CHATER ROAD LAST MONTH.

+IN VIEW OF ITS POPULARITY, WE DECIDED TO RE-STAGE THE DISPLAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HARBOUR, SO THAT RESIDENTS THERE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE IT,+ AN URBAN COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THE EXHIBITION

THE EXHIBITION WILL REFLECT THE HISTORY OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S ROLE IN KEEPING HONG KONG CLEAN DURING THE PAST 100 YEARS.

A FULL RANGE OF UC'S UP-TO-DATE CLEANSING VEHICLES WILL BE ON SHOW FROM 9.30 AM UNTIL 5 PM. THERE WILL ALSO BE A DEMONSTRATION OF THESE MACHINES IN ACTION.

AMONG THE EXHIBITS WILL ALSO BE THE SKULL OF THE LAST BUFFALO TO DRAW A REFUSE CART IN HONG KONG, AS WELL AS A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AND COLLECTION OF LITTERBINS DISPLAY.

FOR POPULAR MUSIC FANS, WELL-KNOWN SINGERS LIKE JOHNNY IP, PANG KIN-SUN, AND RITA MARIA CARPIO AND THE EIGHT-PIECE BAND 'THE ELEMENTS', WILL PERFORM AT THE SOCCER PITCH OF THE PARK FROM 2 PM.

AND THERE WILL BE MAGIC AND ACROBATIC SHOWS, AS A PART OF THE MOBILE STREET THEATRE STAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY CLEAN HONG KONG DISPLAY AT KOWLOON PARK ON SUNDAY (MAY 22). THE VARIETY SHOW WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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**ONE-DAY EVENT FOR WONG TAI SIN OLD PEOPLE
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A VISIT TO A HOME FOR THE AGED AND A VEGETARIAN DINNER FOR 500 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN WONG TAI SIN WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY (MAY 22) TO AROUSE COMMUNITY AWARENESS TOWARDS RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

AT 10 AM, STAFF FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT THE BUDDHIST CHI LIN HOME FOR THE AGED IN DIAMOND HILL AND PRESENT GIFT PACKETS OF MEDICATED OIL AND SWEETS TO ABOUT 120 OLD PEOPLE.

LATER AT 6 PM, A VEGETARIAN DINNER, INCLUDING CHINESE OPERA SINGING, A LUCKY DRAW AND DISTRIBUTION OF SOUVENIRS, WILL BE HELD AT THE SIK SIK YUEN FUNG MING HALL.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PHILIP CHOK, URBAN COUNCILLOR, MISS CECILIA YEUNG AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL ALSO ATTEND THE DINNER PARTY.

BOTH FUNCTIONS ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE UPPER WONG TAI SIN AND FUNG WONG AREA COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE A DAY OF JOY AND ENTERTAINMENT TO LOCAL ELDERLIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT TO THE BUDDHIST CHI LIN HOME FOR THE AGED AT 10 AM AND THE VEGETARIAN DINNER AT THE SIK SIK YUEN FUNG MING HALL AT 6 PM ON SUNDAY (MAY 22).

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PLASTICS INDUSTRY HOLDS SAFETY SEMINAR

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EMPLOYERS HAVE TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY EQUIPMENTS FOR THEIR WORKERS, AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR WONG PO-YAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A PLASTICS INDUSTRY SAFETY SEMINAR HELD AT THE CHINESE Y.M.C.A. IN WATERLOO ROAD, MR WONG SAID THAT WORKERS MUST ALSO GIVE FULL SUPPORT BY STRICTLY OBSERVING SAFETY RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS.

HE SAID THAT THIS FIRST TRI-PARTITE SEMINAR EVER HELD IN HONG KONG FOR THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY WAS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT NOT ONLY OFFERED A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE IN THE TRADE FOR OPEN DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS RELATING TO SAFETY, BUT ALSO SHOWED THE WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT OF ALL CONCERNED FOR THE PROMOTION OF VOLUNTARY SAFETY MOVEMENT IN INDUSTRY.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS, MR WONG CONTINUED, A TOTAL OF 1 578 ACCIDENTS WAS RECORDED IN 1982, COMPARED WITH 1 482 IN 1981, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 6.5 PER CENT.

HE TOLD THE SEMINAR THAT THESE FIGURES WERE BY NO MEANS ENCOURAGING, PARTICULARLY WHEN MACHINES WITHOUT GUARDS MIGHT CAUSE SERIOUS OR FATAL INJURIES TO WORKERS.

+THIS SHOWS THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE STILL CONTINUE TO ATTACH LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO SAFE WORKING PRACTICES AND GOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT AT WORKPLACES. CLEARLY MUCH MORE HAS TO BE DONE IN THIS RESPECT,+ HE NOTED.

+IF THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IS TO BE REDUCED, IT WILL REQUIRE THE JOINT EFFORTS AMONG THE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS,+ HE SAID.

APPEALING TO PARTICIPANTS TO HELP SPREAD THE SAFETY MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY, MR WONG SAID: +FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TO BE READILY ACCEPTED AS A WAY OF LIFE, IT IS NECESSARY FIRST AND FOREMOST, TO INSTILL IN THE MINDS OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE THE RIGHT KIND OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS SAFETY.+

AT THE ONE-DAY SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, THE PARTICIPANTS HEARD SPECIALIST TALKS GIVEN BY SAFETY PROFESSIONALS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND SAW A FILM RECENTLY PRODUCED ON THE SUBJECT OF FIRE HAZARDS IN FACTORIES.

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS DISPLAY AT MTR STATION
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THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS EXHIBITION TOMORROW AND ON SUNDAY FROM 9 AM TO 6.30 PM AT THE TSUEN WAN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION.

ALL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF A WESTERN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, SUCH AS VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, DOUBLE BASS, FLUTE, PICCOLO, CLARINET, OBOE, FRENCH HORN, TRUMPET, TROMBONE, TUBA AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY, TOGETHER WITH COLOURED ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO BE HELD IN AN MTR STATION.

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NEW MAXICAB ROUTE FOR KOWLOON CITY
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THE NEW MAXICAB ROUTE 7 BETWEEN KOWLOON CITY AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST IS TO BEGIN OPERATION FROM SUNDAY (MAY 22).

THE CIRCULAR ROUTE WILL OPERATE VIA WAI KING STREET, KWEI CHOW STREET, TO KWA WAN ROAD, MA TAU WAI ROAD, GILLIES AVENUE, HOK YUEN STREET, CHATHAM ROAD, GRANVILLE ROAD, SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, MODY ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, CHEONG WAN ROAD, HONG TAI PATH, HONG CHONG ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, MA TAU WAI ROAD, CHI KIANG STREET, TO KWA WAN ROAD, SAN MA TAU STREET AND WAI KING STREET.

IT WILL RUN EVERY EIGHT MINUTES FROM 6.40 AM TO 10 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND 8 AM TO 10 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THE FARE WILL BE \$1.50 FOR THE TRIP FROM WAI HANG CHEONG SUN CHUEN IN KOWLOON CITY TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST. THE FARE FOR THE RETURN JOURNEY WILL BE THE SAME.

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FEWER SAILINGS FOR THREE FERRY ROUTES
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THREE HYF FERRY ROUTES WILL HAVE THEIR TIMETABLES REVISED FROM MONDAY (MAY 23) DUE TO LOW PATRONAGE.

FOR THE NORTH POINT - KWUN TONG SERVICE, PEAK PERIOD FREQUENCY WILL BE REDUCED FROM EVERY 12 MINUTES TO EVERY 15 MINUTES.

THE TAIKOO SHING - KOWLOON CITY ROUTE FREQUENCY BETWEEN 10.30 AM AND 4 PM WILL BE REDUCED FROM EVERY 25 MINUTES TO EVERY 30 MINUTES.

SAILINGS FROM 9.30 AM TO 5 PM ON THE CHAI WAN - KWUN TONG ROUTE WILL BE CANCELLED.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CARRIAGEWAY
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THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWUN TONG ROAD BETWEEN HONG NING ROAD AND HOI YUEN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 6 AM ON SUNDAY (MAY 22) FOR WORK ON A PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON KWUN TONG ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HIP WO STREET, TUNG YAN STREET, YUE MAN SQUARE AND HONG NING ROAD.

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WATER MAINS WORKS
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 23) FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY SHOUSON HILL ROAD, SHOUSON HILL ROAD WEST AND EAST, INCLUDING HONG KONG COUNTRY CLUB AND OCEAN PARK.

MEANWHILE, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF VILLAGES IN SAI KUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 23) FOR WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT MAN SAU SAN TSUEN, PO LO CHE VILLAGE, SUN ON VILLAGE, TAI PING VILLAGE, PO LO CHE SAN TSUEN AND O'LONG VILLAGE.

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FIRING PRACTICE WARNING
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE FOR THREE DAYS IN JUNE.

THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

THE DATES AND TIMES OF THE PRACTICE ARE:

DATE	TIME
JUNE 1 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM TO 5 PM
JUNE 16 (THURSDAY)	8 AM TO 5 PM
JUNE 29 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM TO 11 PM

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUPPLEMENT

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1983

NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR INTERVIEWED ON TV
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE RTHK PROGRAMME IN WHICH THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WAS INTERVIEWED BY MR JIM BIDDULPH:

INTRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER:

THERE NOW FOLLOWS A SPECIAL PROGRAMME MARKING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY, HONG KONG RECEIVED ITS NEW GOVERNOR. SIR EDWARD YOUDE WAS NO STRANGER TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD. HE WAS A BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE MAN IN CHINA BEFORE AND AFTER 1949. AND FROM 1974 TO 1978 HE WAS THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN PEKING. NOW, HE WAS TAKING UP PROBABLY THE MOST CHALLENGING JOB THAT THE REMNANTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE HAD TO OFFER. HE ARRIVED, IN HIS PREDECESSOR'S WORDS, MASSIVELY QUALIFIED TO DO IT.

THE WORLD AS A WHOLE WAS IN RECESSION. HONG KONG ITSELF WAS FEELING THE EFFECTS. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS GROWING NERVOUSNESS OVER THE WHOLE FUTURE OF THE PLACE. AT THAT MOMENT, ONLY A BRIEF YEAR AGO, THERE WAS A FEELING THAT NOBODY WAS EVEN TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, LET ALONE DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

FOR SIR EDWARD AND HONG KONG, IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A MOMENTOUS YEAR. APART FROM 1997 THERE WERE PRESSING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS BUT HE'D HARDLY HAD CHANCE TO SETTLE INTO GOVERNMENT HOUSE BEFORE HE WAS FLYING AROUND ON HONG KONG'S FIRST EXPERIENCE OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. HE WENT BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS TO LONDON. AND THEN THERE WAS THE VITAL VISIT TO PEKING. FOR THE FIRST TIME, A GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG ACCOMPANIED A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TO THE CHINESE CAPITAL. AND TOOK PART IN THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS. AT THE END OF HIS EVENTFUL FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE, THE GOVERNOR TALKS NOW TO JIM BIDDULPH.

JB: SIR EDWARD, WHAT EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW IS WHERE WE STAND NOW, IN RELATION TO 1997?

HE: THIS I FULLY UNDERSTAND, AND RIGHT FROM THE VERY MOMENT THAT I ARRIVED IN HONG KONG I WAS AWARE THAT THIS WAS GOING TO BE THE ISSUE WHICH WOULD BE AT THE TOP OF PEOPLE'S MINDS.

WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED, THERE WASN'T VERY MUCH HAPPENING AND THERE WERE TWO THINGS WHICH CLEARLY NEEDED TO BE DONE. AND THE FIRST OF THOSE WAS TO GET TALKS STARTED, AND THAT WAS ACHIEVED WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER WENT TO PEKING IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR. AND THE SECOND THING WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE FEELING IN HONG KONG ABOUT THE FUTURE, AND WE MADE A START ON THAT WHEN I TOOK THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS - A REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO LONDON AND OF COURSE, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS SINCE THEN WHEN PEOPLE HAVE COME HERE, SUCH AS LORD BELSTED, TO TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT IT.

BUT THE TALKS WHICH WE BEGAN THEN HAVE BEEN GOING ON, AND THEY ARE STILL GOING ON. I THINK I CAN QUITE CLEARLY SAY THAT ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE MOVING SLOWLY, THEY ARE MOVING, AND THEY ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND WE STILL REMAIN FULLY DETERMINED TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THEM.

JB: YOU SAY +TALKS ARE GOING ON+, DO YOU MEAN TALKS ABOUT TALKS, OR HAVE THE DEFINITIVE TALKS ACTUALLY STARTED?

HE: WELL, WE HAVE NEVER DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN DEFINITIVE TALKS AND AS YOU MIGHT SAY, INTRODUCTORY TALKS. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND THE DECLARED OBJECTIVE, WHICH IS STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, AND THAT'S WHAT THE TALKS ARE ABOUT.

JB: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE BRITISH POSITION IS? I MEAN, WHAT IS BRITAIN PROPOSING AS TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG?

HE: NO, I CAN'T GO INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS BUT WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR, AND INDEED, WHAT WE HAVE STATED WE ARE LOOKING FOR, IS THE SETTLEMENT WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO CHINA AND UK, AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND IN SAYING THAT, I COME BACK TO THE ORIGINAL STATEMENT WHICH I MADE, WHICH IS THAT IN PURSUING THOSE TALKS WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO BE AWARE OF WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT.

JB: BUT THERE IS AN IMPRESSION THAT ALTHOUGH PEKING HAS BEEN CONSULTING DELEGATION AFTER DELEGATION OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, YOU HAVE BEEN CONSULTING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND A VERY FEW PEOPLE?

HE: THIS I THINK, IS QUITE A MISLEADING IMPRESSION. THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION IS A CONTINUOUS ONE - THIS IS A PLACE WHERE WHEN PEOPLE HAVE VIEWS, THEY HAVE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEM AND INDEED, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT FAIRLY OBVIOUS THAT THEY ARE INDEED EXPRESSING THEM. ANYBODY WHO WISHES TO HAVE A PUBLIC FORUM FOR HIS VIEWS CAN FIND IT IN THE PRESS AND I READ IT EVERY DAY IN THE PRESS.

SECONDLY, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THIS CITY WHO HAVE VIEWS WHICH THEY WISH TO EXPRESS NOT SO PUBLICLY, IN A MORE DISCREET MANNER, AND THEY HAVE MANY CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH THEY MAKE THEM KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT HERE IS VERY WELL OPEN TO THEM.

YOU REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND INDEED, WE ARE IN VERY CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UPON THIS ISSUE NOW VERY REGULARLY, AND THEY OF COURSE ARE IN WIDE CONTACT WITH PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, THOUGH I THINK IT IS SOMETHING OF A MISLEADING IMPRESSION TO SAY THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT BEING CONSULTED. WHAT IS HAPPENING IS THAT WE ARE LISTENING VERY CAREFULLY TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY= WE ARE CONVEYING THAT VERY CAREFULLY BACK TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN BACK IN LONDON THREE OR FOUR TIMES FOR THAT PURPOSE AND INDEED, EVERY TIME A SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF EXCO GOES BACK, HE SEES MINISTERS, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER. SO I DON'T THINK YOU NEED HAVE ANY DOUBT THAT WHAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG FEEL IS BEING CONVEYED TO LONDON.

JB: BUT IN THE MEANTIME, YOU HAVE REPEATEDLY I THINK, TOLD US TO +KEEP OUR NERVE+ BUT MEANWHILE THERE IS A GROWING SENSE OF URGENCY HERE. HOW CAN PEOPLE KEEP THEIR NERVE IF THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HE: I RECOGNISE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, AND THAT CONFIDENTIALITY FOR THE TALKS IS DIFFICULT FOR MANY PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND, BUT THIS DECISION TO HAVE CONFIDENTIAL TALKS WAS A DELIBERATE AND CAREFULLY TAKEN DECISION. I THINK THERE IS A VERY STRONG AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE FROM MANY INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, THAT IN ISSUES AS SERIOUS AND AS DELICATE AS THIS KIND OF ISSUE, THE BEST WAY OF PROCEEDING IS THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL TALKS, THAT YOU DO NOT MAKE PROGRESS THROUGH EXCHANGES OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

NOW, I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THAT IS DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY HAVE A VERY NATURAL INTEREST IN WANTING TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON= BUT I THINK WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR EYES ON THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WHICH IS THE SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT AT THE END OF THE DAY, AND THE MEANS MOST LIKELY TO LEAD TO THAT SETTLEMENT.

JB: AND WILL THE +END OF THE DAY+ BE 1983 WHEN WE GET A DECISION, OR IS THIS GOING TO GO ON FOR A LOT LONGER?

HE: I'M NOT GOING TO SET A DATE FOR SETTLEMENT, I THINK IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO DO THAT, BUT I WOULD SAY I SHALL CERTAINLY BE LOOKING FOR PROGRESS IN 1983.

JB: WILL THE OUTCOME OF THE BRITISH GENERAL ELECTION AFFECT THIS OUTCOME?

HE: NO, I DON'T THINK IT WILL. THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS IS A GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON THE OBJECTIVE, AND THE DECLARED AIM IN UK HAS BEEN STATED TO FIND A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO CHINA, UK AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. I DO NOT EXPECT THE ELECTION TO AFFECT THAT AIM, NOR MAY I SAY, DO I EXPECT THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO AFFECT THE PROGRESS OF THESE TALKS. MINISTERS IN UK WILL INDEED BE VERY BUSY DURING AN ELECTION PERIOD, BUT I DON'T EXPECT THAT TO AFFECT PROGRESS.

/JB: BUT

JB: BUT IF THERE WERE A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT?

HE: WELL, I THINK THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ANY GOVERNMENT IN UK WOULD NOT HAVE THE SAME OBJECTIVE AS I HAVE JUST STATED.

JB: YOU HAVE SAID THAT YOU WILL GO TO PEKING YOURSELF TO JOIN IN THE TALKS WHEN THE TIME IS APPROPRIATE: HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHEN THAT TIME IS GOING TO COME? I MEAN, WHEN ARE WE GOING TO SEE AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR DEFINITIVE DISCUSSIONS?

HE: WELL, I DON'T THINK THAT YOU LINK ME WITH A PARTICULAR FORM OF SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. I THINK AGAIN - KEEP IN MIND AS I SAID I THINK, A LITTLE WHILE BACK, THERE IS IN PEKING AN AMBASSADOR, SIR PERCY CRADOCK WHO IS A VERY EXPERIENCED MAN IN THESE MATTERS. HE KNOWS HONG KONG WELL, HE HAS BEEN TO HONG KONG. HE CAME DOWN YOU MAY RECALL WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. HE CAME DOWN WITH LORD BELSTEAD AND HE CAME THROUGH WITH ME THE OTHER DAY. HE IS IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH US AND I AM ALWAYS IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIM. SO THERE IS THERE ALREADY AN EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATOR, AND AS TO WHEN I WILL GO I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN EXACT DATE BUT ANY IDEA THAT I AM NOT GOING I THINK YOU CAN DISMISS - I KNOW THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF STORIES AROUND ABOUT WHETHER I SHALL BE ACCEPTABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE. I KNOW OF NO SUBSTANCE FOR THOSE STORIES AND YOU MAY TAKE IT THAT THE TIME WILL COME WHEN YOU WILL SEE ME IN PEKING.

JB: SO, IT COULD BE THIS YEAR?

HE: OH INDEED, YES.

JB: ASSOCIATED WITH THAT, YOU HAVE BLAMED THE DRASTIC FALL IN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR ON THE STRENGTH OF THE AMERICAN DOLLAR: DON'T YOU THINK THAT 1997 HAS A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH THIS - THE UNCERTAINTY AND UNEASE AMONG PEOPLE?

HE: WELL, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IS A FUNCTION BASICALLY, OF THE MARKET. THIS IS A FREE AND OPEN MARKET WHERE PEOPLE CAN MOVE INTO CURRENCIES AND OUT OF CURRENCIES, AND THE RATE OF EXCHANGE IS AFFECTED BY SUPPLY AND DEMAND AND OBVIOUSLY, THE SUPPLY OVER RECENT DAYS OR WEEKS HAS BEEN GREATER THAN THE DEMAND, AND WITH THAT THE EFFECT OF THE DOLLAR HAS WEAKENED. BUT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FACTORS ON THIS, AND I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO IDENTIFY THE WEIGHT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL FACTOR IN THAT CALCULATION, BECAUSE I THINK IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO DO SO. SOME OF THESE FACTORS WILL BE TEMPORARY BUT WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THIS, THAT I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AN UNDERLYING STRENGTH IN THE HONG KONG ECONOMY, THAT THAT STRENGTH IS BEGINNING TO SHOW THROUGH AND PROVIDING EVERYBODY IS SENSIBLE, I SEE NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT IMPROVE THE EXCHANGE RATE. AFTER ALL, THE MAIN DETERMINANT IS THE MARKET BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS IN CLOSE AND CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE MAIN INSTITUTIONS IN THE MARKET, AND I SAY IF PEOPLE ACT IN A GOOD AND SENSIBLE MANNER, I THINK THERE IS NO REASON FOR THEM TO GET UNDULY PESSIMISTIC.

JB: BUT DESPITE UNDERPINNING BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE RATE HAS FALLEN BELOW 87 SO THINGS ARE FAIRLY SERIOUS FOR THE DOLLAR?

/HE: WELL,

HE: WELL, IT HAS CERTAINLY WEAKENED BUT TO ME, THE MAIN ISSUE IS NOT THE RATE AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME BUT THE TREND AND AS I SAY, I BELIEVE THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY, THE UNDERLYING STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY, IS THERE AND I HOPE IT WILL BE CLEAR FROM WHAT I HAVE SAID THAT AS FAR AS THE TALKS ARE CONCERNED, THE TALKS ARE MOVING AND ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, SO I THINK THESE ARE INGREDIENTS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN OPTIMISTICALLY RATHER THAN PESSIMISTICALLY.

JB: DO YOU THINK IN ANY WAY THAT THE FALL OF THE DOLLAR AND ALL THAT'S CONNECTED WITH IT, IS TO DO WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT HONG KONG IS GOING TO HAVE A HONG KONG CHINESE GOVERNMENT FAIRLY SOON?

HE: NO, I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT= I THINK PEOPLE REALISE THAT THESE TALKS ARE GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE TIME, THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PATIENCE IS NECESSARY AND I DON'T THINK THEY ARE EXPECTING ANY CHANGES - ANY EARLY CHANGES IN THE HONG KONG SYSTEM. SO I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THAT THERE IS THAT KIND OF DRAMATIC FEELING ABOUT.

JB: WELL, ONE STRANGE THING IS THAT THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK ABOUT THE RECOVERY OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY, THE RECOVERY OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY= AT THE SAME TIME THE DOLLAR GOES DOWN. HOW DOES ONE SQUARE THESE TWO?

HE: WELL, THOSE ARE NOT THE ONLY TWO FACTORS IN THE CALCULATIONS. I WOULD SAY WE ARE DEALING WITH WORLD EXCHANGE RATES, NOT SIMPLY THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THE AMERICAN DOLLAR. ONE OF THE FACTORS OBVIOUSLY, IS THAT THE AMERICAN DOLLAR IS GETTING VERY STRONG, AND I DON'T WANT TO IDENTIFY THE PARTICULAR REASONS AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME BECAUSE AFTER ALL, THIS IS AN OPEN AND COMPLICATED MARKET AND I DON'T WANT TO PUT MYSELF IN THE POSITION OF TRYING TO READ THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE OPERATING IT. I WILL AGAIN ONLY REPEAT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS IN CLOSE AND CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE MAIN INSTITUTIONS ON THIS PROBLEM.

JB: ANOTHER FACTOR IN THIS TUMULTUOUS YEAR YOU HAVE HAD, APART FROM 1997 AND THE FINANCIAL MARKET= EVERY DAY THERE ARE MORE AND MORE IT SEEMS REPORTS OF SERIOUS CRIMES AND I THINK PEOPLE ARE WORRIED. DO YOU THINK LAW AND ORDER IS BEGINNING TO BREAK DOWN IN HONG KONG?

HE: WELL, NO-ONE IS COMPLACENT ABOUT THE EXTENT OF CRIME HERE IN HONG KONG, BUT I DON'T THINK LAW AND ORDER IS BEGINNING TO BREAK DOWN. THE DETECTION RATE HERE IS COMPARATIVELY HIGH BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE ISN'T TOO MUCH CRIME. BUT TO ME, THE ANSWER TO LAW AND ORDER AND CRIME IS NOT A ONE-OFF PROGRAMME, IT'S A VERY DETERMINED AND A VERY RELENTLESS ATTACK ON CRIME BY A WELL-ORGANISED, A WELL-MANNED AND INDEED, WELL-MOTIVATED POLICE FORCE. I THINK WE HAVE THAT BUT IN ORDER TO MAKE THAT ATTACK EFFECTIVE, THEY NEED THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC AND I THINK THEY ARE GETTING INCREASINGLY THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC. BUT WE CAN'T STAND STILL - WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE POLICE USE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE METHODS, HAVE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT= AND THAT THEY ORGANISE THEMSELVES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE THEMSELVES MOST EFFECTIVE ON THE GROUND WHERE IT MATTERS, AND I AM IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ON THIS AND AS I THINK YOU KNOW, HE IS NOW ENGAGED IN A RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE TO ENSURE THAT HIS RESOURCES ARE USED TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE. SO MY ANSWER TO CRIME IN HONG KONG IS INDEED TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY, AND TO MAINTAIN THIS CONSTANT AND RELENTLESS ATTACK ON IT.

/JB: AND IT'S

JB: AND IT'S A NEW ATTACK, OR ARE YOU PLANNING A NEW DEFENSIVE AGAINST CRIME?

HE: WELL, WE'RE PLANNING TO DO EVEN MORE THAN WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST TO TRY TO BRING THE PUBLIC INTO THE PROGRAMME, INTO THE +FIGHT CRIME+ PROGRAMME, BUT IT ISN'T REALLY AN ISSUE OF NEW AND MAGICAL FORMULAE WHICH WILL BRING CRIME RATES DOWN IN THIS CITY. IT IS WITH CONSTANT AND RELENTLESS AND DETERMINED EFFORT, A CONTINUING EFFORT, BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC.

JB: NOW AGAIN GOING INTO THE FUTURE, THERE HAS BEEN A REPORT MAKING VERY FAR-REACHING PROPOSALS ABOUT EDUCATION THAT'S JUST BEEN PUBLISHED. NOW, IS THIS PART OF A LEAD-UP TO 1997?

HE: THE ANSWER TO THAT IS +NO+, AND I SINCERELY HOPE PEOPLE WON'T GET THE REPORT ON EDUCATION MIXED UP WITH 1997. IT SHOULD AFTER ALL, BE DEALT WITH ON ITS OWN MERITS. QUITE APART FROM 1997, HONG KONG LIVES IN A RAPIDLY-CHANGING WORLD AND A VERY HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WORLD. IT THEREFORE NEEDS THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM IT CAN GET IN ORDER TO TRAIN THE FUTURE GENERATIONS COMPETING IN THAT WORLD. THAT MAY INVOLVE TWO THINGS: IT INVOLVES A GOOD SYSTEM AND IT INVOLVES THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEDIUM OF TEACHING. NOW, WHEN YOU COME TO THE MEDIUM, HONG KONG IS A CHINESE-SPEAKING SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY IN ITS EARLY YEARS, BUT IT HAS A GREAT STRENGTH WHICH IS ITS BILINGUALISM, WHICH IS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND THIS PART OF ASIA WHICH IS A GREAT STRENGTH NOT TO BE LOST.

TO ME, THE NAME OF THE GAME IS TO DEVISE THE SYSTEM AND TO CHOOSE THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD WHICH WILL MAINTAIN BOTH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TEACHING AND THE STRENGTH OF THAT BILINGUALISM. NOW THAT IS A COMMUNITY MATTER AND IT SEEMS TO ME IT IS NOT A MATTER ON WHICH ONE SHOULD BE DOGMATIC, IT'S CERTAINLY NOT A MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE LEFT TO EDUCATORS ALONE, IT IS A MATTER FOR THE COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS, AND THAT IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAVE PUBLISHED THIS REPORT AND INVITED THE PUBLIC AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE TO COMMENT ON IT BEFORE WE REACH A DECISION. SO THE ANSWER IS, SOMEWHAT AT LENGTH PERHAPS, TO LOOK AT IT ON ITS OWN MERITS.

JB: YOU SEEM TO HAVE SPENT MOST OF YOUR YEAR LOOKING AT THE FUTURE, I THINK. IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO, OR HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR DAY= WHAT DO YOU DO, IN EFFECT?

HE: NO, OBVIOUSLY THE FUTURE IS THE BIGGEST ISSUE WITH WHICH I DEAL AND I GIVE IT PRIORITY BECAUSE I THINK IT IS THE PRIORITY ISSUE FOR HONG KONG, BUT IT IS NOT MY ONLY TASK= I AM INDEED VERY CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH, AND AM INDEED VERY CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS TERRITORY. AS I SEE IT, THERE ARE TWO THINGS I NEED TO DO OR WHICH ANY GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO DO: ONE IS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAMMES WHICH HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED GET CARRIED OUT, THAT'S WHAT I TRY TO DO. AND SECONDLY, WE ARE NOW LOOKING AHEAD TO NEW PROGRAMMES. NOW WHEN THE AMOUNT OF MONEY AROUND IS MUCH LESS THAN IT USED TO BE, YOU CAN'T OBVIOUSLY HAVE NEW AND EXPENSIVE AND EXPANSIVE IDEAS LAUNCHED, BUT YOU CAN BE THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND THE DIRECTION YOU WISH TO GO.

SO THE TWO THINGS I DO, QUITE APART FROM THE FUTURE, IS ONE, ENSURING THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME REMAINS ON TARGET AND SECONDLY, THAT WE ARE THINKING ABOUT WHERE WE'RE GOING FROM HERE.

/JB: AND WHERE

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JB: AND WHERE WE'RE GOING FROM HERE, FINALLY SIR EDWARD, WHAT DO YOU THINK HONG KONG WILL LOOK LIKE TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW?

HE: WELL, I'M ALWAYS REMINDED OF THE FIRST TIME I CAME INTO THIS CITY IN 1945 WHEN I SAILED INTO THE HARBOUR, AND THERE WAS THEN A PRETTY DEAD AND EMPTY CITY, AND ANYBODY WHO WOULD HAVE LOOKED AT IT THEN WOULD HAVE WONDERED WHAT IT WAS GOING TO BE LIKE. YOU HAVE ONLY TO THINK OF THE TIMES THROUGH WHICH HONG KONG HAS COME AND WHAT A PLACE IT IS TODAY, AND AS I LOOK TO THE FUTURE I BELIEVE THAT THIS PLACE HAS A REALLY GOOD FUTURE. AND I SAY THAT NOT JUST OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD= I THINK THE TALKS ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION= I THINK STILL THAT SOME SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE= I THINK THERE IS AN UNDERLYING STRENGTH IN THE ECONOMY WHICH IS COMING THROUGH= THERE IS A GOVERNMENT HERE WHICH IS FULLY DETERMINED AND COMMITTED, PUBLICLY COMMITTED, TO CONTINUING TO INVEST IN THIS TERRITORY. NOW TO ME, THOSE ARE INGREDIENTS OF SUCCESS AND CERTAINLY NO BASIS FOR PESSIMISM.

JB: AND WHAT FLAG WILL BE FLYING OVER HONG KONG IN TWENTY YEARS' TIME?

HE: I WOULD THINK THE BEST THING FOR PEOPLE TO DO IS NOT TO LOOK AT DETAILS OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN. WHAT MATTERS TO ME IS WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE LOOKING FOR, AND I THINK WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR IS A CONTINUATION OF THE LIFESTYLE THEY ENJOY, WHICH IS A FREEDOM TO COME AND GO AND TO DO THEIR OWN THING, AND THEY ARE LOOKING FOR AN ASSURANCE OF CONTINUITY, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR TOO.

JB: SIR EDWARD, THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

HE: THANK YOU.

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