



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TALKS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE WILL TAKE TIME -- SIR PHILIP  
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IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY USEFUL PREDICTION AS TO HOW LONG THE SEARCH FOR ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE WOULD TAKE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED ARE COMPLEX AND THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL, THEREFORE, TAKE TIME,+ HE SAID AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

WHILE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY WITH DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI'S CALL FOR PERIODIC ANNOUNCEMENTS TO REDUCE UNCERTAINTY AND SPECULATION, SIR PHILIP SAID THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO THINK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS AN ONGOING PROCESS.

SIR PHILIP SAID THAT IT WOULD BE EVIDENT FROM THE SCALE AND AMBITION OF THE PLANS OUTLINED BY THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS JUST HOW DETERMINED THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO BUILD FOR FURTHER PROSPERITY.

+CLEARLY, IN THIS CONTEXT, IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT THE SEARCH FOR ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR FUTURE IS BEING, AND WILL BE, PURSUED VIGOROUSLY,+ HE SAID.

INTENSE SPECULATION ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHILE UNDERSTANDABLE, WAS NOT A FRUITFUL PASTIME, HE SAID.

SIR PHILIP ALSO SPOKE ON POINTS RAISED BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN WHO HAD CALLED FOR A FUNDAMENTAL RE-APPRAISAL OF THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY AND ITS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE, FOR REFORM OF BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES AND FOR A CONTINUING REVIEW OF POLICIES.

+THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IS COMPLICATED, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, BY THE NEED TO RECONCILE MANY CONFLICTING CONSIDERATIONS.

+INEVITABLY, THEREFORE, THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IS A SOMEWHAT ARGUMENTATIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

SIR PHILIP SAID, +I SEE NO NECESSITY FOR -- AND EVEN LESS WISDOM IN -- WHAT MISS DUNN DESCRIBED AS 'A FUNDAMENTAL RE-APPRAISAL' OF THE ORGANISATION OF GOVERNMENT, EVEN IF IT WAS UNDERTAKEN AS AN IN-HOUSE EXERCISE, RATHER THAN BY OUTSIDE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS.

+ORGANISATION (AND PROCEDURAL) REFORMS ARE BEST DEVISED AND INTRODUCED PROGRESSIVELY AND I THINK THE RECORD CLEARLY SHOWS THAT WE DO INTRODUCE ADAPTATIONS TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS.+

BESIDES CITING THE MANY ADAPTATIONS MADE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, SIR PHILIP TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON BE SETTING UP A NEW SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

+PRESENTLY, AS PART AND PARCEL OF THE REVIEW OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, WE ARE LOOKING AT EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS BODIES IN THE RECREATION AND CULTURE FIELDS,+ HE SAID.

+NOW AS REGARDS MISS DUNN'S TWO SPECIFIC CHARGES THAT OUR ADMINISTRATION IS OVER-CENTRALISED AND TOP-HEAVY, LET ME SAY STRAIGHTAWAY THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF CENTRAL CONTROL NECESSARY.

+BUT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF CENTRAL CONTROL OVER DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES IS ESSENTIAL TO DEVISE OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVES AND, ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED, TO SEE THAT THEY ARE ACHIEVED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT OF 11 BRANCHES AND TWO RESOURCE BRANCHES, STAFFED BY JUST UNDER 2 000 OFFICERS OF ALL RANKS, COULD TRULY BE DESCRIBED AS OVER-CENTRALISED.

IT MUST BE REMEMBERED, SIR PHILIP ADDED, THAT THERE ARE SOME 55 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS STAFFED BY ABOUT 166 000 CIVIL SERVANTS, MOST OF WHOM ARE IN VERY CLOSE AND REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE.

+NOR CAN THE CHARGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S BUREAUCRACY IS TOP-HEAVY BE SUBSTANTIATED BY THE FACTS: THE TOTAL STRENGTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AT 1ST OCTOBER THIS YEAR WAS JUST UNDER 168 000, COMPRISING 880 DIRECTORATE SCALE OFFICERS AND 1 400 OFFICERS AT SENIOR MANAGEMENT-PROFESSIONAL LEVEL AND 165 600 OFFICERS AT ALL OTHER LEVELS.

+PUT SIMPLY, 2 280 SENIOR OFFICERS ARE IN CHARGE OF 165 600 STAFF OF ALL OTHER RANKS. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT ANY REASONABLE PERSON WOULD REGARD THESE OVERHEADS AS THIN RATHER THAN THICK,+ HE STATED.

WITH REFERENCE TO THE HON W.C.L. BROWN'S REMARKS, SIR PHILIP SAID THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE +STIFLING EFFECTS+ OF COMPLEX REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

+THOSE OF US WHO HAVE TO LIVE WITHIN THE SYSTEM, AND DO OUR BEST TO MAKE IT WORK EFFICIENTLY, ARE AS LIKELY TO BE CRITICAL OF THE SYSTEM AS PROFESSIONAL COMMENTATORS AND AS FRUSTRATED BY UNNECESSARY COMPLEXITY AS THOSE WHOM THE SYSTEM SEEKS TO SERVE.

+WE BUREAUCRATS HAVE, THEREFORE, OR SO I WOULD LIKE TO THINK, A BUILT-IN INCENTIVE TO EFFECT REFORMS, QUITE APART FROM THE EXTERNAL PRESSURES BROUGHT TO BEAR UPON US BY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE AUDITOR'S SCRUTINY AND THE EXAMINATION OF HIS PUBLISHED ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE,+ SIR PHILIP ADDED.

BUT THE SCOPE FOR REFORMS HAD TO BE INDICATED BY EXPERIENCE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF REFORMS HAD TO BE A CONTINUOUS PROCESS, HE SAID.

ON CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING, SIR PHILIP POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OPERATES 41 TRAINING SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS, PLUS 50 TRAINING UNITS OR DIVISIONS WHICH, TOGETHER, HAVE A FULL-TIME STAFF OF 700 AND PART-TIME STAFF OF 120.

SERVICE-WIDE, THE TRAINING FACILITIES CAN DEAL WITH 10 000 TRAINEES A YEAR.

THIS YEAR, OF THE \$400 MILLION BEING SPENT ON TRAINING GENERALLY, \$46 MILLION HAD BEEN ALLOCATED TO MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY TRAINING, INDICATING INCREASING EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN RECENT YEARS, HE SAID.

HE REPORTED THAT ALSO, MORE THAN 40 OFFICERS HAD BEEN SENT THIS YEAR TO OXFORD, HENLEY, HARVARD AND OTHER CENTRES OF MANAGEMENT EDUCATION WHILE 145 OFFICERS HAD BEEN SPONSORED ON MANAGEMENT COURSES AT LOCAL INSTITUTIONS.

+THERE IS THUS NO QUESTION OF OUR LIMITING MANAGEMENT TRAINING TO ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE WRONG TO UNDER-RATE THE VALUE OF SUCH TRAINING,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, SIR PHILIP NOTED THAT THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF CAPITAL WORKS SPENDING HAD MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO PROTECTING THE ECONOMY FROM SOME OF THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLD RECESSION.

+THIS MAY BE SO BUT, IN FACT, THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THAT EXPENDITURE WAS NOT SO MUCH ANTI-CYCLICAL AS THE NEED TO SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF INVESTMENT IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE SO NECESSARY TO HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT.

+EVEN WHEN PRUDENT BUDGETARY POLICY DEMANDS THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE BE TRIMMED, THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMMES REQUIRE THAT COMMITMENTS ENTERED INTO BE ADHERED TO DESPITE ANY TEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES TO WHICH THE ECONOMY MAY BE SUBJECT,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

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#### HK RATES HIGH IN CRIME DETECTION

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HONG KONG'S CRIME RATES SEEMED TO BE LOW COMPARED WITH THOSE IN OTHER DENSELY POPULATED CITIES, AND ITS DETECTION RATES WERE HIGH BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR JEAFFRESON CONCEDED THAT REPORTED CRIME PER 100 000 OF THE POPULATION HAD BEEN RISING, WITH THE RATE GOING UP FROM 452 IN 1962 TO 834 IN 1972 AND TO 1 671 IN 1982.

+THIS YEAR IS NOT GOING TO SEE A REDUCTION IN THE RATE AND IT LOOKS TO ME AS IF THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME. BUT THE FACT IS THAT WE DO HAVE A WELL-RUN AND DEDICATED POLICE FORCE,+ HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON ADDED THAT A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE INCREASE IN REPORTED CRIME COULD POSSIBLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT, BECAUSE THE POLICE WERE MORE EFFECTIVE NOW, MORE PEOPLE WERE PREPARED TO REPORT CRIMES.

ON THE RECONSTITUTED FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WITH A MORE REPRESENTATIVE AND HIGH-POWERED MEMBERSHIP AND WITH THE CHIEF SECRETARY IN THE CHAIR, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT ALREADY SOME INTERESTING IDEAS WERE COMING FORWARD.

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID THAT THE HON LYDIA DUNN RIGHTLY LINKED +VAST AND IMPERSONAL HOUSING ESTATES+ WITH THE +DEPLORABLE INCREASE IN CRIME+.

+BUT I DON'T THINK THIS LINK IS JUST CAUSED BY THE BREAK UP OF LONG ESTABLISHED DISTRICT COMMUNITIES. I WOULD GUESS THAT AN EQUALLY TELLING FACTOR IS THAT MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS ARE EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT TO POLICE,+ HE SAID.

+THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THESE DIFFICULTIES AS FAR AS PUBLIC HOUSING IS CONCERNED,+ HE POINTED OUT.

HE REPORTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS CONSULTING THE POLICE ON THE LAYOUT OF ESTATES AND ITS ARCHITECTS NOW INCLUDED IN THE DESIGN OF INDIVIDUAL BLOCKS AS MANY MEASURES AS THEY COULD TO REDUCE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CRIMINALS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THEY PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE LIGHTING OF PUBLIC PLACES AND ARE CAREFUL NOT TO INCLUDE IN PUBLIC AREAS ALCOVES WHERE CRIMINALS CAN HIDE.

+MAYBE THESE PRACTICES CAN BE DEVELOPED AND EXTENDED INTO, SAY, A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ARCHITECTS GENERALLY. WE WILL BE ASKING THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT, HE REPORTED THAT THE POLICE COMMISSIONER MADE EVERY EFFORT TO INTRODUCE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING INTO ESTATES AS SOON AS NEW TENANTS BEGAN TO MOVE IN.

+THERE ARE ALREADY SIGNS THAT THESE EFFORTS, COUPLED WITH THE GREATLY IMPROVED DESIGN OF OUR NEW ESTATES, INCORPORATING A MUCH WIDER RANGE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, ARE SUCCEEDING.

+OVER THE LAST 18 MONTHS, OVERALL REPORTED CRIME PER 100 000 OF THE POPULATION WAS 40 PER CENT LESS IN OUR NEWER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES THAN IN THE OLDER ONES. A SIMILAR COMPARISON FOR SERIOUS ASSAULTS SHOWED A DIFFERENCE OF 52 PER CENT,+ HE POINTED OUT.

THE INTRODUCTION OF +CRIME INFORMATION FORMS+, WHICH ARE NOW EVEN AVAILABLE IN MANY BANKS AS WELL AS IN ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND POST OFFICES, HAD ALSO HELPED, HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT NEXT WEEK, THE POLICE WOULD START A SURVEY OF 2 000 CRIME VICTIMS TO FIND OUT WHETHER THEY HAD ANY CRITICISMS OF THE EXISTING SYSTEMS SO THAT FURTHER REFINEMENTS COULD BE INTRODUCED.

+EVEN IN THESE DAYS OF AUSTERITY, WE WILL BE FIGHTING TO GET ADDITIONAL POSTS FOR THE POLICE INTO NEXT YEAR'S ESTIMATES TO ENSURE THAT LEVELS OF POLICING APPROPRIATE TO THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES THE POLICE HAVE TO RESPOND TO ARE MAINTAINED,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE POLICE WERE ALSO EMBARKING ON SEVERAL TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS TO IMPROVE THEIR EFFICIENCY.

ON CRIME PROBLEMS INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT ONE EXAMPLE OF DEALING WITH THEM WAS THE LIAISON THE POLICE WAS MAINTAINING WITH THE MANY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE YOUNG.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1983

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PROPOSAL ON DISPLAY CENTRE PROJECT EXPECTED SOON  
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT A RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE MADE SHORTLY TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL AS TO HOW BEST THE PROPOSED EXHIBITION CENTRE PROJECT SHOULD BE FURTHER PURSUED.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON MOTION OF THANKS FOR GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

MR HO SAID THAT THE STAGE II CONSULTANTS - SELECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED NON-STATUTORY BOARD CHAIRED BY MR MICHAEL SANDBERG - COMPLETED THEIR REPORT IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

+THEY PROPOSED A DESIGN FOR A MULTI-PURPOSE COMPLEX ON THE WAN CHAI SITE PROVIDING FOR EXHIBITION HALLS, CONFERENCE FACILITIES, CARPARKING, HOTEL, SHOPPING AND OFFICE SPACE.

+THE CONSULTANTS ADVISED THAT NO MAJOR EXHIBITION CENTRE COULD OF ITSELF GENERATE SUFFICIENT DIRECT INCOME TO MEET THE FINANCING AND CAPITAL COSTS, AND THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT THE NON-EXHIBITION ELEMENTS, THAT IS, THE SHOPS, HOTEL AND OFFICES BE INCLUDED IN THE COMPLEX FOR SALE TO RECOVER THE CAPITAL COSTS INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXHIBITION CENTRE.

+THESE FINDINGS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN JULY THIS YEAR. BECAUSE OF THE CHANGED VALUES IN THE PROPERTY MARKET SINCE THE STUDY WAS UNDERTAKEN A FURTHER FINANCIAL STUDY WAS REQUIRED WITH RESPECT TO VIABILITY BEFORE A DECISION COULD BE TAKEN.

+THIS FURTHER TOUGH AND CLEARLY ESSENTIAL STUDY WHICH HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED HAS COME TO A SOMEWHAT MORE CIRCUMSPECT CONCLUSION. A RECOMMENDATION WILL BE MADE SHORTLY TO YOUR EXCELLENCY IN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AS TO HOW BEST THE PROJECT SHOULD BE FURTHER PURSUED,+ MR HO SAID.

RECOUNTING THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT, MR HO SAID THAT THE THEN SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, IN HIS REPLY TO MR ALEX WU'S SPEECH OF OCTOBER 1977, CONFIRMED THAT THE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT WAS GATHERING MATERIAL TO SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT AN EXHIBITION CENTRE WAS GREATLY NEEDED AND WOULD BE WIDELY USED. IT WAS NOTED THAT AN ADEQUATE EXHIBITION CENTRE WOULD NOT BE INEXPENSIVE AND THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE VIABLE.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT THE EXHIBITION CENTRE HAS TO BE VIABLE WAS ENDORSED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION (ACD). WHILE ACD WAS STILL ENGAGED ON ITS STUDIES THE THEN TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT WAS ALREADY AUTHORISED IN LATE 1978 TO EMBARK ON A TWO-STAGE CONSULTANCY TO ASCERTAIN THE DEMAND FOR AN EXHIBITION CENTRE IN HONG KONG, ITS VIABILITY, AND TO PROVIDE SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES.+

/+THE CONSULTANTS .....

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+THE CONSULTANTS FOR THE STAGE ONE STUDY WERE APPOINTED IN AUGUST 1979 AND REPORTED IN EARLY 1980 CONFIRMING THE DEMAND. IN NOVEMBER 1980 THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL ORDERED THAT CONSULTANTS BE APPOINTED TO UNDERTAKE STAGE TWO OF THE STUDY TO DRAW UP SPECIFICATIONS FOR AN EXHIBITION CENTRE AND TO PREPARE ESTIMATES OF CAPITAL AND RECURRENT COSTS, AND POTENTIAL INCOME. A NON-STATUTORY BOARD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR SANDBERG WAS APPOINTED IN MARCH 1981 TO SELECT THE CONSULTANTS FOR THE STAGE TWO STUDY AND TO OVERSEE THEIR WORK.

+EARLY IN ITS DELIBERATIONS WITH THE PROSPECTIVE CONSULTANTS, THE NON-STATUTORY BOARD CONCLUDED THAT THE SITE ORIGINALLY EARMARKED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST WAS NOT SUITABLE AND STAGE TWO OF THE CONSULTANCY COULD NOT BE STARTED UNTIL JULY 1982 AFTER A VALUABLE SITE ON THE WAN CHAI WATERFRONT HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A MORE APPROPRIATE LOCATION.+

MR HO EMPHASISED THAT THE SYSTEMATIC ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROJECT WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE NEED TO ENSURE ITS VIABILITY.

+I NOTE THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WHILE NOT UNAWARE OF THE VALUE OF EXPORTS HAVE REFUSED TO SUBSIDISE AN EXHIBITION CENTRE. IN THEIR ADVOCACY MY UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES WERE SEEMINGLY UNCONCERNED ABOUT VIABILITY. IF I MAY SAY SO, THIS IS NO WAY TO CONTROL PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE.

+IN CONCLUSION, I MUST REPEAT THAT ANY EXHIBITION CENTRE MUST BE VIABLE. THIS IS THE ISSUE TO BE FACED,+ MR HO ADDED.

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## CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY PLEDGED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THE PROVISION OF AN EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT SERVICE TO LOCAL INDUSTRY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE WAS COMMENTING ON THE POINTS MADE BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS REGARDING GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY SPEECH.

+THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WORKS CLOSELY WITH TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INDUSTRIALISTS TO INVEST IN INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG THROUGH ITS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE ONE-STOP UNIT IN HONG KONG AND FOUR OVERSEAS OFFICES IN LONDON, TOKYO, STUTTGART AND SAN FRANCISCO.

+THE WIDE-RANGING INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMME,+ SAID MR HO, +INCLUDES SUCH ACTIVITIES AS SEMINARS, ATTENDANCE AT TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL FAIRS AND INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION MISSIONS.

+I SHOULD LIKE TO URGE OUR INDUSTRIALISTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN UPGRADING, DIVERSIFYING OR EXPANDING THEIR MANUFACTURING FACILITIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROGRAMME,+ HE REMARKED.

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## BRIDGE STUDIES PUT IN BROAD CONTEXT

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THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE TO TAKE A VEHICLE THROUGH OR OVER THE HARBOUR, REGARDLESS OF COST AND THE EFFECT ON THE TRANSPORT PROGRAMME, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+HOWEVER CLEAR WHAT IS DESIRABLE MAY BE TO INTELLIGENT ANTICIPATORS, OUR RESOURCES DO NOT PERMIT US TO PROVIDE EVERYTHING THAT IS DESIRABLE, AT THE MOMENT IT IS DESIRED,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON LYDIA DUNN'S EARLIER ALLEGATION THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE FAILED TO USE REASONABLE ANTICIPATION IN THE LATTER PART OF THE 1970'S IN PURSUING STUDIES FOR WHAT SHE DESCRIBED AS THE +LEI YUE MUN NON-BRIDGE+.

+THE FACT, HOWEVER, IS THAT STUDIES WERE CONTINUING, AT VARIOUS LEVELS, NOT ONLY OF SUCH A POSSIBLE BRIDGE BUT OF OTHER HARBOUR CROSSING OPTIONS,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THE PRIORITY FOR SUCH A BRIDGE, AS COMPARED WITH OTHER TRANSPORT PROJECTS, WAS BEING EXAMINED, AT A TIME WHEN PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE WAS EXPANDING SUBSTANTIALLY IN RESPONSE TO DEMANDS FROM ALL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FOR INCREASING FUNDS.

+IN REGARD TO A BRIDGE, IT WAS NOT ONLY A QUESTION OF COMMISSIONING STUDIES; ITS FEASIBILITY DEPENDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ON PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF THE AIRPORT INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM (ILS).

+THIS COULD NOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL DETAILED DESIGNS OF POSSIBLE BRIDGES WERE AVAILABLE, WHICH IN TURN DEPENDED ON UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS IN MARINE AND TRANSPORT TERMS,+ MR SCOTT EXPLAINED.

ON MISS DUNN'S REMARK THAT +THE LEI YUE MUN BRIDGE WAS ALWAYS A NON-STARTER+, MR SCOTT SAID THIS WAS SIMPLY NOT THE CASE.

+THE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT WHO EXAMINED THE ILS ASPECT WAS INITIALLY OF THE VIEW THAT A DESIGN COULD BE FOUND WHICH WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE ILS. IT WAS NOT UNTIL EARLY THIS YEAR THAT IT BEGAN TO SEEM THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

BUT WHATEVER THE INITIAL PROGNOSIS, HE SAID, THE STUDY HAD TO BE DONE WITH A SCALE MODEL, USING SEVERAL SUCCESSIVE DESIGN TYPES OF BRIDGE.

THE LEI YUE MUN BRIDGE STUDY UNDERTAKEN CONCLUDED:

- \* THAT THE BENEFITS OF IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS WERE GREATER THAN THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS DERIVING FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF AREAS TO BE OPENED UP BY THE BRIDGE, AND
- \* THAT THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY BEFORE THE BRIDGE.

/THE STUDY .....

THE STUDY ALSO NOTED THAT THE LEI YUE MUN BRIDGE TIMETABLE WOULD IN ANY CASE DEPEND ON THE COMPLETION DATE OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR IN THE MID-1980'S.

+AT THIS STAGE, ATTENTION SWITCHED TO THE CENTRE OF THE HARBOUR, WHEN THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS EITHER FOR PUTTING IN A MEZZANINE DECK IN THE EXISTING TWIN-TUBE TUNNEL; OR BUILDING A THIRD TUBE ALONGSIDE THE TWIN TUBES,+ MR SCOTT RECALLED.

A STUDY OF THIS PROPOSAL INDICATED THAT THE MEZZANINE LEVEL WOULD CAUSE TOO MUCH DISRUPTION DURING CONSTRUCTION AND POSED CERTAIN SAFETY COMPLICATIONS; AND THAT BOTH PROPOSALS WOULD OVERLOAD THE APPROACH ROADS, HE POINTED OUT.

+I WOULD DRAW MEMBERS' ATTENTION TO THE PRESENT LEVEL OF CONGESTION AT PEAK HOURS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL, AND ASK THEM TO CONSIDER THE EFFECTS OF INCREASING THE THROUGHPUT BY 50 PER CENT,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

VARIOUS PROPOSALS CAME FORWARD, AND THE EVIDENTLY VERY HIGH COST OF ANY NEW FIXED CROSSINGS LED TO THE CONCLUSION IN 1979 THAT IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE OPTIMUM NEXT CROSSING, WIDER ENGINEERING STUDIES WOULD BE NEEDED.

THE REPORT THAT FOLLOWED IN JUNE 1981 RECOMMENDED A BRIDGE AT LEI YUE MUN AS THE FIRST OPTION IN THE TRANSPORT, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONTEXT, MR SCOTT SAID, IN TRACING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED BRIDGE PROJECT.

THE NECESSARY SCALE MODEL WAS THUS COMMISSIONED, REQUIRING MUCH DETAILED WORK, AND THE SAFETY IMPLICATIONS FOR AIRCRAFT COULD NOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED, HE SAID.

IN AUGUST 1983, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT A LEI YUE MUN BRIDGE OF SATISFACTORY HEIGHT FOR MARINE PURPOSES WAS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE ILS AND THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO STUDY OTHER BRIDGE AND TUNNEL CROSSING OPTIONS.

A FULL REPORT IS DUE TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL BY AUGUST 1984, AFTER AN INTERIM REPORT, MR SCOTT SAID.

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#### DISTRICT BOARDS DO SOLID WORK FOR PEOPLE

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SOLID ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY DISTRICT BOARDS, WITHOUT HIGH DRAMA OR CONFRONTATION, IN MAKING LIFE FOR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE MORE TOLERABLE AND MORE PLEASURABLE, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID TODAY.

+THEIRS IS A QUIET REVOLUTION,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR AKERS-JONES SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOLID ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT MAKE HEADLINES.

+BUS TIMETABLES BECOME MORE CONVENIENT, REFUSE COLLECTION CREATES LESS NUISANCE, FACTORY WORKERS FIND THEY CAN MORE EASILY FIND A PLACE TO EAT, FOOTBRIDGES ARE BUILT, CAR PARKS PROVIDED, MAXICAB AND FERRY SERVICES ARE RE-ARRANGED.

+ALL THESE MATTERS AND MORE BESIDES COME UNDER THE QUIET SCRUTINY OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES,+ HE SAID.

CITING KWUN TONG AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS QUIET APPLICATION TO PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE PEOPLE, HE SAID: +THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WAS THE FIRST TO BEGIN TO TACKLE THE ANARCHY INFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, TO CLEAR AWAY OBSTRUCTIONS AND STRUCTURES AND TO RESTORE PAVEMENTS AND FOOTPATHS TO THEIR PROPER USE.

+IT HAS HELPED FIND STUDY ROOMS FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN CRAMPED HOMES; IT HAS MADE SUCCESSFUL REPRESENTATIONS ON THE FERRY SERVICE; IT HAS WORKED OUT A NIGHT DOCTOR SERVICE; PRESSED SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHA KWO LING ROAD; IMPROVED SQUATTER AREAS AND ORGANISED FESTIVALS.

+WHAT KWUN TONG HAS DONE HAS BEEN ECHOED IN DIFFERENT WAYS BY ALL THE DISTRICT BOARDS.+

MR AKERS-JONES CONTINUED THAT THE BOARDS HAD EXTENDED THEIR DISCUSSIONS TO TERRITORY-WIDE ISSUES SUCH AS METRICATION, FILM CLASSIFICATION, AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES AND TAXI POLICY.

IN THE CASE OF THE REPORT ON EDUCATION, HE SAID INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD BY ALL 18 BOARDS AND THEIR REPORTS WOULD PROVE A VALUABLE INDICATION OF PUBLIC REACTION TO THE NUMEROUS HIGHLY COMPLEX AND CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS WHICH WERE INVOLVED IN MODIFYING HONG KONG'S EDUCATION SYSTEM.

IN YAU MA TEI, THE DISTRICT BOARD HAD INITIATED THE PILOT SCHEME ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE MULTI-STOREY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS WHICH WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR ACTION TO TACKLE THAT MOST INTRACTABLE OF PROBLEMS -- BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

THE BOARDS HAD ALSO BECOME A FOCUS AND A CATALYST FOR DISTRICT RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES.

+FUNDS DEVOTED BY DISTRICT BOARDS TO SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE BUT A SMALL PROPORTION OF THE RESOURCES THAT ARE GENERATED AS A RESULT OF THE INITIATIVE OF THE BOARDS,+ HE SAID.

+AND, AS THEY DEVELOP EXPERIENCE, THESE ACTIVITIES ARE BECOMING MORE WIDE-RANGING AND SPREAD THEIR APPEAL.+

ON SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT, MR AKERS-JONES SAID THIS WAS AN AREA WHERE THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAD MADE SOME PROGRESS IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES: FOOTPATHS WERE REPAIRED, SHELTERS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS WERE BUILT AND SO FORTH.

NOTING THAT IT IS NOT EASY TO IMPROVE SOME OF THE SQUATTER AREAS ON THE STEEP HILLSIDES OF SHAU KEI WAN AND KWUN TONG, HE AGREED THAT THE BOARDS, WHERE POSSIBLE, SHOULD PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN ASSISTING WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF SQUATTER AREAS.

TOUCHING ON THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING STRONGER LINKS BETWEEN THE BOARDS AND OTHER COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN 68 APPOINTMENTS OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES SINCE MARCH LAST YEAR.

AND HE WELCOMED A PROPOSAL THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISTRICT BOARDS AND AREA COMMITTEES SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

+INDEED, APART FROM AREA COMMITTEES, THERE IS ALREADY A STRONG CROSS-MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN THE BOARDS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND NUMEROUS OTHER RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR AKERS-JONES ALSO REFERRED TO A FREQUENT CRITICISM THAT DISTRICT BOARDS HAD NO +EXECUTIVE POWERS+.

+THE CRITICS DO NOT EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT THEY MEAN BY THIS,+ HE SAID.

+TO LOOK AT VARIOUS PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF WHAT EXECUTIVE POWER AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL MIGHT MEAN, I SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN BURDENING THESE BUSY MEN AND WOMEN WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK OF LICENSING.

+SIMILARLY THE COLLECTION OF REFUSE, THE CONTROL OF HAWKERS AND THE SWEEPING OF STREETS ARE ALREADY IN THE EXECUTIVE CONTROL OF THE URBAN COUNCIL; OTHER EXECUTIVE POWERS, IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, ARE MORE EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED CENTRALLY.

+ 'EXECUTIVE POWERS' HAS BECOME A RALLYING CRY FOR SOME CRITICS, PERHAPS LOOKING FOR EXCITEMENT, WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE SOLID RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE BOARDS.

+NEVERTHELESS IT WAS IN A SPIRIT OF CRITICAL APPRAISAL THAT THE FIRST CONFERENCE ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WAS ORGANISED IN MAY THIS YEAR.+

MR AKERS-JONES ADDED THAT THE CONSENSUS AFTER THE CONFERENCE WAS THAT IT PROVED TO BE A USEFUL AND STIMULATING EXPERIENCE FOR THOSE WHO TOOK PART.

ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION WAS SOMEWHAT GENERALISED HE HOPED THAT AT THE NEXT CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD IN THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR, A MORE CONCENTRATED EXAMINATION COULD BE GIVEN TO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. +THIS TIME THE BOARDS THEMSELVES WILL PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN THE ORGANISATION OF THE CONFERENCE.+

HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS NO WEAKENING OF GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE +FORTHCOMING AND FORTHRIGHT+ DISTRICT BOARDS WHICH ARE NOT +A TALKING SHOP WITHOUT AIM OR ACHIEVEMENT+.

+DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WITH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IS HARDLY A YEAR OLD BUT IT IS ALREADY EVIDENT THAT THE INTERACTION AT DISTRICT LEVEL BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT SERVANTS HAS CREATED NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

VITAL FOR LEGAL SYSTEM TO BE PRESERVED: ATTORNEY GENERAL  
\* \* \* \*

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY THAT THE CARDINAL FEATURES OF THE HONG KONG LEGAL SYSTEM BE PRESERVED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR THOMAS SAID HE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY SUPPORTED THE REMARKS MADE EARLIER BY THE HON JOHN SWAINE, +IN HIS MOST TELLING AND INCISIVE SPEECH.+

MR THOMAS SAID HE ALSO SUPPORTED THE REMARKS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ADDRESS, ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS A MAJOR COMMERCIAL AND TRADING CENTRE +THAT ALL WHO LIVE AND TRADE HERE SHOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE RULE OF LAW+.

THIS MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN THE FIRST DEBATE OF THIS KIND IN WHICH MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL HAD GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO FIND WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE CONCEPT OF THE RULE OF LAW AND FOR THE LEGAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE ITS GUARDIANS IN HONG KONG, MR THOMAS SAID.

+EVEN LAWYERS, USED TO COMPARISON WITH SCAVENGERS AND PARIAS, HAVE FOR ONCE COME IN FOR COMPLIMENTARY REFERENCES,+ HE SAID.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT MEMBERS WERE RIGHT TO HAVE IN MIND IN THIS TIME OF HONG KONG HISTORY THOSE FEATURES OF ITS LEGAL SYSTEM THAT MAKE HONG KONG A FREE AND OPEN SOCIETY IN WHICH THOSE WHO ARE BUT INDIVIDUALS ARE GUARANTEED BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, IN WHICH THOSE WHO ARE POWERFUL FIND THEMSELVES SUBJECT TO CONTROL AND CORRECTION, AND IN WHICH ALL ARE EQUAL BEFORE THE COURTS.

ON THE +CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT+ RAISED BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN, MR THOMAS SAID: +HER BEGUILING LOGIC LIKE EVERY GOOD POLITICAL SPEECH CONTAINED SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

+CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS POPULAR SHE SAYS, AND THE RECENT BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY VOTE WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. SO LET'S KEEP CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

+ON THE OTHER HAND SHE SAYS IT MAKES A MOCKERY OF OUR SYSTEM TO RETAIN THE PROCEDURES OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT GIVEN THE PRESENT REALITIES. SO LET'S GET RID OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.+

MR THOMAS SAID HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE KNOWN HIS PERSONAL CONVICTION THAT SOCIETY HAD NO RIGHT DELIBERATELY AND IN COLD BLOOD TO KILL ONE OF ITS MEMBERS UNLESS THERE WAS SOME NECESSITY TO DO SO.

SO LONG AS THERE WAS THE FEARFUL PROSPECT OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT, THERE WAS NO NEED TO KILL MERELY TO PUNISH, HE SAID.

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+EQUALLY I HAVE PREVIOUSLY MADE KNOWN THAT I SHARE MISS DUNN'S CONCERN THAT IN RETAINING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, WE UNFAIRLY IMPOSE UPON JUDGES AND THOSE WHO GUARD PRISONERS UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH AWESOME AND MORBID RESPONSIBILITIES,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

BUT GIVEN THE FEELINGS OF THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND OF PARLIAMENT IN WESTMINSTER, HE SAW NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF ACTION IN HONG KONG TO SATISFY EITHER OF MISS DUNN'S DEMANDS.

+THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE TAKES NOTE OF HER POINTS BUT THE POLITICAL REALITIES ARE WELL KNOWN TO HER AND INDEED TO ALL HONOURABLE MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS REFERRED TO CALLS BY THE HON MARIA TAM FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY LEGAL AID SCHEME TO ASSIST PERSONS TOO POOR TO PURSUE LITIGATION WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE SACRIFICE, BUT TOO RICH TO QUALIFY FOR LEGAL AID AND SAID A SCHEME ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY MISS TAM HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY A WORKING PARTY.

THE WORKING PARTY WAS MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS CHAMBERS, THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, THE JUDICIARY AND THE TWO LEGAL PROFESSIONS, MR THOMAS SAID.

HOWEVER, THE PROPOSALS HAD STILL TO BE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AND THE NECESSARY FUNDS HAD STILL TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MISS TAM SUGGESTED THERE MIGHT BE AS MANY AS 1 700 APPLICANTS EACH YEAR WHOSE MEANS WERE ABOVE THE PRESENT LIMITS, THE WORKING COMMITTEE PROPOSED THAT THE SCHEME SHOULD BE RESTRICTED AS A START TO PLAINTIFFS IN PERSONAL INJURY ACTIONS BROUGHT IN THE HIGH COURT, AMOUNTING TO ABOUT 75 EACH YEAR.

EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM SUCH A PILOT SCHEME COULD THEN BE ASSESSED AND IN THE LIGHT OF IT, IT WOULD BE OPEN FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER THE SCHEME COULD BE EXPANDED ON A CONSERVATIVE BASIS, HE SAID.

+SINCE THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR THE SCHEME IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF IT WERE STARTED ON THE RELATIVELY SMALL SCALE PRESENTLY PROPOSED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE OBJECT OF THE SCHEME WAS TO BE SELF-FINANCING AND HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS MUCH MERIT IN IT AND THAT IT WOULD FULFIL A WORTHWHILE SOCIAL PURPOSE.

MR THOMAS SAID FURTHER THOUGHT WAS BEING GIVEN TO THE SUMS OF MONEY REQUIRED TO MEET THE COSTS OF THE PILOT SCHEME FOR THE INITIAL TWO-YEAR PERIOD.

REFERRING TO THE COMMENTS BY THE HON PETER WONG THAT CIVIL DEBTORS SHOULD NOT BE COMMITTED TO PRISON, MR THOMAS NOTED THAT MR WONG +HAS WAGED AN IMPRESSIVE CAMPAIGN FOR REFORM AND HAS DEPLOYED POWERFUL ARGUMENTS TO SUPPORT HIS PLEA+.

/+I HOPE .....

+I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT THE LAW WILL SOON BE CHANGED. IF THAT IS ACHIEVED, IT WILL BE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW ONE MEMBER OF THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CAN PRESS FOR LAW REFORM WITH SINGLE-MINDED DETERMINATION AND BY HIS PERSISTENCE, ACHIEVE CHANGE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT MR WONG WAS RIGHT IN THAT +POVERTY IS NOT A CRIME+.

+HOWEVER, THERE IS A POWERFUL LOBBY IN HONG KONG THAT IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CHANGE.

+SMALL TRADERS AND THEIR LAWYERS FIND THAT MANY DEBTORS PAY UP RATHER THAN GO TO PRISON. MANY DEBTORS ONLY GIVE DETAILS OF THEIR ASSETS IN ORDER TO GET OUT OF PRISON,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTIES IN TRACING JUDGMENT DEBTORS IF THEY HAD FIRST TO BE SUMMONED TO COURT BEFORE THEY COULD BE SENT TO PRISON.

HE SAID THAT WHILE HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE FORCE OF THESE ARGUMENTS HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT IT WAS RIGHT, OUTSIDE THE AMBIT OF CRIMINAL LAW, FOR ANY PERSON TO LOSE HIS LIBERTY WITHOUT AN ORDER OF THE COURT.

NOR COULD HE ACCEPT THAT IT WAS RIGHT THAT ANY PERSON SHOULD BE IMPRISONED MERELY BECAUSE HE COULD NOT PAY HIS DEBTS.

MR THOMAS EXPLAINED THAT ARTICLE 11 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS PROVIDES THAT:

+NO ONE SHALL BE IMPRISONED MERELY ON THE GROUND OF INABILITY TO FULFIL A CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION.+

+SO I INTEND TO BRING FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROCEDURES ALTERED SO THAT IT IS PUT BEYOND DOUBT THAT IN ALL CASES IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE JUDGMENT CREDITOR TO OBTAIN AN ORDER FROM A JUDGE BEFORE A DEBTOR CAN BE IMPRISONED.

EVEN THEN, HE ADDED, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE POWER OF THE COURT TO IMPRISON RESTRICTED TO THOSE CASES WHERE A DEBTOR OBSTRUCTED THE EXECUTION PROCESS, FOR EXAMPLE, BY DELIBERATELY HIDING HIS ASSETS OR REFUSING TO DISCLOSE HIS ASSETS OR REFUSING TO USE HIS ASSETS IN ORDER TO DISCHARGE HIS DEBT.

MR THOMAS SAID HE HOPED MR WONG WOULD BE ASSURED THAT HIS DETERMINED EFFORTS TO SEE THE LAW CHANGED IN THIS AREA HAD HIS FULL SUPPORT AND HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE TOO LONG BEFORE THEY SUCCEEDED.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1983

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR TO OPEN CAREERS EXHIBITION '84

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF CAREERS '84 EXHIBITION IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL AT 3 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AFTER DELIVERING HIS SPEECH, SIR EDWARD, ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR RON BRIDGE, WILL PROCEED TO THE ENTRANCE TO THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL TO PERFORM THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY. HE WILL THEN TOUR THE 23 EXHIBITION STALLS SET UP BY PRIVATE FIRMS, INSTITUTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT, WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 9.30 AM TO 6.30 PM FROM SATURDAY TO NOVEMBER 21.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GUEST SPEAKER

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THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN WILL BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG WEST TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HILTON HOTEL AT 1 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS  
\* \* \*

FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD WILL VISIT WAN CHAI, CENTRAL AND WESTERN ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 12) MORNING TO SEE DEVELOPMENTS THERE AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THEY WILL FIRST CALL AT THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE FOR A BRIEFING BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS LOLLY CHIU, AND WILL THEN HOLD A DISCUSSION SESSION.

THE PARTY WILL ALSO GO TO THE ROOF OF HOPEWELL CENTRE FOR A PANORAMIC VIEW OF WAN CHAI, AND VISIT THE WESTERN TEMPORARY WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET AND THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORICAL EXHIBITION AT CITY HALL.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE BRIEFING AND VISIT SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT 9.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE AT 201 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG.

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DISPLAY TELLS CENTRAL DISTRICT'S HISTORY  
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A SIX-DAY HISTORICAL EXHIBITION OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT, WHICH STARTED TODAY AT THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION GALLERY, COULD HELP LOCAL RESIDENTS BETTER UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT AND ENHANCE THEIR INTEREST AND SENSE OF BELONGING, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM SAID.

HE SAID THAT WITH THE DISPLAY OF A COLLECTION OF PICTURES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATERFRONT STAGE BY STAGE FROM QUEEN'S ROAD TO DES VOEUX ROAD AND THEN TO CONNAUGHT ROAD, THE EXHIBITION COULD HELP RESIDENTS APPRECIATE THE HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT IN THE LAST 100 YEARS.

MR WIGGHAM WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION WHICH IS AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH-LONG CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL BEING HELD SINCE OCTOBER 30.

HE SAID THE DISTRICT HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE CENTRE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG AND SINCE THE 19TH CENTURY HAD UNDERGONE CONSIDERABLE CHANGES.

+AMID ALL THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE BUSY LIVES IN MODERN OFFICE COMPLEXES AROUND US, IT IS PERHAPS DIFFICULT TO VISUALISE THE VERY PLACE WE ARE NOW STANDING WAS ONCE WATER IN THE VICTORIA HARBOUR, SOME DISTANCE FROM THE SHORELINE,+ HE SAID.

+FOR THE SENIOR RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG, I AM SURE THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED TO SEE PHOTOS OF LANDMARKS SUCH AS THE OLD HONG KONG HOTEL, THE QUEEN VICTORIA STATUE AT CHATER ROAD, THE PEDDER STREET CLOCK TOWER, THE OLD QUEEN'S COLLEGE AT HOLLYWOOD ROAD.

+THESE WOULD NO DOUBT STIR UP SOME NOSTALGIC FEELINGS AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN HONG KONG GROW UP TO WHAT IT IS TODAY,+ HE SAID.

YOUNG PEOPLE, HE SAID, COULD HAVE AN INSIGHT INTO THE WAY OF LIFE OF THEIR GRANDPARENTS, AS A BEDROOM SETTING DATING BACK TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY WAS RECREATED IN THE EXHIBITION GALLERY.

OTHER EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY INCLUDED THE TIME CAPSULE LAID IN 1934 BENEATH THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NOW DEMOLISHED HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK, THE BANK'S SHARE CERTIFICATES IN 1900, AND A \$1 000 BANKNOTE BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED IN 1960 BUT NEVER ISSUED.

THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN DAILY FROM 9 AM TO 8 PM AT THE EXHIBITION GALLERY OF THE CITY HALL, SEVENTH FLOOR, HIGH BLOCK. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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#### FIRST ROAD SAFETY COMPUTER GAME ON DISPLAY \* \* \* \*

A PILOT COMPUTER PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO ENABLE ITS USERS TO LEARN TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD SAFETY MESSAGES WHILE PLAYING COMPUTER GAMES.

THIS PROGRAMME, DESIGNED BY A GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, WILL BE ONE OF THE ATTRACTIONS AT A ROAD SAFETY DISPLAY TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 12) AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM AND IN THE NEARBY MORRISON HILL TEMPORARY PLEASURE GROUND.

MR ROGER BRACEY, HEAD OF MATHEMATICS AT ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, SAID THAT IT WAS DESIGNED BY A GROUP OF FORM 5 STUDENTS AS A CLASS PROJECT.

THE ORIGINAL AIM WAS TO PRODUCE A PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD ENABLE CHILDREN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRAFFIC SIGNS, AND HE WAS GLAD THE IDEA COULD NOW BE ADOPTED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE TO SPREAD THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE, HE SAID.

PLAYERS OF THE COMPUTER GAME HAVE FIRST TO IDENTIFY A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC SIGNS BEFORE THEY CAN PLAY A GAME, THE ESSENCE OF WHICH IS +SAFETY COMES FIRST ON THE ROAD+.

OTHER ITEMS ON DISPLAY AT THIS SATURDAY'S ROAD SAFETY DISPLAY WILL INCLUDE A SEAT BELT CATAPULT, CARTOON CARDS ON DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS' RESPONSIBILITY ON THE ROAD, OUTSTANDING ENTRIES OF A ROAD SAFETY POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION AND EXHIBITS ON THE ANALYSIS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG.

THE ROAD SAFETY DISPLAY WILL BE OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1983

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MOVING OFFICE  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION AND LAW IMPLEMENTATION TEAM ARE TO MOVE ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 12) TO NEW OFFICES AT 906-909, 9/F, HUTCHISON HOUSE, 10 HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG.

AS FROM MONDAY (NOVEMBER 14), ALL APPLICATIONS FROM REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF OMNIBUSES, LIGHT BUSES, AND TAXIS, AND ISSUE OF HIRE CAR PERMITS SHOULD BE MADE AT THE NEW OFFICES.

THE NEW ENQUIRIES TELEPHONE WILL BE 5-254958.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES ON ISLAND  
\* \* \*

FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 11), OI KWAN ROAD IN WAN CHAI WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE.

IN ADDITION, PARKING SPACES ON OI KWAN ROAD AND SUNG TAK STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 3 PM TO 7 PM ON THAT DAY TO FACILITATE THE ROAD SAFETY RALLY HELD AT QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM.

AND FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 12), THE SECTION OF HENNESSY ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 53 AND 71 WILL BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY FOR ABOUT FIVE WEEKS FOR WORK ON THE MTR ISLAND LINE.

WITHIN THE ROAD SECTION, NO VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS DURING THE RESTRICTED PERIODS.

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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN - SUPPLEMENT

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1983

### SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY MEETS PRESS \* \* \* \*

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY, MR PETER WALKER TODAY (NOVEMBER 10) IN THE GIS THEATRE. ALSO PRESENT WAS THE SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR CHRISTIAN ADAMS.

MR WALKER: WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CAN I FIRST OF ALL THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND TO TELL YOU THAT OVER THE LAST WEEK EIGHT DAYS I HAVE CARRIED OUT A VISIT TO BOTH CHINA AND, OF COURSE, THE LAST TWO DAYS HERE IN HONG KONG. AND I THINK IT HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT VISIT FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. I THINK THAT BRITAIN IS UNIQUELY SITUATED IN TERMS OF ENERGY TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO CHINA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES. WE HAVE THE UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF THE NORTH SEA DEVELOPMENT WHICH, OF COURSE, IS BY FAR THE BIGGEST OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS EVER TAKEN PLACE IN DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS SEAS. AND THAT HAS BEEN DONE RECENTLY, AND, OF COURSE, IS CONTINUING AND STILL GOING ON. AND THERE IS NOW A SITUATION WHERE THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN OFFSHORE CHINA ARE AS BIG, IF NOT BIGGER, THAN THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE NORTH SEAS OVER THIS PAST DECADE.

RECENTLY THE CHINESE MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM MR DENG KE CAME TO BRITAIN, VISITED MANY OF OUR INSTALLATIONS AND HAD TALKS WITH THE OIL INDUSTRY AND HAD TALKS IN DEPTH WITH MYSELF UPON THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENTS OF OFFSHORE OIL INDUSTRY. AND AS A RESULT OF THOSE TALKS HE URGED ME TO COME IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SPEAK AND TALK TO HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN CHINA AND TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS AND PREPARATIONS TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. AND OBVIOUSLY I WAS DELIGHTED TO ACCEPT THAT INVITATION AND HAD VERY GOOD TALKS IN CHINA ON THESE ISSUES. I HAD TALKS WITH THE VICE PREMIER, WITH THE STATE COUNCILLOR KANG XIAN, PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY CO-ORDINATION, WITH ALL OF THE MINISTERS CONNECTED WITH THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ENERGY: PETROLEUM, THE COAL MINING, THE MACHINERY; AND I ALSO HAD TALKS WITH THE LEADERS OF BOTH THE ECONOMIC AND PLANNING COMMISSIONS IN CHINA. AND CERTAINLY WE IDENTIFIED THAT THERE WAS A WIDE RANGE OF AREAS IN WHICH BRITAIN'S TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE AND KNOW-HOW WOULD BE REQUIRED AND NEEDED. AND WE AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS AND PREPARATIONS AND TO STUDY METHODS HOW THAT CAN EFFECTIVELY BE DONE.

/AS YOU .....

AS YOU KNOW ALREADY A NUMBER OF BRITISH COMPANIES ARE OPERATING AND BEGINNING THEIR EXPLORATORY PROGRAMMES AND I WENT TO CANTON WHERE I HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH THE LEADERS OF THE CHINESE OIL COMPANIES THAT WERE INVOLVED, BOTH THE COMPANIES AND THE SERVICING COMPANIES, AND I ALSO OF COURSE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH B.P. AND OTHER BRITISH FIRMS SUCH AS CABLE AND WIRELESS THAT WERE INVOLVED IN THOSE DEVELOPMENTS. AND I HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT IN THE COMING DECADE A GREAT DEAL OF ACTIVITY WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA AS FAR AS THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE CONCERNED.

AND CAN I SAY THAT I HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT HONG KONG WILL HAVE A VERY SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE. WITH THE COMMERCIAL EXPERTISE, THE MANUFACTURING EXPERTISE, THE BANKING AND INSURANCE EXPERTISE THAT IS CONTAINED WITHIN HONG KONG AND THE CONNECTIONS WITH HONG KONG AND CHINA THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A MULTITUDE OF BRITISH FIRMS WHO'LL BE ENDEAVOURING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE DOING SO IN COLLABORATION WITH HONG KONG BUSINESS INTERESTS AND I HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT HONG KONG WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT BENEFICIAL IMPACT FROM THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS GOING TO TAKE PLACE.

I MIGHT SAY WE ALSO DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SPHERES OF ENERGY WHICH IN THE FUTURE WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

BRITAIN IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION BECAUSE APART FROM OUR KNOWLEDGE IN OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY WE ARE THE BIGGEST COAL PRODUCING NATION IN EUROPE AND WE PROBABLY HAVE THE BEST TECHNOLOGY IN DEEP MINE COAL AND WE ARE INDEED COMPETING INTERNATIONALLY FOR OPEN CAST COAL WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. WE ALSO HAVE A CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE IN THE SPHERE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AND WE HAVE A TECHNOLOGY OF CONSIDERABLE DIMENSIONS AS FAR AS THE GAS INDUSTRY'S CONCERNED. AND I BELIEVE AS THE OIL EXPLORATION TAKES PLACE THERE'LL BE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF NATURAL GAS IN CHINA AND I BELIEVE THAT CHINA IS ALSO DESTINED TO DO FAR MORE IN THE FUTURE IN USING COAL AS A PRODUCER OF GAS AND THERETO I BELIEVE THERE'S A CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR ACTIVITIES BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA.

IN HONG KONG I'VE HAD A VERY FULL PROGRAMME INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF UMELCO AND SENIOR BUSINESSMEN AND I'VE BEEN ABLE TO BRING MYSELF UP TO DATE WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG PARTICULARLY, OF COURSE, IN THE ENERGY AND ECONOMIC FIELDS. AND I'VE DISCUSSED FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND PLANS AND OBVIOUSLY I'M DELIGHTED THAT I'VE HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY OF DOING SO.

AND INDEED WHEN I WAS IN CANTON IT WAS INTERESTING THE NUMBER OF FIRMS THERE WHO I DISCUSSED AND MET WITH WHO IN FACT WERE OPERATING USING HONG KONG AS A BASE FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES. I MENTIONED CABLE AND WIRELESS AND HOULDER DRILLING AND STARR OFFSHORE SERVICES WERE SOME SUCH COMPANIES.

/I'VE ALSO, .....

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I'VE ALSO, NATURALLY, BEEN INTERESTED TO BE HERE DURING THE FEW DAYS IN WHICH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAVE MADE DECISIONS AS TO THE FUTURE POTENTIAL COLLABORATION ON THE MAJOR NUCLEAR PROJECT WHICH, OF COURSE, IS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE AND IMPACT BOTH ON CHINA AND ON HONG KONG. AND SO I LOOK UPON THIS LAST EIGHT DAYS AS BEING OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE AND I BELIEVE THAT IN THE COMING WEEKS, MONTHS AND YEARS THERE WILL BE A VERY CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE MATTERS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS BOTH WITH THE LEADERS OF THE BUSINESS, DECISION-TAKING COMMUNITY HERE IN HONG KONG AND IN CHINA.

PERHAPS I COULD HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS.

Q: YOU MENTIONED THE BRITISH CONTRIBUTION TO CHINA'S ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. I WAS WONDERING IN RELATION TO THE DAYA BAY PROJECT WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF GEC BEING AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR TURBINE GENERATORS, AND SECONDLY, WHAT WILL THE BRITISH INVOLVEMENT FINANCIALLY BE IN THE FORM OF EXPORT CREDITS AND LOANS TO THE DEVELOPMENT?

A: WELL, OBVIOUSLY AT THIS STAGE THE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO PROCEED WITH THIS PROJECT HAS ONLY BEEN TAKEN WITHIN THE, YOU KNOW, LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS HERE IN HONG KONG, AND OF COURSE THE DECISION AS TO THE NATURE OF THOSE WHO'LL BE INVOLVED IN THE CONTRACT AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE NATURE OF THE CONTRACT AND THE NATURE OF THE EXPORT CREDIT FACILITIES AND THE CREDIT FACILITIES, THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, ARE STILL TO BE NEGOTIATED AND SORTED OUT. BUT NATURALLY I WOULD VERY MUCH HOPE THAT GEC WILL HAVE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL AND IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS CONTRACT BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY I CONSIDER THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE IN THIS SPHERE IS OF A NATURE THAT IT WILL MAKE THEM A VERY LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROJECT AND WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF THAT DOES TAKE PLACE AND HAPPEN. AND OBVIOUSLY IN TERMS OF ECGD ARRANGEMENTS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS THEY'RE ALL MATTERS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE FUTURE.

Q: WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF RECENT INDUSTRY CRITICISMS OF CHINA IN RELATIONSHIP TO THEIR PROVISION OF RESCUE SERVICES AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA OIL EXPLORATION ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE GLOMAR CHINA SEA INCIDENT?

/A: WELL, OBVIOUSLY .....

A: WELL, OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T COMMENT ON THAT PARTICULAR INCIDENT BECAUSE AS YET ALL OF THE INFORMATION IS NOT KNOWN AND UNTIL IT IS KNOWN ONE CANNOT COMMENT UPON EITHER, YOU KNOW, WHY IT HAPPENED AND THE NATURE OF THE RESCUE SERVICES. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT IN MY TALKS WITH THE LEADERS BOTH POLITICAL AND IN THE OIL INDUSTRY IN CHINA THERE IS NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED AND SKILLED RESCUE SERVICES. AND WE HAVE HAD OUR OWN EXPERIENCES IN THE NORTH SEA IN THIS SPHERE, THERE HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTS IN THE NORTH SEA AND THERE HAVE BEEN LIVES LOST IN THE NORTH SEA. AND IF YOU ARE DEVELOPING A MAJOR OILFIELD IN DIFFICULT SEAS THERE ARE MANY DANGERS AND PROBLEMS AND THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH THAT SITUATION IS TO HAVE THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AND EFFECTIVE RESCUE SERVICES YOU POSSIBLY CAN. AND THAT MEANS HAVING GOOD COMMUNICATIONS IN AN AREA; IT MEANS HAVING THE AVAILABILITY OF RESCUE AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS, IT MEANS HAVING ROUTES CLEARED VERY QUICKLY IN ORDER TO SEE THAT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN AND A PROPER CO-ORDINATION OF ANY URGENT RESCUE PLAN. AND I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I FOUND EVERYWHERE, I SPOKE TO, AS I SAY, THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE AND TO THE LEADERS IN THE OIL INDUSTRY, A GENUINE AND A DEEP DESIRE TO SEE THAT AT AN EARLY STAGE THE PROPER RESCUE FACILITIES WERE ORGANISED AND PROVIDED AND A DESIRE TO SEEK OUR EXPERIENCE AND OUR ADVICE FROM OUR CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE NORTH SEA AS TO WHAT IS REQUIRED AND NEEDED.

Q: WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT HONG KONG WON'T BE ABLE TO IMPOSE ITS OWN SAFEGUARDS AS TO THE SAFETY OF THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR PLANT. DO YOU THINK CHINA WILL BE CAPABLE OF COPING WITH SUCH A COMPLEX BUILDING PROJECT?

A: WELL, WHEN YOU SAY YOU'VE BEEN TOLD THAT HONG KONG WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SAFEGUARDS ON THE PROJECT I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WILL DOUBTLESS BE DISCUSSED BY ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO'LL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT IS THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. AND CAN I SAY THIS THAT WHOEVER THE MAJOR CONTRACTORS THAT WILL BE INVOLVED THERE IS NONE OF THEM OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTE THAT WOULD WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN A DEVELOPMENT THAT DID NOT CONTAIN THE BEST SAFETY STANDARDS. BECAUSE IF YOU TAKE FOR EXAMPLE A COMPANY SUCH AS GEC WHICH MIGHT HAVE A MAJOR INTEREST IN IT, THE IDEA OF GEC WANTING TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY PROJECT THAT DIDN'T MEET THE BEST SAFETY STANDARDS, AND THEREFORE ONE OF THEIR PROJECTS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH A BAD SAFETY STANDARD WOULD DO IMMENSE DAMAGE TO THEM IN THE WHOLE FUTURE WORLDWIDE PROSPECTS. LIKewise, CAN I SAY THIS, THAT AGAIN IN MY TALKS WITH LEADERS OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND INCLUDING THE VICE PREMIER WHO HAS A PARTICULAR PERSONAL AND CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT, THERE IS A TOTAL DESIRE OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO MEET WITH THE HIGHEST SAFETY STANDARDS IN THIS PARTICULAR SPHERE, AND CHINA WOULD NOT LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN A MAJOR NUCLEAR PROJECT WHICH PROVED TO NOT MEET THE HIGHEST SAFETY STANDARDS. AND I THINK I CAN ALSO SAY, AS OBVIOUSLY A COUNTRY THAT'S INTERESTED IN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT, HAS CARRIED OUT NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN POWER STATIONS OURSELVES, WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS; THEY ARE VERY CONSIDERABLE AND THE SAFETY RECORD IN NUCLEAR IS AN EXCEEDINGLY GOOD RECORD AND IF I MAY SAY SO A MUCH BETTER RECORD THAN THE SAFETY THAT'S BEEN SHOWN OVER THE DECADES SO FAR AS THE COAL INDUSTRY IS CONCERNED.

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Q: WHEN YOU WERE SPEAKING WITH THE LEADERS IN CHINA ABOUT DAYA BAY PLAN WERE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS? IN OTHER WORDS EXPORT CREDITS OR SOME OTHER KIND OF LOAN OR LOAN GUARANTEES?

A: NO, THERE WAS NO SUCH DISCUSSION AT ALL OF THAT DESCRIPTION AND THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY DISCUSSIONS OF THAT DESCRIPTION AND THE POSITION IN THE DISCUSSIONS I HAD ON THIS PROJECT IT WAS PURELY THE EXPRESSION BY THE CHINESE MINISTERS THAT THEY CONSIDERED IT, IT WAS A VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT, IT HAD A HIGH PRIORITY AS FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED AND THEY HOPED THAT IF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MADE A POSITIVE DECISION IN THIS SPHERE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CONTRACT AND THE DETAIL WITH THOSE PARTIES THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED CAN QUICKLY TAKE PLACE. BUT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF ANY DESCRIPTION UPON FINANCIAL TERMS OR THE ROLE OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT OR ANYTHING OF THAT DESCRIPTION, JUST THE EXPRESSION THAT IN THEIR VIEW IT WAS A VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT AND ONE WHICH THEY PUT A HIGH PRIORITY TO. AND IT IS FOR THEM A REGION WHERE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENERGY ARE VERY CONSIDERABLE AND, THEREFORE, THEY WERE PUTTING THE VIEW THAT THEY HOPED THAT HONG KONG WOULD MAKE A POSITIVE RESPONSE AND IF HONG KONG DID MAKE A POSITIVE RESPONSE THEY HOPED THE DETAILED NEGOTIATION WOULD QUICKLY TAKE PLACE.

Q: GIVEN THE SENSE OF URGENCY THAT THEY EXPRESSED ABOUT MOVING ON WITH IT AND SINCE THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG HAS MADE A DECISION, WHEN IS IT LIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTRACTS AS TO THE TURBINE GENERATORS AND SUCH?

A: OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T VENTURE A GUESS AS TO THE SPEED WITH WHICH THOSE CONCERNED WILL ENTER THE CONTRACTS AND DECIDE ON THE CONTRACTS, THAT WILL BE A MATTER FOR THEM, THEY ARE THE CUSTOMERS AND IT'S NOT IN MY CONTROL. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I THINK AS FAR AS ANY BRITISH FIRMS THAT ARE HOPING AND WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT CONTRACT CERTAINLY THEY WOULD NEGOTIATE SPEEDILY AND I HOPE EFFECTIVELY AND SUCCESSFULLY.

Q: IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS ON CHINA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME WERE THERE ANY DISCUSSIONS AS TO SPECIFIC NUMBERS OF PLANTS PROPOSED OR LOCATIONS FOR THOSE PLANTS OTHER THAN THE DAYA BAY?

A: NO, THERE WERE NO SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE DAYA BAY PROJECT EVER SURFACED AS A BARGAINING POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG?

A: NO, I MEAN, I SAY, OBVIOUSLY I HAVEN'T ATTENDED EVERY DISCUSSION BUT I DO KNOW THAT IN THE DISCUSSIONS I HAD WITH ALL THE MINISTERS CONCERNED THIS WAS NOT A FACTOR THAT WAS MENTIONED AT ANY STAGE BY ANY PERSON SO QUITE CLEARLY IT WASN'T A FACTOR.

Q: YOU MENTIONED THAT HONG KONG WOULD HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN CHINA'S OFFSHORE OIL SEARCH. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD BE A LITTLE BIT MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE ACTUAL ROLE THAT HONG KONG MIGHT PLAY.

/A: WELL, I .....

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A: WELL, I CAN'T BE SPECIFIC. OBVIOUSLY THE CUSTOMER INVOLVED IS NOT BRITAIN IT'S CHINA AND IT IS CHINA THAT WILL MAKE THE DECISIONS AS TO WHAT JOINT VENTURES TO GO INTO AND WHOSE GOODS TO PURCHASE AND SO ON. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT IN MY ANALYSIS THE COUNTRY THAT HAS THE MOST TO OFFER IN EXPERTISE, KNOW-HOW AND TECHNOLOGY IS THE UNITED KINGDOM BECAUSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAST DECADE OF THE NORTH SEA. AND YOU KNOW IT HAS BEEN A VERY REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT THAT FROM THE LAST TIME I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY WHEN I WAS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN '72 TO '74 AND THE NORTH SEA WAS ALL COMMENCING, BRITAIN WAS HARDLY PRODUCING ANY OIL AT ALL, WE'RE NOW THE FIFTH BIGGEST OIL PRODUCER IN THE WORLD. AND SO THE EXPERTISE WE'VE DEVELOPED. AND I SAY THE MOST RECENT OILFIELD THAT'S BEEN OPENED IN BRITAIN, THE MAGNUS FIELD, A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF, WHAT, POUND STERLING 1 400 MILLION AND 87 PER CENT OF WHAT WENT INTO THAT INVESTMENT WAS PRODUCED BY BRITISH FIRMS. NOW, THEREFORE, WE HAVE A CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE. AND IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS WITH THE RELATIONSHIP THAT BRITAIN HAS ALWAYS HAD WITH HONG KONG WITH THE ENORMOUS COMMERCIAL EXPERTISE AND MANUFACTURING EXPERTISE THAT EXISTS IN HONG KONG, A VERY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF BRITISH FIRMS INTERESTED IN THE CHINA DEVELOPMENT WILL LINK UP AND HAVE REPRESENTATIVES AND ASSOCIATES AND PARTNERS IN HONG KONG. AND I CAN'T OBVIOUSLY MAKE DECISIONS FOR THEM, BUT CERTAINLY AS A DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY I WISH TO ENCOURAGE IN EVERY WAY THAT RELATIONSHIP AND I WISH TO MAKE SURE THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, THE HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE CONSTANTLY MADE AWARE OF ALL THE FACTS AND THE PROSPECTS THAT WE KNOW ABOUT. AND SO I'M ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT OF THE SIZE OF INVESTMENTS THAT'S GOING TO TAKE PLACE IT'S GOING TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT TO HONG KONG.

Q: AS YET THERE HASN'T BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF BENEFIT BECAUSE EVEN BRITISH PETROLEUM HAS SET UP ITS OFFICES IN GUANGZHOU.

A: AS YET THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT IF I MAY SAY SO. THE CABLE AND WIRELESS IS OPERATING ON A VERY SUBSTANTIAL SCALE, HOULDER BROTHERS ARE WORKING ON A SUBSTANTIAL SCALE, STARR SERVICE COMPANY'S WORKING ON A SUBSTANTIAL SCALE, THE HELICOPTER CONTRACT WAS NEGOTIATED FROM HONG KONG AND SO, OF COURSE, THERE'S A WHOLE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES THAT'S ALREADY AT THIS EARLY STAGE BENEFITING HONG KONG. AS FAR AS A COMPANY OF THE SIZE OF B.P. AND OTHER COMPANIES IT MAY WELL BE THAT THEY DECIDE TO SET UP AN OPERATION DIRECT IN CHINA, OF COURSE, AND IN TERMS OF CHINA'S OWN AMBITIONS THEY WISH TO CREATE THEIR OWN INDUSTRIES IN CHINA IN THE SAME WAY AS BRITAIN WANTED TO CREATE ITS OWN INDUSTRY OUT OF THE NORTH SEA. AND I THINK THAT'S A PERFECTLY GOOD ASPIRATION AND ONE WHICH ANYBODY THAT'S GOING TO WORK WITH CHINA HAS GOT TO UNDERSTAND AND COMPREHEND. BUT THE REALITY IS THAT WITH ALL OF THE EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE AND BANKING AND INSURANCE SKILLS AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS WHICH EXIST IN HONG KONG BOTH CHINA AND BRITISH COMPANIES INVOLVED ARE GOING TO NEED AND REQUIRE MUCH OF WHAT EXISTS HERE IN HONG KONG. AND SO I THINK THERE WILL BE SOME COMPANIES THAT OPEN DIRECT, THERE'LL BE OTHER COMPANIES THAT WORK THROUGH HONG KONG, THERE'LL BE OTHER PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN HONG KONG COMPANIES AND BRITISH COMPANIES, THERE'LL BE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS. BUT WHAT I'M ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF IS THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT TO HONG KONG.

/MR ADAMS: I .....

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MR ADAMS: I THINK IT'S WORTH ADDING, SINCE YOU SAY, THAT EVEN NOW AS BRITISH COMPANIES INTERESTED IN THIS SECTOR COME THROUGH HONG KONG WE IN THE TRADE COMMISSION INTRODUCE THEM TO HONG KONG PARTNERS AND THAT IS A VERY FIRM WAY FORWARD FOR THEM. SO ALTHOUGH YOU MAY NOT VISIBLY SEE ALL THAT IS GOING ON A LOT OF CONVERSATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE.

Q: ARE THERE ANY INFLUENCE FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON THE DECISION MADE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR PLANT?

A: NO, NOT AT ALL.

Q: DO YOU THINK THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE A STRONG DESIRE THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, THAT HONG KONG SHOULD TAKE PART IN THIS PLAN?

A: THE DECISION WAS TAKEN, I MEAN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO TAKE INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND TO LOOK AT THE PROJECT AND COME TO THEIR OWN DECISION AND THEY CAME TO THEIR OWN DECISION BASED UPON THE FACTS THAT THEY ASSESSED. IF YOU ASK ME WHAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS I CERTAINLY WELCOME THE FACT THAT THEY CAME TO THAT CONCLUSION BECAUSE I CONSIDER IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT, I CONSIDER THAT IN THIS REGION AS A WHOLE THE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OVER THE COMING PERIOD ARE GOING TO BE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED AND I DO THINK THE PRESENCE OF A MAJOR EFFECTIVE NUCLEAR POWER STATION WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO BOTH CHINA AND HONG KONG BUT THAT'S MY PERSONAL VIEW AND IT'S NOT A VIEW THAT I EXPRESSED AT ANY STAGE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THEY MADE THEIR OWN DECISION ON INDEPENDENT ADVICE. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT IF I LOOK AT THE BRITISH SITUATION WHERE WE HAVE INVESTED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT INTO NUCLEAR POWER AND ARE CONTINUING TO DO SO IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE COAL RESERVES, WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE GAS AND OIL FACILITIES, WE CONSIDER IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR ENERGY POLICY. AND IF I MAY SAY SO FRANCE HAD DECIDED TO GO IN FOR THE PWR'S RATHER EARLIER THAN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND HAS GONE IN FOR THEM ON A MUCH BIGGER SCALE THAN ANY OF THE OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. I WITNESSED THE FACT THAT FRANCE NOW HAS CHEAPER ELECTRICITY THAN BRITAIN WHICH BENEFITS HER INDUSTRIES BECAUSE FRANCE WENT INTO THE PWR DEVELOPMENTS AHEAD OF BRITAIN. AND SO LOOKING AS AN ENERGY OBSERVER ROUND THE WORLD I DO SEE A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY AND, THEREFORE, IF ON ALL OF THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO THEM AND AFTER LOOKING AT AN INDEPENDENT ADVISER'S REPORT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THIS WAS SENSIBLE AND WISE IN TERMS OF THE FUTURE ENERGY STRATEGY OF HONG KONG I'M PLEASED THAT THEY CAME TO THAT DECISION AND WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS.

/Q: IS THERE .....

Q: IS THERE ANY INDICATION FROM THE CHINESE OFFICIALS YOU SPOKE WITH THAT CHINA MAY EVENTUALLY EXPORT SOME OF THE OIL FROM THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FIELDS?

A: NO, I NEVER DISCUSSED IN ANY DETAIL WHAT THEY WOULD DO WITH THE OIL WHEN THEY OBTAIN IT, OF COURSE, IT DOES DEPEND HOW MUCH THEY OBTAIN AND HOW SOON THEY OBTAIN AND OVER WHAT PERIOD AND WHERE THEY OBTAIN IT. I DID DETECT A CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE POTENTIALITY OF PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS THAT WOULD RESULT IF THEY HAD SUBSTANTIAL OIL RESOURCES AND SO I WOULD GUESS THAT IS ONE AREA THAT THEY'RE LOOKING AT BUT I DIDN'T DISCUSS IN ANY DETAIL. I MEAN AT THIS STAGE I WAS PRIMARILY CONCERNED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FIRSTLY THE EXPLORATION AND THEN THE DEVELOPMENT, BUT THERE WILL BE CONSIDERATIONS TO BE TAKEN IN CHINA AND IT WILL DEPEND UPON THE BALANCE AND AVAILABILITY OF OTHER RESOURCES. IT WILL DEPEND HOW MUCH NATURAL GAS THEY GET, IT DEPEND WHAT THEY'RE DOING ABOUT THEIR COAL RESERVES AT THAT PARTICULAR MOMENT OF TIME. BUT I DIDN'T DISCUSS IN ANY SORT OF DETAIL AS TO WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO.

Q: COULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC IN THE WAY THAT YOU'VE BEEN ENCOURAGING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITISH COMPANIES AND SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES HERE IN HONG KONG WHILE YOU'VE BEEN HERE IN HONG KONG?

A: WELL, I'VE MET QUITE A FEW OF THE BUSINESS LEADERS AND I'VE MET A GROUP OF COMPANIES INVOLVED IN HONG KONG THAT HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE OFFSHORE BUSINESS AND I HAVE SPOKEN TO THE OFFICIALS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED A DESIRE WITH THEM FOR A CLOSER LIAISON SO THAT I CAN PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE BOTH FROM OUR NORTH SEA EXPERIENCE AND FROM OUR CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA. SO TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND TO THE GOVERNMENT I'VE EXPRESSED A VERY STRONG DESIRE TO SEE THAT WE WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER AND THAT BRITISH FIRMS BENEFIT FROM THE CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION THAT HONG KONG COMMERCIALS CAN OFFER. SO I THINK ONE OF THE RESULTS OF MY VISIT HAS BEEN TO IDENTIFY WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN HAVE A MORE EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP AS NOW ONE ENTERS THE EXCITING PHASE OF ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS. AT THIS MOMENT OF TIME, YOU KNOW, DRILLING IS TAKING PLACE, DRILLING HAS STARTED BY B.P. FOR EXAMPLE. I DID TRY AND ARRANGE FOR THEM TO STRIKE VAST QUANTITIES OF OIL THE DAY I WAS IN CANTON BUT THEY FAILED ME MISERABLY AND DIDN'T DO ANY? BUT, I MEAN, IN THE COMING MONTHS THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME VERY MAJOR DISCOVERIES THERE AND FROM THEN ONWARDS A LOT OF BIG AND MAJOR DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN AND I WANT A VERY GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN AND HONG KONG TO BE OPERATING AT THAT TIME TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH.

Q: I MEAN BECAUSE YOU'RE WANTING BRITISH COMPANIES TO BENEFIT, AND IN THE CASE OF DAYA BAY GEC IS GOING TO BENEFIT, I JUST DON'T SEE THAT THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY PRESSURE FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR THE CONTRACT, WELL FOR THEM FIRSTLY TO TAKE ELECTRICITY FROM DAYA BAY BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY IT'S GOING TO DIRECTLY AFFECT A MAJOR BRITISH COMPANY.

/A: I THINK, .....

A: I THINK, YOU KNOW, THE FACT IS IT IS A DECISION WHERE THE MAJOR EFFECT IS ON HONG KONG AND AS FAR AS THAT MAJOR BRITISH COMPANY IS CONCERNED IT IS A COMPANY THAT'S INVOLVED IN MAJOR CONTRACTS ALL OVER THE WORLD ALL OF THE TIME. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS DECISION IS PRIMARILY OF IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG. HAVING MADE THE DECISION UNDERSTANDABLY BRITISH COMPANIES, AND NOT JUST GEC, WILL DOUBTLESS BE ENDEAVOURING TO BE INVOLVED IN THE CONTRACTS THAT TAKE PLACE. BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO TURN ROUND TO HONG KONG AND PUT PRESSURE ON TO SAY WE WANT YOU TO DO THIS BECAUSE THERE MIGHT BE A NICE CONTRACT FOR A BRITISH COMPANY AND THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN AND HASN'T HAPPENED. WHAT I THINK WILL BE GOOD OUT OF THIS PROJECT IS THAT IT WILL BE A PROJECT IN WHICH HONG KONG AND CHINA WILL WORK TOGETHER AND IF, AS I HOPE AND BELIEVE, THE BRITISH HAVE A MAJOR PART OF THE CONTRACT TOO THEN HONG KONG, BRITAIN AND CHINA WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER ON A MAJOR PROJECT AND THAT CAN ONLY BE A GOOD THING. BUT CERTAINLY THIS WAS A DECISION WHICH PRIMARILY AFFECTED THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, THE ENERGY CONSUMERS OF HONG KONG, THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA AND QUITE RIGHTLY IT WAS A HONG KONG DECISION.

Q: DID THE CHINESE OFFICIALS THAT YOU SPOKE WITH IN PEKING GIVE ANY INDICATION OF ANY FURTHER EXPLORATION CONTRACTS TO BRITISH OR OTHER FOREIGN FIRMS?

A: NO, THEY'RE CONSIDERING THE NEXT ROUND OF LICENSING AND, OF COURSE, THEY'VE BEEN VERY INTERESTED IN HOW WE'VE HANDLED THE LICENSING IN THE NORTH SEA AND THE ARRANGEMENTS WE'VE OPERATED THERE. AND WE HAVE GIVEN THEM INFORMATION AS TO THE FACTORS WE TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN WE WERE AWARDING LICENCES IN THE NORTH SEA. BUT OBVIOUSLY IT IS DECISIONS THAT THEY WILL MAKE BOTH IN TERMS OF TIMING AND THE METHOD THEY WILL USE AS FAR AS DECISIONS ARE CONCERNED.

Q: FOR MR WALKER: SO FAR AS YOU KNOW APART FROM U.K. AND FRANCE ARE THERE ANY OTHER COUNTRIES BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN DAYA BAY?

A: WELL, I CAN'T SPEAK OBVIOUSLY WITH CERTAINTY, I'M NOT THE CUSTOMER. AND, I MEAN IT IS, CERTAINLY AS YOU KNOW BRITAIN AND FRANCE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TALKS AND NEGOTIATIONS BUT WHETHER TALKS HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH OTHER COMPANIES OR OTHER COUNTRIES YOU MUST ASK THE CUSTOMER NOT ME. IF IT WAS ME YOU WERE ASKING ONLY BRITISH COMPANIES WOULD BE INVOLVED?

(NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.)

MR WALKER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.