



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1992

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1992

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SPEECH BY GOVERNOR AT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY

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GOVERNOR: I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF THE COUNCIL ON MY VISIT TO PEKING FROM THE 20TH TO THE 23RD OF OCTOBER. THIS COUNCIL IS ENTITLED TO A PROMPT AND EARLY BRIEFING AFTER MY MAJOR VISITS ABROAD. IT'S A PRACTICE THAT HAS ITS CHRISTENING TODAY, BUT A PRACTICE WHICH I PLAN TO CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE.

I HELD, IN ALL, SOME TEN HOURS OF TALKS ON THE 21ST AND 22ND OF OCTOBER WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS WITH MY HOST DIRECTOR LU PING, WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER JIANG ENZHU AND VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE WANG WENDONG AND LASTLY, WITH FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN. VICE MINISTER WANG AND I AGREED ON THE EXCELLENCE OF THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA. HONG KONG, AS YOU KNOW, NOW ACCOUNTS FOR OVER 60% OF TOTAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CHINA AND 36% OF CHINA'S WORLDWIDE TRADE. CHINA ACCOUNTS FOR 32% OF OUR WORLDWIDE TRADE. DESPITE THE MAGNITUDE OF OUR TRADE IT IS IN OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS THAT WE HAVE FEWEST PROBLEMS. INDEED, I EMPHASISED THAT I INTENDED TO LOBBY HARD AGAINST ANY MOVES IN FUTURE TO REMOVE MFN STATUS FOR CHINA AS WILL THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT. THAT IS IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG AND IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CHINA.

WITH VICE MINISTER JIANG I DISCUSSED JLG ISSUES AND SECURITY MATTERS, AS WELL AS MY CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS. THE MAIN MATTERS COVERED ON THE JLG AGENDA WERE DEFENCE LANDS, AIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS AND RIGHT OF ABODE. NO NEW AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED BUT BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WOULD MAINTAIN THE GOOD RATE OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED AT THE LAST MEETING IN SEPTEMBER.

THIS COUNCIL ATTACHES, AND VERY UNDERSTANDABLY SO, PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO TACKLING CROSS-BORDER CRIME. SO DO I. THAT IS WHY I PUT FORWARD FOUR PROPOSALS IN PEKING TO IMPROVE CO-OPERATION ON SECURITY MATTERS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO CONSIDER THEM. I PROPOSED, FIRST, CO-ORDINATED OPERATIONS AGAINST SMUGGLING. THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW SUCH OPERATIONS IN THE PAST, WE NEED MORE IN FUTURE.

SECOND, BETTER COMMUNICATION AND SHARING OF INTELLIGENCE BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BORDER. IN PARTICULAR, I EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR THE CHINESE SIDE TO INFORM US WHEN THEY SUSPECTED THAT SHIPS SETTING OUT FROM HONG KONG WERE ENGAGED IN SMUGGLING. WE ARE COMMITTED TO CO-OPERATE TOGETHER TO BEAT SMUGGLING, BUT EQUALLY, WE ARE ENTITLED TO BE CLEAR THAT LEGITIMATE TRADE IS NOT BEING ILLEGALLY INTERFERED WITH.

THIRD, SUSTAINED ACTION BY GUANGDONG IN CONCERT WITH HONG KONG AGAINST SMUGGLING. PERIODIC CRACKDOWNS ARE NOT ENOUGH. AND, FOURTH, EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG WATERS. THIS COULD THEN BE MARKED WITH BUOYS SO AS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENTS OF INADVERTENT INCURSIONS.

/WITH DIRECTOR .....

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WITH DIRECTOR LU, I COVERED CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES AND THE AIRPORT; AND ALSO PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING COURSE IN PEKING FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS. THIS MIGHT LAST FOR EIGHT TO TEN WEEKS. OUR AIM IS TO PUT ALL LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS THROUGH IT BEFORE THE 30TH OF JUNE 1997. AS WELL AS IMPROVING PROFICIENCY IN MANDARIN THE COURSE WOULD PROMOTE A BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF CHINA FOR THOSE WHO GO ON IT. THIS PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE. THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL VISIT PEKING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS.

ON THE AIRPORT, I MADE CLEAR THAT BY FAR THE BEST OUTCOME WOULD BE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES; BUT I ALSO MADE PLAIN THAT IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED BEFORE THE END OF NOVEMBER, WHEN THE AIRPORT PLATFORM TENDER WILL EXPIRE, WE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO BUILD AS MUCH OF THE AIRPORT AS WE CAN PENDING, I HOPE, A MEETING OF MINDS. IN RECENT MONTHS, WE HAVE PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS WHICH COVER A SPECTRUM OF POSSIBILITIES. I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT IF WE DISCUSSED THESE ISSUES ON THEIR MERITS, WE COULD REACH AGREEMENT IN HOURS. WE AGREED THAT DETAILED DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE.

NATURALLY, IT WAS CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES THAT TOOK UP THE BULK OF MY DISCUSSIONS. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT MY PROPOSALS WOULD PROMOTE, NOT UNDERMINE, POLITICAL STABILITY IN HONG KONG. I MADE THAT POINT IN TERMS TO OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES. MY PROPOSALS COMMAND, I BELIEVE, THE BROAD SUPPORT OF MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. I HAD BEEN TOLD THAT CHINA WOULD NOT AGREE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS FOR THE FIRST SAR LEGISLATURE. SO, WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE CASE FOR MORE DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS WITH VIGOUR, I HAVE PRODUCED PROPOSALS WHICH ARE WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC LAW. THE CHINESE DISAGREED WITH THIS STRONGLY DURING MY VISIT, BUT I STILL HAVE TO HEAR A CONVINCING ARGUMENT THAT ANYTHING I HAVE PUT FORWARD IS NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE BASIC LAW. I EMPHASISED THAT IF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DID NOT LIKE MY PROPOSALS IT REALLY WAS INCUMBENT ON THEM TO PUT FORWARD ALTERNATIVES. I WOULD CONSIDER THEM SERIOUSLY. I SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED TO PUT LEGISLATION TO THIS COUNCIL IN THE NEW YEAR. ULTIMATELY, AS HONOURABLE MEMBERS KNOW, THIS WILL BE A MATTER FOR THIS LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER. THE ARRANGEMENTS EMBODIED IN ANY LEGISLATION PUT BEFORE THIS COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO BE OPEN AND FAIR AND COMMAND THE CONFIDENCE OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

I WAS ADVISED BY A NUMBER OF EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATORS THAT THE PRINCIPLE RESPONSE TO MY VISIT WOULD COME ONCE I HAD LEFT PEKING. AND SO IT HAS PROVED. I WANT TO COMMENT BRIEFLY, AND DIPLOMATICALLY, ON WHAT HAS BEEN SAID.

FIRST, THE AIRPORT. THE AIRPORT, AS HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL KNOW, CONSISTS OF A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PROJECTS. SO FAR, IN THE ABSENCE OF OVERALL AGREEMENT WITH CHINA, WE HAVE LET 17 PROJECTS AT A TOTAL COST OF ABOUT \$19 BILLION, \$3 BILLION BELOW THE ESTIMATED PRICE. IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE MOVING FORWARD AS BEST WE CAN TO CONSTRUCT THE AIRPORT WHICH EVERYONE KNOWS WE WILL GET. THAT IS HOW I AM SURE THAT WE SHOULD BEHAVE.

/I AM .....

I AM ALSO SURE THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO IMPLEMENT OUR COMMITMENTS UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DESPITE THE UNHAPPY FACT THAT OUR PREVIOUS SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION HAS NOT SO FAR DELIVERED AN OVERALL AGREEMENT.

SECONDLY, LET ME TURN AGAIN TO POLITICAL ISSUES. I REPEAT THAT THE PROPOSALS I HAVE MADE, WHICH ARE MY BEST JUDGEMENT ON THE POINT OF BALANCE IN HONG KONG THINKING ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE, DO NOT BREACH EITHER THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE BASIC LAW, OR ANY PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN POWER AND THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWER. HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL RECALL THAT THE MAIN DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA TWO YEARS AGO WAS OVER THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS. BUT WHAT OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES? THE BASIC LAW IS EXPLICIT THAT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE PROVIDED FOR IN THE BASIC LAW FOR 1999 WILL NOT BE THE SAME AS THE ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST SAR LEGISLATURE. A DIFFERENT COMPOSITION IS EXPLICITLY FORESEEN. TO ADOPT THE 1999 COMPOSITION FOR THE LEGISLATURE SPANNING THE TRANSITION WOULD, THEREFORE, BE CONTRARY TO THE BASIC LAW. SO I FIND THE ARGUMENT PUT BY PEKING OFFICIALS THAT THE ANSWER LIES IN THE BASIC LAW SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW.

NEXT, ON FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, MY PROPOSALS ARE DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH THE CONCEPTS SET OUT IN THE 1987 GREEN PAPER AND THE 1988 WHITE PAPER. THEY MADE CLEAR THAT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL AND OF IMPORTANCE IN THE COMMUNITY, AND THAT IS A DIRECT QUOTE. MY PROPOSALS DO NOT AMOUNT TO ADDITIONAL DIRECT GEOGRAPHICAL ELECTIONS. IF THEY DID, I WOULD HAVE INCLUDED SOME GROUPS OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHOM SOME MEMBERS HAVE URGED ME TO INCLUDE. FOR EXAMPLE, STUDENTS, HOUSEWIVES AND PENSIONERS.

LET ME REPEAT ONE SIMPLE POINT YET AGAIN. NOWHERE IN THE BASIC LAW ARE WE TOLD WHAT SHOULD BE THE COMPOSITION OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST SAR LEGISLATURE. NOWHERE ARE WE TOLD HOW THE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE DEvised. NOWHERE ARE WE TOLD WHAT THE VOTING SYSTEM FOR DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS SHOULD BE. I HAVE PUT FORWARD MY OWN PROPOSALS; A SERIOUS DISCUSSION AND DEBATE DEMANDS THAT MY CRITICS SHOULD PUT FORWARD THEIRS.

AS HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL HAVE NOTED, AT THE END OF OUR DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING, MAJOR DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN US ON THESE QUESTIONS. THESE DIFFERENCES HAVE NOT WIDENED THIS WEEK BUT NOR, FRANKLY, HAVE THEY NARROWED. I'VE SAID REPEATEDLY THAT I AM WILLING TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS AT ANY TIME, ANYWHERE, WITH ANYONE. I REPEAT THAT PLEDGE TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS TODAY; AND WE HAVE AGREED THAT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD CONTINUE BETWEEN OUR TWO SIDES IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. I HOPE THOSE DISCUSSIONS BEAR FRUIT, BUT THEY ARE NOT DISCUSSIONS THAT CAN GO ON FOREVER WITHOUT BEARING FRUIT.

IT'S CONCEIVABLE THAT ONE OR TWO HONOURABLE MEMBERS MAY WISH TO ASK A QUESTION AND I'LL TRY TO FIT IN AS MANY AS I CAN IN THE NEXT FORTY MINUTES. PERHAPS, STARTING WITH ALLEN LEE.

/MR ALLEN LEE: .....

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MR ALLEN LEE: GOVERNOR, MR LU PING IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, YESTERDAY, IN BEIJING, REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR DOUGLAS HURD, WITH REGARD TO THE UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT REACHED ON MATTERS SUCH AS THE ELECTION COMMITTEE AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ELECTION. WILL YOU MAKE THOSE LETTERS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL?

GOVERNOR: CLEARLY, IF THE CHINESE SIDE AND THE BRITISH SIDE WISH TO MAKE THOSE LETTERS AVAILABLE, THEN I WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION WHATSOEVER. IT WAS A POINT THAT WE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS AROUND THE TABLE, AND LET ME TAKE UP ONE OF THE POINTS WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF SOME DISCUSSION: THE COMPOSITION OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. I REPEAT WHAT I SAID IN MY STATEMENT, THAT WHAT IS ABUNDANTLY PLAIN IS THAT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE PRESCRIBED IN THE BASIC LAW FOR THE FIRST SAR LEGISLATURE SHOULD NOT BE THE SAME AS THAT PRESCRIBED FOR THE SECOND. IT THEREFORE PUZZLES ME WHEN I HEAR REFERENCES TO AGREEMENTS ON THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE BECAUSE THE POINT IS EXPLICITLY PLAIN, I THINK HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL AGREE, IN ANNEX II TO THE BASIC LAW.

I DON'T BELIEVE, EITHER, THAT ANYTHING WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE PAST ABOUT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, ENTITLES ANYONE TO SAY THAT UNDERTAKINGS REACHED BETWEEN THE SOVEREIGN POWERS HAVE BEEN BREACHED. BUT I REPEAT THAT IF BOTH SIDES AGREE TO PUBLICISING PAST CORRESPONDENCE, THEN IT WOULD NOT TROUBLE THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG ONE BIT.

MR MARTIN LEE (IN CANTONESE): MR GOVERNOR, BEFORE I ASK A QUESTION, I WOULD LIKE TO CLEARLY STATE THE VIEW OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATS. THE UDHK SUPPORTS THE POLITICAL PACKAGE, BECAUSE THE UDHK SUPPORTS MORE DEMOCRACY, ALTHOUGH WE ARE STILL SOMEWHAT UNHAPPY WITH SOME PARTS OF YOUR PACKAGE - WE WILL FIGHT ON FOR THAT.

NOW, I HAVE A QUESTION. NOW WE HAVE A TENSE ATMOSPHERE, WILL THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER A REFERENDUM IN HONG KONG, SO THAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN MAKE A DECISION FOR THEMSELVES FOR THE FUTURE? DO WE HAVE ANY THEORETICAL PROBLEMS FOR NOT CARRYING OUT ANY PHILOSOPHICAL REASONS OR CONSTITUTIONAL REASONS FOR NOT CARRYING OUT THE REFERENDUM?

/GOVERNOR: .....

GOVERNOR: I REALISE THAT THE ARGUMENT FOR A REFERENDUM HAS BEEN PUT, AND IS BEING PUT, BY A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL. IT WAS PUT TO ME ONLY A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, AFTER MY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ADDRESS, BY A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CRC. I THINK IT'S BEEN PUT MORE RECENTLY BY MEMBERS OF THE CRC, THOUGH I THINK THERE MAY BE SOME DISAGREEMENT ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT IT'S STILL REGARDED AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE APPROACH. I KNOW THAT OTHER MEMBERS HAVE PUT THE ARGUMENT FOR A REFERENDUM AS WELL. I HAVE TO SAY TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS THAT IT'S NOT AT PRESENT ON MY AGENDA. ONE OF MY CONCERNS ABOUT THIS WHOLE DEBATE IS THAT WE SHOULD ALL BE CLEAR WHERE WE STAND. NOTHING WHATSOEVER CAN, AT THE END OF THE DAY, ABSOLVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TAKING A VIEW ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG. THAT IS WHAT HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO DO. WHATEVER THE FIREWORKS THAT STREAK ACROSS THE HEAVENS, WHATEVER THE NOISES ELSEWHERE, AND WHATEVER THE PRESSURES FOR OR AGAINST REFERENDA. SO I REPEAT, IT IS NOT AT PRESENT IN MY PLANS, AND EVEN IF IT WERE, WHICH IT ISN'T, IT COULDN'T ABSOLVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS FROM MAKING THEIR OWN MINDS UP.

MR LEE WING-TAT (IN CANTONESE): MR GOVERNOR, AFTER YOUR POLITICAL PACKAGE HAS COME OUT, MANY OPINION POLLS IN HONG KONG SHOW THAT MANY PEOPLE SUPPORT YOUR PACKAGE. AS OUR CHAIRMAN SAID, THE UDHK MAINLY SUPPORTS YOUR PACKAGE, BUT ABOUT YOUR PACKAGE, CLEARLY, IT IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE VIEWS OF BEIJING. LAST TIME THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS TALKED TO ME SAYING THAT THIS IS A PROPOSAL, IT CAN BE AMENDED. NOW, BY WHAT MEANS CAN YOU CONTINUALLY ASSESS THE PUBLIC OPINION IN HONG KONG, SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED IN THE FINAL LEGISLATION STAGE? THAT IS, WILL YOU BE TRYING TO PLEASE THE CHINESE, SO THAT YOU AMEND THE PACKAGE, SO THAT YOUR VIEWS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG? BECAUSE NOW, YOUR PERSONAL CHARISMA CAN ATTRACT PEOPLE, BUT IF YOU BACKTRACK MANY PEOPLE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW?

GOVERNOR: MY VIEW IS THAT I OWE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AS DO THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, MY BEST JUDGMENT, AND ALL OF US HAVE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ON WHAT IS THE BEST WAY FORWARD FOR HONG KONG. BUT LET ME ADD TWO POINTS WHICH I THINK ARE IMPORTANT. I THINK THAT ANY GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE WORKING EFFECTIVELY WILL SURVIVE AND PROSPER. WHAT I DON'T BELIEVE IS THAT GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE NOT OPEN, WHICH ARE NOT REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN FAIRLY CONSTITUTED, AND WHICH ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WILL SURVIVE. AND THAT IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT POINT FOR EVERYONE TO RECOGNISE WHEN THEY CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF POLITICAL STABILITY.

I MAKE ONE FURTHER POINT, THIS MORNING, WHICH I WILL MAKE AGAIN AND AGAIN. THE NOTION THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WHO OPERATE AS SUCCESSFULLY AS ANYONE IN THE WORLD IN EVERY MARKET KNOWN TO MAN AND WOMAN, AREN'T SUFFICIENTLY RESPONSIBLE AND SOPHISTICATED TO MANAGE A MODEST INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT THAT THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, IN MY VIEW SHOWS AN ASTONISHING VIEW OF THEIR APTITUDE AND CAPACITY. SO I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE RECOGNISED THAT THE PROPOSALS THAT I HAVE PUT FORWARD, HAVE BEEN CRITICISED FOR NOT GOING FAR ENOUGH, CRITICISED IN HONG KONG AND CRITICISED BEYOND, CRITICISED IN PART BECAUSE OTHERS, AND MANY IN THIS COMMUNITY, HAVE A VERY, VERY HIGH VIEW OF WHAT PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN BE CAPABLE OF, AND THAT VIEW OF THEIR CAPACITY IS SHARED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THIS TERRITORY.

MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG (IN CANTONESE): THANK YOU, MR GOVERNOR. I HAVE A QUESTION RELATED TO THAT ASKED BY MR ALLEN LEE. YOU SAY THAT THE CHINESE, IF THEY DO NOT DISAGREE THEN YOU CAN DIVULGE THE CORRESPONDENCE IN THE PAST ABOUT 1995, BUT I HAVE A QUESTION: IN THE PAST, FOR BRITAIN AND CHINA, HAVE THEY REACHED ANY AGREEMENT ABOUT 1995 ELECTIONS? IS THERE ANY SUCH SECRET AGREEMENT? IF, YES, THEN IS IT TRUE THAT THE PRESENT CONSULTATION IS MEANINGLESS? IF THERE IS NO SUCH PAST AGREEMENT AND IF THE PRESENT CONSULTATION GETS WIDE SUPPORT IN HONG KONG, WILL YOU USE A REFERENDUM TO DECIDE THE FUTURE POLITICAL PACKAGE?

GOVERNOR: WELL, I'VE GIVEN MY VIEWS AS CANDIDLY AS I CAN ON A REFERENDUM AND I DON'T WANT TO GO ON REPEATING THE SAME ARGUMENTS. THERE WAS NO SECRET AGREEMENT ABOUT THE 1995 ELECTIONS, BUT THERE WAS A VERY PUBLIC DISAGREEMENT. THERE WAS A PUBLIC DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS PROPOSED FOR 1995, OR RATHER FOR THE FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE SAR. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS FOR THE LAST YEARS, THE LAST TWO YEARS, PRESSED FOR A FASTER PACE OF DEMOCRATISATION. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS DURING THAT PERIOD, PRESSED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS, THAT IS WELL KNOWN TO EVERYONE. IT'S BEEN ARGUED FOR IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AT WESTMINSTER, IT'S BEEN ARGUED FOR IN MEETINGS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA, IT'S BEEN ARGUED FOR ELSEWHERE.

IT WAS PRECISELY BECAUSE CHINESE OFFICIALS ARGUED THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD VIOLATE THE BASIC LAW, OR RATHER WOULD NECESSITATE A RE-DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, THAT I SUGGESTED A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE QUESTION OF THE 1995 ELECTIONS. A DIFFERENT APPROACH WHICH A NUMBER OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS, FOR UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS, REGARD AS AN INSUFFICIENT RESPONSE TO THE DEMANDS FOR GREATER DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG. SO I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR WHAT HAS BEEN A MATTER OF PUBLIC - PUBLIC - DISAGREEMENT IN THE PAST ON THE 1995 ELECTIONS.

/AND ONE .....

AND ONE MORE THING: THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG HAS NOT INVENTED THE FACT THAT WE NEED TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS ON THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG HAS NOT INVENTED THE FACT THAT WE NEED TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS ON FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. NOR HAVE I INVENTED THE FACT THAT I HAVE TO PROPOSE, FOR EXAMPLE, ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VOTING METHOD FOR 1995. THOSE ARE OBLIGATIONS ON ME. AND IF THERE ARE THOSE WHO DON'T AGREE WITH WHAT I SAY, THEY REALLY MUST PUT FORWARD THEIR ALTERNATIVES, OTHERWISE, I HAVE TO SAY, IT'S EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO HAVE A RATIONAL DISCUSSION.

MR TAM YIU-CHUNG (IN CANTONESE): MR GOVERNOR, IN ANSWERING MR ALLEN LEE'S AND MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG'S QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THERE WERE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN, I THINK YOUR ANSWER WAS NOT SATISFACTORY, AND YOU DIDN'T SAY CLEARLY ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT. YESTERDAY, MR LU IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, MR LU SAID CLEARLY THAT THERE WERE FILES AND RECORDS TO BE CHECKED AND IT WAS IN BLACK AND WHITE THAT BRITISH-CHINESE NEGOTIATIONS WERE ABOUT THE FIRST LEGISLATURE. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS SUCH AN AGREEMENT. NOW, THE CHINESE ARE EXPRESSING A TOUGH STANCE ABOUT YOUR PROPOSAL. DO YOU AGREE THAT IT IS BECAUSE, IN DIPLOMATIC TERMS, THE BRITISH SIDE HAVE BREACHED FAITH?

GOVERNOR: NO.

MS. CHRISTINE LOH: ... TO THE AGREEMENT. EVEN IF THOSE AGREEMENTS WERE TO SHOW THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD COMPROMISED THE PROMISE TO HONG KONG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG AND A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, WOULD YOU AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOW BE PREPARED TO GIVE US BACK THAT PROMISE?

GOVERNOR: WELL, SINCE I DON'T ACCEPT THE PREMISE, IT'S DIFFICULT TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, EXCEPT TO REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID ALREADY. I AM OBLIGED TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS. AND ON ALL THE AREAS WHERE I HAVE PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS, THE BASIC LAW IS SILENT. SINCE IT IS SILENT, THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, AND IN DUE COURSE THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IS OBLIGED TO SPEAK. IT ISN'T ENOUGH FOR ANYONE TO SAY, "GO TO THE BASIC LAW AND SEE WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE." WHERE, IN THE BASIC LAW, DO I FIND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, SINCE ANNEX II MAKES IT PERFECTLY PLAIN THAT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST SAR LEGISLATURE SHOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE FROM 1999? WHERE IN THE BASIC LAW DOES IT TELL ME WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES? LET ANYBODY SHOW ME WHERE IT SAYS IN THE BASIC LAW. WHERE DOES IT SAY IN THE BASIC LAW, WHAT I SHOULD DO ABOUT THE VOTING METHOD?

MS. CHRISTINE LOH: ... DOCUMENT THAT LU PING HAS ALLUDED TO - NOT THE BASIC LAW.

/GOVERNOR: .....

GOVERNOR: I REPEAT, THERE ARE NO AGREEMENTS THAT BIND THE HANDS OF EITHER PARTY. THE MAIN DISAGREEMENT WAS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS. IF ONE LOOKS, FOR EXAMPLE, AT PAST DEBATES ABOUT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, WHAT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR IS THAT BRITAIN ACCEPTED AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES REPRESENTED AN INDIRECT WAY OF ELECTION. I ACCEPT THAT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES ARE AN INDIRECT WAY OF ELECTION, AN INDIRECT WAY IN WHICH SUBSTANTIAL GROUPS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG SOCIETY CAN BE REPRESENTED IN THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THAT IS NOT A DIRECT ELECTION, AND THAT'S WHY I'VE PUT FORWARD THE PROPOSALS I HAVE FOR 1995.

I WANT TO SEE US BROADENING THE BASE OF THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN A WAY WHICH CAN AND SHOULD SURVIVE. THAT'S WHY I'VE PUT FORWARD THE PROPOSALS I HAVE, AND THAT'S WHY, UNTIL SOMEBODY SUGGESTS A BETTER SET OF PROPOSALS, I REMAIN WHOLLY WEDDED TO MINE. BUT I ALSO, BECAUSE I'M SUCH A REASONABLE FELLOW, LIKE EVERYONE IN THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THAT'S WHY I'M VERY HAPPY TO RECEIVE OTHER PROPOSALS FROM ANYONE.

MR VINCENT CHENG: THANK YOU MR GOVERNOR. YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO THAT YOU WILL BE TABLING FOR US LEGISLATION FOR OUR DISCUSSION AND ENDORSEMENT AND, AT THE SAME TIME, YOU ALSO TALK ABOUT CONTINUED DISCUSSION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES. MY QUESTION IS, IF WE DO ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSALS, WHEN NEW YEAR COMES, WILL YOU CONTINUE IN YOUR NEGOTIATION WITH THE CHINESE AND, IF THAT'S SO, THEN WE MAY BE PRESENTED WITH OTHER PROPOSALS LATER ON.

GOVERNOR: I THINK THE WHOLE COUNCIL KNOWS THAT WE CAN'T CARRY ON THESE DISCUSSIONS UNTIL THE CRACK OF DOOM. WE DO ACTUALLY HAVE TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR THIS COUNCIL IN THE EARLY PART OF NEXT YEAR, BECAUSE OTHERWISE, WE WON'T HAVE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE FOR THE 1994 AND 1995 ELECTION. THOUGH THERE ARE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN CHINESE OFFICIALS AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR MATTER, ON THEIR GENERAL ISSUES, THERE IS I THINK NO DISAGREEMENT ON THAT PARTICULAR MATTER. I THINK IT IS RECOGNISED BY OFFICIALS OF THE PRC THAT WE DO HAVE IN THE EARLY PART OF NEXT YEAR TO START THE PROCESS OF LEGISLATION. SO FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, DISCUSSIONS CAN GO ON UNTIL THEN, BUT AT THAT POINT, THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO TAKE A VIEW AND THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS ENTIRELY RIGHT TO IMPLY THAT IT WOULD BE PREPOSTEROUS TO ASK THIS COUNCIL TO TAKE A VIEW ON A SET OF PROPOSALS WHICH ONE THEN CHANGED HALFWAY THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS OR AFTER THE LEGISLATION HAD BEEN PASSED. SO, THE MOMENT OF DECISION FOR THIS COUNCIL WILL COME IN THE EARLY PART OF NEXT YEAR. AND WHEN I PUT PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL, THEY WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF ALL THAT HAS BEEN SAID TO ME BY HONG KONG OPINION AND BY OTHERS, THEY WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF WHAT THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS SAID TO ME, AND I NOTED THE DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL A FEW DAYS AGO, AND THEY WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF COURSE OF ANY ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS THAT I RECEIVE FROM CHINESE OFFICIALS; BUT I HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS THUS FAR.

MR TIK CHI-YUEN: THANK YOU MR GOVERNOR. YOU TALK ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICAL REFORMS AND YOU THINK THAT YOU HAVE GOT THE RIGHT POINT OF BALANCE. NOW, YOU HAVE RECEIVED VERY STRONG OBJECTION FROM THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. HAS THAT AFFECTED YOUR VIEW AS TO THE POINT OF BALANCE. MAY I ALSO ASK WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA THAT GOVERN YOUR PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD SO FAR?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT ANYTHING THAT I HEARD IN PEKING DURING DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE RIGOROUS, FAIRLY FORCEFUL, BUT ALWAYS ENTIRELY COURTEOUS - I DON'T THINK THAT ANYTHING THAT I HEARD IN PEKING CHANGED MY VIEW ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR THE LAST THREE OR FOUR MONTHS TO ME AND LONGER TO MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL. PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SURPRISED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN SOME PEKING OFFICIALS AND MOST OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED TO ME IN HONG KONG, BUT THERE IT IS.

SORRY, THE SECOND POINT OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S QUESTION?

TIK CHI-YUEN: I HOPE YOU CAN TELL US, NOW YOU ARE PROPOSING CERTAIN POLITICAL REFORMS, WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA THAT MIGHT MAKE YOU CHANGE SUCH PROPOSALS?

GOVERNOR: I WOULD, IF I WAS TO CHANGE MY MIND, WISH TO BE CONVINCED THAT ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS WERE BETTER. BUT IT'S NOT A VERY EASY WAY OF CONSULTING OR CO-OPERATING TO FIND THAT PROPOSALS DON'T GET COUNTERED BY ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS BUT GET COUNTERED BY THE ARGUMENTS OF A CUL-DE-SAC, OR THE ARGUMENTS OF A WALL. IN ANY SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION I THINK IT'S INCUMBENT ON THOSE WHO WISH TO CO-OPERATE TO PUT FORWARD ALTERNATIVES SO THAT THEY CAN BE PROPERLY DISCUSSED AND DEBATED. I HAVE SAID AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT THE PRINCIPLES, THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES, FOR ME ARE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1995 SHOULD BE OPEN, SHOULD BE FAIR AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THOSE DON'T SEEM TO ME TO BE PARTICULARLY OUTLANDISH PRINCIPLES. I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR AS PASSIONATE SPEECH MADE IN FAVOUR OF NOT BEING OPEN, OF BEING GROSSLY UNFAIR AND OF PUTTING FORWARD PROPOSALS WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DISLIKED. ANYBODY WHO'D LIKE TO MAKE A SPEECH ALONG THOSE LINES, THEY WILL NEED A SILVER TONGUE.

MR YEUNG-SUM: MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION? BECAUSE YOUR PREDECESSOR HAS MADE US WARY OF POLICY ADDRESSES. NOW YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT TAKING UP THE CONSTITUTIONAL PACKAGE WITH BEIJING AGAIN. WILL YOU, BECAUSE YOU WANT TO KEEP A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH BEIJING, GO BACK ON OUR DEMAND ON DEMOCRACY?

GOVERNOR: I AM, AS I AM SURE THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN WILL KNOW, A MAN OF ALMOST LIMITLESS RATIONALITY AND IT WOULD BE UNFAIR AND UNREASONABLE OF ME TO SAY THAT I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO ON DISCUSSING MY PROPOSALS AS LONG AS ANYONE WISHES TO DISCUSS THEM. THAT IS THE POSITION I AM IN. IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE OF ME NOT TO SAY THAT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN. IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE OF ME NOT TO BELIEVE THAT AND I DO BELIEVE IT WITH EVERY FIBRE OF MY BEING. BUT - AND THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL FORGIVE ME - THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF TIMES THAT I CAN SAY A DISCUSSION, CONSULTATION REQUIRES SOMETHING TO COME FROM THE OTHER SIDE. THERE IS, I UNDERSTAND, A WELL KNOWN SAYING ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF CLAPPING WITH ONE HAND. I AM A TENNIS PLAYER. PLAYING TENNIS ON MY OWN IS A FAIRLY FRUITLESS OCCUPATION. UNLESS THE BALL COMES BACK OVER THE NET, IT'S RATHER DIFFICULT TO HAVE A CO-OPERATIVE GAME. AND WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE ISN'T A GAME, WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS THE PROSPERITY, THE STABILITY AND THE WAY OF LIFE OF HONG KONG. THAT PROSPERITY, THAT STABILITY, THAT WAY OF LIFE ARE NOT THREATENED OR CHALLENGED BY THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG.

MRS MIRIAM LAU: YOU JUST MENTIONED CO-OPERATION. IN YOUR ASSESSMENT, WHAT IMPACT WILL THE ABSENCE OF CHINESE CO-OPERATION HAVE ON THE OTHER IMPORTANT HONG KONG ISSUES DURING THE REMAINING PERIOD OF TRANSITION? AND COULD YOU TELL US WHAT ISSUES WE MUST RESOLVE WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT BEFORE 1997? AND HOW MANY OF THESE ISSUES THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT CAN LEGITIMATELY SAY YES OR NO?

GOVERNOR: CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THERE CAN BE NO LINKAGE BETWEEN ONE ISSUE AND ANOTHER. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY HAVE SAID OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN THAT THERE IS NO LINKAGE BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND QUESTIONS OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. SO I TAKE IT THAT WE CAN BELIEVE WHAT THOSE OFFICIALS SAY AND I TAKE IT THAT WE CAN DEAL WITH ISSUES AS WE SHOULD ON THEIR MERITS. I HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT, IN MY JUDGMENT, THINGS SURVIVE AND PROSPER WHEN THEY WORK, WHATEVER THE RHETORIC OF ONE PARTY OR ANOTHER MIGHT SUGGEST; AND I'M SURE THAT THE PROPOSALS WHICH THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EVENTUALLY ENDORSES WILL BE PROPOSALS THAT THIS COUNCIL WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE WORK AND THAT THIS COMMUNITY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE WORK. AND THAT THOSE WHO ARE PRAGMATIC AND THAT THOSE WHO ARE REALISTIC AND THOSE WHO HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AT HEART WOULD NOT, THEREFORE, WISH TO DISRUPT THOSE PROPOSALS. I DON'T THINK THIS COUNCIL IS LIKELY TO REACH THE WRONG DECISION ABOUT THAT.

MR MAN SAI-CHEONG: MR GOVERNOR, MR LU PING TALKED ABOUT THE AIRPORT. DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO HIS TALK ON THE AIRPORT? DO YOU FEEL THAT HE SAID THIS BECAUSE HE WAS GETTING EMOTIONAL OR, DO YOU THINK THAT HIS VIEWPOINT HAS NEGATED THE POSSIBILITY OF HONG KONG BUILDING THE AIRPORT ON ITS OWN?

GOVERNOR: ONE OF MY AMBITIONS IN LIFE IS TO CONTAIN ARGUMENTS RATHER THAN ALLOW THEM TO SPREAD TOO WIDE; AND I ANSWER YOUR QUESTION IN THAT SPIRIT. I HAVE BEEN PUZZLED BY SOME THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN SAID ABOUT THE AIRPORT, PUZZLED NOT ONLY BY ONE OR TWO THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN SAID ABOUT THE AIRPORT IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS BUT IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. THE POSITION IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR AS I SAID IN MY STATEMENT. WE HAVE SO FAR AGREED AND STARTED WORK ON 17 OF THE PROJECTS WHICH TOGETHER MAKE UP THE AIRPORT PROJECT AS A WHOLE AND THAT HAS INVOLVED A COMMITMENT OF WHICH THIS COUNCIL IS AWARE OF ABOUT HK\$18 BILLION. IT'S A VERY SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENT. WE'LL HAVE TO GO ON ADDING, AS IT WERE, BRICK ON BRICK AS WE CAN. AND AT EVERY STAGE, WHEN WE PUT ONE BRICK ON ANOTHER, WE WILL HAVE TO COME TO THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ASK FOR THE APPROVAL OF THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCING OF INDIVIDUAL MEASURES AND WE'LL ALSO HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT EACH STAGE HOW WE SEE THINGS BEING TAKEN FORWARD. THAT'S HOW I INTEND TO PROCEED IN THE FUTURE. WE'LL SHORTLY BE DISCUSSING THIS MATTER IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THEN SHARING OUR THOUGHTS WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THERE IS, OF COURSE, AN ELEMENT OF UNREALITY IN SOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS BECAUSE EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT WE WILL HAVE AN AIRPORT AND A GOOD AIRPORT. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE THAT SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT IF IT'S LATER, IT'S INEVITABLY GOING TO BE MORE COSTLY AND THAT THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT WON'T ENJOY THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS AS SOON AS IT WOULD LIKE OF A SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AIRPORT. I COULD SAY MORE, BUT I'M BECOMING IMMENSELY DIPLOMATIC.

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DR LEONG CHE-HUNG: FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS SINCE YOUR POLICY ADDRESS PEOPLE IN HONG KONG IN GENERAL ARE VERY STRONGLY BEHIND YOUR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. BUT, NOW THAT CHINA HAS MADE ITS VERY VERY STRONG STAND AGAINST IT, ARE YOU WORRIED THAT SOME OF YOUR PREVIOUS SUPPORTERS WOULD BE CHANGING THEIR STANCE? AND IF SO, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ASSESS THE SITUATION?

GOVERNOR: I HAVE A CONSIDERABLE RESPECT FOR PEOPLE'S INTELLIGENCE AND A CONSIDERABLE RESPECT FOR PEOPLE'S SENSE OF PREVAILING REALITY. I'M NOT AT ALL SURPRISED BY SOME OF WHAT ONE OF OUR NEWSPAPERS HAS CALLED THE BACKGROUND MUSIC TO THESE DISCUSSIONS AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL BE MORE FAMILIAR WITH SOME OF THE BACKGROUND MUSIC THAN EVEN I AM; AND MAYBE THE BACKGROUND MUSIC WILL BE LOUDER, MAYBE IT WILL BE SOFTER OVER THE COMING WEEKS. NO BACKGROUND MUSIC FROM THE GOVERNOR, NO ATTEMPTS BY THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND I'M SURE NOBODY ELSE WOULD WISH TO TRY TO CREATE POLITICAL INSTABILITY. I THINK IF WE ALL KEEP CALM, IF WE ALL KEEP TO REASONABLE DEBATE AND DISCUSSION, IF WE ALL TRY TO APPLY OUR BEST JUDGMENT TO WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, WE'LL GET THE RIGHT SOLUTION; AND I DON'T THINK THAT ANYBODY SHOULD UNDERESTIMATE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WHEN THEY TRY TO ARRIVE AT THEIR OWN PERSONAL JUDGMENTS.

DR HUANG CHEN-YA: MR GOVERNOR, YOU TALK ABOUT CONVERGENCE WITH THE BASIC LAW BUT MR LU PING YESTERDAY, AFTER MEETING YOU, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AND HE ISSUED STATEMENTS. AS THE CHINESE SAY, NOW HE HAS REVEALED HIS ULTIMATE INTENTION. IT SEEMS THAT HIS IDEA OF INTERPRETATION OF THE BASIC LAW IS DIFFERENT FROM OURS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE TALKED ABOUT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, AND HE TALKED ABOUT THE ELECTIONS THERE AND IT SEEMS THAT THE CONCEPT IS DIFFERENT FROM OURS. IF WE UNDERSTAND HIM CORRECTLY, NOW THE LAWYERS IN HONG KONG HAVE ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE AND MEDICAL DOCTORS HAVE ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE AND THE NURSES HAVE ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE TO SELECT REPRESENTATIVES. ACCORDING TO HIM, THIS IS AGAINST THE BASIC LAW AND HAS TO BE CHANGED. SO, IT SEEMS THAT HE IS GIVING NEW INTERPRETATION. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR VIEW. WILL YOU ASK BEIJING TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL TO HONG KONG ABOUT HOW THEY INTERPRET THE BASIC LAW SO THAT WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IN TERMS OF CONVERGENCE, AND WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THROUGH TRAIN? IS IT GOING TO HELL OR GOING TO HEAVEN?

/GOVERNOR: .....

GOVERNOR: WELL, I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT FROM WHEREVER TRAINS START THEY ARRIVE AT AGREEABLE DESTINATIONS, WITH AS MANY PEOPLE ON BOARD AS POSSIBLE, WITH AS MUCH FREIGHT AS POSSIBLE, AND ON TIME - AND THAT'S THE END OF THAT RAILWAY METAPHOR. I WOULD LIKE TO CONCENTRATE ON MY PROPOSALS FOR BOTH EXISTING AND NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. WE ALL KNOW WHAT THE TEXTS SAY. WE ALL KNOW THAT THE TEXTS TELL US THAT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES REPRESENT, OR SHOULD REPRESENT SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS. WE ALL KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME CRITICISM ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH SOME EXISTING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES REALLY REPRESENT SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS; AND I TRIED TO ADDRESS THAT PARTICULAR POINT IN MY PROPOSALS, NOT I THINK TO THE TOTAL SATISFACTION OF MEMBERS OF THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUT I'M SURE IT'S A MATTER WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL SPEND SOME TIME DEBATING AT SOME POINT NEXT YEAR. I ALSO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS WHICH SEEMED TO ME TO REFLECT EVERYTHING THAT HAD BEEN WRITTEN OR SAID, WHETHER IN PUBLIC OR IN PRIVATE ABOUT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES; I TRIED TO REFLECT THAT IN THE PROPOSALS I PUT FOR THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. IF ANYONE, HOWEVER DISTINGUISHED, IS ATTEMPTING OR WOULD LIKE TO PUT FORWARD NEW INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SHOULD BE, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THAT INTERPRETATION TO SAY WHAT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WE SHOULD ACTUALLY CHOOSE FOR 1995, I AM SURE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WILL BE INTERESTED IN HEARING THAT, INCLUDING DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS AND NURSES AND OTHERS.

MR LAU WAH-SUM (IN CANTONESE): ... FAIL TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PACKAGE, WILL YOU CHOOSE TO GO IT ALONE IN 1995, DISREGARDING CONVERGENCE WITH THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN 1997?

GOVERNOR: I'VE SAID IN MY STATEMENT, AS I SAID TO THE DISTINGUISHED FOREIGN MINISTER OF CHINA, AS I SAID TO DIRECTOR LU, THAT I WAS VERY HAPPY TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS, AND I IMAGINE DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. SO I THINK, NOT LEAST BEFORE WE'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF STUDYING ANY COUNTER PROPOSALS BY PRC OFFICIALS, I THINK IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT BREAKDOWNS, SUCH AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER SUGGESTS WE SHOULD BE MAKING. I HAVEN'T BROKEN DOWN, DESPITE A PUNCTURE IN MY CAR. I DON'T THINK THAT DISCUSSIONS HAVE BROKEN DOWN. I NEVER THINK THAT IT'S SENSIBLE FOR POLITICAL LEADERS TO TRY TO CLOSE ALL THE DOORS AND CLOSE ALL THE WINDOWS. SO I REMAIN OPEN TO DISCUSSION, I REMAIN OPEN TO HEARING OTHER PROPOSALS.

I HOPE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL TAKE THE POINT I'VE MADE, THAT WE REALLY DO HAVE TO HEAR SOME ALTERNATIVES. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE IF THAT HAD BEEN THE WAY WE'D CONDUCTED BUSINESS ON THE AIRPORT. I THINK IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT THAT IS HOW WE SHOULD CONDUCT BUSINESS ON THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COMMUNITY.

MR ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG (IN CANTONESE): MR GOVERNOR, YOU MADE IT VERY CLEAR A MOMENT AGO THAT YOU HOPED THAT, AT THE JLG, DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE AND THAT YOU ARE MOST WILLING TO ALLOW DISCUSSION TO GO ON, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK WHETHER THIS IS RECIPROCATED BY THE CHINESE SIDE? AND THEN REGARDING THE JLG, WHETHER IT'S THE MEETING ITSELF OR THE AGENDA, IT'S ALL HELD IN-CAMERA, AND UNLESS IT IS AGREED TO BY THE CHINESE, IT WON'T BE MADE PUBLIC. SO WILL THERE BE MEASURES OR SPECIAL MEASURES PUT IN PLACE SO THAT WE, ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, ARE FULLY CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY TRADING-OFF OR MAKING OF SECRET DEALS?

GOVERNOR: KEEN AS I AM ON OPEN GOVERNMENT, I THINK IF I WERE TO SUGGEST THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE JLG TOOK PLACE UNDER THE TELEVISION CAMERAS, THERE WOULD BE SOME POLITE SURPRISE AROUND THE COMMUNITY AND SOME OBJECTION. BUT I FIND MYSELF, OCCASIONALLY AT PRESENT, CRITICISED FOR HAVING BEEN TOO OPEN ABOUT OUR DISCUSSIONS. DESPITE THE FACT THAT I KNOW THIS COUNCIL HAS ARGUED FROM TIME TO TIME THAT WE SHOULD BE OPEN WITH THE COMMUNITY BEFORE WE GO AND NEGOTIATE WITH THE PRC, I'VE FOUND ONE OR TWO HONOURABLE MEMBERS, IN THE DEBATE EARLIER THIS WEEK, WERE CRITICISING ME FOR TRYING TO BE OPEN WITH THE COMMUNITY. I THINK IT'S TERRIBLE FOR POLITICAL STABILITY, TO TRY TO WRAP EVERYTHING IN TOTAL SECRECY WHEN ONE IS TALKING ABOUT THINGS ON WHICH EVERYBODY IS TALKING. ONE KNOWS PERFECTLY WELL WHAT HAPPENS, GREAT BUBBLES OF SPECULATION, THE MOST SPECTACULARLY IMAGINATIVE EXEGESIS OF EVERY COMMA, EVERY PUNCTUATION MARK, IN THE GOVERNOR'S EVERY PRESS CONFERENCE AT AN AIRPORT. THAT'S NO WAY TO BEHAVE IN A SOPHISTICATED COMMUNITY LIKE THIS. BUT SOME DISCUSSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN CONFIDENCE, EVEN IF ONE MAKES THE PROPOSALS THAT ONE IS PUTTING IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS PUBLIC.

CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCUSSIONS AND PUBLICISING THE PROPOSALS THEY PUT FORWARD. SO I DON'T THINK IT'S REASONABLE TO ARGUE THAT THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG IS SOMEHOW, ON THIS OCCASION, CHANGING THE RULES OF THE GAME. AS FOR DISCUSSIONS IN THE JLG OR ANYWHERE ELSE, THE POINT AT WHICH HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO JUDGE WHETHER WE'VE BEHAVED HONESTLY AND HONOURABLY, IS THE POINT AT WHICH WE PUT DISCUSSIONS TO THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. AND I REPEAT, ANY PROPOSALS WHICH ARE PUT TO THIS COUNCIL ON THE 1995 ELECTIONS, WILL, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, BE OPEN, FAIR AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

MISS EMILY LAU: GOVERNOR, HAVING EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND THE WAY THAT COMMUNIST CHINESE OFFICIALS BEHAVE, CAN YOU TELL US, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT RUNNING THIS COLONY, AND AS A STAUNCH CATHOLIC, THAT THE HANDOVER OF SEVERAL MILLION BRITISH CITIZENS TO CHINESE COMMUNIST RULE IN 1997, IS MORALLY DEFENSIBLE AND AN HONOURABLE THING?

GOVERNOR: WELL, THAT CERTAINLY LIVENED UP THE PROCEEDINGS! I WANT TO SAY THIS, WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION, TO THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. I BELIEVE THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO HONOURING THE UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN SO EXPLICITLY IN THE JOINT DECLARATION ABOUT THE PROSPERITY, STABILITY AND WAY OF LIFE OF HONG KONG. BUT I WANT TO ADD THIS, WHICH I HAVE SAID TO CHINESE OFFICIALS IN PRIVATE, AND I SAY TO THIS COUNCIL IN PUBLIC: I THINK THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG HAS FAR GREATER CREDIBILITY IN GIVING THE COMMUNITY THOSE REASSURANCES IF THE COMMUNITY BELIEVES THAT THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG WILL STAND UP FOR HONG KONG. I FEEL THAT VERY, VERY STRONGLY. THOSE REASSURANCES WILL NEED TO BE GIVEN AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN AS WE GET CLOSER TO 1997, AND WHEN THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG GIVES THEM, THIS GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG WILL, I HOPE, BE ABLE TO DO SO AS SOMEBODY WHO HAS BATTLED FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF THIS DEPENDENT TERRITORY.

MR LAM KUI-CHUN: SIR, IN CONSIDERING THE WAY FORWARD, IN VIEW OF THE FAILURE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PACKAGE, WOULD THE MORALE AND THE STABILITY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BE ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS IN YOUR DELIBERATION, AND HOW DO YOU THINK THE CIVIL SERVICE WOULD BE AFFECTED IF MR LU PROCEEDS AS STATED, WITH FORMATION OF SAR GOVERNMENT LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIARY BEFORE 1997?

GOVERNOR: LET ME TRY TO RESPOND AS POSITIVELY AS POSSIBLE TO THAT QUESTION AND NOT GO BACK OVER SOME OF THE GROUND WHICH I'VE TRAVERSED ALREADY, ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INSTITUTIONS BEING THE MAIN DETERMINANT IN THEIR SURVIVAL. I BELIEVE THAT THE OFFICIALS OF THE PRC, INCLUDING SOMEONE AS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE AFFAIRS OF HONG KONG AS DIRECTOR LU, WANT HONG KONG, BEFORE AND AFTER 1997, TO BE WELL GOVERNED, AND WISH THAT GOVERNMENT TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE BEST PEOPLE AVAILABLE. ONE OF THE THINGS FOR WHICH I AM PERSONALLY GRATEFUL IS THE REASSURANCES WHICH DIRECTOR LU HAS GIVEN AGAIN AND AGAIN TO THE EXCELLENT CIVIL SERVICE IN HONG KONG, THAT THEY WILL BE ASSURED A SMOOTH TRANSITION THROUGH 1997. DIRECTOR LU HAS SAID THAT IN PUBLIC, OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT IN PUBLIC, AND I BELIEVE THEM.

MR JIMMY MCGREGOR: GOVERNOR, FIRST OF ALL I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THE HONG KONG DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATION SUPPORTS YOU FULLY AND IN GENERAL - THERE MAY BE SOME ARGUMENT WITH SOME OF THE SMALLER POINTS IN DETAIL. AS A VERY SENIOR OFFICIAL WITH LONG EXPERIENCE OF NEGOTIATION IN GOVERNMENT IN THE UK, YOU ARE AWARE THAT YOU HAVE BEGUN A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION WITH CHINA, THAT THIS NEGOTIATION HAS BEEN GOING ON A VERY LONG TIME AND YOU ARE NOW AT A CRITICAL PART OF IT. ON THE ISSUE OF THE AIRPORT, SEPARATELY FROM THE ISSUE OF DEMOCRATIC REFORM IN HONG KONG, DO YOU HAVE AN AGENDA IN TERMS OF TIME? IS THERE A POINT AT WHICH YOU MUST COME TO A CONCLUSION ON THE AIRPORT ON THE ONE HAND - FURTHER WORK ON THE AIRPORT - WITHOUT FURTHER CHINESE INPUT, OR, AND IN THE TERMS OF THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG, IS THERE A POINT BEYOND WHICH YOU CANNOT GO BEFORE YOU MUST MAKE DECISIONS? WHAT ARE THESE POINTS, PLEASE?

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, SO FAR AS THE TONE AND FEEL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS CONCERNED, THESE WEREN'T THE FIRST NEGOTIATIONS THAT I'VE HAD WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS, THOUGH THEY WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT. I HAVE TO TELL THIS COUNCIL THAT IN COMPARISON WITH SOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT I'VE CONDUCTED IN THE PAST, IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THESE WERE CARRIED OUT IN A RATIONAL AND CALM AND DIGNIFIED AND NON-ACRIMONIOUS FASHION, HOWEVER STRONGLY VIEWS WERE FELT ON BOTH SIDES. AND I THINK THAT'S PARTLY A REFLECTION ON THE QUALITY OF THE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM I WAS TALKING.

ON THE AIRPORT, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT'S FAIR TO SAY, AND I NEVER HAVE BELIEVED THAT IT'S FAIR TO SAY, THAT WE FACE ONE DEADLINE. WHAT IS TRUE IS, FIRST OF ALL, THAT INCOMPARABLY THE BEST OPTION IS AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA WHICH GIVES US AN OVERALL PACKAGE. WE ALL KNOW THAT. BUT IF WE CAN'T REACH THAT AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD GIVE US THE AIRPORT SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, THEN WE HAVE TO CONTINUE DOING WHAT WE'VE STARTED DOING ALREADY, WHICH IS ALL WE CAN, DAY BY DAY, WEEK BY WEEK, MONTH BY MONTH. AND THAT INVOLVES ONE FACING UP TO A SUCCESSION OF DECISIONS. THE NEXT DECISIONS, AS I SAID EARLIER, WILL COME TOWARDS THE END OF NOVEMBER WHEN THE VALIDITY OF THE TENDER ON THE AIRPORT PLATFORM FALLS DUE, AND WE'LL HAVE, ABOUT THAT STAGE, TO TAKE A DECISION WITH THIS COUNCIL, ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED ON THE AIRPORT PLATFORM. WE'LL HAVE A SERIES OF FURTHER DECISIONS ALONG THE ROAD.

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I THINK, DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THIS COUNCIL WILL WANT TO KNOW HOW WE SEE THE WAY FORWARD IF WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE AN OVERALL AGREEMENT, AND I'M SURE THIS COUNCIL WILL WANT US TO PROCEED IN A WAY WHICH ALWAYS HAS THE DOOR OPEN TO A TOTAL AGREEMENT, TO A TOTAL PACKAGE, BECAUSE EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THAT'S THE BEST WAY FORWARD. BUT I DON'T, MYSELF, BELIEVE THAT IT'S ADVISABLE TO SEEK OUT DEADLINES, TO SEEK OUT WHERE YOU CAN THROW SWITCHES AND PULL PLUGS, UNLESS IT'S ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

WHERE WE HAVE MORE DIFFICULTY IS IN THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE 1994 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS, AND THE 1995 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS. ON THOSE MATTERS, WE CAN'T SIMPLY MARK TIME UNTIL THE END OF 1993 OR THE END OF 1994 OR HALFWAY THROUGH 1995, WE DO HAVE TO TAKE DECISIONS IN ORDER TO GET THE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE - AND I'D BETTER NOT QUOTE THEM - BUT AS SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE ACCEPTED, THIS COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO TAKE A VIEW, QUITE EARLY IN 1993, ON THESE MATTERS. IT'S NOT FORCING THE PACE. I DON'T HAVE, AS I THINK THE COUNCIL WILL KNOW, A REPUTATION AS A CONFRONTATIONAL POLITICIAN. I USED TO BE DESCRIBED - A BADGE I WORE WITH HONOUR - AS AN "ARCH-WET". I AM SOMEBODY WHO LOOKS, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, FOR AGREEMENT, BUT TO COIN A PHRASE, AGREEMENT ON A PRINCIPLED POSITION.

I'M MUCH OBLIGED TO THIS COUNCIL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS I NOW ADJOURN THE COUNCIL UNTIL 2.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 1992.

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#### 56 CAUGHT IN OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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A TERRITORY-WIDE ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS RECENTLY HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 56 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

OF THE ARRESTED PERSONS, 16 WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT AT THE BORDER. THEY HAVE BEEN SENT TO SAN UK LING FOR REPATRIATION.

THE REMAINING 40 HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING HIMSELF," HE SAID.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BODERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 PM ON OCTOBER 22 AND ENDED AT 5 AM YESTERDAY, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 7,179 PERSONS, 152 VEHICLES AND THREE VESSELS WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,763 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF 11,257 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED DURING THE OPERATION.

FIFTEEN ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR INSPECTION A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$50,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO A YEAR IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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#### NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS

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THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS SCHEME FOR 1993 IS NOW OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WERE INVITED TO MAKE NOMINATIONS FOR THE SCHEME.

"WE HOPE TO SELECT TWO PROJECTS TO REPRESENT HONG KONG IN 1993.

"PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY A SMALL GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO SERVE A COMMUNITY NEED AND PROVIDE A MODEL TO OTHER LOCALITIES WILL BE CONSIDERED FAVOURABLE," HE SAID.

THE AWARDS SCHEME, SPONSORED BY THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME (CYP), WAS CREATED IN 1985 TO COMMEMORATE THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

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IT IS ALSO MEANT TO RECOGNISE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SMALL YOUTH GROUPS AND INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER.

"ANOTHER OBJECTIVE IS TO FOSTER CO-OPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE," HE SAID.

FOR 1992/93, PRIORITY WILL BE PLACED ON YOUTH GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

YOUTH GROUPS IN HONG KONG HAVE WON THE AWARDS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST. THIS YEAR THE AWARD WENT TO THE LINNAM SERVICE PROJECT RUN BY THE CARITAS ABERDEEN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE WINNING PROJECT TEAM WILL BE GRANTED 1,000 POUNDS STERLING TO ENABLE THEM TO FURTHER THEIR WORK. EACH MEMBER OF THE TEAM WILL BE GIVEN MEDALLIONS AND CERTIFICATES.

THE PROJECTS SELECTED TO REPRESENT HONG KONG WILL BE ADJUDICATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS PANEL OF THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME IN MAY NEXT YEAR.

THE PANEL WILL SELECT UP TO FIVE PROJECTS FROM AMONG ALL THE NOMINATIONS MADE BY COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

NOMINATIONS, TO BE SUPPORTED BY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS, SHOULD REACH THE YOUTH DIVISION, CNTA, 31ST FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15 THIS YEAR.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SCHEME CAN BE MADE ON TEL 835 1371.

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#### FOREIGN WORKERS TOLD OF THEIR RIGHTS

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MORE THAN 450 FOREIGN WORKERS SO FAR HAVE BEEN TOLD OF THEIR STATUTORY RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS DURING BRIEFING SESSIONS ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

"THE BRIEFING SESSIONS ARE LINED UP AS FOREIGN WORKERS HAVE BEGUN TO ARRIVE UNDER THE CURRENT GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER, MRS JENNY CHAN, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

NOTING THAT THE SESSIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN BOTH CANTONESE AND PUTONGHUA, AND NO PRIOR ENROLMENT IS NECESSARY, MRS CHAN SAID: "FOREIGN WORKERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE SESSION UPON THEIR ARRIVAL."

"EMPLOYERS SHOULD MAKE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORKERS TO ATTEND," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT DURING THESE SESSIONS, LABOUR OFFICERS EXPLAIN TO THE WORKERS THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE TERMS OF THE STANDARD CONTRACT.

/"THEY ARE .....

"THEY ARE ALSO TOLD OF THE GENERAL LABOUR MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS CHANNELS FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS REGARDING DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITION OF STAY," MRS CHAN SAID, ADDING THAT A HANDY INFORMATION CARD WITH COMPLAINTS HOTLINE NUMBERS ARE GIVEN AWAY AS WELL.

SHE SAID COPIES OF AN INFORMATION LEAFLET ENTITLED "WHAT AN IMPORTED WORKER SHOULD KNOW" AND PRINTED IN SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS, ARE DISTRIBUTED TO WORKERS AT THEIR POINTS OF ENTRY.

"DURING VISITS BY LABOUR INSPECTORS TO THEIR WORKPLACES OR DORMITORIES, FOREIGN WORKERS ARE GIVEN A COPY OF THE STANDARD CONTRACT," MRS CHAN SAID.

"IN ADDITION, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS OPERATING A 24-HOUR HOTLINE (815 2200) FOR FOREIGN WORKERS TO MAKE ENQUIRIES OR COMPLAINTS," SHE SAID.

"ALL INFORMATION GIVEN TO US IS KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL," MRS CHAN ADDED.

ENQUIRIES ON THE BRIEFING SESSIONS CAN MADE ON TEL 852 3506.

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LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS SALE BY AUCTION

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FORTY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL OF \$2,167,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE CONDUCT THEREOF.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION MARK FC1 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$530,000.

ANOTHER REGISTRATION MARK FA18 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$280,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$2,000 \*EACH FOR CS917 AND EZ704.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

|        |   |         |        |         |         |         |         |           |
|--------|---|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| EY6066 | / | 8,000   | EX280  | 35,000  | EZ913   | 23,000  | EZ704   | 2,000     |
| EZ7787 |   | 12,000  | *7960  | 121,000 | *FC1    | 53,000  | AZ7650  | WITHDRAWN |
| EY6623 |   | 14,000  | EY917  | 3,000   | CK1280  | 15,000  | EY332   | 62,000    |
| *FA100 |   | 110,000 | EZ9139 | 5,000   | EZ968   | 28,000  | *FC2332 | 30,000    |
| EZ630  |   | 8,000   | *FC818 | 130,000 | *FC1221 | 25,000  | EZ9832  | 18,000    |
| CS917  |   | 2,000   | EZ301  | 10,000  | EZ330   | 11,000  | EY819   | 18,000    |
| EZ1218 |   | 12,000  | EY160  | 21,000  | EY1238  | 38,000  | EY8807  | 8,000     |
| *FA18  |   | 280,000 | *DD900 | 150,000 | *ER7788 | 65,000  | *FC1414 | 5,000     |
| EZ512  |   | 5,000   | EU911  | 80,000  | CC9837  | 4,000   | EZ918   | 16,000    |
| EY8968 |   | 9,000   | EY1231 | 8,000   | EY2388  | 140,000 | EY6388  | 105,000   |

\* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

/SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS .....

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 181ST AUCTION ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED SO FAR TO \$149,581,905.

THERE IS NO BIDDER FOR AZ7650 AND THIS REGISTRATION MARK WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICANT.

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REGIONAL SECRETARY PRAISES ORGANISERS OF DISTRICT FESTIVAL  
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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL WONG KAM-CHIU, TODAY (SATURDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR UNFAILING EFFORTS IN MAKING AVAILABLE MANY DIFFERENT RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AND VARIETY SHOW OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL, MR WONG SAID THESE HAD NOT ONLY BRIGHTENED UP LOCAL PEOPLE'S LIVES BUT ALSO STRENGTHENED THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING AND ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

HE ADDED THAT THE ONE-MONTH DISTRICT FESTIVAL WAS DESIGNED TO SERVE EXACTLY THESE PURPOSES.

TURNING TO THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY SAID THE NEW PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS IN KELLET BAY, TIN WAN AND MA HANG WOULD PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED MANY PROJECTS TO BETTER TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES, WATER QUALITY AS WELL AUGMENTING RECREATIONAL VENUES.

THESE INCLUDE THE SECOND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE, THE NEW ACCESS ROAD TO THE WONG CHUK HANG AREA, MAJOR SEWERAGE WORKS FOR THE DISTRICT'S POPULAR BEACHES AS WELL AS THE URBAN COUNCIL'S ABERDEEN PROMENADE PROJECT.

MEANWHILE, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MRS SO CHAU YIM-PING, SAID THE FESTIVAL WILL RUN UNTIL NOVEMBER 29 WITH A HOST OF ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THESE INCLUDED PICNICS, SEA TOURS, SPORTS EVENTS, FAMILY CAMPS, CARNIVALS, CONCERTS, SEMINARS, HEALTH DISCUSSIONS, AND COMPETITIONS.

SHE CALLED ON RESIDENTS TO ACTIVELY TAKE PART IN THESE PROGRAMMES, WHICH WERE MADE POSSIBLE WITH A DONATION OF MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FROM ENTHUSIASTIC SPONSORS, INCLUDING THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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OTHER GUESTS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY INCLUDED THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG AND THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS ROSANNA URE.

THE CEREMONY WAS FOLLOWED BY A STAR-STUDED EXTRAVAGANZA WHICH FEATURED TOP SINGERS MR AARON KWOK, MISS SALLEY YEN, BEYOND AND YU KU LEI LIN.

A NUMBER OF POPULAR DISC JOCKEYS ALSO APPEARED AT THE SHOW WHICH WAS CO-ORGANISED BY RTHK'S RADIO TWO CHANNEL AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

INFORMATION ON OTHER FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES IS AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE AND ITS SUB-OFFICE AT NO. 14, WONG MA KOK ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, STANLEY.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 552 0598.

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#### STUDENTS LEARN BETTER THROUGH TTRA

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THE TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENT (TTRA) SCHEME IS A NEW SYSTEM IN WHICH STUDENTS WILL LEARN AT THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL PACE AND LEVEL INSTEAD OF COLLECTIVELY, PARENTS WERE TOLD TODAY (SATURDAY).

THEY WERE ALSO TOLD AT A BRIEFING SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF PARENTS-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS THAT PROGRESS WOULD BE ASSESSED INDIVIDUALLY INSTEAD OF BEING ASSESSED BY COMPARISON WITH THEIR SCHOOLMATES.

"TEACHERS AND PARENTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A FULLER AND MORE RELIABLE PICTURE OF THE CHILDREN'S CAPABILITIES, PROGRESS AND ATTAINMENTS," THE SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (DEVELOPMENT), MR WONG SIK-WAH, SAID WHEN WELCOMING THE PARTICIPANTS.

HE STRESSED THAT THE TTRA SCHEME WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

"PARENTS WILL SEE MORE CLEARLY HOW THEIR CHILDREN ARE PROGRESSING IN THE TASKS THEY HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED, AND THE SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE THEIR CHILDREN NEED IMPROVEMENT INSTEAD OF PAYING TOO MUCH ATTENTION ON WHAT MARKS AND POSITION THEY CAN OBTAIN IN THE CLASS," MR WONG EXPLAINED.

FOR TEACHERS, TTRA WOULD ENABLE THEM TO ADJUST THEIR TEACHING METHODS AND MATERIALS ACCORDING TO EACH INDIVIDUAL STUDENT'S LEARNING CAPABILITY, HE ADDED.

TWENTY PRIMARY SCHOOL ARE NOW TRYING OUT THE TTRA SCHEME ON CHINESE, ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS SUBJECTS BEFORE UNIVERSAL USE IN ALL PRIMARY 4 CLASSES NEXT MAY.

THE SCHEME WILL BE INTRODUCED PROGRESSIVELY TO SECONDARY 3 BY SEPTEMBER 1997.

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CASH AID TO DEPENDENTS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIM  
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) APPROVED \$59,030 FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO THE DEPENDENTS OF A HAWKER KILLED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ON SEPTEMBER 8 THIS YEAR.

THE 56-YEAR-OLD MAN, WHO WAS KNOCKED DOWN BY A VEHICLE AT SHAN TUNG STREET IN MONG KOK, WAS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDED QUICK FINANCIAL HELP TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE MEANS OF A FAMILY OR THE FAULT ELEMENT IN THE ACCIDENT.

BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCHEME WILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO MAKE CLAIMS FOR LEGAL DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION FROM OTHER SOURCES IN THE USUAL WAY.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO RECEIVE OTHER DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION RELATING TO THE SAME ACCIDENT ARE REQUIRED TO REPAY THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE SCHEME.

BUT IN ANY CASE, THE AMOUNT REPAID WILL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION AWARDED, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SCHEME MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TAVA SECTION IN ROOM 942, NINTH FLOOR, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI OR ON TEL 892 5526.

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CIVIC EDUCATION CARNIVAL IN KOWLOON CITY  
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KOWLOON CITY RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO SHARE THE FUN OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION CARNIVAL TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE EVENT, AIMED AT PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION, RULE OF LAW AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, WILL BE HELD AT THE ARGYLE STREET FOOTBALL GROUND BETWEEN 2 PM AND 5.30 PM.

IT WILL FEATURE GAME STALLS, EXHIBITION, LION DANCE AND PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL RESIDENTS AND POPULAR SINGERS.

MOREOVER, A PUBLICITY BUS WILL TOUR THE DISTRICT TO SPREAD CIVIC EDUCATION MESSAGES.

THE CARNIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD, KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE.

/THE CHAIRMAN .....

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, DR DANIEL TSE; KOWLOON DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG; AND KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP; WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE ARGYLE STREET FOOTBALL GROUND, KOWLOON CITY, BEGINNING AT 2 PM TOMORROW.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

|                                | \$ MILLION<br>----- |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 1,500               |
| REVERSAL OF LAF                | NIL                 |
| BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF  | 1,500               |
| NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY | NIL                 |
| EFFECT OF LAF TODAY            | -120                |
| CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 1,380               |
| LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER   |                     |

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