



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1984

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PM LEAVES HONG KONG  
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THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, LEFT HONG KONG FOR WASHINGTON DC THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

SEEING HER OFF AT THE AIRPORT WERE THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR-GENERAL DEREK BOORMAN, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO, THE DOYEN OF THE CONSULAR CORPS, MRS FELICIDAD BENGZON-GONZALES, THE SENIOR COMMONWEALTH COMMISSIONER, MR KOH LIAN HWI, AND THE CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, MR BURTON LEVIN.

BEFORE LEAVING, MRS THATCHER WISHED EVERYONE IN HONG KONG A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

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SIR GEOFFREY BRIEFED ON DEVELOPMENTS  
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ABOUT 1 000 HECTARES OF NEW LAND WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE POPULATION GROWTH UP TO THE YEAR 2001, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, WAS TOLD DURING A HARBOUR CRUISE TODAY (FRIDAY).

SIR GEOFFREY AND LADY HOWE WERE ACCOMPANIED DURING THE TOUR ON BOARD THE LADY MAURINE BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LADY YOUDE, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, DR NIP KAM-FUN, AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (LANDS), MR TONY EASON.

HE WAS TOLD THAT IN THE LATE 1970'S, IT BECAME CLEAR ONCE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS WAS COMPLETED IN THE EARLY 1990'S, NEW AREAS MUST BE FOUND FOR FURTHER MAJOR URBAN GROWTH.

A STRATEGIC PLANNING UNIT WAS SET UP IN 1980 TO ASSESS LIKELY DEMAND FOR DEVELOPMENT UP TO THE YEAR 2001.

SIR GEOFFREY LEARNED THAT STRATEGIC STUDIES HAD EXAMINED FUTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING AND JOBS AND ALL RELATED URBAN LAND USES.

THE POPULATION PROJECTION USED THROUGHOUT THE STUDIES WAS 7.1 MILLION BY THE END OF THE CENTURY, COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 5.3 MILLION PEOPLE.

IT IS FORECAST THAT EXISTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WILL PRODUCE ACCOMMODATION FOR ABOUT 900 000 PEOPLE, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ACCOMMODATED TO 6.2 MILLION BY THE EARLY 1990'S.

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ANOTHER 1 000 HECTARES OF NEW LAND, SIR GEOFFREY WAS TOLD, WOULD THUS BE REQUIRED FOR A FURTHER 900 000 PEOPLE.

HE WAS INFORMED THAT TWO POSSIBLE GROWTH PATTERNS HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED. ONE WOULD PLACE ABOUT 470 000 PEOPLE ON NEW RECLAMATIONS IN THE WESTERN HARBOUR AREA AND ABOUT 480 000 IN THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES. THE OTHER WOULD PLACE ALL OF THE 900 000 PEOPLE ON NEW RECLAMATIONS IN THE WESTERN HARBOUR AREA.

HE LEARNED THAT BOTH PATTERNS WOULD ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT AND OTHER FACILITIES TO SUPPORT KEY ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

DETAILED PLANNING AND ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF THE PROPOSED HARBOUR RECLAMATIONS WILL BEGIN IN 1985 WHILE A PORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STUDY IS BEING CONDUCTED.

WHEN THE LAUNCH ARRIVED NEAR THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, SIR GEOFFREY WAS GIVEN THE HISTORY OF THE PROJECT.

AS IT SAILED PAST KAI TAK AIRPORT'S RUNWAY, HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE PROSPECT OF A FURTHER CROSS-HARBOUR LINK.

NEAR HUNG HOM AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, HE WAS BRIEFED ON VARIOUS NEW DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING THE WHAMPOA DOCKYARD REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME, THE PROPOSED HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A \$430 MILLION CULTURAL CENTRE.

DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE SHORES OF WAN CHAI AND CENTRAL WERE ALSO EXPLAINED.

IN THE VICINITY OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR AREA, HE LEARNED ABOUT PROJECTS SUCH AS THE EXPANSION OF THE CONTAINER TERMINAL, THE PROPOSED GREEN ISLAND RECLAMATION AND THE PROPOSED WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION.

AFTER THE TOUR, WHICH LASTED FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, SIR GEOFFREY DISEMBARKED AT THE QUEEN'S PIER.

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SECRETARY OF STATE DEPARTS  
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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND LADY HOWE, LEFT HONG KONG FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

SEEING THEM OFF AT THE AIRPORT WERE THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE AND LADY YOUDE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO, AND THE SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR CHRISTIAN ADAMS.

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SENIOR APPOINTMENTS  
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FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) OF VARIOUS ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES, COMPRISING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THE REVISED STRUCTURE OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE FORMATION OF THE NEW REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THE COMPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO SENIOR POSITIONS IN THESE BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH

MR GRAHAM BARNES, JP TO BE APPOINTED SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES. MR BARNES IS PRESENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, A POST WHICH HE HAS HELD SINCE JUNE 1983.

MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON, JP TO BE APPOINTED DEPUTY SECRETARY (RECREATION AND CULTURE) IN THE NEW BRANCH WITH THE TITLE OF COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE. MR WILLIAMSON HAS BEEN THE COMMISSIONER OF THE PRESENT RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT SINCE AUGUST 1983.

MRS MABEL HAYES TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY (ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND ADMINISTRATION). MRS HAYES WAS FORMERLY AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, JP TO BE APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES. HE HAS BEEN THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES SINCE FEBRUARY 1983.

MR JOHN HEYWOOD, OBE, ED, JP TO BE APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES (ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND ADMINISTRATION). HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR, NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES IN THE PRESENT URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SINCE OCTOBER 1982.

MRS HELEN .....

MRS HELEN YU LAI CHING-PING TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES  
----- (RECREATION AND CULTURE). MRS YU HAS  
BEEN THE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL SERVICES IN  
THE PRESENT URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
SINCE AUGUST 1984.

REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
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MR TONY HAMMOND, JP TO BE APPOINTED AS THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE  
----- NEW REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT. MR HAMMOND  
IS CURRENTLY THE DIRECTOR, COUNCILS AND  
ADMINISTRATION BRANCH IN THE GOVERNMENT  
SECRETARIAT, A POST WHICH HE HAS HELD SINCE  
AUGUST 1982.

MR MICHAEL SUEN MING-YEUNG, JP TO BE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF  
----- REGIONAL SERVICES. HE HAS BEEN  
DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES IN THE  
PRESENT URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
SINCE NOVEMBER 1983.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH  
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MR PETER TSAO, CPM, JP TO BE THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
----- SERVICES AND INFORMATION. AS ALREADY  
ANNOUNCED, MR TSAO SUCCEEDS MR DENIS BRAY  
AS THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AT THE  
END OF DECEMBER 1984. UNDER THE NEW  
ORGANISATION THE PRESENT HOME AFFAIRS  
BRANCH WILL BE DISBANDED AND FORM PART OF  
THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND  
INFORMATION BRANCH.

MR ALEC PURVES, JP TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION) IN THE  
----- NEW ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION  
BRANCH. MR PURVES HAS BEEN DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH SINCE  
MARCH 1983.

MR ADOLF HSU HSUNG, JP TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY (INFORMATION) IN THE  
----- NEW ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION  
BRANCH. HE WAS FORMERLY THE DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONER (TSUEN WAN) FROM MARCH 1983 TO  
JUNE 1984, AND HAS SINCE BEEN ACTING AS THE  
REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE OFFICERS WILL PROGRESSIVELY BE MOVING TO THEIR NEW DESKS OVER THE COMING WEEKS, AND WILL FORMALLY ASSUME THEIR NEW APPOINTMENTS ON APRIL 1, 1985, WHEN THE NEW BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS COME INTO BEING.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS CONCERNED FOLLOW :

MR GRAHAM BARNES, JP

AGED 49. JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN DECEMBER 1958 AS CADET OFFICER CLASS II. HAS SERVED MAINLY IN THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, ENVIRONMENT BRANCH, AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, AND MORE RECENTLY IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. THE POSTS HE HAS HELD INCLUDE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), AND DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN JUNE 1984.

MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON, JP

AGED 43. JOINED GOVERNMENT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN NOVEMBER 1964. HAS SERVED MAINLY IN THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, AS ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY UMELCO, AND LATTERLY AS COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE IN THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B IN APRIL 1978.

MRS MABEL HAYES

AGED 42. JOINED GOVERNMENT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN JULY 1965. SHE HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, AND RECENTLY HAS BEEN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (POLICY) IN THE LANDS DEPARTMENT. SHE WAS PROMOTED TO HER PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C IN APRIL 1979.

MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, JP

AGED 51. JOINED GOVERNMENT AS A CERTIFICATED MASTER IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1952 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PROMOTED TO BE AN EDUCATION OFFICER. HE TRANSFERRED TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN JUNE 1964 AND HAS SINCE SERVED IN A VARIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS. THE POSITIONS HE HAS HELD INCLUDE DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, DEPUTY SECRETARY IN THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, AND MORE RECENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN JULY 1983.

MR JOHN .....

MR JOHN HEYWOOD, OBE, ED, JP

AGED 54. JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN NOVEMBER 1951 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PROMOTED TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER. IN MAY 1973 HE TRANSFERRED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE. HE HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN A VARIETY OF AREAS OF GOVERNMENT WORK AND THE POSITIONS HE HAS HELD INCLUDE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, AND DIRECTOR, NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES IN THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B IN APRIL 1980.

MRS HELEN YU LAI CHING-PING

AGED 43. JOINED GOVERNMENT AS AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN JUNE 1965. SHE TRANSFERRED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN AUGUST 1968 AND LATER SERVED IN THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION FROM 1974 TO 1980, BEING PROMOTED TO SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. SHE THEN REJOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE AND SERVED AS AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON AND MOST RECENTLY AS THE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL SERVICES IN THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. SHE WAS PROMOTED TO HER PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C IN APRIL 1980.

MR TONY HAMMOND, JP

AGED 50. JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN NOVEMBER 1964. HE HAS SERVED MAINLY IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND DIRECTOR, COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH, AND HAS ALSO BEEN THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN JULY 1983.

MR MICHAEL SUEN MING-YEUNG, JP

AGED 40. JOINED GOVERNMENT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN AUGUST 1966. HE HAS HAD WIDE EXPERIENCE MAINLY IN THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND ENVIRONMENT BRANCH, THE TRANSPORT BRANCH AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. THE POSITIONS HE HAS HELD INCLUDE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, AND DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES IN THE PRESENT URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

MR PETER TSAO .....

MR PETER TSAO KWANG-YUNG, CPM, JP

AGED 51. JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A COMPUTER CLASS III IN FEBRUARY 1955. HE WAS APPOINTED AS AN ASSISTANT TRADE OFFICER IN FEBRUARY 1966 AND, THROUGH A SERIES OF PROMOTIONS, ADVANCED TO THE RANK OF COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS IN JANUARY 1979. HE TRANSFERRED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN JULY 1982 AND HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES SINCE JULY 1983. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A IN JULY 1983.

MR ALEC PURVES, JP

AGED 52. JOINED GOVERNMENT AS A POLICE SUB-INSPECTOR IN AUGUST 1955, AND WAS APPOINTED AN ASSISTANT TRADE OFFICER IN AUGUST 1962. THROUGH A SERIES OF PROMOTIONS HE ADVANCED TO THE RANK OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS IN JULY 1979, AND THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B IN JULY 1982. HE HAS HELD THE POSTS OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH.

MR ADOLF HSU HSUNG, JP

AGED 46. JOINED GOVERNMENT AS AN INTERPRETER-TRANSLATOR CLASS II IN APRIL 1958 AND BECAME AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN JULY 1959. HE WAS APPOINTED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN AUGUST 1968, SERVING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH. HE HAS MORE RECENTLY BEEN DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, TSUEN WAN. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B IN APRIL 1981.

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NEW DEPARTMENT BEING SET UP

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AS A RESULT OF THE CREATION OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, WHICH IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 1, 1985, A CONSEQUENTIAL REORGANISATION OF A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT BRANCHES WILL BE NECESSARY.

A NEW DEPARTMENT, TO BE CALLED THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WILL BE CREATED TO SERVE THE NEW PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL. IT WILL BE MADE UP OF THE PRESENT NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, TOGETHER WITH THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE PRESENT RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHICH PROVIDE SERVICES AT THE REGIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS.

THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE TO BE SERVED BY A RE-ORGANISED URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WHICH WILL INCORPORATE THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE PRESENT RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WHICH PROVIDE SERVICES AT THE REGIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS IN THE URBAN AREAS.

THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE HEADED BY A DIRECTOR AND WILL HAVE TWO DEPUTY DIRECTORS, ONE OVERSEEING ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND ADMINISTRATION AND THE OTHER RECREATION AND CULTURE. THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE HEADED BY A DIRECTOR AND THERE WILL BE A SINGLE DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

THE CONSEQUENTIAL REORGANISATION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT WILL RESULT IN THE CREATION OF TWO NEW BRANCHES - THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH.

THE NEW MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL ASSURE POLICY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE MATTERS (REFUSE COLLECTION, CEMETERIES, ABATTOIRS, MARKETS AND THE LIKE) FROM THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS, COUNTRY PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION, LIQUOR LICENSING, AND CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES AT THE TERRITORIAL LEVEL FROM THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH.

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL ALSO ASSUME FROM THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH AND THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS RELATING TO THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THE PRINCIPAL SPORTING AND CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS. THESE WILL INCLUDE THE SERVICING OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT AND THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONS WITH THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, AND SPORTING AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE BRANCH WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE FUNCTIONS IN PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION WHICH DERIVE FROM THE NEED TO MAINTAIN COMMON DEPARTMENTAL GRADES FOR THE DEPARTMENTS SERVING THE TWO COUNCILS.

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL BE HEADED BY A NEW SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, AND THERE WILL BE TWO DEPUTY SECRETARIES - ONE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND ADMINISTRATION AND ONE FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE. THE HOLDER OF THIS LATTER POST WILL BE STYLED COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH WILL ASSUME THE PRESENT FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH, WHICH ARE, PRINCIPALLY, RESPONSIBILITY FOR SERVICING THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S OVERSEAS OFFICES IN THE U.S., BRUSSELS AND GENEVA, AND POLICY AND PLANNING IN RESPECT OF GOVERNMENT'S OFFICE AND RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION. IT WILL ALSO TAKE OVER A RANGE OF ITEMS, MAINLY RELATED TO INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, FOR WHICH THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH CURRENTLY HAS POLICY RESPONSIBILITY.

THE BRANCH WILL BE HEADED BY A NEW SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION AND THERE WILL BE TWO DEPUTY SECRETARIES OVERSEEING RESPECTIVELY INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

SOME OTHER TRADITIONAL AND COMMUNITY RELATED MATTERS FOR WHICH THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH IS CURRENTLY RESPONSIBLE WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THESE NEW BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS WILL COME INTO BEING ON APRIL 1, 1985. THE PRESENT HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH, COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH AND THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL THEN CEASE TO EXIST AS WILL SUCH POSTS AS THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND THE DIRECTOR, COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION BRANCH.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THIS REORGANISATION WOULD ENABLE THE CIVIL SERVICE TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AND TO THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL. HE ADDED THAT THE NEW ORGANISATION WOULD BE MANNED ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH STAFF REDEPLOYED FROM THE FORMER DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES.

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#### AMENDMENTS TO IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE

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AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST, REVISED EDITION, JANUARY 1982.

THESE AMENDMENTS, PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, WILL COME INTO FORCE FROM JANUARY 1, 1985.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID: +TRADE DECLARATIONS FOR SHIPMENTS MADE ON OR AFTER THIS DATE MUST BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMENDED CLASSIFICATION.+

AS FROM JANUARY 1, 1985, +STOCKINGS+ AND +SOCKS AND SOCKETTES+ FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS WILL BE SEPARATELY CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO WHETHER THEY ARE MANUFACTURED FROM COTTON, WOOL, SYNTHETIC FIBRES, REGENERATED FIBRES OR OTHER TEXTILE MATERIALS.

THERE WILL BE A SIMILAR BREAKDOWN BY MATERIALS OF +STOCKINGS, SOCKS AND SOCKETTES+ FOR MEN AND BOYS.

+DIRECT CURRENT MOTORS AND DIRECT CURRENT GENERATORS+ WILL BE CLASSIFIED INTO FIVE GROUPS COMPRISING THOSE NOT EXCEEDING 37.5 WATT, THOSE EXCEEDING 37.5 WATT BUT NOT EXCEEDING 750 WATT, THOSE EXCEEDING 750 WATT BUT NOT EXCEEDING 75 KILOWATT, THOSE EXCEEDING 75 KILOWATT BUT NOT EXCEEDING 375 KILOWATT AND THOSE EXCEEDING 375 KILOWATT.

OTHER AMENDMENTS CONCERN TINNED PLATES AND SHEETS, KITCHEN LINEN, TOILET LINEN, TUBES AND PIPES OF IRON AND STEEL, COPPER CLAD LAMINATES, CAMERA CASES, DRESSING CASES, AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS INCLUDING TRAVELLING CASES; SHAWLS, SCARVES, MUFFLERS AND THE LIKE ; AND HATS, CAPS AND OTHER HEADGEAR.

THESE AMENDMENTS ARE INTRODUCED TO BRING THESE ITEMS IN LINE WITH PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS SO AS TO STANDARDISE COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION AND TO FACILITATE COMPARISON OF TRADE STATISTICS.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT LIST ARE OBTAINABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:-

- (A) GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE,  
GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR,  
CONNAUGHT PLACE,  
HONG KONG
- (B) CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT,  
COLLECTION OFFICES, GROUND FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, KOWLOON  
AND FIRST FLOOR, ASIAN HOUSE, HONG KONG
- (C) CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT,  
TRADE CLASSIFICATION SECTION,  
KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING,  
THIRD FLOOR, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL,  
HONG KONG.

IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS MUST ENSURE THAT THEIR STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING TRADE DECLARATION FORMS ARE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THESE CHANGES.

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TEXTILES TALKS WITH U.S.

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HONG KONG AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS HELD CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY ON THE UNITED STATES' EXPORT AUTHORISATION CALL ON PART OF 359 (COTTON INFANTS' SETS).

HONG KONG'S COUNSELLOR IN WASHINGTON, MR PETER LO, LED THE THE HONG KONG DELEGATION IN THE CONSULTATIONS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT HONG KONG EXPORTS OF COTTON INFANTS' SETS WOULD BE LIMITED TO 5 682 576 LBS FOR 1984.

+THIS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET OUTSTANDING EXPORT AUTHORISATION APPLICATIONS,+ HE SAID.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1984

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NOVEMBER CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES RELEASED  
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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 4.2 PER CENT AND THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) BY 4.9 PER CENT BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1983 AND NOVEMBER 1984, ACCORDING TO FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THESE RATHER LOW RATES OF INCREASE LARGELY REFLECT THE SLOWDOWN IN THE RATE OF INCREASE OF PRICES SINCE THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF PRICES IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR CONSEQUENT UPON THE SHARP DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN SEPTEMBER 1983.

THE CPI (A) AND CPI (B) FOR NOVEMBER 1984 WERE 156.2 AND 156.6 RESPECTIVELY, OR 6.4 POINTS AND 7.4 POINTS HIGHER THAN IN NOVEMBER 1983. COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, CPI (A) INCREASED BY 0.2 POINT OR 0.1 PER CENT AND CPI (B), BY 0.4 POINT OR 0.2 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI (A) AND AVERAGE CPI (B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 1984, AT 154.3 AND 154.0 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 8.7 PER CENT AND 9.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 1983. DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED NOVEMBER 1984, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI (A) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.2 PER CENT EACH MONTH AND THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI (B), AT 0.3 PER CENT.

DURING NOVEMBER, PRIVATE DWELLING RENTALS AND PRICES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR WERE HIGHER BUT FOOD PRICES DECREASED.

THE CPI (A) AND CPI (B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1979-80 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY. THE CPI (A) REFERRED TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 000 AND \$3 499 A MONTH, AND THE CPI (B) TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$3 500 AND \$6 499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME.

THE INDEXES FOR NOVEMBER 1984 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY-SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE GIVEN BELOW, TOGETHER WITH THOSE FOR OCTOBER 1984 AND NOVEMBER 1983.

/(OCTOBER 1979 .....

(OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	CPI (A)			CPI (B)		
	NOV. 83	OCT. 84	NOV. 84	NOV. 83	OCT. 84	NOV. 84
FOODSTUFFS	150.8	154.6	153.8	151.3	155.3	154.6
HOUSING	139.7	149.4	150.2	139.6	149.6	150.2
FUEL AND LIGHT	151.8	146.9	146.9	151.7	146.8	146.8
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	205.9	208.5	208.6	198.0	201.0	201.1
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	149.0	158.7	164.7	150.4	160.4	166.3
DURABLE GOODS	123.4	124.9	124.6	126.3	129.0	128.9
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	143.7	150.7	150.9	141.0	147.1	147.6
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	158.9	171.5	172.5	161.9	174.0	175.0
SERVICES	161.9	177.6	177.8	159.7	173.7	173.9
ALL ITEMS	149.8	156.0	156.2	149.2	156.2	156.6

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1984, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 0.8 POINT IN CPI (A) AND 0.7 POINT IN CPI (B). THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF LIVE POULTRY FELL AS A RESULT OF LOWER PRICES OF CHICKENS AND DUCKS. THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SALT-WATER FISH AND FRESH FRUIT ALSO WENT DOWN. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES ROSE SLIGHTLY. THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX OF FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

/THE INDEX .....

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY 0.8 POINT IN CPI (A) AND 0.6 POINT IN CPI (B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER RENTS FOR PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR ROSE BY 6.0 POINTS IN CPI (A) AND 5.9 POINTS IN CPI (B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF WINTER OUTERCLOTHING DURING THE MONTH.

HIGHER PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES PUSHED UP THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES BY 1.0 POINT IN BOTH CPI (A) AND CPI (B).

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

(FIGURES PRESENTED REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TO TWO DECIMAL PLACES).

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR NOVEMBER 1984, SOON ON SALE AT \$3 A COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1904, 19TH FLOOR, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NO. 3-7216512.

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IEC BUS FARES ENDORSED BY EXCO  
\* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD DETERMINED THE SCALE OF FARES FOR BUSES OPERATING THE FIVE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR (IEC) ROUTES.

FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 24), THE NEW FARES FOR ROUTES NOS. 780 AND 781 -- CHAI WAN TO CENTRAL -- WILL BE \$2.20, A REDUCTION OF 30 CENTS. THE FARES FOR ROUTES NOS. 720 (SHAU KEI WAN TO CENTRAL), 721 (TAI KOO SHING TO CENTRAL) AND 722 (QUARRY BAY TO ADMIRALTY MTR STATION) WILL BE REDUCED TO \$1.80 FROM \$2.00.

IN REACHING THE DECISION, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD EXAMINED THE VIEWS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS RESIDENTS' GROUPS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

/TRANSPORT OFFICIALS .....

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1984

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TRANSPORT OFFICIALS HAD DISCUSSED THE IEC FARES WITH THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY. THE LATEST DISCUSSION WAS WITH THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

AFTER THE MEETING, THE COMMITTEE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING OPEN STATEMENT:-

+THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MAINTAINS THAT THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD SHOULD STAND, I.E. THAT THE FARES SHOULD BE \$1.50 AND \$2.00 RESPECTIVELY FOR SHAU KEI WAN AND CHAI WAN BUS ROUTES. HOWEVER, IT ALSO APPRECIATES THE NEED TO BALANCE THE INTEREST OF COMMUTERS ON THE IEC ROUTES AND THOSE ON KING'S ROAD ROUTES. IT URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE LIVELIHOOD AND INTEREST OF ALL COMMUTERS IN ARRIVING AT A FINAL DECISION.+

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED: +THE NEW FARE SCALE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FULLY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE INTEREST OF COMMUTERS BOTH ON THE IEC ROUTES AND ON THE KING'S ROAD ROUTES AND IS CONSIDERED TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE.

+THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE BUS SERVICES ALONG IEC AND KING'S ROAD AFTER THE NEW IEC FARES ARE INTRODUCED.+

AS PROPOSED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, ROUTE NO. 722 WILL BE EXTENDED FROM ADMIRALTY TO TERMINATE IN CENTRAL ON JANUARY 14, 1985.

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#### YAUMATI FERRY FARE RISE APPROVED

\* \* \* \*

AN APPLICATION BY THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY FOR AN INCREASE IN VEHICULAR FARES FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THE LAST INCREASE IN VEHICULAR FERRY FARES BY THE COMPANY WAS IN JULY 1981, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FARES FOR MOTOR CYCLES, WHICH WAS REVISED FROM \$1 TO \$2 IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

UNDER THE FERRY SERVICES (HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY, LIMITED)(DETERMINATION OF FARES)(AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) ORDER 1984 GAZETTED TODAY (DECEMBER 21), FARES FOR SEVEN TYPES OF VEHICLES WILL BE ADJUSTED AS FOLLOWS:

/(A) PRIVATE .....

	<u>EXISTING</u> (HK\$)	<u>REVISED</u> (HK\$)
(A) PRIVATE CAR OR TAXI	4.00	5.00
(B) MOTOR CYCLE	2.00	2.50
(C) LIGHT BUS	7.00	9.00
(D) BUS	7.00	9.00
(E) GOODS VEHICLE NOT EXCEEDING 5.31 TONNES	7.00	9.00
(F) GOODS VEHICLE EXCEEDING 5.31 TONNES	11.00	13.00
(G) GOODS VEHICLE EXCEEDING 12.73 TONNES	16.00	18.00

THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO TAKEN TO ROUND UP THE METRIC UNITS USED IN THE FARE ORDER.

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#### EMISSION-CONTROL EQUIPMENT FOR INCINERATORS \* \* \* \*

LAI CHI KOK'S TWO INCINERATION PLANTS WILL BE FITTED WITH EQUIPMENT TO REDUCE CHIMNEY EMISSIONS.

THE WORK WILL INCLUDE THE DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF EIGHT ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS, FOUR WASTE HEAT BOILERS AND ONE TURBO-ALTERNATOR AT BOTH ITS 'A' AND 'B' PLANTS.

BESIDES PROVIDING THE EQUIPMENT, THE SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR MUST DEMOLISH THE EXISTING GAS CLEANING PLANTS, RELOCATE EIGHT INDUCED-DRAUGHT FANS, AND MODIFY THE EXISTING EQUIPMENT TO SUIT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FUTURE INSTALLATION.

A NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM SUPPLIERS AND CONTRACTORS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PREQUALIFICATION LIST IS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

FORMAL TENDERS FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE INVITED IN MID-1985.

DEMOLITION OF EXISTING GAS CLEANING EQUIPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND ERECTION OF NEW EQUIPMENT WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO PHASES.

PHASE I IS FOR MODIFICATION WORK TO THE 'B' PLANT AND IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN MID-1986. PHASE II FOR THE 'A' PLANT WILL START TWO YEARS LATER.

THE WORK WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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SERVICE QUALITY IMPROVED  
\* \* \* \*

THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD INCREASED THE RANGE OF TREATMENT PROGRAMMES AND SENTENCING OPTIONS AND HAD THEREBY IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF SERVICE IN THE LAST 26 YEARS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MR BARRY HIGGINBOTTOM, SAID TODAY.

WHEN HE JOINED IN 1958, THE THEN PRISONS DEPARTMENT OPERATED SIX INSTITUTIONS, ACCOMMODATING 3 700, HE SAID.

+TODAY THERE ARE 27 INSTITUTIONS HOUSING 13 800 PERSONS INCLUDING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES DETAINED IN CLOSED CENTRES,+ HE SAID.

HE RECALLED ALSO THAT THERE WERE 671 STAFF, WITH 11 POSTS OF CHIEF OFFICER AND ABOVE RANK, COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT OF 6 431, INCLUDING 127 CHIEF OFFICERS AND ABOVE.

THERE WERE 88 OFFICERS EMPLOYED ON EXPATRIATE TERMS. NOW THERE WERE ONLY EIGHT, AND THIS WAS SOON TO BE REDUCED TO SEVEN WHEN HE RETIRES IN THREE MONTHS' TIME, HE SAID.

MR HIGGINBOTTOM WAS SPEAKING AS INSPECTING OFFICER AT THE PASSING-OUT PARADE OF 65 CORRECTIONAL SERVICES RECRUITS, AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

HE TOLD THE RECRUITS THAT THE WAY WAS OPEN TO THEM TO PROGRESS THROUGH THE RANKS TO THE VERY TOP.

+ABILITY, DEDICATION, A WILLINGNESS TO WORK HARD AND THE RECOGNITION AND TREATMENT OF PRISONERS AS FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED AS A PUNISHMENT, NOT TO BE PUNISHED, ARE THE KEYS TO SUCCESS,+ HE ADDED.

MR HIGGINBOTTOM ALSO PRESENTED SILVER WHISTLES TO THE TWO BEST RECRUITS, ASSISTANT OFFICERS LEE CHI-ON AND WAN KEUNG-KIN.

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SEMINAR DEALS WITH EMPLOYMENT LAW  
\* \* \* \* \*

A SEMINAR WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 23) TO FAMILIARISE MANUFACTURERS AND WORKERS IN TUEN MUN WITH THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

ABOUT 200 LOCAL MANUFACTURERS AND WORKERS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE SEMINAR.

THE LABOUR OFFICER, MR MAN TAK-WAH, WILL SPEAK ON THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE DEALING WITH CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT, STATUTORY HOLIDAYS, SICKNESS ALLOWANCES AND PAID ANNUAL LEAVE.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A SLIDE SHOW AND A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION DURING THE SEMINAR.

ORGANISED BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD IN THE YAN OI TONG CENTRE IN TUEN MUN.

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FOUR NT SITES OFFERED FOR LETTERS A, B

\* \* \* \*

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM REGISTERED OWNERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTERS A AND B) FOR FOUR SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

TWO OF THE SITES ARE IN YUEN LONG, AND THE OTHERS IN TUEN MUN AND SHA TIN.

THE YUEN LONG SITES ARE AT MA WANG ROAD (2 260 SQUARE METRES) AND MA TIN ROAD (5 320 SQUARE METRES). BOTH SITES ARE FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE, EXCLUDING GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE TUEN MUN SITE, AT THE JUNCTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TUEN MUN ROAD, NEAR SAM SHING HUI, 8 616 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE LAST SITE IS SITUATED ADJACENT TO THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA. MEASURING 5 893 SQUARE METRES, IT IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE EXCLUDING GODOWN PURPOSES.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE AT NOON ON JANUARY 18, 1985.

APPLICATION FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS OF GRANT MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND PLANS INSPECTED AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG- THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON- AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE OF ISLANDS, SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

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GOLD COIN SERIES

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED TODAY THAT THE COINS ISSUED TO CELEBRATE THE YEARS OF THE TIGER IN 1986 AND THE RABBIT IN 1987 WOULD BE THE LAST IN THE SERIES OF LUNAR NEW YEAR \$1 000 GOLD COINS.

IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE SERIES WOULD BE REPEATED, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE OX COIN WOULD BE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AND CONFIRMED THAT POSTAL APPLICATIONS SENT ON THAT DAY WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

COLLECTORS BOXES TO HOLD THE SERIES OF GOLD COINS ARE ALSO ON SALE THROUGH THE ROYAL MINT'S LOCAL AGENT. EACH BOX CONTAINS 14 COIN WELLS, FOR THE 12 LUNAR NEW YEAR COINS, THE COIN ISSUED IN 1975 TO COMMEMORATE THE QUEEN'S VISIT AND A COMMEMORATIVE COIN FOR AN EVENT WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED.

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FRIDAY, \* DECEMBER 21, 1984

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NEW CROWD-PULLERS AT ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

\* \* \* \*

BIG CROWDS IN A HOLIDAY MOOD ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AND ON SUNDAY TO SEE THE LATEST INTERESTING NEW ARRIVALS.

THESE COMPRISE SOME EXTREMELY RARE NEW BORN PRIMATES - INCLUDING A GOLDEN-HEADED LION TAMARIN (LEONTOPITHECUS CHRYSOMELAS) AND A RED-CHEEKED CRESTED GIBBON (HYLOBATES CONCOLOR GABRIELLAE). THE LION TAMARIN MAY WELL BE THE FIRST CAPTIVE BIRTH OUTSIDE ITS NATIVE BRAZIL.

OTHER NEW BIRTHS THAT ADD TO THE ALREADY COLOURFUL MENAGERIE OF PRIMATES ARE TWO COMMON MARMOSETS (CALLITHRIX JACCHUS), A CELEBES BLACK APE (CYNOPITHECUS NIGER) AND A BORNEAN ORANG-UTAN (PONGO PYGMAEUS PYGMAEUS).

IN ADDITION, A MALE RED-CROWNED CRANE (GRUS JAPONENSIS) AND A PAIR OF SHORT-BEAKED ECHIDNAS (TACHYGLOSSUS ACULEATUS) ARRIVED FROM THE PEKING ZOO AND THE ROYAL MELBOURNE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS RESPECTIVELY EARLY THIS MONTH.

ECHIDNAS ARE FASCINATING ANIMALS BELONGING TO THE ORDER MONOTREMATA, WHICH ARE EGG-LAYING MAMMALS. IN THE WILD, ECHIDNAS SUBSIST ENTIRELY ON ANTS AND OTHER INSECTS AND FOR THIS REASON THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN AS SPINY ANTEATERS.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS CONTINUES TO ENRICH THE SCOPE OF THE EXHIBITS IN THE GARDENS. SUCH BIRD AND MAMMAL EXCHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE WITH ZOOS AND BIRD COLLECTIONS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, GERMANY, SRI LANKA, INDONESIA, SINGAPORE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE USA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

THE GARDENS, HONG KONG'S OWN +NATURE'S CORNER+ IN A HIGHLY URBANISED CITY OF CONCRETE AND STEEL, AVERAGE SOME THREE MILLION VISITORS EACH YEAR.

LOCATED AT GARDEN ROAD, JUST ABOVE THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, IT OPENS FROM 6 A.M. TO 7 P.M. DAILY. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1984

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DEAK-PERERA

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IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONNECTED WITH THE AFFAIRS OF DEAK-PERERA GROUP OF COMPANIES THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE HAS APPOINTED AN INSPECTOR UNDER THE TERMS OF SECTION 143(1)(C) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST LIMITED AND REPORT TO HIM THEREON.

THE INSPECTOR APPOINTED IS MR MARVIN KIN TUNG CHEUNG, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, OF MESSRS PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL AND CO., CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

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PARTY FOR CHOIR

\* \* \*

THE EASTERN DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHOIR, ACCLAIMED IN MANY PUBLIC APPEARANCES, WILL HOLD A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION PARTY TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

SEVERAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL JOIN THE PARTY, BEGINNING AT 2 PM IN THE MADAM CHAN WAI CHOW MEMORIAL SCHOOL AT 82 MARBLE ROAD, NORTH POINT.

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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN - SUPPLEMENT

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1984

### PRIME MINISTER MEETS PRESS

\* \* \*

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE HELD THIS MORNING (FRIDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

+LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS PRESS CONFERENCE IS MY LAST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN HONG KONG BEFORE I FLY HOME FOR CHRISTMAS, THE LONG WAY ROUND THIS TIME IN ORDER TO SEE PRESIDENT REAGAN.

+AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE JUST BEEN IN PEKING AND MY PURPOSE IN GOING IS TO SIGN THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND TO TALK PERSONALLY WITH CHINESE LEADERS BOTH ABOUT HONG KONG AND ABOUT THE KEY ISSUES OF WORLD AFFAIRS. I SAID IN PEKING THAT THE AGREEMENT WE HAVE SIGNED WITH CHINA ABOUT HONG KONG IS AN HISTORIC DOCUMENT. IT IS, INDEED; IT IS THE CULMINATION OF TWO YEAR'S LONG AND OFTEN HARD NEGOTIATION AND IT IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PERIOD IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY.

+THE FIRST POINT I WISH TO MAKE ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT IS THAT IT ASSURES THE CONTINUATION OF HONG KONG AS A FREE-TRADING CAPITALIST SOCIETY FOR A VERY LONG TIME TO COME - INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE NEXT CENTURY. THIS MEANS THAT HONG KONG CAN PLAN LONG-TERM WITH CONFIDENCE. I BELIEVE CHAIRMAN DENG INTENDS HIS BOLD CONCEPT OF +ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS+ TO LAST.

+MY SECOND POINT IS THAT YOU HAVE MY ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE THAT BRITAIN WILL ADMINISTER HONG KONG WISELY AND WELL BETWEEN NOW AND 1997. WE SHALL HONOUR OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE FULL.

+MY THIRD POINT IS THAT BRITAIN WILL NOT MERELY DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO WORK FOR HONG KONG'S STEADY DEVELOPMENT AND A SMOOTH TRANSITION, WE SHALL ALSO SEEK TO WIN THE WIDEST POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT IN THE REST OF THE WORLD.

/WE STARTED .....

FRIDAY , DECEMBER 21, 1984

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+WE STARTED THIS EXERCISE UNDER VERY FAVOURABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE AGREEMENT HAS ALREADY WON HIGH PRAISE FROM MANY LEADING NATIONS IN THE WORLD. THE AGREEMENT IS REGARDED AS A GOOD ONE BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO CARRYING OUT THE AGREEMENT TO THE FULL - SO TOO ARE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THAT IS THE ASSURANCE WHICH CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING AND PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG GAVE ME DURING MY DISCUSSIONS ON WEDNESDAY.

+OF COURSE THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE AGREEMENT AND MANY OF THEM ARE REFLECTED IN THE CAREFUL REPORT PREPARED BY THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE. I UNDERSTAND THESE CONCERNS AND THEY WILL BE VERY MUCH IN OUR MINDS AS WE START THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT.

+NEVERTHELESS, THIS IS A GOOD AGREEMENT. GOOD FOR HONG KONG AND FOR ITS FUTURE AND IT IS NOW UP TO ALL OF US TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THAT IT WORKS.

+LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOUR QUESTIONS.+

Q 1. HK ECONOMIC JOURNAL:

MRS THATCHER, WE ARE, INDEED, VERY HAPPY TO HAVE SO MANY ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FUTURE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG. BUT FROM THE HONG KONG PEOPLE'S POINT OF VIEW, IN ORDER TO SET OUR HEARTS AT EASE, AND TO HELP US ESTABLISHING AS BEFORE TO CREATE ANOTHER MIRACLE, THE FIRST ASSURANCE IS TO HAVE A CHANCE TO CHOOSE ANOTHER LIFESTYLE WHEN WE WANT TO. I THINK WE SHOULD REMEMBER ONE OF YOUR FEW HONG KONG ADVISERS ON THE HONG KONG ISSUE AND EXPERIENCED AND IMAGINATIVE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD PUT UP A PROPOSAL OF SETTING UP A FUND IN HONG KONG IN ORDER TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE, THOSE HONG KONG PEOPLE, IN CASE THEY NEED INFORMATION AND ADVICE TO CHOOSE ANOTHER LIFESTYLE. MRS PRIME MINISTER, OUR COMMON AIM IS TO MAINTAIN THE .....

MODERATOR: IS THIS A QUESTION? COULD WE HAVE THE QUESTION?

YES, NOW I WILL COME TO THE QUESTION (LAUGHTER). MRS PRIME MINISTER, OUR COMMON AIM IS TO MAINTAIN THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG. WILL MRS THATCHER AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT EVER CONSIDER HAVING HONG KONG PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH AND TO PROMOTE THIS FUND? AND COULD I JUST REMIND YOU, MRS PRIME MINISTER, DURING THE FALKLAND WAR IN WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PROTECT A REMOTE DEPENDENT TERRITORY, ON BEHALF OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACT RESPONSIBLE TO DONATE \$20 MILLION HONG KONG TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FUND IN ORDER TO HELP THE BRITISH PEOPLE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR REPUTATION AND TO MAINTAIN BRITAIN'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY. IN RETURN WILL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT .....

/MODERATOR: .....

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1984

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MODERATOR: I AM SORRY. PLEASE. COULD WE HAVE SLIGHTLY SHORTER QUESTIONS?

PRIME MINISTER: I AM NOT QUITE SURE WHAT THE QUESTION WAS GOING TO BE. BUT OUR DUTY IS TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT INTO WHICH WE HAVE ENTERED AND TO IMPLEMENT IT TO THE FULL AND WE SHALL DO THAT.

Q2: KAYSER SUNG, EDITOR TEXTILE ASIA, YOU HAVE SAID IN YOUR STATEMENT THAT HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO RETAIN ITS SEPARATE POSITION WITHIN THE GATT AND MULTI-LATERAL ARRANGEMENTS. HOW CAN THIS BE CARRIED OUT AND WILL THIS BE RETAINED WITH SEPARATE POSITION. NOW, OF COURSE, HONG KONG IS NOT RETAINING ANY SEPARATE POSITION IN THE GATT. HONG KONG IS REPRESENTED WITHIN THE UK AND WHEN, HOW, THIS, THE FUTURE PATTERN WILL BE?

PRIME MINISTER: THIS IS DEALT WITH IN THE AGREEMENT. AND HONG KONG, AS YOU INDICATED, NOW IS DEALT WITH SEPARATELY, BY VIRTUE OF HER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, SHE IS DEALT WITH SEPARATELY. THE SAME ARRANGEMENT WILL CONTINUE. SHE WILL BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY AFTER THE AGREEMENT - SHE WILL NOT BE DEALT WITH AS THE GENERAL BODY OF CHINA, BUT SEPARATELY.

(K. SUNG STARTS. MRS THATCHER CONTINUES). . . .BUT SHE IS ALSO DEALT WITH SEPARATELY NOW, SO I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM.....

K. SUNG : IT IS NOT SEPARATE NOW IT IS.....

PRIME MINISTER : NO, BUT IT IS DEALT WITH SEPARATELY NOW. IT IS DEALT WITH SPECIALLY AS HONG KONG NOW.

K. SUNG : I SEE. AS FROM NOW HONG KONG WILL BE AN INDEPENDENT GATT MEMBER?

PRIME MINISTER : NO. SHE IS DEALT WITH SEPARATELY UNDER HER PRESENT STATUS. SHE WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY AFTER 1997.

K. SUNG : AFTER 1997. HOW ABOUT THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT, WHEN YOU SAY.....

PRIME MINISTER : THAT IS WHY I SAY SHE IS DEALT WITH SEPARATELY NOW UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH OBTAIN NOW ALTHOUGH SHE IS A DEPENDENCY OF BRITAIN.

/K. SUNG : .....

K. SUNG : WHAT ABOUT BRITAIN'S ARRANGEMENTS AFTER 1986 WHEN THE PRESENT MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT RUNS OUT?

PRIME MINISTER : WELL, AFTER 1986 WE DEAL WITH THE NEXT MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT IN THE SAME WAY AS WE DEALT WITH THE LAST ONE. AS YOU KNOW THEY LAST SEVEN YEARS AND WE RE-NEGOTIATE THEM AND I SHOULD THINK THIS PERIOD FOR RE-NEGOTIATION WILL SOON BE COMING UP. BUT AS YOU POINT OUT, SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE UNDER THE GATT, AS NOW, FOR HONG KONG. I SHOULD THINK WE SOON SHALL BE STARTING TO CONSIDER THE NEXT MULTI-LATERAL AGREEMENT, BUT THAT WILL BE DONE IN THE SAME WAY AS PREVIOUS ONES HAVE BEEN.

Q 3. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A CHINESE GOVERNOR BEFORE 1997 AND HAS THIS QUESTION BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN YOU AND THE CHINESE LEADERS DURING YOUR VISIT TO CHINA?

PRIME MINISTER : NO. WE HAVE NOT DECIDED ON ALL GOVERNORS UP TO 1997. WE ARE VERY, VERY HAPPY WITH OUR PRESENT ONE.

Q 4. LINDA JAIVIN, ASIAWEEK : IS IT TRUE THAT IN 1979 WHEN GOVERNOR MACLEHOSE WENT TO PEKING AND SPOKE WITH DENG XIAOPING THAT DENG XIAOPING TOLD HIM THAT NOT ONLY SHOULD HONG KONG PEOPLE PUT THEIR HEARTS AT EASE BUT ALSO THAT CHINA INTENDED TO RETAKE SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG IN 1997. IF THIS IS TRUE WHY WERE NOT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE TOLD ABOUT IT? AND SECOND, DOES THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FORMULATION OF THE NATIONALITY ACT?

PRIME MINISTER : FIRST, I DO NOT KNOW THE CONTENT OF ANY TALKS WHICH LORD MACLEHOSE MAY HAVE HAD. SECONDLY, WE MUST NOW TURN OUR EYES TO THIS AGREEMENT. OUR TASK NOW IS TO IMPLEMENT THIS AGREEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY ACCEPTED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. THE NATIONALITY ACT WAS PASSED BY THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEN AT THE TIME.

#### ASIA WEEK :

Q4: MRS THATCHER, HOW CAN YOUR GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE TO ASSIST HONG KONG IN SOLVING THE PROBLEMS AND CONFLICTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS SUCH AS THE DECLARATION OF COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN PROPOSED BY THE US GOVERNMENT? DO THE BRITISH INTERESTS PLACED ON THE HIGH PRIORITY? FURTHERMORE, COULD THE CHANGE OF THE PARTIES AFFECT YOUR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT?

PRIME MINISTER: I THINK YOU ARE ONTO A POINT WHICH IS AT THE MOMENT A VERY DIFFICULT POINT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN VIEW OF SOME OF THE DECISIONS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN ABOUT COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN WHICH, I UNDERSTAND, IS AFFECTING HONG KONG TRADE. THAT ITSELF OBVIOUSLY IS A MATTER FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THAT IS NOT AFFECTED BY THE AGREEMENT.

Q5: WEN WEI PAO: SO COULD A CHANGE OF PARTY AFFECT YOUR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT?

PRIME MINISTER: YOU MEAN A CHANGE OF ...

QUESTIONER: OF PARTIES.

PRIME MINISTER: IN GOVERNMENT? NO, THE AGREEMENT IS MADE ON BEHALF OF BRITAIN. ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. AND THE IMPLEMENTATION AND HONOURING OF THE AGREEMENT CONTINUES EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE CHANGES OF PARTIES. IT IS ALWAYS A CUSTOM IN BRITAIN.

Q6: JILL HARTLEY, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST: COULD I ASK YOU A QUESTION, PRIME MINISTER, ON DEFENCE. DID YOU RECEIVE ASSURANCES FROM THE CHINESE LEADERS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO COMPULSORY CONSCRIPTION INTO THE PLA FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE AFTER 1997? AND DID YOU DISCUSS THE OPTION WITH THEM OF A LOCALLY-RECRUITED VOLUNTEER FORCE TO MAN THE BRITISH GARRISON HERE?

PRIME MINISTER: NO. CONSCRIPTION IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE AGREEMENT AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSCRIPTION.

QUESTIONER: AND THE SECOND HALF OF THE QUESTION, I'M SORRY...

PRIME MINISTER: I DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL.

Q.7 PATRICIA PENN, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION: MRS THATCHER, HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE DO YOU SET ON SECRET BALLOT IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND WHAT SIGNIFICANCE IS THERE IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY MENTION OF THIS IN THE AGREEMENT.

PRIME MINISTER: YOU WILL FIND THAT THE AGREEMENT GOES INTO A GOOD DEAL OF DETAIL BUT, I THINK, NOT THE FULL KIND OF DETAIL WHICH YOU ARE SEEKING AT THE MOMENT. OF COURSE, I BELIEVE IN A SECRET BALLOT. WE HAVE TO SORT OUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG BETWEEN NOW AND 1997. OF COURSE, WE BELIEVE THAT DEMOCRACY REQUIRES A SECRET BALLOT.

PATRICIA PENN: WHAT GUARANTEE IS THERE FOR THAT AFTER 1997 THEN?

PRIME MINISTER: YOU WILL FIND THE AGREEMENT ITSELF - AND DURING THAT TIME BETWEEN NOW AND 1997 WE HAVE THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP - AND OF COURSE THE AGREEMENT ITSELF SAYS THAT THE, ER, IT EXPECTS THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF IT, IT EXPECTS THE LIFE-STYLE OF HONG KONG TO CONTINUE. BUT LONG BEFORE 1997 WE HAVE STEADILY AND SECURELY TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF REPRESENTATION OF LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG.

Q.8 EMILY LAU, FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW: PRIME MINISTER, ON WEDNESDAY YOU SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA PROMISING TO DELIVER OVER FIVE MILLION PEOPLE INTO THE HANDS OF A COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP. IS THIS MORALLY DEFENSIBLE, OR IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS THE HIGHEST FORM OF MORALITY IS ONE'S OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS?

/PRIME MINISTER: .....

PRIME MINISTER: CAN I JUST SAY THIS TO YOU. WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF WE HAD NOT ATTEMPTED TO GET AN AGREEMENT? 1997 - 92 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY WOULD AUTOMATICALLY HAVE RETURNED TO CHINA WITHOUT ANY ASSURANCES, WITHOUT ANY OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE AGREEMENT THAT WE HAVE NOW. MAY I NOT PUT IT TO YOU THAT THE SITUATION NOW IS VASTLY BETTER FOR HONG KONG AND ACCEPTS AND HONOURS AND ACKNOWLEDGES THE FACT THAT CHINA WISHES THE LIFE-STYLE OF HONG KONG TO CONTINUE UNDER THAT AGREEMENT. I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE HAD GREAT CAUSE TO COMPLAIN HAD THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN DONE NOTHING UNTIL 1997 AND I BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THE PEOPLE, INDEED, THE OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, THINK THE SAME. YOU MAY BE A SOLITARY EXCEPTION.

Q 9. LAWRENCE MACDONALD, AFP : I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW. DID YOU SEEK FROM CHINESE LEADERS DURING YOUR VISIT IN PEKING ANY ASSURANCES THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD NOT ONLY BE CONSULTED ON THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW BUT WOULD ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DRAFTING OF IT? AND IF YOU DID SEEK THESE, DID YOU GET ANY INDICATION OF THEIR THINKING ON THIS CRUCIAL POINT?

PRIME MINISTER : IT IS STIPULATED IN THE AGREEMENT THAT THE DETAILS IN THE ANNEXES WILL BE EMBODIED IN THE BASIC LAW. THAT WAS ONE OF THE POINTS OF HAVING SUCH DETAILED ANNEXES AND OF HAVING THIS STIPULATION RIGHT IN THE AGREEMENT. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT GAVE AN ASSURANCE WHILE WE WERE IN PEKING THAT THEY WOULD ALSO SOLICIT THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON A WIDE BASIS. THEY, OF COURSE, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTUAL DRAFTING, BUT OF COURSE THE AGREEMENTS IN THE ANNEXES WILL BE EMBODIED IN THE DRAFTING.

QUESTION 10 (IN CHINESE): CHEUNG SIU-FUNG, TIN TIN DAILY NEWS, THERE ARE SOME MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN BRITAIN WHO SUGGEST THAT THERE SHOULD BE A REPORT ON HONG KONG TABLED TO THE PARLIAMENT EVERY YEAR. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

PRIME MINISTER: I DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE A REPORT ON HONG KONG TABLED EVERY YEAR ANY MORE THAN WE HAVE HAD A REPORT ON HONG KONG TABLED NOW WHICH WE HAVE NOT. GREAT BRITAIN IS SOLELY IN CHARGE OF ADMINISTRATION UNTIL 1997 THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG. AND I SEE MYSELF, NO NEED FOR A PARTICULAR REPORT. FROM TIME TO TIME, DOUBTLESS, THE MATTER WILL BE DEBATED IN OUR PARLIAMENT BECAUSE NATURALLY OUR PARLIAMENT IS VERY INTERESTED IN EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENS.

QUESTION 11: VINCENT TANG, FINANCIAL DAILY, MRS THATCHER, I HAVE A QUESTION CONCERNING THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, WILL IT REPORT FREQUENTLY TO HONG KONG PEOPLE AFTER IT HAS SET UP AND IS WORKING?

PRIME MINISTER: I IMAGINE IT WILL BE, I AM SURE IT WILL BE, VERY CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH HONG KONG PEOPLE THROUGHOUT ITS WHOLE LIFETIME. VERY CLOSELY IN TOUCH. I DOUBT VERY MUCH WHETHER THERE WILL BE THE NECESSITY FOR FORMAL REPORTS.. BUT JUST AS WE HAVE TRIED THE WHOLE TIME TO KEEP VERY CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH HONG KONG PEOPLE WHILE WE HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING THIS AGREEMENT SO THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL BE VERY MUCH AWARE OF OPINION IN HONG KONG AND NATURALLY TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT AS I INDICATED THAT WE WOULD TAKE THE CONCERNS WHICH THE ASSESSMENT REPORT THREW UP INTO ACCOUNT. THE WHOLE AGREEMENT IS FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE AND OUR WHOLE CONCERN HAS BEEN FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE THROUGHOUT, AND THAT CONCERN WILL CONTINUE.

QUESTION 12, SPENCER CHAN, ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS: MY QUESTION IS ALSO ABOUT THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. WITH ONLY SIX MONTHS AHEAD, WHICH IS QUITE A SHORT TIME, THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL BE FULLY OPERATIONAL. HAVE YOU DISCUSSED WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS THE COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP AND COULD YOU REVEAL WHO THE FIVE MEMBERS ARE OF THE BRITISH SIDE AND WHETHER THE HONG KONG GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD AND HIS POLITICAL ADVISER, MR MCLAREN, WOULD BE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP IN THE FUTURE?

PRIME MINISTER : WE HAVE NOT DECIDED THE PRECISE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP. IT IS, OF COURSE AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP AND IT WILL, WE EXPECT, CONTAIN ON IT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUT HAVE NOT DECIDED THE PRECISE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP. THE GOVERNOR, OF COURSE, WILL BE ON IT. NO QUESTION. THE GOVERNOR WILL BE ON IT. BUT WE HAVE NOT DECIDED THE OTHERS. (THE GOVERNOR: THAT HASN'T BEEN DECIDED YET) WE HAVEN'T DECIDED..... I SEE. I SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY ASTONISHED IF THE GOVERNOR IS NOT ON IT.

Q 13. HUGH DAVIES, DAILY TELEGRAPH : ARTHUR SCARGILL, A MAN NOTED FOR HIS MARXIST VIEWS HAS BEEN TRYING TO BRING DOWN YOUR GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN. WHY AFTER A DAY IN PEKING ARE YOU SO CONVINCED OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARXISTS THERE?

PRIME MINISTER : THIS IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN ENTERED INTO WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO HONOUR THAT AGREEMENT AND IT IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH I BELIEVE, HAVING BEEN SIGNED, THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WILL HONOUR, AND IT HAS BEEN SIGNED IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD AND IT IS A GOOD AGREEMENT. I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE HONOURED TO THE FULL.

Q 14. DINAH LEE, ECONOMIST AND WASHINGTON POST : WHY YOUR GOVERNMENT FEELS ASSURED OF CHINA'S COMMITMENT TO THIS TREATY DOES NOT NEED REITERATION, BUT I THINK WE NEED FOR THE RECORD TO KNOW WHAT WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT DO IF THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT ARE ABUSED OR BROKEN? IN SHORT, ARE YOU PREPARED TO DEFEND THIS PACT AS YOU DID IN THE FALKLANDS, AND BY WHAT MEANS?

PRIME MINISTER : I BELIEVE THAT THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE HONOURED. I BELIEVE THAT FIRMLY. IF BY ANY CHANCE ANY QUESTION ROSE UNDER THE AGREEMENT, NATURALLY A SIGNATORY TO IT WOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. IF THEY HAD ANYTHING TO RAISE WITH US, NATURALLY THEY WOULD RAISE IT WITH US. THAT IS THE NORMAL PROCEDURE UNDER AN AGREEMENT. THE SIGNATORIES RAISE MATTERS WITH ONE ANOTHER.

Q 15. DINAH LEE : ARE YOU PREPARED TO GO FURTHER TO DEFEND THIS?

PRIME MINISTER : I HAVE INDICATED THAT IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO RAISE UNDER THE AGREEMENT THEN OF COURSE WE WOULD RAISE IT IN THE NORMAL WAY BUT I BELIEVE IT WILL BE FULLY HONOURED. CAN I JUST SAY TO YOU : 1997 - 92 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY WOULD AUTOMATICALLY RETURN TO CHINA.

Q 16. WONG WING-HUNG, HONG KONG STANDARD : PRIME MINISTER, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG THAT THE VIEWS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL BE WIDELY SOLICITED ON THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW. BUT WHAT THE MAJOR CONCERN FOR MOST PEOPLE HERE NOW IS: WILL THEY BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE? HAVE YOU BEEN ASSURED ON THIS POINT? IF NOT, WHAT WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT DO TO HELP HONG KONG PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO JOIN THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE?

PRIME MINISTER : NOW I HAVE ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BASIC LAW. THE CONTENT OF THE ANNEXES, THE RELEVANT CONTENT OF THE ANNEXES, WOULD BE STIPULATED IN THE BASIC LAW. THAT IS IN THE AGREEMENT ITSELF. THEREFORE THINGS WHICH ARE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO HONG KONG WILL, BY VIRTUE OF THAT STIPULATION BE IN THE AGREEMENT. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO SAID, AND I USE THEIR WORDS, THAT THEY WOULD SOLICIT OPINION IN HONG KONG ON A WIDE BASIS. THE PRECISE MECHANISM BY WHICH THAT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. BUT THE GREATEST PROTECTION IS THE DETAIL WHICH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ENTERED INTO IN THE ANNEXES AND THAT WE BOTH REGARD THAT AS BINDING AND THAT THAT DETAIL WILL BE STIPULATED IN THE BASIC LAW. THAT IS VERY CONSIDERABLE PROTECTION.

Q 17. WONG WING-HUNG, HK STANDARD : BUT WILL WE BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN DRAFTING IT?

PRIME MINISTER : THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, OTHER THAN AS I HAVE INDICATED THAT THE AGREEMENT WITH THE ANNEXES WILL BE STIPULATED IN THE BASIC LAW - THE DRAFTING IS, OF COURSE, A MATTER FOR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

Q18: LLOYD DOBYNS, NBC NEWS: IN VIEW OF YOUR NEXT STOP, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE UNITED STATES TO DO TO EITHER HELP OR SUPPORT THIS AGREEMENT?

PRIME MINISTER: THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT AND SO HAVE A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES. I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL EXPRESS THEIR FAITH IN THAT AGREEMENT BY JUST CARRYING ON THE KIND OF INVESTMENT AND CONFIDENCE THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY SHOWN IN HONG KONG AND IT IS VITAL THAT THEY AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES DO SO, AND I BELIEVE THAT THAT WILL HAPPEN.

Q19: CAN I RETURN BACK TO THE QUESTION OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP? THE REASON GIVEN TO US FOR NOT HAVING HONG KONG PEOPLE REPRESENTATIVES SITTING IN THE GROUP IS THAT BECAUSE IT IS A DIPLOMATIC BODY. BUT CAN YOU TELL US WHY THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HAS TO BE A DIPLOMATIC BODY IN THE FIRST HAND?

PRIME MINISTER: NO, IT IS AN INTER-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT. THAT IS TO SAY IT IS AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BY CHINA AND GREAT BRITAIN. AND THAT IS THE MAIN REASON. THEREFORE IT WILL HAVE ON IT FIVE PEOPLE FROM EACH GOVERNMENT OR FIVE PEOPLE NOMINATED BY EACH GOVERNMENT AND THERE WILL BE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AMONG THAT FIVE, AND, OF COURSE AS, UNTIL NOW, THE CONCERNS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. BUT THE REAL REASON IS THAT IT IS AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.

Q20: MRS THATCHER, YOU HAVE SOLVED THE HISTORICAL PROBLEM OF HONG KONG AS A TERRITORY YET YOU ARE LEFT WITH A MORAL PROBLEM BECAUSE SINCE WORLD WAR II THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SIX MILLION PEOPLE, BY TREATY, HAVE TRANSFERRED FROM WHAT YOU YOURSELF MIGHT CALL THE FREE WORLD TO COMMUNISM. YOU HAVE SIGNED THAT TREATY. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?

PRIME MINISTER : I THINK THAT WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN NEGLIGENT HAD WE NOT, IN FACT, RAISED THE POST-1997 POSITION AS WE DID. WE RAISED IT. WE HAVE GOT AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE OVERWHELMINGLY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THAT AGREEMENT WILL EXTEND TO 50 YEARS BEYOND 1997. I FEEL WE HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. JUST CONSIDER WHAT SORT OF QUESTIONS YOU WOULD BE ASKING ME NOW HAD THERE BEEN NO AGREEMENT AND A TOTALLY UNKNOWN FUTURE.

Q 21. SCHWARTZ, UPI : CHANGING THE SUBJECT.....

PRIME MINISTER : I SHOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU DO!

QUESTIONER : AFTER YOUR TALKS WITH MR GORBACHOV THIS WEEK ARE YOU SATISFIED THE SOVIET UNION IS SERIOUS ABOUT ARMS CONTROL AND DO YOU CARRY ANY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN IN ADVANCE OF THE TALKS IN GENEVA BETWEEN MR SCHULTZ AND MR GROMEKO?

/PRIME MINISTER : .....

PRIME MINISTER : I BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS SERIOUS IN WANTING REDUCTION IN ARMAMENTS AND, OF COURSE, THE UNITED STATES IS ABSOLUTELY SINCERE IN THAT OBJECTIVE. IT WILL TAKE QUITE SOME TIME TO WORK OUT THE PRECISE FORA IN WHICH THOSE REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED. AS YOU KNOW, IT IS A QUESTION WHETHER THE STRATEGIC MISSILES SHOULD BE TREATED AS THEY WERE FORMERLY - SEPARATELY FROM THE INTERMEDIATE BALLISTIC MISSILES - AND THEN OF COURSE WE MUST NEVER FORGET NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCTIONS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE. WE OURSELVES DESTROYED OUR OWN STOCKPILE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS MANY YEARS AGO BUT THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT FOLLOW SUIT. THE UNITED STATES HAS SOME, BUT THE SOVIET UNION HAS A GREAT DEAL. AND, OF COURSE, THE CONVENTIONAL FORCES - THAT NEGOTIATION MUST CONTINUE. SO I THINK IT WILL TAKE QUITE A TIME TO WORK OUT THE PRECISE PROCEDURE AND DOUBTLESS MR SCHULTZ AND MR GROMEKO WILL BE TURNING THEIR MINDS VERY MUCH TO THIS MATTER WHEN THEY MEET BUT I BELIEVE THAT BOTH SIDES SINCERELY WANT DISARMAMENT. IT MUST BE BALANCED, IT MUST LEAD TO A FEELING OF SECURITY ON BOTH SIDES, IT MUST BE VERIFIABLE.

Q 22. HONG KONG COMMERCIAL DAILY : MRS THATCHER, DO YOU THINK THAT THE PRINCIPLE +ONE-COUNTRY TWO-SYSTEMS+ IMPLEMENTED TO TAIWAN IS AS SUCCESSFUL AS IF IMPLEMENTED TO HONG KONG?

PRIME MINISTER : I AM SORRY I DIDN'T QUITE HEAR THE QUESTION.... I HEARD THE +ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS+.

QUESTIONER : WILL THE PRINCIPLE OF +ONE-COUNTRY TWO-SYSTEMS+ IMPLEMENTED TO TAIWAN, WILL IT BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS IF IMPLEMENTED TO HONG KONG?

PRIME MINISTER : I HAVE NO LOCUS ON TAIWAN.

Q 23. MRS THATCHER, YOU ARE REPORTED AS HAVING SAID IN PEKING THAT DENG XIAOPING LAID DOWN A TIME LIMIT FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE COMPLETED. DO YOU FEEL THAT BRITAIN WAS RUSHED INTO SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT?

PRIME MINISTER : NO. WE WERE NOT RUSHED INTO SIGNING IT. I THINK THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE DETAIL DEMONSTRATES THAT. I DO THINK THAT WHEN YOU HAVE A TARGET LIKE THAT YOU DO GET DECISIONS BECAUSE YOU ARE UP AGAINST A TIME LIMIT BUT EQUALLY YOU GET THE EXTRA ATTENTION AND THE TOTAL CONCENTRATION WHICH WE HAD. AND I BELIEVE, AS I INDICATED WHEN WE STARTED THESE NEGOTIATIONS THAT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR HONG KONG TO GET AN AGREEMENT SO THAT PEOPLE HAD CONFIDENCE IN WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN AFTER 1997. AND, OF COURSE, WE WERE ALREADY UNDER PRESSURE BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE LAND TRANSACTIONS AND THEREFORE WE DID NEED URGENTLY TO WORK TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT AND I AM VERY GLAD THAT WE TOOK THAT DECISION AND VERY PLEASED WITH THE AGREEMENT.

Q 24. (IN CHINESE) YOU HAVE SPOKEN TO PREMIER ZHAO ABOUT SINO-BRITISH RELATIONSHIPS IN PEKING. COULD I ASK IN WHAT AREAS YOU WILL HAVE MORE COOPERATION WITH CHINA? IT IS HEARD THAT IN CHINA THERE WILL BE A SENIOR DELEGATION GOING TO BRITAIN NEXT YEAR. WHAT QUESTIONS WILL YOU BE TALKING ABOUT THEN?

PRIME MINISTER : RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN ARE ALREADY GOOD. TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN IS INCREASING. THERE WILL BE A TRADE DELEGATION SOMETIME DURING NEXT YEAR. IT IS NOT THE FIRST TRADE DELEGATION - IT WILL NOT BE THE LAST. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY BEFORE AND THEY, OF COURSE, WILL CONTINUE. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER ON A NUMBER OF THINGS. AS YOU KNOW WE ARE VERY INTERESTED FOR EXAMPLE IN DOING WORK IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ON OIL. WE HAVE BEEN DOING IT - BP HAVE BEEN THERE FOR SOME TIME AND ARE GOING TO CONTINUE THEIR EXPLORATION. CABLE AND WIRELESS HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR SOME TIME. AND WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THE PLANS FOR THE GUANGDONG NUCLEAR POWER STATION FOR SOME TIME. WE HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE DELEGATIONS TO CHINA ABOUT MANY MATTERS. THERE WILL BE A TRADE DELEGATION, I THINK UNDER LORD YOUNG, IN MARCH. PREVIOUSLY THERE HAVE BEEN MANY TRADE DELEGATIONS. NATURALLY, YES, I DO HOPE THAT THE TRADE WILL INCREASE. WE ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO GET EXTRA EXPORTS AS EXACTLY HONG KONG IS TRYING TO GET EXTRA EXPORTS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD. ALSO, MAY I POINT OUT, THAT PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG WILL BE VISITING BRITAIN THIS COMING YEAR, I BELIEVE, POSSIBLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR. I BELIEVE HE IS DOING A TOUR TO EUROPE AND HE WILL COME TO BRITAIN WHICH WE ARE VERY, VERY, PLEASED ABOUT.

Q 25. WONG YUK-WING, TVB NEWS : I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL? HOW WILL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BE INFORMED SO THAT WE WILL NOT REPEAT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS?

PRIME MINISTER : YES, OF COURSE THE CONTENT AND DISCUSSIONS IN A JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL. YOU SIMPLY COULDN'T WORK THAT KIND OF GROUP UNLESS THEY WERE CONFIDENTIAL. WE HAVE KEPT CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH HONG KONG PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THIS TIME AND OF COURSE THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL KEEP IN TOUCH - AS WE ALWAYS HAVE. SO I DO NOT THINK YOU NEED HAVE ANY WORRIES ON THAT SCORE. AGAIN, I REPEAT, THAT OUR PRIME CONCERN IN ENTERING INTO THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND SEEKING THE AGREEMENT WAS THE FUTURE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

Q 26. WONG YUK-WING, TVB NEWS : SINCE THE TALKS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AGAIN HOW WILL THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE BE REFLECTED IN THE GROUP MEETINGS?

PRIME MINISTER : THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG IS CONSTANTLY IN TOUCH WITH THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, WE HAVE A NUMBER OF APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES. THEY HAVE KEPT VERY CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH HONG KONG PEOPLE DURING THIS TIME AND THEY WILL ALSO DO SO DURING THE CONTINUATION OF THE AGREEMENT UP TO 1997.

QUESTIONER: WONG YUK-WING, TVB NEWS : SO OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE REPEATED AGAIN. SO WE WILL BE KEPT IN THE DARK?

PRIME MINISTER : I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT THEY WILL KEEP VERY CLOSELY IN TOUCH.

Q 27. WILL YOU DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN THE CONCEPT OF +ONE-COUNTRY TWO-SYSTEMS+ DURING YOUR COMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON?

PRIME MINISTER : WILL I DISCUSS THAT CONCEPT? I DOUBT VERY MUCH WHETHER THAT WILL PLAY A MAJOR PART IN OUR DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH I SHALL, OF COURSE, THANK THE PRESIDENT FOR THE WAY IN WHICH THEY WELCOMED THE HONG KONG AGREEMENT AND LOOK FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN THAT THEY WILL KEEP THEIR CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. AND, OF COURSE, I HOPE THAT AMERICAN INVESTORS WOULD KEEP THEIR CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. BUT THE CONCEPT OF +ONE-COUNTRY TWO-SYSTEMS+ IS A CONCEPT, I BELIEVE, OF CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING AND ACCEPTED BY CHINA IN HER SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT AND IT IS A CONCEPT AND IT WILL WORK.

Q 28. HELENE CHUNG, AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION : PRIME MINISTER, HOW DO YOU JUSTIFY GOING TO WAR OVER THE FALKLANDS ISLANDS WHEN THE SMALL POPULATION THERE DIDN'T WISH TO BE ABSORBED INTO ARGENTINA AND GIVING INTO COMMUNIST CHINA SO EASILY, AND HANDING OVER THE FIVE AND A HALF-MILLION PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO COMMUNIST CHINA, WHEN SO MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE VOTED WITH THEIR FEET TO LEAVE THAT COUNTRY?

PRIME MINISTER : I DO NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN IGNORE THE LEASE WHICH TERMINATES IN 1997 AND EVERY QUESTION WHICH HAS BEEN PUT ON THE BASIS THAT YOU HAVE PUT THERE HAS IGNORED THAT FUNDAMENTAL FACT. I DID NOT FIND IT WAS BEING IGNORED IN HONG KONG, THAT FUNDAMENTAL FACT. I FOUND THAT PEOPLE WANTED CONFIDENCE AND REASSURANCE ABOUT POST-1997, REALISING THAT UNLESS WE ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN 1997, THEREFORE WE NEGOTIATED WITH CHINA - CHINA AND WE WERE BOTH ANXIOUS THAT THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE - AND THE AGREEMENT IS THE RESULT. I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT HAD THERE NOT BEEN AN AGREEMENT NOW, HAD WE NOT ENTERED INTO TALKS, HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD HAVE CAUSE TO BE CONCERNED BECAUSE UNCERTAINTY IS ALWAYS VERY, VERY DIFFICULT. WE HAVE GOT AN AGREEMENT AND IT HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

Q 29. THE INTERNATIONAL TREATIES WERE THE ONES THAT YOU CITED TWO YEARS AGO WHEN YOU WENT TO BEIJING WHEN, AT THAT POINT, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY STATED THAT IT WANTED HONG KONG BACK. THE TREATIES WERE THE ONES YOU STOOD BY AT THAT POINT. WHAT, DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, HAS CAUSED THE CHANGE?

PRIME MINISTER : WE HAVE, AS I HAVE INDICATED, NOW FREELY ENTERED INTO A NEW AGREEMENT WHICH WE REGARD AS LEGALLY BINDING, FREELY ENTERED INTO. AND OUR CONCERN NOW IS TO IMPLEMENT THAT AGREEMENT AND TO HONOUR IT TO THE FULL - WHICH BOTH SIDES WILL.