



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1994

- 1 -

GOVERNOR MAKES STATEMENT TO LEGCO

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MR PRESIDENT,

LAST FRIDAY HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED ITS OBSERVATIONS ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA IN THE PERIOD UP TO AND BEYOND 1997. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY CONSULTED ON THE HONG KONG ASPECTS AND I AM GLAD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THESE ASPECTS TODAY.

BEFORE TAKING QUESTIONS I SHOULD LIKE TO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON FOUR AREAS COVERED BY BOTH THE REPORT AND THE OBSERVATIONS ON THE REPORT. THESE AREAS ARE: CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT; THE WORK OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP; CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY; AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

I DO NOT PROPOSE TO DWELL ON CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. LAST WEEK THIS COUNCIL PASSED THE SECOND STAGE ELECTORAL BILL AFTER A FULL AND VIGOROUS DEBATE. THIS HAS DRAWN A WELCOME AND NECESSARY LINE UNDER THE ISSUE. WE NOW NEED TO TURN OUR ATTENTION TO OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY; AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, WE WILL OF COURSE PURSUE THE COMMUNITY'S INTERESTS IN WAYS WHICH WILL HELP TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA.

ONE AREA WHERE CO-OPERATION IS OF THE VERY GREATEST IMPORTANCE IS IN THE JLG. I BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE WILL AGREE WITH THE FAC'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THERE IS A NEED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN THAT FORUM. I AM THEREFORE PLEASSED BY THE RESULTS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP THAT FINISHED LAST WEEK. IN PARTICULAR THE DEFENCE LANDS AGREEMENT, ACHIEVED AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF HARD NEGOTIATION, IS A GOOD ONE. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING DETAILED AND BALANCED AGREEMENTS.

THERE WAS ANOTHER RESULT FROM THE JLG THAT WAS RATHER LOST IN THE EXCITEMENT OF THE DEFENCE LANDS DEAL, BUT TO WHICH I SHOULD LIKE TO DRAW MEMBERS' ATTENTION: THE JLG MADE SOME PROGRESS ON THE LOCALISATION OF LAWS. MEMBERS WILL RECALL THAT THE FAC REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT "IF CHINA CONTINUES TO BLOCK FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP THERE CAN BE NO CHOICE BUT FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO PUT BEFORE LEGCO THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO ADAPT AND LOCALISE LEGISLATION PRIOR TO THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY." AT THE LAST JLG, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT UK LEGISLATION IN THREE IMPORTANT AREAS RELATING TO MERCHANT SHIPPING SHOULD BE LOCALISED IN HONG KONG. THE BILLS TO DO THIS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL SHORTLY. AGREEMENT ON THREE ITEMS IS NOT ENOUGH, WE NEED TO MAKE MUCH FASTER PROGRESS. BUT AFTER MANY MEETINGS OF THE JLG WHERE ALMOST NO AGREEMENT AT ALL HAS BEEN REACHED ON THIS SUBJECT THIS LIMITED MOVEMENT IS WELCOME. I HOPE THAT THIS IS A SIGN THAT WE CAN LOOK TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN FUTURE.

THE THIRD AREA THAT I WISH TO MENTION RELATES TO CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY. AS THE COUNCIL KNOW I FULLY SUPPORT THE FAC'S ARGUMENTS FOR FULL CITIZENSHIP FOR THE WIVES AND WIDOWS OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND FOR THE ETHNIC MINORITIES. I KNOW THAT MEMBERS ALSO SHARE THESE VIEWS AND HAVE PUT THEM VIGOROUSLY TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT. I WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE CASE FOR BOTH OF THESE GROUPS.

/THE FOURTH

THE FOURTH AREA CONCERNS HUMAN RIGHTS. I VERY MUCH SHARE THE FAC'S VIEW THAT HUMAN RIGHTS NEED TO BE SAFEGUARDED AND STRENGTHENED IN HONG KONG. THIS IS IMPORTANT BOTH FOR THE PRESENT AND FOR THE FUTURE. TO ACHIEVE THIS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SET OURSELVES THE AIM OF ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE IN WAYS THAT ARE BOTH EFFECTIVE AND DURABLE.

WE WEIGHED UP CAREFULLY THE PROS AND CONS OF SETTING UP A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HERE. IN THE END WE DECIDED THAT THAT WAS NOT THE BEST WAY FORWARD FOR HONG KONG. HONG KONG HAS A GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD: ONE BUILT ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE RULE OF LAW, A TRULY INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND AN EFFECTIVE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE. WE BELIEVE ALL THESE SAFEGUARDS PROVIDE A SOUND BASE FOR PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONG KONG, BOTH NOW AND BEYOND 1997.

INSTEAD OF CREATING AN ENTIRELY NEW INSTITUTION WITH A WIDE-RANGING BUT IMPRECISE REMIT IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WE CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS PREFERABLE TO RELY ON AND TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND TO FOCUS ON AREAS OF SPECIFIC CONCERN.

TO THIS END WE HAVE DONE, OR ARE DOING, THE FOLLOWING -

- A) WE HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT WE WILL BE INTRODUCING LEGISLATION AGAINST SEX DISCRIMINATION, ESTABLISHING AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION AND SEEKING TO EXTEND CEDAW TO HONG KONG.
- B) WE ARE PUSHING AHEAD WITH DRAFT LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF DISABILITY.
- C) WE WILL BE INCREASING THE RESOURCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION BY CREATING A DEDICATED TEAM AND ALLOCATING \$20M FOR THEIR WORK OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.
- D) WE WILL BE PROVIDING MORE RESOURCES TO THE JUDICIARY TO ENABLE IT TO REDUCE THE WAITING TIME FOR BRINGING CASES TO TRIAL. WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE RESOURCES WHICH ARE BEING GIVEN ARE USED MORE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.
- E) THE LEGAL AID WORKING GROUP IS CONSIDERING MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL AID IN BILL OF RIGHTS CASES. THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE MADE KNOWN QUITE SOON. THE GROUP WILL ALSO BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE THE INDEPENDENCE OF LEGAL AID ADMINISTRATION.
- F) WE HAVE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A PLAN TO DEVELOP AND ADOPT A CODE OF PRACTICE TO INCREASE THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT. THIS TOGETHER WITH OUR PLANS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION IN THE AREA OF DATA PROTECTION, WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR GREATER ACCESS TO INFORMATION.
- G) IMPORTANT WORK IS ALREADY UNDER WAY IN OTHER AREAS. WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN ENSURING THAT ALL LEGISLATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ICCPR AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS. AND WE HAVE STRENGTHENED THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS AS AN EFFECTIVE COMPLAINTS CHANNEL.

/BY ANY

BY ANY STANDARDS THIS IS A POSITIVE AND IMPRESSIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITY. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS, THE ADMINISTRATION IS FIRMLY OF THE VIEW THAT THESE MEASURES WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL AND EFFECTIVE GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE AND AFTER 1997.

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION IN LEGCO:

DR DAVID LI: SIR, THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT RECOGNISES THE KEY INGREDIENT OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS HAS BEEN THE RULE OF LAW, PARAGRAPH 27, PAGE 6. WILL YOU INFORM THIS COUNCIL, SIR, WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FINAL COURT OF APPEAL?

THE GOVERNOR: WE HAVE PASSED LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO THE CHINESE SIDE AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING THEIR COMMENTS ON THOSE PROPOSALS. WE WOULD THEN INTEND TO DISCUSS THE SUGGESTED BILL WITH THE LEGAL PROFESSION HERE IN HONG KONG WITH BOTH SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS AND THEN WE WOULD INTEND TO COME TO THIS COUNCIL WITH OUR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND HOPE THAT WE COULD BE IN A POSITION TO CONVINCING THE COUNCIL OF THE WISDOM OF THE APPROACH THAT WE HAVE TAKEN.

THE COUNCIL WILL KNOW THAT TIME, AS EVER, IS NOT ENTHUSIASTICALLY ON OUR SIDE. IT'S CLEARLY THE CASE THAT WE NEED TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE BY THE MIDDLE OF 1996. IT TAKES ABOUT A YEAR FOR THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO HEAR CASES - THAT'S AT THE OUTSIDE - AND THEREFORE IF WE HAVEN'T GOT ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE BY MID '96 THERE WOULD INEVITABLY BE SOME SORT OF LACUNA WHICH WE WOULD HAVE TO FILL IN WHATEVER WAY WE COULD. SO WE WILL BE COMING TO THE COUNCIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND I HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A CONVINCING CASE TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WE PUT FORWARD.

MR ALBERT CHAN (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PRESIDENT, FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE GOVERNOR FOR MAKING HISTORY ON TWO COUNTS FOR HONG KONG WITHIN SEVEN DAYS. FIRST, LAST WEDNESDAY, THE ELECTORAL BILL WAS PASSED BY THIS COUNCIL AND A NEW RECORD WAS THAT YESTERDAY DURING THE LEGCO SITTING THE ADMINISTRATION REFUSED TO MOVE THE THIRD READING OF A BILL.

AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE GOVERNOR THIS: CONCERNING THE '92 ELECTORAL PACKAGE, OF COURSE IT IS A STEP AHEAD IN TERMS OF DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER, YESTERDAY WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION DID OBVIOUSLY, IN TERMS OF THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY, IS A RETROGRESSIVE STEP. IN THE FAC REPORT IT IS AFFIRMATIVE TOWARDS THE FURTHER DEMOCRATISATION OF HONG KONG. HOWEVER, IN HONG KONG'S COUNCIL SYSTEM IT SEEMS THAT, IN TERMS OF SPIRIT AND IN TERMS OF INSTITUTION, THERE IS CERTAIN DISCREPANCY AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU THIS, MR GOVERNOR: CONCERNING THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE, THE '92 ELECTORAL PACKAGE, WILL YOU ACCEPT WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION DID YESTERDAY AND WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION DID YESTERDAY? AND HOW DO YOU ENSURE THAT IN FUTURE THERE WOULDN'T BE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY AND THE ACTUAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THE HONOURABLE MEMBER HAS TO BE AS CAREFUL AS I WAS SUGGESTING HONOURABLE MEMBERS FROM ANOTHER PARTY NEEDED TO BE WHEN HE MAKES SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS A REASONABLE OUTCOME FOR A VOTE AND WHAT IS AN UNREASONABLE OUTCOME. I THINK HE ALSO HAS TO BE CAREFUL IN THE IMPLICATION BEHIND HIS QUESTION THAT SOME LEGISLATORS' VOTES ARE WORTH MORE THAN OTHERS, WHICH I KNOW IS ARGUED FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE FROM TIME TO TIME, IF FENCE IT BE. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT EVERY LEGISLATOR IN THIS COUNCIL HAS A RIGHT TO CAST A VOTE AND THERE'RE THREE LEGISLATORS WHO ARE HERE AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AT THE END OF DEBATE YESTERDAY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE BILL WHICH WAS EMERGING WASN'T ONE WHICH THEY WISHED TO SUPPORT. WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WAS THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, A MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DECIDED THAT THAT BILL SHOULDN'T PROCEED BECAUSE IT DIDN'T REFLECT THE CONSENSUS WHICH IS NORMALLY REACHED ON THESE MATTERS IN THE LAB. IT SEEMS TO BE THAT IS A PERFECTLY REASONABLE VIEW FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO COME TO, THOUGH I WOULD HAVE WISHED THAT A BILL AGREED BY THE WHOLE COUNCIL COULD HAVE EMERGED. BUT I DON'T HONESTLY THINK THE HONOURABLE MEMBER CAN CELEBRATE IN A MODESTLY RAPTUROUS WAY LAST WEEK'S RESULT AND THEN CONCLUDE THAT YESTERDAY'S RESULT WASN'T ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE HE DIDN'T AGREE WITH IT. I HOPE THAT WE CAN FIND A CONSENSUAL APPROACH TO THESE MATTERS, IMPORTANT MATTERS OF LABOUR WELFARE AND LABOUR REFORM. PLAINLY THAT IS THE WAY WE HAVE DONE BUSINESS IN THE PAST. I THINK IT REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY, IT REFLECTS A COMMUNITY IN WHICH THERE IS HAPPILY VERY LITTLE INDUSTRIAL UNREST AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN COME BACK WITH PROPOSALS VERY SOON WHICH THE WHOLE COUNCIL WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE ITS NAME TO. I'M SORRY THAT YESTERDAY WE WEREN'T ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT. I'M SORRY THAT THE LAB'S PROPOSALS DIDN'T FIND A PLACE ON THE STATUTE BOOK, BUT I HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD AND FIND AN ACCEPTABLE WAY THROUGH THESE PROBLEMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MR ALBERT CHAN (THROUGH INTERPRETER): I WASN'T ASKING ABOUT WHETHER THE BILL WAS PASSED. I WAS ASKING ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF THE OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL. MR GOVERNOR, IN UK YOU HAVE BEEN THE PARTY CHIEF TO THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND SO YOU MUST HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE OPERATION OF THE PARLIAMENT WHEN A BILL IS PUT FORWARD BY THE ADMINISTRATION, AND WHEN AN AMENDMENT IS ALSO PROPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION. AFTER IT HAS CLEARED THE FIRST READING AND THE SECOND READING, AS WELL AS THE COMMITTEE STAGE, AS A RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATION WHY IS IT THAT AT THE THIRD READING THE ADMINISTRATION REFUSES TO MOVE IT AND SO DO YOU THINK THAT THAT IS IN LINE WITH THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT AND IN LINE WITH THE INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT.

/GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR: YES, AND IT WOULD BE TOTALLY UNDERSTOOD IN THAT WAY AT WESTMINSTER WHICH HAS SOME CLAIM TO CALL ITSELF THE MOTHER OF PARLIAMENTS. I WAS, AS YOU SAID, A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BEFORE I CAME TO THESE RESPONSIBILITIES AND IF SAY, A BILL PUT FORWARD BY THE GOVERNMENT, BY THE ADMINISTRATION, HAD BEEN COMPLETELY GUTTED OR HAD BEEN COMPLETELY TURNED ROUND DURING THE COURSE OF THE SECOND READING AND THE COMMITTEE STAGE, I HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT THE CHIEF WHIP WOULD HAVE ADVISED HIS COLLEAGUES, AND HIS ADVICE WAS ALWAYS RATHER MORE THAN THAT, TO VOTE AGAINST THE BILL AT THE END OF DISCUSSION. I'VE GOT NO DOUBT THAT THAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED. I REPEAT THAT WE WOULD ALL HAVE MUCH PREFERRED IT IF WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO GO FORWARD AS WE NORMALLY DO ON THESE MATTERS IN A SPIRIT OF CONSENSUS ON WHAT I THINK IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS BEING AN IMPORTANT MEASURE OF LABOUR WELFARE REFORM. I HOPE THAT WE CAN COME BACK TO THE COUNCIL, IT MAY REQUIRE MORE DISCUSSION BOTH WITH THE LAB AND WITH THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHO HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN LABOUR WELFARE MATTERS. I HOPE WE CAN COME BACK TO THE COUNCIL SOON AND FIND A WAY OF PROCEEDING WHICH, AS IS USUALLY THE CASE, EVERYBODY CAN AGREE TO.

MR MAN SAI-CHEONG(THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, FREEDOM OF DATA AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HONG KONG IS NO EXCEPTION. SO I WOULD LIKE TO SEEK AN EXPLANATION FROM YOU, MR GOVERNOR. RECENTLY, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MR DOMINIC WONG SAID THAT THE HISTORY OF THE PAST 20 YEARS SHOULDN'T BE INCORPORATED INTO OUR TEXTBOOKS AND THIS HAD TO DO WITH THE WAY THE JUNE 4TH INCIDENT WAS COVERED IN OUR TEXTBOOKS. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, CONCERNING THE HISTORY OF THE PAST 20 YEARS AND THAT IT SHOULDN'T BE IN OUR TEXTBOOKS, WHAT IS THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THAT? AND CONCERNING THE FREEDOM OF ACADEMICS, WHETHER IT HAS CONTRAVENED THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND WHETHER IT HAS CONTRAVENED THE SPIRIT OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAT YOU HAVE PUBLICISED SO VERY OFTEN?

THE GOVERNOR: I THINK - ATTEMPTING TO TAKE HEAT OUT OF AN IMPORTANT ISSUE - I THINK THAT IT HAS BEEN THE CASE IN RECENT YEARS THAT THOSE WHO GIVE ADVICE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRICULUM HAVE TAKEN THE VIEW, BROADLY SPEAKING, THAT THE LAST 20 YEARS SHOULDN'T FEATURE AS HISTORY BUT AS PERHAPS CIVIC EDUCATION. NOW, BECAUSE OF THE CONTROVERSY THAT'S BLOWN UP IN THIS CASE - AN UNFORTUNATE CONTROVERSY - WE'VE ASKED THOSE WHO ADVISE US ON THESE MATTERS TO LOOK AGAIN. I HAVE TO SAY THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THAT THE PRINCIPLE WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER ENUNCIATES IS THE RIGHT ONE. WE CAN'T - AS I'VE SAID IN THE PAST - WE CAN'T ERASE FACTS FROM HISTORY. WE CAN'T 'SNOWPAKE' OUT THOSE BITS OF HISTORY THAT WE'D LIKE TO REMOVE. I HAVE TO SAY, SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, THAT THERE ARE PARTS OF MY CAREER WHICH I'D QUITE LIKE TO 'SNOWPAKE' OUT BUT I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE WIDELY REGARDED AS ACCEPTABLE.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL TEACHERS, WHETHER OF UNIVERSITY AGE CHILDREN OR OF SCHOOLCHILDREN, SHOULD RECOGNISE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO ENSURE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE TAUGHT THE TRUTH AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF FORMING THEIR OWN JUDGMENTS AS THEY GROW UP BASED ON THE TRUTH RATHER THAN A DISTORTION OF THE TRUTH.

I THINK THERE IS SOME DISPUTE ABOUT HOW FAR HISTORY SHOULD GO WHEN IT IS BEING TAUGHT. I STUDIED HISTORY AT UNIVERSITY AND I HAVE TO TELL THE COUNCIL IN THE SPIRIT OF HUMILITY THAT I KNOW VERY LITTLE AFTER 1215.

MR MAN SAI-CHEONG: WELL MR GOVERNOR, I FIND WHAT YOU'VE SAID A BIT FAR-FETCHED. THE HISTORY BOOKS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND, THEY ARE TAUGHT TO EVALUATE THE SOURCES AND THEY WON'T SET ANY TIME LIMITS. I THINK THAT WILL BE A DOUBLE STANDARD IF THAT IS THE CASE IN THE UK AND NOT THE CASE IN HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR: WELL, AS I SAID, BECAUSE OF THE CONTROVERSY, BECAUSE OF THE ROW THAT HAS ARISEN OVER THIS, WE'VE ASKED THOSE WHO GIVE THIS ADVICE ON THE CURRICULUM TO HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE - I THINK IT IS TOO STRONG TO PUT IT AS A 20 YEAR RULE - BUT THE VIEW THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN THAT HISTORY SHOULD END AT SOME PERIOD A COUPLE OF DECADES AGO. THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS ENTIRELY RIGHT THAT IT'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF LEARNING HISTORY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BALANCE THE EVIDENCE, TO BALANCE THE FACTS, AND LEARN TO COME TO SOMETHING APPROXIMATING TO A TRUE ANALYSIS OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST AND IN THAT WAY ONE LEARNS MORE ABOUT THE PRESENT. I DON'T THINK THERE IS AN INCH OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND MYSELF ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GOOD TEACHING OF HISTORY AND I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND MYSELF ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE IN A FREE SOCIETY OF ENSURING THAT PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO LEARN EVERYTHING, EVEN THOSE THINGS THAT MIGHT BE INCONVENIENT.

MR LAU CHIN-SHEK (THROUGH INTERPRETER): THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT. FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE GOVERNOR SAID A MOMENT AGO THAT CONCERNING YESTERDAY'S AMENDMENT THERE WAS A CONSENSUS AT LAB. NOW I CAN LET YOU KNOW, MR GOVERNOR, THAT THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS. THIS IS NOT MY POINT.

NOW MY POINT IS, YESTERDAY IN THE LEGCO SITTING WE SAID THAT SOME BUSINESSMEN FROM HONG KONG DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA ARE DETAINED AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CANNOT GET HOLD OF INFORMATION ABOUT THEM. MR GOVERNOR, WHAT METHODS DO YOU HAVE IN MIND TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE DETAINEES FROM HONG KONG IN CHINA AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY WILL BE RELEASED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHEN MR ALASTAIR GOODLAD VISITS CHINA WILL YOU GET HIM TO TALK TO CHINA ABOUT THAT? IN THE CASE OF XI YANG, WILL YOU ALSO GET MR GOODLAD TO VISIT MR XI YANG AND GET HIM TO BE RELEASED FROM CHINA?

THE GOVERNOR: ON THE FIRST POINT, WHEREVER A MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY, WHENEVER ONE OF OUR RESIDENTS IS IN THE SORT OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER REFERS TO, THEN THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN POWER WOULD FEEL IT PROPER AND RIGHT TO TAKE UP THE ISSUE WITH THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWER. SO WE WOULD PURSUE MATTERS LIKE THAT BOTH THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN PEKING AND THROUGH CONTACTS IN LONDON BETWEEN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE AMBASSADOR OF THE PRC IN LONDON AND I THINK THOSE ARE THE RIGHT CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION. AND ANY PARTICULAR CASE WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WISHES US TO TAKE UP OR WISHES TO BE BROUGHT TO MR GOODLAD'S ATTENTION BEFORE HE GOES TO PEKING, WE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE AND PURSUE IN A WAY WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER SUGGESTS.

AS FOR THE CASE OF XI YANG WHICH HAS CAUSED SO MUCH GENUINE AND WIDESPREAD CONCERN IN THE COMMUNITY, I WILL CERTAINLY DRAW WHAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER SAID TO THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION BEFORE HIS VISIT TO PEKING IN A WEEK OR SO'S TIME.

MR HOWARD YOUNG: SIR, SINCE TODAY'S SESSION IS SUPPOSED TO BE ON RELATIONS WITH CHINA I WILL ASK A QUESTION RELATED TO THAT. NOW THAT THE 21-MONTH DEBATE ON POLITICAL REFORM HAS BEEN PUT TO REST AND THERE'S NO POINT HARPING ON ANY MORE, WILL THE GOVERNMENT EMBARK ON ANY NEW OR IMAGINATIVE INITIATIVES USING THIS, WHAT I SEE AS A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD MORE BRIDGES WITH CHINA, IN PARTICULAR WHETHER YOU THOUGHT THERE WERE ANY MORE FLEXIBLE LESS DOGMATIC WAYS OF BUILDING BRIDGES WITH CHINA SO THAT WE CAN GET ON WITH TALKING ABOUT CO-OPERATION ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, LIVELIHOOD MATTERS AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT CAN BRING ABOUT A SMOOTH TRANSITION?

GOVERNOR: WE WERE VERY PLEASED THAT THE DAY AFTER THIS COUNCIL REACHED ITS HISTORIC CONCLUSIONS, LAST WEEK, WE WERE ABLE TO BRING TO AN END SEVEN YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE DEFENCE ESTATE IN HONG KONG. AND I WOULD LIKE, IF I MAY, TO PAY A PARTICULAR TRIBUTE TO THE NEGOTIATORS ON BOTH SIDES. THESE WERE AND ARE VERY COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT ISSUES AND I THINK BOTH NEGOTIATING TEAMS CRACKED THE PROBLEMS BY SHOWING A GOOD DEAL OF IMAGINATION AND SINCERITY, AND IT'S THE WAY I THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO DEAL WITH OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE, AND THE JLG, AS WELL.

WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT OUR ATTITUDE AND APPROACH IN THE JLG AND THROUGH THE OTHER CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE CHINESE SIDE WILL HELP TO TAKE MATTERS FORWARD. LET ME GIVE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER TWO EXAMPLES. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INFORM THE CHINESE SIDE THAT WE'VE NOW REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONSORTIUM ON THE NEXT CONTAINER TERMINAL. SO IN OUR JUDGMENT IT SHOULD BE RELATIVELY EASY TO COME TO A VIEW ON THAT MATTER AND TO ENSURE THAT THE CONTAINER TERMINAL IS CONSTRUCTED WITHOUT ANY FURTHER UNDUE DELAY. NOBODY CAN PASS ACROSS THE HARBOUR OR FLY OVER THE HARBOUR WITHOUT RECOGNISING THAT WE ARE STARTING TO RUN INTO THE SAME SORT OF TRAFFIC JAMS IN THE PORT THAT WE SUFFER ALL TOO FREQUENTLY ON OUR ROADS, SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO MOVE AHEAD WITH CT9.

SECONDLY, IF ONE LOOKS AT THE LOCALISATION AND ADAPTATION OF LAWS. LET ME TAKE LOCALISATION FOR A START. THERE ARE ABOUT 300 UNITED KINGDOM LAWS THAT NEED TO BE LOCALISED. WE'VE, I THINK, MANAGED TO PROCESS ABOUT 30 OF THOSE. WE'VE GIVEN THE CHINESE SIDE CONSULTATION PAPERS ON A FURTHER 83 AND IT WOULD BE NICE TO MAKE AS RAPID PROGRESS ON THOSE AS WE POSSIBLY CAN. EQUALLY WE'VE GIVEN THE CHINESE SIDE A NUMBER OF CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS ON LAWS WHICH NEED TO BE ADAPTED AND I HOPE WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS ON THOSE TOO.

SO IN THE JLG AND IN OTHER FORA WE WILL WANT TO BE AS CONSTRUCTIVE AND CO-OPERATIVE AS POSSIBLE. WE TAKE AT THEIR FACE VALUE. WE TAKE AS SINCERE EXPRESSIONS WHAT CHINESE LEADERS LIKE VICE-PREMIER QIAN QICHEN HAVE SAID ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CO-OPERATING AS BROADLY AS POSSIBLE OVER HONG KONG'S FUTURE. WE KNOW THAT'S IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND OF THEIR ECONOMY AND LIVELIHOOD AND NOBODY STANDS TO GAIN ANYTHING AT ALL BY DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON ANY OF THESE ISSUES.

SO WE WILL BE AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE AND, TO BORROW A PHRASE, WE WILL KEEP HITTING THE BALL OVER THE NET AND HOPE THAT IT COMES BACK.

MR HOWARD YOUNG: SIR, MY PREVIOUS QUESTION AND MY FOLLOW-UP, I WOULD ACTUALLY ASK NOT ONLY JUST YOU BUT IF THE CHANCE WERE TO FACE YOUR COUNTERPART IN THE SAME WAY I WOULD ASK IT EXACTLY IN THE SAME WAY BUT UNFORTUNATELY WE'RE ONLY FACING YOU TODAY.

I WAS NOT THINKING OF JUST JLG AND THE POSITIVE MATTERS YOU'VE MENTIONED BUT WHETHER ONE CAN BE MORE FLEXIBLE? FOR INSTANCE, I FEEL THAT SOMEHOW RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY THE IMPRESSION THAT I CERTAINLY GET AND I IMAGINE MANY HONG KONG PEOPLE GET, THAT THE CHINESE OR THE CHINESE OFFICIALS SEEM TO NOT EVEN BE AWARE OF YOUR EXISTENCE SOMETIMES IN HONG KONG, YOU KNOW AS THE GOVERNOR, OR SOMETIMES WHERE THE HONG KONG SIDE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OR THE ROLE OF SAY THE PWC. I THINK THIS TYPE OF DOGMATIC SORT OF FEELING, I DON'T THINK IS REALLY VERY HELPFUL. I WAS WONDERING WHETHER ONE COULD EXPLORE MORE CHANNELS OTHER THAN THE JLG IN A MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE MANNER TO BUILD BRIDGES ALL ROUND?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK DOGMATIC IS THE WORD I WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE OUR POSITION. PRINCIPLED IS CERTAINLY A WORD I WOULD USE BUT I THINK I WOULD FALL SHORT OF USING THE WORD DOGMATIC. I'M NOT SURE THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS ENTIRELY RIGHT THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS AREN'T AWARE OF MY EXISTENCE. THERE HAVE BEEN ONE OR TWO OCCASIONS IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS WHEN PERHAPS I WOULD HAVE WISHED THAT THAT WERE THE POSITION BUT I THINK THEY ARE AWARE OF MY EXISTENCE AND I'M SURE THEY'RE ALSO AWARE THAT IN THIS EXISTENCE, AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT THREE YEARS OF IT, I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO TAKE FORWARD SOME OF THE MATTERS THAT ARE ALAS OUTSTANDING, DIRECTLY FACE TO FACE WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE OR WITH HIS OTHER SENIOR COLLEAGUES. I THINK A LOT OF THESE ISSUES COULD ACTUALLY BE TACKLED MORE RAPIDLY IF WE WERE ABLE TO SIT DOWN AT A TABLE AND TALK ABOUT THEM AND I'M PREPARED TO GO ANYWHERE, AT ANY TIME, FOR SUCH A MEETING. I GOT THE IMPRESSION WHEN DIRECTOR LU MADE HIS WELCOME RECENT VISIT TO HONG KONG THAT THE PUBLIC WOULD HAVE LIKED US TO TALK WHILE HE WAS HERE. UNFORTUNATELY WE WERE TOLD THAT HE HAD TOO BUSY A DIARY DURING THAT VISIT BUT I HOPE THAT HE'S ABLE TO FIND THE TIME ON A FUTURE VISIT OR I'LL VISIT HIM.

AS FOR THE PWC, WE RECOGNISE THE EXISTENCE OF THE PWC. I RECOGNISE MEMBERS OF THE PWC I THINK, AS I LOOK AROUND THIS CHAMBER. WE RECOGNISE THAT AND WE'RE DELIGHTED TO TALK TO MEMBERS OF THE PWC AND TO OFFER THEM THE SAME SORT OF ACCESS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S WISDOM AND CHALLENGES THAT WE OFFER TO OTHERS TOO. BUT, I'VE SAID BEFORE, THAT I'M NOT SURE IT'S VERY SENSIBLE WHEN THE EXISTING CHANNELS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE SOVEREIGN POWERS AREN'T WORKING AS WELL AS WE WOULD LIKE TO START TRYING TO INVENT OTHER CHANNELS. I DON'T THINK THAT MAKES VERY MUCH SENSE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE. I DON'T THINK THAT MAKES VERY MUCH SENSE FOR ANYONE BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO BE AS OPEN AS POSSIBLE AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE AS THE NEXT STEP US BUILDING ON THE AGREEMENT THAT'S BEEN REACHED ON DEFENCE LANDS AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ELECTRICITY HUMMING ALONG THE WIRES IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND ELSEWHERE AS WELL AND I THINK THAT BOTH OF US, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND CHINESE OFFICIALS WOULD FIND THAT AN EXHILARATING EXPERIENCE.

MR MARVIN CHEUNG: GOVERNOR, NOW THAT THE POLITICAL REFORM IS OUT OF THE WAY, WILL YOU INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHEN AND IN WHAT MANNER WILL THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION SEEK AGREEMENT FROM THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON THE DETAILED MECHANICS OF THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY AT MIDNIGHT ON 30TH JUNE, 1997, AND WHEN WILL THESE ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO ALLAY ANY ANXIETY OVER THE POSSIBLE CHAOS AND VACUUM OF POWER IN THE IMMEDIATE WEEKS PRECEDING THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY?

GOVERNOR: THAT IS AN ISSUE THAT WE WILL NEED TO START ADDRESSING WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS SOON. I'M NOT SURE WE'RE QUITE THERE YET BUT AS I SEE FROM THE CLOCKOMETER IN DIRECTOR LU'S OFFICE, THERE'S ONLY JUST OVER 1,000 DAYS TO GO AND WE WILL HAVE TO START DISCUSSING ARRANGEMENTS SOON. IT'S OUR VIEW THAT THOSE ARRANGEMENTS WILL NEED TO BE AS DIGNIFIED AND SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE. I'M SURE THAT WILL BE THE VIEW ON THE CHINESE SIDE TOO. IT'S NOT JUST A QUESTION OF HANDING OVER THE KEYS TO THE FRONT DOOR. THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF OTHER ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL NEED TO BE CONCLUDED BUT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD EMBARK ON THAT SOON AND HE'S ALSO RIGHT THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL BE ENTITLED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IS PLANNED. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE WILL BE THE SORT OF VACUUM THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER REFERS TO. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PREVENT ANY GAPS IN THE LAW AS I WAS SAYING EARLIER, WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY A WORRY, NOT LEAST COMMERCIALY. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN AND I'M SURE THAT IT IS THE WISH TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT THE TRANSITION IS AS SMOOTH AND SUCCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE.

MR MARVIN CHEUNG: MR PRESIDENT, MAY I ASK A FOLLOW-UP QUESTION? WILL THE GOVERNOR ADVISE THIS COUNCIL, OTHER THAN THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS OR THE JLG, WILL THE HONG KONG ADMINISTRATION DEAL WITH ANY OTHER ORGAN OR QUASI-GOVERNMENT BODIES OF THE PRC IN THIS PROCESS?

GOVERNOR: THERE WILL, I IMAGINE, NEED TO BE OTHER CONTACTS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE DEFENCE ESTATE MUST INEVITABLY BE THAT SOLDIERS WILL HAVE TO TALK TO SOLDIERS ABOUT EXACTLY WHAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE RUN UP TO THE 30TH JUNE, 1997. TO SOME EXTENT THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ALREADY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JLG. BUT I THINK THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AREAS WHERE WE'VE HAD CONTACTS OUTSIDE THOSE FORMAL CHANNELS AND THE CLOSER WE GET TO 30TH JUNE, 1997, THE MORE EXTENDED AND VARIOUS THOSE CHANNELS ARE LIKELY TO BE.

DR HUANG CHEN-YA (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, I'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN BEING ILLEGALLY DETAINED IN CHINA. YESTERDAY WHEN I ASKED THE ADMINISTRATION THIS QUESTION THE ADMINISTRATION'S REPLY WAS BASICALLY THAT IT REALLY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THESE CASES. AND SO THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO MUDDLE IT THROUGH AND WASN'T TRYING TO DO ANYTHING AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU THIS, MR GOVERNOR: WOULD YOU ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE THIS COUNCIL A THOROUGH REPORT ON WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE FOR THESE POOR BUSINESSMEN?

SECONDLY, WHAT PLAN DO YOU HAVE TO ENSURE THAT IN FUTURE WHEN SIMILAR CASES OCCUR YOU WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO HELP THEM, SAY, MAYBE THROUGH THE JLG OR MAYBE YOU YOURSELF, MR GOVERNOR, TAKING PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO PROTECT THE WELL BEING OF HONG KONG CITIZENS IN CHINA WHEN THEY ARE DOING LEGITIMATE BUSINESS?

THE GOVERNOR: IT IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AND I WANT TO ESTABLISH EXACTLY WHAT THE PARAMETERS OF DISCUSSION ARE. IF THE HONOURABLE MEMBER OR ANY OTHER HONOURABLE MEMBER HAS THE NAMES AND DETAILS OF BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN THE WAY THAT HE SUGGESTS, THEN WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WE WOULD PURSUE THOSE CASES IN THE NORMAL WAY THROUGH THE UNITED KINGDOM'S AMBASSADOR IN PEKING. THAT IS THE WAY IN WHICH WE WOULD PROPERLY PROCEED, TAKING THINGS UP AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. AND OF COURSE, WITH AN IMMINENT VISIT BY A BRITISH MINISTER TO PEKING AND TO CHINA IN GENERAL, IT IS QUITE A GOOD TIME TO PURSUE A MATTER LIKE THAT.

I THINK THAT THE QUESTION HAS PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE BECAUSE WE KNOW OF THE VALUE OF HONG KONG AND HONG KONG INVESTMENT TO THE ECONOMIC REVOLUTION WHICH IS TAKING PLACE IN CHINA. I THINK I AM RIGHT IN SAYING THAT ABOUT TWO THIRDS, PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE, OF THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT WHICH IS GOING INTO GUANGDONG IS GOING FROM HONG KONG. THAT NECESSARILY MEANS THAT A LOT OF HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS ARE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM CHINA AND THEY WILL WANT THE CONFIDENCE THAT THEY CAN DO SO PEACEFULLY AND WITH EVERY ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL BE PROPERLY LOOKED AFTER.

DR HUANG CHEN-YA (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU ASK THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO GET THE NAMES OF THE 12 PERSONS IN QUESTION. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, I HOPE THAT WHEN YOU GET THAT INFORMATION YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SUBMIT TO THIS COUNCIL A VERY THOROUGH REPORT CONCERNING WHAT THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BEIJING HAS DONE FOR THESE PEOPLE: HOW MANY VISITS HAS IT PAID TO THESE PEOPLE AND HOW MANY NEGOTIATIONS HAS THE EMBASSY CONDUCTED WITH THE CHINESE SIDE OVER THESE PEOPLE AND WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, SO THAT WE KNOW FOR SURE WHETHER THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS DONE SOMETHING OR IS THAT IT HAS THROWN ALL THOSE FILES IN THE LITTER-BIN.

THE GOVERNOR: NO, AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL KNOW, THE CIVIL SERVICE NEVER PUTS FILES IN THE LITTER-BIN, THEY ARE STORED FOR CENTURIES. BUT TO BE SERIOUS BECAUSE THIS IS A SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT ISSUE, I WILL ENSURE THAT THIS COUNCIL IS GIVEN A REPORT ON WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THE CASES OF MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY WHOSE PROBLEMS IN CHINA HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION, SO THAT THE COUNCIL CAN KNOW THAT ITS GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN POWER ARE TAKING THESE ISSUES WITH THE IMPORTANCE THAT THEY DESERVE. BECAUSE, AS I'VE SAID, THERE ISN'T JUST THE QUESTION OF INDIVIDUALS' HUMAN RIGHTS AT STAKE, THERE IS THE MORE GENERAL QUESTION OF THE ABILITY OF ENTREPRENEURS IN HONG KONG TO TRAVEL AS FREELY AS THEIR MONEY TRAVELS.

MR CHIM PUI-CHUNG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): WELL, MR GOVERNOR, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW YOU WILL HAVE BEEN IN HONG KONG FOR EXACTLY TWO YEARS. PEOPLE ARE VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS. MY QUESTION THEN IS: CONCERNING HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, HONG KONG'S LIVELIHOOD, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN, HOW DO YOU RATE YOURSELF IN A SCORE OUT OF 10? WHAT CAN YOU DO TO INCREASE YOUR SCORE OUT OF THAT? PEOPLE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THAT, I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO GIVE A GOOD PERFORMANCE FOR YOURSELF. I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD ENCOUNTER ANY DIFFICULTY IN ANSWERING MY QUESTION.

THE GOVERNOR: I'M SURE THAT I RATE MYSELF AS HIGHLY AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER RATES HIMSELF, AND CONCEIVABLY THAT IS A HIGHER MARK THAN THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WOULD GIVE ME HIMSELF.

CLEARLY, I LOOK BACK ON THE LAST TWO YEARS - IN WHICH OF COURSE ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS HAS BEEN OUR GROWING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP, I LOOK BACK ON THE LAST TWO YEARS WITH INTEREST AND A GOOD DEAL OF PLEASURE AT THE SUCCESSES OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL PROGRAMMES. I DON'T THINK THAT EVEN IF I WERE RUNNING FOR ELECTION, WHICH I AM NOT, I COULD MAKE GREAT CLAIM TO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY. THAT OWES MUCH TO THE HARD WORK AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILL OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WORKING WITHIN THE RULE OF LAW, AND TO THE SENSIBLE MACRO ECONOMIC POLICIES WHICH HAVE BEEN PURSUED BY THIS FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND PREVIOUS FINANCIAL SECRETARIES FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. IT IS OBVIOUSLY A MATTER FOR SATISFACTION THAT WE HAVE NOW BEEN ABLE TO HAVE TWO BUDGETS IN WHICH WE HAVE SEEN TAXES FALL, PUBLIC EXPENDITURE RISE AND MORE MONEY PUT INTO OUR RESERVES. THESE WERE NOT THE SORT OF BUDGETS THAT I WAS FAMILIAR WITH WHEN I WAS IN EUROPEAN POLITICS BUT IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BECOME INCREASINGLY FAMILIAR WITH THEM HERE.

I THINK THAT IT'S ALSO BEEN A PLEASURE TO WATCH THE AGENDA WHICH I FIRST SET OUT IN MY FIRST SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1992 OF SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CHANGE STEADILY IMPLEMENTED. I WON'T GO INTO ALL THE DETAILS AND ALL THE FIGURES. BUT I THINK WE'RE AT THIS POSITION IN HONG KONG: WE DO WANT TO SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH QUALITY SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES WITHOUT LOSING OUR POSITION AS A LOW-TAX HIGH-GROWTH ECONOMY. THAT INVOLVES DIFFICULT CHOICES BUT I THINK EVERYBODY RECOGNISES THAT IT WOULD BE THE GREATEST FOLLY IN THE PURSUIT OF SOCIAL OBJECTIVES TO DAMAGE OUR ECONOMY IN ANY WAY. DELIVERING QUALITY RATHER THAN JUST QUANTITY IN SOCIAL PROVISION RAISES RATHER MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS.

I THINK THAT FOR EXAMPLE IN EDUCATION, THE WHOLE COMMUNITY NOW RECOGNISES THAT WE'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON RAISING THE QUALITY OF TEACHING, OF GIVING OUR TEACHERS MORE SUPPORT, SO THAT WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS IN THE CLASSROOM IS OF EVEN HIGHER QUALITY. THAT IS PERHAPS MORE DIFFICULT THAN JUST BUILDING NEW CLASSROOMS, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE TO IMPROVE THE CLASSROOMS WE'VE ALREADY BUILT AND BUILD SOME NEW ONES. SO THESE ARE THE SORT OF QUESTIONS OF QUALITY WHICH I THINK WE ARE GOING TO BE TACKLING AND I WILL BE SAYING MORE ABOUT IN MY LEGCO SPEECH THIS AUTUMN.

THERE IS ONE FURTHER POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE. THERE IS A SOCIAL ISSUE WHICH I THINK THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS CONCERNED ABOUT, ON WHICH WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME TO SOME IRREVOCABLE DECISIONS IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, I HOPE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT OF CHINA. WE WANT TO DO MORE FOR OUR ELDERLY. WE WANT TO PROVIDE THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED, WHO HAVE MADE SUCH A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY, WE WANT TO PROVIDE THEM WITH DECENT FINANCIAL SECURITY IN THEIR OLD AGE AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL SOON BE PUTTING FORWARD OUR VIEWS ON HOW THAT CAN BEST BE DONE, PRUDENTLY BUT WITH ALSO THE GENEROUS INSTINCTS THAT ONE WOULD EXPECT IN A COMMUNITY WHICH HAS BEEN AS ECONOMICALLY SUCCESSFUL AS THIS ONE HAS BEEN.

SO AVOIDING GIVING MYSELF ANY MARK OUT OF 10 - AFTER ALL, IF I WAS TO GIVE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER A MARK HE MIGHT CONCLUDE AFTERWARDS THAT IT HAD BEEN OUT OF A HUNDRED NOT OUT OF 10 - AVOIDING THAT I WILL JUST SAY THAT I HOPE THAT I'M ABLE TO WORK AS GOVERNOR IN AS SUCCESSFUL AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS AS I HAVE FOR THE LAST TWO. WHEN I EXPLAIN TO VISITORS NOT JUST HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC STATISTICS BUT HONG KONG'S SOCIAL STATISTICS AS WELL, THEY ARE INVARIABLY EXCEPTIONALLY SURPRISED. WE'RE NOT JUST A SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY, WE'RE A VERY SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY ALL ROUND.

MR CHIM PUI-CHUNG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): WELL, MR GOVERNOR, FOR POLITICIANS, IS IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE TOGETHER, NOT DIVIDED, FOR POLITICIANS IN HONG KONG?

THE GOVERNOR: IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR US TO WORK FOR CONSENT AND AGREEMENT AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE AND I NOTE WITH GREAT PLEASURE THE HARMONIOUS STATE OF THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND MYSELF THIS AFTERNOON. THIS HARBOURS EXTREMELY WELL FOR THE FUTURE. PERHAPS ON THE 30TH JUNE 1997, AS WELL AS CELEBRATING THE TRANSITION TO CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY, THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND I WILL BE CELEBRATING A FIVE-YEAR RELATIONSHIP.

MS ANNA WU: THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT. GOVERNOR, I AM MOST TEMPTED TO RAISE WITH YOU THE INCONSISTENCY OF YOUR APPROACH BETWEEN THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, BUT I WILL REFRAIN FROM THAT.

ON SEEKING AN INTERPRETATION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ON THE JOINT DECLARATION PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT, THE UNITED KINGDOM RESPONSE IN PARAGRAPH 3 READS:

"SINCE THE JOINT DECLARATION IS A BILATERAL TREATY BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN, THE GOVERNMENT SEE NO NEED TO CONSULT THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ON ITS INTERPRETATION."

IS THIS THE ATTITUDE THE UK GOVERNMENT HOLDS IN RESPECT OF THE ENTIRETY OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WHEN IT COMES TO A REQUEST FROM HONG KONG FOR A UN VIEW? WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS STATEMENT AS GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG? THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, AND SINCE THE HONOURABLE LADY DIDN'T ASK A QUESTION ABOUT ALLEGED INCONSISTENCY, I WON'T GIVE MY REPLY WHICH WILL POINT OUT THERE IS NONE AND THAT WILL SAVE A GOOD DEAL OF TIME.

SECONDLY, IT IS THE VIEW OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT AND OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT THAT THERE ISN'T ANY PROBLEM OF INTERPRETATION WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THAT THERE ISN'T, FOR EXAMPLE, ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH SIDES UNDER THAT JOINT DECLARATION. SAY, IF TO PUT IT IN ONE WAY IT WOULD BE TO RAISE DOUBTS WHICH WE DON'T THINK EXIST FOR US TO FOLLOW THE COURSE OF ACTION SUGGESTED BY THE HONOURABLE LADY. FOR EXAMPLE, IN OUR VIEW THERE IS NO DOUBT AT ALL ABOUT THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND THE JOINT DECLARATION, WE THINK THAT'S A MATTER WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO RAISE A SINGLE QUESTION MARK ABOUT IT. SO THE SHORT ANSWER TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S QUESTION IS, WE DON'T THINK THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO GO TO THE UN FOR GUIDANCE ON THE JOINT DECLARATION AND I THINK THE UK GOVERNMENT SET OUT THE REASONS FOR THAT PRETTY CLEARLY IN THEIR RESPONSE TO THE FAC.

MS ANNA WU: MR PRESIDENT, MY QUESTION WAS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN IT COMES TO A REQUEST FROM HONG KONG FOR A UN VIEW? WHAT IS THE GOVERNOR'S COMMENT TO THAT PARTICULAR QUESTION, WHEN A REQUEST IS MADE FOR A UN VIEW FROM HONG KONG?

GOVERNOR: PERHAPS I'M BEING EVEN DENSER THAN NORMAL, I AM NOT ENTIRELY FOLLOWING THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S QUESTION BECAUSE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DOESN'T THINK THAT THERE IS ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE JOINT DECLARATION. IF THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS SAYING, WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO THINK THERE ARE DOUBTS, THEN THEY WOULD NEED TO PURSUE THEM THROUGH THE NORMAL CHANNELS BUT I DON'T THINK, SINCE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DOESN'T BELIEVE THERE IS ANY DOUBT, THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD BE REQUIRED TO GO TO THE UK GOVERNMENT TO GO TO THE UN. BUT IS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER REFERRING TO AFTER 1997?

MS ANNA WU: THE SAR GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE THAT REQUEST FOR HONG KONG.

GOVERNOR: THE SAR GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IT WOULD HAVE TO GO TO THE SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT AND ASK THE SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT TO GO TO THE UN AS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND ASK FOR ITS VIEW. I'M HAVING DIFFICULTY IMAGINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THIS MIGHT HAPPEN BUT I THINK THAT WOULD BE THE SITUATION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW.

MR STEVEN POON: YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOU HAVE BEEN THE GOVERNOR FOR EXACTLY TWO YEARS AND THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION HAS BEEN THAT THE NUMBER ONE ITEM ON YOUR AGENDA IN THE LAST TWO YEARS HAS BEEN THE POLITICAL PACKAGE, THE POLITICAL REFORM. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OR COMMENTARIES WRITTEN IN BOTH ENGLAND AND IN HONG KONG CONCLUDING THAT YOUR ROLE AS THE GOVERNOR IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS WILL DIMINISH. MAYBE THAT IS TERRIBLY UNKIND AND I'M NOT SOMEONE WHO'S USED TO BEING UNKIND TO THE GOVERNOR, BUT PERHAPS YOU COULD TELL US WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY, NUMBER ONE ITEM ON YOUR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS IF YOU ARE TO STAY AS THE GOVERNOR UNTIL THE 30TH JUNE 1997? THANK YOU.

GOVERNOR: I'M GRATEFUL TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR THAT QUESTION. THE NUMBER ONE ITEM ON MY AGENDA FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS IS VERY CLOSE TO THE NUMBER ONE ITEM ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT THREE, INDEED IT IS IDENTICAL, AND THAT IS TO DO EVERYTHING I POSSIBLY CAN TO ENSURE THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION IS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997, TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG ENJOYS AFTER 1997 THAT HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY WHICH SHE HAS BEEN PROMISED, AND TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAKE SURE THAT HONG KONG'S SYSTEM SURVIVES AND PROSPERS AFTER 1997. NOW IN PURSUIT OF THAT WE HAVE HAD, UNFORTUNATELY, A CONTROVERSY ABOUT POLITICAL ISSUES AND PERHAPS THAT CONTROVERSY HAS ALSO BEEN RELATED TO THE FACT THAT IN MY JUDGMENT, IF YOU ARE GOING TO STAND UP FOR YOURSELF FROM TIME TO TIME YOU HAVE TO HAVE A BOTTOM-LINE AND THAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BOTTOM-LINE YOU VERY EASILY FIND THAT YOU SACRIFICE THE THINGS WHICH COUNT. I CERTAINLY THINK THAT IS TRUE IN RELATION TO THE POSITION OF HONG KONG.

BUT OF COURSE THERE ARE MANY OTHER ISSUES THAT I'VE PURSUED AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS PURSUED IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS AND THE HONOURABLE MEMBER - I HESITATE TO SUGGEST THIS IS BEDTIME READING - BUT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WOULD ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT THE SPEECHES I'D MADE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1992 AND 1993 AND TO SEE WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ABOUT THOSE SPEECHES TO SEE THAT WE HAVE ACTUALLY HAD AN EXTREMELY BROAD SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, EDUCATIONAL AGENDA AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THAT. IT HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF THE CROSSES THAT THE GOVERNOR BEARS THAT WHEN HE GOES TO A HOSPITAL OR A SCHOOL OR A REFUSE-TREATMENT CENTRE OR ALMOST ANYWHERE AND COMES OUT TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS FROM OUR UBIQUITOUS PRESS CORPS, THAT HE IS ASKED ABOUT THE AIRPORT OR POLITICAL REFORM BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE AREN'T A LOT OF OTHER ISSUES WHICH HE IS SPENDING HIS TIME WORKING ON.

ONE OTHER QUESTION WHICH THE GOVERNOR HAS BEEN ASKED REGULARLY FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS AND THAT'S BEEN ABOUT THE GOVERNOR'S INTENTIONS AND I CAN TELL YOU ONCE AGAIN - AND PERHAPS AFTER THIS, GOD BE PRAISED, I WON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION TOO OFTEN - I CAME TO HONG KONG FOR FIVE YEARS, I INTEND, GOD WILLING, TO BE HERE UNTIL THE 30TH JUNE 1997. THERE WILL FROM TIME TO TIME BE REPORTS HERE AND THERE, GOSSIP COLUMNS HERE AND THERE, WHICH SUGGEST THAT I AM GOING TO DO ALL SORTS OF THINGS WHICH HAVE NEVER CROSSED MY MIND. BUT I TOOK THESE RESPONSIBILITIES ON FOR FIVE YEARS, I BELIEVE THAT FOR ME TO GIVE THEM UP BEFORE FIVE YEARS ARE OVER WOULD NOT BE THE RIGHT THING TO DO, WOULD NOT BE WIDELY UNDERSTOOD IN HONG KONG OR BEYOND AND WOULD INVOLVE ME IN BREAKING MY WORD TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THAT I DO NOT INTEND TO DO.

MR FRED LI (THROUGH INTERPRETER): SO I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE TO ASK A QUESTION.

MR GOVERNOR, SO YOU'VE BEEN IN HONG KONG FOR TWO YEARS AND I BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE NOW COME TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU THIS; IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, CONCERNING HONG KONG'S SOCIAL MATTERS AND MATTERS RELATING TO PEOPLES' LIVELIHOOD, WHAT MAJOR PROGRAMMES DO YOU HAVE IN MIND AND WHAT PRIORITY PROGRAMMES YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUT TOGETHER? I HOPE THAT YOU CAN ANSWER THIS QUESTION TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.

GOVERNOR: I'LL BE ANSWERING IT IN SLIGHTLY MORE LENGTH IN EARLY OCTOBER WHEN I GIVE MY NEXT SPEECH TO THE COUNCIL, THOUGH IT IS MY INTENTION I SHOULD SAY, TO SPEAK RATHER MORE BRIEFLY THIS YEAR THAN I HAVE IN THE LAST TWO, WITHOUT I HOPE SACRIFICING ANY OF THE CONTENT.

I THINK, AS I SAID EARLIER, THAT THE BIGGEST ISSUE ON OUR AGENDA IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IS GOING TO BE THE FUTURE OF PROVISION FOR THE ELDERLY. I THINK THE PROPOSALS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY UNVEIL ARE EXTREMELY SENSIBLE. I HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO CONVINCING THIS COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY BEYOND OF THAT AS WELL.

I THINK I HAVE TO MAKE SURE IN THE NEXT MONTHS AND YEARS THAT THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF WELFARE REFORM THAT WE PUT IN HAND IS CARRIED THROUGH. I FEEL PARTICULARLY STRONGLY ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PROPOSALS TO HELP THE DISABLED AND THOSE AS WELL WHO ARE ILL.

WE HAVE AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD TO CARRY FORWARD AND WE'VE GOT A NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES, NOT LEAST THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE FIRST STAGE OF OUR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLAN.

AS I'VE ALSO BEEN SAYING, WE HAVE A NUMBER OF OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH THIS COUNCIL WILL BE LEGISLATING ON IN THE NEXT YEAR OR SO TO FURTHER SAFEGUARD HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT BECOMES MORE OPEN AND MORE ACCOUNTABLE. THE PROGRAMME WHICH I OUTLINED EARLIER IS BY ANY STANDARDS AN EXTREMELY AMBITIOUS ONE.

SO THEY'LL BE PLENTY FOR US TO DO. I THINK THAT I WOULD JUST ADD TO THAT TWO THINGS WHICH ARE PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE INTANGIBLE AND WHICH I'VE REFERRED TO IN SOME PRESS INTERVIEWS IN RECENT DAYS.

FIRST OF ALL, I HOPE THAT WE CAN ENCOURAGE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY TO RECOGNISE THAT HONG KONG'S MEASURED AND STEADY PROGRESS TOWARDS FULL DEMOCRACY IS NOT SOMETHING WHICH IN ANY WAY THREATENS HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS OR SOCIAL STABILITY. INDEED, PRECISELY THE REVERSE.

SECONDLY, I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCING THOSE WHO PERHAPS THINK OTHERWISE IN CHINA, THAT HONG KONG'S MODEST ASPIRATIONS TO HAVE A GREATER SHARE IN DETERMINING ITS' OWN FUTURE HERE IN HONG KONG IN NO WAY REPRESENTS A THREAT TO ANYONE ELSE, LEAST OF ALL TO CHINA.

BOTH THOSE ARE IMPORTANT TASKS AND I WILL TRY TO CARRY THEM OUT FOR THE NEXT 1000+ DAYS TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

THE PRESIDENT: THIS SITTING CONCLUDES THE PRESENT SESSION. I WISH MEMBERS WELL DURING THE SUMMER RECESS. THE NEW SESSION WILL START ON OCTOBER 5, 1994, TO WHICH DATE I NOW ADJOURN THIS COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1994

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GOODLAD TO VISIT CHINA AND HK

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THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN LONDON MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY (THURSDAY):

THE RT HON ALASTAIR GOODLAD, MP, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, WILL VISIT CHINA FROM JULY 14 TO 20 AT THE INVITATION OF THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

MR GOODLAD WILL VISIT PEKING, SHANGHAI AND CANTON AND SPEND A DAY IN HONG KONG BEFORE RETURNING TO LONDON. IN PEKING, HE WILL HAVE TALKS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND IN HONG KONG HE WILL MEET THE GOVERNOR.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MR GOODLAD WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG BY TRAIN FROM CANTON AT 11 AM ON JULY 20 (WEDNESDAY). MEMBERS OF THE PRESS ARE INVITED TO COVER.

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APPOINTMENT OF SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR TAM WING-PONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM THE GOVERNOR, HAD APPOINTED MR RONNIE C CHAN, AS A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FROM AUGUST 1, 1994 TO JULY 31, 1996.

HE WILL REPLACE MR H C LEE WHO HAS SERVED ON THE COMMISSION SINCE 1990.

UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION ORDINANCE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT NOT LESS THAN EIGHT DIRECTORS OF THE COMMISSION, HALF OF WHOM SHALL BE NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS. AT PRESENT, THE COMMISSION IS SERVED BY FIVE NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS.

"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MR LEE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMISSION OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

"I AM SURE MR CHAN AND THE OTHER NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS WILL CONTINUE TO BRING AN INDEPENDENT VIEW TO THE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF THE COMMISSION," MR TAM SAID.

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GOVERNMENT FIRM ON ANTI-II POLICY

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) REAFFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, ADDING THAT THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN HONG KONG WAS STILL SERIOUS.

ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT FIGURES, THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED IN 1993 STOOD AT 37,517, THE HIGHEST IN 12 YEARS. THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED THIS YEAR IS 15,532 AS AT JUNE 30 AND THE ANNUAL FIGURE IS EXPECTED TO EXCEED 30,000.

TO PREVENT THE INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BY LAND, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED \$52.5 MILLION TO STRENGTHEN THE BORDER FENCE FROM SHA TAU KOK TO MAI PO.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO SEEKING FUNDS TO ENHANCE THE FENCE AND OPERATIONAL FACILITIES ALONG THE WESTERN BORDER.

"IN ADDITION, THE FIELD PATROL DETACHMENT OF THE POLICE BORDER DISTRICT CONTINUES TO PATROL THE BORDER ROUND THE CLOCK," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WAS A LARGE UNDERGROUND POPULATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BECAUSE, APART FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S TOUGH ANTI-II MEASURES, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO GET JOBS WITHOUT AN IDENTITY CARD.

HE SAID OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED, ABOUT 60 PER CENT CAME BY SEA AND 40 PER CENT BY LAND. THE PERCENTAGE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT ON ENTRY INTO HONG KONG AVERAGES AROUND 30 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ARREST FIGURES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IN VIEW OF CHANGING TIMES AND NEEDS, THE SECURITY BRANCH HAD REVIEWED THE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING A CURFEW ORDER WITHIN THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA (FCA) WHICH WAS IMPOSED IN 1956 TO FACILITATE OPERATIONS OF ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION BY THE SECURITY FORCES.

THE CURFEW ORDER REQUIRES ALL PERSONS WITHIN THE FCA TO REMAIN INDOORS BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 4 AM UNLESS THEY HAVE A VALID CURFEW PASS ISSUED BY THE POLICE.

"AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED TO BALANCE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND THE NEED TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE CURFEW SHOULD BE LIFTED FROM AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR AND ALL CURFEW PASSES WILL THEREFORE BE CANCELLED ON THAT DATE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE MOVE WILL ENABLE RESIDENTS TO ENJOY MORE FREEDOM IN THEIR MOVEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INTEGRITY OF THE BORDER WILL STILL BE MAINTAINED BY THE DEMARCATION OF THE FCA AND BY THE FCA PERMITS ISSUED TO RESIDENTS.

"FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSE, RESIDENTS WILL ONLY NEED TO PRODUCE THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND FCA PERMITS," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. "ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED WILL BE REPATRIATED. THOSE FOUND WORKING, AS WELL AS EMPLOYERS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, WOULD BE PROSECUTED," HE STRESSED.

TWO MORE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME CONTRACTS AWARDED

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THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD HAS TODAY (THURSDAY) APPROVED THE AWARD OF TWO AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) CONTRACTS WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF ABOUT \$704 MILLION.

A \$511 MILLION CONTRACT WILL BE AWARDED TO SHUI ON - CHINA HARBOUR JOINT VENTURE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES, SUBWAYS, ROADS AND DRAINS FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT ON NORTH LANTAU.

WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1997.

THE OTHER CONTRACT, WHICH WILL BE AWARDED TO A JOINT VENTURE OF KIER HONG KONG LTD, SUNG FOO KEE (CIVIL) LTD AND CHINA FUJIAN CORPORATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TECHNO-ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AT A PRICE OF \$193 MILLION, COVERS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWAGE PUMPING STATION AT TUNG CHUNG AND A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT PROVIDING PRELIMINARY TREATMENT AT SIU HO WAN.

THESE ELEMENTS FORM PART OF THE SEWAGE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT SYSTEM FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE NORTH LANTAU DEVELOPMENT.

WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1996.

THE AWARD OF THESE TWO CONTRACTS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACP CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO 45, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF MORE THAN \$32.8 BILLION.

TOGETHER WITH THE 11 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, VALUED AT ABOUT \$11.5 BILLION, AWARDED BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, THE \$5.7 BILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED, AND THE \$0.6 BILLION AIRPORT RAILWAY IMMURSED TUBE TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE ACP IS ABOUT \$50.6 BILLION.

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AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS ON MONDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS WILL MEET AT 2.30 PM ON JULY 11 (MONDAY) TO DISCUSS A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THEIR SUB-COMMITTEES.

THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE HALL, FIRST FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING (NEW ANNEXE), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE REQUESTED TO RESERVE A SEAT BY TELEPHONING MR CHAN HO-KEUNG AT 829 6745 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

AS SEATING IS LIMITED, BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1994

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ADVANTAGE IN CHINA REJOINING THE GATT: D-G OF TRADE

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (THURSDAY) WARMLY SUPPORTED CHINA'S APPLICATION TO REJOIN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) - THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM SHORTLY TO BE SUBSUMED IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO).

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE, MR MILLER POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY BETTER FOR ALL, PARTICULARLY FOR HONG KONG, THAT CHINA BE A MEMBER OF THE GATT/WTO.

HE TOLD THE MEETING: "YOU HAVE SEEN THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH HUNG OVER US WHILE CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATIONS (MFN) STATUS HUNG IN THE BALANCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

"MORE RECENTLY YOU HAVE SEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION'S IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS ON A WHOLE RANGE OF CHINESE GOODS, AND A SEPARATE THREAT OF U.S. ACTION UNDER SECTION 301," HE ADDED.

"IT WOULD CLEARLY BE MORE REASSURING - AND PROVIDE GREATER CERTAINTY FOR BUSINESSMEN - IF DISPUTES BETWEEN CHINA AND ANY OTHER OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS COULD BE HANDLED WITHIN THE RULES OF THE GATT, IN AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT WAY, RATHER THAN BE SUBJECT TO ARBITRARY ACTION BY ONE OR OTHER PARTY."

IN HIS TALK ON "TRADE FLOWS AND FRICTIONS - DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN A GLOBALISED ECONOMY", MR MILLER SPOKE OF THE BENEFITS OF MULTILATERALISM IN WORLD TRADE AND THE DANGERS OF UNILATERAL ACTION.

HE SAID AS THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT TALKS SLOWLY PROGRESSED, WORLD TRADE HAD ALL TOO OFTEN BEEN PLAGUED BY CONFRONTATION AND THREATS OF UNILATERAL ACTION.

"IN THE EUPHORIA OF CONCLUDING THE ROUND, THERE WERE MANY, INCLUDING MYSELF, WHO HOPED FOR AN END TO THIS UNILATERALISM AND A COMMITMENT TO BOTH THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF GENUINE MULTILATERALISM," HE SAID.

"SUCH COMMITMENT IS ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT. TRADE DISPUTES ARE INEVITABLE, BUT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, GIVEN SUFFICIENT POLITICAL RESOLVE ON THE PART OF ALL PLAYERS BOTH BIG AND SMALL, TO SETTLE THEM WITHIN, AND NOT WITHOUT THE GATT.

"ULTIMATELY, IT IS ONLY THROUGH SUCH RESOLVE THAT THE STRENGTH AND THE STATURE OF THE FUTURE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION CAN BE SECURED."

MR MILLER SAID THERE WAS MORE THAN MERE SYMBOLISM IN THE CREATION OF THE NEW WTO WHICH WOULD SEE TIGHTER RULES AND DISCIPLINES AND A MORE EFFECTIVE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM.

AT PRESENT, ANY GATT CONTRACTING PARTY WHICH FEELS IT HAS BEEN UNFAIRLY TREATED MAY HAVE RECOURSE TO FORMAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES.

/"BRIEFLY THESE

"BRIEFLY THESE FOLLOW A PATH FROM BILATERAL CONSULTATION, THROUGH CONCILIATION TO A FORMAL PANEL; THE LATTER EFFECTIVELY HEARS THE EVIDENCE OF BOTH PARTIES AND SIT IN JUDGMENT ON WHETHER ANY PARTY HAS ACTED IN A WAY INCONSISTENT WITH GATT RULES," HE SAID.

"PREVIOUSLY THE PROCESS HAS BEEN INTERMINABLE AND ADOPTION BY THE GATT COUNCIL OF THE FINDINGS OF A PANEL COULD BE BLOCKED BY A SINGLE VOTE.

"WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WTO, PROCEDURES MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 18 MONTHS, ADOPTION OF A PANEL'S FINDINGS DO NOT REQUIRE CONSENSUS, AND THE PANEL'S FINDINGS ARE BINDING."

HOWEVER, MR MILLER SAID, EVEN THIS MARGINAL SURRENDER OF SOVEREIGNTY HAS BEEN CAUSE FOR ANXIETY AMONG SOME CONTRACTING PARTIES. HE NOTED THAT THE LEGISLATION NECESSARY FOR RATIFICATION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND PACKAGE HAD YET TO BE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF MOST MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WTO IN JANUARY 1995, MR MILLER SAID HE SAW TWO THREATS TO MULTILATERALISM - THE THREAT OF WHAT HE TERMED "CREEPING RECIPROCITY", AND THE THREAT OF AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE OF PROTECTIONISTS WITH NON-TRADE REFORMERS.

HE DESCRIBED CREEPING RECIPROCITY AS "THE MOST SERIOUS AND THE INSIDIOUS THREAT", REFERRING TO THE APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF THE LARGEST PLAYERS TO CONFRONT EACH OTHER OUTSIDE THE GATT AND TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON UNILATERAL MEASURES AS LEVERS TO SECURE INDIVIDUAL ADVANTAGE.

CITING EXAMPLES OF RECENT DISPUTES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN, BETWEEN GERMANY AND BRITAIN, AND BETWEEN CANADA AND THE U.S., HE SAID: "THE PROBLEM WITH THESE AND MANY SIMILAR BI-LATERAL DISPUTES IS THAT, WHATEVER THE RIGHTS AND WRONGS OF THE ISSUE, AND WHATEVER THE PROTESTATIONS BY EITHER PARTY THAT NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE SHARED BY ALL, THE WEAKER PARTY WILL INEVITABLY TRY TO APPEASE THE STRONGER BY BUYING JUST A BIT MORE FROM THEM THAN OTHERS.

"WHEN DISPUTES ARE SETTLED BI-LATERALLY, OUTSIDE THE GATT, 'RECIPROCITY', THE UGLY ANTITHESIS OF 'MFN' ALMOST ALWAYS CREEPS IN, GRADUALLY UNDERMINING THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WHOLE STRUCTURE."

ON PROTECTIONISTS ATTEMPTING TO RIDE ON THE COAT TAILS OF LABOUR AND ENVIRONMENTAL REFORMERS, MR MILLER SAID TRADE SANCTIONS WERE OFTEN SEIZED ON AS A SEEMINGLY CONVENIENT LEVER BY ADVOCATES OF A VARIETY OF NON-TRADE REFORMS.

HE SAID HONG KONG STRONGLY SUPPORTED LABOUR RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION, BUT OPPOSED ANY LINKAGE WITH TRADE SANCTIONS.

HE SAID: "NO ONE WANTS TO SEEM TO BE ARGUING AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS OR IMPROVEMENTS TO LABOUR CONDITIONS. HONG KONG CERTAINLY WILL NOT; WE ARE PROUD ADVOCATES OF REFORM IN BOTH AREAS. BUT NOR WILL WE BE SHY OF ARGUING AGAINST WRONG-HEADED OR PERVERSE LINKAGES."

HE POINTED OUT THAT TRADE SANCTIONS WOULD NOT IMPROVE LABOUR CONDITIONS NOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WARNED THAT THEY WOULD HURT MOST THOSE THEY AIMED TO HELP, BY SLOWING THE ECONOMIC GROWTH NEEDED TO SUSTAIN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS.

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BEDSPACE APARTMENTS MUST HAVE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

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OPERATORS OF BEDSPACE APARTMENTS WHO WISH TO CONTINUE THEIR BUSINESS ARE URGED TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION DURING A FIVE-MONTH REGISTRATION PERIOD STARTING JULY 8.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ALL EXISTING BEDSPACE APARTMENTS WERE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE OFFICE OF LICENSING AUTHORITY (OLA).

HE EXPLAINED THAT A BEDSPACE APARTMENT WAS A FLAT IN WHICH THERE WERE 12 OR MORE BEDSPACES USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED AS SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION UNDER RENTAL AGREEMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED THAT A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION WOULD PROVISIONALLY EXEMPT A BEDSPACE APARTMENT FROM OBTAINING A LICENCE.

"A GRACE PERIOD OF TWO YEARS WILL BE GIVEN TO OPERATORS TO UPGRADE THEIR PREMISES TO MEET THE LICENSING CRITERIA.

"UPON THE ANNUAL RENEWAL OF THE CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION, OPERATORS WILL BE ADVISED OF THE UPGRADING REQUIREMENTS TO BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE A LICENCE CAN BE ISSUED," HE ADDED.

THE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS ORDINANCE, WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN APRIL THIS YEAR, IS AIMED AT ENSURING THAT THESE PREMISES COMPLY WITH LICENSING REQUIREMENTS IN RESPECT OF BUILDING AND FIRE SAFETY, HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

ANY PERSON WHO OPERATES A BEDSPACE APARTMENT WITHOUT A VALID CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION OR A LICENCE WILL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$100,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

HE WILL ALSO BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$20,000 FOR EACH DAY DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.

COPIES OF A LEAFLET ON "HOW TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE UNDER THE BEDSPACE APARTMENT ORDINANCE" ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY AT SEVENTH FLOOR, HENNESSY CENTRE, EAST WING, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY AND AT DISTRICT OFFICES.

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MARINERS REMINDED OF RIGHT WAYS TO REPORT A DISTRESS

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT REMINDS ALL MARINERS OF THE NEED TO INFORM THE MARITIME RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRE (MRCC) IMMEDIATELY IN ALL CASES OF MARINE CASUALTIES SO THAT RESCUE OPERATIONS, IF NECESSARY, CAN BE PROMPTLY LAUNCHED.

"IN A DISTRESS SITUATION, A DISTRESS MESSAGE SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED USING VHF (VERY HIGH FREQUENCY) CHANNEL 16, WHICH IS THE DISTRESS FREQUENCY AND IS CONTINUOUSLY MONITORED BY ALL VESSELS AS WELL AS BY SHORE RADIO STATIONS AND THE MRCC," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

/HE STRESSED

HE STRESSED THAT DISTRESS COMMUNICATIONS ON PRIVATE RADIO CHANNELS WERE LESS EFFECTIVE AS SUCH COMMUNICATIONS HAD TO BE RELAYED TO THE RESCUE AUTHORITIES AND THE DELAY MIGHT RESULT IN THE LOSS OF LIFE.

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED AN INCIDENT IN WHICH A HONG KONG-REGISTERED DREDGER STRUCK AN UNCHARTED SUBMERGED ROCK SOME 13 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTHEAST OFF MACAU ON AUGUST 12, 1993. THE VESSEL CAPSIZED WITHIN MINUTES, RESULTING IN SIX DEATHS.

IN THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE, THE MASTER OF THE VESSEL USED A COMPANY PRIVATE VHF CHANNEL TO ADVISE ANOTHER DREDGER THAT HIS VESSEL WAS SINKING. NO FORMAL RADIO DISTRESS MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED ON VHF CHANNEL 16.

THE MRCC LAUNCHED A RESCUE OPERATION FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF INFORMATION FROM A STAFF MEMBER OF THE DREDGING COMPANY SOME 40 MINUTES AFTER THE INCIDENT OCCURRED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED MARINERS OF THEIR OBLIGATION, ON HEARING A DISTRESS MESSAGE, TO RELAY THE MESSAGE PROMPTLY IF NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY A SHORE STATION WAS HEARD.

IN THE CASE OF LOCAL VESSELS WHICH WERE NOT EQUIPPED WITH VHF CHANNEL 16, A DISTRESS MESSAGE SHOULD BE SENT ON THEIR COMPANY OR PRIVATE VHF CHANNEL WITH A REQUEST THAT THE MESSAGE WAS IMMEDIATELY RELAYED EITHER TO THE MARINE POLICE RESCUE CENTRE ON TEL 312 6500 OR TO THE MRCC ON TEL 545 4645, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT LOCAL VESSELS EQUIPPED WITH MOBILE TELEPHONES MIGHT CONTACT THE MARINE POLICE RESCUE CENTRE OR THE MRCC DIRECT.

THE PROCEDURE FOR SENDING A DISTRESS MESSAGE BY VHF RADIOTELEPHONY ON CHANNEL 16 IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE WORD "MAYDAY" REPEATED THREE TIMES;
2. THE WORDS "THIS IS";
3. NAME OF THE VESSEL OR THE CALL SIGN REPEATED THREE TIMES;
4. THE POSITION OF THE VESSEL IN DISTRESS;
5. NATURE OF THE DISTRESS;
6. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED, AND
7. ANY ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION.

IF A MASTER USES A TELEPHONE TO REPORT A DISTRESS, HE SHOULD ENSURE THAT HE PROVIDES ALL THE ABOVE INFORMATION WHEN CONTACTING THE MARINE POLICE RESCUE CENTRE OR THE MRCC.

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JOB BAZAARS FOR RETRAINEES

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A SERIES OF JOB BAZAARS WILL BE STAGED STARTING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO FACILITATE WORKERS AFFECTED BY ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING, INCLUDING RETRAINEES, TO FIND JOBS.

ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) AND SPONSORED BY THE EMPLOYEES' RETRAINING BOARD (ERB), THE BAZAARS AIMED AT PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYERS AND POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT AND DISCUSS ABOUT JOB VACANCIES AND EMPLOYMENT.

"THE FIRST JOB BAZAAR THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (EMPLOYMENT SERVICES) MR RAYMOND CHAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"A TOTAL OF 16 EMPLOYERS FROM DIFFERENT TRADES INCLUDING HOTEL, COMMUNICATION, SECURITY, CATERING, BAKERY, GARMENT, FREIGHT TRANSPORT, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC UTILITIES WILL TAKE PART TO BRIEF JOB SEEKERS ABOUT THEIR TRADES AND PROVIDE THEM WITH VACANCY INFORMATION," HE SAID.

"THEY WILL ALSO SELECT POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES FOR ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS OR ARRANGE INTERVIEWS AT OTHER DATES."

MR CHAN SAID DURING THE BAZAAR, ENQUIRIES COUNTERS WILL BE SET UP BY THE ERB AND ONE OF THE MAJOR TRAINING ORGANISATIONS TO PASS ON INFORMATION RELATING TO RETRAINING SCHEMES AND VARIOUS COURSES OFFERED, AND TO ASSIST JOB SEEKERS TO APPLY FOR SUITABLE RETRAINING COURSES ON THE SPOT.

IN ADDITION, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TRAINING ORGANISATION WILL GIVE COUNSELLING TALKS TO JOB SEEKERS WHO NEED TO CHANGE THEIR JOBS BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING.

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS WOULD ALSO GIVE TALKS ON THEIR TRADES TO ACQUAINT JOB SEEKERS WITH JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

"THE FOUR JOB BAZAARS HELD LAST YEAR WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED AND ATTRACTED ABOUT 5,400 VISITORS," MR CHAN SAID.

"A TOTAL OF 2,300 APPLICATIONS FOR JOB VACANCIES WERE RECEIVED AND MORE THAN 1,100 ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEW REFERRALS WERE MADE.

"WE HOPE THE JOB BAZAARS THIS YEAR WILL HELP MORE JOB SEEKERS TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN URGED INTERESTED JOB SEEKERS WHO ARE 30 YEARS OLD OR ABOVE TO VISIT THE JOB BAZAAR WHICH WILL BE HELD FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM AT THE EXHIBITION HALL ON THE FOURTH FLOOR, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

HE SAID THE OTHER JOB BAZAARS WOULD BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND DECEMBER IN TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN AND CENTRAL RESPECTIVELY.

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"ENVIRONMENT HK 94" RELEASED

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"ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1994", A PUBLICATION LAUNCHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY), TAKES A NEW APPROACH TO REPORTING ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"UNLIKE PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE 'ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1994' CONTAINS A SERIES OF FEATURE ARTICLES PROVIDING EASILY READABLE MATERIAL FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

TOPICS FEATURED INCLUDE THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN MAJOR WORKS PROJECTS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC LANDFILLS AND REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS TO MEET GROWING DEMANDS FOR WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES, THE MISSION OF AN EPD VESSEL, THE "DR CATHERINE LAM", AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF AIR AND NOISE CONTROLS THROUGH RELEVANT ORDINANCES.

"BEACH GOERS WILL BE INTERESTED IN AN ARTICLE ON SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE SOUTH SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND WHERE THE MOST SCENIC AND POPULAR BEACHES ARE LOCATED, WHILE THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL KNOW THROUGH ANOTHER ARTICLE THE LOCATIONS OF VARIOUS LOCAL CONTROL OFFICES WHICH WILL HANDLE DIRECT THEIR COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE MORE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL WORK, THE RELEVANT DATA ARE GROUPED TOGETHER IN A RESOURCE MATERIAL SECTION.

HERE READERS WILL FIND MORE INFORMATION ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL WORK IN 1993, WHICH INCLUDE THE COMMISSIONING OF THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL (WENT) AT NIM WAN AND THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE ON TSING YI, AND THE OPENING OF THE FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CENTRE.

ON THE LEGISLATION SIDE, 1993 SAW AMONG OTHER THINGS THE ENACTMENT OF REGULATIONS PROHIBITING THE IMPORT OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING CHLOROFLUOROCARBON (CFC) OR HALONS AS WELL AS THE DECLARATION OF EASTERN AND WESTERN BUFFER WATER CONTROL ZONES.

"THE NEW FORMAT OF 'ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1994' WILL BETTER SERVE ITS DUAL PURPOSE OF INFORMING THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING THOSE WORKING IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD ACCESS TO RELEVANT REFERENCE MATERIALS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AT \$55 A COPY, THE ENGLISH VERSION OF "ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1994" IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

A CHINESE LANGUAGE VERSION IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE LATER NEXT MONTH.

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RALEIGH HOPEFULS VENTURE TO SUCCEED

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THIRTY-FIVE CANDIDATES WILL BE VYING FOR PLACES AS "VENTURERS" ON RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITIONS AT A SELECTION WEEKEND TO BE HELD AT THE CIVIL AID SERVICES CAMP, YUEN TUN ON JULY 8-10.

THE WEEKEND WILL BE RUN JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEE OF RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL (HONG KONG) AND 67 SQUADRON, THE QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS.

THE SUCCESSFUL VENTURERS WILL TAKE PART IN FUTURE RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL TASKS SUCH AS ASSISTING IN PROJECTS IN REMOTE AREAS OR IN COUNTRIES WITH POOR INFRASTRUCTURE. PROJECTS ARE PLANNED FOR SIBERIA, CHILE, MALAYSIA, ALASKA, ZIMBABWE AND BOTSWANA.

THE ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEKEND ARE DESIGNED TO PRESENT INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PROBLEMS TO THE CANDIDATES AND WILL INCLUDE THE NEGOTIATION OF ASSAULT COURSES, COMMAND TASKS AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

THE TESTS WILL SHOW WHETHER A CANDIDATE HAS THE NECESSARY DETERMINATION AND PERSONALITY TO COPE WITH THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEMANDS OF AN EXPEDITION

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS ARE PROVIDING ALL THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE WEEKEND, INCLUDING THE DIRECTING STAFF AND THE PHYSICAL TRAINING STAFF.

THE PRESIDENT OF RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL (HONG KONG) IS THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE SELECTION WEEKEND. FURHTER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM EITHER THE EXERCISE CO-ORDINATOR, LT R S MORTON ON TEL 450 5440, THE UNIT PRESS OFFICER, CAPT PATRICK COXEN ON TEL 450 5115 OR LT GOPAL GURUNG ON TEL 450 5490.

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NEW HOVERFERRY PLIES BETWEEN GOLD COAST AND CENTRAL

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A NEW HOVERFERRY SERVICE FROM GOLD COAST IN TUEN MUN TO EDINBURGH PLACE IN CENTRAL WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM SATURDAY (JULY 9), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING HOVERFERRY SERVICE BETWEEN GOLD COAST AND TSIM SHA TSUI (EAST) WILL BE CANCELLED.

THE FERRY WILL DEPART DAILY FROM GOLD COAST AT 7.20 AM, 8 AM, 8.50 AM, 9.30 AM, 10.30 AM, 1.30 PM, 2.30 PM, 3.30 PM, 5.30 PM AND 6.10 PM, AND FROM CENTRAL (EDINBURGH PLACE) AT 8.05 AM, 8.45 AM, 9.35 AM, 12.30 PM, 1.30 PM, 2.30 PM, 4.30 PM, 5.30 PM AND 6.55 PM.

THE FARES ARE \$18 FOR ADULTS AND \$9 FOR PASSENGERS AGED 65 OR ABOVE AND CHILDREN UNDER 12, BUT FREE OF CHARGE FOR CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OLD.

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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1994

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 8 JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9399.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOUR)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,046	0930	-554
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,656	1000	-604
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-454
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-455	1200	-453
LAF TODAY	+65	1500	-453
		1600	-455
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER		TWI 122.9 *+0.1*	7.7.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF/NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.75	17 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.91	5.83
1 MONTH	3.88	23 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.23	6.31
3 MONTHS	4.22	28 MONTHS	3610	4.20	94.90	6.72
6 MONTHS	4.63	31 MONTHS	3701	4.60	94.94	6.91
12 MONTHS	5.31	34 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.05	7.04

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 28,317 MN

CLOSED 7 JULY 1994

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