



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1985

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HONG KONG - THE WAY AHEAD
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY (GENERAL DUTIES), MR PETER WILLIAMS, AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN LONDON ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 30).

IT GIVES ME VERY MUCH PLEASURE TO ACCEPT TODAY'S INVITATION TO SPEAK AT THIS LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE R.I.I.A.

I SHALL BE OUTLINING THE FUTURE PROSPECT IN HONG KONG - A MATTER WHICH HAS TO BE TO A DEGREE SPECULATIVE. I WILL BE TALKING UNDER THESE HEADINGS:

1. A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE LEAD-UP TO THE SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION (J.D.)
2. THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT AND CONSEQUENCES OF THAT J.D. AND ITS ACCEPTANCE
3. AN ASSESSMENT OF WHERE THIS WILL NOW LEAD

IN DOING THIS I WILL TOUCH BRIEFLY ON THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG - WITH SOME EMPHASIS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH AND THE STAND OF THE PRC AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN HK.

LEAD-UP TO J.D.

FIRST THAT THE EVENTS (IN THE LONGER TERM) LEADING UP TO MAY THIS YEAR WHEN THE J.D. WAS RATIFIED BY THE UK AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS AND SOON THEREAFTER REGISTERED AT THE U.N..

IT IS POSSIBLE TO DISCERN FIVE PHASES IN THIS PERIOD, WHICH STARTS IN 1972.

1972 - COLONIAL STATUS

THE STARTING POINT IN THIS RECENT HISTORY WAS CHINA'S STAND CONVEYED TO THE U.N. SPECIAL COMMITTEE CONCERNED WITH THE INDEPENDENCE OF COLONIAL TERRITORIES IN MARCH 1972. CHINA SAID THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE HK QUESTION WAS A MATTER OF CHINA'S SOVEREIGN RIGHT AND CONSEQUENTLY HK SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF COLONIAL TERRITORIES COVERED BY THE DECLARATION DRAWN UP BY THE U.N. FOR THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE. AT THIS TIME, THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP SAID THAT THE HK PROBLEM WOULD BE SETTLED WHEN THE TIME WAS RIPE.

/THIS ASSERTION

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THIS ASSERTION BY CHINA CAUSED A MOMENTARY FLURRY OF APPREHENSIVE INTEREST IN HK. BUT IN THE SEVENTIES THE DRIVE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS WAS SUCH THAT MOST PEOPLE DID NOT REGISTER THIS AS A FIRST STEP IN A CRITICAL PROCESS.

THE LATE SEVENTIES: GROWING CONCERN

HOWEVER, BY THE END OF THE SEVENTIES THERE WERE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE NOT ONLY BY LEADERS OF PUBLIC OPINION AND OTHERS IN HONG KONG BUT ALSO BY FOREIGN INVESTORS. A PRIME FACTOR IN THIS CONCERN WAS LAND--ONE OF THE VITAL INGREDIENTS IN HK'S STRUCTURE : FOR LAND LEASES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE ALL SET TO EXPIRE THREE DAYS BEFORE THE END OF THE N.T. LEASE ON 30 JUNE, 1997.

H.M.G. CONCLUDED THAT CONFIDENCE IN HK WOULD BEGIN TO ERODE QUICKLY IN THE MID-EIGHTIES IF NOTHING WAS DONE TO ALLEVIATE THE UNCERTAINTY PRESENTED BY THE 1997 DEADLINE. SO WHEN THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, VISITED PEKING IN MARCH 1979, HE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF LAND LEASES EXPIRING IN 1997. BUT AT THAT TIME THE CHINESE WERE NOT READY FOR SUCH MATTERS AND LITTLE POSITIVE CAME OF THE MEETINGS OTHER THAN DENG XIAOPING'S ASSURANCE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HK COULD SET THEIR HEARTS AT EASE ABOUT THE FUTURE.

BUT OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS THINGS CHANGED. WHEN THE LORD PRIVY SEAL, HUMPHREY ATKINS, VISITED PEKING IN JANUARY 1982, HE WAS GIVEN A CLEAR INDICATION OF CHINESE POLICY ON HK'S FUTURE. IT WAS THIS THAT CONFIRMED H.M. GOVERNMENT IN ITS VIEW THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE OPENED WITH THE CHINESE.

PRIME MINISTER : FIRST VISIT 1982

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND MRS THATCHER VISITED PEKING IN SEPTEMBER 1982. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN HER AND CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING. IT WAS AGREED THAT TALKS SHOULD BEGIN THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO +MAINTAIN THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY+ OF HK.

NEGOTIATIONS

VERY SOON AFTER THIS VISIT, PHASE 1 OF THE PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE IN PEKING. THIS WAS FOLLOWED IN JULY 1983 BY PHASE 2 WHICH CONSISTED OF A SERIES OF FORMAL ROUNDS OF TALKS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL SUPPLEMENTED WITH INFORMAL TALKS IN BETWEEN. THEY WENT ON UNTIL THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS COMPLETED.

/BY APRIL

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BY APRIL 1984 MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE; DESPITE LONG AND OFTEN DIFFICULT ARGUMENTS. AND THERE WERE STILL A NUMBER OF UNRESOLVED POINTS. TO PUSH THE MATTERS FORWARD, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE VISITED PEKING IN MID-APRIL 1984, AND ON HIS WAY BACK TO UK, HE ANNOUNCED IN HK THAT BRITISH ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT CONTINUE IN HK AFTER 1997 AND THAT THE MAIN THRUST OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN 1983/84 HAD BEEN TO SEE THAT HK WOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY AND THE PRESERVATION OF HK'S PRESENT SYSTEMS AND LIFESTYLE. HE SAID THAT WORK WOULD NOW CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD SECURE THESE CONDITIONS.

FROM JUNE 1984 ONWARDS A JOINT WORKING GROUP WAS SET UP TO WORK FULL TIME, AND BY THE END OF JULY WHEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AGAIN VISITED CHINA, VERY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE DETAIL OF THE AGREEMENT.

BY MID-SEPTEMBER 1984 THE NEGOTIATORS HAD APPROVED AN AGREED DRAFT TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT, AND BY THE END OF THAT MONTH IT WAS INITIALLED BY THE TWO DELEGATION LEADERS.

ACCEPTANCE IN HONG KONG

THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD THAT HONG KONG PUBLIC HAD BEEN GIVEN LITTLE INDICATION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO CONDUCT THEM IN VERY STRICT CONFIDENCE. SO THE NEXT STAGE IN THE PROCESS WAS TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE ON THE AGREEMENT. FOR AN UNDERTAKING HAD BEEN GIVEN TO PARLIAMENT THAT ANY AGREEMENT WITH CHINA WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE NOT ONLY TO THE UK AND CHINA, BUT TO THE PEOPLE OF HK.

SINCE HONG KONG'S ELECTORAL SYSTEM WAS STILL IN AN EMBRYONIC STAGE, SOME PEOPLE ADVOCATED A REFERENDUM. BUT IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF ASSESSING PUBLIC VIEWS WAS TO SET UP A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE TO RECEIVE, OVER A PERIOD OF SIX WEEKS, COMMENTS AND PROSPOSALS FROM THOSE WHO WISHED TO MAKE THEM. THE OUTCOME OF THIS INTENSIVE EXERCISE WAS THAT THE HK COMMUNITY DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE PACKAGE WITH ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF DISSIDENTING VOICES.

FINAL AGREEMENT

AFTER THE DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR THE UK AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS EXCHANGED INSTRUMENTS RATIFYING THE J.D., WHICH HAD BEEN SIGNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN PEKING ON 21 DECEMBER 1984. AND FINALLY THE AGREEMENT WAS REGISTERED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS AT THE U.N. ON 13 JUNE - THUS CONFIRMING THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF ITS INTERNATIONALLY BINDING NATURE.

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RESUME OF TERMS OF AGREEMENT

THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE NOW WIDELY KNOWN. BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I REMINDED YOU OF SOME OF ITS MAIN PROVISIONS.

IN 1997 HK WILL BECOME AN SAR OF THE PRC, BUT THE SOCIALIST POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE PRC WILL NOT BE APPLIED TO HK. THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS IN HK WILL, IN ALL ESSENTIAL RESPECTS, CONTINUE FOR FIFTY YEARS AFTER 1997. HK'S FAMILIAR SYSTEM OF LAW WILL CONTINUE. IT WILL DECIDE ON ITS OWN ECONOMIC AND TRADE POLICIES, THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, FREE TRADE POLICIES AND FREE PORT WILL CONTINUE; SO WILL INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS INCLUDING THOSE IN ECONOMIC MATTERS, SUCH AS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL, AND THE RIGHT TO OWN AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY. THE HK DOLLAR WILL REMAIN FREELY CONVERTIBLE AND HK WILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO MANAGE ITS EXCHANGE FUND. HK WILL RETAIN THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ITS OWN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN ECONOMIC, TRADE, FINANCIAL, MONETARY AND SHIPPING MATTERS, AND WILL RETAIN A LARGE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN CIVIL AVIATION. EXISTING LEASES AND RIGHTS IN LAND WILL CONTINUE AFTER 1997; RENEWABLE LEASES CAN BE EXTENDED UP TO 2047 AND NEW LEASES CAN BE GRANTED UP TO THE SAME DATE.

A NEW STAGE

THE EXCITING AND PRESSING EVENTS OF 1983 AND 1984 WHICH I HAVE JUST OUTLINED CAME TO A POINT OF SETTLEMENT IN MAY 1985 WITH THE EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION AND THEIR REGISTRATION AT THE U.N. FROM THAT DATE A NEW STAGE IN HK'S HISTORY HAS STARTED. I SHOULD NOW LIKE TO TURN TO THIS STAGE AND LOOK FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE. IN DOING SO I WILL TOUCH ON A NUMBER OF MAIN FEATURES WHICH CHARACTERISE THE PRESENT SCENE: THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP (JLG), THE LAND COMMISSION (L.C.), THE BASIC LAW (BL) AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

JLG

ANNEX II OF J.D. SETS OUT ITS PROVISIONS FOR THE GROUP: ITS COMPOSITION OF FIVE OFFICIALS ON EACH SIDE, ITS FUNCTIONS OF CONSULTATION, DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION: IT IS SPECIFICALLY STIPULATED THAT IT IS NOT TO BE AN ORGAN OF POWER. UNTIL 1988 IT WILL MEET (AT LEAST THREE TIMES A YEAR) IN LONDON, PEKING AND HONG KONG ALTERNATIVELY. FROM 1988 (1 JULY) ITS PRINCIPAL BASE WILL BE IN HK AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO MEET TWO YEARS AFTER SOVEREIGNTY PASSES TO CHINA - TO 1 JANUARY, 2000.

/THE JLG

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THE JLG HELD ITS FIRST MEETING IN LONDON AT THE END OF JULY AT WHICH WORKING PROCEDURES WERE AGREED. IT ALSO AGREED ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG CONTINUING TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ADB AND PRELIMINARY EXCHANGES WERE MADE ON HK'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE GATT. THE SECOND MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PEKING IN NOVEMBER, WHERE GATT WILL AGAIN BE DISCUSSED AND A START WILL BE MADE ON CONSIDERING THE WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS IN WHICH HK PARTICIPATES.

THE JLG HAS THUS GOT OFF TO A GOOD START. IT HAS EVOKED LIMITED AND RESTRAINED INTEREST AND COMMENT IN HK. DESPITE THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH TEAM EARLIER THIS YEAR.

LAND COMMISSION

ANNEX III OF THE J.D. GIVES DETAILS OF THE SINO-BRITISH L.C. WHICH HAS NOW HELD THEIR MEETINGS IN HK.

THIS ORGANISATION IS NOT PERIPATETIC LIKE THE JLG - IT IS ESTABLISHED FULL-TIME IN HK. IT IS HOUSED IN A CONVERTED PRIMARY SCHOOL. THERE ARE THREE OFFICIALS ON EACH SIDE AND THEIR FUNCTION IS SET OUT IN SOME DETAIL IN ANNEX III. IT MONITORS THE AMOUNT OF LAND TO BE SOLD EACH YEAR AND AGREES SALES WHICH WILL RESULT IN A TOTAL IN EXCESS OF THE AGREED LIMIT (50 HECTARES A YEAR). IT ALSO MONITORS THE DIVISION AND USE OF PREMIUM INCOME DERIVED FROM LAND SALES.

BECAUSE LAND IS SUCH A VITAL MATTER FOR HK AND ITS ADMINISTRATION SO COMPLEX, WE THOUGHT, BEFORE THE L.C. WAS ESTABLISHED THAT ITS FIRST MEETINGS WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT AND DRAWN OUT. IN THE EVENT THIS HAS NOT PROVED TO BE THE CASE. PROSPECTS FOR THE COMING YEAR ARE VERY GOOD AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS GOOD START HAS CONTRIBUTED TO HK'S CONFIDENCE.

CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS IN CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS NOT BEEN DELAYED. EVEN WHEN THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS PLANS WERE DRAWN UP. AND THIS YEAR THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS HAS BEEN DOUBLED AND A NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO COVER THE NEW CITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES NOT PROVIDED FOR BY THE EXISTING URBAN COUNCIL. LAST WEDNESDAY THE POLLS CLOSED FOR THE ELECTION OF 24 NEW MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH WILL BE STARTING ITS NEW SESSION IN ITS NEW FORM NEXT MONTH. TWELVE OF THESE 24 NEW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES (COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, FINANCE, LABOUR, SOCIAL SERVICES, EDUCATION, LEGAL, MEDICAL, ENGINEERING, ETC.); THE REMAINING 12 HAVE BEEN ELECTED BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND COUNCILS.

/THE OTHER

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THE OTHER 32 MEMBERS OF LEGCO - ABOUT ONE THIRD OF WHOM WILL BE OFFICIALS - WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THIS INTRODUCTION OF A SUBSTANTIAL ELECTED ELEMENT INTO THE COUNCIL IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. ITS SUCCESS WILL BE ASSESSED IN A REVIEW TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN 1987.

BASIC LAW

THE J.D. STATES THAT THE PROVISIONS SET OUT IN THE DECLARATION WILL BE +STIPULATED IN A BASIC LAW+ TO BE DRAWN UP BY THE NPC OF THE PRC FOR THE HONG KONG SAR.

THE NPC HAS INDEED MADE GOOD PROGRESS ON THIS, AND OF ALL MATTERS CONCERNING HONG KONG THE BASIC LAW HAS BEEN TOP OF THE INTEREST LIST FOR THE PAST YEAR OR SO.

AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE NPC IN PEKING IN JULY, A BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE (BLDC) WAS APPOINTED. THE HONG KONG MEMBERSHIP IS 25, COMPRISING A WIDE RANGING AND REPRESENTATIVE GROUP. THEY HAVE BEEN TASKED WITH DRAFTING A BASIC LAW, THAT IS A CONSTITUTION FOR HK, WITHIN FIVE YEARS. AND THEY HAVE NOT BEEN DRAGGING THEIR FEET. IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS MUCH DISCUSSION HAS TAKEN PLACE IN HONG KONG ABOUT ESTABLISHING A BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (BLCC) THE ROLE OF WHICH WILL BE TO COLLECT, COLLATE AND REFLECT VIEWS EXPRESSED BY HK PEOPLE ON THE B.L. A WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY A SENIOR HK JUDGE, HAS NOW DRAWN UP A CONSTITUTION FOR THE BLCC WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE BLDC. AT PRESENT A SECOND WORKING GROUP IS DECIDING HOW THE 150-200 MEMBERS OF THE BLCC ARE TO BE SELECTED AND APPOINTED.

THESE FOUR ELEMENTS : THE JLG, THE L.C., CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE B.L. ARE THE CURRENT PALPABLE ELEMENTS OF LIFE IN HK ARISING FROM THE J.D.

THE FUTURE

BUT THE FUTURE OF HK CANNOT BE ASSURED BY THE AGREEMENT ALONE. HONG KONG'S TRANSITION FROM A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY TO AN SAR OF THE PRC WILL REQUIRE A SUSTAINED EFFORT ENTAILING A BALANCE OF DETERMINATION AND RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED IN THE PROCESS.

/BRITAIN'S ROLE

BRITAIN'S ROLE IN EXERCISING AUTHORITY

THE FIRST THING THAT MUST BE ENSURED IS BRITAIN'S EFFECTIVELY AND MANIFESTLY EXERCISING ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTERING HK UP TO JUNE 1997. THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS FORMALLY ENSHRINED IN ARTICLE IV OF THE J.D. AND IT AUGURS WELL THAT CHINA, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS OVER THE PAST MONTHS, HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT THIS RESPONSIBILITY CLEARLY RESTS WITH BRITAIN. ANY DEVIATION FROM THE TERMS OF THE J.D. WILL RESULT IN INVESTMENT AND THE PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED GROUPS ON WHOM HK'S SUCCESS SO LARGELY DEPENDS BEING FRIGHTENED AWAY. THE EARLY NINETIES WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY SEE A NEW PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY AND WE SHALL HAVE TO HAVE WELL THOUGHT-OUT AND FIRM PLANS FOR THE CHANGES WHICH WILL THEN NEED TO BE INTRODUCED. THERE ARE MANY FACTORS WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS -- ABOVE ALL WILL BE THE UNDERSTANDING AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS. WE SHALL IN SHORT HAVE TO DO ALL WE CAN TO PRESERVE THE STABILITY AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF HK -- FOR THAT IS THE PRIME FACTOR IN SECURING ITS SPECIAL STATUS.

CHINA'S ROLE

THE RESULTS OF THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOLLOWED BY THE NATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE BETWEEN 16-23 SEPTEMBER ARE VERY SIGNIFICANT FOR HONG KONG AND INDEED FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE WAY IS NOW CLEAR FOR NUMEROUS YOUNGER MEN AND WOMEN, WHO ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THE POLICIES INTRODUCED BY DENG XIAOPING, TO TAKE OVER LEADING APPOINTMENTS IN CHINA. THEY HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS A 1 000 WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING IN THE WINGS. THIS IS A CULMINATION OF A SIMILAR SHAKE-UP IN THE PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS NOW REPORTED TO BE COMPLETE.

ALL THIS IS VERY SIGNIFICANT IN THE CONTEXT OF CHINA'S EVIDENT INTEREST IN MAINTAINING A SUCCESSFUL AND STABLE HK. THIS INTEREST HAS BEEN STATED BY CHINESE SPOKESMEN ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND THE SUBSTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT UNDERLINES THIS.

THE MANNER IN WHICH THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN DRAWN UP, SIGNED AND REGISTERED IN THE U.N. MAKES IT A BINDING INTERNATIONAL ACCORD. CHINA'S REPUTATION FOR STICKING TO ITS AGREEMENTS IS SOUND.

HK GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

THE THIRD ESSENTIAL IS THAT THE AUTHORITY OF THE HK GOVERNMENT (AS OPPOSED TO H.M. GOVERNMENT) MUST BE MAINTAINED. IT MUST NOT BECOME A +LAME DUCK+ GOVERNMENT. ITS PROGRAMMES - ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL - MUST BE CLEARLY DIRECTED TOWARDS THE SOUND PROGRESS OF LIFE IN HK. IN THE EARLIER MONTHS OF THIS YEAR SOME FEARS WERE EXPRESSED THAT THE CHINESE WOULD USE THE LAND COMMISSION AND THE JLG TO INTERVENE IN HK'S AFFAIRS DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF THIS. IN EXERCISING ITS AUTHORITY EFFECTIVELY THE HK GOVERNMENT HAS TO RELY ON A CIVIL SERVICE AND A POLICE FORCE CAPABLE OF WORKING EFFICIENTLY. MORALE IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE AND THIS WILL NEED CLOSE MONITORING.

CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I HAVE ALREADY SAID A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS PROCESS, NOW EMBARKED UPON IN HK, WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MORE HIGHLY CHARGED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, AND THERE ARE ALREADY DISTINCT, AND ENCOURAGING, SIGNS OF A MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO IT BY VARIOUS COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL GROUPS.

ANY NEW GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE WHICH EMERGES MUST NEED TO BE IN A FORM THAT WILL NOT AFFRONT THE CHINESE AND YET, AND THE SAME TIME, GIVE CONFIDENCE TO HK THAT PEOPLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE THE AUTONOMY PROMISED IN THE AGREEMENT.

I HAVE MENTIONED ALREADY THE FIRST STEPS TAKEN BY THE NPC IN SETTING UP THE BLDC AND CONSEQUENT ACTION BEING TAKEN NOW IN HK. AND I HAVE SAID THAT THE PROCESS HAS FOR SOME TIME NOW EVOKED VERY CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AMONG A BROAD SPECTRUM OF HK PEOPLE.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN HK AND THE DRAFTING OF THE B.L. WILL GO FORWARD TOGETHER. AND OUR AIM HERE MUST CLEARLY BE TO DEVELOP A KIND OF SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED AND SUITABLE FOR INCORPORATION IN THE B.L..

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

THE FIFTH ESSENTIAL IS TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN HK'S AUTONOMOUS STATUS. THERE ARE OVER 300 TREATIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WHICH APPLY TO HK AS A BRITISH TERRITORY. WE NEED TO FIND MEANS OF MAINTAINING THE APPLICABILITY OF MANY OF THESE TO THE HK (SAR). I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED THE WORK ALREADY STATED IN THE JLG ON THE GATT AND MORE WILL FOLLOW AT THE NEXT MEETINGS.

CONCLUSION

THERE IS NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS HK HAS SUCCESSFULLY CROSSED SOME VERY DIFFICULT TERRAIN. AND THERE IS NOW EVERY PROSPECT OF A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE. THERE ARE OF COURSE UNCERTAINTIES. OUR DEPENDENCE ON EXPORTS AND THE OPEN NATURE OF OUR TRADING AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS MAKE HK VULNERABLE TO CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE. AND THERE ARE THOSE, INEVITABLY, WHO REMAIN CONCERNED. BUT THERE IS A MARKED DEGREE OF OPTIMISM, WHICH HAS BUILT UP IN RECENT MONTHS AND WHICH IS NOW CLEARLY DISCERNIBLE.

ALL THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HK'S PROSPERITY IN THE PAST ARE STILL PRESENT. THE ECONOMY IS HEALTHY, OUR CURRENCY IS STABLE AND INFLATION IS LOW. A PROGRAMME OF INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE CONTINUES -- SOCIAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC.

THE AGREEMENT IS A VITALLY IMPORTANT FACTOR. IT HAS REMOVED MUCH OF THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH SERIOUSLY AFFECTED CONFIDENCE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN 1982 AND 1985. IT PROVIDES A BINDING COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO FOSTER THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HK. WE ARE ALL VERY CONFIDENT THAT THIS COMMITMENT WILL BE FULFILLED -- THERE IS A CLEAR INTERNATIONAL PLEDGE TO THAT END AND IT IS SELF-EVIDENTLY IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED TO MAKE IT WORK.

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SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS
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AS A RESULT OF THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE BUMPER OPIUM CROP IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE DURING 1984, THERE WAS AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS IN HONG KONG AND THE WHOLESALE PRICE OF NO. 3 HEROIN SLIPPED TO ITS LOWEST LEVEL FOR MANY YEARS.

NOTWITHSTANDING THESE ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES, A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS OF ALL AGES NEWLY REPORTED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN DRUGS WAS DETECTED AND SEIZURES OF OPIATE DRUGS DOUBLED THE AMOUNT SEIZED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THIS IS REVEALED IN THE HONG KONG NARCOTICS REPORT FOR 1984 PUBLISHED RECENTLY BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN). THE REPORT SAID THAT THERE WAS A DECREASE OF 21 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 NEWLY REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE IN 1984 COMPARED WITH 1983. FOR PERSONS OF ALL AGES, THE DECREASE WAS 15 PER CENT. THIS WAS THE FIRST DECREASE RECORDED SINCE 1980.

THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS WERE PRAISED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF ACAN, PROFESSOR GERALD CHOA, IN THE FOREWORD FOR THEIR UNRELENTING EFFORTS IN INTERCEPTING SUPPLIES OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND IN NEUTRALISING DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MANUFACTURING SYNDICATES.

THEIR EFFORTS RESULTED IN THE RECORD SEIZURES OF OVER 1 300 KILOGRAMS OF OPIATE DRUGS, MAINLY HEROIN BASE, DURING THE YEAR, WHICH MARKED A 92.3 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE QUANTITIES SEIZED IN 1983. AMONG THE DRUGS SEIZED, HEROIN BASE SHOWED A DRAMATIC INCREASE OVER 1983, INDICATIVE OF AN ACCELERATING TREND WHICH STARTED IN 1978.

APART FROM THE RECORD DRUG SEIZURES, THREE MAJOR DRUG SMUGGLING SYNDICATES AND SIX MAJOR MANUFACTURING SYNDICATES WERE NEUTRALISED IN 1984.

/DURING 1984,

DURING 1984, A TOTAL OF 11 206 PERSONS WERE PROSECUTED FOR DANGEROUS DRUGS OFFENCES, A 0.2 PER CENT DECREASE COMPARED WITH 1983. OF THESE PROSECUTIONS, 1 080 PERSONS WERE UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE IN 1984, COMPARED WITH 1 222 IN 1983.

IN 1984, THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE WAS AMENDED TO CLOSE A LOOPHOLE WHICH EXISTED WITH REGARD TO DRUGS FOUND IN POSSESSION OF TRAFFICKERS WHO CLAIMED THAT THE DRUGS WERE IN TRANSIT AND NOT MEANT FOR SALE IN HONG KONG. FURTHERMORE, A PRESUMPTION CLAUSE WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE MANUFACTURE OF ILLICIT DRUGS, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ACCUSED KNEW THAT WHAT WAS BEING MANUFACTURED WAS A DANGEROUS DRUG.

THE REPORT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT OVER 18 600 ADMISSIONS TO THE VARIOUS TREATMENT PROGRAMMES WERE RECORDED DURING THE YEAR, MUCH MORE THAN FOR ANY OTHER SINGLE YEAR. EACH DAY, THERE WAS ON AVERAGE OVER 14 500 PERSONS RECEIVING SOME FORM OF TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND AFTER-CARE.

IN THE FOREWORD, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACAN, PROFESSOR GERALD CHOA SAID, +WHILST WE FEEL ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS, WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT OUR EFFORTS CAN BE RELAXED IN ANY WAY.

+WE SHALL MAINTAIN VIGILANCE AND CONTINUE TO ACCORD HIGH PRIORITY TO THE INTERDICTION OF ILLICIT DRUG SUPPLIES, THE DEVELOPMENT OF TREATMENT AND PREVENTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THIS FIELD.+

IN THE AREA OF PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, 1984 WAS DESCRIBED TO BE A PARTICULARLY COLOURFUL, EVENTFUL AND EXTREMELY BUSY YEAR.

DURING THE YEAR, THE ACAN, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LAUNCHED THE STUDENTS AGAINST DRUGS MOVEMENT, ONE OF THE LARGEST ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGNS EVER HELD IN HONG KONG.

DISTRICT CAMPAIGNS WITH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONTINUED IN 1984 TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS TO THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE.

EXTERNALLY, HONG KONG CONTINUED TO GIVE UNSTINTED SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE.

DURING 1984, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MADE ITS TENTH ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF HK\$100 000 TO THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, MAKING A TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF HK\$1 MILLION SINCE 1975.

THE FUND UNDERTAKES DRUG ABUSE CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN SEVERAL REGIONS IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING OPIUM CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMMES.

THE 120-PAGE REPORT GIVES A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE DRUG PROBLEM IN HONG KONG DURING 1984.

THE REPORT, PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH, IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE NARCOTICS DIVISION, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 31ST FLOOR, UNITED CENTRE, QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG. THE CHINESE EDITION IS BEING PRINTED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

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WORKERS' LEGAL ENTITLEMENT EXPLAINED
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PROVISIONS FOR SICKNESS ALLOWANCES, STATUTORY HOLIDAYS AND PAID ANNUAL LEAVE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE ARE APPLICABLE TO PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN EVERY TRADE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL WORKERS IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$9 500 A MONTH ARE ENTITLED TO 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS A YEAR, HE SAID.

THEY ARE ALSO ENTITLED TO SEVEN DAYS PAID ANNUAL LEAVE IF THEY HAVE SERVED THE SAME EMPLOYER FOR 12 MONTHS UNDER A 'CONTINUOUS CONTRACT'.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS WHICH PROHIBIT PAYMENT IN LIEU OF THE GRANT OF A HOLIDAY OR ANNUAL LEAVE.

THE SPOKESMAN WAS QUOTING FROM A REPLY BY THE DEPARTMENT TO A LETTER FROM THE CHINESE AND WESTERN FOOD WORKERS' UNION, THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON RESTAURANT AND EATING-HOUSE EMPLOYEES +KWAN SANG+ MUTUAL AID SOCIETY, AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON LABOUR UNIONS ABOUT HOLIDAYS AND SICKNESS BENEFITS EARLY THIS MONTH.

IN THE REPLY, IT IS POINTED OUT THAT ALL EMPLOYEES ARE ENTITLED TO SICKNESS ALLOWANCE AND THAT THEY CAN DRAW THEIR SICKNESS ALLOWANCE AT TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR NORMAL DAILY WAGE, PROVIDED THAT THE SICK LEAVE IS NOT LESS THAN FOUR DAYS AND THAT THE WORKER CAN PRODUCE A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE AN EMPLOYEE TO FIND A SUBSTITUTE WORKER AT HIS OWN EXPENSE BEFORE HE CAN ENJOY HIS ENTITLEMENT, AND NO EMPLOYER SHOULD DEDUCT A WORKER'S PAID SICKNESS DAYS FROM HIS PAID HOLIDAYS.

HE SAID THE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE PROVISIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE IS MAINLY BASED ON COMPLAINTS, WHICH WILL BE FULLY INVESTIGATED. PROSECUTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT IF THE COMPLAINTS ARE PROVED TO BE GENUINE.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS TRADITIONAL PRACTICES IN CERTAIN TRADES WHICH ARE FOUND TO BE CONTRARY TO THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, THESE CAN NORMALLY BE RECTIFIED BY DRAWING THE EMPLOYERS' ATTENTION TO THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ORGANISED A SERIES OF SEMINARS AND TRAINING COURSES FOR MANAGEMENT STAFF IN THE VARIOUS TRADES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT CERTAIN MATTERS SUCH AS ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORK DURING TYPHOONS, MUST BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS, OR BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANISATIONS.

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COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION SCHEME TO BEGIN

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THE THIRD ANNUAL +CLEAN AND GREEN+ SCHEME DESIGNED TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE FOR A CLEANER AND GREENER COUNTRYSIDE WILL BEGIN THIS SATURDAY (OCTOBER 5).

AFTER A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIONS, THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE ABLE TO WIN VERY ATTRACTIVE PRIZES, INCLUDING TWO RETURN AIR TICKETS TO AUSTRALIA, A MOUNTAIN CLIMBING PACKAGE TOUR TO TAIWAN AND A CAMERA SET WITH ACCESSORIES.

THE 1985 CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME, DEvised BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY WITH ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, IS OPEN TO ANYONE AGED 12 AND OVER.

THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS LIMITED TO 10 000 ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE INVOLVED IN PROJECTS GEARED TO THE CONSERVATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE, INCLUDING LITTER COLLECTION, FIRE PREVENTION AND TREE PLANTING.

IN THE FIRST OF THE SCHEME'S THREE STAGES, ALL ENTRANTS WILL COLLECT LITTER AT DESIGNATED COUNTRY PARKS ON WEEKENDS OR HOLIDAYS BETWEEN OCTOBER 5 AND DECEMBER 1.

IN STAGE II THEY MUST COMPLETE A QUIZ FORM AND SUBMIT A POSTER, PAINTING OR PHOTOGRAPH EVOLVING AROUND THE THEME OF EITHER COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PREVENTION OR TREE PLANTING.

THE FIRST 5 000 PARTICIPANTS TO COMPLETE THIS STAGE WILL EACH BE AWARDED A COLOURFUL 1986 YEAR-PLANNER.

THE 10 PARTICIPANTS WITH THE HIGHEST SCORES ACCUMULATED THROUGH STAGES I AND II WILL BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN STAGE III, DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS GIVING DETAILS OF THE SCHEME ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT CENTRES AND DISTRICT OFFICES.

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STUDENTS URGED TO APPLY EARLY FOR STUDY IN UK
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TODAY ADVISED STUDENTS WISHING TO ENTER COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION, POLYTECHNICS AND UNIVERSITIES IN ENGLAND NEXT YEAR (1986) TO APPLY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

APPLICATIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO TAKE UP THE GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION 'O' AND 'A' LEVEL COURSES SHOULD BE MADE BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS DIRECT TO THE SCHOOLS PREFERABLY ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE.

STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS MAY OBTAIN GENERAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON SCHOOLS FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT LEIGHTON CENTRE, 15TH FLOOR, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

AS FOR ADMISSION TO VARIOUS COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION IN OCTOBER 1986 FOR COMPLETION OF 'O' AND 'A' LEVEL COURSES, STUDENTS WHO ARE OVER THE AGE OF 16 SHOULD APPLY THROUGH THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION STARTING NOVEMBER 1.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TOGETHER WITH ALL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION BY JUNE 21, 1986, SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

STUDENTS WISHING TO GAIN ENTRY INTO POLYTECHNICS TO TAKE UP COURSES LEADING TO FIRST DEGREE AND DIPLOMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN AUTUMN OF 1986 SHOULD APPLY THROUGH THE POLYTECHNICS CENTRAL ADMISSION SYSTEM AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION. THE CLOSING DATE IS DECEMBER 15.

THOSE WISHING TO GAIN ENTRY INTO POLYTECHNICS FOR COURSE OTHER THAN THOSE LEADING TO FIRST DEGREE AND DIPLOMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD ALSO APPLY THROUGH THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION STARTING NOVEMBER 1. THE CLOSING DATE IS JUNE 21 NEXT YEAR.

SANDWICH COURSES APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED THAT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE INDUSTRIAL SPONSORSHIP. ALTERNATIVELY, THEY ARE URGED TO APPLY FOR FULL-TIME COURSES, IF POSSIBLE.

ON ADMISSION TO A BRITISH UNIVERSITY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID STUDENTS SHOULD MAKE THEIR APPLICATIONS ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE THROUGH THE UNIVERSITIES CENTRAL COUNCIL ON ADMISSIONS (UCCA) IN ENGLAND.

THE UCCA FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION AND THE COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY THE APPLICANTS' REFEREE TO UCCA BEFORE OCTOBER 15 FOR THOSE INCLUDING OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE, OR DECEMBER 15 FOR THOSE NOT INCLUDING OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE IN THEIR APPLICATIONS.

/TURNING TO

TURNING TO EXPENSES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +STUDENTS PROCEEDING TO THE UNITED KINGDOM TO STUDY SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO MEET ALL EXPENSES BECAUSE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS TO WORK THEIR WAY THROUGH COLLEGE.+

THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IS HIGH, AND THE ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR A STUDENT MAY NOW RANGE FROM 7 310 POUNDS STERLING TO 12 050 POUNDS STERLING DEPENDING ON THE COURSE OF STUDY, HE ADDED.

STUDENTS PURSUING EITHER A FULL-TIME FIRST DEGREE OR HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM CAN APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTERED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNICS GRANTS COMMITTEE.

STUDENTS OVER THE AGE OF 18 MAY APPLY FOR ACCOMMODATION IN HONG KONG STUDENTS CENTRE IN LONDON AND THIS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THOSE WISHING TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN THE CENTRE AND WHO WISH TO OBTAIN THE HELP AND ADVICE OF THE STUDENTS ADVISER OR THE BRITISH COUNCIL DURING THEIR STAY IN BRITAIN SHOULD COMPLETE ALL FORMALITIES WITH THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE.

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REPORT OFFERS PERSPECTIVE ON WORK OF DB
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SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD FROM A REPORT NOW AVAILABLE FREE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND SUB-OFFICES.

WITH FULL-COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS, THE 40-PAGE REPORT DEPICTS, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, THE FUNCTIONS, STRUCTURE, FINANCE AND MODE OF OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD FROM OCTOBER 1982 TO MARCH 1985.

IT ALSO COVERS THE VIEWS OF MEMBERS ON MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD. THESE INCLUDE MANY SUBJECTS OF GENERAL INTEREST SUCH AS THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, PUBLIC HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY, EDUCATION POLICY, FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ISSUES.

FOR LOCAL BODIES WISHING TO SEEK DISTRICT BOARD ASSISTANCE IN COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES, THE REPORT PROVIDES A USEFUL REFERENCE ON THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THE CRITERIA GOVERNING THE APPROVAL OF DISTRICT BOARD SUBSIDIES.

/THERE ARE

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THERE ARE SECTIONS OUTLINING THE BOARD'S WORK ON VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC MATTERS, IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND WELFARE SCHEMES.

THE REPORT IS PART OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S CURRENT PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN PUBLICITY ON THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM. PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO PRODUCE INFORMATION MATERIAL ON DISTRICT FACILITIES, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS AND THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS ON FILM
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SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WHICH SHOULD CAPTURE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD PORTRAY THE CURRENT LOOK — SCENERY, DEVELOPMENT, PEOPLE OR FESTIVITIES — OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT, WHICH COVERS THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND FROM SHEK O IN THE EAST TO POKFULAM IN THE WEST.

ONLY COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE COMPETITION WHICH IS DIVIDED INTO OPEN AND STUDENTS CATEGORIES. ENTRIES FOR THE OPEN DIVISION SHOULD MEASURE 20.32 CM BY 25.4 CM, WHILE THOSE FOR THE STUDENTS DIVISION SHOULD BE EITHER 9 CM BY 13 CM (3R) OR 12.7 CM BY 17.78 CM (5R).

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD SEND IN THEIR ENTRIES, TOGETHER WITH THEIR NAME, CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND IDENTITY CARD NUMBER, TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AT THE ABERDEEN CENTRE, ITS SUB-OFFICES IN WAH FU AND STANLEY, OR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION'S OFFICE IN LEE CHAK HOUSE, AP LEI CHAU ESTATE.

THE TITLE OF THE PHOTOGRAPH, THE DATE ON WHICH AND LOCATION AT WHICH IT WAS TAKEN SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE COMPETITION IS NOVEMBER 15.

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD AND AGFA-GEVAERT (HK) LTD IN SUPPORT OF THE 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

+PRIZES WILL INCLUDE MEDALS, CAMERAS AND GIFT COUPONS, AND THE WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE ABERDEEN CULTURAL CENTRE NEXT YEAR FROM JANUARY 18 TO 26,+ HE ADDED.

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DANCERS INVITED TO JOIN CONTEST

DANCERS ARE BEING INVITED TO JOIN THE 15TH KWUN TONG OPEN DANCE CONTEST.

THE CONTEST WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE AGE GROUPS — CHILDREN, YOUTH AND OPEN DIVISIONS — AND THE PARTICIPANTS CAN ONLY JOIN IN GROUPS OF AT LEAST TWO.

+A SERIES OF CONTESTS WILL START IN EARLY DECEMBER, AND THE WINNING GROUPS WILL BE INVITED TO STAGE A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT THE CITY HALL IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR,+ A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT CULTURE AND RECREATION PROMOTION ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, THIS ANNUAL EVENT IS AIMED AT PROMOTING THE ART OF DANCING IN THE TERRITORY.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE (RECREATION, AMENITIES AND SPORTS) UNTIL OCTOBER 31. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-416315 OR 3-436133.

+MORE THAN 120 DANCE GROUPS JOINED THE COMPETITION LAST YEAR AND WE HOPE THE RESPONSE WILL BE EVEN BETTER THIS YEAR,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAVES RARE BURMESE TEAK

A BURMESE TEAK, BELIEVED TO BE THE ONLY MATURE TREE OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG, HAS BEEN SAVED FROM THE BULLDOZERS — THANKS TO THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND TWO OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE 20-METRE TALL TREE, SCIENTIFIC NAME +TECTONA GRANDIS+, HAS BEEN STANDING FOR ABOUT 40 TO 50 YEARS AT WHAT RECENTLY BECAME THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF A NEW FIRE STATION IN COTTON TREE DRIVE, ACCORDING TO THE ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER (HORTICULTURE) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR M.T. SIN.

MR SIN SAID: +THE IDENTITY OF THIS TREE WAS DISCOVERED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR WHEN THE SITE WAS BEING CLEARED FOR CONSTRUCTION.

/+MANY TREES

+MANY TREES AND PLANTS ALONG THE SLOPE OF THE SITE HAD TO BE TORN DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK. HOWEVER, THIS RARE TREE WAS SPARED AFTER ITS SPECIAL APPEARANCE WAS NOTICED BY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.+

MR SIN SAID THE USD'S HORTICULTURE SECTION WAS CALLED IN TO HELP IDENTIFY THE TREE WHICH WAS CERTIFIED TO BE A MATURE TEAK TREE RARELY SEEN IN HONG KONG.

+AS THE URBAN COUNCIL IS ALWAYS ON GUARD AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF TREES, RARE SPECIES IN PARTICULAR, THE USD TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO HELP SAVE THIS RARE TREE BY JOINING HANDS WITH THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

+AS A RESULT OF THEIR COOPERATION, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRESERVE THIS TEAK TREE, TOGETHER WITH A 15-METRE TALL BANYAN TREE WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN STANDING AT THE FIRE STATION SITE FOR ABOUT 40 TO 50 YEARS.

ALTHOUGH THE ROOTS OF THE TEAK TREE WERE DAMAGED DURING CONSTRUCTION WORK AT THE SITE, THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TAKEN WHILE BUILDING A RETAINING WALL ALONG THE SLOPE TO BUILD A PLANTER AROUND ITS BASE TO HELP PROTECT THE TREE FROM FURTHER DAMAGE.

MR SIN SAID THAT AS AN ADDED PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, WOODEN PLANKS WERE PUT UP AROUND THE LOWER PART OF THE TRUNK.

+SINCE THEN, THE TREE, WHICH ONCE SHOWED SIGNS OF WITHERING, HAS BEEN GROWING AGAIN.

+THE USD'S NUSERY STAFF ARE ALSO PLANNING TO PROPAGATE THIS TEAK TREE BY COLLECTING ITS SEEDS WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE. ITS FLOWERING PERIOD IS AROUND APRIL AND MAY.+

MEANWHILE, THE USD'S TREE SECTION WILL KEEP MONITORING THE GROWTH OF BOTH THE TEAK AND BANYAN AT THE SITE TO ENSURE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO FLOURISH.

ACCORDING TO MR SIN, THE TEAK TREE WAS PROBABLY INTRODUCED TO HONG KONG BY SOLDIERS ON TRANSFER FROM OTHER PARTS OF ASIA SINCE THE FIRE STATION SITE WAS PART OF THE FORMER VICTORIA BARRACKS.

TRAINING FOR SINGERS AND DANCERS

YOUNGSTERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN CHOIR AND DANCE TROUPE TRAINING CLASSES IN YAU MA TEI.

THE CHOIR IS OPEN TO CHILDREN FROM SIX TO 15 YEARS OLD, AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 14 AND ABOVE INTERESTED IN DANCING CAN JOIN THE DANCE TROUPE.

MEMBERS ACCEPTED WILL START TRAINING THIS NOVEMBER AT THE HENRY G. LEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE MONTHLY FEE FOR CHOIR MEMBERS IS \$25, AND DANCE TROUPE MEMBERS ARE CHARGED \$80 A MONTH EACH.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, THE TSIM SHA TSUI SUB-OFFICE AND THE HENRY G. LEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE. DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING TELEPHONE NUMBER 3-323791.

THE CHOIR AND DANCE TROUPES WERE FORMED IN APRIL 1982 UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURAL AND ARTS ASSOCIATION.

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TAI PO COMMITTEE TO MEET

THE TAI PO DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE ORGANISATION AND FUNCTION OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT DURING WHICH OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS.

THE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SERVICE WILL NOT BE PROVIDED.

THE MEETING, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBER AT TSUEN WAN MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, 2/F, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING WHICH WILL START AT 2.30 PM, OCTOBER 1 (TUESDAY), AT THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBER, TSUEN WAN MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, 2/F, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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ADVICE TO FOOD OPERATORS
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THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY URGED FOOD ESTABLISHMENT OPERATORS IN THE NON-URBAN AREA NOT TO START THEIR BUSINESS BEFORE THEY ARE ISSUED WITH A LICENCE.

THE ADVICE CAME AFTER A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH THE OPERATOR OF AN UNLICENSED RESTAURANT AT LOWER CHEUNG SHA VILLAGE ON LANTAU ISLAND WAS FINED \$15 000 IN THE WESTERN MAGISTRACY FOR BREACHING AN INJUNCTION ORDER PROHIBITING HIS PREMISES FROM OPERATION.

UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, ANYONE BREACHING A COURT ORDER WILL BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$25 000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE RSD WOULD CONTINUE TO PROSECUTE UNLICENSED FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE NON-URBAN AREA.

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PRIVATE CLEANSING SCHEME TO CONTINUE
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A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR WILL CONTINUE KEEPING THE SHAU KEI WAN SQUATTER AREA CLEAN FOR ONE MORE YEAR BEGINNING DECEMBER 1.

THE CLEANSING FIRM ASSUMED OPERATIONS THERE FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL IN DECEMBER 1984 ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE UC'S CLEAN HONG KONG COMMITTEE NOW THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE.

AT THAT TIME THE UC MAINTAINED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF CONTRACTING OUT WAS TO SAVE MONEY WHILE PROVIDING BETTER SERVICES.

ALMOST \$1 MILLION WAS SAVED DURING THE FIRST YEAR AND AN ESTIMATED \$1.1 MILLION WILL BE SAVED THIS YEAR.

THE UC'S EXPENSES IN THIS ENDEAVOR WILL, IN FACT, BE MORE THAN HALVED AS THE CONTRACTOR WILL BE PERFORMING A TASK FOR \$900 000 THAT WOULD COST THE COUNCIL ABOUT \$2 MILLION TO DO.

BUT BEFORE THE UC DECIDED TO RENEW THE CONTRACT, IT SOUGHT ASSURANCES FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS THAT STANDARDS OF CLEANLINESS UNDER THE COMPANY'S TENURE HAD BEEN ACCEPTABLE.

MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE SHAU KEI WAN HILLSIDE COMMITTEE WERE CONSULTED IN THIS REGARD AND ALL AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH ANOTHER ONE-YEAR CONTRACT.

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ROAD TO BE REOPENED
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A SECTION OF HING MAN STREET IN SAI WAN HO BETWEEN HOI AN STREET AND HOI NING STREET WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, WILL BE REOPENED TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 1).

THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STAND IN HING MAN STREET EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HOI NING STREET WILL BE REINSTATED AND THE TEMPORARY PLB STAND WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CANCELLED.

FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 2), LI CHIT STREET WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT THOSE FOR LOCAL ACCESS WILL BE REOPENED AND REROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND FOR TRAFFIC FROM JOHNSTON ROAD TO QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

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KIOSK WILL SELL WATER
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL OPEN A WATER SELLING KIOSK AT SAI WAN HO RECLAMATION ON OCTOBER 1. THE KIOSK IS ON THE SEA FRONT TO THE WEST OF THE SAI WAN HO FERRY PIER.

OPENING HOURS WILL BE:

8 AM TO 12 NOON AND 1 PM TO 5 PM EVERY DAY INCLUDING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

- * TREASURY
 - CENTRAL COLLECTION CENTRE
 - YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY
- * MARINE DEPARTMENT
 - HEADQUARTERS, CENTRAL.
 - SHAU KEI WAN MARINE OFFICE

WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1, THE TEMPORARY WATER SELLING KIOSK NEAR HOI AN STREET WILL BE CLOSED DOWN.

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FRESH, SALT WATER CUTS

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FRESH AND SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME AREAS IN KOWLOON AND ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 3).

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TAI HANG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM FOR MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT BRAEMAR HILL ROAD, CLOUD VIEW ROAD, TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD, YEE KING ROAD, LAI TAK TSUEN AND LAI TAK TSUEN ROAD.

ON THE SAME DAY SALT WATER SUPPLY TO A FEW HOUSING ESTATES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 9.30 AM TO 3 PM FOR MAINS WORK.

AFFECTED WILL BE LEI MUK SHUE ESTATE, SHEK YAM ESTATE AND SHEK LEI ESTATE, INCLUDING PREMISES ALONG WO YI HOP ROAD.

MEANWHILE, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG WILL ALSO BE INTERRUPTED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SZE MEI STREET, CHOI HUNG ROAD, TAI YAU STREET AND SAM CHUK STREET, INCLUDING NG FONG STREET, LUK HOP STREET, TSAT PO STREET, PAT TAT STREET AND KING FUK STREET.

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