



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Chief Secretary's remarks

The following is the transcript of remarks made by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, at the airport this (Saturday) evening on her return to Hong Kong after participating in the Hong Kong-Japan Partnership promotion:

Chief Secretary: Good evening every one. I am glad to be back. We've had very successful one week tour of Japan, visiting Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka. Members of the Hong Kong team had a very very warm reception. There was a very enthusiastic response to all the events that we organised. As you know, I met with the Prime Minister, Mr Murayama, other senior Japanese officials as well as leading members of the Japanese community. There is considerable interest in Hong Kong, in how we are faring at present, how we are preparing for the transition and particular concern about life in Hong Kong after 1997. We were able on this occasion to take the opportunity to address specific concerns, particularly in giving assurance that Hong Kong will remain unchanged, that the rule of law will continue, that we will have a credible legislature and that our systems and basic freedoms will be retained after 1997. The Prime Minister and his senior colleagues as well as business leaders assured us that they will continue to be interested in investing in Hong Kong. they find Hong Kong a very good place to live in and work in and to invest in and provided that we remain largely as we are now after 1997 Japan will continue to invest in Hong Kong.

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New Hong Kong/US air services arrangements agreed

A new expansionary Hong Kong/US air services traffic rights package was agreed yesterday (Friday) in Hong Kong after four days of negotiations. Discussion on the text of an air services agreement (ASA) has also concluded.

It is expected that ASA will be formally confirmed soon for submission to the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group.

The traffic rights are contained in a Memorandum of Understanding which takes immediate effect. The Air Services Agreement itself requires clearance by the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group prior to signature.

As a result of the understanding reached yesterday, new traffic rights for both Hong Kong and US carriers will become immediately available. These include:

- * opportunities for new direct routings between up to 14 US cities and Hong Kong;
- * significantly increased rights for the airlines of both sides to carry both passengers and cargo to third countries.

All sides expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the talks, which is expected to widen consumer choice and provide a stable framework for the future development of US/Hong Kong air services.

The acting Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Leo Kwan, welcomed the news.

He said: "The traffic rights package announced today is both balanced and expansionary, and represents the culmination of eight years of negotiations. It provides exciting opportunities for our airlines to fly to new points in the USA.

"We expect a range of new passenger and cargo routes to be launched soon by the airlines of both sides which will strengthen Hong Kong's position as the pre-eminent aviation hub in this region up to and beyond 1997."

Elaborating on points of interest to US carriers, the Director of the State Department's Office of Aviation Negotiations and Chairman of the US Delegation, Mr Edward O'Donnell, said: "The new stand alone agreement will provide the stability in this important aviation relationship that US carriers, shippers and travellers require."

Referring to the significant new opportunities under the agreement, Mr O'Donnell said: "US cargo carriers are looking forward to bringing new services to Hong Kong's trading community.

"We are also glad that another piece of United Airline's soon-to-begin Round-the-World service has fallen into place with this agreement."

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Consultation period on urban renewal to be extended

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A spokesman for the Planning, Environment and Lands Branch announced today (Saturday) that the public consultation on the urban renewal policy would be extended by one month to end on November 15.

The Branch issued the "Urban Renewal: Public Consultation Document" in July, outlining a comprehensive package of proposals to expedite the urban renewal process, to invite comments from the public.

Concerned organisations including the Legislative Council, district boards and relevant professional bodies have been consulted.

Upon the request of Legislative Councillors, the spokesman said the Government decided to extend the consultation exercise by one month to allow the new Legislative Council to be consulted.

"Moreover, many individuals and organisations have requested for more time to think through the Government's proposals given the complexity and importance of the issue," the spokesman said.

"We welcome all views on the issue, the pace of which has a profound impact on the quality of life of the community."

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Firing practice in October

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Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on two days this month. The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

Date

Time

October 30 (Monday)

8 am - 11.59 pm

October 31 (Tuesday)

midnight - 4.30 pm

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Fund-raising schedule for October

Seven organisations have been granted permission to raise funds next month (October), a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Saturday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the department's hotline 2343 2255 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from the Social Welfare Department.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added.

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
October 7	Po Leung Kuk
October 14	Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped
October 21	The Society of Homes for the Handicapped
October 28	Chinese Rhenish Church - Hong Kong Synod

Public Subscription

<u>Event Day</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd
October 1	Oxfam Hong Kong
October 14	Land of Virtue Centre Ltd

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,769	09:30	NIL
Closing balance in the account	2,194	10:00	NIL
Change attributable to:		11:00	NIL
Money market activity	NIL	11:30	NIL
LAF today	-575	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.0 *+0.3* 30.9.95

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Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

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Following is the full text of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on RTHK's "Letter to Hong Kong" this (Sunday) morning:

Do you have the feeling that anything revolutionary has happened in the last few weeks? That Hong Kong has been convulsed by change? That the ground has shifted, as in some great geological disaster, beneath our feet?

You don't feel any of that? Things still seem pretty normal to you? Well, they do to me as well. September has been a momentous month, but not exactly earth-shattering.

That must come as quite a shock to some people. They predicted that the much promised, steady, not-too-fast, not-too-slow democratisation of Hong Kong would at best see us falling flat on our face, and at worst that it would bring havoc and turmoil.

They said that about our District Board elections. But no havoc.

They said it again about our Municipal Council elections. No turmoil then, either.

And two Sundays ago, we carried through the first elections for a wholly elected Legislative Council. And once again Hong Kong people took it in their stride. A free people exercising their freedom responsibly and maturely.

Three things struck me about the elections.

First, sometimes it's said that no one in Hong Kong is really all that interested in politics. Well, frankly, no one anywhere is all that interested in politics. People in Hong Kong are about as interested in politics as people anywhere else. Which is to say that if you ask them whether they want to be consulted a bit more or a bit less about their destiny, about the way the community is run on their behalf, they opt for a bit more say.

The international magazine, "The Economist", had a fascinating little chart in their edition last week showing how Hong Kong people have gradually, but enthusiastically, come to exercise their civic rights. It noted that in 1981 just over 6,000 - yes, that was 6,000 - votes were cast, whereas over the last year about 3 million votes have been dropped into the territory's ballot boxes.

The second thing that impressed me about our elections was - once again - the moderation and decency of the campaign and of the comments afterwards. Big issues discussed without rancour. Vigorous debate conducted courteously. I shall always recall the dignity and good grace of some of the losing speeches. Magnanimity isn't always easy in victory; it's a good deal more difficult in defeat. Yet we saw and heard it here in abundance. And, of course, we listened to many of the winners accepting, with a touch of humility, the huge responsibility that goes with electoral success. There's been no crowing since the elections. No auction of promises that none of us will be able to afford. Those of us who've experienced elections in other countries might sometimes compare and contrast the much less responsible behaviour we've often seen elsewhere.

My third impression is about the consistency of Hong Kong's voters. In 1991, just after Tiananmen, a bit over 60% of voters supported those usually regarded as the most pro-democracy candidates. "A flash in the pan", some people said. Well, four years on - and once again about the same proportion have backed the same candidates. Opinion in Hong Kong doesn't seem to budge very much, despite all the ups and downs of the last 4 years.

But it's worth noting that united front candidates did quite well, too - as did some Liberals and independents. So the new Legislative Council will represent the whole community, every shade of opinion in it. Everyone took part in the elections, and the result is a credible, broadly-based legislature.

Hong Kong has once again shown its maturity. But what happens next? Will these elections bring good government to a halt? Or will we be able to demonstrate that we can give Hong Kong what it was promised, specifically in 1984, "a firmly based democratic administration".

That is what we are determined to do. It's our job in this government to give a lead, and to take the final responsibility. But we want to work constructively and in partnership with legislators, playing our part in a shared endeavour for the good of the whole community. We'll discuss. Listen. Try to persuade. That's what happens in good government. There's give and take. But, naturally, at the end of the day the buck stops with me, with Anson Chan and Donald Tsang, and with our senior officials. Make no mistake, we are confident that we can rise to the challenges ahead, as successfully as the whole community has met those of the last few years.

The votes two weeks ago weren't votes for irresponsibility. They weren't votes for endless political punch-ups. They were votes for Hong Kong's much promised high degree of autonomy. Votes for Hong Kong's way of life. And votes for the formula on which our success has been built.

Business-friendly government with a heart. Low taxes. Prudent spending. The link to the US dollar. Growing help for the needy, the sick, the disabled. Better education. Safe homes and streets.

We know that there are some issues which worried more and more people as the election campaign unfolded. That's what the legislators and political parties have been telling me this week. Above all, worries about unemployment. It may be low by international standards. But it's high by ours. And for everyone who loses a job, that means 100% unemployment - at least until another decent employment opportunity comes along. So perhaps more than any other measure, we've got to work with legislators to make sure that we can create more jobs, good jobs, that will last.

In a complex society like ours that's not just a matter for the planners and economists. There's that intangible factor called confidence, too. If we in Hong Kong can demonstrate convincingly, as I believe we can, that democratic advance and good government can go hand-in-hand, that, more than almost anything else, will convince investors here and in the rest of the world that Hong Kong is still the best place to put your money. And the jobs, the growth and the prosperity will continue to follow.

How much that would be helped if Chinese officials would show for their part that the best way of learning about Hong Kong, about our success and how to safeguard it, is to talk to the people who most clearly represent the majority views of the community. Talk to others certainly. But it doesn't make sense to exclude the men and women that Hong Kong votes for. They're the best people to tell you what this place is really thinking.

Sooner or later the talking will have to start. So let's make it sooner. That's what the people want. And it's not really much to ask, about 600 days from the handover, is it?

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Warning on stealing water from public fire services

The Water Supplies Department today (Sunday) warns the public that it is an offence to tamper with and steal water from public fire service installations.

The warning is issued following three recent court cases involving such offences.

In the first case, a Kwai Chung metal electroplating operator was caught red-handed by the department's prosecution staff while drawing water from a fire service installation for his own use. He was fined \$2,500 and ordered to pay \$1,200 for the water misused.

In the other two cases, the operators of a Kwun Tong factory canteen and a Kowloon City restaurant were convicted of altering the fire service installations for food preparation. They were each fined \$1,500 in addition to a charge of \$250 for the water misused.

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Seminar on prevention of drug abuse

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Members of the public are invited to join a seminar on October 14 which aims to allow parents, teachers and social workers to share ideas on the prevention of teenage drug abuse.

Organised by the Kwun Tong District Fight Crime Committee and sponsored by the Kwun Tong District Board, the seminar will be held from 2 pm and 5 pm in the Kwun Tong Community Centre at 17 Tsui Ping Road, Kwun Tong.

Participants are free to join the small group discussions with experienced teachers, social workers and representatives from voluntary agencies.

Topics will include an introduction to various types of drugs, reasons for teenagers becoming drug abusers, ways to help youngsters stay away from drugs and how to lead a normal life after rehabilitation.

A former drug addict who had overcome the problem successfully and eventually became a deputy chief executive of the Wu Oi Christian Centre, Mr Lee Fai-ping, will talk about his own experience at the seminar which will be conducted in Cantonese.

Application forms are now available at the Kwun Tong District Office on the ground floor of Kwun Tong District Branch Offices Building, 6 Tung Yan Street, or at the Yau Tong Sub-office on the ground floor of Ko Yuen House, Ko Yee Estate, Yau Tong.

Completed forms should reach the Yau Tong Sub-office by post or fax, 2717 1225, before October 6.

For enquiries, please contact the Yau Tong Sub-office on 2775 0211.

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