



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK WELL EQUIPPED AS TRADE, FINANCE CENTRE

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HONG KONG IS WELL EQUIPPED AS AN IMPORTANT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CENTRE IN TRADE, FINANCE AND OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) IN PARIS.

HE WAS ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTHSCHILDS BANK ON THE LAST DAY OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO NEW YORK, BOSTON, LONDON AND PARIS.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT IN RECENT DECADES, HONG KONG'S ECONOMY HAD SURGED AHEAD, TO THE ENVY OF THE WORLD.

"ITS GDP HAS GROWN BY AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY EIGHT PER CENT A YEAR FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS WHICH IS REMARKABLE BY ANY STANDARD," HE SAID.

"OUR PER CAPITA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT STANDS AT ABOUT US\$6,800. WE ARE SECOND ONLY TO JAPAN IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION.

"HONG KONG IS ALSO DEVELOPING A TRULY SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS MAINLAND NEIGHBOUR," HE SAID.

THE TERRITORY NOW PLAYED AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC MODERNISATION BEING PURSUED IN CHINA, HE SAID.

"THE TOTAL VOLUME OF TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA HAS INCREASED MORE THAN FIVE-FOLD IN LESS THAN 10 YEARS AND THE VALUE OF THE ENTREPOT TRADE HAS TREBLED DURING THE SAME PERIOD," MR THOMAS SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS THE LARGEST SOURCE OF INVESTMENT IN CHINA'S SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES.

"HONG KONG IS ALSO A VALUABLE SOURCE OF SERVICES AND EXPERTISE OF WHICH CHINA IS MAKING EXTENSIVE USE IN ITS MODERNISATION PROGRAMME AND PARTICULARLY MANAGEMENT SKILLS," MR THOMAS SAID.

HE NOTED THAT MANY CHINESE VISITORS HAD COME TO HONG KONG TO ATTEND SEMINARS, TO DO BUSINESS AND TO STUDY HONG KONG'S MANAGERIAL TECHNIQUES.

"HONG KONG'S EFFICIENT POST, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AIR TRANSPORT AND BANKING FACILITIES, COMBINED WITH GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY AND THE ABSENCE OF A SIGNIFICANT LANGUAGE BARRIER HAVE ALL MEANT THAT HONG KONG'S ATTRACTION AS A CONDUIT FOR CHINA'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAVE CONTINUED TO GROW, EVEN AS CHINA ESTABLISHES DIRECT LINKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES," MR THOMAS SAID.

MR THOMAS WILL BE RETURNING TO HONG KONG TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

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METHODS OF REGULATING MAHJONG CLUBS UNDER STUDY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS EXAMINING METHODS OF REGULATING THOSE CLUBS WHICH MAKE MAHJONG GAMBLING ILLEGALLY THEIR PRIME AND ONLY BUSINESS, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, MR TSAO SAID THESE CLUBS OR ASSOCIATIONS WERE SET UP UNDER THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE AND THE CRITERIA FOR THE APPROVAL OF THEIR REGISTRATION OR THEIR EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION AS SUCH COULD BE RELATIVELY EASILY FULFILLED.

HE SAID THESE CLUBS, ONCE ESTABLISHED, ASSUMED THE SAME DEGREE OF PRIVACY AS ALL PRIVATE CLUBS RIGHTLY ENJOYED AND THIS MADE THE MONITORING OF THEIR ACTIVITIES DIFFICULT.

MR TSAO SAID THE LAW ON MAHJONG GAMBLING IN CLUBS REQUIRED THAT THE GAME DID NOT INVOLVE PLAYING AGAINST A BANK KEPT BY ONE OR MORE PLAYERS EXCLUSIVELY OF OTHERS.

THE GAME MUST NOT BE CONDUCTED BY WAY OF BUSINESS OTHERWISE THAN TO THE EXTENT OF CHARGING A FEE OF \$20 PER DAY PER SET OF MAHJONG TILES. AN INDIVIDUAL'S GAIN MUST BE LIMITED TO THE EXTENT OF HIS WINNINGS AS A PLAYER.

MR TSAO SAID SOME OF THESE CLUBS WERE BREAKING THESE RULES AND WERE IN EFFECT ILLEGAL GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS MAKING BIG BUSINESS AND PROFITS.

"THERE ARE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT SOME ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS," HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID THAT FROM TIME TO TIME THE OPERATORS OF SUCH PREMISES HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED AND THOSE INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL GAMBLING HAD ALSO BEEN PUNISHED.

"IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME WHO FREQUENT THESE PLACES ARE UNAWARE OF THE LAW AND THERE MAY WELL BE GROUNDS FOR FURTHER ADVERTISING THE RULES WHICH PERTAIN TO MAHJONG GAMBLING IN CLUBS," HE SAID.

"IT IS INCONCEIVABLE HOWEVER THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER APPLYING THE LICENSING CRITERIA AND CONTROLS OF MAHJONG HOUSES TO ALL CLUBS, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED," HE ADDED.

MR TSAO SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT POLICY WAS NOT TO ENCOURAGE GAMBLING AND TO RESTRICT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GAMBLING BUT TO ALLOW CONTROLLED OUTLETS FOR CERTAIN FORMS OF GAMBLING WHERE A COGENT NEED FOR SUCH OUTLETS WAS ESTABLISHED.

"THIS POLICY IS BACKED UP BY RESTRICTIVE LAWS AND FIRM ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

/MR TSAO

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MR TSAO SAID THIS POLICY HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL AS EVIDENCED BY ESTIMATES THAT THE ILLEGAL BOOKMAKING ANNUAL TURNOVER HAD FALLEN FROM \$2,500-\$3,000 MILLION IN 1973 TO SOME \$600 MILLION TODAY.

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES, MR TSAO SAID THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLACED AN OVERALL LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF SUCH CENTRES, THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CENTRES OF POPULATION MEANT THAT THERE WAS A DEMAND FOR THE RELOCATION AND THE OPENING OF NEW CENTRES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE SHIFTING POPULATION.

"FAILURE TO MEET THESE NEEDS WILL WITHOUT DOUBT STIMULATE ILLEGAL BOOKMAKING, THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH ARE IMMEASURABLY WORSE THAN THE PROVISION OF LEGAL OUTLETS.

"THIS REGRETTABLY IS NOT ALWAYS APPRECIATED BY THOSE WHO OBJECT WHENEVER A PROPOSAL TO OPEN A NEW CENTRE IN THEIR VICINITY IS MADE. NEVERTHELESS THE VIEWS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE CAREFULLY MONITORED," HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID ONE QUESTION OFTEN ASKED WAS THAT WHY THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PERMIT CASINO-TYPE GAMBLING IN HONG KONG.

"SOME SAY YES, SOME NO. THE BEST ANSWER I CAN GIVE IS 'ENOUGH IS PERHAPS ENOUGH', BUT THE QUESTION MUST BE LEFT TANTALISINGLY UNANSWERED FOR THE TIME BEING," HE SAID.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER RELEASED

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HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE CONTINUED TO SURGE IN OCTOBER 1987, THOUGH AT A SLOWER RATE THAN IN SEPTEMBER.

ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN OCTOBER 1987 WAS \$18,188 MILLION, 18.4 PER CENT OR \$2,829 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN OCTOBER 1986, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 39.0 PER CENT OR \$4,790 MILLION TO \$17,082 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT \$35,270 MILLION, WAS 27.6 PER CENT OR \$7,619 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN OCTOBER 1986.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 24.0 PER CENT OR \$6,709 MILLION OVER OCTOBER 1986 TO \$34,714 MILLION.

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AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN OCTOBER 1987 WAS GREATER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF \$556 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.6 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED FOR THE MONTH. THE VISIBLE TRADE BALANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL MONTHS IS, HOWEVER, SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATIONS. IN OCTOBER 1986, A DEFICIT OF \$354 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.3 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1987 WAS \$305,485 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$159,327 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$146,158 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$84,095 MILLION OR 38.0 PER CENT, THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY \$35,581 MILLION OR 28.8 PER CENT, AND THAT OF RE-EXPORTS BY \$48,514 MILLION OR 49.7 PER CENT. OVER THIS PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY \$82,424 MILLION OR 37.1 PER CENT, TO \$304,865 MILLION.

A SMALL CUMULATIVE VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF \$620 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1987. THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$1,051 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.5 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THE RAPID GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN RECENT MONTHS WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SUSTAINED DEMAND FOR AND RELATIVE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS IN THE MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS. ON THE SUPPLY SIDE, IT REFLECTED THE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN COPING WITH DEMAND WHEN RESOURCES WERE TIGHT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE CONTINUED RAPID GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE FLOURISHING ENTREPOT TRADE WITH CHINA, IN ITS POSITION BOTH AS A SOURCE AND AS A MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS.

HE ADDED THAT THE SUSTAINED GROWTH IN IMPORTS WAS PARTLY A REFLECTION OF THE GROWTH IN DOMESTIC DEMAND, BUT ALSO SUGGESTED THAT EXPORT PERFORMANCE WAS LIKELY TO REMAIN SATISFACTORY FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.

THE GENERALLY SLOWER GROWTH RATES OF THE TRADE AGGREGATES RECORDED IN OCTOBER 1987 WERE PARTLY A RESULT OF THE HIGH BASE OF COMPARISON IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 1987.

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$18,188	MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$17,082	MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$35,270	MILLION	
	IMPORTS	:	\$34,714	MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 556	MILLION	[IN SURPLUS]

/COMPARATIVE FIGURES

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	AUG 87	AUG 86	INCREASE	
	TO	TO	HK\$ MN.	%
	OCT 87	OCT 86		
HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	54,587	44,102	10,485	23.8
RE-EXPORTS	49,733	34,048	15,685	46.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	104,320	78,150	26,170	33.5
IMPORTS	99,413	74,947	24,466	32.6
TRADE BALANCE	4,907	3,203	1,704	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	INCREASE	
	1987	1986	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,188	15,359	2,829	18.4
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(51.6%)	(55.5%)		
RE-EXPORTS	17,082	12,292	4,790	39.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	35,270	27,651	7,619	27.6
IMPORTS	34,714	28,005	6,709	24.0
TRADE BALANCE	556	-354	910	

LAST MONTH	OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER	INCREASE	
	1987	1987	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,188	17,843	345	1.9
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(51.6%)	(52.0%)		
RE-EXPORTS	17,082	16,502	580	3.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	35,270	34,345	925	2.7
IMPORTS	34,714	32,766	1,948	5.9
TRADE BALANCE	556	1,579	-1,023	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-OCT	JAN-OCT	INCREASE	
	1987	1986	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	159,327	123,746	35,581	28.8
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(52.2%)	(55.9%)		
RE-EXPORTS	146,158	97,644	48,514	49.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	305,485	221,390	84,095	38.0
IMPORTS	304,865	222,441	82,424	37.1
TRADE BALANCE	620	-1,051	1,671	

LAST 12 MONTHS	NOV 86	NOV 85	INCREASE	
	TO	TO	HK\$ MN.	%
	OCT 87	OCT 86		
HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	189,565	147,521	42,044	28.5
RE-EXPORTS	171,060	115,833	55,227	47.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	360,625	263,354	97,271	36.9
IMPORTS	358,378	264,937	93,441	35.3
TRADE BALANCE	2,247	-1,583	3,830	

FUNDS SOUGHT FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME, WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR, AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

AFTER A RECENT REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME, A PACKAGE OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS WAS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY FUNDS.

THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ARE ESTIMATED AT \$25.7 MILLION FOR A FULL YEAR IN ANNUALLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER TWO ITEMS RELATING TO RECENT EVENTS IN THE HONG KONG STOCK AND FUTURES MARKETS.

THE FIRST ONE IS TO APPROVE A COMMITMENT OF \$3.5 MILLION FOR A CONSULTANCY ON THE FINANCIAL FUTURES MARKET IN HONG KONG.

THE EXPENDITURE WAS INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE HAMBROS BANK LTD ON OCTOBER 22 TO ACT AS ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH LED TO THE ORDERLY RE-OPENING OF THE STOCK AND FUTURES MARKETS ON OCTOBER 26.

THE SECOND ITEM IS TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ESTABLISHING THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE, ESTIMATED AT \$5.1 MILLION AND A NEW NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENT OF \$3.9 MILLION FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF EXPERTS AND FOR DUTY VISITS.

OTHER ITEMS ON TOMORROW'S AGENDA INCLUDE:

- * AN INCREASE OF \$6,193,000 IN THE BLOCK CAPITAL GRANT TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT FOR INCLUSION OF 11 ADDITIONAL WELFARE PROJECTS IN THE ROLLING PROGRAMME;
- * A SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$4.2 MILLION TO MEET REFUNDS OF REVENUE;
- * A COMMITMENT OF \$4.6 MILLION FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT THREE-UNIT REEL-FED OFFSET PRINTING PRESS FOR THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT;
- * AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT BY \$19,030,000 FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 28 AIDED SCHOOLS;
- * A COMMITMENT OF \$5,913,000 TO ASSIST THE PO LEUNG KUK IN PROVIDING A SPECIAL SCHOOL WITH BOARDING PLACES AT THE LEI MUK SHUE ESTATE FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN;

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- * THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF SETTING UP A PILOT COMPUTERISED HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ESTIMATED AT \$33,008,000 IN NON-RECURRENT COST AND \$5,972,000 IN ANNUALLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE ON FULL IMPLEMENTATION;
- * A COMMITMENT OF \$12.8 MILLION FOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE TO THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE AND A COMMITMENT OF \$3,683,000 FOR REPAIRS TO THE EXTERNAL WALLS OF BUILDINGS AT THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL;
- * AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT BY \$28,977,000, \$1,100,000 AND \$4,340,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF THE KWAI CHUNG AND KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ANNEXES; THE ALTERATIONS WORKS TO THE EXISTING BUILDINGS OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL; AND THE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT IN THESE BUILDINGS RESPECTIVELY;
- * A COMMITMENT OF \$5,064,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO HYDRAULIC PLATFORMS, \$3.6 MILLION FOR TWO REPLACEMENT 50-METRE TURNABLE LADDER SETS AND \$3,350,000 FOR ONE REPLACEMENT MAJOR SNORKEL FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT;
- * AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT BY \$1,790,000 FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK COMPENSATION TRIBUNAL.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE.

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ELEVEN QUESTIONS ON LEGCO AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL RAISE 11 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER THREE BILLS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE THREE BILLS, NAMELY, THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (MEMBERS) BILL 1987, THE FISHERIES PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AND THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1987, WILL GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE PUT UP FOR THIRD READING.

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ONE MORE AIDS CASE

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) CONFIRMED A NEW CASE OF AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) IN HONG KONG.

THE NEW CASE IS A NON-CHINESE MAN WHO HAD SEXUALLY ACQUIRED THE INFECTION.

HE WAS AMONG THE AIDS CARRIERS PREVIOUSLY TESTED AND RECENTLY WAS FOUND TO HAVE DEVELOPED SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE.

UP TO NOW, SEVEN AIDS PATIENTS HAVE DIED IN HONG KONG. BESIDES THE NEW CASE, ANOTHER PATIENT IS UNDER TREATMENT.

RELEASING THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME FIGURES FOR OCTOBER, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT TWO MORE PERSONS WERE FOUND TO BE INFECTED BY THE AIDS VIRUS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 3,471 PERSONS TESTED LAST MONTH.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HONG KONG INFECTED BY AIDS TO 106.

OF THE TWO NEW CARRIERS, ONE IS A HAEMOPHILIAC AND THE OTHER IS A REFERRAL FROM A PRIVATE PRACTITIONER.

TO MONITOR THE AIDS SITUATION IN HONG KONG, THE VIRUS UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTED AN AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME IN 1985 TO CARRY OUT HIV ANTIBODY TESTS ON CERTAIN HIGH RISK GROUPS. THESE GROUPS INCLUDE SEXUALLY PROMISCUOUS PERSONS, INTRAVENOUS DRUG ADDICTS AND MULTI-TRANSFUSED PATIENTS.

BY OCTOBER, A TOTAL OF 70,727 TESTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME.

DURING OCTOBER, THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAD ALSO CARRIED OUT TESTS FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY ON 14,170 UNITS OF DONATED BLOOD, ALL SHOWING NEGATIVE RESULTS.

SINCE THE MASS SCREENING PROGRAMME ON DONATED BLOOD WAS STARTED TWO YEARS AGO, A TOTAL OF 324,276 UNITS OF BLOOD HAVE BEEN TESTED AND FIVE WERE FOUND TO BE INFECTED BY THE AIDS VIRUS.

THE AIDS COUNSELLING SERVICE, WHICH WAS SET UP IN NOVEMBER 1985, RECEIVED 1,781 CALLS LAST MONTH FROM PEOPLE WHO FEARED THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE CONTRACTED AIDS.

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SIU TO BE POSTMASTER GENERAL
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT MR GORDON SIU, SECRETARY GENERAL, OMELCO, WILL SUCCEED MR HUGH ARDLEY AS POSTMASTER GENERAL WHEN MR ARDLEY RETIRES IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AFTER 11 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE TWO OFFICERS:

MR GORDON SIU KWING-CHUE, JP

AGED 41. MR SIU JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1968. HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES. MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR (1977-79), PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (1980-82), AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (STAFF MANAGEMENT) (1982-85). HE BECAME SECRETARY GENERAL, OMELCO IN OCTOBER 1985. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B IN APRIL 1982.

MR HUGH GORDON ARDLEY, ISO, JP

AGED 58. MR ARDLEY JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C IN 1976, AFTER COMPLETING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE UK CIVIL SERVICE. HE HAS SERVED AS DEPUTY SECRETARY (MANAGEMENT) IN THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION BRANCH (1976-79), DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES (1979-81), AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT (1981-82). HE BECAME POSTMASTER GENERAL IN DECEMBER 1982. HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN JULY 1983.

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NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF OMELCO APPOINTED
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THE OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (OMELCO) ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT MRS KATHERINE FOK LO SHIU-CHING WILL SUCCEED MR GORDON SIU AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OFFICE. SHE WILL TAKE UP THE NEW APPOINTMENT ON JANUARY 1, 1988.

MRS FOK, AGED 45, IS A STAFF GRADE B ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. SHE JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN 1962 AND HAS SINCE SERVED IN A NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

AT PRESENT, SHE IS THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS, INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, A POST WHICH SHE TOOK UP IN NOVEMBER 1983.

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GERMAN FIRMS TOLD OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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THERE ARE EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GERMAN FIRMS TO DO BUSINESS IN HONG KONG, THE MINISTER FOR HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, MR STEUART WEBB-JOHNSON, TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE EAST ASIA ASSOCIATION IN HAMBURG.

MR WEBB-JOHNSON SAID OPPORTUNITIES EXISTED PARTICULARLY IN THE SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION SECTORS, AND HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM WEST GERMANY HAD GROWN BY 30 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

THE EAST ASIA ASSOCIATION IS AN INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION. IT COMPRISES OVER 400 MEMBER FIRMS FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE GERMAN ECONOMY AND AIMS AT PROMOTING TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN WEST GERMANY AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.

POINTING TO HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA, MR WEBB-JOHNSON STRESSED THAT THE TERRITORY'S GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND THE LOCALLY AVAILABLE EXPERTISE IN TRADE WITH CHINA SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED BY BUSINESSES LOOKING TO ESTABLISH A BASE IN THE REGION.

HE ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE.

HE POINTED TO THE MANY ASSURANCES GIVEN BY CHINA - BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD - CONCERNING THE AGREEMENT AND THE RESULTING RETURN OF CONFIDENCE TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES FOR OPENING OF WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR

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TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR STAGE III, A SERIES OF TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN MONG KOK AND SHAM SHUI PO FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 28).

WITH THE OPENING OF THE CORRIDOR, TRAVELLING TIME BETWEEN SOUTH KOWLOON AND THE WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE GREATLY REDUCED.

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UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN MONG KOK WILL BE RE-ROUTED:

- * FIR STREET BETWEEN LARCH STREET AND FUK TSUN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY NORTHEAST-BOUND TO ONE-WAY SOUTHWEST-BOUND.
- * SYCAMORE STREET BETWEEN MAPLE STREET AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, CURRENTLY ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND, WILL BECOME TWO-WAY.

THE FOLLOWING TURNING MOVEMENTS WILL BE BANNED:

- * LEFT TURNS FROM TONG MEI ROAD NORTHBOUND ON TO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST WESTBOUND, AND FROM PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST EASTBOUND ON TO TONG MEI ROAD NORTHBOUND.
- * RIGHT TURNS FROM PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST WESTBOUND ON TO SYCAMORE STREET, AND FROM TONG MEI ROAD NORTHBOUND ON TO MONG KOK ROAD EASTBOUND.
- * RIGHT TURNS FROM MONG KOK ROAD WESTBOUND ON TO TONG MEI ROAD NORTHBOUND WILL BE BANNED FOR ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES.

HOWEVER, VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON TONG MEI ROAD NORTHBOUND WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT ON TO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST EASTBOUND.

ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, LEARNER DRIVERS, CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR AND ITS SLIP ROADS. IN ADDITION, THE OFFSIDE LANE OF MONG KOK ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN CHEUNG WONG ROAD AND TONG MEI ROAD WILL BE MADE A BUS-ONLY LANE. NO VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THIS TRAFFIC LANE AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY.

TO ENSURE SMOOTH TRAFFIC FLOW, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE MADE URBAN CLEARWAYS OPERATING ROUND THE CLOCK:

- * THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR FROM A POINT ABOUT 80 METRES EAST OF THE JUNCTION OF LAI CHI KOK ROAD WITH CHEUNG MOU STREET IN CHEUNG SHA WAN TO THE NOSING OF THE EXIT SLIP ROAD FOR TONG MEI ROAD SOUTHBOUND IN MONG KOK.
- * THE EXIT SLIP ROAD TO TONG MEI ROAD SOUTHBOUND FROM ITS NOSING WITH THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR TO A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES SOUTH OF THE JUNCTION OF TONG MEI ROAD WITH BUTE STREET.
- * THE EXIT SLIP ROAD TO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST IN MONG KOK FROM ITS NOSING WITH THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR TO THE JUNCTION OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST WITH SYCAMORE STREET.

/x THE NORTHBOUND

- * THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR FROM THE NOSING OF THE SLIP ROAD WHICH LEADS TO YEN CHOW STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO TO A POINT ABOUT 80 METRES EAST OF THE JUNCTION OF LAI CHI KOK ROAD WITH CHEUNG MOU STREET IN CHEUNG SHA WAN.
- * THE SECTION OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CHERRY STREET IN TAI KOK TSUI TO ITS EXIT SLIP ROAD JUNCTION WITH YEN CHOW STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO.

TWO SECTIONS OF LAI CHI KOK ROAD WILL BECOME 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS. THEY ARE LAI CHI KOK ROAD EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG SHUN STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 65 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG LAI STREET, AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD WESTBOUND FROM HOUSE NO. 855 TO A POINT ABOUT 80 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH YUET LUN STREET. HOWEVER, THE SERVICE ROAD FROM HOUSE NOS. 855 TO 869 LAI CHI KOK ROAD WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THIS RESTRICTION.

IN ADDITION, LAI CHI KOK ROAD FROM HING WAH STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 65 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG LAI STREET WILL BE MADE A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

WHILE A SPEED LIMIT OF 70 KILOMETRES PER HOUR WILL BE IMPOSED ON CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR, VEHICLES TRAVELLING ALONG SOME OTHER SECTIONS OF THE CORRIDOR AND ITS SLIP ROADS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO EXCEED THE LIMIT OF 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC SIGNS.

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FINALISTS SELECTED FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS' AWARDS

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A TOTAL OF 12 COMPOSERS AND ENSEMBLE GROUPS HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS FINALISTS FOR THIS YEAR'S HONG KONG YOUNG MUSICIANS' AWARDS.

THE COMPETITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG (RTHK) AND THE COMPOSERS AND AUTHORS SOCIETY OF HONG KONG (CASH).

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY), MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MRS DORIS HO, SAID THE CONTEST WAS ENTERING ITS LAST STAGE WITH ITS FINALS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 28 AND 29 AT THE CONCERT HALL, ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

THERE ARE TWO CATEGORIES EACH IN THE CHINESE MUSIC AND WESTERN MUSIC SECTIONS, ONE FOR COMPOSITION AND THE OTHER FOR ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE.

/THE WINNER

THE WINNER AND FIRST TWO RUNNERS-UP IN EACH CATEGORY WILL BE AWARDED \$6,000, \$3,000 AND \$1,000 RESPECTIVELY, WITH THE AMOUNT OF CASH PRICES DONATED BY CASH TOTTALLING \$40,000.

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE HONG KONG MUSIC FUND CASH, MISS GRACE CHEUNG, SAID IT WAS THE AIM OF THE SOCIETY TO ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY IN COMPOSITION THROUGH THE CONTEST. SHE SAID SHE WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT THE EVENT HAD ATTRACTED MORE ENTRIES EACH YEAR AND THAT THE STANDARD WAS IMPROVING AT THE SAME TIME.

MR RICHARD TSANG, HEAD OF RADIO 4, RTHK, SAID: "AS ONE OF THE INITIATORS OF THIS COMPETITION SEVEN YEARS AGO, I AM PARTICULARLY EXCITED TO SEE THAT THE YOUNG MUSICIANS' AWARDS PROJECT HAS FULFILLED ITS OBJECTIVES TO PROMOTE AND TO NURTURE THE CREATIVE AND PERFORMING TALENTS OF OUR YOUTHS."

"I SINCERELY HOPE THAT ALL COMPETITORS IN THE COMING COMPETITION CAN ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULTS AND THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS IMPROVING OUR MUSIC SCENE," HE ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PANELS OF JUDGES FOR THE FINAL EVENTS ARE DR DANIEL LAW, MR LAW WING-FAI, DR CHAN WING-WAH, MR KWOK DICK-YEUNG, MR CHAN PUI-FANG, MR HENRY NOVAK, MISS MARY POND, DR ANNE BOYD, DR WILLIAN WATSON, DR HARRISON RYKER, MR LAW WAI-LUN, MR CHEUNG SHUN, MR GUO HENG-JI, MR CHEN NING-CHI, MR KUOK KWONG-YUI, MS HON SEE-WAH, MR CHAN HOI-KAN, MR YUEN TONG-CHOR, DR YIP MING-MEI AND MR CHAN SAM-LAM.

TRACING THE HISTORY OF THE AWARDS, MRS HO SAID IT WAS FIRST HELD IN 1981 AS THE HONG KONG YOUNG MUSIC MAKERS' TALENT QUEST AND WAS RENAMED THE HONG KONG YOUNG MUSICIANS' AWARDS IN 1984 IN ORDER TO REFLECT MORE APPROPRIATELY ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

THE LIST OF THE FINAL ENTRIES IS AS FOLLOWS:

CHINESE COMPOSITION

1. A POET'S DREAM BY CHAN HING-YAN
2. THE BRAVE MAN BY CHEUNG CHI-LEUNG
3. DANCING ON THE MOON BY CHAN MING-CHI

WESTERN COMPOSTITION

1. "C" QUINTET BY HO SIU-WAH
2. BALLAD BY LEUNG BO-WAH
3. AUTUMN MIST BY LAM KUN-WONG

/CHINESE ENSEMBLE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1987

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CHINESE ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

1. SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION BY CHAN KAM-BIU
2. THREE VARIATIONS ON YANG CITY TUNE BY HU DENG-TIAO
3. DRUM POEM BY TAN DUN AND LI ZHEN-GUI

WESTERN ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

1. TRIO FOR PIANOFORTE, CLARINET AND CELLO IN A MINOR, OP. 114 BY JOHANNES BRAHMS
2. SUITE FOR PIANOFORTE, CLARINET AND VIOLIN BY DARIUS MILHAUD
3. BRASS QUINTET BY MALCOLM ARNOLD

A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS FOR THE TWO FINALS ON NOVEMBER 28 AND 29 AT 8 PM, PRICED AT \$10 EACH, ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT ALL URTIX OUTLETS, THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE. ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON 5-283257.

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CLASSICAL TRAM TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY

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A CLASSICAL TRAM WILL TOUR CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 29) AFTERNOON TO PROMOTE THE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

SOME DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL ACCOMPANY THE TRAM TOUR AND DISTRIBUTE ROAD SAFETY PAMPHLETS TO RESIDENTS AT VARIOUS STOPS.

A CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD ON THE SAME DAY AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT TO PUBLICISE THE IMPORTANCE OF ROAD SAFETY.

A NUMBER OF GAME STALLS WILL BE SET UP, ONE OF WHICH IS A TONGUE-TWISTER GAME ON ROAD SAFETY MESSAGES.

THERE WILL BE A PHOTO EXHIBITION ON TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND TWO WRECKED CARS ON DISPLAY TO REMIND PEOPLE OF THE COSTLY PRICE FOR NOT USING THE ROADS PROPERLY.

IN ADDITION, A MOBILE ROAD SAFETY TOWN WILL BE SET UP TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE ROAD SAFETY CODE, WHILE CHILDREN CAN HAVE FUN BY PLAYING IN AN INFLATABLE GORILLA AT THE CARNIVAL.

/THE CENTRAL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1987

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG, WILL OPEN THE CARNIVAL AT 2.30 PM. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY CHORAL SINGING AND A BAND PERFORMANCE.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR VINCENT KO; DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR CHAM SIU-LEUN AND MR HUNG WING-TAT; POLICE CENTRAL DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR BILL KIRKHOPE; WESTERN DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, MR E.J. STEVENSON; AND SENIOR STAFF OFFICER OF THE POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION (HONG KONG ISLAND), MR LAM KIN.

THE CARNIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE POLICE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT'S ROAD SAFETY CARNIVAL STARTING AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT. INFORMATION OFFICER, MISS VALENTINA CHAN, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN ABERDEEN FACE CLOSURE

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO APPLY IN HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JANUARY 26 NEXT YEAR FOR CLOSURE ORDERS TO BE MADE ON ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE FLAT ROOF ADJACENT TO FLATS C AND D ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF 64-70, OLD MAIN STREET, ABERDEEN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID CLOSING THE STRUCTURES WAS NECESSARY SO THAT DEMOLITION COULD BE CARRIED OUT SAFELY.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS HAVE BEEN POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES.

HE SAID ORDERS TO DEMOLISH THE STRUCTURES WERE ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN NOVEMBER 1984 AND JUNE 1986, BUT THEY HAD NOT BEEN COMPLIED WITH.

DEMOLITION WORK WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS CLOSURE ORDERS WERE OBTAINED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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MEETING TO DISCUSS SAI KUNG ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 26) TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED MINOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN SAI KUNG DISTRICT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SERVICE AREA AT THE ENTRANCE TO FUNG ON VILLAGE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 26) BEGINNING AT 10 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS IN KWAI CHUNG

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TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW, A NUMBER OF ROAD SECTIONS IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE MADE 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 27).

THEY ARE:

- * THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI YUEN STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KWOK SHUI ROAD TO THE END OF THE STREET.
- * THE TURN-AROUND AREA AT THE END OF TAI YUEN STREET.
- * KWOK SHUI ROAD EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI YUEN STREET TO ITS JUNCTION WITH LEI MUK ROAD.
- * THE KERBSIDE LANE OF TAI LOONG STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WO YI HOP ROAD TO ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI PAK TIN STREET.

NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE ABOVE URBAN CLEARWAYS FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

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PROHIBITED ZONE AT ESTATE IN TSING YI

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FROM FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 27), NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE ACCESS ROAD BETWEEN ROAD TY18 AND CHEUNG ON BUS TERMINUS IN TSING YI AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

(SUPPLEMENT)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1987

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE
GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON,
ON NOVEMBER 24, 1987

GOVERNOR GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

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FOLLOWING IS A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (TUESDAY):

H.E.: GOOD AFTERNOON. IT IS NICE TO SEE YOU ALL THROUGH THE BARRAGE OF CAMERAS AND IT IS NICE TO KNOW THAT BOTH TELEVISION COMPANIES ARE APPARENTLY OPERATING IN CO-OPERATION!

IT IS SEVEN MONTHS SINCE I CAME TO HONG KONG IN MY PRESENT APPOINTMENT. IT IS SOME SIX MONTHS SINCE I GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE. A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN HAPPENING DURING THESE SIX MONTHS AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A NICE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET ALL OF YOU PUBLICLY AND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU WANTED TO PUT FORWARD. MOST OF YOU I HAVE MET OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. MANY OF YOU I HAVE MET SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. SO I AM AT YOUR DISPOSAL TO TRY TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

DIS: FIRST QUESTION? THE GENTLEMAN IN THE FRONT.

LO WING-HUNG, OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC JOURNAL: THE FIRST QUESTION, CONCERNING YOUR TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. DURING YOUR TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER, HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY PRESSURE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE LINK RATE BETWEEN HONG KONG DOLLARS AND U.S. DOLLARS? THE SECOND QUESTION IS, ABOUT YOUR TRIP TO -- ALSO YOUR TRIP TO CHINA. AS THERE ARE SO MANY RUMOURS CONCERNING YOUR RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND ABOUT YOUR TRIP, DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BRIEF THE LEGCO MEMBERS, LET'S SAY IN THE OMELCO MEETING, AFTER EVERY VISIT TO CHINA ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN YOU AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT? I THINK THIS PRACTICE, IT WAS THE PRACTICE DURING THE NEGOTIATION PERIOD. DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE?

H.E.: THANK YOU. THESE ARE TWO VERY DIFFERENT QUESTIONS. LET ME TAKE THEM IN ORDER. FIRST OF ALL, THE UNITED STATES. I SAID WHEN I WAS IN THE UNITED STATES THAT THE POINT HAD BEEN RAISED WITH ME OF THE LINK WITH THE U.S. DOLLAR. IT IS A POINT WHICH HAS COME UP BEFORE; FOR INSTANCE, MR BAKER TALKING AT THE I.M.F. CONFERENCE. IT IS A POINT WHICH HAS COME UP MUCH MORE RECENTLY WITH MR MULFORD AND SOME COMMENTS THAT HE HAS MADE. WE HAVE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT SEE HONG KONG GETTING ANY UNFAIR TRADING ADVANTAGE FROM THE LINK. WE SEE OUR POSITION AS BEING VERY DIFFERENT INDEED FROM THAT OF SOUTH KOREA OR TAIWAN. IN BOTH THOSE CASES THE UNITED STATES IS VERY UNDERSTANDABLY TRYING TO REDUCE THE TRADE DEFICIT BECAUSE HUGE SURPLUSES HAVE BEEN BUILT UP AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF PROTECTIONIST BARRIERS. I EXPLAINED IN THE UNITED STATES THAT HONG KONG IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT. WE ARE NOT RUNNING A TRADE SURPLUS. OUR TRADE IS ROUGHLY IN BALANCE. IN FACT WE MAY AT THE END OF THIS YEAR BE SLIGHTLY IN DEFICIT. I ALSO EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE PEG ARRANGEMENT IS ONE OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE TO THE STABILITY OF HONG KONG AND THE STABILITY OF THE HONG KONG FINANCIAL SYSTEM AND THEREFORE OUR TRADING SYSTEM. AND I EXPLAINED TO THEM ALSO THAT FOR THOSE REASONS WE HAD NO INTENTION OF SHIFTING IT AND I AM BOUND TO SAY THAT WITH MOST OF THE PEOPLE I WAS TALKING TO I GOT A VERY SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE.

/YOUR SECOND

YOUR SECOND QUESTION, GOING ON TO CHINA. I HAVE NOW MADE A TRIP TO CHINA IN SEPTEMBER. I AM GOING THIS TIME TO GUANGZHOU, SHANGHAI AND PEKING. THE ORIGINAL REASON FOR THE TRIP WAS TO OPEN A T.D.C. OFFICE IN SHANGHAI AND ON TO THAT I HAVE ADDED A SHORT VISIT TO PEKING AND ALSO TO START WITH A SHORT VISIT TO CANTON. WHENEVER I GO ON A TRIP OF THIS SORT, I BRIEF EXCO IN GREAT DETAIL ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE BEEN DOING. IT WOULD NOT, FRANKLY, BE EASY TO BRIEF THE WHOLE OF LEGCO ON EVERYTHING THAT I AM DOING. I MEET THE PRESS WHEN I RETURN AND ANSWER QUESTIONS BUT I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO GO THROUGH A DETAILED DE-BRIEFING SESSION WITH THE WHOLE OF LEGCO. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT I SHOULD BRIEF IN GREAT DETAIL ALL THE MEMBERS OF EXCO.

CLAUDIA MO, OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE: SIR, I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS. THE FIRST ONE IS HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU THINK WE CAN MAINTAIN THIS DOLLAR LINK? AND THE SECOND QUESTION IS, IS IT TRUE THAT MR FORD'S TIGER TALK IS AIMED AT MAINTAINING MORALE WITHIN HONG KONG'S CIVIL SERVICE?

H.E.: IT SEEMS TO BE A SPECIALISATION IN LINKED OR UNLINKED DOUBLE QUESTIONS! LET ME AGAIN TAKE THOSE TWO IN ORDER. WE DO INTEND TO MAINTAIN THAT LINK. NOBODY CAN PREDICT EXACTLY WHAT THE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES IN 10 YEARS' TIME WILL BE. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION AT THE MOMENT OF SHIFTING THAT LINK.

YOUR SECOND POINT, WHAT THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID, I DO BELIEVE THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE FELT THAT MUCH OF WHAT IT WAS DOING HAD BEEN UNDER ATTACK AND IT WAS THEREFORE RIGHT FOR HIM TO ANSWER CRITICISMS BUT THERE IS MORE TO IT THAN THAT, I SUGGEST. WE ARE A SOCIETY IN WHICH PEOPLE DEBATE ISSUES AND IT IS QUITE RIGHT THAT THEY SHOULD DO SO. IT IS ALSO RIGHT THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDER CRITICISM THEN THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ANSWER BACK AND THAT IS ESSENTIALLY WHAT HE WAS DOING. THERE IS OF COURSE NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO TRY TO SUPPRESS CRITICISM. CRITICISM, PARTICULARLY CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM, IS SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY USEFUL FOR A GOVERNMENT AND A GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALWAYS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. IT IS, HOWEVER, RIGHT I BELIEVE, THAT IF CRITICISED, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER THESE CRITICISMS.

DANNY LO, OF THE HONGKONG STANDARD: SIR, I UNDERSTAND YOU WILL BE ATTENDING ONE TOBACCO SPONSORED EVENT IN CHRISTMAS. HOW WOULD YOU RECONCILE YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S STANDING POLICY OF AGAINST SMOKING? AND, AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE HAVE POSED THREE QUESTIONS FOR YOU ON OUR NOVEMBER 19 ISSUE OF THE PAPER. THE FIRST -- ALL OF THEM ARE SHORT QUESTIONS. FIRST OF ALL, WOULD YOU HAVE ACCEPTED THE INVITATION HAD YOU KNOWN ABOUT THE TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP? THE SECOND QUESTION BEING, DO YOU APPROVE OF TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP OF CULTURAL EVENTS AND, IF NOT, WOULD YOU ATTEND FUTURE TOBACCO SPONSORED EVENTS? AND THE THIRD AND LAST QUESTION IS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE SURE INVITATIONS ARE CHECKED OUT PROPERLY IN FUTURE?

/H.E.

H.E.: THAT IS A VERY CONSIDERABLE INTERROGATION! WHAT I AM DOING IS GOING TO THE HONG KONG BALLET AND A PERFORMANCE OF NUTCRACKER. IT IS THE GALA OPENING PERFORMANCE OF A SEASON THAT THEY ARE DOING. MY REASON FOR GOING IS QUITE SIMPLY TO SUPPORT THE HONG KONG BALLET WHICH IS A SPLENDID ORGANISATION AND WHICH DOES NEED SUPPORT. IT TURNS OUT THAT PART OF THE SPONSORSHIP FOR THAT ORGANISATION COMES FROM LES MUST DE CARTIER AND PART OF THE SPONSORSHIP FOR THE REST OF THE PROGRAMME, OR THE TOTAL PROGRAMME, ALSO COMES FROM, I THINK, ULTIMATELY THE ROTHMANS GROUP. I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THAT SPONSORSHIP ARRANGEMENT WHEN I ACCEPTED THE INVITATION. I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE RIGHT FOR ME TO WITHDRAW FROM THAT SIMPLY BECAUSE THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF SPONSORSHIP FOR THE WHOLE SERIES COMING ULTIMATELY FROM THE TOBACCO COMPANY. AS FAR AS GOVERNMENT POLICY IS CONCERNED, THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY KEEN TO POINT OUT TO PEOPLE THE HEALTH DANGERS OF SMOKING AND TO TRY TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE NOT TO SMOKE. AND THAT MEANS THAT WHEN THERE IS A GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED ORGANISATION, THEY ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO TAKE TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP. PERHAPS THE FINAL COMMENT I MIGHT MAKE IS THAT I KNOW THAT THE HONG KONG BALLET IS LOOKING FOR SUPPORT FROM ELSEWHERE. I AM SURE THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME IT FROM OTHER PLACES, TOO.

FANNY WONG, OF THE ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS: SIR DAVID, IN THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT, IT SUGGESTS NO CLEAR SUPPORT FOR INTRODUCING DIRECT ELECTIONS INTO OUR LEGISLATURE NEXT YEAR. IT DOES INDICATE THAT THERE IS A MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR INTRODUCING DIRECT ELECTIONS BEFORE 1997? IN THAT CASE, WOULD THE GOVERNMENT MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT ON THE WHITE PAPER THAT WE SHALL HAVE DIRECT ELECTIONS BEFORE 1997?

H.E.: I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT WILL GO INTO THE WHITE PAPER AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL WANT TO TAKE PLENTY OF TIME TO CONSIDER ALL OF THE DETAIL THAT IS IN THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT BEFORE COMING TO DECISIONS ON THE COMPLETE PACKAGE SO I CAN'T GIVE YOU A PRECISE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION BUT I CAN TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THE PARAMETERS WITHIN WHICH THAT DECISION WILL BE TAKEN. I THINK THE PARAMETERS MUST BE SEEN AS THE WAY IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE RESPONDED. THAT HAS SHOWN THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT DO BELIEVE THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME ELEMENT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS BEFORE 1997. IT HAS ALSO SHOWN THAT THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH HAS NOT RESPONDED, DOESN'T HAVE A VIEW, OR HASN'T PUT FORWARD A VIEW. AND THIRDLY IT HAS SHOWN THAT ON THE QUESTION OF 1988, THE COMMUNITY IS SHARPLY DIVIDED. SO THAT CREATES THE PARAMETERS WITHIN WHICH DECISIONS HAVE TO BE TAKEN. BUT I CAN'T, AS I SAY, TELL YOU PRECISELY WHAT THE DECISIONS IN THE WHITE PAPER WILL BE BECAUSE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS STILL TO REFLECT ON THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT AND THEN TO GIVE ITS ADVICE AND I EXPECT THAT TO TAKE A FEW WEEKS' TIME YET.

FANNY WONG: SIR S.Y. CHUNG HAD SAID THAT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE POLITICAL REVIEW, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS UNDER PRESSURES FROM BOTH CHINA, BRITAIN AND LOCAL PUBLIC OPINION. SO, WOULD YOU SAY WHAT WEIGHT WOULD BE ATTACHED TO EACH OF THESE THREE ELEMENTS, AND WOULD GOVERNMENT BOW TO THE PRESSURE OF CHINA AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LOCAL VIEW?

/H.E.

H.E.: THE WAY IN WHICH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL LOOK AT THIS, I'M SURE, IS THAT THEY WILL TRY TO REACH A DECISION WHICH THEY BELIEVE TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. IN THAT, THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL WEIGH VERY HEAVILY INDEED. I DON'T THINK I CAN WEIGH A VIEW, GIVE IT A PRECISE SORT OF NUMBER OF KILOGRAMS. BUT ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WE SAID RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING, WOULD BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT. THE GOVERNMENT MEANT THAT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CARRY OUT THAT COMMITMENT.

JANE HUTCHEON, OF RTHK: SIR DAVID, IS THERE ANY REASON WHY BEFORE THE GREEN PAPER CONSULTATION EXERCISE THE GOVERNMENT COULDN'T HAVE TOLD THE PUBLIC SIMPLY AND CLEARLY THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED SINCE THE WHITE PAPER AND THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988 WERE NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE BASIC LAW AND CHINA'S OWN FEELINGS TOWARDS THE TIMING OF DIRECT ELECTIONS?

H.E.: THE 1984 WHITE PAPER HAD IN IT TWO CLEAR COMMITMENTS, THREE CLEAR COMMITMENTS. ONE WAS THAT THERE WOULD BE A REVIEW IN 1987 AND THAT WAS PUT FORWARD FROM THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF 1988, THE SECOND WAS THAT THE REVIEW WOULD COVER THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE AN ELEMENT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND THE THIRD WAS THAT THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD ALSO BE COVERED IN THAT REVIEW. THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT THOUGHT THAT IT WAS RIGHT TO PUT FORWARD ALL THOSE THINGS WHICH HAD BEEN, THOSE TWO THINGS WHICH HAD BEEN PROMISED IN THE 1987 GREEN PAPER, AND THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN RIGHT TO SAY THAT SOMETHING IS EXCLUDED RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING. THE CORRECT COURSE WAS TO FIND OUT WHAT THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE ON THOSE ISSUES.

JANE HUTCHEON: BUT IF THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED IN THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN HANDS WERE NOW TIED, WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO EXPLAIN THAT FROM THE BEGINNING?

H.E.: THE GOVERNMENT SAID WHEN THE GREEN PAPER WAS ISSUED THAT ALL THE OPTIONS IN THE GREEN PAPER WERE REAL OPTIONS, AND THEY PUT FORWARD THOSE OPTIONS WITH THAT CONSIDERATION IN MIND.

KEVIN SINCLAIR, REPRESENTING THE BULLETIN MAGAZINE OF AUSTRALIA: YES, SIR DAVID, ARE YOU PERSONALLY HAPPY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER STATION, THE WAY THAT IT IS BEING DEVELOPED AND HAS GOVERNMENT SOUGHT ANY FRESH REASSURANCES FROM THE AUTHORITIES IN GUANGDONG?

H.E.: I VERY MUCH UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG THAT THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WHICH IS BUILT AT DAYA BAY SHOULD BE TOTALLY SAFE AND IT SHOULD BE BUILT TO HIGH STANDARDS OF CONSTRUCTION. THEREFORE, WHEN SOME NON-CONFORMITY WITH THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS DISCOVERED IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT. THE GOVERNMENT SHARED THAT CONCERN, IT WAS ALSO ANXIOUS: TWO THINGS, ONE, THAT THE FACT OF NON-CONFORMITY SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC, SECONDLY, THAT THERE SHOULD BE A REPORT ON IT BOTH ON WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND WHAT REMEDIAL MEASURES WERE GOING TO BE TAKEN. SINCE THE REPORT ON REMEDIAL MEASURES HAS COME OUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN GUANGDONG ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, BUT THERE HAS OF COURSE BEEN CONTINUING DISCUSSION IN THE JOINT VENTURE COMPANY, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS TWO DIRECTORS ON THE HONGKONG NIC WHICH FORMS PART OF THAT.

HARVEY PONG, OF WAH KIU YAT PAO: THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACCUSED OF INFLUENCING THE SURVEY COMPANY TO DISTORT THE PUBLIC OPINION. IS THERE ANY TRUTH IN THIS REMARK AND DO YOU CONSIDER IT AS A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE CRITICISM?

H.E.: LET ME ANSWER THE FIRST PART FIRST BECAUSE THAT'S QUITE SIMPLE. THERE IS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER IN THE ALLEGATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE SURVEY COMPANY AGB MCNAIR TO COME UP WITH ANY PARTICULAR ANSWER. WHAT WAS DONE WAS THAT THE SURVEY OFFICE WAS TOLD THAT IT COULD EMPLOY A COMPANY TO DO A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY. IT DID THAT BY A TENDER SYSTEM. IT WAS THEN LEFT TO THE COMPANY ITSELF TO WORK OUT WHAT THE QUESTIONS WOULD BE AND THEN PUT IN THE ANSWERS TO THE SURVEY OFFICE. SO THERE WAS A VERY CAREFUL ATTEMPT TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO APPEARANCE, LET ALONE A REALITY, OF THE GOVERNMENT TRYING TO INFLUENCE WHAT CAME OUT OF THAT REPORT. YOUR SECOND ONE, WAS IT A POSITIVE OR A NEGATIVE CRITICISM? I FIND THAT ONE VERY DIFFICULT TO ANSWER. IT WOULD DEPEND UPON THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS PUT FORWARD.

MAY WONG, OF TVB NEWS: I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS FOR YOU, SIR DAVID. FIRST IS, OVER THE WEEKEND, SIR S.Y. CHUNG MENTIONED PRESSURES FROM CHINA. COULD YOU TELL US AS MUCH AS YOU CAN WHAT THESE PRESSURES ARE, AND SECONDLY, COMING TO YOUR TRIP TO CHINA, THE LAST TIME THAT YOU VISITED BEIJING YOU TALKED TO ZHOU NAN AND YOU SAID THAT YOU DISCUSSED BROAD PRINCIPLES OF CONVERGENCE. COULD YOU TELL WHO YOU WILL BE MEETING AGAIN THIS TIME, AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL EXPAND ON YOUR DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONVERGENCE ISSUE?

H.E.: JUST TO TAKE YOUR LAST BIT FIRST, IF I MIGHT THIS TIME. I'M NOT AWARE OF HAVING SAID THAT I DISCUSSED WITH ZHOU NAN BROAD PRINCIPLES OF CONVERGENCE. BUT THE PEOPLE I WOULD BE MEETING THIS TIME WILL BE THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, ZHOU NAN, I SHALL ALSO BE MEETING MR JI PENGFEI, I SHALL BE MEETING MR LU PING, AND MR LI HOU, THAT'S VERY MUCH THE SAME PEOPLE AS I MET LAST TIME. IT'S QUITE A SHORT VISIT TO PEKING INCIDENTALLY. THE FIRST ONE, WHAT SIR S.Y. CHUNG SAID, I DON'T, I'M AFRAID, KNOW PRECISELY WHAT SIR S.Y. CHUNG HAD IN MIND. I AM AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF THE REVIEW VARIOUS THINGS HAD BEEN REPORTED AS BEING A CHINESE VIEW, BUT THEY'VE COME FROM A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT SOURCES. THE OFFICIAL CHINESE GOVERNMENT POSITION ALL ALONG HAS BEEN THAT THE REVIEW IS A MATTER FOR THE BRITISH HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT AND THEY HAVE KEPT, AS FAR AS I KNOW, VERY CAREFULLY TO SAYING THAT.

CLAUDIA ROSETT, OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL: WHAT REACTION HAVE YOU HAD SO FAR FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO THE SURVEY REPORT?

H.E.: I HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY PRECISE REACTION FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT. THEY ARE OF COURSE AWARE OF EVERYTHING THAT'S IN IT. WE DID HAVE THE HEAD OF THE HONG KONG DEPARTMENT, MR CHRISTOPHER HUM, HERE SPENDING SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE LAST MEETING OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. SO I HAVE, AND SO HAVE MANY OTHER PEOPLE, TALKED TO HIM ABOUT IT. BUT, THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT I WOULD EXPECT TO GET, A FORMAL VIEW FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THAT'S NOT THE WAY THAT THESE THINGS ARE CONDUCTED.

JENNIFER KING, OF RADIO AUSTRALIA: ARE YOU PERSONALLY HAPPY, SIR, WITH THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY REPORT IN THE LIGHT OF THE CRITICISMS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE OF IT?

/H.E.

H.E.: I COULDN'T SAY THAT WHETHER I'M HAPPY OR UNHAPPY WITH THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT. IT WAS AN EXERCISE TO TRY TO BE AS OBJECTIVE AS POSSIBLE ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG THOUGHT ABOUT A SERIES OF ISSUES. SO WHATEVER THOSE VIEWS ARE, WHETHER I AM HAPPY OR UNHAPPY ABOUT ANY ONE PART OF THEM IS, IS REALLY IRRELEVANT. IF YOU MEAN ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS DONE, I THINK IT'S RIGHT TO SAY THAT THE SURVEY OFFICE CARRIED OUT VERY PRECISELY, THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT IT HAD BEEN GIVEN IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE, AND THOSE TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE PUBLIC RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING. THEY'VE CARRIED OUT THEM OUT EXACTLY, AND WITH GREAT CARE. TWO OTHER POINTS I MAKE ON THAT. ONE IS, THAT THE MASS OF DETAIL THAT COMES WITH THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT, IF YOU READ THE APPENDICES AS WELL, IS VERY INTERESTING INDEED ON THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ABOUT A WHOLE SERIES OF ISSUES. I KNOW IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO READ THROUGH, BUT FOR ANY STUDENT OF HONG KONG SOCIETY, IT'S WELL WORTH READING. THIRD POINT, WHEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMES TO MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT SHOULD GO INTO THE WHITE PAPER, IT WILL BE TAKING ACCOUNT OF EVERYTHING THAT APPEARS IN THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT RULING OUT ONE PARTICULAR CURRENT OF PUBLIC OPINION, ONE PARTICULAR FORM OF THE EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC OPINION; ALL OF THOSE VIEWS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, HOWEVER THEY WERE PUT FORWARD.

ANTHONY FLORES, OF COMMERCIAL RADIO: HAVE WE BEEN MAKING ANY PROGRESS SINCE THE MEETING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD WITH BRITISH AUTHORITIES ON THE TERRITORY'S DEFENCE COSTS, AND HOW OPTIMISTIC ARE YOU THAT WE WILL REACH AN AGREEMENT BEFORE THE PRESENT PACT RUNS OUT?

H.E.: WE'RE STILL TALKING. THEY'VE HAD TWO MAJOR ROUNDS OF TALKS AND THEY'VE HAD TALKS AT A LOWER LEVEL BETWEEN OFFICIALS TRYING TO WORK ON SOME OF THE DETAILS. WE HAVEN'T YET REACHED AN AGREEMENT. I CANNOT, AT THIS STAGE, SAY WHEN WE WILL REACH AN AGREEMENT. I CAN'T IN FACT, OF COURSE, SAY WHETHER WE WILL REACH AN AGREEMENT OR NOT, BUT I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL REACH AN AGREEMENT BEFORE THE PRESENT ONE RUNS OUT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

KEVIN SINCLAIR: YES, SIR DAVID, DO YOU THINK THAT IT IS FAIR FOR BRITAIN TO REFUSE TO PAY A HIGH PERCENTAGE FOR THE UPKEEP OF THE GARRISON, AND DO YOU THINK THAT IT IS FAIR FOR HONG KONG TO PAY 75 PER CENT OF THE BILL?

H.E.: I THINK THE ONLY ANSWER THAT I CAN SENSIBLY GIVE TO THAT IS TWOFOLD. ONE, HONG KONG HAS BEEN PAYING PART OF THE GARRISON COSTS FOR A VERY LONG TIME. TWO, HONG KONG ALWAYS TRIES TO MAKE SURE THAT IT PAYS AS LITTLE AS IT POSSIBLY CAN.

ANN QUON, OF THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST: YOU EARLIER SAID THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO MAINTAIN THE RATE TO THE, OR THE PEG, TO THE U.S. DOLLAR, BUT MAINTAINING THE PEG IS NOT THE SAME AS KEEPING THE RATE AS IT IS PRESENTLY. DO YOU SEE ANY, ARE YOU PLANNING TO RE-PEG OR RE-VALUE THE DOLLAR, AND IF NOT, AT WHAT POINT WOULD YOU CONSIDER DOING SO?

H.E.: I SEE, THANK YOU. I HOPE I DIDN'T LEAVE ANY UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THAT BY MAINTAINING THE PEG I MEANT PRECISELY MAINTAINING THE PEG AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL.

/ANN QUON

ANN QUON: ANY PLANS TO CHANGE IT?

H.E.: NO.

ANN QUON: AT WHAT POINT WOULD YOU CONSIDER DOING SO?

H.E.: CERTAINLY NOT NOW.

K.K. WONG, OF RTHK: WOULD YOU PLEASE CONFIRM OUR REPORT SAYING THAT THE BRITISH GARRISON IN HONG KONG WILL BEGIN TO WITHDRAW BY 1995?

H.E.: THERE ARE NO PRECISE DATES FOR WITHDRAWAL. THE SITUATION IS THAT BY JULY 1, 1997, OBVIOUSLY, THERE CAN BE NO BRITISH GARRISON LEFT HERE. IT FOLLOWS FROM THAT THAT IT WOULD MAKE SENSE TO HAVE SOME SORT OF A RUNDOWN. THERE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ANY WITHDRAWALS OF MAJOR UNITS UNTIL THE 1990'S. BUT THE PRECISE PROGRAMME FOR THOSE SORT OF WITHDRAWALS HAS NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT. AND EVEN WHEN A FRAMEWORK IS PUT IN PLACE IT IS ALWAYS OF COURSE ACCEPTABLE TO REVIEW AND TO CHANGE IT IN THE LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES. NOW, WITHIN THAT OVERALL FRAMEWORK, I THINK IT'S ALSO RIGHT TO SAY THAT ONE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE REDEPLOYMENTS OF MINOR FORCES TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

MAGGIE NELSON, OF RTHK: CAN PEOPLE BE CONFIDENT THAT NO DEALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DONE WITH CHINA OVER DELAYING THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS UNTIL AFTER 1990? AND IS THE GOVERNMENT ADAMANT THAT A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WILL NOT BE INTRODUCED?

H.E.: THAT IS ANOTHER TWO QUESTIONS WITHOUT AN OBVIOUS LINK! YES, PEOPLE CAN BE CONFIDENT. THERE IS NO DEAL WITH CHINA. I LAST WENT UP TO CHINA IN SEPTEMBER. AT THAT POINT WE DIDN'T KNOW THE RESULTS OF WHAT THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT WOULD BE. I MADE IT CLEAR TO THE CHINESE THAT WE WOULD NOT BE TAKING DECISIONS UNTIL WE HAD SEEN WHAT THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT HAD TO SAY. YOUR SECOND ONE WAS THE PROVIDENT FUND. WHAT WAS THE PRECISE QUESTION? I AM SORRY.

MAGGIE NELSON: IS IT ADAMANT?

H.E.: I SAID IN MY SPEECH TO LEGCO THAT IT WOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED AND THE REASONS FOR IT. AND THE REASONS WERE TWOFOLD. ONE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEMS FOR RETIRED PEOPLE, FOR OLD PEOPLE, AND FOR SICK PEOPLE CAN BEST BE DEALT WITH IN ANOTHER WAY AND THAT IS THE WAY IN WHICH I OUTLINED IN MY SPEECH. IT IS TO PROVIDE A MEANS FOR THESE PEOPLE TO LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE A CONTINUING FORCED CONTRIBUTION FROM THEM. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS A SCHEME BY WHICH THOSE IN EMPLOYMENT GET PAID A CERTAIN AMOUNT DEPENDING ON THEIR FINAL WAGE AND DEPENDING ON HOW LONG THEY HAVE BEEN IN EMPLOYMENT. IF YOU HAVE A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME, FIRST OF ALL IT IS A FORCED SAVINGS WHICH SOME PEOPLE MIGHT NOT LIKE. SECONDLY, IT DOES VERY LITTLE FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE LOW PAID OR WHO ARE NOT IN WORK BECAUSE THEY CAN'T TAKE PART IN IT. SO THAT IS HALF OF IT. THE OTHER HALF IS THE EFFECT THAT A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND, THAT KIND OF FORCED SAVING, WOULD HAVE ON THE HONG KONG ECONOMY AND THE FLEXIBILITY WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR VERY STRONG POINT. AND FOR THOSE TWO REASONS, ONE POSITIVE, ONE NEGATIVE, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WAS NOT THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD FOR HONG KONG.

EMILY LAU, OF THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW: SIR DAVID, I HAVE A QUESTION ON CONFIDENCE AND THE RISING ACTIVITIES OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS IN HONG KONG. DO YOU AGREE WITH OBSERVATIONS THAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE NOW DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE RISING ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED FRONT AND WHEN THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE GETTING THAT LEADERSHIP FROM EXCO OR LEGCO?

H.E.: PEOPLE HERE, I THINK, WOULD HAVE TO TELL ME WHETHER HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR LEADERSHIP AND WHAT SORT OF LEADERSHIP. IT IS QUITE DIFFICULT, I THINK, IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES TO PROVIDE EVERYTHING THAT PEOPLE LOOK FOR. THERE IS A GOVERNMENT HERE WHICH IS EXTREMELY ACTIVE AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND WILL GO ON BEING ACTIVE. BUT VERY OFTEN YOU GET A PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION WHERE PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR MUCH MORE THAN THE GOVERNMENT IS IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE. NOW THE REASONS FOR THAT ARE NOT EASY FOR ANY OF US TO EXPLAIN. IT IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR. IF PEOPLE ARE FEELING THAT THEY LACK LEADERSHIP THEN THAT IS A FAILURE OF OUR SYSTEM. WE SHOULD BE TRYING TO CREATE A SOCIETY IN WHICH PEOPLE FEEL THAT THEY ARE FACING THE PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE TOGETHER, AND I BELIEVE THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG BECAUSE WE DO HAVE PROBLEMS TO FACE. BUT IT MUST BE FACING ALL OF THESE TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY AND THAT IS BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE, BOTH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. PRECISELY WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IN YOUR QUESTION IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO DISCOVER AND THEREFORE TO ANSWER.

EMILY LAU: SIR DAVID, WHAT I AM SAYING IS, DO YOU AGREE THAT THERE IS THIS RISING INFLUENCE OR INFILTRATION OF THE COMMUNISTS IN THE HONG KONG SOCIETY? DO YOU ACCEPT THAT AS A FACT, FIRST OF ALL? AND DO YOU ALSO ACCEPT THAT THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL ARE VERY WORRIED BY THIS TREND? OF COURSE, IF YOU DISPUTE ALL THAT, THEN THAT IS FINE, BUT IF YOU ACCEPT THAT, THEN WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING ABOUT IT? I MEAN, OF COURSE WE UNDERSTAND '97 IS A REALITY. OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OUT AND TELL THE PEOPLE THAT THAT IS IT, YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT?

H.E.: LET ME TRY TO ANSWER THAT. FIRST OF ALL, WHAT I NOTICE HAPPENING IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANY MORE LINKS WITH CHINA THAN USED TO EXIST BEFORE AND I SEE THAT HAPPENING FOR TWO REASONS. ONE IS STRAIGHTFORWARD ECONOMICS. CHINA IS DEVELOPING, IS OPENING UP. THEREFORE PEOPLE ARE MUCH MORE INVOLVED ECONOMICALLY WITH CHINA THAN THEY EVER WERE BEFORE. SECONDLY, PEOPLE HAVE AN EYE TO THE FUTURE. IN 1997 HONG KONG IS GOING TO BE AN S.A.R. OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THEREFORE PEOPLE ARE RE-ESTABLISHING MANY OF THE CONTACTS WHICH THEY USED TO HAVE WITH THE MAINLAND OF CHINA AND WHICH WERE TEMPORARILY BROKEN BECAUSE OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN CHINA. SO THAT IS HAPPENING. THAT PRODUCES A FEELING OF A GREATER DEGREE OF CHINESE INFLUENCE IN THIS TERRITORY. NOW THE NEXT PART OF YOUR QUESTION, WHAT CAN OR SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. FIRST OF ALL, I THINK WE HAVE TO LOOK AT THE REALITY OF THE FUTURE. IN 10 YEARS' TIME, ROUGHLY, HONG KONG IS GOING TO BE AN S.A.R. OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE LAID DOWN FOR THE FUTURE BUT IT IS GOING TO BE A CHANGE. WE MUST BE PREPARING OURSELVES FOR THOSE CHANGES. WE MUST BE TRYING TO BUILD UP A HONG KONG WHICH IS STRONG WITHIN ITSELF SO THAT IT HAS THE BEST POSSIBLE CHANCE OF CARRYING OUT IN PRACTICE THAT HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY WHICH IS PROMISED FOR IT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. THAT, I THINK, IS THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE COMMUNITY.

/CAROL BOGERT

CAROL BOGERT, OF NEWSWEEK: GOVERNOR, I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU IF YOU THINK YOU ARE A LAME DUCK BUT I AM SURE THAT YOU WOULD SAY "NO". AND YET THERE DOES SEEM TO BE AN IMPRESSION IN HONG KONG, AT LEAST IF YOU READ THE PAPERS, THAT THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN THIS TOWN HAVE INDEFINABLY LOST SOME KIND OF AUTHORITY IN RECENT MONTHS. NOW GIVEN THE AGREEMENT TO RETURN HONG KONG TO CHINA IN 1997, IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO REGAIN OR TO DISPEL THE IMAGE OF LAME DUCKERY? OR ARE YOU EFFECTIVELY CONSTRAINED FROM MAKING BOLD MOVES THAT SHOW YOU ARE A STRONG AND AUTHORITATIVE GOVERNMENT?

H.E.: PARTS OF THAT QUESTION ARE A SORT OF "WHEN DID YOU STOP BEATING YOUR WIFE?" TYPE QUESTION! LET ME TRY TO ANSWER IT. FIRST OF ALL, A LOT OF YOU WILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF FUN RECENTLY WITH WILDFIRING OR DUCKSHOOTING AND BIG GAME HUNTING. SOMETIMES IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS TERM "LAME DUCK", WHICH IS AN AMERICAN TERM, IS SINGULARLY INAPPROPRIATE BECAUSE IT IS NORMALLY USED TO DESCRIBE THE POSITION OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT RIGHT AT THE END OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS 10 YEARS TO RUN, THAT IS A REALITY. THAT IS, IN FACT, OVER TWICE THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT ANY BRITISH GOVERNMENT CAN EXPECT TO SURVIVE. IT IS MORE THAN TWICE THE LENGTH OF A PRESIDENTIAL TERM. IT IS RATHER LIKE TALKING ABOUT AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT AS BEING A "LAME DUCK", WHAT IS IT, TWO YEARS BEFORE HE IS FIRST ELECTED. NOW WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE FACT THAT PEOPLE TALK IN THESE TERMS. THE BEST THING, AS I SEE IT, IS FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN AS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN BUILDING UP THE COMMUNITY, IN BUILDING UP THE ECONOMY, AS IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN. IF YOU GO AND LOOK ROUND HONG KONG, YOU DON'T, I THINK, GET THE IMPRESSION OF A LAME DUCK CREATING ALL THAT IS GOING ON. THERE IS MASSIVE LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES, BUILDING ROADS, BUILDING TUNNELS, DEVELOPING THE CONTAINER PORT, LOOKING AHEAD TO BUILDING A NEW AIRPORT. THERE IS MASSIVE WORK GOING ON THROUGHOUT HONG KONG. THIS IS A VERY ACTIVE GOVERNMENT INDEED. WE DO FACE THE PROBLEM THAT THE PRESENT FORM OF ADMINISTRATION ONLY HAS 10 YEARS TO RUN. THE ONLY WAY THAT WE CAN REALISTICALLY DEAL WITH IT AS A GOVERNMENT IS TO REMAIN AS ACTIVE AND AS COMMITTED AS WE ALWAYS HAVE BEEN AND AS I AM SURE WE ALWAYS WILL GO ON BEING.

STUART PALLISTER, OF ATV: SIR DAVID, DEALING WITH LEADERSHIP QUALITIES, HOW DO YOU ASSESS YOUR PERFORMANCE SO FAR? AND, SECONDLY, REGARDING YOUR APPOINTMENT, DO YOU PLAN TO STAY HERE ONLY FOR A FIXED TERM? HAVE YOU IN EFFECT FIXED THE TERM, FIVE YEARS OR WHATEVER?

H.E.: TO ANSWER THE FIRST PART OF THE QUESTION, I DON'T ASSESS MY OWN PERFORMANCE, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC! THAT I LEAVE FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO DO. ON HOW LONG I INTEND TO STAY; THE APPOINTMENT OF A GOVERNOR IS PERHAPS WHAT IS CALLED THE QUEEN'S PLEASURE. IN OTHER WORDS, THAT THERE IS NO FIXED TERM. I SHALL STAY HERE AS LONG AS I AM ASKED TO STAY HERE AND AS LONG AS I FEEL THAT I CAN DO A GOOD JOB.

MAGGIE NELSON, OF RTHK: DO YOU ACCEPT THAT HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF THE STOCK MARKET'S FOUR DAY CLOSURE? AND, WITH HINDSIGHT, DO YOU THINK THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE RETURNED FROM YOUR TRIP ABROAD EARLIER?

/H.E.

H.E.: ON THE FIRST PART OF THAT QUESTION, I THINK THAT WE HAVE SUFFERED SOME DAMAGE BUT I DON'T THINK THAT DAMAGE NEED BE SERIOUS OR LONG TERM. NOBODY REALLY LIKES TO SEE A STOCK MARKET CLOSING DOWN. MANY MARKETS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, EVEN THOUGH THEY DIDN'T CLOSE, WERE VERY CLOSE TO CLOSURE AND THE EXPERTS TELL ME THAT ON MANY MARKETS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IT WAS IN FACT VERY DIFFICULT INDEED TO TRADE, PARTICULARLY IN CERTAIN STOCKS. SO THE SURPRISE AT THE TOTAL CLOSURE OF OUR MARKET FOR FOUR DAYS WAS PERHAPS NOT AS GREAT ROUND THE WORLD AS PEOPLE IN HONG KONG SOMETIMES THINK IT WAS. THE IMPORTANT THING NOW, I BELIEVE, IS TO MAKE SURE THAT IF THERE ARE LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM WHAT HAPPENED, AND SURELY THERE MUST BE LESSONS TO BE LEARNT, THAT WE DO LEARN THEM AND THAT WE IMPROVE OUR STRUCTURES. AND IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT I HAVE APPOINTED A COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO ADVISE ME WITHIN SIX MONTHS, I HOPE, ON WHAT MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN. THE QUESTION OF MY OWN TRAVEL PLANS, I AM BOUND TO SAY THAT IF I HAD KNOWN THAT ON THE 19TH OF OCTOBER, I THINK IT WAS, WALL STREET WAS GOING TO CRASH I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN WASHINGTON. BUT I GUESS MANY PEOPLE ROUND THE WORLD WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DOING WHAT THEY WERE DOING IF THEY HAD ALSO KNOWN THE SAME THING. ONCE IT HAD HAPPENED I THEN HAD TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT WAS RIGHT TO CONTINUE WITH MY PROGRAMME WHICH WAS PUTTING ACROSS HONG KONG'S CASE TO LARGE NUMBERS OF VERY INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK, OR CUT THAT PROGRAMME AND RETURN. I WAS ABLE TO KEEP CONSTANTLY IN TOUCH WITH HONG KONG ON ALL THE STRATEGIC DECISIONS. I ALSO HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE PEOPLE HERE CARRYING OUT THE DETAIL OF THOSE DECISIONS AND I THEREFORE DECIDED THAT IT WAS MUCH BETTER TO REMAIN IN CONTACT FROM A DISTANCE AND TO CARRY OUT WHAT I SAW AS A VERY IMPORTANT PROGRAMME OF PUTTING ACROSS HONG KONG'S CASE ON CAPITOL HILL, TO THE ADMINISTRATION, TO THE MEDIA, TO INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK.

MAGGIE NELSON: CAN I ASK IF YOU WERE AT ALL EMBARRASSED THAT THE STOCK MARKET WAS CLOSED WHILE YOU WERE TELLING THEM THE OPEN-MARKET POLICY OF HONG KONG?

H.E.: I WASN'T PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSED. IT RAISED A LOT OF QUESTIONS AND I FOUND IT QUITE USEFUL TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES TO TRY TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS, NOT JUST ON SHOULD THE MARKET HAVE CLOSED OR SHOULD IT NOT, BUT WHAT ARE THE UNDERLYING REALITIES OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY. SO I DON'T THINK I WAS PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSED BY IT. ON AN OPEN MARKET, THERE IS A DISTINCTION I THINK HERE THAT IS IMPORTANT. I WAS MAKING THE POINT AS STRONGLY AS I COULD THAT HONG KONG IS A MARKET WHICH HAS NO TARIFF BARRIERS AND THAT WAS THE IMPORTANT POINT IN DEALING WITH THE TRADE BILL. I WASN'T TRYING TO MAKE A POINT ABOUT WHETHER WE OPENED FOR 24 HOURS A DAY OR TWO HOURS A DAY OR, INDEED, WHETHER THE STOCK MARKET CLOSED DOWN FOR FOUR DAYS.

JAMES TAM, OF SING PAO: SIR, IF YOU REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO ASSESS YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THE PUBLIC, THEN MAY I ASK YOU IN THE PAST SEVEN MONTHS WHAT ACHIEVEMENT YOU HAVE MADE OR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS MADE UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING UP THE COMMUNITY?

/H.E.

H.E.: IT IS A SURPRISINGLY DIFFICULT QUESTION FOR ME TO ANSWER OBJECTIVELY AND I DON'T THINK I WILL EVEN ATTEMPT TO DO SO. I THINK THAT REALLY MUST BE LEFT FOR OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKING AT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OR, INDEED, LOOKING AT ME TO MAKE THEIR OWN ASSESSMENT IN WHATEVER WAY THEY WISH. FOR ME, THESE LAST SEVEN MONTHS HAVE BEEN A TIME WHEN I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO LEARN AS MUCH AS I CAN ABOUT HONG KONG AND VISIT AS MUCH OF HONG KONG AS I CAN. BY THE END OF DECEMBER I WILL HAVE COMPLETED A PROGRAMME OF VISITING ALL THE DISTRICTS OF HONG KONG AND I WILL THEN HOPE NEXT YEAR TO GO ON TO MORE SPECIFIC AREAS. I HAVE A LONG LEARNING PROCESS TO GO THROUGH BUT THE LAST SEVEN MONTHS HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL STARTING THERE.

JAMES TAM: ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT YOU ARE STILL A STUDENT IN HONG KONG?

H.E.: YES, I AM.

JAMES TAM: THANK YOU, SIR.

RUBY ONG, OF WEN WEI PO: SIR DAVID, DO YOU THINK THAT MR RONALD LI HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CLOSE THE STOCK MARKET?

H.E.: THE SHORT ANSWER IS YES. THE STOCK MARKET COMMITTEE, IT'S NOT RONALD LI HIMSELF, IT'S THE STOCK MARKET COMMITTEE HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DO THAT. ONLY THEY HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DO IT. IT WAS A DECISION FOR THEM TO TAKE, NOT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE.

LARRY LEUNG, OF COMMERCIAL RADIO: SIR DAVID, DURING THE LAST TRIP TO CHINA, HAVE THE CHINESE OFFICIALS, APART FROM SAYING THAT THE POLITICAL REVIEW WAS A MATTER FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, GIVEN YOU THE IMPRESSION THAT CHINA WOULD ACCEPT ANY POLITICAL CHANGES IN HONG KONG NEXT YEAR? AND THE SECOND QUESTION IS ABOUT THE SURVEY REPORT. WOULD THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER THAT THE SURVEY REPORT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THEIR STAND? (TRANSLATION FROM CANTONESE)

H.E.: THE SECOND PART OF THAT, WILL THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT FIND IT HELPFUL TO THEM. I CAN'T ANSWER. THAT'S THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT PRESUMABLY WHO CAN ANSWER. THE FIRST. I THINK IT HAS BEEN CLEAR ALL ALONG THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS FELT CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IN HONG KONG IN ADVANCE OF THEM PRODUCING THE BASIC LAW. AND THAT IS A POINT WHICH HAS COME ACROSS IN PUBLIC MANY TIMES. I THINK THAT IS PROBABLY THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION.

FANNY WONG, OF ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS: SIR, AFTER YOUR VISIT TO CHINA, ARE YOU PLANNING ANY VISITS TO LONDON BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR?

H.E.: NOT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. NO.

FANNY WONG: WILL THAT BE BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER?

/H.E.

H.E.: "I DON'T KNOW" IS THE ANSWER TO THAT AT THE MOMENT. IT DEPENDS ON VARIOUS OTHER BITS OF MY PROGRAMME. MY GENERAL PROGRAMME WILL BE TO VISIT LONDON REGULARLY, AND THAT IS NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE GREEN PAPER, WHITE PAPER EXERCISE. IT IS BECAUSE I FIND IT VERY USEFUL TO KEEP IN TOUCH DIRECTLY WITH MINISTERS AND WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY. SO I WILL, I HOPE, OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, OR AS LONG AS I AM HERE, BE VISITING LONDON REGULARLY REGARDLESS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING.

FANNY WONG: IN YOUR VISIT TO CANTON, WHAT SORT OF ISSUES WILL YOU RAISE WITH THE GOVERNOR?

H.E.: MOSTLY ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG PROVINCE. THERE IS AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF TRADE FLOWING OUT THROUGH HONG KONG FROM GUANGDONG PROVINCE. GUANGDONG HAS NOW OVERTAKEN THE SHANGHAI AREA AS THE LARGEST EXPORTER IN CHINA. MOST OF THAT IS COMING THROUGH HONG KONG. THERE ARE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IN THAT. SO THAT I THINK WOULD BE THE MAIN AREA THAT WE'LL COVER.

FUNG WAI-KONG, OF THE NEW EVENING POST: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SIGNIFICANT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES THAT YOU'VE MENTIONED EARLIER, JUST NOW?

H.E.: IT IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO DEFINE. AND AFTER ALL I WAS SAYING WHAT SOMEBODY ELSE THINKS. SO I CAN'T DEFINE WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE A SIGNIFICANT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE. BUT I THINK YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT SOME THINGS ARE VERY MINOR CHANGES, SOME DO HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS.

CLAUDIA MO, OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE: THERE HAS BEEN CRITICISM THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S CREDIBILITY IS NOW AT STAKE FOLLOWING THIS CLUMSY HANDLING OF THE STOCK CRISIS AND THE GREEN PAPER SURVEY REPORT. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?

H.E.: I FEEL THAT SOME OF THESE CRITICISMS TEND TO BE SHORT-TERM ONES, FOR INSTANCE THE STOCK MARKET. WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS, IT IS VERY DRAMATIC. A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PEOPLE LOSE MONEY IN IT. THERE IS, THEREFORE, A LOT OF COMMENT WHICH USUALLY FINISHES UP BY BEING A CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT. IF, AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME, IT IS SEEN THAT CORRECTIVE ACTION IS BEING TAKEN THEN I BELIEVE AND I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THAT CRITICISM WOULD BE RE-ASSESSED. ON THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT, I FEEL SURE THAT WHAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WILL BE LOOKING FOR IN THE WHITE PAPER, IS A WHITE PAPER WHICH THEY FEEL ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE VIEWS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD IN THE WHOLE OF THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT. THAT IS THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

END OF TRANSCRIPT.