



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of CS's media session

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Following is the transcript (English) of the media session' given by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, at the Central Government Offices today (Saturday):

CS: Hello everyone. I'm leaving this evening for London where I will be seeing various people over a period of three days, followed by leave. During my stay in London, I shall be calling on the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. I will also be meeting with the Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary Mr Robin Cook and also with the Foreign Affairs Spokesman of the Liberal Democrats Mr Campbell. I will also be seeing members of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee and the British-Hong Kong Parliamentary Group. Of course I will also have an opportunity to address the business community in London and to meet with the media representatives during my stay, my short stay in London. I hope to see you all when I get back from leave at the end of July.

Question: What are your top priorities ... Prime Minister Mr Major?

CS: I clearly would like to bring the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary up-to-date on where we currently stand as regards preparation for the transition, to draw attention to some of the concerns in the community here and particularly the state of morale and confidence in the civil service.

Question: How do you categorise the state of morale in the civil service ...?

CS: I think the civil service on the whole has coped extremely well with on the one hand maintaining momentum on our public services whilst dealing with a whole host of transitional issues to prepare for a smooth transition. But of course there are also concerns within the civil service and I'm sure it will be no surprise to you that many civil servants will be looking to see who the Chief Executive will be. Of course, they hope that the Chief Executive will be somebody who will command support both within the community and amongst the ranks of the civil service.

Question: ... your priorities for the next 12 months?

CS: My priorities. I think we want to make sure that we have as seamless a transition as possible. I'd like to ensure that all civil servants can be assured about their future, that they see a good future for themselves and that they will all feel able and willing to remain to serve the people of Hong Kong after 1997. I hope to see continued and stepped-up co-operation between the two sovereign powers in resolving the remaining transitional issues. In particular I hope that we can make better progress in some of the outstanding issues. There are still some outstanding as regards right of abode, travelling documents. We need to make better progress on the whole question of adapting laws. So I very much hope that we will see stepped-up co-operation with China in the remaining days of our transition.

End

HK delegation leaves for further textiles talks with US

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A Hong Kong delegation, led by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Lawrence Li, left this (Saturday) afternoon for Washington D C to continue bilateral consultations with the United States on the additional import measures imposed by the US on a number of textiles and clothing products from Hong Kong.

"The delegation will hold preparatory meetings with our Washington Office next Monday before meeting the US side on Tuesday. If necessary, we have prepared to continue with the consultations on Wednesday," a Trade Department spokesman said.

"During the consultations, we will maintain our fundamental objections to the additional measures and to the way they have been introduced.

"We will reiterate that Hong Kong always welcome co-operation with our trading partners if we think such co-operation will enhance the effectiveness of our efforts against illegal transshipment, provided that it is consistent with Hong Kong's laws and regulations and our rights and obligations under international agreements.

"We are therefore genuinely interested in discussing with the US ways in which the two sides can enhance their common efforts against illegal transshipment.

"During the consultations, we will try and see whether we can work out something with the US, in place of the unilateral measures that the US has imposed on us."

Hong Kong has found the US measures discriminatory and that they had been introduced unilaterally without any prior consultations with Hong Kong nor adequate prior notice.

"The measures have been introduced without prior discussion with us to seek to establish the facts about the perceived problems of transshipment in Hong Kong," the spokesman said.

"The measures are disruptive to our trade and they affect both legitimate and illegitimate traders indiscriminately.

"Since the implementation of the new measures on June 17, we have been receiving reports from the trade that already there have been cancellation of orders and other adverse effects on trade."

If bilateral consultations failed to produce a satisfactory solution, Hong Kong would reserve its rights to raise the matter with the World Trade Organisation, the spokesman added.

End

#### WTO maritime talks suspended for four years

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Negotiating parties in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva agreed on Saturday (June 29) to suspend negotiations on maritime transport services after a two-year effort failed to produce an agreement on global liberalisation in the maritime sector.

Talks will be resumed with the commencement of the next round of comprehensive negotiations on trade in services, scheduled to start not later than January 1, 2000. It is agreed that the parties will resume the negotiations on the basis of their existing or improved offers.

The negotiating parties have also agreed on a "peace clause" under which they would not apply any trade-restrictive measures except in response to measures applied by other members.

"We are disappointed that the WTO could not reach an agreement on the liberalisation of this important service sector," a Hong Kong government spokesman said.

"We urge other WTO members to be more forthcoming in making offers when negotiations resume. In the meantime we shall maintain Hong Kong's open and non-discriminatory maritime transport services regime."

Fifty-six WTO member governments, including Hong Kong, took part in the two-year negotiations, which were conducted under the framework of WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services.

End

#### Seminar on hiking safety

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Local hiking leaders are set to acquire more knowledge about safety aspects on hill walking after taking part in a seminar held at the Civil Aid Services (CAS) Kowloon Training Centre today (Saturday).

The seminar is jointly organised by the Country and Marine Parks Authority (Authority), CAS and the Countryside Heritage Society of Hong Kong.

A spokesman for the Authority said the main objective of the seminar was to increase the safety awareness among leaders of picnic groups and hiking organisations.

The spokesman hoped that the participating hiking leaders would take the opportunity to share their experience among themselves and with seminar speakers on techniques in improving safety on hill walking.

They were also called on to transfer these techniques and safety hints to hikers under their leadership and other hill walkers, he added.

At today's seminar, professionals in the field and experienced hikers gave talks on general safety hints and ways of handling difficult situations while hiking at the countryside.

Speakers included an Agriculture and Fisheries Department country parks management officer, Dr Yeung Ka-ming; CAS operations and training officer/mountain rescue officer, Mr Fong Yiu-tong; and the chairman of Countryside Heritage Society of Hong Kong, Mr Leung Hui-wah.

The talks were followed by questions and discussions.

To add colour to the seminar, CAS staged an exhibition about hiking equipment and a demonstration on mountain rescue at its training centre this afternoon.

The spokesman also noted that, as a move to promote hiking safety, the Country Park and Marine Park Authority published the "Safety Hints on Hiking" booklet last month for free distribution to members of the public at visitor centres in country parks in Aberdeen, Tai Mo Shan, Clear Water Bay and Shing Mun, as well as the Lions Nature Education Centre at Tsiu Hang, Sai Kung.

Copies of the booklet are also available from the territory's 10 map sales centres, public enquiry services centres of all district offices, and the Hong Kong Scout Associations' offices in Austin Road, Kowloon, and Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai.

End

#### Drainage Services Department Open Day

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The Drainage Services Department (DSD) will open three of its sewage treatment plants on July 6 to enable the public to see how sewage is treated to improve water quality and to introduce the department's drainage services for the community.

The Cheung Sha Wan Sewage Pumping Station, the North Point Sewage Screening Plant and the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works will be opened for free admission from 10 am to 5 pm.

A spokesman for the department said today (Saturday) that the purpose of the Open Day was to introduce the organisation, the work and the services of various branches of DSD.

"Visitors can have a chance to see the actual operation of the sewage treatment process by joining the tours organised on site.

"There will be video shows, demonstrations, panel and model displays with explanations by DSD staff to enable the public to have a better understanding of how DSD is charged with the task of engineering the flow of wastewater and stormwater in the territory.

"The public may also have a chance to win souvenirs by taking part in the educational games at the stalls during the visit," he said.

As part of the north-west Kowloon Sewage Treatment and Disposal Scheme Stage I, the Cheung Sha Wan Sewage Screening Plant and Pumping Station is designed to collect and treat sewage collected from catchment areas in Lai Chi Kok, Cheung Sha Wan, Sham Shui Po, Tai Kok Tsui and Mong Kok.

The scheme provides preliminary treatment to a dry weather flow of sewage at about 480,000 cubic metres per day, serving an equivalent population at 1.1 million.

Located at the junction of Fat Tseung Street and Tung Chau Street, the Cheung Sha Wan Sewage Pumping Station is within walking distance from the MTR Cheung Sha Wan Station.

Commissioned in December 1989, the North Point Sewage Screening Plant is designed to treat sewage collected from North Point and Quarry Bay areas.

It is a preliminary treatment plant designed to treat a dry weather flow of about 120,000 cubic metres per day serving an equivalent population of 370,000.

It is located at the junction of Java Road and Man Hong Street and is within walking distance from the MTR North Point Station.

The Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works serves the Sha Tin New Town, the Ma On Shan New Town and the surrounding villages.

Commissioned in 1982 and 1986 respectively, Stage I and II of the treatment works can now treat a dry weather flow of about 200,000 cubic metres per day serving an equivalent population of more than half-a-million.

Visitors to the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works at Shui Chong Street can make use of the free shuttle bus service from the Sha Tin Centre Street fronting Sha Tin Plaza between 10 am and 5 pm.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations  
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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time</u> <u>(hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>change</u> <u>(\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	7,516	09:30	-2,231
Closing balance in the account	3,925	10:00	-2,231
Change attributable to:		11:00	-2,231
Money market activity	-2,231	11:30	-2,231
LAF today	-1,360		

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 \*+0.1\* 29.6.96

End

Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the full text of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on RTHK's "Letter to Hong Kong" today (Sunday):

What lies at the heart of all the promises made by Britain and China to Hong Kong?

Simple. This is the pledge. Sovereignty over Hong Kong will change at midnight on 30th June, 1997. The flags will change. The garrison will change. A chapter begun when there was an Emperor on China's throne and a young Empress on Britain's will close. But the new chapter that begins will be telling the same story about the same Hong Kong.

The promise is that Hong Kong will not change with the flag. Hong Kong will carry on just as it is today. One country, two systems. Two systems, not somewhere between 1 and 2. Not 1 point something or other, rounded up.

That straightforward promise puts in context some of the questions I've been asked in the last week, some of the newspaper articles you may have read. With just a year to go until mid-1997, everyone is writing count-down stories and asking count-down questions. But I hope that from time to time, people will ask themselves - count-down to what? And that they'll also ask - what do we talk about when the counting of hours and days is over?

The answer to the first question is that we're counting the days to the reaffirmation that Hong Kong won't have changed. And the answer to the second is that people will presumably focus on how to keep the success rolling.

Now there are going to be some people at this point saying, "Come off it. Why doesn't the Governor get real? Of course, things will change". Well, yes. Some things are bound to change. But the fundamentals are supposed to stay the same. And the best way of ensuring that they do, if that's what we want, is to act confidently on that assumption and to stand up for it if that should prove necessary.

The first thing to be said about Hong Kong next year is that it should still be running its own affairs as it does today. We've in effect been allowed to look after ourselves for years. That's why we're a respected autonomous member of the World Trade Organisation, of APEC and of tens of other international organisations.

We run our own economy, and do it very well. When we first started collecting statistics our GDP - roughly what we are worth as a community - was HK\$7 billion. Today, it's HK\$1,111 billion. And the figures per head make even more startling reading. From US\$410 to US\$23,210. That puts us right up with the best-off countries in the world.

Today, we are growing at about 5 per cent a year. We've got huge financial reserves - they belong to us and no one else. Inflation has fallen back to half what it was five years ago. Our taxes are among the lowest in the world. Crime is low by international standards. And we've been developing our housing, welfare, health and education to match our economic performance. We've raised spending on education - which is where about a fifth of public spending goes - by 25 per cent over and above inflation since 1992. And we've increased spending on the elderly by 55 per cent in real terms. What better beneficiaries of extra spending that we can afford than the retired who helped create today's prosperity and the young who will create tomorrow's?

Hong Kong will go on winning the prizes, provided that we go on following the same winning formula. And why should anyone want to change the policies that have brought success. Above all, a fair, friendly and clean environment for business.

The second thing I want to say about the days when the counting will have stopped is that Hong Kong is supposed to be just as free then as it is today. That's what the treaty says. That's what the Basic Law says.

Just as free, not almost as free.

So, if you want to write to the newspapers in the same way that you would today, well that should be no problem. If you want to speak out, go to a meeting, take part in an orderly demonstration - not that many do - that's fine, too. Now as I've just said not many people actually want to do these things, but most people want to live in a society where those who choose to do these things can. We've all got a pretty clear idea of what life is like in places where people aren't allowed to do things like that. When they are warned off if they try, or put in prison, or worse.

And what holds everything together is the rule of law. Not just rules. Not just laws. But the rule of law to which I'm subject, the government is subject, just as you are. Think of some of the issues on which people have taken us to court in the last year or so. Freedom of speech. Electoral arrangements. Vietnamese migrants. There aren't some areas so sensitive that the government rules unchallenged. The best defence against arbitrary government, unfair government, is the rule of law.

There's another defence, too, and it's where we've seen no end of argument in recent years. I don't want to go over wearily familiar ground today. But the pledge that Hong Kong people should run Hong Kong was given muscle by the agreement in 1984 that democracy should be steadily developed here, and that was also thought to be the best way of reassuring people that all their other civil liberties would be protected.

How much ink has been spilt on the question of the election arrangements for our Legislative Council? How much sound and fury have been stirred up by the - to most sensible people unthreatening - prospect of Hong Kong people being given the chance to take part in fair elections.

All those words, all that ink to explain the fact that the only reason we haven't got a through train for our legislature is that China wanted arrangements which would keep some people off the train altogether, regardless of the fact that the people of Hong Kong wanted to vote for them. And China of course has been supported in that by some local people who within recent memory were pressing Britain for a faster pace of democratisation.

Britain has kept its word on democratic development in Hong Kong. It remains to be seen whether China will. But don't forget that counting the days until you find out shouldn't be necessary. The question should have been answered already, has been answered already. Will we actually get the same answer next year as the one in the Joint Declaration?

Now where does all this leave us? It leaves us feeling strongly that we should stop counting the days until we see whether or not this arithmetical exercise was unnecessary. More sensible, surely, to behave as though it was unnecessary and have the self-confidence to make sure that it is unnecessary.

We can't count our way to a better future. We have to work for that. Argue for that. Stand up for that.

I don't believe that people have been ticking off the years and months and days since the Joint Declaration was first signed. That hasn't been the basis for Hong Kong's development. People have got on with their lives, made the most of things, the best of things, and the best has happened.

That should still be the way ahead for Hong Kong. You see counting is in a way a cop-out. Hong Kong, I repeat, was promised that things wouldn't change. I intend to do everything I can while I'm here to give momentum to that promise.

I'm sure that Hong Kong will insist that it's a promise which is kept.

End

Students advised to check school registration

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The Education Department and the Consumer Council advise students to be cautious in seeking admission to an educational institution.

"The department will exercise prudential control over private educational institutions, both in regard to their operation and the way they advertise their courses," Senior Education Officer, Mr Tse Tak-on, said.

"Students should check in the advertisement the registration number of the institution. Any person who fails to do so or falsely claims to be registered with the department in the advertisement will commit an offence and may be liable on conviction to a fine of \$10,000."

Students should note that some institutions may operate a chain of centres in various districts under the same name but with only some of the centres properly registered.

"An institution that operates without registration may jeopardise the studies of its students in that there is no control as to the safety of the premises, sanitary conditions or teacher qualifications," Mr Tse said.

Schools are required to display in a conspicuous place in each of the registered premises the registration certificate showing the name of school in English and Chinese, address and registration number and a fees certificate in respect of the class, tuition fee per instalment and number of instalments.

"By looking at the registration and fees certificates, students who wish to enrol at an institution or on a course should know whether or not requirements set out in the Education Ordinance are complied with," Mr Tse said.

Meanwhile, Chief Complaint and Advice Officer from the Consumer Council, Mr Chan Wing-kai, advised students to check their fee receipt against the assurances offered by the institution they intended to enrol at.

"Students may ask the institution to list in black and white on the receipt their assurances such as free gifts, claims of guaranteed good results at public exam or qualified tutors to teach the course.

"If students feel they have been deceived by the institution, they may seek assistance from the Consumer Council," he said.

Secondary schools are welcome to invite the Consumer Council to organise talks for their students to promote the awareness of their right as a consumer when they look for courses or jobs during the summer vacation.

Enquiries on these talks should be directed to the Consumer Council on 2856 8536.

End

#### Fund-raising schedule for July

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Twelve organisations have been granted permission to raise funds next month (July), a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the Department's hotline 2343 2255 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from the Social Welfare Department.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added.

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
July 6	The Hong Kong Adventure Corps
July 13	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong
July 20	Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong
July 27	Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre

Subscription

<u>Event Day</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
July 1-15	Pok Oi Hospital
July 5	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong
July 6,20 & 27	Shepherd Community Church
July 7	The Community Chest of Hong Kong
July 19-21	Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.
July 21	Sowers Action
July 21	Word for the World Christian Fellowship
July 28	The Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society

End

Salt water cut in Tuen Mun

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Flushing water supply to all premises in Tuen Mun will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (July 3) to 6 am the following day to facilitate alteration works on watermains.

The suspension will affect the whole Tuen Mun area.

End

Salt water for flushing in Tai Po

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The Water Supplies Department announced today (Sunday) that the flushing water supply in Tai Po will soon be changed from the present use of fresh water to salt water.

This is part of the department's plan to supply salt water to Sha Tin and Tai Po new towns for flushing with an aim to save the precious fresh water, said a spokesman for the department.

The conversion works will be carried out in three phases starting from July 16 and be completed by November.

During the conversion, flushing water supply in the respective works area will need to be temporarily suspended. The suspension, however, is expected to last not more than one and a half days.

The first phase of the supply conversion will commence on July 16, covering areas in the Tai Po Industrial Estate.

Affected buildings will be served with advance notices on the conversion of the flushing supply and the duration of the temporary suspension.

Any enquiries on the temporary suspension can be made to the department's 24-hour hotline 2565 2368.

The conversion works for Sha Tin had been successfully carried out between August and October last year.

End