



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
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Sunday, December 11, 1994

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Lu Ping's remarks about CFA judges surprising: Governor

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, this (Sunday) morning said he was slightly surprised by the reports about Mr Lu Ping's remarks yesterday that there would be no through-train for judges in the Court of Final Appeal.

Responding to media questions before his departure for Korea on an official visit, Mr Patten said he was pleased that Director Lu underlined the importance of the 1991 agreement on the Court of Final Appeal but he was slightly surprised by the reported remarks which seemed to be contradictions to Basic Law Article 93.

"We'll be discussing the Court of Final Appeal in the meeting of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) which is taking place later this week in London and, obviously, we'd like to have clarifications of that remark," he said.

"People in Hong Kong want to have more certainty and more confidence about the future, particularly in relation to the rule of law. Nobody wants to see that confidence undermined."

Asked whether the Government would seek guarantee that there would be a through-train, the Governor said: "What we will be doing is confirming at the JLG meeting this week that China stands by the agreement that China made in 1991.

"We think that it's extremely important for confidence in the future that there shouldn't be questions raised about Hong Kong's institutions, about Hong Kong's judges, about matters like right of abode and immigration issues."

In response to a question about new idea to better co-operate with the Preliminary Working Committee (PWC), Mr Patten said: "We have set out in detail the sensible ways in which we are prepared to co-operate with PWC members and inform PWC members and that has been happening.

"Beyond that we have, since the last JLG meeting in September, in a large number of ways put forward ideas for co-operation, given China information which China says it wants in order to help prepare the way for the Special Administrative Region Government.

"All that will be made clear at the JLG meeting this week."

Mr Patten hoped that people would remember that co-operation was a two-way street.

"We are cheerfully marching down our side of the street and I hope that others are coming toward us," he added.

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Transcript of Governor's media session

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The following is a transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, before his departure for Korea on an official visit this (Sunday) morning:

Governor: Good morning. I'm going, as you know, today for a brief visit to Korea and Japan. Korea and Japan are two of our most important business and trade partners and while I'm in Seoul and in Tokyo, I'll be speaking to groups of business leaders. I'll be accompanied by a number of Hong Kong's leading business figures. I'll be putting across our positive message about Hong Kong's success today and, we hope, Hong Kong's success in the future. I'll be meeting political leaders as well as business and economic leaders and, of course, speaking to the press frequently during my visit. It's important for us to continue to strengthen our trade links in the region particularly with other members of APEC. I'm starting off in Korea where we have been backing the bid by Minister Kim to become the first Director-General of the World Trade Organisation. We think it would be an excellent thing if the WTO began with a director-general from our region, underlining the importance of our region to the development of world trade and underlining as well this region's commitment to free trade and free trade principles which, we hope, will be followed by the rest of the world as well.

Question: Mr Patten, Mr Lu Ping said yesterday that there will be no through train for the judges in the Court of Final Appeal. Could you comment on that?

Governor: I was slightly surprised by the reports this morning to that effect. I was pleased that Director Lu underlined the importance of the 1991 agreement on the Court of Final Appeal but I was slightly surprised by reported remarks which seemed to be, in fact, contradictions to Basic Law Article 93. We'll be discussing the Court of Final Appeal in the meeting of the JLG which is taking place later this week in London and, obviously, we'd like to have clarifications of that remark. People in Hong Kong want to have more certainty and more confidence about the future, particularly in relation to the rule of law. No body wants to see that confidence undermined.

Question: Will the Hong Kong Government be seeking guarantee that there will be through train for persons through the draft legislation?

Governor: What we will be doing is, I hope, confirming at the JLG meeting this week that China stands by the agreement that China made in 1991. We think that it's extremely important for confidence in the future that there shouldn't be questions raised about Hong Kong's institutions, about Hong Kong's judges, about matters like right of abode and immigration issues. How can it possibly be conducive to confidence and stability to raise questions about those matters.

Question: Do you think that this is a blow to the establishment of the CFA and it will add some difficulties in the recruitment of judges to the CFA?

Governor: If Chinese officials were to say now that Article 93 no longer applied, it wouldn't just have an impact on the recruitment of judges in the future. It would have an impact on the whole rule of law. So, I very much hope that the confusion that has been created can be quickly sorted out and the best place to do that is in the Joint Liaison Group where the Court of Final Appeal will be discussed this week. We are extremely concerned to ensure that the rule of law continues to apply in Hong Kong. When people talk about our system, what they mean above all is the rule of law and it's the rule of law and it's the existence of a level playing field for business which as much as anything, makes Hong Kong a success, keeps Hong Kong prosperous. When people say to us: perhaps after 1997, this or that sort of things which happen elsewhere in the region will happen in Hong Kong. We say: no, that is not possible because we, in Hong Kong, have the rule of law. So, nothing matters more to us than to secure the maintenance of the rule of law and I don't think it's helpful to raised question marks about it.

Question: The Deputy Premier Qian Qichen has reiterated that the co-operation with the Hong Kong Government and the PWC is the pre-requisite of the Sino-British co-operation. Do you have any new idea in mind to have better co-operation with the PWC?

Governor: No. I don't. We have set out in detail the sensible ways in which we are prepared to co-operate with PWC members and inform PWC members and that, of course, has been happening as you've been reporting. Beyond that we have, since the last JLG meeting, JLGXXX in September, in a large number of ways put forward ideas for co-operation, given China information which China says it wants in order to help prepare the way for the SAR Government. All that will be made clear at the JLG meeting this week. Inevitably, there will come a time when people will look at the balance sheet and they will say: look at all these things the Hong Kong Government is doing and what's on the other side of the account. And I hope that people will remember that co-operation is a two-way street. We are cheerfully marching down our side of the street and I hope that others are coming toward us.

Question: But, how do you think when the Chinese Government said that, accused that it is the Hong Kong Government which does not co-operate with the Chinese side?

Governor: What I say is that there are six million people here in Hong Kong who know the truth.

Question: About the exemption of the visa, because Chinese officials said that they would like the UK to exempt the holder of the visa of the future SAR Government?

Governor: There is a whole basket of immigration, right of abode, visa issues which we want to sort out. Fundamental to them all is, of course, aligning our Immigration Ordinance with the provisions of the Basic Law. We put forward proposals on that, I think, over two years ago and, to be honest, we haven't made as much progress on those issues as we would like though we are totally ready for talks at any time, in the greatest detail with Chinese officials on that. So, we want to see us dealings with all those issues, they are all intimately connected and they are all very important for the future because people want to know whether they are going to be able to stay, whether we can come back, what their status will be if they do. Those are important issues and again like the rule of law, they are pretty fundamental to the future of Hong Kong.

Question: Just about the visit today, Governor. I think it's the first visit by a Governor of Hong Kong to South Korea.

Governor: It is the first visit to Seoul and my first visit as well. So, I am particularly looking forward to it. We have a substantial trade relationship with Korea. We are among each other's most important trading partners and beyond that, we have direct investment links as well. There is substantial investment by Hong Kong in Korea and substantial investment by Korea in Hong Kong. There are many Korean firms here in Hong Kong, a number of them with their regional headquarters. One manifestation of the importance of the Korean community here in Hong Kong is the Korean International School which I opened a few months ago, which is providing a very important part of the infrastructure for the Korean community. We've got a lot to talk about. Korea is fast becoming one of the most important economies in the world. Korea, like us, is committed to liberalisation in trade and economic matters, is committed to globalisation to playing on the world stage as we are in Hong Kong. Korea, like us, believes in the rule of law and a free press. So, we have very much in common and we've worked together successfully in APEC, for example, at the recent Summit of Economic Leaders in Indonesia. We are, as I said in addition, supporting the bid by Minister Kim to become the Director-General of the WTO. All those are reasons and strong ones for us for making this visit. I'm only sorry that it is short as it is. Thank you very much indeed.

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Industry Department delegation to visit China

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An Industry Department delegation, led by the Director-General of Industry, Miss Denise Yue, leaves today (Sunday) for a four-day visit to Zhuhai and Zhongshan.

In Zhuhai, the delegation will meet municipal officials from the Commission of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the Planning Commission and the Commission of Industry.

It will also visit the High and New Technology Development Zone in Zhuhai's Western District, Zhuhai Port and a number of local and joint-venture enterprises.

In Zhongshan, the delegation will receive briefings from municipal officials on the city's economic and industrial development. It will visit the Zhongshan Advanced High and New Technology Industrial Development Zone, an industrial products exhibition and various factories in the electronics, textile and plastics sectors.

Pointing to the increasingly close economic relationship between Hong Kong and China, Miss Yue said: "Regular contacts with Chinese officials and enterprises are very useful as they help to foster a better understanding between the two places."

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Job bazaar for retrainees

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The Labour Department will organise a job bazaar at the City Hall on Friday (December 16) to facilitate workers affected by economic restructuring, including retrainees, to find jobs.

Organised by the department's Local Employment Service (LES) and sponsored by the Employees Retraining Board (ERB), the bazaar will provide an opportunity for employers and potential employees to discuss job vacancies and employment conditions in the trades concerned.

Senior Labour Officer (Employment Services) Mr Raymond Chan said today (Sunday) a total of 17 employers from different trades including catering, supermarket, department store, communications, hotel and property management would be participating in the bazaar.

"They will brief job-seekers about their trades and select potential employees for interview on-the-spot or on a later date," he said.

There will also be talks by the ERB and participating training organisations on the Employees Retraining Scheme.

Mr Chan urged residents aged 30 or above who had been employed and had the need to find a new job to visit the job bazaar at the Exhibition Hall, Lower Block, City Hall, between 11 am and 6 pm.

Three similar bazaars held in July, September and October this year in Tsim Sha Tsui, Tsuen Wan and Sha Tin respectively were well-received, drawing a total of about 7,000 people.

Job-seekers wishing to seek more information on the job bazaar can contact the Labour Department on 5911260 or 5520134.

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Prevocational school applications close Thursday

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Parents of Primary 6 pupils are reminded that the deadline for applications for Secondary 1 places in Prevocational Schools in the 1995-96 school year is Thursday (December 15).

An Education Department spokesman said completed application forms should be returned via the pupil's primary school.

"Once a pupil is selected for admission to a prevocational school, he will not be eligible for allocation to other schools. However, unsuccessful candidates for prevocational schools are still eligible for central allocation of school places in the Secondary School Places Allocation exercise," he said.

The spokesman said all applicants would be invited to attend an interview on February 11 next year. Those who are not invited for interview by January 26 should contact the Education Department's Secondary School Places Allocation Section on 2891 2200.

and Air-conditioning and Refrigeration.

Situated at Pak Wai Tsuen in Kam Tin, Loi Shing Tong is one of the many
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This ancestral hall was built by Tang Tseung-luk in the 40th year of Kangxi reign (1701) to commemorate his ancestor Tang Kwong Yue.
Prevocational schools offer an alternative form of secondary school education to that provided in grammar and technical schools to meet different aptitudes and inclinations of students.

In addition to general subjects provided in ordinary grammar schools, prevocational schools offer a wide range of technical and commercial subjects such as Electronics and Electricity; Art and Design; Commerce; Principles of Accounts; Accommodation and Catering; Fashion and Clothing; Silversmithing and Jewellery; and Air-conditioning and Refrigeration.

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Kam Tin structures become deemed monuments

A stone tablet in the ancestral hall recorded a major renovation in the 47th year of Qianlong reign (1782) with donations from fellow clansmen.

Two structures in Kam Tin, Yuen Long, have been declared as deemed monuments by the Governor.
Loi Shing Tong is a modest two-hall green brick building with covered aisles on both sides.

They are an ancestral hall, Loi Shing Tong and the front block of Cheung Chun Yuen.
The building was converted into a store and later a factory when it ceased to be an ancestral hall in the 1970s.

Situated at Pak Wai Tsuen in Kam Tin, Loi Shing Tong is one of the many surviving monuments in the area.
As a result, the rear hall was much altered.

This ancestral hall was built by Tang Tseung-luk in the 40th year of Kangxi reign (1701) to commemorate his ancestor Tang Kwong Yue.

A stone tablet in the ancestral hall recorded a major renovation in the 47th year of Qianlong reign (1782) with donations from fellow clansmen.

Loi Shing Tong is a modest two-hall green brick building with covered aisles on both sides.

The building was converted into a store and later a factory when it ceased to be an ancestral hall in the 1970s.

As a result, the rear hall was much altered.

The building is now in dilapidated condition.

However, some fine and unique terra-cotta decorations above the main entrance and elaborate wood carvings inside the building still survive in relatively good condition.

Cheung Chun Yuen, which is also situated at Pak Wai Tsuen and comprising two blocks, was once a school for students for military degrees.

It was probably built in the 1870s by Tang Kuen-hin.

As Cheung Chun Yuen was once a school for martial arts, three antique "Kwan Dao"s (cast-iron spears with long blade) are still kept within the building.

The ancestral altar with family soul tablets is at the centre of the front block named Lau Kang Tong.

The rear block which is separated from the front block by a brick wall has been abandoned.

With the support of the managers of Cheung Chun Yuen, the front block is preserved.

The front block is still in very good condition except for the murals above the main entrance which have been blurred through weathering.

A number of historical artefacts, including furniture, incense burners, wooden plaques, antique weapons, soul tablets and village ware, are still present inside the building.

Restoration of Loi Shing Tong and the front block of Cheung Chun Yuen will be arranged by the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Recreation and Culture Branch in 1995 with funding from the Government.

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