



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SIR GEOFFREY VISITS HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, TODAY (TUESDAY) VISITED THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC TO LEARN ABOUT THE INSTITUTION'S LATEST PROGRAMMES AND TO INSPECT ITS FACILITIES.

SIR GEOFFREY AND LADY HOWE WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR RON BRIDGE.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE POLYTECHNIC CAMPUS IN HUNG HOM, THEY WERE MET BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE POLYTECHNIC COUNCIL, MR STEPHEN CHEONG; THE POLYTECHNIC DIRECTOR, DR JOHN CLARK; THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR LO KING-MAN; AND THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (ACADEMIC SERVICES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION), MRS RITA FAN.

DR CLARK EXPLAINED TO SIR GEOFFREY THAT SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1972 THE POLYTECHNIC HAS UNDERGONE A PHASED PROGRAMME OF EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND RAPID EXPANSION.

TODAY, THE POLYTECHNIC IS BY FAR THE LARGEST TERTIARY INSTITUTION IN HONG KONG WITH MORE THAN 26,000 STUDENTS ATTENDING FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME COURSES, DR CLARK SAID.

THE SPECTRUM OF COURSES OFFERED BY THE POLYTECHNIC RANGES FROM FULL-TIME DEGREE, HIGHER DIPLOMA OR DIPLOMA TO PART-TIME CERTIFICATE LEVELS AND EVEN SHORT COURSES CATERING SPECIALLY TO THE CURRENT NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

FIVE NEW DEGREE PROGRAMMES ARE EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE 1988-89 ACADEMIC YEAR IN ADDITION TO THE 15 NOW OFFERED.

PLANNING FOR FURTHER DEGREE COURSES, INCLUDING POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES, IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, DR CLARK ADDED.

IN TOURING THE CAMPUS, SIR GEOFFREY STOPPED FIRST AT THE SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN. THERE, HE INSPECTED SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDIOS WHERE STUDENTS WERE AT WORK.

HE THEN SAW THE POLYTECHNIC'S OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES BEFORE LOOKING THROUGH THE INDUSTRIAL CENTRE WHICH PROVIDES PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING TO STUDENTS.

AT THE INDUSTRIAL CENTRE, HE WAS SHOWN OVER THE POLYTECHNIC'S COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING (CAD/CAM) RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTRE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME WITH THE IBM CORPORATION.

/THE CENTRE

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THE CENTRE PROVIDES THE FACILITIES FOR TRAINING STUDENTS TO BECOME KNOWLEDGEABLE USERS OF CAD TOOLS AS WELL AS DEVELOPERS OF HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE COMPONENTS OF THESE TOOLS. THE CENTRE IS BEING USED FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTANCY WORK IN CAD/CAM.

SIR GEOFFREY NEXT VISITED THE PLASTICS, MACHINE AND FABRICATION WORKSHOPS WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN A NUMBER OF PROJECTS FOR THE DISABLED.

DURING HIS VISIT, SIR GEOFFREY HAD A DISCUSSION, ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS, WITH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES.

BEFORE LEAVING THE POLYTECHNIC, A MEMENTO COMMEMORATING HIS VISIT WAS PRESENTED TO SIR GEOFFREY BY DR CLARK.

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11 QUESTIONS, 10 BILLS BEFORE LEGCO
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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 11 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER 10 BILLS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

SIX OF THE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THESE ARE THE JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES BILL 1988, THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

TWO BILLS ARE DUE TO BE GIVEN A SECOND READING, AND THEN GO FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING.

THESE ARE THE CONVEYANCING AND PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AND THE GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

IN ADDITION, TWO PRIVATE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED.

THE HONOURABLE HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WILL INTRODUCE THE SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHA'IS OF HONG KONG INCORPORATION BILL 1988.

DR THE HONOURABLE CHIU HIN-KWONG WILL INTRODUCE THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

BOTH BILLS ARE DUE TO BE GIVEN FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MOVE TWO MOTIONS UNDER THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX ORDINANCE AND THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUNDING FOR NEW POSTS

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED AT A MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO CONSIDER THE CREATION OF TWO SENIOR POSTS IN THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH TO DEAL WITH BILATERAL AIR SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS AND RELATED MATTERS.

BOTH DESIGNATED AS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES (AIR SERVICES), THE TWO POSTS, ONE PERMANENT AND ONE SUPERNUMERARY, ARE FOR OFFICERS TO HEAD TWO TEAMS UNDER A NEW AIR SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS UNIT TO BE SET UP IN THE BRANCH.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT DEPUTY SECRETARY POST IN THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY'S (DCS) OFFICE WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE, INCLUDING CREATION OF POSTS IN THE TRANSPORT AND FINANCE BRANCHES, WILL BE DISCUSSED.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA WILL BE THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF PLACING AN ORDER WITH CABLE & WIRELESS (HK) LTD FOR MAINTAINING THE VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (VTMS), ESTIMATED AT \$2,506,000 IN NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND \$4,884,000 IN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IN 1990-91 RISING TO \$6,012,000 A YEAR BY 1991-92.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO APPROVE AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT FROM \$178.7 MILLION BY \$2,506,000 TO \$181,206,000 TO MEET ONE-OFF EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTAINING THE VTMS.

OTHER ITEMS ON TOMORROW'S AGENDA WILL INCLUDE:

- * TO APPROVE AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF THE INDUCEMENT ALLOWANCE FROM \$350 BY \$75 TO \$425 PER MONTH FOR QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN AIDED SCHOOLS IN REMOTE AREAS, WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR;
- * TO DELEGATE TO THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE FUTURE REVISIONS OF THE INDUCEMENT ALLOWANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO THE REMOTE STATION ALLOWANCE;
- * TO APPROVE AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT FROM \$104,394,000 BY \$2,562,000 TO \$106,956,000 TO MEET THE INCREASED COST OF BUILDING THE CHAI WAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE; AND
- * TO APPROVE AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT FROM \$29,850,000 BY \$2,479,000 TO \$32,329,000 TO MEET THE INCREASED COST OF BUILDING THE PERMANENT SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE AT TAI LAM CHUNG.

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CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY ONE PLACES
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RESULTS OF THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY ONE PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR UNDER THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION SYSTEM WILL BE RELEASED ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4.

A TOTAL OF 22,608 CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION WILL BE ALLOCATED TO SCHOOLS OF THEIR PARENTS' FIRST THREE CHOICES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIS REPRESENTS 64.2 PER CENT OUT OF 35,227 CHILDREN TAKING PART IN THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION, HE SAID.

PARENTS CONCERNED ARE ADVISED TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN DISTRIBUTION/COLLECTION CENTRE ON SATURDAY (JUNE 4) OR SUNDAY (JUNE 5) BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM TO COLLECT AN "ALLOCATION SLIP".

THE "ALLOCATION SLIP" WILL SHOW THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SCHOOL TO WHICH THEIR CHILD IS ALLOCATED, TOGETHER WITH THE DATES FOR REGISTRATION AND SOME NOTES TO PARENTS.

PARENTS ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORMALITIES ON THE SPECIFIED DATES ON JUNE 8 OR 9.

REGISTRATION HOURS FOR A.M. SCHOOLS ARE BETWEEN 9 AM AND NOON; AND FOR P.M. SCHOOLS, BETWEEN 2 PM AND 5 PM. FOR WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLS, THE REGISTRATION HOURS ARE FROM 9 AM TO NOON AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM.

IN THE EVENT THE PARENTS WHO FOR SOME PERSONAL REASONS CANNOT REGISTER THEIR CHILD WITH THE SCHOOL TO WHICH THEIR CHILD IS ALLOCATED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THEY MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOL DIRECT OR THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BEFOREHAND FOR ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

PARENTS WOULD BE DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN UP THE PLACE ALLOCATED TO THEIR CHILD SHOULD THEY FAIL REGISTER THEIR CHILD WITH THE SCHOOL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UPON REGISTRATION, THE "ALLOCATION SLIP" SHOULD BE SURRENDERED TO THE SCHOOL AND PARENTS MUST NOTE THAT ALL PLACES ALLOCATED ARE FINAL AND NO RE-ALLOCATION IS POSSIBLE.

IN CASE THE PARENTS HAVE SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES SUCH AS HAVING MOVED TO ANOTHER DISTRICT RESULTING IN THE SCHOOL BEING TOO FAR AWAY FROM THEIR NEW HOME, THEY ARE ADVISED TO GO IN PERSON TO THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT AT 269 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, SECOND FLOOR, WAN CHAI, FOR ASSISTANCE.

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"THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG SUPPORTING DOCUMENTARY PROOF SUCH AS RENTAL RECEIPTS, RATES DEMAND NOTES, WATER BILLS, ELECTRICITY BILLS BEARING THE NAME OF THE PARENT OR THE GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD."

"IF THEIR REQUEST IS JUSTIFIED, THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT WOULD DO ITS BEST TO FIND ANOTHER PLACE FOR THEIR CHILD AT A SCHOOL NEARER TO THEIR NEW HOME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"SHOULD PARENTS FIND IT NECESSARY TO CHANGE SCHOOL AFTER REGISTRATION, THEY ARE ADVISED TO GET SOME ASSURANCE OF ACCEPTANCE FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL BEFORE THEY RETRIEVE THE "ALLOCATION SLIP" FROM THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL BECAUSE RETRIEVAL OF THE SLIP MEANS CANCELLATION OF THE PLACE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARENTS OF ALL CHILDREN WHO HAVE SECURED A DISCRETIONARY PLACE AND HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED WITH A SCHOOL EARLIER LAST YEAR NEED NOT REPEAT REGISTRATION FORMALITIES.

ANY PARENT WHO WISHES TO MAKE FURTHER ENQUIRIES MAY CONTACT THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT ON 5-724383 DURING OFFICE HOURS STARTING SATURDAY (JUNE 4).

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FACTORIES IN CHINA CONTRIBUTE TO GROWTH OF HK EXPORTS

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FACTORIES SET UP IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA REGION IN CHINA ARE NOW RELIEVING HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR OF BOTH LABOUR INTENSIVE PROCESSES AS WELL AS PRODUCTION, WHICH IN TURN CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING IN A SYMPOSIUM IN YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE YOKOHAMA INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE, MR YEUNG SAID SEVERAL THOUSAND MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS HAD BEEN ATTRACTED TO THE PEARL RIVER DELTA AS A RESULT OF THE OPENING UP OF THE REGION UNDER CHINA'S SEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN, AND MANY OF THEM INVOLVED EQUITY PARTICIPATION FROM HONG KONG.

"HONG KONG IS ALSO PROVIDING MUCH OF THE CAPITAL THAT FLOWS INTO SOUTH CHINA, AND ACCOUNTED FOR 70 PER CENT OF THE FUNDS THAT HAVE FLOWED INTO CHINA," HE ADDED.

/MR YEUNG

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MR YEUNG WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT FOREIGN INVESTORS WOULD OPEN UP FURTHER BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN TERMS OF DOING BUSINESS WITH CHINA BY COMING TO HONG KONG AND WORKING WITH FIRMS HAVING EXPERIENCE IN MANUFACTURING IN CHINA.

"IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1987, HONG KONG OVERTOOK JAPAN AS CHINA'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, AND CHINA ACCOUNTED FOR 14 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 34 PER CENT OF ITS RE-EXPORTS AND 31 PER CENT OF ITS IMPORTS IN THAT YEAR."

TURNING TO CHANGES IN PRODUCTION BY JAPANESE MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG IN THE MID-1980'S, MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD A MARKED SHIFT OUT OF ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS TO RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS.

"THIS REFLECTS INCREASING CONFIDENCE ON THE PART OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS IN THE QUALITY AND MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY OF OUR MAKERS OF PARTS AND COMPONENTS.

"THE OTHER NOTICEABLE CHANGE IS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY PROCESSING FACTORIES FROM 34 IN 1982 TO 53 IN 1986, AND IN AN INCREASE IN DOMESTIC SALES."

MR YEUNG ALSO NOTED THAT THE JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS IN HONG KONG HAD DONE REMARKABLY WELL, AS WAS INDICATED BOTH BY THEIR GROWTH IN THE NET ACQUISITION OF FIXED ASSETS AND IN SALES.

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COMBINED SCREENING PROGRAMME IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S COMBINED SCREENING PROGRAMME IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT PART IN ITS NETWORK OF PREVENTIVE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN BECAUSE IT ENABLES CHILDREN TO ACHIEVE SUCCESSFULLY THE GOAL OF EDUCATION AND TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL TO THE FULL.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON EAST.

MR LI SAID THE PROGRAMME WAS VITAL TO SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE COURSE OF IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL EDUCATION AS MORE AND MORE CHILDREN OF VARYING ABILITY AND NEED WERE GOING TO SCHOOL.

/"THE EMPHASIS

"THE EMPHASIS OF THIS PROGRAMME IS ON EARLY DIAGNOSIS, EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION AND ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVE IS TO IDENTIFY, AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, PUPILS WHO HAVE SENSORY OR LEARNING PROBLEMS AS WELL AS PUPILS WHO ARE 'AT-RISK', SO THAT REMEDIAL MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN IN TIME TO PREVENT THESE PROBLEMS FROM BECOMING SERIOUS OR PERMANENT EDUCATIONAL HANDICAPS," HE SAID.

THE SCREENING PROGRAMME HAD TAKEN 20 YEARS TO DEVELOP, AND WAS A UNIQUE PROGRAMME THAT HAD HELPED THOUSANDS OF PUPILS TO STUDY MORE HAPPILY IN SCHOOL BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN EARLY ASSISTANCE TO OVERCOME THEIR SENSORY OR LEARNING PROBLEMS.

"EVERY YEAR WE SEND TEAMS OF EXPERIENCED STAFF TO ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO GIVE SCREENING TESTS TO THE PUPILS AT PRIMARY I LEVEL AND WE HAVE DEPLOYED 44 PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND SOME \$14 MILLION TO THE RUNNING OF THIS PROJECT," HE SAID.

THE COMBINED SCREENING PROGRAMME COVERED OVER 80,000 PRIMARY I PUPILS IN 1986-87, OF WHOM FIVE PER CENT WERE FOUND TO HAVE EYESIGHT PROBLEMS, 6.5 PER CENT TO HAVE HEARING PROBLEMS, 5.8 PER CENT TO HAVE SPEECH PROBLEMS AND 6.6 PER CENT TO HAVE LEARNING PROBLEMS, MR LI SAID.

"THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAMME RELIES VERY MUCH ON THE CLOSE CO-OPERATION OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND, AND OTHER WELFARE AND MEDICAL AGENCIES WHO HAVE ASSISTED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IN PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO OUR PUPILS," HE SAID.

"SPECIALIST STAFF FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SUCH AS AUDIOLOGISTS, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS, SPEECH THERAPISTS AND DOCTORS FROM THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROVIDE DETAILED INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT AND FOLLOW-UP SERVICES."

CITING EXAMPLES, MR LI SAID PUPILS WITH EYESIGHT PROBLEMS WOULD RECEIVE FOLLOW-UP ASSESSMENT AND RELATED SERVICES IN EYE CLINICS RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

PUPILS THOUGHT TO HAVE HEARING PROBLEMS WOULD BE GIVEN TESTS BY AUDIOLOGISTS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND, IF REQUIRED, BE FITTED WITH HEARING AIDS AND SPECIALLY MADE EARMOULDS.

"THOSE WITH SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROBLEMS WILL RECEIVE INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT FOLLOWED BY SPEECH THERAPY SERVICES AND FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING PROBLEMS, ASSESSMENT IS GIVEN BY OUR EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT OR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED," HE SAID.

/"IN ADDITION,

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"IN ADDITION, SPECIALIST STAFF FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT VISIT SCHOOLS TO GIVE ADVICE TO TEACHERS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ARE TAKEN WHENEVER REQUIRED."

"MORE THAN 20,000 PUPILS RECEIVED SUCH FOLLOW-UP SERVICES IN 1986-87."

MR LI SAID THE PRESENT POLICY OF HIS DEPARTMENT IN HELPING PUPILS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WAS TO PLACE THEM IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE THE FULLEST BENEFIT OF EDUCATION FROM MIXING AND INTERACTING WITH ORDINARY CHILDREN IN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, MR LI SAID ADDITIONAL SUPPORTIVE SERVICES BASED ON THE VARIOUS ASSESSMENT RESULTS WERE GIVEN TO PUPILS IN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS TO SUIT THEIR DIFFERENT NEEDS.

THE SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES WERE GIVEN TO OVER 6,000 PUPILS IN THE LAST SCHOOL YEAR.

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FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STUDIES

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND THE MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

MORE THAN \$670,000 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND INTEREST-FREE LOANS FROM THE TWO FUNDS WHICH MARK THEIR TENTH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR.

THIS AMOUNT IS 50 PER CENT MORE THAN THE FUND OF \$440,000 EARMARKED LAST YEAR FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION.

DETAILS WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MR JAMES LI.

APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, AND FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES LIAISON OFFICES.

/ "THE FUNDS

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"THE FUNDS WERE SET UP IN 1978 TO HELP PEOPLE WISHING TO SERVE THE LOCAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES INDUSTRIES OR RELATED TRADES ON COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES, AND ALSO THOSE EMPLOYED IN THE INDUSTRIES WISHING TO PURSUE FURTHER TRAINING," MR LI SAID.

"ANOTHER AIM OF THE FUNDS IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN OF FARMING AND FISHING FAMILIES TO ENABLE THEM TO COMPLETE THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOLING SO THAT THEY CAN GO FOR FURTHER STUDIES."

HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST 10 YEARS, MORE THAN \$2.8 MILLION IN THE FORM OF SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND INTEREST-FREE LOANS HAD BEEN AWARDED TO 120 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 83 WITH BACKGROUND IN THE FARMING AND FISHING INDUSTRIES OR RELATED TRADES.

THE REMAINING 37 PURSUED TERTIARY STUDIES IN FARMING AND FISHING RELATED SUBJECTS.

APPLICATIONS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDIES IN THE NEW SCHOLASTIC YEAR WILL CLOSE ON JULY 15 WHILE THOSE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ASSISTANCE WILL CLOSE ON AUGUST 18.

THE AWARDS WILL BE TENABLE AT UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, CITY POLYTECHNIC, BAPTIST COLLEGE, ANY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, ANY ACCEPTABLE OVERSEAS INSTITUTION AND AT ANY SECONDARY SCHOOL IN HONG KONG.

APPLICANTS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION SHOULD BE HONG KONG RESIDENTS UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE WHILE SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICANTS SHOULD BE STUDENTS IN FORMS 4 TO 7, MR LI SAID.

APPROVED COURSES FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION INCLUDE AGRICULTURE, VETERINARY SCIENCE, MARINE SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY OR ANY APPLIED SCIENCE RELEVANT TO THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL OR FISHERIES INDUSTRIES AND RELATED TRADES.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE FUNDS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES CAN BE MADE ON 3-7332244 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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NEW FEES FOR UK VISA/ENTRY CERTIFICATES

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THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FEES FOR THE VISAS AND ENTRY CERTIFICATES FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE TO BE REVISED FROM TOMORROW (JUNE 1).

THE NEW FEES WILL BE:

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| (A) DOUBLE ENTRY VISA FOR VISIT, TRANSIT, STUDENT, "AU PAIR", WORKING HOLIDAY, EMPLOYMENT OR SELF-EMPLOYMENT FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS OR LESS AND RETURNING RESIDENT | 30 POUND
STERLING |
| (B) MULTIPLE VISA/ENTRY CERTIFICATE FOR VISIT, TRANSIT, STUDENT, "AU PAIR", WORKING HOLIDAY, EMPLOYMENT OR SELF-EMPLOYMENT FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS OR LESS AND RETURNING RESIDENT | 44 POUND
STERLING |
| (C) VISA/ENTRY CERTIFICATE FOR ALL OTHER PURPOSES | 60 POUND
STERLING |
| (D) CERTIFICATE OF ENTITLEMENT | 60 POUND
STERLING |
| (E) CONFIRMATION OF THE RIGHT OF ABODE | 60 POUND
STERLING |

THE FEES FOR ORDINARY VISA/ENTRY CERTIFICATE FOR VISIT, TRANSIT, STUDENT, "AU PAIR", WORKING HOLIDAY, EMPLOYMENT OR SELF-EMPLOYMENT FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS OR LESS AND RETURNING RESIDENT REMAIN UNCHANGED, THAT IS 20 POUND STERLING.

BUT ALL FEES ARE TO BE CHARGED ON A PER CAPITA BASIS AND COLLECTED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS CONVERTED FROM THE POUND STERLING AT A CURRENT OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE.

"THE FEES ARE TO BE COLLECTED ON APPLICATION AND ARE NORMALLY NON-REFUNDABLE," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

"THE FEES ARE UNIFORMLY IMPOSED WORLD-WIDE AND ARE NECESSARY TO KEEP UP WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF PROVIDING SUCH SERVICES," HE ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE ENQUIRIES MAY TELEPHONE 3-7333111.

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NO AIDS CASE IN APRIL

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NO NEW AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) CARRIER OR PATIENT WAS REPORTED IN THE MONTH OF APRIL THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

RELEASING THE LATEST STATISTICS ON THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME TODAY (TUESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOUND TO BE INFECTED BY THE AIDS VIRUS HAD REMAINED AT 118, INCLUDING THE 13 CONFIRMED CASES.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NUMBER OF INFECTED PERSONS DETECTED SO FAR UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME PROBABLY REPRESENTED ONLY A PROPORTION OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF INFECTED PERSONS WHICH WAS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND 1,300 IN HONG KONG.

"THIS ESTIMATE IS BASED ON OBSERVATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES THAT FOR EVERY CONFIRMED CASE THERE ARE ABOUT 100 INFECTED PERSONS IN THE COMMUNITY.

"THE FACT THAT NO NEW AIDS CARRIER WAS FOUND IN APRIL DOES NOT IMPLY THAT AIDS IS NO LONGER A THREAT IN HONG KONG AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE OUR HEALTH EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE", THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

OF THE 13 CONFIRMED AIDS CASES, ELEVEN PATIENTS HAD DIED - ONE OF THEM EARLY THIS MONTH. THE TWO SURVIVING PATIENTS ARE BOTH MALE AND ARE UNDER TREATMENT.

UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH WAS STARTED IN 1985 TO MONITOR THE AIDS SITUATION IN HONG KONG, A TOTAL OF 88,947 PERSONS HAVE BEEN TESTED.

THE HIGH RISK GROUPS COVERED IN THE PROGRAMME INCLUDE INTRAVENOUS DRUG ABUSERS, SEXUALLY PROMISCUOUS PERSONS AND PEOPLE WHO USE BLOOD PRODUCTS.

MEANWHILE, THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE ALSO CARRIED OUT TESTS FOR THE AIDS ANTIBODY ON 13,631 BLOOD DONORS IN APRIL, AND NONE OF THEM WAS POSITIVE.

THE RED CROSS STARTED ITS MASS SCREENING PROGRAMME ON ALL DONATED BLOOD IN AUGUST 1985 AND UP TO THE END OF APRIL, 401,012 UNITS OF BLOOD WERE TESTED WITH SIX SHOWING POSITIVE RESULTS.

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YEAR PLAN OF KWAI TSING DFCC WORKED OUT

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KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR CHOI HING-SHUN AND MR SO HOI-PAN, WERE RESPECTIVELY ELECTED CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AT THE COMMITTEE'S FIRST MEETING FOR THE 1988-89 TERM TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUR PREPARATORY COMMITTEES TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THESE INCLUDE AN ANTI-BURGLARY SEMINAR, A MODEL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UNIT ELECTION, A FIGHT CRIME QUIZ COMPETITION AND A COLOURING COMPETITION.

THE ANNUAL FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL, WHICH USUALLY ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS, IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO PLANS TO PRODUCE THREE ISSUES OF A FIGHT CRIME NEWSLETTER THIS YEAR IN VIEW OF THE RESIDENTS' GOOD RESPONSE TO THE PUBLICATION LAST YEAR.

IN ADDITION, COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL VISIT THE ABERDEEN MARINE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL, HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL, GOVERNMENT LABORATORY, FORENSIC LABORATORY, A MAGISTRATE'S COURT, AND POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EFFORTS IN FIGHTING CRIME.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS MISSING PEOPLE AND SUICIDE PROBLEMS

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS PAPERS PRESENTED BY THE POLICE ON THE DISTRICT'S MISSING PEOPLE AND PROBLEMS OF SUICIDE AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OPERATIONS OFFICER, CHIEF INSPECTOR P.J. EDWARDS, AND OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL MISSING PERSONS UNIT, SENIOR INSPECTOR WONG SO-YING, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE ISSUES.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER STATION CONTINGENCY PLANNING REPORT.

/MEANWHILE, A

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MEANWHILE, A MEMBER, MR KAN CHUNG-NIN, WILL ASK WHETHER THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD SHELVE A PLAN TO SET UP A CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CENTRE IN JUBILEE GARDEN AS THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE OWNERS' COMMITTEE THERE HAVE SHOWN THAT MOST HOUSEHOLDS ARE AGAINST THE PLAN.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE SECONDARY SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR SHA TIN, ANNUAL PROGRAMMES OF WORK FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS, SETTING UP OF STANDING WORKING GROUPS AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS LIGHT RAIL PLAN FOR HK ISLAND
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MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE IDEA OF DEVELOPING A LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM LINKING THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WITH ABERDEEN AT A MEETING ON THURSDAY (JUNE 2).

THEY WILL ALSO EXAMINE A MEMBER'S REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW THE LOCATION OF TRAM STOPS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL CONSULT MEMBERS ON A PROPOSAL TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR DRIVERS TO PUT THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS ON DRIVING LICENCES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE 1988-89 CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN AND THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT THE JUNCTION OF HILL ROAD AND QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 2) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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EASTERN DB TO DISCUSS URBAN COUNCIL WORKS PROGRAMME

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MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE FIVE YEAR URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME AT A MEETING ON THURSDAY (JUNE 2).

HOUSING DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL ALSO BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING ESTATE AT SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS (WEST) WHICH WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 4,896 FLATS ACCOMMODATING OVER 18,600 PEOPLE.

SEVEN MEMBERS HAVE SUBMITTED A PAPER ON A SUGGESTIVE CARTOON AND ITS EFFECTS ON YOUNG READERS. THEY WILL MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON CONTROLLING SUCH PUBLICATIONS.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE INTRODUCTION OF SUMMER TIME AND WAYS TO SOLVE THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY (JUNE 2) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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LAND IN HUNG SHUI KIU TO BE RESUMED FOR DEVELOPMENT

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FORTY LOTS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TALLING ABOUT 22,095 SQUARE METRES IN HUNG SHUI KIU IN YUEN LONG DISTRICT WILL BE RESUMED TO ALLOW DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA INTO A DISTRICT CENTRE, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID RESUMPTION WAS REQUIRED TO ALLOW THE CARRYING OUT OF SITE FORMATION WORK FOR TWO SCHOOLS, A DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION, PARKING SPACES, OPEN SPACE, COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL SITES, ACCESS ROADS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS.

"THE AREA CONCERNED IS SITUATED TO THE SOUTH OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND EAST OF TANG KWAI TSUEN ROAD," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT WILL BECOME PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF HUNG SHUI KIU AS DISTRICT CENTRE TO SERVE THE FUTURE POPULATION."

SITE FORMATION WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER WHEN THE THREE-MONTH RESUMPTION NOTICE EXPIRES, AND WILL TAKE ANOTHER FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1988

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN YUEN LONG

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TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUEN MUN-YUEN LONG LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM, THE JUNCTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND YUEN LONG ON LOK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DAILY BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 5.30 AM FROM JUNE 2 (THURSDAY) TO JUNE 8.

DURING THE CLOSURE, WESTBOUND VEHICLES FROM CASTLE PEAK ROAD HEADING FOR YUEN LONG ON LOK ROAD AND THOSE WISHING TO TURN RIGHT FROM CASTLE PEAK ROAD ONTO ROAD L1 WILL BE DIVERTED TO MAKE U-TURNS VIA THE JUNCTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG SECTION) AND FUNG CHEUNG ROAD.

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TEMPORARY RESTRICTED ZONES IN NORTH POINT TO REMAIN

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THE 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN NORTH POINT WILL REMAIN IN FORCE AS SPECIFIED BELOW FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 3) FOR ROADWORKS:

- * FORT STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH NORTH VIEW STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 57 METRES WEST OF THAT JUNCTION - FOR ABOUT EIGHT WEEKS; AND
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF NORTH VIEW STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH FORT STREET TO A POINT ABOUT SIX METRES SOUTH OF THAT JUNCTION - FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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WATER CUT IN KWAI CHUNG

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE CUT OFF OR REDUCED IN PRESSURE FROM 9 PM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 3) TO 8 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

THE AREA AFFECTED BY THE WATER CUT IS BOUNDED BY KWAI CHUNG ROAD, LAI KING HILL ROAD, JUNCTION STREET, LAI CHO ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

THE AREA WITH REDUCED WATER PRESSURE IS BOUNDED BY CONTAINER PORT ROAD, KWAI TAI ROAD, KWAI YUE STREET, WING SHUN STREET, TEXACO ROAD, KWAI FUK ROAD, SHING FUK STREET, KWAI SHING CIRCUIT, KWAI HING ROAD, WO TONG TSUI STREET, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, LAI CHO ROAD, JUNCTION STREET, LAI KING HILL ROAD, KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND TSUEN WAN ROAD, INCLUDING THE CONTAINER TERMINAL AND ALL BLOCKS OF MEI FOO SUN TSUEN TO THE SOUTH OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

(SUPPLEMENT)

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1988

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS,
SIR GEOFFREY HOWE,
ON MAY 31, 1988

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1988

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FOREIGN SECRETARY GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

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FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE:

SIR GEOFFREY: GOOD AFTERNOON. MY VISIT TO HONG KONG HAS BEEN VERY WORTHWHILE. I HAVE SEEN AS MUCH AS I CAN: THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE, THE CONTAINER PORT, THE POLYTECHNIC WHERE FUTURE GENERATIONS ARE BEING TRAINED, CHI MA WAN REFUGEE CAMP, THE GREEN ISLAND RECEPTION CENTRE FOR REFUGEES.

I HAVE TALKED TO AS MANY HONG KONG PEOPLE AS I CAN: COMMUNITY LEADERS, YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, MEMBERS OF LEGCO, MEMBERS OF EXCO AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE GOVERNOR AND OFFICIALS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, AND I HAVE HEARD A VERY WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS AND OPINIONS.

I HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY STRUCK, ALTHOUGH NOT SURPRISED, BY THE STRONG FEELINGS AROUSED BY THE ARRIVAL OF THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND THE PROBLEMS WHICH THEY CAUSE. I PAY TRIBUTE TO THE GENEROUS AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO THEIR PLIGHT.

AS I SAID YESTERDAY, THE BURDEN ON HONG KONG IS BECOMING INTOLERABLE. THINGS CAN'T GO ON AS THEY ARE. BUT I HAVE TO SAY PLAINLY THAT THE AUTOMATIC RESETTLEMENT OF ALL THOSE LEAVING VIETNAM FOR WHATEVER REASON ISN'T A PRACTICAL PROPOSITION. NOR, I BELIEVE, WOULD A CIVILISED COMMUNITY LIKE HONG KONG WISH TO LEAVE PEOPLE TO THE MERCY OF THE SEA.

THE FACT IS THAT THE VAST BULK OF BOAT PEOPLE NOW ARRIVING CANNOT BE DESCRIBED AS POLITICAL REFUGEES, AS DEFINED BY THE UNHCR. OTHER COUNTRIES CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF VIETNAM'S ABYSMAL ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT, LEAST OF ALL A SMALL AND OVER-CROWDED TERRITORY LIKE HONG KONG.

IT MUST BE RIGHT IN PRINCIPLE FOR THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE VIETNAMESE TO FIND THEIR FUTURE IN VIETNAM. UNFORTUNATELY, DESPITE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE, VIETNAM REFUSES TO HAVE THEM BACK BUT THAT MUST BE THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION. BRITAIN WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THAT.

SO THE OPTIONS ARE LIMITED; THERE IS NO MAGIC FORMULA; AND HARD DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN. I HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS HERE ON THE WAY AHEAD AND I WILL TAKE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

ALL I CAN SAY AT THIS STAGE IS THAT I FULLY ACCEPT THAT HONG KONG CAN'T GO ON OFFERING ITSELF TO AN ENDLESS STREAM OF PEOPLE AS A TRANSIT POINT TO A FUTURE THAT DOES NOT AND CANNOT EXIST. OF COURSE, THE WHOLE POSITION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WOULD BE IMMENSELY IMPROVED IF VIETNAM QUIT CAMBODIA.

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THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN AND ITS SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION OF CAMBODIA HAVE HELPED CREATE TWO OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST REFUGEE PROBLEMS. SOVIET TROOPS ARE NOW PULLING OUT OF AFGHANISTAN. SO LET'S HOPE MR GORBACHEV'S NEW THINKING WILL SOON TURN ITS ATTENTION IN AN EQUALLY CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO SOUTHEAST ASIA.

MY OTHER STRONG IMPRESSION FROM THE VISIT IS OF THE VIGOUR OF THE DEBATE ABOUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE. THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO CHANNEL THIS ENERGY INTO GIVING A CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW. THE CONSULTATION PERIOD IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE SEIZED.

YESTERDAY I DEALT IN SOME DETAIL WITH THE APPROACH OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE. LET ME SIMPLY REPEAT: IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF CHOOSING BETWEEN UPHOLDING BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG AND HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA. BRITAIN ISN'T IN THE BUSINESS OF CUTTING AND RUNNING. WE HAVE A RIGHT AND AN OBLIGATION TO GOVERN HONG KONG UNTIL 1997. THAT'S AN OBLIGATION WHICH WILL NOT BE SHIRKED.

FINALLY, MAY I TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY ON BEHALF OF MY WIFE, MY DELEGATION AND MYSELF TO THANK THE GOVERNOR, MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FOR THEIR WARM AND GENEROUS HOSPITALITY.

SALLY BLYTH (RTHK): SIR GEOFFREY, YOU HAVE JUST SAID NOW THAT YOU APPRECIATE HONG KONG'S REFUGEE PROBLEM AND THAT HONG KONG CAN'T GO ON OFFERING ITSELF AS A TRANSIT POINT. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING RELIEVING HONG KONG OF THE FIRST ASYLUM STATUS AS REQUESTED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, I HAVE OBVIOUSLY DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS OPTIONS WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. I WILL BE DISCUSSING THEM ALSO IN LONDON AND I CAN'T, AS I SAID IN MY STATEMENT, TODAY ANTICIPATE THE OUTCOME OF THAT REVIEW. BUT AS I ALSO SAID IN THE STATEMENT THINGS CANNOT GO ON AS THEY ARE, THE MORE SO SINCE MOST PEOPLE ARE NOT POLITICAL -- MOST BOAT PEOPLE ARE NOT POLITICAL REFUGEES PROPER. WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE GENUINE POLITICAL REFUGEES AND OTHERS.

SALLY BLYTH: BUT IT IS ONE OF THE OPTIONS YOU ARE CONSIDERING?

SIR GEOFFREY: I THINK THAT MUST BE PLAIN FROM WHAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID.

SIMON FUNG (RTHK): SIR GEOFFREY, YESTERDAY IN YOUR LUNCHEON SPEECH YOU MENTIONED THAT THE PRESENT DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW VIRTUALLY CONTAINED ALL THE PROVISIONS IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. THE USE OF THE WORDS "VIRTUALLY ALL", WOULD THAT IMPLY YOU HAVE ALREADY SPOTTED SOME OF THE PROVISION IN THE JOINT DECLARATION WERE MISSING IN THE DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW?

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SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, I DREW ATTENTION IN MY SPEECH YESTERDAY TO VARIOUS ASPECTS THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED AS REQUIRING FURTHER CONSIDERATION. THERE OBVIOUSLY ARE OUTSTANDING AREAS THAT NEED TO BE EXAMINED AND RESOLVED; THAT'S THE WHOLE OBJECT OF THE CONSULTATIVE PERIOD. THAT IS WHY I SAID IN MY STATEMENT JUST NOW THAT PEOPLE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF THE CONSULTATIVE PERIOD.

AS I ALSO SAID IN MY SPEECH YESTERDAY BRITAIN WILL PLAY ITS PART IN THAT PROCESS BECAUSE WE DO ACKNOWLEDGE AND ASSERT OUR INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION IS FAITHFULLY TRANSLATED INTO THE BASIC LAW.

SIMON FUNG: BUT SO FAR HAVE YOU SPOTTED ANY MISSING PROVISION IN THE DRAFT?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, I AM NOT GOING TO BEGIN REHEARSING MY CATALOGUE, SO TO SPEAK, OF POSSIBLE POINTS. I IDENTIFIED SOME OF THEM IN MY SPEECH YESTERDAY. OTHERS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFYING THINGS THAT OCCURRED TO THEM. IT IS VERY EARLY IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THAT PROCESS SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF GETTING POINTS OF VIEW ACROSS TO THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE, AND THROUGH THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

JAMES TAM (SING PAO DAILY NEWS): SIR, AS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WHAT YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES HAVE DONE AND WOULD DO TO PRESS THE HANOI GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE OUTFLOW OF THE PEOPLE AND TO TAKE BACK THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY IN HONG KONG NOW?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, IT'S A CASE WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN PRESSING INTERNATIONALLY IN A NUMBER OF PLACES. IT'S A CASE WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS AND DIRECTLY, OF COURSE, ON THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM, BECAUSE AS I SAID IN MY STATEMENT, IT CANNOT BE RIGHT FOR A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM TO BE SEEKING PLACES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD TO FIND A FUTURE WHICH THEY SHOULD BE FINDING WITHIN VIETNAM ITSELF.

CHRIS PETERSON (REUTERS): SIR GEOFFREY, YOU INDICATED IN YOUR PREAMBLE THAT CAMBODIA AND THE VIETNAMESE PRESENCE THERE HOLDS AT LEAST PART OF THE KEY TO THE REFUGEE QUESTION. WILL YOU BE IN ANY WAY TALKING TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO SEE IF THEY CAN BRING ANY PRESSURE TO BEAR ON HANOI?

SIR GEOFFREY: WE HAVE ALREADY DONE SO. INDEED, ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION WHEN I'VE SPOKEN TO MR SHEVARDNADZE I HAVE RAISED THIS POINT AND INVITED HIM TO ADDRESS HIMSELF TO THE QUESTION. WE'VE ALSO DONE IT, OF COURSE, AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE RECENT MEETING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ASEAN GOVERNMENTS IN DUSSELDORF. I THINK IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT VIETNAM SHOULD GET OUT OF CAMBODIA AND THAT VIETNAM SHOULD BE PRESSED TO DO SO BY THE SOVIET UNION. IT'S EQUALLY CLEAR THAT SHE DOES NEED TO RE-ADDRESS HERSELF FUNDAMENTALLY TO THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE MISCONCEIVED ECONOMIC POLICIES SHE'S BEEN FOLLOWING.

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FANNY WONG (ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS): SIR, WE ALL KNOW THAT WE NEED A LONG-TERM (INAUDIBLE..) SOLUTION FOR THE VR PROBLEM. BUT WITH THE RECENT INFLUX OF NEW ARRIVALS TO HONG KONG, WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO INCREASE THE QUOTA OF VR'S TO UK IN THE SHORT TERM TO EASE OUR PROBLEM?

SIR GEOFFREY: I DON'T THINK THAT THAT WOULD REALLY BE ADDRESSING ITSELF TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THE PROBLEM. INDEED, IT MIGHT BE TENDING TO MAKE THE SITUATION MORE DIFFICULT. WHAT I SAID IN MY STATEMENT IS THAT WE SIMPLY HAVE TO GET RID OF THE IMPRESSION THAT HONG KONG IS OR CAN BE A TRANSIT POINT TO THE REST OF THE WORLD TO A FUTURE THAT DOESN'T AND CANNOT EXIST.

AND THE REST OF THE WORLD, WHETHER BRITAIN OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY, CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO GO ON ACTING AS A RECEPTION AREA FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT REFUGEES IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD. SO I DON'T THINK THAT THAT KIND OF INSTANT RESPONSE WOULD BE HELPFUL. THE KEY THING IS TO CHECK THE FLOW, AND ONE OF THE MEASURES SUGGESTED TO ACHIEVE THAT IS, OF COURSE, THE RE-DEFINITION OF THE PEOPLE AND THEIR CATEGORIES.

FRANK CHOI (HONGKONG STANDARD): SIR GEOFFREY, YOU SAID THERE'S A WAY TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFUGEES; DO YOU MEAN A SCREEN TEST IS POSSIBLE FOR HONG KONG?

SIR GEOFFREY: THAT IS THE KIND OF TEST THAT HAS BEEN ADOPTED IN COMPARABLE SITUATIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THERE IS A WELL RECOGNISED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE A WELL-FOUNDED FEAR OF POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ON THE ONE HAND, AND THOSE WHO DO NOT FALL INTO THAT NARROW CATEGORY.

KATHERINE MA (HONG KONG ECONOMIC TIMES): SIR GEOFFREY, NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT SOME THAI OFFICIALS WILL GO AROUND AND LOBBY THE ASEAN COUNTRIES TO DRAFT UP AN AGREEMENT OF THEIR OWN, OTHER THAN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND IN SUCH CASE DO YOU THINK -- WELL, HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE MEMBERS THEY WANT TO ACCEPT. DO YOU THINK IN CASE OF DIFFERENT VIEWS WITH BRITAIN, HONG KONG CAN STILL JOIN IN SUCH AN AGREEMENT?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, I THINK THAT IS A RATHER LONG RANGE QUESTION BUILT ON A NUMBER OF HYPOTHESES. I DON'T KNOW, I AM AFRAID, OF THE PARTICULAR CANVASSING EXERCISE YOU ARE CONCERNED, BUT OBVIOUSLY AS FAR AS THE POSITION HERE IN HONG KONG IS CONCERNED, THAT IS A MATTER ON WHICH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN CONSULTING AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT CLOSELY.

ANTHONY FLORES (COMMERCIAL RADIO): SIR GEOFFREY, HOW WILL YOU BE PRESENTING THE REFUGEE ISSUE WHEN YOU DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE REFUGEES IF A SOLUTION IS NOT FOUND?

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SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, I SHALL BE PRESENTING THE MATTER TO MY COLLEAGUES, I THINK VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES THAT I HAVE BEEN PRESENTING TO YOU HERE TODAY AND I THINK THAT THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION MUST BE ALONG THE LINES I HAVE INDICATED. WE CANNOT SUSTAIN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE WORLD CAN MANAGE OR COPE WITH, STILL LESS HONG KONG, A CONSTANT FLOW OF PEOPLE LEAVING VIETNAM, WHO CANNOT BE CATEGORISED AS REFUGEES.

PHILIP BOWRING (FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW): I THINK IT IS A POINT OF FACT THAT THERE IS AS MANY PEOPLE LEAVING HONG KONG AT THE PRESENT TIME AS ARE LEAVING VIETNAM! WOULD YOU BE PREPARED, HAVING CATEGORISED MOST OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN A PARTICULAR WAY, CATEGORISE PERSONS LEAVING HONG KONG AS EMIGRES OF THE POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC NATURE?

SIR GEOFFREY: I WOULD NOT ACTUALLY, FOR ALL YOUR LIGHT-HEARTED APPROACH, BE PREPARED TO CANVAS THE TWO QUESTIONS IN THE SAME STYLE AT ALL. HONG KONG IS A FREE AND OPEN SOCIETY, ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC AND DRAMATICALLY SUCCESSFUL, ADMIRIED BY ECONOMIC MANAGERS IN EAST AND WEST ALIKE. THROUGHOUT HONG KONG'S HISTORY THERE HAS BEEN A FLUCTUATING PATTERN OF PEOPLE LEAVING HONG KONG AND COMING BACK TO IT.

I THINK THE KEY THING IS FOR US TO CONTINUE, THAT IS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, IN WORKING AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING TO MAINTAIN THE WHOLE RANGE OF FACTORS RECOGNISED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION BEING TRANSLATED INTO THE BASIC LAW WHICH SET HONG KONG A MILLION LIGHT YEARS FROM VIETNAM AND THANK HEAVEN FOR THAT.

PHILIP BOWRING: BUT YOU HAVEN'T EXPLAINED WHY AS MANY PEOPLE SHOULD BE LEAVING HONG KONG AS ARE LEAVING VIETNAM, DESPITE THE DIFFERENCE IN CLIMATE THAT YOU SAY EXISTS.

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT, WITH RESPECT, THAT QUESTION SCARCELY NEEDS EXPOSITION. PEOPLE LEAVE VIETNAM UNDER THE COMPULSION OF ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE UTMOST FOLLY, FACING THE UTMOST HARDSHIP TO DO IT.

PEOPLE LEAVE HONG KONG NOW, AS THEY HAVE DONE IN ALL THE YEARS PAST, AND COME BACK TO IT, TRAVELLING TO AND FROM ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DRAMATICALLY SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIES AND ANYONE WHO SEEKS TO FORCE ANY KIND OF COMPARISON OUT OF THAT PARALLEL I THINK IS MISLEADING HIMSELF. AND YOU HAVE HAD TWO GOES AT THE QUESTION, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN PUT IT ANY BETTER THE NEXT TIME.

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CHEUNG CHI-KONG (TVB): SIR GEOFFREY, IF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION ARE TO ADOPT TOUGHER MEASURES TO STOP THE INFLUX OF VR'S, WILL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AGREE HONG KONG TO ADOPT THE SAME MEASURES?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, I'VE INDICATED THE APPROACH FROM WHAT I'VE ALREADY SAID. THE FACT THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE THEMSELVES MOVING AWAY FROM ANY VIEW THAT THOSE LEAVING VIETNAM CAN BE PROPERLY BE IDENTIFIED AS POLITICAL REFUGEES IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT FACTOR.

BERNARD FONG (SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST): SIR GEOFFREY, HOW CAN BRITAIN CONVINCED VIETNAM TO WITHDRAW FROM KAMPUCHEA AND WELCOME BACK THE REFUGEES, WHEN THE WEST HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO ASSIST VIETNAM WHICH IS NOW FACING A VERY GRAVE FAMINE?

SIR GEOFFREY: THE WEST HAS DECLINED TO OFFER AID TO VIETNAM FOR TWO REASONS. ONE, BECAUSE OF HER PERSISTENCE IN THE UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION OF CAMBODIA. AND TWO, BECAUSE IT IS BY NO MEANS CLEAR THAT ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC POLICY IS LIKELY TO ACHIEVE ANY GOOD AT ALL. THE TWO PRESSURES I'VE DESCRIBED ARE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT.

VIETNAM NEEDS TO LEARN THE LESSON THAT MORE AND MORE COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE LEARNT, THAT THERE IS NO FUTURE IN FOLLOWING THE KIND OF TOTALITARIAN ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT SHE HAS FOLLOWED FOR SOME TIME. IF SHE LEARNS THAT LESSON, SHE'LL BEGIN TO FIND THE WORLD READY TO RESPOND AS WE HAVE DONE IN MANY OTHER CASES. BUT VIETNAM, TO THE IMMENSE COST TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, IS STILL ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF TESTING STALINISM TO DESTRUCTION, AND WE SHOULD NOT GIVE ANY SUPPORT TO THAT PROCESS.

CLAUDIA MO (AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE): SIR, IN THE DRAFT BASIC LAW, IT IS SAID THAT PEKING WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO INTERPRET AND AMEND THE BASIC LAW. DO YOU THINK THIS CONTRADICTS THE PROMISE OF A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN POST-1997 HONG KONG?

SIR GEOFFREY: I'M NOT NOW GOING TO BE DRAWN INTO CONDUCTING A CONSTITUTIONAL EXEGESIS ON THE BASIS OF THE BASIC LAW. I SAID YESTERDAY, THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT AREAS TO BE RESOLVED. YOU'LL FIND OTHER PARTS OF THE SAME DOCUMENT IDENTIFYING THE EXTENT TO WHICH MATTERS OF THAT KIND SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE COURTS OF THE HONG KONG SAR WITHIN HONG KONG ITSELF. I THINK IT IS THAT KIND OF TOPIC THAT SHOULD BE AND IS THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERATION BY THOSE NOW MAKING REPRESENTATIONS ON THE BASIC LAW.

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WONG WING-TAI (SING TAO WAN PAO): YOU SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE BASIC LAW FIRST DRAFT IS NOT PERFECT. SO DO YOU THINK THAT IT'S CONVERGENT WITH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION?

SIR GEOFFREY: I THINK THAT I CAN ONLY REPEAT WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY. IF YOU LOOK AT THE ENORMOUS DETAIL OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THAT REPRESENTED A TREMENDOUS ADVANCE FROM SOME OF THE VERY BASIC IDEAS THAT WERE ORIGINALLY SET OUT IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THEN YOU HAVE TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STAGE AND SEE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE JOINT DECLARATION IS BEING TRANSLATED, TRANSMITTED INTO THE BASIC LAW.

AND THE POINT I MADE YESTERDAY IS THAT A VERY, VERY SUBSTANTIAL ACHIEVEMENT IS ALREADY OBVIOUS. A GREAT DEAL OF IT HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED INTO THE BASIC LAW, AND AGAIN AS I SAID YESTERDAY, ALMOST VERBATIM, BUT THE WORK IS NOT COMPLETE.

THERE ARE AREAS THAT NEED TO BE EXAMINED FOR COMPLETENESS, AREAS THAT NEED TO BE EXAMINED FOR CONSISTENCY. THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT OF THE CONSULTATIVE PERIOD. IT'S TO GET ACROSS CONCERNS OF THAT KIND CLEARLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY TO CHINA AND THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE DRAFTING. AND AGAIN AS I SAID YESTERDAY, BRITAIN WILL CERTAINLY PLAY ITS PART IN THAT PROCESS, BECAUSE WE HAVE A CLEAR INTEREST AND REASON TO DO JUST THAT.

CARMEN LUK (TVB): SIR, LAST YEAR MORE THAN 300 HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE REFUSED ENTRY TO BRITAIN. SOME PEOPLE ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THEY WERE UNFAIRLY TREATED AT CHECKPOINTS IN LONDON. DO YOU AGREE THAT THESE CASES ARE UNDERMINING THE CONFIDENCE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TOWARDS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AND WILL YOUR ADMINISTRATION DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, THE POSITION IS THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBLE QUESTION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG PEOPLE AND ANY COMPLAINTS OF THE KIND THAT YOU HAVE MENTIONED SHOULD BE AND ARE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED. IT'S EQUALLY TRUE, OF COURSE, THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM IS NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT OPERATES, AND HAS TO OPERATE, CONTROL OF INFLOW IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER PEOPLE WHO CAME ARRIVING AS VISITORS ARE IN FACT ARRIVING FOR A DIFFERENT PURPOSE.

AND YOU'LL FIND THAT EVERY COUNTRY AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING HONG KONG OF COURSE, DOES HAVE THAT KIND OF SYSTEM NECESSARILY IN PLACE. WE WILL GO ON IN RELATION TO PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG MAKING SURE THAT ANY POSSIBLE COMPLAINT IS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED, BECAUSE WE DON'T LIKE TO HAVE ANY UNJUSTIFIABLE COMPLAINTS.

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CARMEN LUK: BUT HOW COULD YOU EXPLAIN THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE REJECTED?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, COMPARE IT WITH THE HUGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARRIVE AND LOOK AT ANY COUNTRY AROUND THE WORLD AND YOU WILL FIND THAT SOME CASES ARE IDENTIFIED RIGHTLY WHERE THE STATED GROUNDS FOR ADMISSION ARE NOT, IN FACT, CONSISTENT WITH WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON.

WHEN COMPLAINTS ARE MADE, THEN THERE IS AN APPEAL SYSTEM; IT IS RIGHT THAT THAT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED, WHEN COMPLAINTS ARE MADE ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH IT IS MANAGED, AGAIN WE CAN MAKE SURE THOSE ARE INVESTIGATED.

BUT THERE IS NOTHING DIFFERENT IN THAT, IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMING INTO BRITAIN AS FOR ANYWHERE ELSE, AND I EMPHASISE THAT OF COURSE WE HAVE AN INTEREST, A VERY HIGH INTEREST, IN MAKING SURE THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF THAT POINT HERE IN HONG KONG. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF DISCRIMINATION IN BRITAIN; ANY COMPLAINTS ARE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED.

CHOI SUK-FONG (SING TAO JIH PAO): AFTER THE CONSULTATION PERIOD OF THE BASIC LAW FIRST DRAFT, WOULD YOU ARRANGE ANOTHER VISIT TO BEIJING AND IF YOU HAVE THIS KIND OF VISITS, WHO WOULD YOU MEET AND WHAT ISSUE WILL BE DISCUSSED?

SIR GEOFFREY: I DON'T AT PRESENT HAVE IN MIND ANY EARLY VISIT TO BEIJING. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, AND HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE A WIDE VARIETY OF WAYS IN WHICH WE REMAIN, AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT REMAINS, IN CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, DURING THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS I HAVE SEEN MY CHINESE OPPOSITE NUMBER, MR WU XUEQIAN, SOME SEVEN TIMES AND I SHALL BE SEEING HIS SUCCESSOR NO DOUBT IN THE SAME SORT OF WAY. THAT IS ONLY ONE OF THE POINTS OF CONTACT.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER FORMAL AND INFORMAL WAYS OF CONVEYING OUR VIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, QUITE APART FROM THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WHICH I THINK NOW HAS HAD NINE MEETINGS. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS RANGE OF ALMOST CAPILLARY TUBES OF CONTACT BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA. YOU SHOULDN'T INCIDENTALLY BELIEVE THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF GETTING A CASE ACROSS EITHER WAY IS FOR IT TO BE PROCLAIMED IN PUBLIC IN A LOUD VOICE. WE DO A GREAT DEAL OF REPRESENTATION OF A CONTINUOUS KIND.

BRUCE FIENBERG (UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL): YOU HAVE MENTIONED THAT VIETNAM NEEDS TO PULL THEIR TROOPS OUT OF CAMBODIA. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THEIR RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO PULL OUT WHAT THEY SAY IS A MAJORITY OF THEIR TROOPS IN CAMBODIA? AND WHAT, IF ANY, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WILL BRITAIN GIVE VIETNAM ONCE THEY DO PULL OUT OF CAMBODIA?

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SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, MY REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THAT EFFECT IS OBVIOUSLY TO WELCOME IT IN SO FAR AS IT IS IN FACT TURNED INTO PRACTICE. THERE HAVE BEEN EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY FULFILLED. BUT WHAT I WANT TO SEE IS ACTION ON THE GROUND IN THE FORM OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS. WHEN THAT HAS HAPPENED WILL BE THE TIME TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT ANY ECONOMIC AID ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE. AS YOU WILL HAVE SEEN, WE REACTED QUITE POSITIVELY TO THE DECISION BY THE SOVIET UNION TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN, BY DOUBLING THE AID WE ALREADY MAKE AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES THERE.

CHENG YEE-KWAN (COMMERCIAL RADIO): SIR, YOU HAVE MENTIONED IN YOUR LUNCHEON SPEECH YESTERDAY THAT THERE ARE STILL DIFFICULT AREAS DUE TO THE RESULT IN THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW, SUCH AS THE FORMATION OF THE FIRST SAR GOVERNMENT AND ITS ELECTION OF THE FIRST CHIEF EXECUTIVE. WHAT SORT OF DIFFICULTIES ARE YOU REFERRING TO? DOES IT HAVE ANY RELATION WITH THE ANNEX III IN THE FIRST DRAFT?

SIR GEOFFREY: WITH THE?

CHENG YEE-KWAN: WOULD IT HAVE ANY RELATION WITH THE, TO THE PROPOSAL SUGGESTED IN THE ANNEX III IN THE FIRST DRAFT?

SIR GEOFFREY: OH, ANNEX III. WELL, THE POINT IS THAT THE VERY SUBJECT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT, AND THE ANNEXES, CONTAIN ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF TACKLING ALL THESE TOPICS. BUT I MERELY IDENTIFIED THEM AS TOPICS WHICH VIRTUALLY BY DEFINITION DO REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY.

CHENG YEE-KWAN: SO WHAT ARE THE DIFFICULTIES YOU ARE REFERRING TO?

SIR GEOFFREY: THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ME AND REPORTED TO ME, THAT I HAVE EVEN SEEN MENTIONED IN SOME OF THE HONG KONG PRESS.

NICK GRIFFIN (ATV): SIR, AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND NOT AS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO LIVE IN A COUNTRY WHERE EVERY CHAPTER OF THE BASIC LAW IS OPEN TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS?

SIR GEOFFREY: I THINK I SHOULD BE PREPARED TO LIVE IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE JOINT DECLARATION HAS BEEN FAITHFULLY REFLECTED IN THE BASIC LAW.

CHAN BO-SHUN (HONG KONG ECONOMIC JOURNAL): SINCE THOSE OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG AND ALSO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS HAVE ALREADY CONFIRMED THAT THE TERM "FIRST ASYLUM TERRITORY" HAS NO CLEAR DEFINITION, DO YOU THINK THAT IT MEANS THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CAN PRESERVE AS THE FIRST ASYLUM TERRITORY AND CHANGE THE WAY THAT THEY DEAL WITH THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT THE SAME TIME, FOR EXAMPLE JUST TO CHANGE IDENTITY TO BECOME II (ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS)?

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SIR GEOFFREY: I THINK THAT ONE WANTS TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO A BATTLE OF TERMINOLOGY HERE. WHAT I HAVE SAID ALREADY IS THAT THE KEY QUESTION IS THE DEFINITION OF POLITICAL REFUGEE BY THE UNHCR STANDARDS, THAT DOES MEAN APPLYING ONESELF TO THE QUESTION: HAVE THEY A WELL-FOUNDED BELIEF THAT THEY WILL BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ON POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS, PERSECUTED ON POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS? THAT IS THE TEST. THE QUESTION IS HOW FAR ONE APPLIES THAT, WHETHER ONE DOES SO, AND WHEN. AND THAT IS ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT WE ARE OBVIOUSLY STILL CONSIDERING.

JAMES TAM (SING PAO DAILY NEWS): SIR GEOFFREY, WHAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO ENSURE THAT THE FINAL VERSION OF THE BASIC LAW REFLECTS PRECISELY WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE JOINT DECLARATION?

SIR GEOFFREY: WE CAN CONTINUE TO MAKE, AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING, VERY CLEAR TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT ANY VARIATION BETWEEN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW. THAT IS WHAT THE CONSULTATION PERIOD IS ABOUT AND HOW ELSE DO YOU DO IT EXCEPT BY WRITING DOWN WORDS ON PAPER, SPEAKING WORDS THROUGH YOUR MOUTH, MAKING REPRESENTATIONS IN THE WHOLE RANGE OF WAYS THAT WE HAVE DESCRIBED.

JEREMY THOMPSON (ITN): THERE IS AN IMPRESSION AMONGST THOSE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN HONG KONG AT THE MOMENT THAT BRITAIN IN ITS ENTHUSIASM TO STRIKE UP A STRONGER RELATIONSHIP WITH BEIJING HAS SOLD HONG KONG DOWN THE RIVER. HOW DO YOU COME TO TERMS WITH THAT, SIR?

SIR GEOFFREY: BY REPEATING WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, THAT THAT IS HOGWASH! EVEN IF WE WERE DAFT ENOUGH TO THINK THERE WAS ANY BENEFIT IN DOING SO, IT WOULD NOT BE WITHIN OUR POWER. THE FACT IS AS A MATTER OF REALITY. BRITAIN HAS A PASSIONATE INTEREST IN THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG. WE ARE WORKING, TOGETHER WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, TO FULFIL THE JOINT DECLARATION WE HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO ACHIEVE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE JUST THAT.

THERE IS NO QUESTION OF BRITAIN CHOOSING TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA AT THE EXPENSE OF HONG KONG. YOU SIMPLY COULDN'T ACHIEVE IT. ONE OF THE HIGHEST FULFILMENTS OF OUR GOOD RELATIONS MUST BE THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG. YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER, IF I MAY QUOTE FRANK SINATRA.

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JEREMY THOMPSON: IF I COULD JUST BRIEFLY FOLLOW UP ON THAT. HOGWASH OR NOT, MANY PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM WHO LIVE HERE WILL TELL YOU THAT THAT IS A STRONG IMPRESSION AMONGST PEOPLE ON THE STREET. DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE MANAGED TO ALLAY THEIR FEARS?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, EVERY TIME YOU ASK ME THE QUESTION IT GIVES ME A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY OF DOING SO. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, LET ME ONCE AND FOR ALL DISPOSE OF THE MYTH THAT BRITAIN EVER HAS OR EVER WOULD SACRIFICE HONG KONG'S INTERESTS IN THE PURSUIT OF BETTER SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS. WE WON'T, WE SHOULDN'T, AND WE CAN'T. OF COURSE I CAN'T GUARANTEE IN RELATION TO HONG KONG, ANY MORE THAN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO ANY OTHER SOCIETY IN THE WORLD CAN POINT TO THE INFINITE FUTURE WITH THE REMOVAL OF EVERY KIND OF ANXIETY. I CAN'T DO THAT.

WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT BRITAIN DIDN'T WORK TO PRODUCE THE JOINT DECLARATION IN ORDER TO SEE IT CAST AWAY. WE WORKED TO SEE IT TRANSLATED INTO PRACTICE AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THE CHINESE PEOPLE, I BELIEVE, HAVE A VERY POWERFUL INTEREST IN ACHIEVING THAT AS WELL. HONG KONG IS HERE, ONE OF THE MIRACLE SOCIETIES IN THE WORLD. DENG XIAOPING DESIGNED THE ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEM APPROACH IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE TWO TO COME TOGETHER AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WANT THAT TO HAPPEN. IT WILL SERVE THEIR INTERESTS IN THE LONGER RUN, BY THE STANDARDS OF HISTORY, AND WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE IT.

HONG KONG PEOPLE, INCIDENTALLY, ARE DOING MAGNIFICENTLY THEMSELVES TO SUSTAIN THEIR ACTIVITIES, TO SUSTAIN THEIR SUCCESS. AND I BELIEVE THAT, TOGETHER, IT CAN BE DONE. THAT IS MY PURPOSE ANYWAY.

LEUNG SUK-YING (TIN TIN DAILY NEWS): IF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS NOT GOING TO ACCEPT MORE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG, AND CONSIDER TO CHANGE THE POLICY THAT HONG KONG PROVIDES A PLACE OF FIRST ASYLUM, THEN HOW CAN YOU JUSTIFY THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS SINCERE TO UPHOLD THE OBLIGATIONS AND THE COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG?

SIR GEOFFREY: I DON'T QUITE FOLLOW, BUT I THINK THE POINT I HAVE MADE IS THAT BRITAIN CERTAINLY HAS ACCEPTED A LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, I THINK ABOUT 20,000 SINCE 1975 AND ABOUT 13,000 FROM HONG KONG. WE ARE STILL TAKING A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER.

THE REAL POINT IS THAT NO COUNTRY, WHETHER BRITAIN OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN NORTH AMERICA, AUSTRALASIA, OR EUROPE, AND LEAST OF ALL HONG KONG, CAN BE EXPECTED TO GO ON PAYING THE PENALTY OF VIETNAM'S ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT. ONE HAS GOT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO FUTURE THAT CAN BE EXPECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM COMING THROUGH HONG KONG TO THE REST OF THE WORLD ALONG THE LINES THAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING. THAT IS THE POINT I AM MAKING.

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DAVID DODWELL (FINANCIAL TIMES): IF YOU DO HAVE A GENUINE PASSIONATE INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG, WHY IS IT THAT YOU HAVE NOT ENCOURAGED THE GOVERNMENT HERE TO GIVE GREATER AND MORE DETAILED ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF EMIGRATION, TO THE DAMAGES THAT ARE BEING DONE, AND THE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY THAT ARE BEING SO HURT BY IT?

SIR GEOFFREY: I THINK THAT REPRESENTS AN OVER-STATEMENT OF A CASE THAT IS, OF COURSE, ONE THAT NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED SERIOUSLY. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, THE HONG KONG PEOPLE, THE HONG KONG PRESS KEEP A CONSTANT EYE ON RELATIVE EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION RATES. THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PATTERN OF THAT KIND AND IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT ONE IS CONSTANTLY SEEKING TO UNDERLINE THE POINTS WHICH GIVE GROUNDS FOR CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.

NOBODY IS TAKING IT COMPLACENTLY. I SAID THAT IN MY SPEECH YESTERDAY. IT HAS GOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BUT I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE THE CAUSE FOR ALARM AND DISMAY. WE HAVE TO KEEP AT IT. AND IF HONG KONG RETAINS THE FRAMEWORK WHERE PEOPLE ARE FREE TO COME AND GO, WHERE THE ECONOMY IS FREE TO COME AND GO, TO MOVE WITH THE VITALITY THAT IT HAS GOT, I BELIEVE THAT THAT WILL BE SEEN AS THE BEST WAY TO THE FUTURE. I AM NOT DISMISSING YOUR POINT AT ALL. I THINK IT HAS GOT TO BE KEPT IN PERSPECTIVE.

MARK ROBERTT (FREELANCE): SIR GEOFFREY, IF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HASN'T SOLD HONG KONG DOWN THE RIVER, THEN WHY IN 1985 DID BRITAIN ORIGINALLY INSIST THAT THE CHINESE WOULD HAVE NO SAY IN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND THEN REVERSED THAT POSITION AND ALLOWED THE JLG TO HAVE A ROLE IN THE CHANGES THAT WERE BEING MADE IN HONG KONG?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ANY FORMAL ROLE FOR THE JLG OR ANYTHING ELSE IN RELATION TO THE CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN HONG KONG. CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE, THAT ARE TAKING PLACE, THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF TWO OR THREE FACTORS.

ONE, UNTIL 1985 HONG KONG HAD NO ELECTED MEMBERS OF LEGCO AT ALL, SO ELECTION OF ANY KIND BY THE HISTORIC RECORD OF HONG KONG WAS AN INNOVATION.

TWO, ONE NEEDS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VERY DIVERSE PATTERN OF OPINION WITHIN HONG KONG ITSELF AS TO WHAT SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING.

THREE, THERE IS NO PURPOSE IN EMBARKING UPON A REVOLUTIONARY SET OF CHANGES WHEN ONE OF THE OBJECTS OF THE EXERCISE IS TO PRESERVE WHAT HAS MADE HONG KONG WHAT IT IS, LEAST OF ALL TO EMBARK UPON REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IF IT IS CLEAR TO EVERY EYE THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE REGARDED AS AN AFFRONT TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IN THE LONG DISTANCE.

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MARK ROBERTT: YOU YOURSELF SAID IN 1984 THAT HONG KONG WOULD PROCEED TOWARDS REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD AND THEN WHEN THAT STARTED TO HAPPEN AND CHINA OBJECTED THE POSITION WAS REVERSED.

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL I THINK, IF I MAY SAY SO, THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN DEBATED RIGHTLY AND SUBSTANTIALLY IN HONG KONG. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WHITE PAPER WERE ENDORSED BY A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF LEGCO. THE CHANGES THERE FORESHADOWED WILL BE TAKING PLACE AND I THINK THAT, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, NO DOUBT FURTHER CHANGES WILL TAKE PLACE HEREAFTER. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN ANY DEPARTURE FROM THE PROSPECT OF GRADUAL CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AT A SENSIBLE PACE IN FACE OF THE COMMITMENT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION TO AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE AT THE END OF THE DAY.

HOW IT IS DONE IN THE LIGHT OF HONG KONG'S EXPERIENCE AND HISTORY IS A MATTER FOR DETAILED CONSIDERATION ALL THE WAY, BUT I SIMPLY DO NOT ACCEPT THE IMPLICIT PROPOSITION OF WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY BREACH OF FAITH WHATSOEVER. IT HAS BEEN A MATTER OF THE CLOSEST AND THE MOST CONTINUOUS CONSIDERATION IN THE UK BY MYSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND HERE IN HONG KONG BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND I THINK THE PATTERN OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IS ENTIRELY IN LINE WITH THE EXPECTATIONS THAT PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE HAD.

FANNY WONG: SIR, OMELCO MEMBERS HAVE ASKED A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION FOR OUR SHARING OF THE DEFENCE COSTS. TO SHOW THE HONG KONG PEOPLE THAT THE UK GOVERNMENT REMAINS TO BE FULLY COMMITTED TO HONG KONG AND CARES ABOUT THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG, WOULD YOU TAKE THIS VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO ACCEPT THEIR DEMANDS?

SIR GEOFFREY: I CAN SAY ON THIS OCCASION THAT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN REACHED ON AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THOSE DEFENCE COSTS. IT IS NOW BEING PUT INTO DETAILED FINAL FORM AND THAT WILL BE REVEALED IN DUE COURSE.

FANNY WONG: WHEN POSSIBLY CAN WE EXPECT AN AGREEMENT TO BE IN PLACE THEN?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, AGREEMENT AS I SAY, IN PRINCIPLE, HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED. IT WILL BE ACHIEVED WITH ALL REASONABLE DESPATCH.

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PHILIP BOWRING: YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT YOUR CRITICS ARE TALKING HOGWASH BUT ARE YOU NOT CONCERNED WHEN A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AN APPOINTED MEMBER REPRESENTING THE BUSINESS INTERESTS, SHOULD SAY ONLY TWO DAYS AGO THAT THE ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS IS A WONDERFUL CONCEPT TO HELP BRITAIN SAVE FACE? IT IS NOT WORKABLE, DESPITE THE JOINT DECLARATION. YES THEY ARE AND WILL BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF CHINA, NOT ONLY IN LEGAL AND TERRITORIAL TERMS BUT IN COMMERCIAL AND SOCIAL TERMS AS WELL.

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, I THINK THAT VIEW REPRESENTS AN OVER-SIMPLIFICATION OF A PROFOUNDLY MISUNDERSTANDING KIND. I THINK, WITH RESPECT, THAT IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO REPUDIATE, AND I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR THE WORD HOGWASH, THE PROPOSITION THAT THERE IS ANY CHOICE WHATSOEVER BETWEEN BRITAIN WANTING TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME FOR HONG KONG AND SEEKING TO ACHIEVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA. THE TWO GO TOGETHER.

AND I THINK THAT MOST OBSERVERS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TO IDENTIFY A FUTURE FOR HONG KONG WITH ITS UNIQUE QUALITIES ALONGSIDE THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMMUNIST SOCIETY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS WAS, IS, AND WILL REMAIN A MOST IMAGINATIVE AND MOST IMPORTANT CONCEPT. I THINK THAT IT DOES NO GOOD TO CHALLENGE THAT ON THE GROUNDS OF TOTAL DISBELIEF. I DON'T THINK THAT IS THE VIEW OF MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

KATHERINE MA: SIR GEOFFREY, REFERRING TO YOUR SPEECH YESTERDAY, YOU SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. SO AT THE END OF THIS TWO-DAY VISIT, CAN YOU TELL US HOW FAR YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE COLLECTIVE MENTALITY OF THIS COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE TOWARDS THE PROSPECT OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT? AND I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE SOME EVIDENCE TOO.

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, I CAN'T CLAIM ON THE STRENGTH OF THE THREE-DAY VISIT TO HONG KONG TO HAVE SOME NEW UNIQUE INSIGHT INTO THE ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT FOR THE WHOLE OF MY FIVE YEARS AS FOREIGN SECRETARY, WITH THE BENEFIT OF ADVICE FROM A TREMENDOUS RANGE OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG INCLUDING MEMBERS OF EXCO, LEGCO, AND THOSE WHO WRITE ABOUT IT AND TALK ABOUT IT, I DO THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS THAT HAS MADE HONG KONG WHAT IT IS.

I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT PEOPLE WANT FOR THE FUTURE. THEY WANT HONG KONG TO CONTINUE WITH THE SAME BASIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE THAT HAS MADE IT GREAT IN THE PAST AND MADE IT GREAT TODAY. I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY SOME PART, NOT IN ANY SENSE ALONE, IN CONVEYING THE SPIRIT AND THE FLAVOUR OF THAT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA. CHINA ITSELF HAS BEEN LEARNING AND SEEKING TO LEARN AS MUCH AS IT CAN ABOUT WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES HONG KONG TICK.

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KATHERINE MA: SORRY, BESIDES WHAT THEY WANT AND WHAT THEY DEMAND, HOW FAR HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD HOW THEY ARE CONTENTED OR DISCONTENTED WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, BY CONTINUOUS APPRAISAL FROM ALL THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION THAT ARE AVAILABLE. WE READ AND STUDY WHAT PEOPLE SAY, WHAT THEY DO, WHAT THEY WRITE TO US IN REPRESENTATIONS, AS ONE DOES IN ANY SOCIETY. I DON'T HAVE ANY UNIQUE FINGER ON ANY SPECIAL PULSE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, BUT IT IS MY IMPRESSION, JUDGING BY THE SUCCESS BEING ACHIEVED BY HONG KONG IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS, THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE STILL HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR SOCIETY. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT PEOPLE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE WORLD ALSO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THAT AND WE OUGHT TO KEEP IT LIKE THAT.

SALLY BLYTH: SIR GEOFFREY, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS THAT UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES SHOULD PAY MORE TOWARDS THE COSTS OF RUNNING THE CLOSED CAMPS HERE. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS AND WILL YOU APPROACH THE UNHCR ABOUT IT?

SIR GEOFFREY: WELL, WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE UNHCR AND WILL CERTAINLY BE PRESSING THAT POINT UPON THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. WE SHALL ALSO OF COURSE BE ENLISTING HIS HELP IN PRESSING VIETNAM FOR A CHANGE IN THEIR POLICY.

CLAUDIA MO: SIR, YOU SAID EARLIER THAT LONDON WOULD EXPRESS RESERVATIONS OVER THE FINAL VERSION OF THE BASIC LAW IF NECESSARY, BUT HOW COULD YOU BE SURE THAT BEIJING WOULD LISTEN TO YOUR VIEWS?

SIR GEOFFREY: HOW CAN ONE BE SURE OF ANYTHING? THE FACT IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA NOW FOR FIVE YEARS, DISCUSSING AND ANALYSING THESE THINGS AND SEEKING TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS, AND WE HAVE MADE VERY SUBSTANTIAL SOLID PROGRESS.

WHEN PEOPLE FIRST BEGAN LOOKING, AND WHEN I CAME HERE IN THE SPRING OF 1984 AND I SAID THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE SEEKING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, PROSPERITY AND WAY OF LIFE FOR THE FUTURE, PEOPLE SAID TO ME HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE THAT. I SAID I CAN'T BE SURE BUT I AM GOING TO HAVE A DAMN GOOD TRY.

WE WORKED TOGETHER FOR MONTHS AND PRODUCED THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHEN THEY SAW THAT DID INDEED ACCLAIM IT AS A VERY CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. SO THAT IS WHAT WE ACHIEVED THEN. WE ACHIEVED IT BECAUSE HONG KONG PEOPLE WANT IT, BECAUSE THE UK GOVERNMENT WANTS IT, AND BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA WANTED IT, I THINK IN THE SAME SORT OF WAY WE ARE GOING TO PRESS FOR THE TRANSLATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION INTO THE BASIC LAW.

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ANTHONY FLORES: BEFORE A FINAL SOLUTION IS FOUND AND IF THE UNHCR DENIES ANY ASSISTANCE TO HONG KONG, WILL THE UK AUTHORITIES ASSIST THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FINANCIALLY IN RUNNING THESE CAMPS?

SIR GEOFFREY: WE SHALL HAVE TO LOOK AT THE WHOLE RANGE OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS. THE POINT IS THE UNITED KINGDOM DOES ALREADY MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE UNHCR SOME 16 MILLION POUNDS (STERLING) A YEAR FOR USE IN HONG KONG AS IN OTHER PLACES, AND I THINK THAT'S THE POINT FROM WHICH ONE STARTS.

CHRIS POMERY (THE TIMES): SIR, WOULD YOU FEEL ABLE TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT AS IT STANDS TO PARLIAMENT? AND IF NOT, IF YOU HAVE ANY RESERVATIONS, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

SIR GEOFFREY: I ALREADY MADE PLAIN IN MY SPEECH YESTERDAY, THAT THE BASIC LAW FIRST DRAFT IS THE FIRST DRAFT. IT IS FAR FROM COMPLETE. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AREAS THAT PEOPLE WISH TO SEE STUDIED FURTHER, AND I'M NOT NOW GOING TO BE DRAWN INTO MAKING MY OWN CATALOGUE OF THEM.

CHRIS POMERY: DO YOU HAVE TO ENDORSE IT TO PARLIAMENT AS SUCH?

SIR GEOFFREY: NO. IN NO WAY, NOBODY IS INVITING ME TO. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAVE SAID IN THE SAME WAY WE HAVE SAID THAT THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW IS FAR FROM COMPLETE. SO NOBODY I THINK IS INVITING ME TO DO WHAT YOU'RE INVITING ME TO DO, AND I DON'T THINK EVEN YOU ARE.

SIMON FUNG: SIR GEOFFREY, RECENTLY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF THE BASIC LAW, THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BASIC LAW HAVE SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT RECEIVE OPINION OR DISCUSSIONS ON THE BASIC LAW FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS AND ALSO DISTRICT BOARDS. WOULD YOU NOW MAKE A COMMITMENT TO THE HONG KONG PEOPLE THAT THE UK GOVERNMENT WOULD RELAY VIEWS OF ALL THESE BOARDS AND COUNCILS TO THE CHINESE SIDE THROUGH THE DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL?

SIR GEOFFREY: CERTAINLY, THE UK GOVERNMENT WOULD BE READY TO PASS TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES RECORDS OF DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THAT KIND. I DON'T THINK ONE SHOULD BE UNDULY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE MECHANICS OF THAT, AS A MATTER OF FACT. THE REALITY IS THAT THE BASIC LAW, THE DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW, IS BEING DISCUSSED BY INDIVIDUALS, BY NEWSPAPERS, BY COMMENTATORS, BY REPRESENTATIVE BODIES IN HONG KONG. IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED, AND WILL BE DISCUSSED BY PARLIAMENT IN THE UK. AND I DON'T DOUBT THAT THE OUTCOME OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS WILL REACH THE EYES AND EARS OF THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE OF THE BASIC LAW. CERTAINLY, WE SHALL PLAY OUR PART IN SEEING THAT THEY DO. I DON'T THINK EITHER SIDE SHOULD BE PREOCCUPIED BY PROCEDURE.

THE REALITY IS THE BASIC LAW IS THE TOPIC NOW BEING CONSIDERED INTENSELY, AND RIGHTLY, BY MANY PEOPLE. AND THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WILL HARKEN TO THAT. JUST AS THE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE HAVE DONE SO UP TO NOW.

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DINAH LEE (BUSINESS WEEK): SIR GEOFFREY, IN 1984 WHEN YOU PERSONALLY ENDORSED AN AGREEMENT WHICH PROMISED AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE TO HONG KONG, HOW DID YOU, AS AN INDIVIDUAL, INTERPRET THAT PHRASE? DID YOU, FOR EXAMPLE, ENVISION A SYSTEM WHERE ONLY ONE OUT OF FOUR WOULD BE ELECTED, OR DID YOU ENVISION A SYSTEM WHERE LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE POPULATION, THE SMALL ELITE, APPOINTED BY A COMMUNIST CAPITAL TO THE NORTH, WOULD NOMINATE THE CANDIDATES? IS THIS YOUR DEFINITION OF AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE? HOW ELASTIC CAN THIS PHRASE BE SEEN NOW?

SIR GEOFFREY: I START FROM THE FACT THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION OF THE COMMITMENT TO AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE WAS ONE OF THE THINGS FOR WHICH WE WORKED MOST HARD, AND WHICH WAS ONE OF THE ONES THAT CAME INTO PLACE ONLY QUITE CLOSE TO THE END OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I CERTAINLY DID NOT VISUALISE THAT BEING TRANSLATED INTO PRACTICE BY THE PATTERN OF DIRECT ELECTIONS FOR ALL OR ANYTHING LIKE ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THEN GOING TO BE ELECTED. THE PATTERN WAS ONE THAT WAS BOUND TO BE EVOLVED FOR THE FUTURE, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT HONG KONG UP TO THAT TIME HAD HAD NO EXPERIENCE OF DIRECT ELECTIONS AT ALL.

NOW, WHERE WE ARE NOW IS WE'VE GOT IN THE ANNEXES TO THE BASIC LAW DRAFT, A SERIES OF VARIATIONS OF METHODS WHEREBY THAT WILL BE ACHIEVED. AND THEY WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION AND FURTHER NEGOTIATION WITHIN THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE.

DINAH LEE: DON'T YOU FIND IT IRONIC THAT NONE OF THE MANY OPTIONS OFFERED IN THE BASIC LAW INCLUDE THE ONE WHICH WOULD BE THE MOST EASILY INTERPRETED FROM THE PHRASE "ELECTED LEGISLATURE"?

SIR GEOFFREY: I DON'T THINK ONE SHOULD FIND THAT IRONIC AT ALL. WE'RE NOT STARTING FROM WESTMINSTER. WE'RE STARTING FROM HONG KONG, AGAINST A BACKGROUND WHERE AS I SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF LEGCO AT ALL UNTIL THE FIRST -- NO ELECTED MEMBERS OF LEGCO AT ALL -- UNTIL THE FIRST EXAMPLES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1985. AND THAT IS WHY THE MATTER HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERATION AND ONE STEP OF CHANGE SO FAR.

AND THE POINT I THINK THAT I HAVE EMPHASISED EQUALLY ALL THE WAY THROUGH, AND I DID SO WAY BACK IN 1984, AND I SAID THAT WE WANT TO AVOID SUDDEN AND DRAMATIC CHANGES WHICH COULD UNSETTLE THE VERY STABILITY WHICH ALL OUR EFFORTS ARE DESIGNED TO SECURE. THAT'S THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THIS CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE, AND QUITE RIGHTLY SO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

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