



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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Following is a transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten on his return from Canada and the USA this (Saturday) evening:

Governor: Good evening. I am happy to be back on the inaugural 777 Cathay flight from Seattle, after a busy and successful visit to Canada and the United States.

In Canada I addressed extremely large meetings - the largest was a lunch for 1200 in Vancouver - and had good meetings with the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Immigration Minister, the Minister for International Trade and other political figures.

My main purpose in Canada was to argue the case for visa-free access for SAR passport holders, which I did as vigorously as possible, and, as you will know if you can cast your minds back to last week, the Canadian Government accepted, in principle, the case for visa-free access though they make it clear that there are a number of detailed points which they want to have sorted out before they can actually take that request. They principally relate both to the issue over returnability, which is where we are trying to provide reassurance to the Canadian authorities, and they relate as well to the question of right of abode, where we are still hoping that expert talks with Chinese officials will clarify some of the doubts that still remain.

I then went on to the United States. I addressed large meetings in New York and then I went on to Washington where I met senior members of the Administration and Congress, as well as addressing meetings. I addressed, as I think you will know, among others the National Press Club and the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

I met the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary for the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chairman of the National Security Council, the Chair of the National Economic Council and a number of other senior officials. And met, on Capitol Hill, Senator Dole and the leadership of the Republican Party in the Senate, Senator Daschle, the Democratic Leader in the Senate, the majority leadership in the House of Representatives and many other congressmen during the course of a very busy three-day visit.

The main purpose of my visit was to argue the case unreservedly for the renewal of unconditional MFN for China, speaking not as a spokesman for China but speaking as a spokesman for Hong Kong. I think and believe that as a result of my visit and as a result of the visit of Mr Lee a few weeks ago, and of the visit of Mrs Chan in a few weeks, Americans will take careful account of Hong Kong's interest in any decision that they come to.

I pointed out that we in Hong Kong are going through a very sensitive transition and that anything which damaged our economy, as the failure to renew MFN would do, would make that transition all the more difficult.

I found myself throughout the trip, and in particular during my visit to the United States, having to deal with the consequences of some of the actions which had been taken by Chinese officials and Chinese advisers in recent weeks and months, and dealing with the consequences of things which have been said, we hope, things that don't necessarily represent policy. I found myself dealing with questions about the future of democratic institutions in Hong Kong, the future of the civil service, the future of the rule of law, and the future of the Bill of Rights.

I expressed, again and again, my optimism that Hong Kong would continue to succeed and prosper as a free society, above all because of my belief in the entrepreneurial momentum here in Hong Kong, and because of my belief that the people of Hong Kong themselves, their resilience and their commitment to the rule of law and to freedom, would ensure that those things weren't snuffed out.

The American press regarded my remarks as being - I think the words that the 'New York Times' used were - "warily optimistic" about the future, and certainly I expressed those sentiments on every occasion.

But I have to say it is worrying that some of the things that have been done and said in recent weeks have raised questions in the minds of American politicians and journalists and business leaders, and I very much hope that just as we need to give more reassurance to the people of Hong Kong over the next few months, we won't forget the importance of giving the assurance to the community outside as well. But it was as busy a trip as I have ever had and I hope, particularly on visa-free access and the renewal of MFN, we have had some success.

Question: Mr Patten, the protesters outside complain that your speech in the US hurt the image of the businessmen in Hong Kong, do you think that is the case?

Governor: No, I think that what the united front demonstrators outside should be complaining about are those advisers and those Chinese officials who in recent weeks have said things about the rule of law in Hong Kong, about the development of our democratic institutions in Hong Kong, about the Bill of Rights in Hong Kong, which have raised profound concerns both within Hong Kong, as we know, and outside Hong Kong.

I have been dealing with the consequences of those anxieties, not stirring them up. So perhaps the chaps outside who are well organised and who I am looking forward to meeting in a moment or two, perhaps they should actually be down at Happy Valley this evening.

Question: Governor Patten, would you ... to expand a bit on the comments you made to 'Newsweek' recently about this feeling that you feel that the people of Hong Kong have been somehow betrayed by the sort of business tycoons?

Governor: Well, you won't find many of those words in what I actually said in 'Newsweek', so I suggest you read what I said in 'Newsweek' which is quite detailed and quite comprehensive and I don't think I want to add to it.

Except to say this. If members of the Preparatory Committee, whether businessmen or not, are going in the next few weeks to make it clear that they actually think, on reflection, that it is important that the Preparatory Committee should talk to pro-democracy supporters in Hong Kong; if they say in the next few weeks that they actually think it would be wrong for the Preparatory Committee to propose gutting the Bill of Rights; if they say they think it would be essential that anybody should be able to stand for the Legislative Council to be elected to it; then obviously we will all be absolutely delighted.

Question: Mr Patten, a couple of things. First of all your reaction to what has been happening at Whitehead over the past two days. And secondly, your reaction to the defeat of the Private Members' Bill which would have granted passports to war-wives and widows.

Governor: Well, can I deal with those two questions, which are important ones, and then go out and meet our friends outside.

First of all on Whitehead. I want to make two points absolutely clear. First of all, the whole community commends and salutes the bravery and courage of the Correctional Services Department officers and the Police officers who have been dealing with this incident, and who have had to deal with similar incidents in the past. They do an exceptionally difficult job extremely well and with considerable restraint, and they have all of my support just as the Chief Secretary set out her support this week, and just as they have the support of the community.

Secondly, nobody, under any circumstances, should condone violence or the sort of things that we have seen at Whitehead this week. There is only one end to this business and that is the return, as soon as possible, of Vietnamese migrants to Vietnam; the return to their own country which is now starting to do better economically. There is no case whatsoever for them staying here.

We have been stepping up our measures to return the Vietnamese migrants; we have increased the pace of the Orderly Repatriation Programme and there will be 600 returning under that programme this month, and we intend to continue to push the programme through until we have achieved our objective. And nothing whatsoever, particularly the sort of outrageous behaviour we have seen this week, will stop us.

We do, obviously, need to consider some of the lessons from what has happened at Whitehead, and we will be reporting during the coming week to the Legislative Council - I think to their Security Panel - about some of the measures that we intend to take to try to enhance security in the camps.

But I think that I speak for the whole community in saying that this is not behaviour which can be tolerated and we will take every possible measure to deal with it firmly. I think there are still 32 Vietnamese migrants who are missing, and we will obviously step up the hunt for those so that they can be returned to secure conditions as rapidly as possible.

Second and last, can I just say a word or two about the war-widows bill. You will all know the efforts that we have put in to persuading the British Government and the British Parliament to accept this legislative commitment. It is something which Jack Edwards has bravely fought for for years, and I was delighted when the Prime Minister was here and able to give his commitment that the bill would go forward, and I was delighted as well when the Labour Party, most recently in the person of Robin Cook, gave assurances that they would support it.

Now the House of Commons, like other legislative assemblies around the world, sometimes makes mistakes and I think that what happened yesterday was, frankly, a mistake rather than something that was achieved by deliberate design. What we have got to work to do now is to get the bill back on the rails so that it can be passed into law as soon as possible. But I don't want anybody to be under any doubt the bill will become law in due course. What I want to do is to make the 'in due course' as soon as we possibly can. It is a bill which has the support of the Conservative Party, it is a bill which has the support of the Labour Party, it is a bill which has the support of the Liberal Democrats and, I think, others in the House of Commons. It will go through. But I am sorry that this slip-up yesterday has delayed things a bit.

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Transcript of the Deputy to the Governor

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The following is the transcript of the Deputy to the Governor, Mrs Anson Chan's remarks to the media after officiating at a ceremony on the Tsing Ma Bridge today (Saturday):

Deputy to the Governor: Good morning. I think you've all seen me symbolically putting in the last segment of the bridge. It's been a while since I came out to see progress on the bridge. I'm delighted to note the very good progress we've made. We expect the bridge to be open in May of 1997. As I've said we've made excellent progress and I congratulate everybody involved in this work, particularly the contractors, the engineers and all the Government departments involved. We expect all the seven ACP projects together with the third, western harbour crossing to be open by about mid-1997 and I am sure that when all these works are actually operational, the community will benefit very substantially from this. The bridge is now 90 per cent complete and I'm sure that we will continue to make excellent progress.

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Deputy to the Governor pleased with ACP progress

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The Deputy to the Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, this morning (Saturday) tightened a last bolt of the deck of the Tsing Ma Bridge to symbolise the completion of the deck.

Accompanied by the Director of the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office, Mr Billy Lam, Mrs Chan was driven to the mid span of the recently erected main deck where she was briefed on the works progress by the Director of Highways, Mr K S Leung.

Mrs Chan said she was very impressed with the work on the bridge which is now over 90 per cent complete.

"Tsing Ma Bridge has now taken its final shape linking Tsing Yi and Ma Wan and, through Kap Shui Mun Bridge, linking Lantau Island with the mainland for the first time," Mrs Chan said.

"The bridge has now become a landmark for Hong Kong. I'm looking forward to the day when we'll all be able to drive across this beautiful bridge.

"I congratulate all the government departments, contractors and engineers who have been working so hard on this project. This is the longest suspension bridge in the world to carry both road and railway. I'm sure all Hong Kong people will be proud of it," she said.

Mrs Chan said she was pleased that the Airport Core Programme (ACP) projects had progressed so rapidly and that overall, the projects were now more than 55 per cent complete.

"The completion of the seven Government ACP projects and the Western Harbour Crossing by mid-1997 will bring significant benefits to the public, including relief of traffic congestion in West Kowloon and the existing cross-harbour tunnels," she said.

The Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Gordon Siu, the Secretary for Transport, Mr Haider Barma and the Secretary for Works, Mr H S Kwong, also took part in the visit.

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Legal system shall continue: Chief Justice

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Whatever decision is made in respect of court dress and the mode of addressing the Bench, the most important consideration is that we must send a clear message to the public that our legal system shall continue as promised in the Basic Law, the Chief Justice, Sir Ti Liang Yang, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the ceremony for the admission of Queen's Counsel this morning, the Chief Justice noted that much had been said about court dress.

"I think some sort of distinctive dress in court will probably find favour with both the Bench and the two branches of the legal profession," he said. "It was still a matter for examination as to what the 'distinctive dress' should be."

On the mode of addressing the Bench, the Chief Justice said it was a matter for further consideration as to whether "your lordship", "your ladyship", and "your worship" should continue to be used.

"Your honour" seems suitable for the District Court and needs no change. Perhaps it could be used for the higher courts also. Magistrates may be addressed as 'Sir' or 'Madam'.

"Again, no firm decision has been made," Sir Ti Liang said.

The Chief Justice also noted that the future of a senior rank of barristers was under active consideration.

"My personal view is that a senior rank, perhaps called Senior Counsel, should take the place of Queen's Counsel at the appropriate time. I understand that the Administration takes a similar view and is formulating detailed proposals on this subject," he concluded.

Four Queen's Counsel for Hong Kong have been appointed this year. They are: Mr Winston Poon Chung-fai, Mr Michael F Ozorio, Mr John A Scott and Mr Andrew A Bruce.

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#### Director-General of Industry to visit the USA

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The Director-General of Industry, Mrs. Regina Ip, left Hong Kong today (Saturday) for a two-week visit to the United States as part of the Industry Department's on-going efforts to promote inward investment in Hong Kong's manufacturing industries.

She will also take the opportunity to discuss with senior US officials issues related to the Hong Kong/US investment agreement and other investment issues.

Mrs Ip will first go to Boston where she will call on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for briefings on the latest technological developments. She will visit a venture capitalist company in Boston on May 15 before flying to Washington D.C.

In Washington D.C., Mrs Ip will meet with senior officials from the State Department, Commerce Department and the United States Trade Representative Office to discuss issues related to the Hong Kong/US investment agreement currently being negotiated, and other investment issues.

The Director-General will leave Washington D.C. for New York on May 17 where she will visit a number of major US companies and brief local business associations on Hong Kong's latest industrial and technological development.

"The United States is the second largest investor in Hong Kong's manufacturing industries and a major source of technologies used in Hong Kong. Sustained approach to major US corporations, senior officials and academic institutions with cutting-edge technology is essential to helping to upgrade Hong Kong's manufacturing industries." Mrs Ip said.

End

#### Law to control dangerous dogs

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The Government has proposed legislation for the enactment of regulations to safeguard members of the public from serious attacks by dogs.

Under the Dogs and Cats (Amendment) Bill 1996, published in the Gazette yesterday (Friday), there will be stricter regulation on the keeping and control of dangerous dogs, including fighting breeds.

"The Bill provides the necessary enabling powers and organisational structure, while the proposed regulations will set out the specific controls," a Government spokesman said today (Saturday).

"It enables a police officer or any other authorised officer to seize and detain any dog that has bitten or attacked any person and, subject to the outcome of any appeal, to destroy the dog if it has caused the person's death.

"A dog can also be destroyed if it cannot be seized without a serious risk to public safety or if a magistrate decides that it is dangerous and orders its destruction," he explained.

The Bill provides for appeals against various decisions made under the Ordinance to be considered by the Administrative Appeals Board.

It also proposes that a Dogs and Cats Classification Board be established to determine, on application to it, the breed of a dog or cat.

The Board will have 11 members, drawn mainly from tertiary education institutions, animal welfare associations, veterinary surgeons' organisations and dog breeding organisations.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on May 22, 1996.

If enacted, the Bill will be followed by the tabling of a proposed Dangerous Dogs Regulation, which will classify dangerous dogs into three categories, namely fighting dogs, known dangerous dogs and potentially dangerous dogs.

The "fighting dogs" category will consist of the Pit Bull Terrier and similar breeds. These dogs are liable to attack a person without provocation or warning and may inflict serious injuries or death.

"The proposed regulations will ban importation and breeding of fighting dogs. Possession of such a dog will also be prohibited unless it is neutered and covered by insurance to a value of not less than \$100,000 to indemnify damage caused by the dog," the spokesman said.

The "known dangerous dogs" category will consist of individual dogs classified as such by a magistrate on application to him that the dog has a history of attacking and injuring people. Possession of such a dog will be prohibited unless it is neutered and covered by insurance to a value of not less than \$100,000 to indemnify damage caused by the dog.

The "potentially dangerous dogs" category will consist of breeds including Staffordshire Terriers, Bull Terriers, American Bulldogs, German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Dobermanns and Mastiffs. These breeds do not normally attack people without provocation but have the size, strength and potential ferocity of a guard dog. Such dogs are also capable of inflicting serious injuries on people if they attack.

Under the proposed regulation, it will be an offence to allow a dog in any of the three categories to go into or remain in a public place unless it is on a leash and muzzled.

The spokesman said: "The densely-populated and congested environment of Hong Kong is unsuitable for the keeping of fighting dogs, which clearly pose a threat to public safety, and requires tighter controls over other dogs which can be a danger to people."

He noted that the effect of the ban on importation and breeding of pit bull terriers and other fighting dogs would be to remove them from the community within seven to 10 years as the existing dogs died.

Existing legislation on the control of dogs requires that a dog be kept on a leash in a public place, prohibits the keeping of a dog which persistently annoys or menaces neighbours or passers-by and prohibits anyone from allowing an unmuzzled ferocious dog into a public place.

If a magistrate receives a complaint that a dog is dangerous, he may order that the dog be destroyed or kept under proper control.

The existing legislation applies to dogs in general, without reference to specific or dangerous breeds.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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|                                | <u>\$ Million</u> | <u>Time<br/>(Hours)</u> | <u>Cumulative<br/>Change<br/>(\$ Million)</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Opening Balance in the account | 1,699             | 09:30                   | +400  |
| Closing Balance in the account | 1,634             | 10:00                   | +400  |
| Change Attributable to:        |                   | 11:00                   | +400  |
| Money Market Activity          | +400              | 11:30                   | +400  |
| Laf Today                      | -465              |                         |   |

Laf Rate 4% Bid/6% Offer TWI 123.7 \*+0.2\* 11.5.96

End