



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1993

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1993

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GOVERNOR AT PUBLIC MEETING

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GOVERNOR: THIS IS YOUR EVENING, I'VE SPOKEN FOR TOO LONG ALREADY THIS WEEK. PERHAPS I CAN JUST REMIND YOU OF THE ONLY RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. WE WANT TO FIT IN AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE, SO IF QUESTIONERS COULD KEEP THEIR QUESTIONS AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE AND NOT MAKE LONG STATEMENTS IT WOULD BE HELPFUL. I WILL ALSO LET YOU INTO A SECRET, IT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT WHEN YOU ARE ASKED SHORT QUESTIONS THAN WHEN YOU ARE ASKED LONG QUESTIONS. WHAT I WILL DO IS TO CALL ABOUT THREE QUESTIONERS AT A TIME AND INDICATE THE MICROPHONES FOR YOU AND THEN IF YOU COULD COME OUT AND WAIT PATIENTLY AT THE MICROPHONE, YOU WILL GET YOUR TURN VERY QUICKLY.

ONE LAST POINT, WE HAVE GOT TO BE OUT OF HERE AT 7.15 OTHERWISE WE BECOME PART OF THE NEXT PERFORMANCE. SO LET'S SEE HOW MANY QUESTIONS WE CAN GET THROUGH IN THE THE NEXT HOUR-AND-TWENTY-MINUTES. WOULD YOU LIKE TO RAISE YOUR HANDS, ANYBODY WHO WOULD LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION. RIGHT, IF WE START WITH THE LADY HERE. THERE IS THEN A GENTLEMAN IN A RED AND WHITE STRIPED SHIRT IN THE MIDDLE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO TO NUMBER SIX. AND THEN THERE IS A LADY HERE - IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO TO NUMBER FOUR. ALRIGHT? AND THEN THE GENTLEMAN IN THE GREEN SHIRT, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO UP TO NUMBER SEVEN. NUMBER ONE.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS CHANCE TO SPEAK TO YOU. I THINK YOU ARE A VERY SMART PERSON BECAUSE YOU HAVE COME HERE FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AND YOU'VE ALREADY LEARNED A LOT ABOUT CHINESE CULTURE, AND YOU CAN QUOTE A VERY FAMOUS CHINESE VERSE FROM THE TANG DYNASTY, THAT IS: 'IF YOU WANT TO SEE BETTER, YOU HAVE TO CLIMB HIGHER', ALTHOUGH I NEVER KNOW HOW HIGH I SHOULD CLIMB BECAUSE THERE ARE ALL HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG.

THERE IS ONE MORE POINT I WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE YOU. MAYBE IT IS BETTER FOR YOU TO LEARN CHINESE MUSIC TOO, AND THE MUSIC OFFICE IN HONG KONG, THEY ORGANISE A LOT OF GOOD COURSES. ALL THESE COURSES ARE IN POPULAR DEMAND AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO FAIL TO GET IN. YOU HAVE GIVEN A CONCERT IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SO I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MUSIC LOVER, BUT THEN I HEARD THAT YOU ARE GOING TO DISSOLVE THE MUSIC OFFICE. I THINK IT IS A GREAT PITY. AND IF YOU CAN GIVE THE CHILDREN OF HONG KONG A CHANCE TO LEARN MUSIC, IT WILL BE A VERY GOOD THING FOR THEM, AND FOR YOURSELF TOO. IF YOU CAN LEARN CHINESE MUSIC, THEN WHEN YOU GO BACK TO LONDON, YOU CAN INTRODUCE CHINESE MUSIC AND CHINESE CULTURE TO YOUR PEOPLE. I THINK THIS WILL DO GOOD FOR SINO-HK RELATIONS, SO AFTER THIS EVENING IS FINISHED, I HOPE YOU WON'T DISSOLVE THE MUSIC OFFICE.

GOVERNOR: IS THAT YOUR QUESTION? GOOD.

/QUESTION

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): AND MY SECOND QUESTION IS: YOU TALKED ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. I THINK IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, TO SAFEGUARD THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN HONG KONG, BUT YOU SHOULD ALSO TRY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE JOURNALISTS. I THINK IN HONG KONG THE STATUS OF THE JOURNALIST IS NOT VERY RESPECTED. ALL THESE JOURNALISTS, I THINK, THEY HAVE A LOT OF GRIEVANCES IN THEIR WORK. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY HAVE TO GO OUT TO WORK, FOR EXAMPLE, DURING TYPHOONS, AND THEY HAVE TO COVER NEWS LIKE ROBBERIES, AND THEIR LIVES ARE IN DANGER. I THINK NOBODY KNOWS THEIR GRIEVANCES AND NOBODY INTERVIEWS THEM TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THEIR GRIEVANCES. AND WHEN THEY INTERVIEW SOME BIG-SHOTS, THEY MIGHT BE COLD-SHOULDERED. SO THESE ARE ALL THEIR GRIEVANCES. AND FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO THE BIRD WHO SINGS IN THE CAGE, BUT IF THIS BIRD LIVES WITH HARASSMENT, DO YOU THINK IT CAN SING HAPPILY?

GOVERNOR: WELL, THERE ARE A LOT OF BIRDS OVER THERE, AND I THINK YOU WILL BE THE MOST POPULAR MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE AS FAR AS THEY ARE CONCERNED. A FREE PRESS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF A FREE AND OPEN SOCIETY. A FREE PRESS IS ONE OF THE WAYS THAT WE CAN ALL ASK QUESTIONS AND PREVENT, FOR EXAMPLE, CORRUPTION SEEPING INTO OUR SOCIETY. I ARGUED A FEW DAYS AGO THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT JOURNALISTS AND EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS STAND UP FOR THE VALUES OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND A FREE PRESS. MANY JOURNALISTS HAVE PAID FOR THOSE VALUES WITH THEIR LIVES OR THEIR LIBERTY, SO THE JOURNALIST'S IS A PROFESSION WHICH WE SHOULD ALL HONOUR WHEN IT IS CARRIED OUT WITH INTEGRITY AND COMMITMENT. WE ALSO HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR OWN LAWS DON'T INHIBIT OR PREVENT THE ACTIVITIES OF A FREE PRESS, AND WE ARE REVIEWING OUR LAWS AT THE MOMENT TO TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN.

I AGREE WITH YOU ON THE FIRST POINT YOU MADE ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE WORK THAT WAS DONE BY THE MUSIC OFFICE. THAT WORK ISN'T BEING CLOSED DOWN, IT IS BEING TRANSFERRED, AS I THINK YOU KNOW, TO THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS. THAT ACADEMY DOES A WONDERFUL JOB AND ORGANISES THE PUBLIC CONCERTS THAT WE HOLD IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE, AND AT THOSE CONCERTS WE HAVE CHINESE MUSIC AS WELL AS WESTERN MUSIC, SO I AM STARTING TO LEARN ABOUT IT.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, MAY I ASK YOU, APART FROM YOUR CONCERNS WITH THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, SHOULD YOU PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM BECAUSE THE PROBLEMS OF STUDENTS SUICIDE, THE UNDESIRABLE SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE AND THE YOUTH PROBLEMS ARE DETERIORATING AND THEY ARE HAVING A GREATER AND GREATER IMPACT ON THE SOCIETY. SO, APART FROM GIVING MORE FUNDING AND MORE TEACHERS, DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD REVIEW THE EDUCATION SYSTEM WHICH WAS FORMULATED MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO? DO YOU THINK IT STILL FITS THE MODERN DAY SOCIETY?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT WE NEED A FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, BUT I DO AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE QUALITY OF OUR EDUCATION AND NOT JUST THE QUANTITY. SO, TO TAKE A PARTICULAR EXAMPLE, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE MORE TEACHERS SO WE CAN BRING DOWN CLASS SIZES BUT IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT FOR US TO RAISE THE STANDARDS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION WHICH IS WHY I ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE - WE ARE GOING TO SPEND MORE MONEY ON MORE GRADUATE TEACHERS. BUT WHAT WE'VE ALSO GOT TO REMEMBER IS THAT EDUCATION ISN'T JUST ABOUT CRAMMING FOR EXAMS. WE'VE GOT TO REMEMBER THOSE STUDENTS WHO AREN'T PARTICULARLY GOOD AT EXAMS BUT STILL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GIVE THEM. SO WE ARE GIVING ALL THOSE SCHOOLS - THERE ARE WELL OVER NINETY OF THEM - WHICH LOOK AFTER THE NEEDS OF BAND FIVE STUDENTS - EXTRA TEACHERS AND EXTRA HELP. BUT THERE IS ONE OTHER POINT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ADD. OF COURSE WE HAVE SOCIAL PROBLEMS HERE IN HONG KONG. THERE ARE SOME DRUG PROBLEMS, THERE IS CRIME BUT LESS THAN IN MOST SIMILAR CITIES. AND THERE IS CRIME BY YOUNG PEOPLE BUT AGAIN, NOT AS MUCH AS INCOMPARABLE COMMUNITIES. THE REASON I BELIEVE WHY WE HAVE FEWER PROBLEMS THAN MANY OTHER COMMUNITIES - AND IT IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO HOLD ON TO - IS BECAUSE WE IN HONG KONG HAVE A STRONGER FAMILY STRUCTURE THAN MANY OTHER COMMUNITIES. SO WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN IN OUR WELFARE AND OUR OTHER POLICIES TO GO ON SUPPORTING THE FAMILY.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PATTEN, YOU ARE THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, DO YOU KNOW WE HAVE A VERY FAMOUS JUDGE IN ANCIENT CHINA WHO'S NAME IS MR BAO? WHEN YOU RECEIVE ALL THESE MANY MANY PETITIONS FROM THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, HAVE YOU GIVEN THEM ANY CONCLUSION IN A FAIR AND JUST MANNER? IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH YOU WROTE 'BEHIND THE FIGURES ARE STILL TOO MANY CRIMES, TOO MANY LIVES RISKED, TOO MANY INNOCENT VICTIMS. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS?

YOU STILL HAVE FOUR MORE YEARS TO GO IN HONG KONG. WHAT ARE THOSE PROBLEMS OF HONG KONG THAT YOU ARE GOING TO SOLVE FOR THEM? WITHIN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, THAT IS THE CIVIL SERVICE, AND THE LAW ENFORCING AGENTS, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THEIR EFFICIENCY, AND THEIR MORALE AND THEIR CORRUPTION PROBLEM?

MY LAST QUESTION TO YOU IS MR PATTEN, YOU ARE THE HUSBAND OF YOUR WIFE, YOU ARE THE FATHER OF YOUR DAUGHTER, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T JUST HAVE ONE DAUGHTER. I HAVE THREE DAUGHTERS. SO, I HAVE FOUR PEOPLE, IN ADDITION TO YOU, WHO TELL ME I MUST DO MORE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS. IT'S AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ISSUE IN EVERY COMMUNITY. A VERY FAMOUS FIGURE OF THIS CENTURY WHO LIVED NOT FAR FROM HERE USED TO TALK ABOUT THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO HELD UP HALF THE SKY. HE MEANT OF COURSE WOMEN, BUT WOMEN HAVEN'T, IN HISTORY, HAD THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES AS MEN. IT CAN START RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING OF LIFE, IT CAN START AT SCHOOL WHERE GIRLS HAVEN'T ALWAYS HAD THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES TO GET ON AS BOYS; AND IT PARTICULARLY AFFECTS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. WE PUBLISHED A GREEN PAPER, A DISCUSSION PAPER IN AUGUST ON THE ISSUE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS. AND WE'VE ALREADY RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF RESPONSES TO THAT. WE'LL BE ANSWERING ALL THOSE RESPONSES EARLY NEXT YEAR AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS WE WILL HAVE TO COME TO IS WHETHER HONG KONG SHOULD JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT THAT BANS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. IT'S WHAT I THINK MOST OF THE WOMEN'S GROUPS IN HONG KONG WANT US TO DO.

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YOU ASKED TWO OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH I'LL RESPOND TO BRIEFLY. FIRST, ON CIVIL SERVANTS, WE HAVE ONE OF THE BEST CIVIL SERVICES IN THE WORLD. THEY ARE, I BELIEVE, AS DETERMINED TO FIGHT CORRUPTION AS THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY. WE'VE GIVEN THE COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION MORE RESOURCES TO FIGHT CORRUPTION BOTH IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND IN THE BUSINESS WORLD. AND WE'VE TRIED TO MEET CIVIL SERVICE ANXIETIES ABOUT THE PAYMENT OF THEIR PENSIONS AFTER 1997 BY THE SCHEME THAT I ANNOUNCED ON WEDNESDAY, THE SETTING UP OF FUND AS A SORT OF INSURANCE POLICY FOR THEIR PENSIONS.

ON CRIME, WE HAVE, AS YOU SAID, TO WORK VERY HARD TO ENSURE THAT THE FALL IN VIOLENT CRIME THAT WE'VE SEEN OVER THE LAST YEAR CONTINUES. THERE ARE THREE CRUCIAL ELEMENTS IN TRYING TO BRING DOWN CRIME. FIRST OF ALL, WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE ENOUGH POLICE. WE ARE PUTTING ANOTHER 800 POLICE ON THE STREET AND WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT LEGAL POWERS, WHICH IS WHY WE ARE TRYING TO GET THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE MOMENT A BILL WHICH WILL HELP US FIGHT TRIADS AND ORGANISED CRIME.

AND FINALLY, ALL OF US HAVE TO GIVE OUR POLICE FORCE THE SUPPORT THEY DESERVE BECAUSE AS WE KNOW, THEY ARE ONE OF THE BRAVEST AND BEST POLICE FORCES IN THE WORLD.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, I RESPECT YOU VERY MUCH AND THIS IS ABOUT THE FIFTH TIME I SHOOK HANDS WITH YOU AND SEE YOU AND I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH. ALL OF US CAN SEE THAT YOUR HAIR IS GETTING THINNER AND THINNER AND YOU ARE GREYING AND YOU HAVE DEVELOPED EYE-BAGS. SO, ALL OF THESE ARE EVIDENCE THAT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU AND YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM CORONARY DISEASE. THE REASON I CAME HERE IS TO GIVE YOU A PRESCRIPTION. YOU MAY NOT BE WILLING TO TAKE MY PRESCRIPTION BECAUSE I KNOW YOU ARE A VERY STUBBORN MAN AND YOU ONLY BELIEVE IN WESTERN MEDICINE BUT THE CHINESE MEDICINE HAS A LONG HISTORY AND THERE MUST BE SOMETHING GOOD IN IT. IF YOU ARE NOT SO STUBBORN AND YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE MY PRESCRIPTION THEN I THINK IT WILL DO YOU GOOD. DO YOU WANT IT?

GOVERNOR: I'D LOVE IT AND PERHAPS WE CAN HAVE A WORD AFTERWARDS AND YOU CAN GIVE ME YOUR PRESCRIPTION.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MY PRESCRIPTION IS A VERY FAMOUS CHINESE HERB. IT CAN CURE ALL.

GOVERNOR: MAY BE IT WILL ALSO ENABLE ME TO RUN THE 10,000 METRES VERY RAPIDLY. I MUST SAY, WHEN I HEARD YOUR VERY KIND REMARKS I STARTED TO FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF. WHO IS THIS POOR BROKEN DOWN OLD FELLOW I THOUGHT. THANKS TO SOME VERY GOOD DOCTORS IN HONG KONG, AND THANKS TO THE FACT THAT I'VE LOST WEIGHT - THOUGH NOT ENOUGH - I AM NOW ABLE ON THE TESTS THAT I DO ON THE TREADMILL IN THE HOSPITAL TO GET TO THAT STAGE WHERE THEY'D ALLOW ME TO BECOME A FIREMAN. AND THE BAGS UNDER MY EYES ARE A PRODUCT OF HEREDITY, AS ONE OF MY DAUGHTERS REGULARLY GRUMBLES, BUT SHE WOULDN'T THANK ME IF I TOLD YOU WHICH ONE.

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO NUMBER 2. AND HERE IS A GENTLEMAN WITH A BIG RED QUESTION-MARK HERE - IF HE WOULD LIKE TO COME TO NUMBER 1. AND THERE'S A GENTLEMAN HOLDING UP A COPY OF MY SPEECH IN HIS LEFT HAND, DO YOU WANT TO GO TO NUMBER 3? SO, IF WE START WITH THE LADY AT NUMBER 2, AND THEN NUMBER 1, AND THEN NUMBER 3, AND THEN THERE'S A GENTLEMAN IN A SUIT, AT THE BACK, PUTTING UP HIS LEFT-HAND WHO MIGHT LIKE TO GO TO NUMBER 7. THERE ARE THREE GENTLEMEN IN SUITS! YES, I MEANT THAT ONE. I THINK HE IS EITHER VERY FASHIONABLY DRESSED OR WEARING A CLERICAL COLLAR. RIGHT, NUMBER 2.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, IN YOUR LAST POLICY SPEECH YOU BROUGHT US A LOT OF NEW HOPE, BUT IN YOUR PRESENT POLICY SPEECH, IT SHOWS THAT YOU HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL REVISION TO YOUR POLITICAL PACKAGE; YOU ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE DEMOCRACY FOR THE THROUGH TRAIN. IF THE ELECTION IS NOT DEMOCRATIC, IT IS NOT VERY IMPORTANT WHETHER THERE IS A THROUGH TRAIN OR NOT. YOUR CONCESSION PLEASES NOBODY BECAUSE THE CHINESE SIDE IS STILL ATTACKING YOU SEVERELY THESE FEW DAYS. I WISH YOU WOULD STAND FIRM BY YOUR PRINCIPLES TO HOLD FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS FOR HONG KONG, AND TO HOLD A REFERENDUM FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE LEGCO MEMBERS. I DON'T THINK IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO HOLD A REFERENDUM.

SECONDLY, I WISH YOU WOULD ABOLISH ALL THE UNFAIR PROVISIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ORDINANCE, ESPECIALLY THOSE REGARDING WOMEN, SUCH AS: THE WOMEN HAVE NO HEREDITARY RIGHTS. I THINK THE MALE RESIDENTS SHOULD NOT ENJOY ANY PRIVILEGES.

MY LAST POINT IS, IN VIEW OF THE FREQUENT INCURSION OF THE CHINESE SECURITY BOATS INTO HONG KONG WATERS, IT SEEMS THAT THE HONG KONG POLICE ARE NOT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT THIS. IS IT THAT YOU CANNOT DO ANYTHING?

GOVERNOR: LET ME ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER. WE DO HAVE TO DEAL, FROM TIME TO TIME, WITH INCURSIONS INTO OUR WATERS, AND THEY ARE DEALT WITH BY OUR MARINE POLICE. I THINK THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THOSE INCURSIONS FIRMLY BUT DIPLOMATICALLY. AND I MUST SAY THIS, BECAUSE I AM ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELFARE AND THE SAFETY OF OUR POLICE: WHILE WE ALL RECOGNISE THAT THEY HAVE TO TAKE RISKS AND RUN DANGERS EVERY DAY IN PURSUIT OF CRIMINALS, I WOULD NOT WANT THEM TO TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS IN DEALING WITH INCURSIONS WHICH ARE VERY OFTEN THE RESULTS OF MISTAKES.

SECONDLY, IN REVERSE ORDER OR IN THE PROPER ORDER SINCE YOU ASKED THREE QUESTIONS, I'M SURE THAT WE WILL GET A LOT OF REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES ORDINANCE FROM WOMEN'S GROUPS AND FROM OTHERS IN RELATION TO THE GREEN PAPER WHICH I REFERRED TO WHEN I WAS ANSWERING THE EARLIER QUESTION. BUT THERE IS ONE PARTICULAR ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM WHICH I DON'T THINK WE CAN LEAVE FOR VERY MUCH LONGER: THE TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS AND LAWS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE NOW AFFECTED, AS THE HOUSING AUTHORITY POINTED OUT THE OTHER DAY, THE TENURE OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE MOVED INTO THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE LAST FEW YEARS AND AREN'T INDIGENOUS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES. THAT HAS CAUSED A LOT OF ANXIETIES AND WORRIES AND I THINK WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO ADDRESS THAT PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SOON.

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NOW YOU ASKED ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, THAT WAS YOUR FIRST QUESTION. NOW I WANT TO MAKE A NUMBER OF THINGS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, AND NOT JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME BUT IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY. WE ARE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP OUR PRINCIPLES. WE ARE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP THE PRINCIPLE THAT HONG KONG DESERVES AND WILL GET FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS. WE ARE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THOSE ELECTIONS MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. WE ARE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP THE PRINCIPLE THAT WE HAVE, BEFORE 1997, TO STAND UP FOR HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE, AND IF WE DO THAT, THE WAY OF LIFE OF HONG KONG IS MORE LIKELY TO SURVIVE FOR DECADES AND CENTURIES AFTER 1997.

WE ARE GENUINELY TRYING, IN THE TALKS THAT WE ARE HAVING WITH CHINA, TO FIND AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL GIVE US FAIR AND OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE ELECTIONS, AND WHICH WILL SECURE THE SO-CALLED THROUGH TRAIN, SO THAT WE HAVE AS PEACEFUL AND SUCCESSFUL A TRANSITION AS POSSIBLE. IN ORDER TO TRY TO SECURE THAT, BECAUSE I THINK MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD LIKE US TO SECURE THAT OBJECTIVE, WE HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO PUT FORWARD NEW PROPOSALS, CONDITIONAL ON GETTING AN OVERALL ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT. THOSE PROPOSALS WOULD, IN MY VIEW, PROVIDE FOR FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, THOSE PROPOSALS THAT WE'VE MADE STILL HAVEN'T SECURED THE BREAKTHROUGH WHICH I THINK THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO SEE. WE WILL GO ON TRYING, PATIENTLY, CREATIVELY, FLEXIBLY, HONESTLY, SINCERELY - WHAT ELSE CAN I SAY? WE WILL TRY TO SECURE AN AGREEMENT, BUT IF YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME KNOCKING ON WHAT YOU THINK IS A DOOR AND IT TURNS OUT TO BE A BRICK-WALL, THERE COMES A MOMENT WHEN YOU HAVE TO GO AWAY AND GET ON WITH LIFE AS BEST YOU CAN. SO WHETHER WE GET AN AGREEMENT OR WHETHER WE DON'T GET AN AGREEMENT, AT THE END OF THE DAY WE WILL HAVE TO GO TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH OUR PROPOSALS, AND IT IS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACTING FOR THE COMMUNITY, TO PASS THE LEGISLATION OR AMEND THE LEGISLATION. IT IS THEIR ROLE, AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE RIGHT IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES TO HAVE A REFERENDUM WHICH WOULD I THINK PERHAPS ENCOURAGE SOME PEOPLE TO THINK THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DIDN'T HAVE THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING THESE MATTERS. SO, WE WILL BE SINCERE AND FLEXIBLE BUT WE ARE NOT GOING TO ABANDON OUR PRINCIPLES.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PATTEN, I AM SURPRISED TO SEE THAT IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH THERE ARE SOME PLACES WHICH ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS. THIS IS YOUR PUBLIC HOUSING SCHEME AND YOUR CROWN LANDS LAWS. I THINK IN YOUR PUBLIC HOUSING SCHEME YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM AT THE ROOT. EVERYTHING YOU DO ARE JUST STOP GAP MEASURES AND I THINK THE WAY TO CURE THE WHOLE PROBLEM, YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE LAND AND YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE CROWN LAND ORDINANCE. IN THE CROWN LAND ORDINANCE CHAPTER 28 OF THE LAWS OF HONG KONG, IN WHICH IT WAS LAID DOWN THIS ORDINANCE. IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS IT WAS LAID DOWN THAT THE CROWN LAND ORDINANCE WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE AFTER 8 OF JUNE 1991. I HAVE WRITTEN YOU ABOUT THIS AND I HAVE GOT A REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS AND HE AGREES TO INCLUDE MY POINT OF VIEW INTO THE REVIEW OF LANDS LAW. SO, WOULD YOU MAKE CORRECTION TO THIS CROWN LAND ORDINANCE WHICH VIOLATES THE BILL OF RIGHTS, TO GIVE BACK ALL THE LAND TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: WELL, CAN I SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS THE BEST WAY OF YOU AND I PURSUING THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SUBJECT IS FOR YOU TO GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO ONE OF THE STEWARDS AND WE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU ABOUT WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT, BUT RATHER TECHNICAL LEGAL POINT. YOU OBVIOUSLY FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT IT AND YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT IT BUT I THINK PROBABLY THE BEST THING FOR US TO DO WOULD BE TO PROCEED IN THAT WAY SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A PROPER EXCHANGE SO THAT I CAN SEND YOU A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION AND ENSURE THAT YOUR POINT OF VIEW IS REVIEWED WHEN WE LOOK AT THE LANDS ORDINANCE.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS, ONE LONG AND ONE SHORT.

GOVERNOR: NOT TOO LONG I HOPE.

QUESTIONER: PARAGRAPH 14 OF YOUR POLICY ADDRESS IS ABOUT CONSUMERS' RIGHTS. WHEN WE THINK ABOUT CONSUMERS' RIGHTS WE WILL THINK ABOUT THE BAD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES WE HAVE BOUGHT AND THE BAD SERVICES WE HAVE GOT. MR GOVERNOR, DO YOU KNOW THAT THE BIGGEST SALE IN HONG KONG IS THE SALE OF FLATS AND A LOT OF SMALL FLAT OWNERS ARE TREATED UNFAIRLY. FOR ONE TO BUY AN ELECTRIC COOKER HE ONLY HAS TO SPEND A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS, BUT TO BUY A FLAT IT WILL COST HIM MILLIONS. SO I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU SOME PRACTICAL OPINION IN THIS RESPECT. NOW WHEN THE SMALL OWNERS BUY THE UNCOMPLETED FLATS FROM THE DEVELOPER THEY HAVE TO GO TO THE LAWYER DESIGNATED BY THESE DEVELOPERS. THEY HAVE NO CHOICE, THE CONSUMER HAS NO CHOICE. AND THE MOST UNFAIR THING ABOUT THIS IS THAT THE SMALL OWNERS HAVE TO SHOULDER ALL THE LEGAL COSTS BUT NOT THE DEVELOPERS. DO YOU KNOW THIS? IN THE SECONDARY MARKET THE VENDOR AND THE PURCHASER, THEY ALL HAVE TO SHARE THE LEGAL COST BUT WHEN THEY BUY UNCOMPLETED FLATS FROM THE DEVELOPER THE CONSUMER HAS TO PAY EVERYTHING SO THIS IS AN UNFAIR DEAL. AND THE SECOND UNFAIR ASPECT IS THAT THE PUBLIC COVENANT OF THE FLAT ARE ALL FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPERS. THE SMALL OWNERS HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO BUY THEIR FLAT, AND THEY HAVE TO SIGN THESE UNFAIR CONTRACTS. THIS UNFAIR PUBLIC COVENANTS WILL LEAD TO A LOT OF PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE IN THE FUTURE. IN THESE PUBLIC COVENANTS THE CONSUMERS HAVE TO USE THE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, THE INSURANCE COMPANIES AND SOMETIMES THE FINANCIAL COMPANIES AS DESIGNATED BY THE DEVELOPER. THEY HAVE NO CHOICE AT ALL. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS' RIGHTS AND YOU ARE REFERRING JUST TO ELECTRICAL COOKERS AND THINGS LIKE THAT, I DON'T THINK YOU ARE DOING ENOUGH.

SO I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT TO LAY DOWN GUIDANCE FOR HOW TO WRITE UP THESE MUTUAL COVENANTS. ALL THE PROVISIONS WHICH ARE UNFAIR TO CONSUMERS SHOULD BE DONE AWAY WITH. THANK YOU.

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: THAT'S AN IMPORTANT POINT. YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT TO SAY THAT IN PARAGRAPH 14 OF MY SPEECH WE SET OUT A NUMBER OF THINGS WE WANT TO DO TO HELP THE CONSUMER AND WE REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO FOUR IMPORTANT BILLS THAT WE ARE GOING TO INTRODUCE. ONE OF THE BILLS THAT WE INTEND TO INTRODUCE WILL ENABLE COURTS TO STRIKE DOWN AND RE-WRITE CONTRACT TERMS WHICH ARE PLAINLY UNFAIR TO CONSUMERS. WE ARE ALSO GOING TO PROVIDE THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, WHICH DOES A TREMENDOUS JOB ON BEHALF OF CONSUMERS WITH MORE MONEY SO THAT THEY CAN REPRESENT GROUPS OF CONSUMERS OVER PARTICULAR ISSUES WHICH CONCERN THEM. IN THE LIGHT OF THAT BILL, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THAT FUND TO HELP CONSUMERS I'LL TALK TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, ASK HIM WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT THE ARGUMENT YOU'VE PUT FORWARD AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT OUR CONCLUSIONS ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHETHER WE CAN INCLUDE THAT THE NEW CONSUMERS REPRESENTATIVE ACTION FUND SHOULD TAKE UP THE ISSUE THAT YOU'VE MENTIONED.

QUESTION: THANK YOU MR GOVERNOR. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO TURN AROUND AND LOOK AT THE PICTURE BEHIND YOU. IT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE YOU HAD LAST YEAR, BECAUSE IN WEST KOWLOON WE HAVE MORE LAND FROM RECLAMATION. IT'S A PITY THAT IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH THE POLITICAL SYSTEM HAS SHRUNKEN. LAST YEAR, YOU WERE PREPARED TO ABOLISH ALL THE APPOINTED SEATS IN THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND, ACTUALLY, THESE KIND OF BOLD MEASURES WERE FAR FROM ENOUGH BECAUSE THE EX-OFFICIO SEATS WERE STILL THERE SO, HAVE YOU DONE ENOUGH? BUT IN YOUR PRESENT POLICY ADDRESS I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE QUITE POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING MORE. IS IT BECAUSE OF THE CHINESE STRESS? SO I WOULD LIKE YOU TO GIVE YOU THIS FOR HONG KONG. (IN OWN VOICE) THAT IS THE ATTITUDE IN HONG KONG CONTEXT: "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE FIRM AND STOUT FOR THEY SHALL BRING FORTH DEMOCRACY FOR HONG KONG."

GOVERNOR: WHAT A WONDERFUL QUESTION. I AM NOT GOING TO REPEAT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT I SAID EARLIER IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION, THE VERY ELOQUENT QUESTION ASKED BY THE LADY FROM MICROPHONE NO.2. I THINK THOUGH THAT I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THREE THINGS. FIRST OF ALL, WE REMAIN ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO THE POLICY THAT WE SET OUT, TO THE PROPOSALS THAT WE SET OUT LAST YEAR ON THE FUTURE OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS. I KNOW THAT THE POINT OF VIEW WHICH I AM ABOUT TO EXPRESS ISN'T SHARED BY EVERYBODY, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW WE COULD JUSTIFY CONTINUING TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WHEN WE WILL NO LONGER BE APPOINTING THEM TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SECONDLY, I'D LIKE TO OFFER ANOTHER BEATITUDE. IT GOES LIKE THIS. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TRY TO REACH AN HONOURABLE AGREEMENT. BUT I HAVE A THIRD POINT. WE WOULDN'T BE BLESSED IF WE REACHED AN AGREEMENT WHICH WAS DISHONOURABLE. I THINK WE WOULD BE CONDEMNED BY HISTORY AS WELL AS THIS COMMUNITY FOR HAVING ABANDONED OUR PRINCIPLES AND, I REPEAT, THAT IS NOT WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO. OKAY?

CAN I JUST SAY THIS. IT'S NOW FIVE PAST SEVEN. WE MUST ASK VERY SHORT QUESTIONS, VERY SHORT QUESTIONS, BECAUSE OTHERWISE WE WON'T GET MANY MORE IN.

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR YOU HAVE TALKED A LOT OF ABOUT THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF UNSCRUPULOUS MERCHANTS WHO CHEATED ON WEIGHTS BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T HAVE A SCALE AT HOME. I HAVE A SCALE AT HOME, I KNOW A LOT OF THESE TRICKS AND I HAVE REPORTED THESE KINDS OF FRAUDS AND CHEATINGS TO THE CUSTOMS. BUT THERE IS NO ORDINANCE AND THERE IS NOTHING TO COMBAT THIS SERIOUSLY.

GOVERNOR: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL IS GOING TO BE VERY BUSY. HE IS A VERY GOOD MAN, PROFESSOR CHEN, AND I WILL TAKE UP THAT POINT WITH HIM AND, IF YOU GIVE US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, WE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU AND TELL YOU WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO. BUT I AM VERY PLEASED THAT WE WON'T HAVE TO COME AROUND AND CHECK YOUR SCALES.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, I AM VERY IMPRESSED BY YOUR ELOQUENCE, YOUR HIGH LEVEL OF ENERGY AND YOUR SENSE OF HUMOUR. BEING A CANADIAN CITIZEN I BRING GREETINGS TO YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FROM CANADA. I AGREE WITH YOU YOUR PROGRESSIVE MEASURES REGARDING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION BUT I HAVE TWO CONCERNS. EVEN EDUCATORS IN CANADA ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THERE'S A HIGH RATE OF SUICIDE AMONG EVEN THE YOUNG SCHOOL CHILDREN IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS THE CRIME; THERE MAY BE SOME CRIMES AMONG SCHOOLS. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HANDLE ALL THESE TWO ISSUES? AND I HOPE YOU WILL VISIT CANADA AGAIN, PARTICULARLY ONTARIO NEXT TIME. THANK YOU.

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, THROUGH YOU, THAT WE ALL KNOW IN HONG KONG THAT CANADA IS ONE OF OUR BEST FRIENDS IN THE WORLD. MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG KNOW THAT VERY DIRECTLY BOTH AS A RESULT OF THE GREAT FESTIVAL WHICH CANADA HELD HERE A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AND BECAUSE THEY'VE HAD AS ENJOYABLE A TRIP TO CANADA AS I HAD A FEW MONTHS BACK.

YOU RAISED A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE - SUICIDES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE. I THINK THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS WE HAVE TO DO AND, OF COURSE, AT THE CENTRE OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM IS THE PROVISION OF ENOUGH TEACHERS AND ENOUGH SOCIAL WORKERS AND WE ARE INCREASING THE NUMBERS OF BOTH. WE MADE COMMITMENTS ON BOTH THOSE ISSUES IN MY SPEECH LAST YEAR. IN THE BACK OF THE SPEECH THERE IS A SECTION WHICH SHOWS WHERE WE'VE GOT WITH ALL THOSE PLEDGES. THE ONES THAT WE'VE MANAGED TO ACHIEVE WHICH ARE MOST OF THEM SO FAR, AND THE AREAS WHERE WE'VE FAILED AS WELL, BECAUSE IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHERE WE ARE NOT DOING AS WELL AS WE'D LIKE SO THAT WE CAN IMPROVE OUR PERFORMANCE. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WHILE WE ENCOURAGE OUR CHILDREN AT SCHOOL TO WORK AS HARD AS POSSIBLE, TO DO THEIR BEST, WE SHOULDN'T PUT SO MUCH PRESSURE ON THEM AS MAY LEAD SOME OF THEM TO THESE TERRIBLE ACTS OF SELF-DESTRUCTION.

NOW, WE HAVE LITERALLY TIME FOR ONE QUESTION, IF IT'S EXTREMELY SHORT.

/QUESTION

QUESTION (THROUGH INTERPRETER): THANK YOU MR GOVERNOR, MY QUESTION WILL BE SHORT. ACTUALLY I HAVE A PETITION AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO REDRESS THE WRONG DONE TO US. YOU ARE A SUPPORTER OF THE ARTS AND YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT HOW THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS ORGANISED CONCERTS AT YOUR HOME. BUT DO YOU KNOW THAT THE ARTISTS ARE LIVING IN A VERY POOR - THE ARTISTS ARE VERY POOR - THEY HAVE NO STUDIOS AND IF THEY CANNOT SELL THEIR PAINTINGS THEY HAVE NOWHERE TO LIVE. AND IN THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, WE HOPE THAT SOME OF THE ARTISTS CAN GET INTO THIS COUNCIL AND DO SOMETHING FOR THESE ARTISTS. BUT ACCORDING TO THE MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RELEASED TODAY, THERE IS NOT ONE FROM THE CIRCLE OF VISUAL ART. SO WHY IS THIS LIKE THIS? OUT OF THE TWELVE MEMBERS, SIX WERE FROM THE ENTERTAINING BUSINESS. SO YOUR MEANING OF ARTS, IS IT EQUIVALENT TO ENTERTAINING BUSINESS? ARE YOU A TRUE SUPPORTER OF ARTS?

GOVERNOR: WELL, ONE THING I AM A TRUE SUPPORTER OF, I HOPE, IS NOT JUST THE ARTS BUT THE VISUAL ARTS. THANKS TO THE HELP OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WE ARE ABLE TO DISPLAY IN THE PUBLIC ROOMS IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE SOME OF THE BEST WORKS OF ART BY TODAY'S HONG KONG ARTISTS - YOUNG ARTISTS LIKE WONG HOI AND OLDER ARTISTS LIKE LEWIS CHAN. BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WHICH WE'VE ESTABLISHED WILL TAKE THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE VISUAL ARTS AS ONE OF ITS MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES. AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL WHOM WE'VE APPOINTED, SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG, IS ONE OF THE MOST GENEROUS PATRONS OF THE VISUAL ARTS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. HE HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL FOR CHINESE ARTS AND HE HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL FOR MUSEUMS.

NOW, WE'VE HAD QUESTIONS TONIGHT ON EVERYTHING FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE TO THE HEALTH SERVICE TO POLITICS AND WE'VE EVEN TOUCHED ON MY HAIR. NOW, HOW DO YOU SAY BAGS-UNDER-YOUR-EYES IN CANTONESE? YOU SEE, THEY'VE BEEN VERY CLEVER, THEY'VE WORKED VERY HARD, AND I'D LIKE US ALL TO THANK THEM VERY WARMLY FOR MAKING TONIGHT POSSIBLE.

BUT, ABOVE ALL, THANK YOU FOR COMING, THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH AN INTERESTING AND POLITE AUDIENCE AND, IF I DON'T SEE YOU BEFORE, I WILL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.

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GOODLAD VISITS HK

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THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, MR ALASTAIR GOODLAD, WILL PAY A TWO-DAY VISIT TO HONG KONG STARTING NEXT MONDAY (OCTOBER 11).

DURING THE VISIT, MR GOODLAD WILL MEET WITH THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

APART FROM ATTENDING A COMMUNITY LUNCH, THE MINISTER WILL VISIT A NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, THE WESTERN MARKET AND INSPECT THE MID-LEVELS ESCALATOR SYSTEM.

HE WILL ALSO OFFICIATE AT A GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL AND BRITISH COUNCIL BUILDING AT THE FORMER COLVIN HOUSE SITE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE MEDIA TO COVER THE ARRIVAL OF MR GOODLAD AND HIS VISIT TO CENTRAL AND WESTERN ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 11).

MR GOODLAD WILL ARRIVE BY FLIGHT BA 31 (ETA 10.45 AM). MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE PRESS ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING BY 10 AM.

THEY SHOULD CONFIRM THE ARRIVAL TIME WITH THE AIRLINE. IN CASE OF ANY CHANGE, THEY SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE PRESS ROOM 45 MINUTES IN ADVANCE.

TO COVER THE MINISTER'S VISIT TO CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT, PRESS MEMBERS SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE KNOWLES BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG BY 3.30 PM. GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED TO TAKE THE PRESS PARTY TO THE WESTERN MARKET AND THE MID-LEVELS ESCALATOR SITE.

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CS RECOGNISES FIGHT CRIME EFFORTS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SOON MAKE A DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER AND THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMME, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

"WE HAVE ACCORDED HIGH PRIORITY TO A WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMME AND WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A COCKTAIL RECEPTION OF DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES (DFCC).

SIR DAVID SAID THE CRIME RATE, ALREADY LOW, WAS ACTUALLY FALLING.

"THIS YEAR VIOLENT CRIME IS DOWN SIX PER CENT. VEHICLE THEFT, A MAJOR CAUSE OF CONCERN LAST YEAR, IS DOWN BY A QUARTER."

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE POLICE WHO, WITH GREAT DEDICATION, COURAGE AND SELFLESSNESS CONTINUE THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME.

HE SAID THE INTRODUCTION OF AN IMPROVED PAY PACKAGE AND THE ADOPTION OF A NEW RECRUITMENT STRATEGY HAD BEEN ABLE TO BRING THE POLICE UP TO FULL STRENGTH.

APART FROM POLICE'S EFFORTS, SIR DAVID SAID COMMUNITY SUPPORT WAS A KEY TO SUCCESS IN FIGHTING CRIME.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE FOR THE LAST SIX AND A HALF YEARS, SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD BEEN GREATLY IMPRESSED AND MUCH ENCOURAGED BY THE WORK DONE BY THE DFCC IN HELPING THE POLICE FIGHT CRIME AND IN ENHANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CRIME PREVENTION.

HE SAID MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER REMAINED ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TOP PRIORITIES AND EFFECTIVE LAWS WERE NEEDED TO COMBAT CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

HE HOPED THAT THE ORGANISED AND SERIOUS CRIMES BILL WHICH IS BEING STUDIED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD SOON BECOME LAW.

"SO THAT WE HAVE THE NECESSARY TOOLS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF TRIADS AND ORGANISED CRIME," HE SAID.

THE OUTGOING CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING AND REWARDING.

"CHALLENGING BECAUSE IN A CROWDED CITY SUCH AS HONG KONG, THE NEED FOR OUR CITIZENS TO FEEL SAFE, AND TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THOSE WHO ENFORCE THE LAW, IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

"REWARDING BECAUSE PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS LIKE YOURSELVES HAVE SHOWN THAT WE HAVE A COMMUNITY WHICH CARES ENOUGH TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD."

WORKING GROUP ON NEW ARTS BODY SET UP

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A PROVISIONAL HONG KONG ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HKADC) WILL BE ESTABLISHED WITH EFFECT FROM NEXT APRIL.

THE PROVISIONAL BODY IS TO PLAN AND PROMOTE THE BROAD DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, PLACING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE PERFORMING, VISUAL AND LITERARY ARTS.

AS PART OF THIS WORK IT WILL ALSO TAKE OVER THE EXISTING FUNCTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) WHICH WILL BE WOUND DOWN.

FROM APRIL 1995, A STATUTORY HKADC WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO TAKE OVER ALL OF THE POWERS, FUNCTIONS, STAFF, FUNDS AND OTHER RESOURCES OF THE PROVISIONAL BODY. THE STATUTORY BODY WILL OPERATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE UNDER WHICH IT IS ESTABLISHED.

GIVING DETAILS OF THE PLAN AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY) THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, A WORKING GROUP CHARGED WITH PREPARING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HKADC HAS BEEN SET UP.

SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG AND MS CHRISTINE LOH WHO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN RESPECTIVELY OF THE WORKING GROUP, AND ITS MEMBERS WERE INTRODUCED TO THE MEDIA AT THE CONFERENCE.

MR SO SAID FOLLOWING THE CONSULTATION AFTER THE RELEASE OF AN ARTS POLICY REVIEW REPORT IN MARCH THIS YEAR, A CONSENSUS HAD EMERGED IN THE COMMUNITY THAT HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE A NEW STATUTORY BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR ARTS DEVELOPMENT.

THE GOVERNOR, IN HIS POLICY SPEECH ON WEDNESDAY, HAD ANNOUNCED THE DECISION TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW STATUTORY BODY AND, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TO PROVIDE A GRANT OF \$100 MILLION IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR TO GIVE THE COUNCIL A GENEROUS FINANCIAL START.

THIS WILL BE IN ADDITION TO EXISTING RECURRENT FUNDING WHICH IS BEING SPENT ON THE ARTS.

THE MISSION OF HKADC IS TO:

- * PLAN AND PROMOTE THE BROAD DEVELOPMENT AND APPRECIATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, PLACING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE PERFORMING, VISUAL AND LITERARY ARTS;
- * LIAISE AND WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND EXISTING ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS, THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE AND OTHER INDEPENDENT BODIES INVOLVED IN THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS IN HONG KONG WHILE RESPECTING THEIR AUTONOMOUS POSITIONS;

- * ENGAGE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS; AND
- * ENGAGE IN SUCH OTHER ACTIVITIES AS THE GOVERNOR MAY, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL, PERMIT OR ASSIGN TO IT.

MR SO SAID: "THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE TASKED WITH DRAWING UP THE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES, TERMS OF REFERENCE, FUNCTIONS, OBJECTIVES, STRUCTURE, STAFFING AND MODUS OPERANDI THAT THE PROVISIONAL BODY NEEDS TO ENABLE IT TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION IN THE MOST APPROPRIATE MANNER FOR HONG KONG."

"IT WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS AND COMMENTS OF THE ARTS COMMUNITY AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN DRAWING UP ITS PLANS."

THIS WORKING GROUP WILL ALSO HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE PROVISIONAL BODY TO TAKE OVER THE FUNDING AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

THE END OF THE 1993/94 FINANCIAL YEAR WOULD SEEM A SUITABLE POINT FOR THE TRANSITION FROM THE CFPA TO THE PROVISIONAL BODY, MR SO SAID.

THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD AIM TO COMPLETE ITS WORK AND TO GAIN THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT APPROVALS SOMETIME NEXT YEAR.

THE PROVISIONAL BODY WILL THEN TAKE OVER THE FUNCTIONS OF ADVISING THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE ON THE SCOPE, MANAGEMENT AND EXPENDITURE OF THE RECURRENT FUNDS PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED TO THE CFPA, THE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR ARTS DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION AND POSSIBLY OTHER PUBLIC TRUST FUNDS RELATED TO DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING THE ARTS.

IN ADDITION, IT WILL ALSO ADVISE THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE ON THE SCOPE, MANAGEMENT AND EXPENDITURE OF WHATEVER OTHER FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OR RAISED OR DONATED FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE PROVISIONAL BODY WILL START WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS, FINE TUNE THE PLANS DRAWN UP BY THE WORKING GROUP IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE AND HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN DRAFTING THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE BODY ON A STATUTORY BASIS BY APRIL 1, 1995.

THE PROVISIONAL BODY WILL ALSO NEED TO START DRAWING UP STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL PLANS AND SETTING TARGETS AND YARDSTICKS TO MEASURE ITS PERFORMANCE AND THAT OF THE ARTS ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH WHICH IT WILL BE WORKING AND WHICH IT WILL BE SUPPORTING.

IN ADDITION, IT WILL NEED TO IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MODUS OPERANDI AS WELL AS RECRUITING THE STAFF NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE COUNCIL AND TO IMPLEMENT ITS DECISIONS.

ALL BEING WELL, THE STATUTORY HKADC WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND ITS CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS APPOINTED, WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1995.

THIS BODY WILL TAKE OVER ALL OF THE POWERS, FUNCTIONS, STAFF, FUNDS AND OTHER RESOURCES OF THE PROVISIONAL BODY.

IT WILL BE A WELL-CONSTITUTED, INDEPENDENT STATUTORY BODY WITH EXECUTIVE POWERS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING AND ITS OWN STAFF TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE ARTS IN THE 90'S AND BEYOND.

IT WILL OPERATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE UNDER WHICH IT IS ESTABLISHED AND WILL BE ABLE TO DIRECTLY MANAGE ITS RESOURCES AND WILL NO LONGER NEED TO RELY ON THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE TO ACT AS ITS AGENT IN THIS REGARD.

IT WILL ALSO BE DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS AND THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT FOR THE MONEY IT SPENDS AND FOR THE ACTIONS IT TAKES.

THE FULL LIST OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE WORKING GROUP IS AS FOLLOWS:

SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG, CHAIRMAN
MS CHRISTINE LOH KUNG-WAI, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DR CHAN WING-WAH
MR BENNY CHIA
MR VINCENT CHOW WING-SHING
MR DAVID G ELDON
MR ANGUS HAMISH FORSYTH
DR LEUNG PING-KWAN
MR LO KING-MAN, MBE, JP
MR RICHARD TSANG
MS YIP WING-SIE
MR DANNY YUNG
THE CHAIRMAN OF URBAN COUNCIL OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE
THE CHAIRMAN OF REGIONAL COUNCIL OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE
THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE
THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE

MR SO PRAISED THE APPOINTMENT OF SIR JOSEPH AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP AND SAID HIS "DEEP COMMITMENT TO AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARTS COMBINED WITH HIS BUSINESS ACUMEN AND STANDING IN THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL CERTAINLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE HKADC."

HE SAID THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, MS CHRISTINE LOH, IS "KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WELL-CONNECTED IN THE ARTS COMMUNITY AND IS ALSO A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THE OTHER MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR EXPERIENCE AND RANGE OF SKILLS AND INTERESTS IN THE ARTS WORLD".

BILL TO CONTROL RESIDENTIAL CARE
HOMES FOR ELDERLY GAZETTED

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THE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES (ELDERLY PERSONS) BILL PROVIDES FOR THE CONTROL OF RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS THROUGH A LICENSING SYSTEM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE BILL, GAZETTED TODAY, WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 3.

"ANY PREMISES AT WHICH MORE THAN FIVE PERSONS WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF 60 YEARS ARE HABITUALLY RECEIVED FOR THE PURPOSES OF CARE WILL COME UNDER THIS BILL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT WILL APPLY TO ALL SUBVENTED, NON-PROFIT-MAKING, AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES, HE ADDED.

THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERS THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO ISSUE OR RENEW A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION TO AN EXISTING RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME UPON THE OPERATOR'S APPLICATION.

APPEALS AGAINST THE DECISIONS OF THE DIRECTOR COULD BE MADE TO AN APPEAL BOARD APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ANY PERSON WHO OPERATES A RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME WITHOUT A LICENCE OR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION, OR OPERATES A RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE CONDITIONS OF A LICENCE OR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION, PROVIDES FALSE INFORMATION IN AN APPLICATION, OR OBSTRUCTS INSPECTION, COMMITS AN OFFENCE.

ANY PERSON WHO COMMITS ANY OF THESE OFFENCES IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$100,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS AND TO A FINE OF \$10,000 FOR EACH DAY DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL COULD MAKE REGULATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE BILL.

TO ENSURE THE PROPER MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES, THE DRAFT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES (ELDERLY PERSONS) REGULATION SPECIFIES REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE REGISTRATION OF HEALTH WORKERS, THE DUTIES OF OPERATORS, THE DUTIES OF HOME MANAGERS, SPACE AND STAFFING, LOCATION AND DESIGN, AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES.

PROVISION IS MADE FOR APPEALS AND RELATED PROCEDURES IN THE DRAFT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES (ELDERLY PERSONS) (APPEAL BOARD) REGULATION, HE ADDED.

THE LEGISLATION WILL ENSURE THAT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES PROVIDE SERVICES OF A REASONABLE STANDARD ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG.

"NEW HOMES WHICH CANNOT MEET THE LICENSING STANDARDS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE MARKET," HE SAID.

THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME WILL BE EXPANDED TO ACCOMMODATE ELDERLY PERSONS AFFECTED BY THE CONTROL SCHEME, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

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ANTI-DISCRIMINATION REPORT TO GO TO LEGCO

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THE TWELFTH PERIODIC REPORT ON HONG KONG UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WILL BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 13).

THE REPORT COVERS THE LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL AND OTHER MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN HONG KONG TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PROVISIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

THE AIM OF THE CONVENTION IS TO CO-ORDINATE AND STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ALL ITS FORMS AND MANIFESTATIONS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RACES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN OCTOBER 1992. AND IT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON AUGUST 9 AND 10, THIS YEAR.

UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION, STATES PARTIES ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A REPORT EVERY TWO YEARS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

COPIES OF THE REPORT IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH HAVE BEEN PLACED AT ALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AND FREE COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE MARKETING OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, AT THE FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

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MARINE PARKS AND MARINE RESERVES TO BE SET UP IN HK

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAD APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MARINE PARKS AND MARINE RESERVES IN HONG KONG IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND MANAGE ECOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT MARINE ENVIRONMENTS.

ANNOUNCING THE DECISION AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY), AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR FRANK LAU SAID:

"THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF SETTING UP MARINE PARKS AND MARINE RESERVES IS TO PROTECT AND MANAGE UNSPOILT AREAS FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND RECREATION."

"IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BY PROTECTING EXISTING CONSERVATION AREAS AND HERITAGE FEATURES AND BY IDENTIFYING NEW AREAS FOR CONSERVATION, HE SAID.

/"MUCH HAS

"MUCH HAS BEEN DONE ON LAND AND IN COUNTRY PARKS. CONSERVATION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IS OUR NEW AREA FOR ACTION," MR LAU SAID.

A MARINE PARK WOULD BE A RELATIVELY LARGE PIECE OF SEA AREA WHICH CAN BE SET ASIDE FOR CONSERVATION AND RECREATION PURPOSES.

A MARINE RESERVE WILL BE A RELATIVELY SMALLER PIECE OF SEA AREA BUT WITH HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE.

IT WOULD BE RESERVED MAINLY FOR CONSERVATION, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL STUDIES, HE ADDED.

IN THE FIRST PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT, HOI HA WAN AND YAN CHAU TONG ARE RECOMMENDED FOR DESIGNATION AS MARINE PARKS WHILE CAPE D'AGUILAR IS PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION AS A MARINE RESERVE.

NEW LEGISLATION WILL BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FOR THE DESIGNATION, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE PARKS AND MARINE RESERVES.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE DRAFT BILL CAN BE INTRODUCED INTO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR.

ON THE CONTROL OF ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS, MR LAU SAID:

"A MULTI-USE APPROACH WHICH ALLOWS EXISTING ACTIVITIES WITH LITTLE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT TO CONTINUE WILL BE ADOPTED."

HE SAID DUE CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOOD AND VILLAGE RIGHTS OF LOCAL VILLAGERS AND FISHERMEN.

"IN GENERAL, PUBLIC ACCESS TO BOTH MARINE PARKS AND MARINE RESERVES WILL BE MAINTAINED."

EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS NATURE STUDIES, DIVING AND UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE ENCOURAGED IN MARINE PARKS WHILE SCIENTIFIC STUDIES WILL BE ENCOURAGED IN MARINE RESERVES.

"THE DEGREE OF CONTROL WILL VARY WITH THE DEGREE OF THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE, BUT CONTROL WILL BE MORE STRINGENT IN MARINE RESERVES THAN IN MARINE PARKS."

FOR EXAMPLE, EXISTING FISHING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE CONSIDERED SUSTAINABLE WILL BE ALLOWED IN MARINE PARKS AND CONTROLLED THROUGH A PERMIT SYSTEM, WHEREAS IN A MARINE RESERVE, ALL FISHING ACTIVITIES WILL BE PROHIBITED TO AVOID DISTURBANCE TO SCIENTIFIC STUDIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THAT AREA.

INCOMPATIBLE AND HARMFUL FISHING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BOTTOM-TRAWLING AND UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING WILL BE BANNED IN BOTH OF THESE AREAS.

EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE MAY BE GIVEN TO FISHERMEN AFFECTED BY THE LOSS OF FISHING GROUND RESULTING FROM THE DESIGNATION OF A MARINE RESERVE.

IN ADDITION, SHIPPING ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES WILL EITHER BE CONTROLLED OR PROHIBITED IN MARINE PARKS AND MARINE RESERVES.

MR LAU STRESSED THAT THE PROPOSAL WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED WOULD BRING LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT TO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

"IT WILL PROTECT THE RICH AND DIVERSE COMMUNITIES OF OUR MARINE LIFE AND THE VARIETY OF LANDSCAPE OF HONG KONG'S SEASHORE AND COASTAL WATERS FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

"TO FISHERMEN, THEY WILL ALSO BENEFIT FROM A BETTER FISH STOCK GENERATED FROM THESE AREAS."

OTHER POTENTIAL SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT AS MARINE PARKS OR MARINE RESERVES INCLUDE SHELTER ISLAND, SOUTH LAMMA, SOUTH-WEST LANTAU AND PING CHAU.

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HK TO HOST TRADING WORKSHOP

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HONG KONG WILL HOST AN INFORMAL WORKSHOP ON "TRADING RELATIONSHIPS AND TRADE POLICIES" ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 11) AND TUESDAY.

THE WORKSHOP, ORGANISED BY THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD), IS TO STRENGTHEN THE LINK WITH AND FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OECD AND THE DYNAMIC NON-MEMBER ECONOMIES (DNME'S).

ESTABLISHED IN 1961 AND COMPRISING 24 MEMBER COUNTRIES, OECD IS A FORUM FOR GOVERNMENTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, SHARE EXPERIENCES AND SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUNDS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES.

FROM 1989, OECD STARTED INFORMAL DIALOGUES WITH THE DYNAMIC ASIAN ECONOMIES (DAE'S) COMPRISING HONG KONG, KOREA, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, TAIWAN AND THAILAND IN RECOGNITION OF THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE THESE TERRITORIES PLAY IN THE WORLD ECONOMY.

HONG KONG HAS PARTICIPATED IN THESE DIALOGUES AND FOUND THEM USEFUL IN UNDERSTANDING THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF VARIOUS MARKET ECONOMIES.

THIS YEAR, THE DIALOGUE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO INCLUDE FOUR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES - ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE AND MEXICO. THESE COUNTRIES TOGETHER WITH THE DAE'S ARE COLLECTIVELY CALLED THE DYNAMIC NON-MEMBER ECONOMIES.

/MORE THAN

MORE THAN 50 SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND ACADEMICS WILL ATTEND THE INFORMAL WORKSHOP IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY.

THE HONG KONG CONTINGENT WILL CONSIST OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MRS REGINA IP; THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR A G COOPER, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR CHRISTOPHER JACKSON.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, WILL OPEN THE WORKSHOP ON MONDAY.

THE TWO CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE WORKSHOP - THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER AND CHAIRMAN OF OECD'S TRADE COMMITTEE, MR GEZA FEKETEKUTY - WILL BRIEF THE MEDIA AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE WORKSHOP ON TUESDAY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE OECD WORKSHOP AT 9.45 AM ON MONDAY AND ATTEND THE MEDIA SESSION AT 6 PM ON TUESDAY.

BOTH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NATHAN ROOM, LOWER LOBBY, CONRAD HOTEL, PACIFIC PLACE.

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SCHEDULE 1 TO COMAC ORDINANCE AMENDED

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THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGENCY (MSA) HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS GOVERNED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS ORDINANCE UNDER AN AMENDMENT ORDER MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID (TODAY).

EXPLAINING THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE 1) (NO. 4) ORDER 1993 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID AS A RESULT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT EFFICIENCY UNIT (EU) WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 1993, AND OF THE MSA WHICH ASSUMED ALL THE EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, IT WAS NECESSARY TO AMEND THE LIST TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THIS MSA, A NEW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1993

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TAIWANESE BANK GRANTED LICENCE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE BANK OF TAIWAN HAD BEEN GRANTED A BANKING LICENCE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

THE BANK OF TAIWAN IS THE SECOND LARGEST COMMERCIAL BANK IN TAIWAN, AND RANKS 159TH IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF CAPITAL.

BEFORE THE GRANT OF THE LICENCE, THE BANK HAS BEEN OPERATING A REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE SINCE 1992.

THE NEW BRANCH WILL ENABLE THE BANK TO OFFER A WIDER RANGE OF BANKING SERVICES TO ITS CUSTOMERS, WHO HAVE BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS IN TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND THE MAINLAND.

THE ENTRY OF BANK RAISES THE LICENSED BANKING POPULATION IN HONG KONG TO 170, OF WHICH 138 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY.

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VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JULY 1993

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IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1993, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 3.3% AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 23%, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 16%. IMPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY 16% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES WITH THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES BEING DISCOUNTED.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. IMPORT PRICES DECREASED BY 0.8%.

PRICE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED BY CHANGES IN UNIT VALUE INDICES, WHICH ARE COMPILED BASED ON AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OR, FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, BASED ON SPECIFIC PRICE DATA.

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX, DEFINED AS THE RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX, INCREASED SLIGHTLY BY 0.7% IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1993 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

/TAKING JULY

TAKING JULY 1993 ALONE AND COMPARING WITH JULY 1992, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 0.5% WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 26%. THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 19%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 17%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 0.6%, WHILE THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. IMPORT PRICES DECREASED BY 0.8%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING JULY 1993 WITH JULY 1992, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILE FABRICS (+12%); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+10%); AND METAL MANUFACTURES (+9.6%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR FOOTWEAR (-59%); AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-50%).

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES, THE PRICE OF FOOTWEAR RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 4.6%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-7.1%); TEXTILE FABRICS (-7.0%); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-5.8%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 6.1% IN JULY 1993 AS COMPARED WITH JULY 1992.

CONSIDERABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD; SUGAR; AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; AND ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 25%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; AND FOOTWEAR. HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY; AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 15% IN JULY 1993 AS COMPARED WITH JULY 1992.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; WOVEN FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; AND THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW COTTON; MAN-MADE FIBRES; AND INEDIBLE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 0.9% IN VOLUME IN JULY 1993 AS COMPARED WITH JULY 1992.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 8.1%. NOTABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY; AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF OFFICE MACHINERY; AND CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY DECLINED.

COMPARING JULY 1993 WITH JULY 1992, THE IMPORT PRICES OF CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 2.9%. THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS; RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; CONSUMER GOODS; AND FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 6.1%, 1.9%, 1.2% AND 1.0% RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING JULY 1993 WITH JULY 1992, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS GREW SUBSTANTIALLY BY 120%. THAT OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; CONSUMER GOODS; CAPITAL GOODS; AND FOODSTUFFS REGISTERED INCREASES OF 28%, 25%, 24% AND 12% RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE RE-EXPORT PRICE OF CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 3.4%. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF FUELS; RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 14%, 2.7% AND 0.8% RESPECTIVELY. THE RE-EXPORT PRICE OF CONSUMER GOODS WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

DETAILS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SALE AROUND OCTOBER 11 AT HK\$8.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDICES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4918).

TABLE 1 : CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JUL 1993 WITH JUL 1992			COMPARING JAN-JUL 1993 WITH JAN-JUL 1992		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-0.2	2.0	-2.1	-6.7	2.5	-8.9
TEXTILE FABRICS	4.3	-7.0	12.0	-1.4	-3.6	2.4

/TEXTILE YARN

TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-10.2	-5.8	-4.6	-11.4	-5.7	-6.1
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-18.3	-0.5	-17.8	-29.0	0.6	-29.4
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-53.4	-7.1	-49.8	-34.0	-8.7	-27.7
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	1.6	2.0	-0.4	11.9	-1.2	13.2
FOOTWEAR	-57.3	4.6	-59.1	-44.9	6.7	-48.3
METAL MANUFACTURES	9.1	-0.5	9.6	0.2	-2.6	2.9
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	7.3	-2.7	10.3	4.6	-2.6	7.3
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-8.6	0.5	-9.1	-13.5	0.6	-14.1
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-8.0	-4.2	-4.1	-24.9	-2.6	-23.1
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-1.9	-1.5	-0.4	-21.7	-3.0	-19.4
ALL COMMODITIES	-0.1	0.6	-0.5	-3.0	0.3	-3.3

TABLE 2 : CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUL 1993 WITH JUL 1992			COMPARING JAN-JUL 1993 WITH JAN-JUL 1992		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	5.1	-1.0	6.1	-2.7	-0.5	-2.2
CONSUMER GOODS	23.5	-1.2	25.0	19.2	-0.5	19.8
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	12.7	-1.9	14.8	7.3	-3.2	10.8
FUELS	-5.3	-6.1	0.9	9.3	1.9	7.4
CAPITAL GOODS	11.2	2.9	8.1	25.5	3.2	21.6
ALL COMMODITIES	16.1	-0.8	17.1	14.7	-0.8	15.7

/TABLE 3 :

TABLE 3 : CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUL 1993 WITH JUL 1992			COMPARING JAN-JUL 1993 WITH JAN-JUL 1992		
	VALUE	UNIT	VOLUME	VALUE	UNIT	VOLUME
	%	%	%	%	%	%
FOODSTUFFS	10.6	-0.8	11.5	-2.1	-1.2	-0.8
CONSUMER GOODS	25.8	0.4	25.4	20.9	0.5	20.3
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	24.4	-2.7	27.9	15.4	-3.2	19.3
FUELS	88.8	-14.4	120.4	72.6	-1.5	75.1
CAPITAL GOODS	28.2	3.4	24.0	41.3	2.5	37.9
ALL COMMODITIES	25.8	-0.2	26.1	22.3	-0.3	22.6

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APPOINTMENT TO TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND MANAGEMENT BOARD

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE TRAVEL AGENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993 ON OCTOBER 15, 1993 AND APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR TO THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND MANAGEMENT BOARD UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COMPENSATION FUND WILL TAKE OVER THE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ITS ESTABLISHMENT MARKED THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATORY REFORMS TO THE OUTBOUND TRAVEL INDUSTRY FOR THE BETTER PROTECTION OF OUTBOUND TRAVELLERS.

DR JAMES KUNG ZIANG-MIEN, HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM OCTOBER 15, 1993 TO OCTOBER 14, 1994.

DR KUNG IS CURRENTLY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND BOARD AND HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BOARD SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1988. HE IS THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF MANAGER OF CHEKIANG FIRST BANK LTD.

/APPOINTED TO

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1993

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APPOINTED TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AS MEMBERS FOR THE SAME PERIOD ARE: MRS PAMELA CHAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL; MR COLIN CHAU, AUDIT PRINCIPAL OF COOPERS AND LYBRAND HONG KONG; MR FRANK CHEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MEESPIERSON N V, A DUTCH MERCHANT BANK; MR SIMON HAU SUK-KEI, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG STUDENT TRAVEL LTD; MR ANTHONY HUNG, SOLICITOR; MR TAM KAI-ON, DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF WAH NAM TRAVEL SERVICE LTD; AND MR PATRICK YEUNG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WAH KAY THAI HOLDINGS LTD. BOTH MR HAU AND MR TAM ARE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAVEL AGENTS.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE REGISTRAR OF TRAVEL AGENTS SHALL BE AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER AND THE SECRETARY OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR PIPE-LAYING WORKS

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR LAYING 1,650 METRES OF A STEEL WATERMAIN FROM FORFAT ROAD TO SHEUNG SHING STREET AND CONNECTING THE EXISTING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM WITHIN MA TAU WAI AREA.

THE WORK FORMS A MAJOR PART OF A PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE FRESH WATER TRANSFER FACILITIES IN KOWLOON EAST.

ON COMPLETION, THE WATERMAIN WILL ENABLE A TRANSFER OF 56,700 CUBIC METRES OF TREATED WATER A DAY FROM PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS TO SUPPLEMENT THE SUPPLY TO THE EASTERN PART OF KOWLOON.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS WILL START IN DECEMBER AND TAKE 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, IMMIGRATION TOWER, 44TH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG .

DEADLINE OF SUBMITTING TENDERS IS AT NOON ON OCTOBER 29.

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LAYING OF SUBMARINE CABLES IN ABERDEEN PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED GRANTING A LICENCE TO HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR LAYING SUBMARINE CABLES IN ABERDEEN HARBOUR.

ABOUT 5,670 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE FOUR-MONTH WORKS, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS BEFORE DECEMBER 8.

THE NOTICE SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN OR BOUGHT AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THEY ARE ALSO ON DISPLAY AT:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG SOUTH, 20TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG; AND
- * THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, SHOP 25, GROUND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN, HONG KONG.

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GREENLIGHT FOR SUBMARINE CABLE LAYING WORKS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORISED HONG KONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED TO LAY AN OPTICAL FIBRE SUBMARINE CABLE BETWEEN PENG CHAU AND HEI LING CHAU IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE TELEPHONE SERVICE ON BOTH ISLANDS.

ABOUT 25 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WORKS, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO START THIS MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

/THE EXTENT

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN AN AUTHORISATION NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WORKS MAY DELIVER A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS BEFORE OCTOBER 8, NEXT YEAR.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN OR BOUGHT AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THEY ARE ALSO ON DISPLAY AT:

- * THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE MUI WO SUB-OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MUI WO GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 NGAN KWONG WAN ROAD, MUI WO, LANTAU ISLAND; AND
- * THE CHEUNG CHAU SUB-OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 22 SAN HING STREET, CHEUNG CAU.

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APPLICATION FOR GRANT REJECTED

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AT ITS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 29, THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) CONSIDERED AN APPLICATION BY THE CROSSOVER CULTURAL INSTITUTE FOR A PROJECT GRANT OF \$2.4 MILLION FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE CROSSOVER MAGAZINE FOR THE YEAR 1994.

HAVING GIVEN THE MATTER VERY SERIOUS AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, THE CFPA COULD NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

ALTHOUGH THE CFPA FULLY APPRECIATES THE EFFORTS OF THE CROSSOVER CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN PUBLISHING THE CROSSOVER MAGAZINE AND THE MERITS AND USEFULNESS OF THE MAGAZINE TO THE ARTS COMMUNITY, IT IS OF THE VIEW THAT ITS CURRENT POLICY ONLY ALLOWS IT TO PROVIDE FUNDING SUPPORT TO PUBLICATIONS, INCLUDING MAGAZINES, OF A ONE-OFF NATURE, SUCH AS COLLECTIONS OF THE "BEST PLAYS OF THE YEAR", WHICH DO NOT CARRY ANY INDEPENDENT EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE CROSSOVER MAGAZINE DOES NOT FALL WITHIN THIS POLICY AMBIT.

THE MAIN PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE COUNCIL'S POLICY IS THAT IT DOES NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS USING PUBLIC FUNDS TO INFLUENCE THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS OF ANY PUBLICATIONS, WHICH ANY FUNDING SUPPORT OF THE NATURE REQUESTED WILL INEVITABLY IMPLY.

ANY SUCH IMPLICATIONS WILL NOT REFLECT WELL ON THE CROSSOVER MAGAZINE AND ON THE COUNCIL.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1993

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269 VM'S RETURNED HOME TODAY
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A GROUP OF 269 VITENAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 75 MEN, 84 WOMEN, 59 BOYS AND 51 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 169TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 7,108 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 33,420 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,970
REVERSAL OF LAF	+30
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+800
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,800
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.3 *+0.0* 8.10.93	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.41 PCT	13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.53	3.22
1 MONTH	2.51 PCT	16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.81	3.39
3 MONTHS	2.64 PCT	19 MONTHS	2505	4.75	100.16	3.68
6 MONTHS	2.83 PCT	22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.55	3.78
12 MONTHS	3.16 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 29,908 MN

CLOSED 8 OCTOBER 1993

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