



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR ELEVATED TO PEERAGE	1
PRESS STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR	1
STATEMENT BY CHIEF SECRETARY SIR DAVID FORD	2
FULL TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF GOVERNOR	2
GOVERNOR PLEDGES TO BUILD FOR LONGER TERM FUTURE	9
HIGHER COMPENSATION FOR INJURED WORKERS	10
REMOVAL OF UNFAIR TREATMENT OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN PROPOSED	11
SHOPS REMINDED TO DISPLAY GOLD AND PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICES ...	13
GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FOR JANUARY TO MARCH	13
GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER	14
CENTRAL AND WESTERN BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR	15
UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED	16
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND	16
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	17

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1991

- 1 -

GOVERNOR ELEVATED TO PEERAGE

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THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST PUBLISHED IN LONDON TODAY INCLUDES THE ELEVATION TO THE PEERAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, SIR DAVID WILSON GCMG. NO 10 DOWNING STREET ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT SIR DAVID WILSON WOULD RETIRE FROM THE GOVERNORSHIP BEFORE THE END OF 1992. THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT SIR DAVID WOULD HAVE SERVED AS GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG FOR FIVE YEARS NEXT APRIL, THAT HE HAD THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, THAT IT WAS NEVER THE INTENTION THAT HE SHOULD SERVE UNTIL 1997 AND THAT THE EXPECTATION WAS THAT HE WOULD RETIRE BEFORE THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

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BEING GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY AT THIS IMPORTANT TIME, HAS BEEN A RARE PRIVILEGE. I SHALL OF COURSE BE SORRY TO LEAVE.

THESE HAVE NOT BEEN EASY YEARS. BUT WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. THE ECONOMY REMAINS BUOYANT. WE HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE. THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THEIR OWN HARD WORK AND SUCCESS.

I HAVE PREVIOUSLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT I DID NOT EXPECT TO REMAIN AS GOVERNOR RIGHT THROUGH TO 1997. WITH A CHANGE BEING INEVITABLE BEFORE THEN, IT MAKES A GREAT DEAL OF SENSE TO ALLOW THE NEW GOVERNOR ENOUGH TIME TO BECOME WELL ESTABLISHED.

THE TIMING OF MY DEPARTURE IS NOT YET FIXED, BUT I WILL BE HERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TO COME. DURING THAT TIME, I WILL BE WORKING WITH ALL MY ENERGY TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS AND WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THIS HAS BEEN MY CONSTANT CONCERN OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

THE GRANT OF A LIFE PEERAGE IS NOT ONLY A GREAT HONOUR, BUT WILL ALSO GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO TAKE A CLOSE INTEREST IN HONG KONG AFFAIRS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1991

- 2 -

STATEMENT BY CHIEF SECRETARY SIR DAVID FORD
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SIR DAVID WILSON IS A VERY FINE GOVERNOR AND ALL OF US IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL BE VERY SORRY TO SEE HIM LEAVE NEXT YEAR.

SIR DAVID IS A MAN OF UTMOST INTEGRITY WHO HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR HONG KONG AND WE ARE FULL OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS STEADFAST LEADERSHIP DURING DIFFICULT TIMES.

HONG KONG'S MANY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS OWE MUCH TO HIS EFFORTS. OF COURSE THERE IS MUCH STILL TO BE DONE, BUT SIR DAVID CAN BE ASSURED OF THE LOYAL AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

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FULL TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF GOVERNOR
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QUESTION: SIR DAVID, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT HAS MADE YOU DECIDE TO RETIRE AT THIS POINT?

SIR DAVID: WELL THE DECISION IS A DECISION BY THE PRIME MINISTER RATHER THAN A DECISION BY ME. I THINK I HAVE ALWAYS MADE IT CLEAR THAT I WOULD GO ON SERVING IN HONG KONG, WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS, AS LONG AS I WAS ASKED TO DO SO. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS MADE A DECISION THAT IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE GOVERNOR IN 1992, AND I CAN SEE THE POINT BECAUSE IF THERE IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER GOVERNOR BEFORE 1997, THEN IT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE TO BRING IN SOMEBODY EARLY ENOUGH SO THAT THEY CAN GET THEMSELVES WELL ESTABLISHED AND HAVE A GOOD PERIOD IN OFFICE AND THAT WILL GIVE THE NEW GOVERNOR FOUR-AND-A-HALF - FIVE YEARS IN OFFICE, AND THAT IS A GOOD PERIOD OF TIME TO GET WELL ESTABLISHED.

QUESTION: ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SERVE LONGER IN HONG KONG?

SIR DAVID: NO, THE POINT I AM MAKING IS THAT THE DECISION IS ONE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, NOT A DECISION FOR ME. I HAVE ALWAYS MADE IT VERY CLEAR IN PUBLIC THAT IF I WAS ASKED TO SERVE, I WOULD SERVE. BUT THE DECISION IS ONE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO TAKE AND IT IS VERY EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DECIDED THAT IF ONE PERSON - IF I AM NOT TO GO ON UNTIL 1997 - AND IT NEVER SEEMED LIKELY THAT I WOULD GO ON UNTIL 1997, I THINK I HAVE ALWAYS MADE THAT CLEAR IN PUBLIC TOO - THEN FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO DECIDE THAT IN THAT CIRCUMSTANCES TO HAVE SOMEBODY WHO CAN COME IN EARLY ENOUGH TO GET WELL ESTABLISHED, THAT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE AND I CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: WHAT SORT OF CANDIDATE DO YOU THINK HONG KONG NEEDS AT THIS POINT?

SIR DAVID: THAT'S ALWAYS A TERRIBLY DIFFICULT QUESTION, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE SORT OF TRYING TO DRAW UP A CHECK LIST OF QUALITIES FOR A GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG - IT IS NOT EASY. YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE SOMEBODY WHO CAN LOOK AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG. IT IS A HIGHLY COMPLEX SOCIETY NOW, IT IS THE ELEVENTH LARGEST TRADING TERRITORY IN THE WORLD, IT IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL TRADING TERRITORY - SO THAT IS ONE SIDE, THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG, SOMEBODY WHO CAN DO THE ADMINISTRATION WELL. THEN PERHAPS MORE THAN MOST OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD, WE HAVE A SERIES OF QUITE DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIPS TO MANAGE. WE'VE GOT A CRUCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND THAT NEEDS GREAT CARE, CAREFUL MANAGEMENT - SOMEBODY WHO CAN DO THAT. WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE METROPOLITAN COUNTRY; AND WE HAVE THE HANDLING OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG, SO YOU NEED SOMEBODY WHO CAN MANAGE ALL OF THOSE THINGS. SO IT IS SOMEBODY WITH ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE AND WHO HAS GOT SOME SORT OF VISION AND ABILITY TO DEAL WITH LEADERS IN COUNTRIES LIKE CHINA, LEADERS OF COUNTRIES IN THE UK, AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. NOW THAT IS A CATALOGUE OF QUITE A LOT OF ATTRIBUTES AND ABILITIES AND YOU NEED SOMEBODY WHO CAN FULFIL AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF THOSE.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, THERE ARE SO MANY SUGGESTIONS IN THE UK THAT YOUR SUCCESSOR IS MAY BE A HIGH PRESTIGE POLITICIAN, DO YOU THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?

SIR DAVID: I THINK WHAT MATTERS - WHAT REALLY MATTERS - IS THE QUALITY OF THE PERSON, THE QUALITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL, NOT WHERE THEY COME FROM. I DON'T THINK THE SPECIFIC BACKGROUND OF A PERSON IS THE CRUCIAL THING, IT IS THE OVERALL QUALITIES OF THAT INDIVIDUAL AND THE SORT OF THINGS WE WERE TALKING ABOUT JUST NOW, HAVING THOSE SORT OF ABILITIES. NOW YOU CAN GET THAT SORT OF PERSON FROM A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND I DON'T, MYSELF, BELIEVE IT IS THE BACKGROUND THAT MATTERS, I BELIEVE IT IS THE QUALITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL THAT MATTERS.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, I THINK YOU WOULD AGREE THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT SOUNDS VERY SUDDEN TO MOST OF US, CONSIDERING THAT YOU WERE SAYING IT IS SO REASONABLE TO CHANGE AT AN EARLIER TIME, WHY THE SUDDENNESS? WHY DID THERE SEEM TO BE A CHANGE OF MIND? ONLY VERY RECENTLY THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SAYING THAT THERE'S NO VACANCY FOR THE GOVERNORSHIP OF HONG KONG. THE SUDDENNESS MAKES US FEEL THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME URGENCY; IS THERE ANY URGENT REASON WHY YOU MUST GO NOW?

SIR DAVID: I'M INTERESTED THAT YOU SAY IT ALL APPEARS SO SUDDEN BECAUSE AS I SIT IN MY CHAIR, AND AS I SIT AT MY DESK, I READ ENDLESS BITS OF NEWSPAPER SPECULATION AND INDEED TELEVISION SPECULATION, ABOUT 'IS THERE GOING TO BE A CHANGE OF THE GOVERNOR IN 1992?' SO FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, IN THE SORT OF THINGS THAT I READ, I DON'T FIND THAT SUDDEN AT ALL. EVENTUALLY A DECISION HAS TO BE MADE: SHOULD THERE BE A CHANGE IN 1992 - SOMETIME SOON AFTER I HAVE DONE MY FIRST FIVE YEARS IN OFFICE. NOW WHEN THAT DECISION IS TAKEN, IT MAKES A GREAT DEAL OF SENSE, I BELIEVE, TO SAY SO, SO IT IS CLEAR. SO WE DON'T SIMPLY HAVE THE SPECULATION: 'WILL THE GOVERNOR BE CHANGING IN 1992' OR 'WON'T THE GOVERNOR BE CHANGING IN 1992'? THAT IS CLEAR, A DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN, THE GOVERNORSHIP WILL CHANGE IN 1992 AND WE CAN ALL WORK WITH THAT BACKGROUND IN MIND.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: WAS IT A SUDDEN DECISION - WERE YOU CONSULTED? WHEN DID YOU KNOW?

SIR DAVID: I HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A CHANGE IN 1992 AFTER MY FIRST FIVE YEARS IN OFFICE, I HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR SOME TIME. THE ACTUAL DECISION TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT NOW, THAT IS MUCH MORE RECENT BUT OF COURSE I HAVE BEEN AWARE OF IT.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, NOW THAT THE DECISION IS MADE WE HAVE A PERIOD WHEREBY WE DON'T KNOW WHO THE NEXT GOVERNOR IS. IS THAT ANNOUNCEMENT GOING TO BE MADE SOON - WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS, SAY?

SIR DAVID: THAT HAS GOT TO BE A MATTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER RATHER THAN FOR ME. THE PRIME MINISTER, IN FACING THAT, HAS GOT TO LOOK AT THE BACKGROUND THAT HE HAS GOT, WHICH IS A GENERAL ELECTION COMING UP, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT DECISION HE WILL TAKE ABOUT WHETHER TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION OR AFTERWARDS, BUT THAT IS THE BACKGROUND AGAINST WHICH HE HAS TO LOOK AT THE PROBLEM.

QUESTION: WILL IT CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR YOU, BEING OUR GOVERNOR, IN CARRYING OUT YOUR DAY-TO-DAY WORK?

SIR DAVID: WELL FROM MY POINT OF VIEW I WOULD PREFER, I THINK, IT TO BE CLEAR THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A CHANGE IN 1992 AND KNOW THAT. WE ARE THEN LEFT WITH ONE HALF OF A TWO PART SPECULATION, IF YOU LIKE. WE'VE HAD TWO PARTS OF THE SPECULATION RECENTLY: SPECULATION THAT THE GOVERNOR MIGHT CHANGE IN 1992; SPECULATION ABOUT WHO MIGHT BE THE NEXT GOVERNOR. ALRIGHT, WE HAVE NOW GOT ONE HALF OF THE SPECULATION LEFT - THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN 1992 - THERE IS STILL THE SPECULATION ABOUT WHO IT IS GOING TO BE. BUT THE OTHER POINT FOR ME IS - TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR - THAT ALTHOUGH I SHALL BE LEAVING HONG KONG IN 1992, AND OF COURSE I SHALL BE SAD TO LEAVE HONG KONG IN 1992 AND THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING - I WON'T BE LEAVING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS YET, SO DON'T WRITE THE OBITUARIES YET. I WILL BE HERE FOR QUITE A FEW MONTHS AND I SHALL BE WORKING FLAT OUT DURING THOSE FEW MONTHS.

QUESTION: FORGIVE ME FOR BEING TACTLESS BUT HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO GO BECAUSE THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS UNHAPPY WITH THE WAY YOU HANDLED THE NEW AIRPORT?

SIR DAVID: I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T SEE IT LIKE THAT MYSELF, NO. I MEAN I FEEL NO REASON - YOU MIGHT LIKE ME TO SOUND SORT OF DEFENSIVE OR APOLOGETIC - I DON'T FEEL THAT IN THE SLIGHTEST ABOUT ANYTHING AT ALL THAT I HAVE BEEN DOING DURING MY PERIOD AS GOVERNOR. NO, I THINK THE CRUCIAL THING IS THAT IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A CHANGE BEFORE 1997 YOU HAVE GOT TO MAKE A DECISION - THE PRIME MINISTER HAS GOT TO MAKE A DECISION - OF WHEN SHOULD IT BE. SHOULD IT BE LATER ON OR SHOULD THERE BE A LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME - SOMETHING CLOSE TO FIVE YEARS - FOR THE NEW GOVERNOR? AND THAT'S THE DECISION THAT HE HAS TAKEN.

QUESTION: IS THERE A CHANGE ALSO BECAUSE OF A NEED TO CHANGE THE RELATION WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS? THAT IS, AGAIN, HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO GO BECAUSE YOU ARE TOO SYMPATHETIC WITH CHINA?

SIR DAVID: I DON'T BELIEVE SO MYSELF. OF COURSE I CAN'T LOOK INTO THE MINDS OF OTHER PEOPLE BUT I WOULD BE EXTREMELY SURPRISED IF THAT WAS THE SORT OF REASONING. I DO BELIEVE, MYSELF, THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG THAT WE SHOULD ESTABLISH A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA - WE'VE GOT TO. THERE IS GOING TO BE A CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997; CHINA MATTERS IMMENSELY TO EVERY ASPECT OF HONG KONG'S LIFE AND HONG KONG'S FUTURE AND I DO BELIEVE WE HAVE GOT TO HAVE A GOOD SENSIBLE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA, AND I AM SURE THAT ANYBODY WHO COMES HERE AS GOVERNOR WOULD HAVE THE SAME VIEW.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THAT THE EVENTS OF JUNE 4TH HAVE AT ALL CHANGED THE KIND OF JOB THAT THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG HAS TO DO?

SIR DAVID: I DON'T THINK I WOULD PICK ON ONE SINGLE EVENT AS CHANGING THE JOB. I DO BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG HAS CHANGED ENORMOUSLY OVER, LET'S SAY THE LAST 10 YEARS, AND JUNE THE 4TH WAS A VERY TRAUMATIC EVENT FOR ALL OF US BUT IT IS NOT JUST ONE SINGLE EVENT THAT CHANGES HONG KONG. WHAT HAS CHANGED IS THAT IT HAS BECOME MUCH MORE PROSPEROUS - WE ARE MORE PROSPEROUS PER HEAD OF POPULATION THAN MANY PLACES IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THAT IS A HUGE CHANGE. A DYNAMIC ECONOMY - JUST LOOK ROUND FROM MY STUDY AT ALL THE BUILDINGS THAT ARE GOING UP - THAT HAS CHANGED. THE FUTURE, THE FACT THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY, THAT HAS CHANGED OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS, THE CHINA DIMENSION HAS CHANGED - SO I WOULDN'T PICK ON JUNE THE 4TH EVEN THOUGH THAT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD TO HANDLE IN HONG KONG FOR EVERYBODY. I WOULDN'T PICK ON THAT SINGLE EVENT BUT I WOULD SAY THAT HONG KONG IS CHANGING THE WHOLE TIME AND THEREFORE THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG, THE SORT OF ROLE FOR A GOVERNOR, THAT IS ALWAYS CHANGING.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, IT HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL FIVE YEARS, IS THERE ONE PARTICULAR ISSUE THAT YOU WOULD HAVE HANDLED DIFFERENTLY, WITH HINDSIGHT?

SIR DAVID: IT IS ALWAYS A VERY DIFFICULT QUESTION TO ANSWER THAT BECAUSE I WOULD NEVER WANT TO SUGGEST THAT EVERYTHING THAT I DO IS PERFECT - IT WOULD BE EXTRAORDINARY IF THAT WAS THE CASE - BUT LOOKING BACK ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED, WHAT REALLY STRIKES ME IS THAT HONG KONG HAS BEEN FACED WITH TREMENDOUS PROBLEMS OVER THOSE FIVE YEARS, QUITE EXTRAORDINARY ONES, AND YET NOT ONLY HAVE WE SURVIVED THEM, WE HAVE COME THROUGH THEM EXTRAORDINARILY WELL; AND THIS PLACE IS STILL GROWING FAST, THE ECONOMY IS DOING WELL, PEOPLE'S LIVING IS BETTER, WE ARE BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE - LIKE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, THE AIRPORT AND SO ON. I THINK THAT IS SOMETHING HONG KONG CAN BE PROUD OF, IT IS NOT ME ALONE, BUT I AM PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH WHAT HONG KONG HAS ACHIEVED DURING THAT PERIOD.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, TO GO BACK TO THE QUESTION OF YOUR SUCCESSOR, AS YOU HAVE MENTIONED, THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ELECTION - AND THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE LABOUR PARTY WILL GET POWER; WE HAVE JUST INTERVIEWED THE LABOUR PARTY SPOKESMAN GEORGE FOULKES AND HE SAID IF LABOUR GET INTO POWER THEY WILL APPOINT A LABOUR GUY TO BE THE NEW GOVERNOR AND THEY WILL MAYBE SPEED UP THE PHASING OF DEMOCRATISATION IN HONG KONG. DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE A GOOD IDEA FOR HONG KONG TO HAVE SUCH CHANGE?

/SIR DAVID:

SIR DAVID: I DIDN'T HEAR THE PARTICULAR INTERVIEW MYSELF, SO I WON'T COMMENT ON WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID. THE TYPE OF GOVERNOR WHO COMES TO HONG KONG - IN A WAY THAT IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE SORT OF ISSUES THAT THE GOVERNOR WILL FACE - AND ANY GOVERNOR, WHOEVER IT IS, WILL FACE THE SAME SORT OF ISSUES AND I THINK WILL FACE THE SAME NEED TO HAVE STABLE POLICIES IN HONG KONG, STEADY EVOLUTION IN HONG KONG, THOSE ARE THE THINGS WHICH I BELIEVE ARE CRUCIAL FOR HONG KONG.

QUESTION: DO YOU AGREE THAT A TOUGH GUY CAN GET MORE FROM CHINA?

SIR DAVID: DEALING WITH CHINA IS ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG AND THAT RELATIONSHIP, AS I WAS SAYING JUST NOW, IS ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT. I DON'T, MYSELF, BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN PRODUCE SIMPLE ANSWERS AND SAY ONE PARTICULAR WAY OF APPROACHING IT IS GOING TO PRODUCE DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT RESULTS FROM ANOTHER WAY. THAT JUST ISN'T THE CASE, THERE ARE CERTAIN BASIC FACTS THERE WHICH HAVE TO BE HANDLED. I BELIEVE THEY HAVE TO BE HANDLED WITH GREAT CARE, TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BASIC PROBLEMS ARE, TRYING TO PUT ACROSS TO CHINA WHAT HONG KONG'S NEEDS ARE, TRYING TO UNDERSTAND, TOO, WHERE CHINA HAS ITS OWN ISSUES AND PROBLEMS IT HAS TO FACE; BUILDING UP THAT SORT OF AN UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIP, I THINK THAT'S THE CRUCIAL THING.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, DURING THE EVENTS OF JUNE THE 4TH YOU TOOK A VERY BOLD STAND. DO YOU, WITH HINDSIGHT, REGRET THAT STAND?

SIR DAVID: NO, I DON'T AT ALL. NO, I DON'T IN THE SLIGHTEST. JUNE THE 4TH, OR THE WHOLE PERIOD OF MAY-JUNE, WAS A VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD HERE IN HONG KONG. I DON'T REGRET THE SORT OF THINGS THAT I SAID THEN, I BELIEVED THEM, I STILL DO BELIEVE THEM. THE SORT OF MEASURES THAT WE TOOK TO TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT HONG KONG REMAINED STABLE, THAT IT LOOKED TO THE LONG-TERM FUTURE, THOSE I THINK WERE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT AND I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T REGRET THEM. WE WERE TRYING, IF YOU REMEMBER RIGHTLY, IN 1989, TO LOOK FORWARD, TO SHOW THAT ALTHOUGH DRAMATIC AND TERRIBLE EVENTS WERE HAPPENING IN PEKING AT THAT TIME, WE WERE NOT SIMPLY GOING TO GIVE UP IN HONG KONG, WE WERE GOING TO LOOK TO THE LONGER TERM FUTURE. THAT, I BELIEVE WAS RIGHT AND I DON'T REGRET THAT AT ALL.

QUESTION: A LOT OF PROBLEMS CAME OUT OF JUNE 4TH INCLUDING THE ACCUSATION THAT HONG KONG IS SUBVERSIVE, INCLUDING THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE, INCLUDING YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT TO LEGCO OF THE NEW AIRPORT - A LOT OF PROBLEMS STEM FROM THAT DATE - DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE HANDLED IT DIFFERENTLY?

SIR DAVID: WHAT, IF I COULD LOOK BACK THROUGH THE YEARS AHEAD?

QUESTION: YES, INDEED.

/SIR DAVID:

SIR DAVID: I DOUBT IT VERY MUCH. I DO BELIEVE IT WAS RIGHT AT THAT TIME TO BE LOOKING FOR THE FUTURE, NOT TO LIMIT OUR OWN HORIZONS EITHER TO 1989 OR TO 1997, TO SAY, DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT WAS HAPPENING, HONG KONG WAS GOING TO GO ON AND HONG KONG WAS GOING TO PROSPER. SO, ANNOUNCE A POLICY ON EXPANDING EDUCATION - I BELIEVE THAT WAS RIGHT; ANNOUNCE LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS LIKE THE AIRPORT - I BELIEVE THAT WAS RIGHT. I DON'T THINK, EVEN LOOKING BACK NOW, THAT THOSE WERE THE WRONG DECISIONS. I BELIEVE, NOW, THAT THEY ARE LAYING THE RIGHT SORT OF FOUNDATIONS FOR A PROSPEROUS HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE, WAY AFTER 1997.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, THERE ARE SO MANY RUMOURS, SAY IN THE UK, SAYING THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE BUSINESS CIRCLES IN UK, LIKE JARDINES, SO THEY ALWAYS PROPOSED TO REPLACE YOU. DO YOU THINK THAT THE NEW GOVERNOR NEEDS TO BUILD UP A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE BUSINESSMEN IN UK?

SIR DAVID: WELL AS I WOULD SEE IT - AND I WOULD DISREGARD ALL THESE SORT OF RUMOURS INCIDENTALLY - AS I WOULD SEE IT, WHAT MATTERS IN HONG KONG IS THAT WE ARE AN OPEN ECONOMY, A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY - SOMETIMES THE WORD USED IS A LEVEL 'PLAYING-FIELD' AND IT'S NOT A BAD WORD. - 'PLAYING-FIELD' MAY BE WRONG, IT IS QUITE A SERIOUS BUSINESS; BUT IT SHOULD BE LEVEL, IT SHOULD BE A PLACE IN WHICH EVERYBODY COMPETES FREELY, THAT IS WHAT HAS MADE HONG KONG SO SUCCESSFUL. AND INCIDENTALLY, BRITAIN'S WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW HONG KONG, A DEPENDENT TERRITORY, TO LOOK AFTER ITS OWN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, ENTIRELY LOOK AFTER ITS OWN AFFAIRS AUTONOMOUSLY, THAT I THINK IS A GREAT CREDIT TO BRITAIN OVER THE YEARS AND THAT IS WHAT HAS HELPED TO MAKE HONG KONG SO SUCCESSFUL - COMPETITION.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, CHINA HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON A LOT OF THINGS IN HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS, WOULD CHINA BE SOUNDED OUT ON THESE CANDIDATES FOR THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE?

SIR DAVID: I THINK THE DECISION HAS TO BE SEEN AS ONE WHICH IS - IT IS FOR THE QUEEN IN FORMAL TERMS - BUT IT IS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO ADVISE THE QUEEN AND I THINK HE HAS TO TAKE THAT DECISION, AND I DON'T SEE THAT FORMAL CONSULTATION OF OTHER PEOPLE - FORMAL CONSULTATION OF ANYBODY LIKE CHINA, OR FORMAL CONSULTATION IN HONG KONG FOR THAT MATTER - I DON'T THINK THAT IS APPROPRIATE. NOW IF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG OR ANYWHERE ELSE WISH TO PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS ON WHO WOULD BE THE RIGHT SORT OF GOVERNOR, I'M SURE THEY WILL DO SO - PEOPLE ARE NEVER SLOW TO PUT FORWARD THEIR OWN VIEWS - BUT THE ACTUAL DECISION, I THINK, HAS TO BE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO ADVISE THE QUEEN AND WITHOUT FORMAL CONSULTATION OF OTHER PEOPLE.

QUESTION: THERE'S SOME LEGCO GUYS THAT WANT TO DISCUSS IN THE IN-HOUSE MAYBE THIS FRIDAY ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW GOVERNOR - THAT MEANS YOU WILL THINK SUCH TYPE OF DISCUSSION IS JUST A FRUITLESS DISCUSSION?

SIR DAVID: I DIDN'T QUITE SAY THAT, DID I? I SAID THAT FORMAL CONSULTATION IN HONG KONG OR ELSEWHERE DOESN'T SEEM TO ME TO BE APPROPRIATE, IT HAS TO BE THE PRIME MINISTER ADVISING THE QUEEN. BUT IF PEOPLE WANT TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT, OF COURSE THEY CAN DISCUSS THE SUBJECT AND OF COURSE THEY WILL; NO ONE WOULD WISH TO STOP PEOPLE DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT, NO ONE WOULD WISH TO STOP PEOPLE PUTTING FORWARD THEIR OWN VIEWS. I'M SURE THEY WILL DO THAT AND IT IS QUITE RIGHT THAT THEY SHOULD DO SO.

QUESTION: HOWEVER, SIR DAVID, IT IS FELT BY A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT THIS CHANGE OF GOVERNORSHIP, ESPECIALLY AT THIS POINT IN TIME, IS MUCH MORE TO THE CONVENIENCE OF UK POLITICIANS THAN FOR THE BENEFIT OF HONG KONG. DO YOU THINK THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT IN THINKING SO?

SIR DAVID: TO ME, THE KEY THING IS, IF YOU ARE GOING TO CHANGE THE GOVERNOR BEFORE 1997 WHEN SHOULD IT BE DONE, AND OBVIOUSLY THAT IS ARGUABLE - WHAT IS THE RIGHT TIME TO DO IT? BUT THERE IS A GOOD CASE, AS I WAS SAYING EARLIER, FOR CHANGING EARLY ENOUGH FOR A NEW GOVERNOR TO GET WELL ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG AND THAT IS SOMETHING FOR THE GOOD GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG, IT IS NOT NECESSARILY FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF BRITISH POLITICIANS.

QUESTION: THEN WHY DID JOHN MAJOR NOT TELL HONG KONG PEOPLE THIS WHEN HE WAS ASKED THE QUESTION NOT SO LONG AGO?

SIR DAVID: HE SAID, IF I REMEMBER RIGHTLY, AND YOU QUOTED IT EARLIER, THAT THERE WAS NO VACANCY TO THE GOVERNORSHIP WHEN HE WAS ASKED THE QUESTION AND THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY TRUE, AND I THINK THAT WAS BACK IN SEPTEMBER. WHEN HE FINALLY MADE UP HIS MIND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A CHANGE, THAT IS SOMETHING THAT HE CAN ANSWER RATHER THAN ME, BUT AT SOME STAGE THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAS GOT TO BE MADE. FOR A LONG PERIOD BEFORE THAT, CLEARLY YOU CAN'T MAKE THAT SORT OF ANNOUNCEMENT, THERE HAS TO BE A POINT WHEN THERE IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT. AS I WAS SAYING, THERE IS A LOT OF ADVANTAGE IN MAKING IT CLEAR WHAT IS GOING TO BE DONE. WE ALL KNOW THE SITUATION - AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED I AM HERE FOR MANY MONTHS TO COME AND I SHALL NOT BE SLACKING OFF IN WHAT I AM DOING SIMPLY BECAUSE I SHALL BE LEAVING IN 1992, I SHALL BE CONTINUING WORKING VERY HARD IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

QUESTION: CAN YOU TELL US, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACHIEVE IN YOUR REMAINING MONTHS IN HONG KONG?

SIR DAVID: I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL THESE ENORMOUS PROGRAMMES THAT WE'VE GOT FOR THE LONG-TERM FUTURE GO AHEAD AS PLANNED ON SCHEDULE. BY THAT I MEAN THE EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE AIRPORT OF COURSE, AND THAT IS GOING TO BE ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG; OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, ALL OUR OTHER SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS BECAUSE THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT TOO. TRYING TO IMPROVE IN A VERY BROAD SENSE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THAT MEANS NOT JUST SIMPLE THINGS LIKE 'ARE THE STREETS CLEAN?' - ALTHOUGH THOSE ARE IMPORTANT - IT MEANS BUILDING FOR THE LONG-TERM FUTURE, BUILDING FOR THE EDUCATION OF PEOPLE, BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT A REALLY SUCCESSFUL HONG KONG POST-1997 IS GOING TO NEED. I WANT TO BE HERE PUSHING THOSE THINGS, MAKING SURE THEY KEEP ON SCHEDULE, MAKING SURE THAT THERE IS NO SLACKENING OFF OF EFFORT IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, WHICH PROBLEM DO YOU THINK YOUR SUCCESSOR, THE NEW GOVERNOR, WILL FACE IN THE COMING FUTURE APPROACHING 1997?

SIR DAVID: WHICH SINGLE PROBLEM?

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: YES.

SIR DAVID: I THINK IF HE FEELS THAT THERE IS ONE SINGLE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG, HE'D MAKE A MISTAKE BECAUSE THERE ARE A MASS --

QUESTION: YES, SO WHAT'S THE MAJOR PROBLEM?

SIR DAVID: -- WELL I THINK YOU HAVE GOT TO REMEMBER THE WHOLE TIME THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT THINGS THAT HAVE GOT TO BE DEALT WITH AND TO CONCENTRATE ON ONE SINGLE THING WOULD BE A MISTAKE. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA IS VERY IMPORTANT; MANAGING THE ADMINISTRATION, KEEPING UP MORALE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AS WE MOVE TOWARDS 1997 IS VERY IMPORTANT; HANDLING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND THE LEGISLATURE, LEGCO, THAT IS GOING TO BE VERY IMPORTANT; BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE, EDUCATION, ALL OF THAT IS GOING TO BE VERY IMPORTANT. AND, THE LAST POINT, GOING AROUND THE WORLD AND EXPLAINING TO PEOPLE THAT THIS PLACE IS NOT ON ITS LAST LEGS, THAT IT IS A VERY DYNAMIC PLACE, THAT IT IS A PLACE WELL WORTHWHILE INVESTING IN AND TRADING WITH, THAT IS IMPORTANT TOO. NOW ANYBODY WHO PICKS ONE OF THOSE AND ONLY DOES ONE, WOULD BE WRONG, WOULDN'T THEY? IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP ALL OF THESE THINGS IN VIEW.

QUESTION: SIR DAVID, ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE, HAVE YOU HAD TIME TO THINK WHAT HIGHER AND BETTER THINGS YOU WOULD BE GOING TO AFTER HONG KONG?

SIR DAVID: I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO THINK. THE ONE POINT I WOULD MAKE ON THAT IS ONE WHICH I'VE ALWAYS MADE, AND I MADE BEFORE I CAME HERE, WHICH IS I WOULD NOT WISH TO GO ON TO DO SOME OTHER DIPLOMATIC JOB. I DON'T WISH TO, I DON'T EXPECT TO - GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, FOR ME IS THE HEIGHT OF MY OFFICIAL CAREER - SO I SHALL HAVE TO FIND SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO DO BUT WHAT IT WILL BE I HAVE NOT THOUGHT ABOUT, AND I DOUBT VERY MUCH WHETHER I SHALL BE THINKING MUCH ABOUT IT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS - I SHALL BE FAR TOO BUSY HERE.

QUESTION: WILL YOU GO TO OXFORD?

SIR DAVID: THAT I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHALL DO. I AM GOING TO CONCENTRATE ON WORKING IN HONG KONG FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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GOVERNOR PLEDGES TO BUILD FOR LONGER TERM FUTURE

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON:

"AS WE LOOK BACK AT THIS PAST YEAR WE CAN SEE THAT HONG KONG MADE SOLID PROGRESS DURING 1991. AS A COMMUNITY, WE CAN LOOK FORWARD IN 1992 TO MAINTAINING OUR RECORD OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

/OUR ECONOMIC

OUR ECONOMIC PROSPECTS HAVE IMPROVED, AND THE OVERALL RATE OF GROWTH HAS PICKED UP. THIS IS ENCOURAGING. THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN ITS TRIED-AND-TESTED FORMULA FOR PROSPERITY: A COMPETITIVE MARKET ECONOMY, WITH LOW TAXES AND MINIMAL RED TAPE, IN WHICH PROTECTION OF THE COMMUNITY'S INTERESTS DOES NOT HINDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFITABLE BUSINESS GROWTH.

THE GOVERNMENT ENTERS THE NEW YEAR DETERMINED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF PLANNING FOR THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE WELL-BEING AND FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ITS SOCIAL AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES. IN THE COMING YEAR, WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO MAKING FURTHER ADVANCES IN THE WELFARE FIELD, PARTICULARLY IN PROGRAMMES FOR THE DISABLED. WE MUST ALSO STRENGTHEN OUR EFFORTS TO FIGHT CRIME AND KEEP OUR CITY SAFE. AND WE MUST BUILD FOR THE LONGER TERM FUTURE BY MOVING AHEAD STEADILY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR NEW AIRPORT AND WITH OUR INVESTMENT IN A BETTER TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE.

1991 SAW SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EVOLUTION OF OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE HAVE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS AND AN ELECTED MAJORITY. ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN THE EFFORTS THAT WE AS A COMMUNITY MAKE TO MAINTAIN THE PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE.

AS WE STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF 1992, MY FAMILY AND I WISH ALL OF YOU A PEACEFUL, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR."

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HIGHER COMPENSATION FOR INJURED WORKERS

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COMPENSATION WILL GO UP BY ABOUT 28 PER CENT FOR EMPLOYEES INJURED OR KILLED AT WORK OR INCAPACITATED BY PNEUMOCONIOSIS ON OR AFTER TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR ALFRED CHAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE NEW LEVELS OF COMPENSATION ARE STIPULATED IN THE LATEST AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION AND PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCES.

"THE INCREASES HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WAGE MOVEMENTS, INFLATION AND OTHER CHANGES OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS," MR CHAN ADDED.

COMPENSATION TO DEPENDANTS OF EMPLOYEES KILLED IN WORK ACCIDENTS WILL INCREASE TO \$542,000 AS A MAXIMUM, AND \$183,000 AS A MINIMUM.

FOR WORKERS SUFFERING PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY, THEIR MAXIMUM COMPENSATION WILL BE RAISED TO \$620,000 WHILE THE MINIMUM WILL GO UP TO \$207,000. THE ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE REQUIRING CONSTANT ATTENTION WILL RISE TO \$248,000.

/ALSO BURIAL

ALSO BURIAL EXPENSES FOR EMPLOYEES KILLED AT WORK AND THE MAXIMUM DAILY RATE FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES WILL BE \$10,000 AND \$90 RESPECTIVELY.

IN ADDITION, THE CEILING OF ADVANCE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO INJURED WORKERS OR TO DEPENDANTS OF DECEASED WORKERS WILL GO UP TO \$28,000.

MEANWHILE, THE MINIMUM SURCHARGE FOR LATE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION BY EMPLOYERS HAS BEEN REVISED TO MAINTAIN ITS DETERRENT EFFECT.

THE SURCHARGE WILL BE INCREASED TO \$300 UPON EXPIRY OF THE PAYMENT PERIOD, AND TO \$600 WHERE COMPENSATION REMAINS UNPAID THREE MONTHS AFTER THE EXPIRY DATE.

AS REGARDS THE ALLOWANCES TO HELP VICTIMS OF WORK ACCIDENTS TO ACQUIRE PROSTHESES OR SURGICAL APPLIANCES, THE MAXIMUM COSTS OF SUPPLYING AND FITTING SUCH ITEMS WILL BE RAISED TO \$20,000, AND THOSE OF REPAIRING AND RENEWING TO \$62,000.

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REMOVAL OF UNFAIR TREATMENT OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN PROPOSED

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THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED THE ELIMINATION OF THE DISTINCTIONS DRAWN BY THE LAW BETWEEN LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION, POINTED OUT THAT THE LAW AT PRESENT TREATED ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN DIFFERENTLY IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT AREAS.

"THE COMMISSION TAKES THE VIEW THAT THIS IS UNFAIR BECAUSE THE TARGET OF THE DISCRIMINATIONS IS NOT HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MISCONDUCT.

"IN BROAD TERMS, THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS SEEK TO REMOVE AS FAR AS IS PRACTICABLE THE LEGAL DISADVANTAGES WHICH AT PRESENT ATTACH TO ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN," MR MATHEWS SAID.

THE COMMISSION'S REPORT ON ILLEGITIMACY, WHICH IS PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY), IS THE RESULT OF SOME TWO YEARS' WORK. A PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION IN AUGUST 1990 REVEALED OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR A CHANGE IN THE LAW ALONG THE LINES PROPOSED.

THE COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED THAT AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD SHOULD HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS TO SUCCEED TO HIS PARENTS' PROPERTY ON DEATH AS LEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

THE COMMISSION HAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE SAME RANGE OF COURT ORDERS RELATING TO MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS FOR THE CHILD BY THE PARENTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE LEGITIMATE OR ILLEGITIMATE.

IT HAS PROPOSED THAT AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO APPLY TO COURT FOR A DECLARATION OF HIS PATERNITY, A COURSE NOT OPEN TO HIM AS THE LAW STANDS NOW.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT ARGUE FOR THE ADOPTION IN HONG KONG OF LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS CLARIFYING THE COURT'S POWERS TO ORDER THE TAKING OF BLOOD SAMPLES IN CASES WHERE PATERNITY IS IN DISPUTE.

THE COMMISSION ALSO DISCUSSES CHILDREN BORN BY ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION.

UNDER THE PRESENT LAW, A CHILD BORN BY ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION BY A DONOR OTHER THAN THE HUSBAND IS ILLEGITIMATE.

THE COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED THAT SUCH A CHILD SHOULD BE TREATED AS THE CHILD OF THE WOMAN AND HER HUSBAND, UNLESS IT IS SHOWN THAT THE HUSBAND HAS NOT CONSENTED TO THE INSEMINATION.

WHILE THE COMMISSION PROPOSES IN GENERAL THAT THE LAW SHOULD TREAT CHILDREN ALIKE, IT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CHILD THERE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARENTS IN RESPECT OF THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES THEY POSSESS.

THE COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CHILD'S MOTHER SHOULD ENJOY PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AUTOMATICALLY, BUT THAT THE FATHER SHOULD HAVE THOSE RIGHTS BY VIRTUE OF MARRIAGE TO THE CHILD'S MOTHER OR BY A COURT ORDER.

THE COMMISSION HAS ENVISAGED THAT A COURT ORDER WOULD BE READILY GRANTED WHERE, FOR INSTANCE, THE UNMARRIED FATHER WAS COHABITING WITH THE MOTHER.

THE COMMISSION FELT THAT SUCH AN APPROACH COULD BEST ENSURE THE CHILD'S WELFARE WHILE KEEPING TO A MINIMUM THE DIFFERENCES IN TREATMENT OF THE PARENTS.

IT IS HOPED THAT A BILL EMBODYING THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1991

- 13 -

SHOPS REMINDED TO DISPLAY GOLD AND PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICES
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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED JEWELLERY SHOP OPERATORS TO ENSURE THAT THE GOLD AND PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICES ARE DISPLAYED IN THEIR SHOPS AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

THE REMINDER CAME AFTER AN OPERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT'S TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU (TSIB) YESTERDAY ON 50 JEWELLERY SHOPS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE TERRITORY. THIRTEEN OF THE SHOPS WERE FOUND TO HAVE FAILED TO DISPLAY THE REQUIRED NOTICES.

DEPUTY HEAD OF TSIB, MR C.K. WONG, SAID THE OWNERS OF THESE SHOPS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

HE SAID THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE IS \$100,000 FINE PLUS TWO YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT.

"THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT SIMILAR CHECKS FROM TIME TO TIME AND THERE WILL BE NO LET UP IN THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORT AGAINST VIOLATION OF THIS STATUTORY REQUIREMENT," MR WONG STRESSED.

UNDER THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (MARKING) (GOLD AND GOLD ALLOY) ORDER 1984 AND THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (MARKING) (PLATINUM) ORDER 1988 OF THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE, A SHOP IS REQUIRED TO DISPLAY THE MARKING ORDER NOTICES IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE OF ITS SHOP PREMISES WHERE GOLD OR PLATINUM ARTICLES ARE ON SALE, HE EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THE GOLD MARKING ORDER NOTICE OR THE PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICE SHOULD INDICATE THAT EVERY ARTICLE OF GOLD, GOLD ALLOY OR PLATINUM DISPLAYED FOR SALE SHOULD BEAR A MARK INDICATING THE FINENESS OF THE GOLD OR PLATINUM CONTENT.

"UNDER THE LAW, CONSUMERS ARE ENTITLED TO THE SUPPLY OF DETAILED INVOICES OF THEIR PURCHASE AS REFERENCE IN CASE OF DISPUTE OR LITIGATION," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FOR JANUARY TO MARCH
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO CONDUCT THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY DURING THE QUARTER FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 1992 TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THE GENERAL SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

THE SURVEY HAS BEEN CONDUCTED ON A MONTHLY BASIS SINCE AUGUST 1981.

/THIS TIME,

THIS TIME, THE SURVEY ALSO INCLUDES QUESTIONS ON HONG KONG RESIDENTS' EXPENDITURE ABROAD, USE OF TELEVISION AND VIDEO-CASSETTE RECORDERS, OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY, RIGHT OF RESIDENCE ABROAD AND HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON RENT.

SOME 4,500 HOUSEHOLDS ARE SELECTED AT RANDOM EACH MONTH FROM ALL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY.

ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE HOUSEHOLDS INTERVIEWED THREE MONTHS AGO WILL BE SURVEYED AGAIN TO MEASURE MORE ACCURATELY THE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THEN.

AN OFFICIAL LETTER, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, HAS BEEN SENT TO THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY AND TO SEEK THEIR VOLUNTARY CO-OPERATION IN PARTICIPATING.

CENSUS OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, EACH CARRYING A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD AND A CERTIFICATE FOR CONDUCTING THE SURVEY, WILL VISIT THESE HOUSEHOLDS TO COLLECT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.

THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IS CONDUCTED UNDER PART IIIA OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE AS GAZETTED ON JANUARY 19, 1990.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, DATA RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL PERSONS OR HOUSEHOLDS COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC, ANY PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS OR OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT HOI YU STREET, QUARRY BAY.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,825 SQUARE METRES AND IS DESIGNATED FOR STORAGE (EXCLUDING CONTAINERS, DANGEROUS GOODS AND DUSTY MATERIAL) AND/OR WASTE PAPER COLLECTING AND SORTING AND/OR OPEN PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES AND TRAILERS) AND/OR CARGO HANDLING (EXCLUDING THE USE OF CONTAINERS).

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE OTHER SITE IS LOCATED AT SHAM TSENG, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,179 SQUARE METRES, IT IS EARMARKED FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR THE PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCLUDING GOODS VEHICLES, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS) CURRENTLY LICENSED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORT FOR USE ON PUBLIC STREETS AND ROADS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

/THE TENANCY

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 17, NEXT YEAR.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG EAST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG; DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

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RESIDENTS IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT, PARTICULARLY THOSE LIVING IN SAI YING PUN, ARE URGED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 2) EVENING IF THEY WISH TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT RESIDENTS OF OTHER DISTRICTS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND.

THE SEMINAR WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM AT THE CARITAS CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE, THIRD STREET, SHEK TONG TSUI.

"PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS THE COMMON PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND TO SEEK ADVICE FROM PROFESSIONALS IN RELATED FIELDS.

"THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE UPKEEPING OF THEIR PROPERTIES INCLUDING THEIR VALUES SHOULD ATTEND," HE SAID.

AMONG THE PANELISTS WILL BE THE HEAD OF THE DISTRICT'S BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM, HOUSING MANAGER MR LEE CHI-SHING AND A DEPARTMENTAL MANAGER OF FUJITEC (HONG KONG) LTD, MR EDMUND LAU.

THEY WILL SPEAK ON BUILDING MAINTENANCE AS WELL AS THE OPERATION AND SAFETY OF LIFTS IN MULTI-STORY BLOCKS RESPECTIVELY.

THE SEMINAR IS ONE OF THE TWO SIMILARS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

IT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE SAI YING PUN AREA COMMITTEE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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- 16 -

UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON A BUILDING IN SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ARE LOCATED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR AND THE ROOF ABOVE THE FIFTH FLOOR OF 93 CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 5 NEXT YEAR HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE PREMISES.

THE DEMOLITION WORKS WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

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TENDER DATE	31 DEC 91	31 DEC 91
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q201	Y285
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,232 MN	HKD 570 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN	HKD 200 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.89 PCT	4.37 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.98 PCT	4.39 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 27 PCT	100 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.96 PCT	4.44 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

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TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 6 JANUARY 1992 -

TENDER DATE	7 JAN 92	7 JAN 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q202	H255
ISSUE DATE	8 JAN 92	8 JAN 92
MATURITY DATE	8 APR 92	8 JUL 92
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$500 + 100 MN	HK\$200 + 60 MN

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1991

- 17 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	30.12.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	31.12.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 109.2 *-0.2* 31.12.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.10 PCT	23 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.00	5.18
1 MONTH	3.80 PCT					
3 MONTHS	3.80 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.95 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.30 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 3,203 MN

CLOSED 31 DECEMBER 1991

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