



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1984

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE,  
IN HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL-TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE:

MR SPEAKER,

I BEG TO MOVE THE MOTION WHICH STANDS ON THE ORDER PAPER IN THE NAME OF MY RIGHT HONOURABLE AND HONOURABLE FRIENDS AND MYSELF. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH IS COMMENDED BY THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE HOUSE IS A DOCUMENT OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE. IT HAS A SIGNIFICANCE WHICH GOES WELL BEYOND HONG KONG ITSELF. BUT IT IS WITH THE UNIQUE AND THRIVING COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG THAT THE HOUSE IS RIGHTLY CONCERNED TODAY.

HONG KONG OWES ITS SUCCESS TO THE SPIRIT OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND RESOURCESFULNESS, WHICH HAS FOR GENERATIONS BEEN DISPLAYED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG OF ALL RACES. IT IS THAT SPIRIT THAT HAS CREATED HONG KONG'S UNIQUE WAY OF LIFE.

AND IT IS THE PRESERVATION OF THAT WAY OF LIFE, AND ITS RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY ON WHICH IT HAS BEEN BUILT, THAT HAS BEEN OUR FIRM OBJECTIVE. WE SOUGHT THAT THROUGHOUT ALL THE WORK THAT HAS PRODUCED THE AGREEMENT. THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF TODAY'S DEBATE. AND IN THAT WORK I HAVE BEEN MOST GRATEFUL TO THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION AND TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS IN ALL PARTS OF THE HOUSE FOR THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN ME IN A TASK WHICH I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FEEL I HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKING ON BEHALF OF THE WHOLE HOUSE.

THE AGREEMENT THAT HAS RESULTED MUST OF COURSE BE JUDGED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE HISTORICAL REALITIES THAT CREATED THE PROBLEM WITH WHICH WE ARE CONCERNED TODAY. IN MAY 1898 THE SECOND CONVENTION OF PEKING WAS SIGNED IN PEKING BY THE BRITISH MINISTER RESIDENT THERE, SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT AT THE TIME WHEN HE SIGNED THAT DOCUMENT HE HAD ANY IDEA OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEMS THAT HE WOULD BE BEQUEATHING TO THE PRESENT GENERATION.

BUT UNDER THAT CONVENTION, THE AREA WHICH LATER BECAME KNOWN AS THE NEW TERRITORIES OF HONG KONG WAS LEASED TO BRITAIN FOR A PERIOD OF 99 YEARS. THESE TERRITORIES WERE THUS ADDED TO THE RELATIVELY SMALL AREAS OF KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND, WHICH HAD BEEN CEDED TO BRITAIN DURING THE PREVIOUS HALF CENTURY. THIS 1898 LEASE COVERS 92 PERCENT OF THE LAND TERRITORY OF HONG KONG AS IT IS TODAY. IT IS THAT LEASE THAT EXPIRES ON 30 JUNE 1997, AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL THEN REVERT TO CHINA. THE CEDED TERRITORIES, WHICH CONSTITUTE THE OTHER 8 PERCENT, HAVE IN THE PAST EIGHTY YEARS BECOME COMPLETELY INTEGRATED WITH THE LEASED TERRITORIES. THEY WOULD NOT BE VIABLE ON THEIR OWN.

/IT IS .....

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IT IS THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAKE A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT NECESSARY AT THIS TIME. AND YET THE NEED FOR ACCOMMODATION WITH CHINA IS NOT NEW TO HONG KONG. THROUGH MOST OF ITS YEARS OF EXISTENCE HONG KONG HAS BEEN DEPENDENT ON COOPERATION WITH ITS GIANT NEIGHBOUR. IN RECENT YEARS THIS HAS DEVELOPED INTO A STRONG AND COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP. THAT THEN IS THE BACKGROUND TO THE LONG AND AT TIMES VERY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. THEY HAVE HAD TO BE CONDUCTED IN CONFIDENCE. AND I KNOW THAT THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY HAS BEEN FRUSTRATING BOTH FOR PARLIAMENT AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

BOTH HAVE SHOWN GREAT UNDERSTANDING AND BOTH, I HOPE MAY TAKE SOME COMFORT FROM MY JUDGEMENT THAT CONFIDENTIALITY WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I SHOULD LIKE, MR SPEAKER, TO GIVE WARM THANKS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WHO PLAYED A VITAL PART IN ADVISING THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE GOVERNOR, THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS. AND I GIVE THANKS AS WELL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS POSED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FOR THEM.

THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG HAS BORNE THE DUAL BURDEN OF CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG AND OF CONTINUOUS INVOLVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE HAS BORNE THAT HEAVY BURDEN WITH GREAT DISTINCTION.

OUR AMBASSADORS AT PEKING, SUCCESSIVELY SIR PERCY CRADOCK AND SIR RICHARD EVANS, HAVE LED THE NEGOTIATING TEAM WITH GREAT SKILL. THEY AND ALL THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED, FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS FROM OUR OWN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, WELL DESERVE THE TRIBUTE THAT WAS PAID TO THEM BY THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW WHICH SPOKE OF THE +SHEER PROFESSIONALISM+ OF THE BRITISH TEAM. I HAVE NO DOUBT THE WHOLE HOUSE WILL WISH TO JOIN ME IN THANKING AND CONGRATULATING THEM ALL.

THROUGHOUT ALL OUR WORK, WE HAVE AIMED, OF COURSE, TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG: ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY.

FROM THE OUTSET IT WAS CLEAR THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD ALSO NEED TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. THAT IS JUST ANOTHER REFLECTION OF THE FACT THAT HONG KONG COULD NEVER HAVE BECOME THE PLACE THAT IT IS TODAY WITHOUT ESTABLISHING A PRACTICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

/IN THE .....

IN THE EARLY PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WE LOOKED FOR WAYS WHICH MIGHT ALLOW A BRITISH ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997, ON THE BASIS THAT BRITAIN WOULD RECOGNISE CHINA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG. THIS COURSE WOULD HAVE MEANT THE MINIMUM OF CHANGE, AND THE HONG KONG PEOPLE CERTAINLY EXPECTED THAT WE WOULD, AS A FIRST STEP SEE IF THAT WAS POSSIBLE. AND SO WE TRIED OVER 12 MONTHS NEGOTIATION. IT BECAME APPARENT THAT A SOLUTION ALONG THESE LINES WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT IF WE HAD PERSISTED IN SEEKING IT, THE TALKS WOULD HAVE BROKEN DOWN. THIS WOULD NOT HAVE ALTERED THE FACT THAT 92 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY WOULD REVERT TO CHINA UNDER THE LEASE IN 1997. BUT IT WOULD THEN HAVE DONE SO WITHOUT ANY AGREEMENT ON ITS FUTURE.

WE CONCLUDED THAT A BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS, WITH ALL THE UNCERTAINTIES THAT WOULD HAVE CREATED, COULD NOT IN THE LONG VIEW OFFER SATISFACTORY PROSPECTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THE FUTURE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE TERRITORY. WE THEREFORE DECIDED, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG, TO SEEK TO NEGOTIATE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG WOULD CEASE AFTER 1997 AND HONG KONG, ALTHOUGH BECOMING A PART OF CHINA, WOULD RETAIN HER DISTINCT WAY OF LIFE AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CHINA.

THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BEFORE THE HOUSE TODAY IS THE RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH BROUGHT TO A CONCLUSION ON THAT BASIS. IF THE MOTION ON THE ORDER PAPER IS CARRIED MY RT HON FRIEND THE PRIME MINISTER AND I WILL TRAVEL TO PEKING LATER THIS MONTH TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT. WE SHALL ALSO VISIT HONG KONG. THE VISIT TO PEKING WILL BE MY THIRD VISIT IN 12 MONTHS. IT WILL GIVE MY RT HON FRIEND AND ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE ENJOYED WITH OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES. IT MUST BE SAID THAT THIS AGREEMENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE VISION AND REALISM WHICH HAS CHARACTERISED THE APPROACH OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS. AND I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION OF THE PART PLAYED BY MY OPPOSITE NUMBER, MR WU XUEQIAN, IN BRINGING OUR NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

FOLLOWING SIGNATURE WE SHALL BRING FORWARD LEGISLATION EARLY NEXT YEAR TO PROVIDE FOR TERMINATION OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997, AND TO PROVIDE POWERS TO MAKE OTHER CHANGES TO THE LAW, INCLUDING THE NATIONALITY LAW, WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE AGREEMENT AND TERMINATION OF SOVEREIGNTY.

THE AGREEMENT, MR DEPUTY SPEAKER, IS BOTH COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED. SINCE ITS PUBLICATION ON 26 SEPTEMBER, MEMBERS WILL HAVE HAD MORE THAN TWO MONTHS TO STUDY IT. I SET OUT THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF IT IN MY STATEMENT OF 25 OCTOBER. TODAY I WANT ONLY TO STRESS ONLY A FEW OF ITS SIGNIFICANT FEATURES.

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FIRST, THE JOINT DECLARATION AND ITS ANNEXES CONSTITUTE A LEGALLY BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. AS THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER RECENTLY TOLD THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS IN PEKING, THE JOINT DECLARATION IS A FORM OF INTERNATIONAL TREATY, IT HAS THE SAME FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IS LEGALLY BINDING.

SECOND, THE POLICIES SET OUT IN THE AGREEMENT WILL, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, BE STIPULATED IN A BASIC LAW WHICH WILL BE PASSED BY THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF CHINA AND WHICH WILL ESTABLISH THE SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT THESE POLICIES WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR 50 YEARS. THE CONTENT OF THE BASIC LAW, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS DRAFTING, ARE RIGHTLY OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THEY ARE OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE. THE LAW WILL BE PASSED BY THE CHINESE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS UNDER THE POWERS CONFERRED ON IT BY ARTICLES 31 AND 62 OF THE CHINESE CONSTITUTION. THESE ARTICLES PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS WITH SYSTEMS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN OTHER PARTS OF CHINA. IT IS, OF COURSE, THE CHINESE WHO MUST UNDERTAKE THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, BUT THE JOINT DECLARATION STATES THAT THE BASIC POLICIES FOR HONG KONG SET OUT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION ITSELF AND ELABORATED IN ANNEX 1 WILL BE STIPULATED IN THE BASIC LAW. THE AGREEMENT THUS PROVIDES CLEAR GUIDELINES FOR THE DRAFTING OF THAT LAW.

I KNOW THAT THE CHINESE LEADERS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT. I AM CONFIDENT TOO THAT THEY WILL HAVE NOTED THE HOPE THAT HAS BEEN WIDELY EXPRESSED IN RECENT WEEKS, THE WIDELY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BE FULLY CONSULTED ABOUT THE DRAFTING OF THE LAW. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAVE INDICATED THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BE CONSULTED, THOUGH THE EXACT FORM OF THAT CONSULTATION HAS YET TO BE MADE CLEAR. I WELCOME THAT INDICATION. HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT STAND READY TO EXTEND TO THE CHINESE OUR FULLEST CO-OPERATION, IN THAT AND OTHER RESPECTS.

THE THIRD POINT I WISH TO STRESS ABOUT THE AGREEMENT IS THAT IT INCLUDES SUFFICIENT DETAIL ABOUT THE MANY FIELDS IT COVERS TO GIVE CONFIDENCE BOTH IN HONG KONG AND INTERNATIONALLY THAT THE FUTURE IS A SECURE ONE.

- \* IT PROVIDES A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FOR HONG KONG AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.
- \* IT PROVIDES A FIRM GUARANTEE THAT SOCIALIST POLICIES PURSUED ON THE MAINLAND WILL NOT BE PRACTISED IN HONG KONG.

/\* IT PROVIDES .....

- \* IT PROVIDES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG TO BE IN LOCAL HANDS, AND FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE TO AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE.
- \* IT PROVIDES FOR JUDICIAL POWER TO BE EXERCISED INDEPENDENTLY AND FOR A PUBLIC SERVICE IN WHICH APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTION WILL DEPEND ON QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY.

THE PRESERVATION OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND COURTS TO WHICH HONG KONG IS ACCUSTOMED IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE CONTINUATION OF HONG KONG'S WAY OF LIFE. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THIS.

APPEALS TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL WILL CEASE. INSTEAD THERE WILL BE A COURT OF FINAL APPEAL IN HONG KONG.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE EQUAL VALIDITY WITH CHINESE IN THE COURTS.

THE WORK OF TRANSLATING THE LAWS OF HONG KONG INTO CHINESE IS NOW GOING AHEAD. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR HONG KONG TO CONTINUE AS A WORLD, COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE. IT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING ITS OWN EXTERNAL TRADE, HAVE ITS OWN FREELY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY, AND ENJOY FREE FLOW OF CAPITAL WITHOUT EXCHANGE CONTROL. ALTHOUGH THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT IN CHINA WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS EXTERNAL RELATIONS, HONG KONG WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE AUTONOMY IN CONDUCTING RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN MANY IMPORTANT FIELDS. THERE ARE ARRANGEMENTS PERMITTING HONG KONG TO CONTINUE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE GATT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

THERE ARE PROVISIONS FOR HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT CENTRE FOR SHIPPING AND CIVIL AVIATION.

THERE ARE FULL AND EXPLICIT PROVISIONS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THOSE SPECIFIED IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENANTS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.

FINALLY, SECURE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BOTH FOR THE RECOGNITION OF EXISTING LAND LEASES AFTER 1997, AND FOR THE EXTENSION OF LEASES EXPIRING BEFORE 1997, AND FOR THE GRANTING OF NEW LEASES FOR TERMS OF UP TO FIFTY YEARS BEYOND 1997.

THESE ARE ONLY THE BROAD OUTLINES. THERE IS MUCH MORE DETAIL IN THE AGREEMENT.

SO FAR I HAVE DEALT WITH THE FUTURE AFTER 1997. BUT THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS ARE ALSO CRUCIAL FOR HONG KONG.

INTERJECTION: (LABOUR MP): WHOSE TASK IS IT TO SECURE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THIS AGREEMENT AND ITS TERMS IN RESPECT OF THE PERIOD AFTER 1997? IS IT FOR CHINA TO DO SO, OR FOR BRITAIN, OR FOR A COMBINATION OF BOTH, AND IF THIS IS SO, IS THERE AN ADEQUATE MACHINERY SET OUT FOR THAT PURPOSE?

HOWE: THERE ARE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THAT QUESTION, BUT IF THE HON MEMBER REFERS TO THE NEED TO SECURE, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTINUED RECOGNITION OF HK'S PLACE IN THE GATT AND IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, THAT IS SOMETHING ON WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES WILL BE CO-OPERATING TOGETHER AND IT IS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR AS ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, WHICH I'LL REFER TO IN A MOMENT. AS I WAS SAYING, THE NEXT 12 YEARS ARE ALSO CRUCIAL TO HONG KONG. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS ENTERPRISE, AND TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE PUT INTO PRACTICE THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, ESPECIALLY IN THE LATER YEARS. THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP IS THE BEST MEANS OF ACHIEVING THIS AND THROUGH IT OF AVOIDING ABRUPT SHIFTS IN 1997 WHICH MIGHT DISTURB THE CONTINUITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG.

THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL BE CHARGED WITH THE TASKS OF CONSULTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND DISCUSSING MATTERS RELATING TO THE SMOOTH TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT IN 1997, AS WELL AS EXCHANGING INFORMATION. IT WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE IN BEING UNTIL THE YEAR 2000. IT IS OUR FIRM INTENTION THAT THE GROUP SHOULD CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS SO AS TO BUILD CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS CONFIDENCE AMONG THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. WE SHALL GIVE THE GROUP OUR FULL CO-OPERATION TO THAT END. I DO REGARD ITS WORK AS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE.

MR ALF MORRIS (LABOUR): IS THE RIGHT HON. GENTLEMAN FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCERN OF SOME PEOPLE IN HONG KONG THAT THEY COULD BECOME STATELESS PERSONS ... IS THIS NOT AN IMPORTANT MATTER?

HOWE: THAT IS A MATTER WHICH COULD ARISE IN CERTAIN CASES ... IT WILL BE DEALT WITH TO ENSURE THAT STATELESSNESS DOES NOT HAPPEN AND THAT WILL BE A MATTER REFERRED TO IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WHICH WE WILL BE INTRODUCING IN THE NEW YEAR. I'M GLAD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF DEALING WITH THE POINT.

DAVID HOWELL (LABOUR): WOULD MY FRIEND ALLOW ME ... ON THE QUESTION OF THE JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE, IF I UNDERSTAND FROM HIS REPLY THAT THIS COMMITTEE WILL PLAY A LEADING PART IN UNDERPINNING THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF THE SAR AFTER 1997, WILL THAT JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE HAVE ON IT PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG?

/HOWE: PERHAPS .....

HOWE: PERHAPS YOU WOULD ALLOW ME TO DEAL WITH THIS AT THE APPROPRIATE PLACE. WE TOOK PAINS TO ENSURE FIRST OF ALL, AND I'LL COME TO THIS POINT IN A SECOND, THAT THERE COULD BE NO POSSIBLE AMBIGUITY ABOUT WHAT THE GROUP'S FUNCTIONS WILL BE. IT WILL BE IN NO SENSE A SHADOW GOVERNMENT. THE AGREEMENT MAKES PLAIN THAT THE GROUP SHALL BE AN ORGAN OF LIAISON AND NOT AN ORGAN OF POWER THAT THE GROUP SHALL BE, IN THE CHINESE PHRASEOLOGY, AN ORGAN OF LIAISON AND NOT AN ORGAN OF POWER AND THAT THE GROUP SHALL TAKE NO PART IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG. THE AGREEMENT ALSO STATES EXPLICITLY THAT BRITAIN WILL REMAIN FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG UNTIL 1997. AND LET US ASSURE THE HOUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WHOLE-HEARTED COMMITMENT TO THE FULL EXERCISE OF THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGHOUT THAT PERIOD.

I COME BACK TO THE POINT RAISED BY MY RIGHT HONOURABLE FRIEND THE MEMBER FOR GUILDFORD, OF COURSE THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG WILL NEED TO BE PROPERLY REPRESENTED ON THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. THE EXACT COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED, BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT SURE THAT THE BRITISH DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE OFFICIALS FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THAT THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE FULLEST CONSULTATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND I KNOW SO WITH OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE GROUP SHOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY THE KIND OF CONFIDENCE THAT IS ESSENTIAL IF IT IS TO CARRY OUT ITS ROLE PROPERLY.

RUSSELL JOHNSON (LIBERAL) : ARE YOU SAYING THAT WHILE THERE WILL BE OFFICIALS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ON THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE LIAISON GROUP, THERE WILL BE NO UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES ? IS THAT CORRECT ?

HOWE : IF THE HON. GENTLEMAN WOULD LOOK AT THE PROVISIONS ABOUT THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP ITSELF IS A DIPLOMATIC GROUP - I'M LOOKING AT ANNEXE TWO TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, PAGE 25 OF THE WHITE PAPER ... THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP SHALL ENJOY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES. IT IS IN FACT A DIPLOMATIC GROUP AND THERE IS PROVISION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THAT KIND TO THE GROUP. BUT OF COURSE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AS THE GROUP DOES ITS WORK, NO DOUBT WORKING THROUGH A VARIETY OF METHODS AS TIME GOES BY, THERE IS FULL REPRESENTATION OF THE VIEWPOINT OF THE HK PEOPLE. IT'S A POINT THAT HAS OF COURSE BEEN RAISED WITH ME IN A NUMBER OF PLACES. THE GROUP ITSELF IS AS I'VE DESCRIBED IT, BUT IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD TAKE SUFFICIENT ACCOUNT, AS I HOPE WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO, DURING OUR NEGOTIATIONS THUS FAR, THAT AS THE GROUP'S WORK INTENSIFIES, OF COURSE THAT WILL BE IMPORTANT.

MR ROBERT ADLEY (CONSERVATIVE) : IS HE SAYING THAT THE JLG WILL REMAIN AS IT IS PRESENTLY INTENDED TO REMAIN THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF 12 YEARS OR SO, THAT IT IS NOT IN FACT IN ANY WAY GOING TO EVOLVE ... IT WILL REMAIN, IN HIS OWN WORDS, A PURELY DIPLOMATIC BODY.

HOWE : THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP MAY, BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, SET UP SEPARATE GROUPS TO DEAL WITH PARTICULAR SUBJECTS ..... (UNCLEAR) MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND SUB-GROUPS MAY BE ATTENDED BY EXPERTS OTHER THAN THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, AND SO ON. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS PROVISION FOR A STEADY DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORKING OF THE GROUP IN A PRACTICAL FASHION. BUT IT IS THE GROUP ITSELF THAT REMAINS ONE ON WHICH OFFICIALS OF EITHER SIDE WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF IT. THAT IS PART OF THE NATURE OF THE GROUP AND, OF COURSE, THE OFFICIALS WILL INCLUDE THOSE FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ITSELF. THE MATTERS ARE VERY PRECISELY SET OUT IN THE AGREEMENT,

ROBERT PARRY (LABOUR) : REGARDING THE LIAISON GROUP, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL BE AWARE THAT UMELCO HAVE IN FACT MADE THIS POINT THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD SIT ON IT. IS THAT THE DECISION ?

HOWE: I MUST EXPLAIN THAT OFFICIALS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL BE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, AND BEYOND THAT WILL BE PROVISION FOR INPUT FROM THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BECAUSE IT IS PLAINLY IMPORTANT THAT THAT SHOULD BE SO. BUT LET ME JUST SAY THIS TO THE HOUSE, MR SPEAKER, I HAVE GOT QUITE A LONG SPEECH TO MAKE IN INTRODUCING THIS MATTER AND MY HONOURABLE FRIEND WILL BE ABLE TO PICK UP THESE QUESTIONS IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL WHEN HE COMES TO WIND-UP. BUT THE POINTS THAT HONOURABLE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN RAISING DO RELATE TO ONE THAT I WANT TO UNDERLINE. OUR AIM THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS TO SECURE AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN NO DOUBT FROM THE START THAT THIS HOUSE WOULD DEMAND NOTHING LESS. THAT IS WHY WE DECIDED THAT AN ASSESSMENT OFFICE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG TO COLLATE AND ANALYSE THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT. THEIR REPORT, TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE TWO MONITORS WHOM I APPOINTED TO OBSERVE THEIR WORK, WAS PUBLISHED AS A WHITE PAPER ON 29 NOVEMBER. THAT WHITE PAPER IS THE SECOND DOCUMENT THAT IS BEFORE THE HOUSE TODAY, ALONGSIDE THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ITSELF.

THE PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT IN HONG KONG ENDED ON 15 NOVEMBER. IT WAS A CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENT THAT A CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT, AND THE MONITORING TEAM'S REPORT ON IT, SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPILED, FORWARDED AND PUBLISHED IN THE BARE THREE WEEKS THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN. I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK THE HEAD OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE, MR IAN MACPHERSON, THE TWO MONITORS, SIR PATRICK N'AIRNE AND MR JUSTICE LI AND EVERYONE ELSE CONCERNED, FOR COMPLETING THEIR WORK IN TIME FOR THE HOUSE TO RECEIVE THEIR REPORTS IN THAT WAY.

I AM GLAD TO DRAW TO THE HOUSE'S ATTENTION THE CONCLUSION OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE, ENDORSED BY THE MONITORS, AND I QUOTE: THAT +MOST OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FIND THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE.+

/THAT IS .....

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THAT IS AN AUTHORITATIVE, AND MOST IMPORTANT, CONCLUSION. IT IS BASED ON CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF THE WHOLE RANGE OF SUBMISSIONS AND STATEMENTS RECEIVED. ALL THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE BODIES IN HONG KONG, ALONG WITH THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS AND MOST OF THE INDIVIDUALS EXPRESSING A VIEW, ACCEPTED THE DRAFT AGREEMENT.

THE OVERALL PICTURE FROM REPORTS BY AND THROUGH THE MEDIA WAS FOUND TO BE ONE OF GENERAL ACCEPTANCE. THE SAME VIEW EMERGED FROM VARIOUS INDEPENDENT OPINION SURVEYS.

THE INDEPENDENT MONITORS, WHO WATCHED THE WORK OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE AT EVERY STAGE, CONFIRMED THAT THE OFFICE HAD PERFORMED ITS FUNCTIONS PROPERLY AND IMPARTIALLY.

OVER THREE AND A HALF MILLION COPIES OF THE AGREEMENT WERE DISTRIBUTED IN HONG KONG AND THE FACT THAT MORE THAN A MILLION OF THOSE WERE DISTRIBUTED BY THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY SAYS SOMETHING, I SUPPOSE, ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH THE ASSESSMENT WAS CONDUCTED. THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE RECEIVED NEARLY TWO AND A HALF THOUSAND DIRECT SUBMISSIONS, MANY FROM ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTING A HUGE MEMBERSHIP. THIS COMPARES VERY FAVOURABLY WITH PREVIOUS EXERCISES OF CONSULTATION IN HONG KONG.

THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT 273 REPORTS OF DISCUSSIONS, DEBATES, SEMINARS, PUBLIC SPEECHES AND INTERVIEWS, AS WELL AS THE RESULTS OF 23 OPINION SURVEYS OF VARIOUS KINDS. BUT BY ANY STANDARDS IT WAS A MOST THOROUGH EXERCISE IN INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION.

ONE POINT ON WHICH A NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMMENTED IN THE COURSE OF THIS PROCESS WAS THE FACT THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT COULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE AMENDED AND I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING DIRECTLY ABOUT THAT.

THE NORMAL PRACTICE IN NEGOTIATING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IS THAT ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN INITIALLED THEY ARE NOT OPEN TO AMENDMENT. AND THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR THAT. IT IS THAT IN SUCH CASES ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD RISK DISTURBING THE WHOLE DELICATE BALANCE THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND SO IT WAS IN THE PRESENT CASE. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT WE TOOK SUCH TROUBLE TO CONSULT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT EVERY TURN DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT I MADE STATEMENTS ON MY TWO VISITS TO HONG KONG IN APRIL AND JULY. AND, IN THAT WAY, WE OFFERED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT ON THE LIKELY SHAPE OF THE EMERGING AGREEMENT AND RIGHTLY, THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THOSE OPPORTUNITIES.

/SUBSEQUENTLY, THE .....

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SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ASSESSMENT EXERCISE HAS ENABLED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG TO SAY WHAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE ABOUT THE COMPLETED DRAFT AGREEMENT. THE REPORT GIVES A CLEAR ACCOUNT OF THESE CONCERNS. THIS WILL BE OF ENORMOUS VALUE TO US DURING THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD AND DURING THE DISCUSSIONS WE SHALL HAVE IN THE FUTURE WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. THAT HAS BEEN AN ADDED ADVANTAGE OF THE WHOLE EXERCISE.

I'D LIKE JUST NOW TO DEAL WITH ONE OR TWO OTHER MATTERS WHICH HAVE ATTRACTED ATTENTION. FIRST, NATIONALITY. IT IS WIDELY RECOGNISED THAT THIS IS THE ASPECT OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH MANY PEOPLE HAVE FOUND LEAST SATISFACTORY. THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICUL SUBJECTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. BECAUSE IT IS ALSO A MATTER WHICH AFFECTS PEOPLE IN THEIR PERSONAL LIVES, IT GIVES RISE TO VERY STRONG EMOTIONS. IT WAS NOT EASY TO RECONCILE THE CONFLICTING INTERESTS INVOLVED.

NEVERTHELESS I DO BELIEVE THAT WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IS A REASONABLE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEMS. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WERE NOT PREPARED TO AGREE THAT ANYONE BORN IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997 SHOULD ACQUIRE BRITISH NATIONALITY BY VIRTUE OF THEIR CONNECTION WITH HONG KONG.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IS AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON MEASURES WHICH WILL MEAN THAT THOSE WHO ARE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS BEFORE 1 JULY 1997 CAN RETAIN DURING THEIR LIFETIME AN APPROPRIATE STATUS, WHICH BY DEFINITION WILL BE A FORM OF BRITISH NATIONALITY. AS WITH THEIR PRESENT STATUS, THIS WILL NOT ENTITLE THEM TO SETTLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. BUT IT WILL ENABLE THEM TO USE A BRITISH PASSPORT AND SO TO AVAIL THEMSELVES EXCEPT, OF COURSE, HONG KONG AND CHINA OF BRITISH CONSULAR PROTECTION.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN SET OUT IN A DRAFT EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA WHICH ARE NOT PART OF THE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER THE TERMS OF THESE MEMORANDA AND THEIR PUBLICATION HAVE BEEN AGREED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES: AND NATURALLY EACH SIDE WILL ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN MEMORANDUM WITHOUT ANY OBJECTION BEING RAISED BY THE OTHER.

WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE THAT THOSE PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS BEFORE 1997 SHOULD TRANSMIT THAT STATUS TO THEIR CHILDREN FOR ONE GENERATION THEREAFTER. I RECOGNISE THAT THIS HAS BEEN A DISAPPOINTMENT TO MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

ANDREW FAULDS (LABOUR): ... THIS IS IN AN ANNEX ... (QUESTION UNCLEAR) WOULD BE OPEN TO RECONSIDERATION IN THE LEGISLATION THAT MUST FOLLOW ON BRITISH NATIONALITY.

/HOWE: I .....

HOWE: I WOULD NOT LIKE TO GIVE THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN THE IMPRESSION THAT THAT COULD BE A CONSIDERATION. I KNOW FROM OBSERVATIONS THAT HE HAS MADE IN THE PAST AND, INDEED, THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY MANY OTHERS, THAT IT IS A MATTER WHICH WAS REGARDED, UNDERSTANDABLY, AS BEING OF SOME IMPORTANCE. BUT THE FACT IS THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TRANSMISSIBILITY WAS UNOBTAINABLE. THE COMPROMISE WHICH WAS ARRIVED AT, BUT I MUST SAY I HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THIS, WAS THE BEST THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED.

THE SECOND ISSUE I WANT TO DEAL WITH VIS THE STATIONING OF CHINESE FORCES IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997. UNDER THE AGREEMENT, DEFENCE IS A MATTER FOR THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT.

HOWEVER THE AGREEMENT CLEARLY PROVIDES THAT THE SAR GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER AND THAT FORCES SENT BY CHINA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFENCE SHALL NOT INTERFERE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITIES IN HONG KONG ON THIS MATTER, AND THAT THEY WILL ACT PRUDENTLY.

THERE IS ONE LAST POINT ON THE AGREEMENT. SOME HAVE ASKED WHETHER THERE CAN BE ANY GUARANTEE THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP THE AGREEMENT. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVEREIGN STATES. BUT I BELIEVE THAT THIS AGREEMENT OFFERS THE MOST SOLID GUARANTEES WHICH ARE POSSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS.

THE BEST GUARANTEE OF A COUNTRY'S PERFORMANCE IS ITS OWN SELF INTEREST. CHINA HAS A VERY STRONG INTEREST BOTH IN ADHERING TO THIS AGREEMENT AND MAKING SURE THAT IT WORKS:

- IN THE FIRST PLACE, CHINA HAS AND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO HAVE STRONG ECONOMIC REASONS FOR WISHING TO SEE HONG KONG REMAIN STABLE AND PROSPEROUS.
- SECONDLY, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THE WHOLE COURSE OF CHINESE REUNIFICATION, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CENTRAL POLICY OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, IS LIKELY TO BE CONNECTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS AGREEMENT.

BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE GIVEN THEIR COMMITMENT TO THIS AGREEMENT. BOTH COUNTRIES WILL WISH TO MAINTAIN THEIR REPUTATIONS BY UPHOLDING THE AGREEMENT IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS MADE.

IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH HAS EMERGED FROM EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND SOMETIMES DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS, COULD PROVIDE THE WHOLE ANSWER TO EVERY PROBLEM. IN SOME AREAS IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ELABORATE THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THE AGREEMENT. ONE SUCH AREA, IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OF THE FUTURE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

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IN THAT CONNECTION I WELCOME THE WHITE PAPER ON CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. IT PROVIDES FOR SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS IN THE 1985 ELECTIONS, AND FOR THE PROSPECT OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THIS DIRECTION FOLLOWING A FURTHER REVIEW IN 1987, WHICH WILL CONSIDER ALSO THE QUESTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME IT RIGHTLY AVOIDS SUDDEN AND DRAMATIC CHANGES WHICH COULD UNSETTLE THE VERY STABILITY WHICH ALL OUR EFFORTS ARE DESIGNED TO SECURE. I HAVE ALREADY TOLD THE HOUSE THAT WE REGARD THIS NEXT 12 YEARS AS CRUCIAL. WE SHALL NEED TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHALL NEED TO KEEP CONSTANTLY IN MIND THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG AND THEIR (SIC) FUTURE POSITION AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

INTERJECTION (NAME UNCLEAR) : THERE IS ONE IMPORTANT MATTER TO WHICH MY RIGHT HONOURABLE FRIEND HAS NOT REFERRED AND WHICH IS REFERRED TO ONLY BRIEFLY IN THE WHITE PAPER, AND THAT IS THE POSITION OF THE BRITISH EXPATRIATE STAFF IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF HK. WILL MY RIGHT HONOURABLE FRIEND BEAR IN MIND THAT ON ALL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS WHEN A COLONY HAS ACHIEVED ITS INDEPENDENCE THERE HAS BEEN A PUBLIC OFFICERS' AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR THE FUTURE CAREER PROSPECTS, FOR THE PENSIONS, AND FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF OFFICE ARISING OUT OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, TO BE MADE FOR ALL SUCH PEOPLE. WILL MY RIGHT HONOURABLE FRIEND GIVE AN UNDERTAKING THAT SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE, THE MEMBERS OF HER MAJESTY'S OVERSEAS CIVIL SERVICE IN HK?

HOWE: I AM GRATEFUL TO MY HONOURABLE AND LEARNED FRIEND FOR RAISING THAT POINT. AS HE POINTED OUT, THE DRAFT AGREEMENT IN ANNEX ONE PART FOUR DOES PROVIDE SATISFACTORILY FOR CONTINUITY OF SERVICE BY SERVING OFFICERS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF HONG KONG ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS, INCLUDING PAY AND PENSIONS, NO LESS FAVOURABLE THAN BEFORE THE FIRST OF JULY 1997. AND THOSE PROVISIONS APPLY TO MEMBERS OF HER MAJESTY'S OVERSEAS CIVIL SERVICE SERVING IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS (UNHEARD) CIVIL SERVANTS. RESUMPTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA DOES RAISE SIMILAR (UNCLEAR) IN RESPECT OF THE, OF HER MAJESTY'S OVERSEAS CIVIL SERVICE (UNCLEAR). IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER TO DEFINE NOW TWELVE AND A HALF YEARS IN ADVANCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE - ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL APPLY TO MEMBERS OF HMOCS SERVING IN HONG KONG AND THE PAYMENT OF THEIR PENSIONS BY THE HONG KONG SAR AFTER THE FIRST OF JULY 1997; AT THIS STAGE I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO WHAT IS IN THE AGREEMENT. YOU HAVE SEEN THAT..... (UNCLEAR PHRASE).

/INTERJECTION .....

INTERJECTION (NAME UNCLEAR) : THERE IS ONE OTHER PERIPHERAL BUT VERY IMPORTANT MATTER WHICH WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING ABOUT AND THAT IS THE QUESTION OF THE LONG-TERM FATE OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HK.

MY RIGHT HONOURABLE FRIEND WILL BE AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THE HK ADMINISTRATION IS HAVING IN GETTING THOSE REFUGEES PLACED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND OF THE RELUCTANCE OF HM GOVERNMENT, HAVING DONE A GREAT DEAL, TO TAKE ANY MORE REFUGEES NOW. AND I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF MY RIGHT HONOURABLE FRIEND COULD CONFER WITH MY OTHER RIGHT HONOURABLE FRIEND THE HOME SECRETARY TO MAKE SURE THAT WE DO TAKE SOME REFUGEES OURSELVES AND THAT WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO SO ALSO.

HOWE : AGAIN THAT THANKS TO MY HONOURABLE FRIEND FOR RAISING THAT POINT. IT DOES, OF COURSE, GO OUTSIDE THE FRAME OF THE PARTICULAR DEBATE I AM CONCERNED WITH NOW, THE COMMENDING TO THE HOUSE THIS AGREEMENT. AND IN SO FAR AS IT IS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF TODAY'S DEBATE I AM SURE OUR HONOURABLE FRIEND WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT IN HIS SPEECH AT THE END, BUT IT DOES TAKE US ON TO RATHER DIFFERENT TERRITORY.

INTERJECTION (NAME UNCLEAR) : MY RIGHT HONOURABLE FRIEND HAS SET AT REST THE WORRY ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY WITHIN THE REGION, THAT IT WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN INTERNAL SECURITY, BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WORRY AND THAT IS THAT CONSCRIPTION MIGHT BE APPLIED. MIGHT I SUGGEST TO HIM THAT THAT IS A WORRY THAT SHOULD BE SET AT REST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND WOULD IT NOT BE A GOOD IDEA TO ESTABLISH SOME INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE FOR POLICING THE FRONTIER WITH THE REST OF CHINA SO THAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN HK CAN SERVE IN THAT BODY AND NOT BE IN ANY WAY SUBJECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSCRIPTION INTO THE PLA ?

HOWE : IT IS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE TO BE IN PLACE AFTER 1997 WHEREBY PUBLIC ORDER IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AND DEVELOPED SO FAR AS NECESSARY. ON THE PARTICULAR POINT OF CONSCRIPTION, THE HONOURABLE MEMBER HAS RAISED, THAT IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE AGREEMENT. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSCRIPTION AND THIS IS THEREFORE - THERE IS NO REASON TO ASSUME THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH A THING. I CAN'T SAY MORE THAN THAT AT THIS STAGE.

HOWE : I MUST TRY AND DRAW TO A CLOSE. I BELIEVE, MY DEPUTY SPEAKER, THAT THERE HAS EMERGED FROM THESE NEGOTIATIONS A BOLD AND IMAGINATIVE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. THE CONCEPT OF MAINTAINING TWO SEPARATE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS WITHIN ONE COUNTRY IS A FAR-SIGHTED ONE, WHICH IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING HIMSELF. AS A MEANS OF RECONCILING THE APPARENTLY IRRECONCILABLE, IT COULD HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR PROBLEMS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. I AM GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE FAVOURABLE RECEPTION OF THIS DRAFT AGREEMENT INTERNATIONALLY, AND PARTICULARLY BY THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS WHO CAN PLAY SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROSPERITY.

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NINETEEN NINETY-SEVEN WILL NOT ONLY MARK THE END OF AN ERA IN HONG KONG : MORE IMPORTANTLY IT WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS AGREEMENT WILL DEPEND NOT ONLY ON CHINA AND THE UK, BUT IN LARGE PART ON THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE IT WORK. AS THE HOUSE KNOWS VERY WELL THEY ARE RESOURCEFUL AND RESILIENT AND I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS EVERY CHANCE THAT IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE STRIKING FINANCIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUCCESS THAT IT IS TODAY.

CERTAINLY, WE SHALL CONTINUE FULLY, RESPONSIBLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO DISCHARGE OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG UNTIL 1997. AND THEREAFTER WE SHALL FOLLOW THE FORTUNES OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WITH THE UTMOST ATTENTION AND INTEREST.

MY DEPUTY SPEAKER, THIS IS A DEBATE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND ABOUT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT THAT IS BEFORE THE HOUSE TODAY. AND I CLOSE BY SAYING THAT THIS IS AN HONOURABLE AGREEMENT. IT IS AN AGREEMENT THAT IS GOOD FOR BRITAIN, AN AGREEMENT THAT IS GOOD FOR CHINA. BUT FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN EITHER OF THOSE STATEMENTS, IT IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT I WARMLY AND STRONGLY COMMEND IT TO THE HOUSE.

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MOVE TO ENSURE HK'S SHIPPING ROLE  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK IS IN PLACE TO ENABLE SHIPOWNERS TO CARRY ON THEIR BUSINESS IN A CLIMATE OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR PIERS JACOBS, WHEN HE ADDRESSED A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE SHIPPING COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT CHANGES HAD TO BE MADE TO THE PRESENT SET-UP AS PROVISIONS HAD BEEN MADE UNDER THE SINO-BRITISH DRAFT AGREEMENT THAT THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SHALL BE AUTHORISED BY THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A SHIPPING REGISTER AND ISSUE RELATED CERTIFICATES UNDER ITS OWN LEGISLATION IN THE NAME OF HONG KONG, CHINA.

/+AT THE .....

+AT THE MOMENT HONG KONG OPERATES AS A BRITISH PORT OF REGISTRY. THIS CANNOT CONTINUE BEYOND 1997. WE THEREFORE HAVE TO ADDRESS SOME QUITE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF OUR SHIPPING REGISTER,+ HE SAID.

IN RECENT YEARS THE FOCUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING REGISTER DEBATE HAS BEEN ON WHETHER TO DO AWAY WITH FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE.

+IF FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE ARE EVENTUALLY PHASED OUT, THEN THIS COULD HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE PATTERN OF SHIPPING IN HONG KONG BECAUSE AT THE PRESENT TIME A LARGE NUMBER OF HONG KONG BENEFICIALLY OWNED SHIPS FLY FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS DISCLOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNER'S ASSOCIATION AND CERTAIN OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN SUGGESTED TO THE GOVERNMENT. THEY INCLUDE:-

- \* THE NEED FOR HONG KONG TO HAVE ITS OWN MODERN MERCHANT SHIPPING LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND CONVENTIONS TO BE HONOURED;
- \* THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG REGISTRY ATTRACTIVE TO SHIPOWNERS AND OTHERS, WHICH COULD BE FINANCIALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT;
- \* THE DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NECESSARY SUPPORTING CERTIFICATION, SURVEY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES;
- \* THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITIES TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF SKILLED PERSONNEL TO MAN HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS;
- \* THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTINCT SHIPPING POLICY FOR HONG KONG, AND HONG KONG REPRESENTATION (AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER) IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION AND OTHER MAJOR SHIPPING POLICY MAKING BODIES; AND
- \* THE DEVELOPMENT OF PORT SERVICES TO MATCH THE NEEDS OF AN EXPANDING PORT AND HK'S INCREASINGLY VARIED AND DEVELOPING FLEET.

ON A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SHIPPING BUREAU WHICH WOULD PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE COMMERCIAL SIDE OF SHIPPING AND DEAL WITH TRADE DIFFICULTIES AND OTHER MATTERS OF THE SORT HANDLED IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, MR JACOBS SAID HE WAS ATTRACTED BY THIS IDEA.

+THE CONCEPT HAS SUFFICIENT MERIT TO DEMAND FURTHER EXAMINATION. OF COURSE, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING ANY FUTURE REGISTER AND MONITORING ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND SO ON, AND THE MAKING AND ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SAFETY OF SHIPS AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL MUST REST WITH THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S AIR TRANSPORT, MR JACOBS NOTED THAT MUCH COULD BE DONE TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND ABILITY OF KAI TAK TO HANDLE MORE PASSENGERS AND CARGO.

EXPANSION OF THE AIRPORT IS TAKING PLACE. A DEVELOPMENT PLAN KNOWN AS STAGE V WILL START IN APRIL 1985.

THE DESIGN OBJECTIVE OF STAGE V IS TO INCREASE THE HOURLY CAPACITY OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING TO A LEVEL WHICH BROADLY MATCHES THE RUNWAY CAPACITY OF 30 AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS AN HOUR.

THE HOURLY THROUGHPUT IN BUSY PERIODS HAS ALREADY REACHED THE AIRPORT'S DESIGN CAPACITY OF 3 400 PASSENGERS.

STAGE V WILL CATER FOR 5 300 PASSENGERS PER HOUR, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO AN ANNUAL TOTAL OF BETWEEN 17 AND 18 MILLION PASSENGERS. THE LEVEL OF PASSENGERS FOR 1983 WAS ALMOST 9 MILLION.

WHEN STAGE V IS COMPLETED IN MID-1987 IT SHOULD PROVIDE CAPACITY AT AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF SERVICE TO MEET DEMAND FOR QUITE A NUMBER OF YEARS.

+WHAT WILL HAPPEN THEREAFTER IS, OF COURSE, NOT EASY TO ANSWER. WE WILL HAVE TO WATCH THE TRAFFIC VERY CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT FALL BEHIND IN TERMS OF QUALITY OF SERVICE,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

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HK GROUP TO SEE SHENZHEN WATER WORKS  
\* \* \* \*

A GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE TOGETHER WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL STAFF WILL VISIT SHENZHEN TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE GROUP WILL LOOK AT WORKS PROJECTS IN SHENZHEN AND HONG KONG CONNECTED WITH THE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MAY 1980 BETWEEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLES GOVERNMENT OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE TO SUPPLY WATER TO HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO CAPITAL PROJECTS TO A TOTAL VALUE OF ALMOST \$2 000 MILLION DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE 1980 AGREEMENT. UNDER THE AGREEMENT, HONG KONG WILL ACCEPT 255 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER IN THE TEN MONTHS FROM MAY 1, 1984 TO FEBRUARY 28, 1985, AND THIS OFF-TAKE WILL INCREASE ANNUALLY TO 500 MILLION CUBIC METRES IN THE TEN MONTHS FOLLOWING MAY 1, 1990.

THE GROUP WILL BE BRIEFED IN SHENZHEN TOMORROW MORNING ON THE EAST RIVER SCHEME AND THE WORKS THAT HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO PUMP WATER SUPPLIES TO HONG KONG. THE GROUP WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG IN THE AFTERNOON TO VISIT SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING THE RECENTLY COMPLETED MUK WU PUMPING STATION, WHICH IS DUE TO BE OPENED THIS MONTH.

THE GROUP, WHICH WILL BE LED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE, WILL INCLUDE SEVEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE. THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE DIRECTORS OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOGETHER WITH OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE FINANCE BRANCH AND LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

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#### CONSTRUCTION SAFETY EFFORTS PAY OFF \* \* \* \*

REMARKABLE RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN CONTAINING THE GROWTH OF ACCIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR CHAN NAI-KEONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS, HE ADDED, WAS A RESULT OF THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS OVER THE YEARS IN PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY THROUGH IMPROVED LEGISLATION AND INTENSIFIED TRAINING AND PUBLICITY.

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY AWARD SCHEME ORGANISED BY CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AT +RAFFLES+, MR CHAN SAID IT WAS HEARTENING TO NOTE THAT THIS YEAR THE NUMBER OF FATALITIES RECORDED CONTINUED TO SHOW A STEADY DOWNWARD TREND SINCE 1981.

+COMPARED WITH THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1983, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS HAD DROPPED FROM 12 118 CASES TO 11 342 CASES IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD THIS YEAR, WHILE FATAL ACCIDENTS HAVE DECLINED FROM 46 TO 30 CASES.+

/HOWEVER, MR .....

HOWEVER, MR CHAN STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO CAUSE TO JUSTIFY SELF-COMPLACENCY AND EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY STANDARDS OF OUR WORKING ENVIRONMENT COULD NOT BE SLACKENED.

BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVELY MORE DANGEROUS WORKS BEING CARRIED OUT ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, WITH ALL THE ASSOCIATED PHYSICAL STRESSES AND STRAINS IMPOSED ON A WORKER, THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IS STILL THE MOST HAZARDOUS INDUSTRY IN WHICH TO WORK,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING AGAIN TO THE ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, MR CHAN SAID THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ACCOUNTED FOR 33 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL FOR ALL INDUSTRIES, WHILE THE NUMBER OF FATALITIES ACCOUNTED FOR 60 PER CENT.

+CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF OUR WORKERS IS THEREFORE A MATTER OF CONCERN TO US ALL,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID THE SAFETY AWARD SCHEME WAS YET ANOTHER PROGRAMME ORGANISED FOR THE EFFECTIVE PROMULGATION OF THE IMPORTANT MESSAGE OF SAFETY AT WORK.

+IT SHOULD BE EMPHASISED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AWARDS GIVEN OUT ARE NOT AN END IN THEMSELVES BUT SERVE AS A STIMULUS TO OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF WORK SAFETY,+ HE SAID.

THE SCHEME CONSISTED OF FOUR AWARDS: +SAFETY WORKER+, +SAFETY SUB-CONTRACTOR+, +SAFETY SITE+ AND +SAFETY QUIZ+.

THE +SAFETY WORKER+ AWARD WAS WON BY MR LEE KWOK-KEUNG OF KUMAGAI GUMI (HK) LTD.; THE +SAFETY SITE+ AWARD BY THE J908, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN SITE OF THE GAMMON (HK) LTD.; WHILE THE +SAFETY SUB-CONTRACTOR+ AND +SAFETY QUIZ+ AWARDS WERE WON BY MR TSANG KIN-SHING AND MR WONG CHU-KWONG RESPECTIVELY.

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#### PROMOTING THE 'PLAY SAFE' MESSAGE

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LAND SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO TEST THEIR SKILLS AND SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 9).

A +LAND SPORTS DAY+, ORGANISED ANNUALLY BY THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE SPORTS GROUPS TO PROMOTE THE +PLAY SAFE+ MESSAGE, WILL BE HELD AT THE GUN CLUB HILL BARRACKS, GASCOIGNE ROAD, KOWLOON FROM 9.30 AM TO 5 PM.

IT WILL BE OPENED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR WONG LAM, IN THE COMPANY OF DR S.F. LAM, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS, AND MR P.E. BIRNEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE 1984 LAND SPORTS SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO JOIN AND SHARE IN THE FUN. ADMISSION IS FREE.

THEY WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN PLAY-IN SESSIONS ON A VARIETY OF SPORTS INCLUDING ARCHERY, RIFLE SHOOTING, CYCLING, ROLLER-SKATING, TENT CAMPING AND HIKING.

PROGRAMMES FOR SPECTATORS WILL INCLUDE DEMONSTRATIONS OF SPORTING SKILLS, DISPLAYS OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND PHOTOGRAPHS, A TALK SHOW BY FAMOUS TV ARTISTES, BAND MUSIC AND VIDEO FILM SHOWS.

A QUIZ ON LAND SPORTS SAFETY WAS ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL LAST MONTH AS AN INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY TO THE SAFETY DAY. SOME 2 000 ENTRANTS, WHO HAD SUBMITTED ACCURATE ANSWERS, WILL BE INVITED TO COLLECT THEIR SOUVENIRS AND TAKE PART IN THE SAFETY DAY.

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#### UK ENERGY MINISTER TO MEET PRESS

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THE MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, THE RT HON ALICK BUCHANAN-SMITH, MP, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 4.45 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM.

HE IS STOPPING OVER IN HONG KONG FOR A DAY ON HIS WAY BACK TO LONDON AFTER AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA.

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#### WEST GERMANS URGED TO INVEST IN HK

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DIRECT INVESTMENT BY WEST GERMANY IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY, SAID TODAY.

MR YAXLEY, WHO IS ON AN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION TOUR OF WEST GERMANY, WAS SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR IN COLOGNE.

HE SAID THAT WEST GERMANY RANKED TENTH IN OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG. THE MAJOR SOURCES OF OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT CAME FROM THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM FOLLOWED BY THE NETHERLANDS, THE PHILIPPINES AND SWITZERLAND.

OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG WAS MAINLY IN ELECTRONICS, TEXTILES AND GARMENTS, AND ELECTRICAL GOODS.

/MR YAXLEY .....

MR YAXLEY SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT IN THE CENTRE OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC.

IN ALL THIS ACTIVITY, HE SAID, WESTERN EUROPE PLAYED A VERY SMALL PART.

IT WAS TIME THAT MORE PEOPLE IN WESTERN EUROPE WOKE UP TO THE OPPORTUNITIES AND POSSIBILITIES BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE, HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, MR YAXLEY SAID THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA PROVIDED A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO PRESERVE ITS LEGAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

+IN SHORT, THE DRAFT AGREEMENT PROVIDES ADEQUATELY FOR A CONTINUATION OF LIFE IN HONG KONG AS WE KNOW IT, AND OF ALL THOSE FACTORS WHICH HAVE MADE HONG KONG A SUCCESS.

+IT HAS BEEN WELL-RECEIVED NOT ONLY IN HONG KONG ITSELF, BUT MORE WIDELY BY GOVERNMENTS ABROAD AND IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE WITH ITS SUCCESS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH WHICH WILL ACCELERATE WITH CHINA'S MODERNISATION PROGRAMMES,+ MR YAXLEY SAID.

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#### FIRE PREVENTION SEMINAR IN KWUN TONG

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A SEMINAR WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO EDUCATE OFFICE-BEARERS OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AND FACTORY BUILDING CARETAKERS IN KWUN TONG ON FIRE PREVENTION IN FACTORY BUILDINGS.

SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR WILL BE THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE KWUN TONG FIRE STATION, MR K.K. TSANG, AND THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNDERWRITERS CO LTD, MR K.C. CHEUNG.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION AFTER THEIR TALKS.

ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEE AND THE LOCAL INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE ASSOCIATION, THE SEMINAR WILL START AT 3.30 PM AT TELFORD RESTAURANT IN TELFORD GARDENS, KOWLOON BAY.

TOMORROW'S MEETING IS PART OF A SERIES OF SEMINARS INITIATED BY THE AREA COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE FACTORY BUILDING MANAGEMENT IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA OF THE DISTRICT.

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TUNNEL TICKETS - A REMINDER  
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AS FROM JANUARY 1, NEXT YEAR, THE OLD TYPE PREPAID CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL TICKETS WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED AS PAYMENT OF TOLL FEES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE REMINDED HOLDERS OF THE OLD TYPE PREPAID TICKETS, WHICH DO NOT INCLUDE THE TUNNEL PASSAGE TAX, TO EXCHANGE THEM FOR THE NEW TYPE INCLUSIVE OF THE TAX.

THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE UP FOR ANY DIFFERENCE IN VALUE BY PAYMENT OF CASH OR CHEQUE, HE SAID.

OLD TICKETS MAY BE EXCHANGED AT THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE TOLL PLAZA, HUNG HOM, DURING OFFICE HOURS OR BY REGISTERED POST.

A NOTICE OF THE CHANGEOVER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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TECHNICAL INSTITUTE EXPANDS CAPACITY  
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WITH THE COMPLETION OF ITS PHASE TWO DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL NOW HAS 2 300 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT PLACES.

+THE \$35 MILLION PROJECT, WHICH CONSISTS OF AN ADDITIONAL FLOOR IN THE MAIN BUILDING AND A SIX-STOREY ANNEX, IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE 850 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID.

WITH THE INCREASED CAPACITY THE INSTITUTE IS NOW THE LARGEST OPERATED BY THE COUNCIL.

IT COST A FURTHER \$9 MILLION TO EQUIP THE 14 SPECIAL ROOMS AND WORKSHOPS AND 18 GENERAL-PURPOSE CLASSROOMS IN THE NEW EXTENSION AND ANNEX, WHICH WAS OPENED IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

THE ADDITIONAL SPACE IS MAINLY TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR TECHNICIAN COURSES TRANSFERRED FROM THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

SINCE 1981, 28 DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE COURSES, INVOLVING ABOUT 5 800 STUDENTS, HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, AND THE COUNCIL IS BUILDING ANOTHER ANNEX AT THE HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO COPE WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE STUDENT POPULATION.

/MEANWHILE, A .....

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MEANWHILE, A MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO INCREASE THE PROVISION OF COURSES, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF HEAVY VEHICLE WORK, TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN THESE TRADES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE TEACHING OF VEHICLE BODY REPAIRING, MOTOR VEHICLE MECHANICS AND ENGINE TESTING HAD BEEN INSTALLED IN THE NEW WORKSHOPS, HE SAID.

THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ALSO OFFERS CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN COURSES IN ITS OTHER FIVE TEACHING DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCIAL STUDIES, DESIGN, GENERAL STUDIES, INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

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STATEMENT BY BANKING COMMISSIONER  
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING STATED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT CONTINENTAL PACIFIC BANK AND TRUST COMPANY INC, A COMPANY INCORPORATED IN THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, APPLIED TO HIS OFFICE EARLY THIS YEAR FOR APPROVAL TO MAINTAIN A REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN HONG KONG UNDER SECTION 12C(1) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

UPON KNOWING THAT THE APPLICATION WOULD BE REFUSED, THE COMPANY WITHDREW ITS APPLICATION.

HE UNDERSTANDS THAT AN ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE OF THE COMPANY UNDER THE NAME OF CONPAC HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THAT COMPANY IN HONG KONG.

THE COMMISSIONER WISHES TO STATE THAT HE HAS NEVER GIVEN APPROVAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN OFFICE, AS INDEED HIS APPROVAL WAS NOT REQUIRED SINCE THE WORD +BANK+ IS NOT USED IN THE NAME CONPAC.

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ATHLETICS HELPS BUILD CHARACTER -- CHEONG-LEEN  
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ATHLETICS IS MORE THAN JUST FUN AND GAMES. IT TEACHES SELF-DISCIPLINE, FAIR PLAY, PERSEVERANCE AND IT ALSO PROMOTES PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING - ALL QUALITIES THAT ARE NEEDED TO ATTAIN SUCCESS IN WHATEVER ONE CHOOSES TO DO IN LIFE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE FOURTH JOINT SCHOOLS ATHLETIC MEET FOR THE PRIMARY SECTION ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CATHOLIC DIOCESAN SCHOOLS COUNCIL, AT THE HONG KONG STADIUM TODAY (THURSDAY).

/MR CHEONG-LEEN .....

MR CHEONG-LEEN TOLD SOME 1 700 CONTESTANTS FROM 72 SCHOOLS THAT ONE OF THE PRIMARY GOALS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL IS TO PROMOTE SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH.

DESPITE FINANCIAL AND LAND CONSTRAINTS, HE SAID, THE COUNCIL ALLOCATES A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ITS RESOURCES TO PROVIDING BETTER AND MORE RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES - A COMMITMENT WHICH HAS BEEN STEPPED UP IN RECENT YEARS.

+BUT IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT THE COUNCIL CAN FIND SUCH SUITABLE SITES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE, PURPOSE-BUILT SPORTS COMPLEXES,+ MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

+IN CONSEQUENCE THE COUNCIL ADOPTS A FLEXIBLE APPROACH AND LAND RESOURCES ALREADY ALLOCATED TO THE COUNCIL ARE PUT TO MAXIMUM USE BY THE INCLUSION OF SPORTS FACILITIES IN EXISTING AND FUTURE MULTI-PURPOSE COMPLEXES.

+IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT YOU WILL SOMETIMES FIND UNDER ONE ROOF AN INDOOR GAMES HALL, A LIBRARY, SOME MARKET STALLS AND VARIOUS URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT OFFICES.

+I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THIS APPROACH HAS ENABLED US TO BUILD RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES THAT ARE COMPARABLE IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY WITH MOST OF THE MAJOR CITIES ELSEWHERE.+

APART FROM PROVIDING BASIC FACILITIES, THE COUNCIL ALSO PRESENTED IN 1983/84 A TOTAL OF 275 SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNGSTERS IN COLLABORATION WITH VARIOUS NATIONAL SPORTS BODIES, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, DISTRICT BOARDS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

AND IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR ALONE, IT ORGANISED 28 YOUTH SPORTS PROJECTS, ONE OF WHICH ATTRACTED SOME 3 600 SCHOOL CHILDREN AS COMPARED WITH 2 500 IN 1983.

+THIS TREND NO DOUBT AUGURS WELL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHAT MAY BE TERMED HONG KONG'S ONLY NATURAL RESOURCE AND A PRECIOUS ONE IT IS AT THAT, TOO ... AND THAT IS, OUR YOUTH -- FOR WITHOUT THEM, WHERE IS OUR FUTURE?+ MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

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TV TO HELP TEACH ABOUT DISTRICTS  
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A SERIES OF LIVELY AND INTERESTING TELEVISION PROGRAMMES WILL BE AIRED ON TVB JADE AT NOON EVERY SUNDAY TO TEACH VIEWERS ABOUT THEIR OWN DISTRICT AND ABOUT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THE FIRST OF THE +INTER-DISTRICT GAMES SHOWS+ WILL BE SCREENED ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 9).

THE PROGRAMME, COMPRISING 13 EPISODES, IS JOINTLY PRODUCED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE 18 DISTRICT OFFICES TO PROMOTE DISTRICT SPIRIT AND TO PUBLICISE THE ROLE OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

+THE SHOWS ARE INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING, AND WILL FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF TWO DISTRICTS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+SOME OF THE STORIES IN THE EPISODES INCLUDE THE LOVER ROCK OF WAN CHAI, PROBLEMS RELATING TO PRIVATE STREETS IN KOWLOON CITY, TRAFFIC AND MEDICAL FACILITIES PLANNED FOR EASTERN, THE DESCRIPTION OF SAI KUNG AS THE BACKYARD OF HONG KONG, AND HOW THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD TACKLE PROBLEMS IN THE DENSELY POPULATED DISTRICT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IN BETWEEN THE DOCUMENTARIES WILL BE SOME EXCITING TELEMATCH GAMES, WITH THEMES THAT RELATE TO CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS,+ HE ADDED.

+CLOSER TO THE TIME OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN MARCH NEXT YEAR, THE DOCUMENTARIES WILL INTRODUCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE ROLE OF DISTRICT BOARDS.+ HE SAID.

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ANTI-NARCOTICS CONCERT ON SATURDAY  
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR G.L. MORTIMER, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1984 SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS CONCERT ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 8).

THE CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL, STARTING 8 PM.

TWO LOCAL SINGERS, MR JOHNNY IP AND MISS CONNIE MAK, WILL PERFORM AT THE STAGE AND PUT ACROSS THE ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGE.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1984

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SECOND AMBULANCE DEPOT FOR TUEN MUN  
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A SECOND AMBULANCE DEPOT WILL SOON BE BUILT IN TUEN MUN.

A \$3.5 MILLION CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE WORK, WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOUR-STOREY STANDARD AMBULANCE DEPOT WITH FOUR APPLIANCE BAYS, BARRACK ACCOMMODATION, OFFICES, A RECREATIONAL AREA AND A DRILL YARD.

THE DEPOT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER NEXT YEAR.

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LIGHTING UP FOR CHRISTMAS  
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THE TSIM SHA TSUI EAST CHRISTMAS LIGHT WILL BE SWITCHED ON AT 6 PM ON DECEMBER 14 (FRIDAY).

A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE DESIGN, BUDGET AND TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EVENT WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 3 PM IN THE ACADEMIC ROOM, HARBOUR VIEW HOLIDAY INN, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TSIM SHA TSUI EAST PROPERTY DEVELOPERS' ASSOCIATION, MR LUI CHE-WOO, AND THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BOWEN LEUNG WILL ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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NORTH DISTRICT SINGING CONTEST  
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PEOPLE IN THE NORTH DISTRICT ARE BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A SINGING CONTEST TO BE HELD DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES LIVING, WORKING OR STUDYING IN THE DISTRICT. IT AIMS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO JOIN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TO DISSEMINATE THE MESSAGE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING AWAY FROM CRIME AND DRUGS.

FOR THE PRELIMINARIES, CONTESTANTS MAY CHOOSE THEIR OWN SONG, BUT FOR THE FINALS, THEY MUST PERFORM AN ADDITIONAL SONG DESIGNATED BY THE ORGANISERS.

/PRIZES FOR .....

PRIZES FOR THE TOP THREE WINNERS INCLUDE AN ELECTRONIC ORGAN, A RADIO-CASSETTE RECORDER AND A PERSONAL COMPUTER, WITH CONSOLATION PRIZES FOR SEVEN OTHER CONTESTANTS.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES, THE LOCAL RURAL COMMITTEES AND THE NORTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RETURNED TO THESE PLACES BY DECEMBER 14 (FRIDAY).

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE CONTEST IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS.

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NEW ROAD SECTION OPENING

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A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SECTION OF PO LAM ROAD BETWEEN SAU MAU PING ROAD AND ANDERSON ROAD WILL BE OPEN TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THIS SECTION OF ROAD IS PROHIBITED TO N.T. TAXIS AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

MOTORISTS WISHING ACCESS FROM KWUN TONG TO RENNIE'S MILL AND VICE VERSA MAY USE THIS ROAD.

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VEHICLE RESTRICTION

FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 8), ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING FOUR TONNES GROSS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO USE POWER STREET IN NORTH POINT.

THIS IS TO ENABLE WATER MAINS WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT.

WELLINGTON STREET BETWEEN D'AGUILAR STREET AND WYNDHAM STREET IN CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 2 PM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 8) TO 7 AM ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 10) FOR ROAD WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WYNDHAM STREET, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND D'AGUILAR STREET.

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