



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

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AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 4

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS SET OUT IN THE "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT IN HONG KONG AND RELATED QUESTIONS", THE BRITISH AND CHINESE SIDES AGREE TO HOLD AN AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING IN HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 4, 1994 TO SIGN AN AGREED MINUTE CONCERNING THE OVERALL FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

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GOVT RESPONSE TO SIGNING OF AGREED MINUTE ON AIRPORT
AND AIRPORT RAILWAY FINANCING

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IN ANSWER TO MEDIA QUESTIONS ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOMORROW'S (FRIDAY) AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE IS TO MEET TOMORROW MORNING TO SIGN THE AGREED MINUTE ON FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY.

"THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD ON THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS. THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TO MOVE AHEAD URGENTLY WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS FOR THE TWO PROJECTS SO THAT THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION CAN GO OUT AND BORROW IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR."

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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AT A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON:

MR PRESIDENT,

I MADE A SHORT BUT WORTHWHILE VISIT TO LONDON LAST WEEK. I HAD USEFUL MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER - CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE DUCKS IN ST JAMES' PARK - WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, WITH MR GOODLAD AND WITH OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS. WE DISCUSSED WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN IMPROVE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG. WE LOOKED AHEAD TO THE NEXT JLG MEETING AND WE NOTED THE FORMIDABLE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT REMAINS ON THE JLG'S AGENDA. WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE MORE RAPID PROGRESS IN THE FUTURE. CERTAINLY THAT WILL BE OUR AIM.

I ALSO HAD A GOOD AND WELL ATTENDED MEETING WITH THE BRITISH-HONG KONG PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, WHO CONTINUE TO TAKE A CLOSE AND SUPPORTIVE INTEREST IN OUR AFFAIRS.

/I MADE

I MADE TWO SPEECHES - THE FIRST TO THE ANNUAL TDC DINNER, WHICH GROWS IN IMPORTANCE AS AN OCCASION EVERY YEAR, AND WHICH WAS SO WELL ATTENDED THIS YEAR THAT IT TOOK PLACE IN AN EVEN LARGER VENUE. I ALSO GAVE THE ANNUAL SWISS BANK LECTURE AT THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION - A SPEECH LARGELY DEVOTED TO PROMOTING THE CASE, THE HONG KONG CASE, FOR FREE TRADE.

WHILE I WAS IN LONDON, THIS COUNCIL OF COURSE FINISHED DEBATING MY ADDRESS LAST MONTH. THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND HER COLLEAGUES GAVE THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE IN SPEECHES WHICH I ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSE. I AM ALWAYS IN FAVOUR OF VIGOROUS DEBATE; I AM SURE HONOURABLE MEMBERS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS RIGHT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO PUT ITS CASE AS VIGOROUSLY AS HONOURABLE MEMBERS DO. I NOW LOOK FORWARD TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS' QUESTIONS.

MR MARTIN BARROW: GOVERNOR, COULD YOU BRIEF US ON THE DISCUSSIONS YOU HAD IN LONDON REGARDING STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TO VOLUNTEER TO RETURN HOME, AND IN PARTICULAR ON WHAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WILL DO TO HELP? AND SECONDLY, WILL THE UNITED KINGDOM RESTART ITS SCHEME TO TAKE REFUGEES TO SET AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER POTENTIAL RECIPIENTS? THANK YOU.

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, THE QUESTION OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS IS ON THE AGENDA, PERHAPS I SHOULD ADD ALAS, ON EACH OF MY VISITS BECAUSE WE STILL HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THE SUCCESSFUL REPATRIATION WHICH I THINK THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WANTS TO SEE. THE VOLUNTARY RETURN OF MIGRANTS WHICH WAS GOING AT A REASONABLY EXPEDITIOUS PACE LAST YEAR AND IN THE LATTER STAGES OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR, HAS RECENTLY UNFORTUNATELY SLOWED AND WE NEED TO, AS WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO, TO INCREASE OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE MIGRANTS TO RETURN HOME TO A COMMUNITY, TO A COUNTRY WHICH THE REST OF THE WORLD RECOGNISES AS BEING ON THE PATH TO EXPONENTIAL GROWTH. I THINK SOME OF THOSE WHO DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO LOOKING AFTER OR HELPING MIGRANTS IN OUR CAMPS WHO HAVE DONE SO IN OTHER PLACES AROUND THE WORLD DO WONDER AT WHY IT IS THAT MIGRANTS INSIST ON STAYING IN HONG KONG RATHER THAN RETURNING. BECAUSE THE CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM IN COMPARISON WITH CONDITIONS FROM WHICH OTHERS HAVE FLED AROUND THE WORLD ARE OBVIOUSLY MUCH BETTER. WE'LL CONTINUE BOTH THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THROUGH OTHER WAYS TO ENCOURAGE RETURN, AND I THINK THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER LIKE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME AS PART OF OUR OVERALL STRATEGY.

ON THE UNITED KINGDOM'S OBLIGATIONS TO TAKE THEIR OWN SHARE OF REFUGEES, I AM SURE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS AS FAMILIAR AS I AM WITH THE NUMBER TAKEN INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE PAST, AND ALSO FAMILIAR WITH RECENT HOME OFFICE STATEMENTS ON THE POSITION. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS CLEAR TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, BECAUSE THE WHOLE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THOSE REFUGEES WHICH WE WANT TO SEE IT DISCHARGED.

DR DAVID LI: GOVERNOR, THE AVERAGE INCREASE OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS THIS YEAR IS AROUND 12.65 PER CENT WHICH IS HIGHER THAN THE GENERAL INFLATION RATE BY 4 PERCENTAGE POINTS. ON THE ONE HAND, THE GOVERNMENT INVITES PRIVATE COMPANIES NOT TO ADJUST THEIR ANNUAL WAGE INCREASES BEYOND THE INFLATION RATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT ALLOWS THE COST OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO EXCEED THE INFLATION RATE. A 12.65 PER CENT JUMP IN THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION ALONE CONTRIBUTED TO ABOUT 1 PERCENTAGE POINT TO INFLATION. IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS, SIR, YOU SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIVING OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. BASED ON THAT, WILL YOU INFORM THIS COUNCIL, WHAT ARE THE ECONOMIC RATIONALE IN ALLOWING THE TRANSPORT COMPANIES TO RAISE THEIR FARES BEYOND THE INFLATION RATE? IN ADDITION, WILL YOU, SIR, ALSO INFORM THIS COUNCIL HOW THE QUALITY OF LIVING OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN BE IMPROVED IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES?

GOVERNOR: I AM NOT SURE WHETHER THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS COMPARING LIKE WITH LIKE, AND WHETHER HE IS TAKING IDENTICAL CALENDAR PERIODS IN THE COMPARISON THAT HE IS MAKING BUT I WILL ASSUME THAT HE IS DOING SO BECAUSE HE IS A BANKER AND BANKERS ARE INVARIABLY - I DON'T SAY ALWAYS - INVARIABLY RIGHT ABOUT THE FIGURES.

I THINK THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WOULD HIMSELF DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE LEVEL OF FARES FOR TRAINS AND THE LEVEL OF FARES FOR BUSES. I BELIEVE I AM CORRECT IN SAYING THAT THE FARES SET BY THE MTRC AND BY THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION HAVE, OVER THE YEARS, LAGGED BEHIND THE ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION. IN ONE CASE I THINK THAT HAS BEEN SO FOR SIX YEARS, IN THE OTHER CASE I THINK IT HAS BEEN SO FOR WELL OVER TEN YEARS, AND THAT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE MANAGERIAL COMPETENCE OF BOTH THOSE ORGANISATIONS. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THEIR INVESTMENT. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE PRODUCTIVITY ACHIEVED BY THEIR WORKFORCE AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THAT INVESTMENT.

WITH OUR BUSES, THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT STORY, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF OPERATING COSTS TAKEN BY SALARIES, AND PARTICULARLY THE SALARIES OF DRIVERS. I DON'T CRITICISE DRIVERS BECAUSE THEY NEED TO MAKE A LIVING JUST LIKE THE REST OF US. BUT I THINK I AM RIGHT IN SAYING THAT THEIR PAY, AS A PROPORTION OF OVERALL COSTS, HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FACTORS - AND DOUBTLESS, FUEL HAS BEEN ANOTHER ONE - IN MEANING THAT BUS COSTS ARE VERY OFTEN BEING RATHER HIGHER THAN TRAIN COSTS. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN THE REQUIREMENT TO INVEST, IN MANY CASES, IN NEW FLEET AND PARTICULARLY IN NEW AIR-CONDITIONED VEHICLES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE, IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE TO PASSENGERS.

I DON'T THINK THAT OVERALL IT IS RIGHT TO THINK THAT TRANSPORT COSTS ARE A MAJOR FACTOR IN OUR INFLATION IN HONG KONG. BUT OBVIOUSLY THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND THE COST OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE, AND THEY ARE ALSO IMPORTANT AND RELEVANT FACTORS IN DISCUSSING WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT MANAGING TRAFFIC RATHER BETTER IN THE FUTURE - THAT IS A SUBJECT WHICH WE WILL BE OFFERING VIEWS TO THE COUNCIL ABOUT IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND I AM SURE THAT THERE WILL BE A COMPLETE CONSENSUS IN THE COUNCIL ON THE SORT OF MEASURES THAT WILL REQUIRE TO BE TAKEN.

THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS RIGHT TO REMIND US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FARES IN PEOPLE'S COST OF LIVING BUT I DON'T THINK THE SITUATION IS QUITE ONE OF COST-PUSH IN THE WAY THAT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTING.

MR PANG CHUN-HOI: MR PRESIDENT, IN THE OCTOBER LEGCO QUESTION TIME, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO EXPAND THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR, NEVERTHELESS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, RECENTLY IN BEIJING TALKED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE, SAYING THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING RELAXING THE IMPORTATION OF MAINLAND PROFESSIONALS AND EXPANDING THE LIST OF KEY MAINLAND UNIVERSITIES AND ALSO FURTHER IMPORTING NON-SKILLED WORKERS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT. CAN THE GOVERNOR INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL DISREGARD THE STRONG OPPOSITION OF THE LABOUR SECTOR IN FURTHER RELAXING THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR, AND SECONDLY, WHY IS IT THAT THERE ARE INCONSISTENCIES WITHIN THE MONTH, IN WHAT THE SENIOR HONG KONG OFFICIALS SAID AND WHAT THE GOVERNOR SAID. WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THAT, I HOPE THAT THE GOVERNOR CAN ANSWER THIS.

GOVERNOR: THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL KNOW THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM EMPLOYERS, AND EMPLOYERS ORGANISATIONS BY AND LARGE TO OPERATE MORE LIBERAL, MORE OPEN POLICIES IN RELATION TO THE WORKFORCE AND ALLOWING MORE PEOPLE TO WORK HERE IN HONG KONG, JUST AS WE ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM LABOUR ORGANISATIONS TO BE MORE RESTRICTIVE IN THOSE THAT WE ALLOW TO COME AND WORK HERE IN HONG KONG. WE DO HAVE A VERY TIGHT LABOUR MARKET ASSOCIATED WITH THE LOW LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT HERE IN HONG KONG, ABOUT 2.3% IN COMPARISON WITH THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN OUR ECONOMY, BY AND LARGE, THE NUMBER OF THOSE UNEMPLOYED HAS RUN AT NOT MUCH MORE THAN 50% OF THE PUBLISHED VACANCIES, SO THERE IS A REAL I THINK, SUPPLY CONSTRAINT THERE OR HAS SOMETIMES BEEN IN THE PAST. I WOULD ADD THAT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE HAVE BEEN FINDING WAYS OF COPING WITH THAT IN THE LAST YEAR OR TWO WITHOUT AS A CONSEQUENCE DOING WHAT MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOUR ORGANISATIONS FEAR, EITHER ON THE ONE HAND DRIVING DOWN WAGES, OR ON THE OTHER HAND DRIVING PEOPLE OUT OF WORK. IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR THE TOTAL LABOUR SUPPLY IN OUR ECONOMY GREW BY ABOUT THREE AND A HALF PER CENT, LAST YEAR IT GREW BY I THINK 2.9%, AND AT THE SAME TIME WE RETAINED LOW UNEMPLOYMENT AND I THINK SAW A STEADY GROWTH IN NET DISPOSABLE INCOME, SO I THINK THAT WE HAVE ACTUALLY MANAGED TO COPE WITH PRESSURES, BETTER THAN PERHAPS BOTH EMPLOYERS AND LABOUR ORGANISATIONS HAVE SUGGESTED.

/MATTERS WHICH

LET ME COME SPECIFICALLY TO TWO RELATED MATTERS WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER REFERRED TO, FIRST OF ALL THE OVERALL IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME, WHICH I THINK WORKS TOLERABLY WELL, THOUGH WE WILL WANT TO LOOK ONCE AGAIN AT QUOTA ALLOCATIONS WITHIN THE SCHEME, WHERE THERE ARE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS OF LABOUR SHORTAGE BECAUSE OF SOME MAJOR PROJECT, I THINK WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ADDRESS THOSE THROUGH THE IMPORTATION OF ADDITIONAL LABOUR TO MEET A SPECIFIC DEMAND, BUT I THINK THAT IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED FEATURE OF OUR LABOUR MARKET POLICY IN THE COMMUNITY. THE PARTICULAR AND RELATED MATTER TO WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER REFERS, IS THE SCHEME WE HAVE INTRODUCED TO ALLOW A THOUSAND GRADUATES OF SPECIFIED CHINESE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO COME AND WORK AND RECEIVE A TRAINING WITH EMPLOYERS IN HONG KONG. WE'VE HAD TWO ALLOCATIONS OF JOBS UNDER THAT SCHEME, ALLOCATIONS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, AND THE SECOND ONE FOR EXAMPLE WAS HEAVILY OVERSUBSCRIBED, TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE APPLIED FOR THE NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE WHICH WERE ABOUT A TENTH OF THAT SIZE. I THINK THAT IS WHY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER SAID IN PEKING THAT WE WOULD BE REVIEWING THE SCHEME NEXT YEAR, I DON'T THINK THAT IS A NEW COMMITMENT ON OUR PART, I BELIEVE WE'VE ALWAYS MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WOULD WANT TO REVIEW THE SCHEME. THE SUGGESTION THAT WE SHOULD EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE SCHEME TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS WAS MADE BY PRC OFFICIALS AND IS SOMETHING THAT WE'D WANT TO BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THAT OVERALL REVIEW, SO I DON'T THINK THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER SHOULD REGARD THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER AS REPRESENTING A NEW INITIATIVE BY THE ADMINISTRATION, NOR SHOULD HE REGARD THE SCHEME, I DON'T BELIEVE, AS IN SOME WAY DRIVING A COACH AND HORSES THROUGH OUR EXISTING LABOUR MARKET POLICY. I THINK IT SHOWS A SENSIBLE FLEXIBILITY IN A POLICY WHICH I RECOGNISE IS INEVITABLY CONTROVERSIAL, BUT WHICH I THINK BY AND LARGE MEETS THE LABOUR REQUIREMENTS OF A COMMUNITY LIKE THIS GROWING AS FAST AS THIS, AS WELL AS WE PROBABLY COULD DO, WITHOUT PROVOKING CRITICISMS FROM LABOUR CONSTITUENCY THAT WE WERE SEEKING TO RETURN HONG KONG TO A SWEAT SHOP ECONOMY.

MR PANG CHUN-HOI (FOLLOW UP): MR GOVERNOR, OKAY REVIEW IS NECESSARY, BUT MY QUESTION IS, LAST MONTH YOU SAID HERE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT EXPAND THE IMPORTATION SCHEME, CONCERNING THE GENERAL SCHEME THE QUOTAS WOULD NOT BE EXPANDED, BUT NOW YOU SAY THAT A REVIEW IS UNDER WAY TO LOOK AT THE LABOUR MARKET, IN OTHER WORDS YOU ARE GOING BACK ON WHAT YOU SAID LAST MONTH. SO, ANY COMMENTS?

GOVERNOR: LET ME DISTINGUISH ONCE AGAIN BETWEEN THE OVERALL SCHEME, THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME WHICH COVERS TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND JOBS WHICH WE ARE NOT UNDERTAKING A REVIEW OF, AND THE IMPORTATION OF GRADUATES FROM CHINA SCHEME WHICH COVERS A THOUSAND JOBS WHICH WE ARE GOING TO REVIEW NEXT YEAR. I CAN MAKE THAT DISTINCTION WHICH I HOPE MEETS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S POINT. I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE EVER SAID THAT WE WERE GOING TO REVIEW THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME AS A WHOLE, BUT WE ARE REVIEWING THE SCHEME DEALING WITH GRADUATES FROM THE PRC. I HOPE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER CAN BE SATISFIED WITH THAT EXPLANATION.

MR HA WING-HO: THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT, MR GOVERNOR, I HAVE A QUESTION, IT IS ABOUT LEGISLATION STRADDLING 1997. AS WE KNOW, A LEGISLATURE WILL BE ELECTED IN 1995 AND BY 1997 ITS TERM WILL END. NOW IN LONDON YOU HAD DISCUSSIONS, I WONDER IF YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE LEGISLATION SITUATION FOR THE TRANSITION. SO DID YOU DISCUSS THE BRITISH ATTITUDE BACK IN LONDON, AND IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS DID YOU TALK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THE PROVISIONAL LEGISLATURE?

GOVERNOR: WE DIDN'T HAVE A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ABOUT PROPOSALS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN MADE BY AN ADVISORY GROUP TO THE NPC ABOUT THE FUTURE, THE FUTURE LEGISLATURE IN HONG KONG, WE DIDN'T HAVE THOSE DISCUSSIONS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEGISLATURE WHICH WILL BE ELECTED IN 1995, WHICH WILL BE OPENLY ELECTED, AND WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE FAIRLY ELECTED AND WHICH WE BELIEVE IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THAT LEGISLATURE IS IN OUR JUDGMENT ENTIRELY IN LINE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION AND WITH THE BASIC LAW. AND IF THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD BE DISRUPTED IN SOME WAY IN 1997, THEN IT'S FOR THEM TO EXPLAIN WHY, AND IT'S FOR THEM TO JUSTIFY THAT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, IT'S NOT OBVIOUSLY MY RESPONSIBILITY. I HAVE TO ENSURE THAT WHAT IS DONE BEFORE 1997 IS IN LINE WITH THE AGREEMENTS MADE BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA, THAT IT ACCORDS WITH THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THAT IT MEETS IN DOING THOSE THINGS THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FOR A DECENT AND OPEN SOCIETY, AND THAT I THINK WE ARE DOING.

THERE ARE QUESTIONS WHICH ARE RAISED FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT LEGISLATION WHICH WE WANT TO PASS THROUGH THE TRANSITION IN 1997, AND THERE ARE TWO PARTICULAR ASPECTS TO THAT QUESTION WHICH NEED TO BE CONSIDERED, ONE IS LOCALISATION OF LAWS, THE OTHER IS ADAPTATION OF LAWS. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT WHICH ISN'T ALWAYS DONE TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THOSE TWO. ON LOCALISATION OF LAWS, WE ARE MAKING PRETTY GOOD PROGRESS ABOUT THREE HUNDRED OF THE LAWS WHICH MIGHT NEED TO BE LOCALISED, IN FACT WE CAN PROBABLY PUT ON ONE SIDE, WE PROBABLY DON'T NEED TO DEAL WITH THOSE, IT LEAVES A NUMBER THAT DO HAVE TO BE LOCALISED. WE'RE INTENDING DOING THAT IN ABOUT THIRTY-TWO DIFFERENT PIECES OF LEGISLATION, AND SOME OF THOSE HAVE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, I THINK ABOUT EIGHT, TWO ARE AT PRESENT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEING DISCUSSED, I THINK THREE WILL SHORTLY BE BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAVING BEEN BROADLY AGREED IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP. THERE ARE OTHERS IN FRONT OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AT THE MOMENT, ABOUT FOURTEEN, AND ONE OR TWO OTHERS WHICH WILL NEED TO BE DEALT WITH IN DUE COURSE. THAT PROGRAMME OF LOCALISATION IS GOING FORWARD PRETTY WELL. ADAPTATION HAS CREATED OTHER DIFFICULTIES, AND THEY ARE DIFFICULTIES I HOPE WE CAN RESOLVE WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS. IT WAS AGREED IN 1990 IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP THAT ADAPTATION SHOULD BE DISCUSSED THERE, AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN MAKE A SUCCESS OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS. SO I HOPE, AS I KNOW THE HONOURABLE MEMBER HOPES THAT WE CAN AVOID ANY LEGAL HOLES COME 1997 BECAUSE THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR THE STABILITY OR PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

/MR JIMMY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

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MR JIMMY MCGREGOR: GOVERNOR, I ASSUME THAT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WITH THE PWC WAS MENTIONED DURING YOUR DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON AND I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER YOU CONSIDER THAT YOURSELF AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCTIVELY CONSIDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PWC TO SEE WHETHER THIS CAN BE FURTHER IMPROVED; AND I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO INVOLVE LEGCO IN THIS PROCESS?

GOVERNOR: WELL, WE ARE ALWAYS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE CONSTRUCTIVE ADVICE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THIS MATTER AS ON OTHERS. THE IMPRESSION THAT I GOT FROM THE DEBATE WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD ON MY SPEECH TO THIS BODY AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST MONTH, WAS THAT SOME PEOPLE WANTED US TO DO MORE AND SOME PEOPLE WANTED US TO DO LESS IN RELATION TO THE PWC. I THINK THAT THE GUIDELINES SET OUT BY MY HONOURABLE FRIEND THE CHIEF SECRETARY ARE EXTREMELY SENSIBLE AND ENABLE US TO PROVIDE MEMBERS OF THE PWC WITH ANY HELP, WITH ANY BRIEFING, THAT THEY MAY REQUIRE TO DO THEIR JOB BETTER.

I WAS VERY PLEASED THE OTHER DAY THAT WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF TAKING PART IN A SEMINAR ON THE LINK BETWEEN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THE US DOLLAR, AT WHICH A SENIOR HONG KONG PUBLIC SERVANT WAS ABLE TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR WHAT OUR POSITION WAS ON THE LINK. I WAS DELIGHTED THAT A SENIOR PRC OFFICIAL MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PRC TOTALLY SHARE OUR VIEW ON THAT IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICY, THOUGH I THINK I AM RIGHT IN SAYING THAT NOT EVERY MEMBER OF THE PWC TAKES THAT VIEW. BUT IT WAS VERY HELPFUL, I THINK, TO HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THERE WASN'T A PIECE OF TISSUE PAPER BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE VIEWS OF PRC OFFICIALS ON THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE. I THINK IT WILL HAVE HELPED TO CLEAR UP SOME PERHAPS UNFORTUNATE CONFUSION. SO THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THAT WHICH I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE AS CONSTRUCTIVELY AND POSITIVELY AS POSSIBLE.

I STILL BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE POSITION OF THE PWC AND THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. I THINK THAT IS WELL-RECOGNISED. BUT WE REMAIN, I REPEAT, READY TO OFFER ADVICE AND INFORMATION TO THE PWC WHENEVER THEY ASK FOR IT.

DURING YOUR DEBATE ON MY SPEECH, ONE HONOURABLE MEMBER, IN A COLOURFUL METAPHOR, SAID THAT WE'D COOKED SOME PRETTY GOOD MEALS OURSELVES HERE IN HONG KONG AND WE SHOULD OFFER TO SHOW OTHERS THE RECIPES. I THINK WE ARE ALL VERY HAPPY TO PASS OVER BOOKS FULL OF RECIPES BUT I THINK NOBODY SHOULD NECESSARILY EXPECT US TO QUEUE UP TO COOK AT A SECOND STOVE. WE HAVE A VERY GOOD FIRST STOVE OF OUR OWN, BUT WE ARE DELIGHTED TO TELL THE PWC AND OTHERS EVERYTHING THEY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT. WE ARE PREPARED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO PWC MEMBERS - GENUINELY AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO PWC MEMBERS - AS WE HAVE BEEN TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, AND I HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO BE VERY POSITIVE RIGHT ACROSS THE BOARD IN A COMPREHENSIVE AND OPEN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

/MR JIMMY

MR JIMMY MCGREGOR (FOLLOW UP): SIR, COULD I HAVE JUST ONE CLARIFICATION? DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS TAKING A PROACTIVE POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE PWC IN THE OFFERING OF INFORMATION? ARE YOU INVITING, IN OTHER WORDS, THE PWC TO SEEK INFORMATION WHICH YOU WILL TRY TO PROVIDE? OR ARE YOU TAKING A REACTIVE POSITION WHERE YOU WAIT FOR THE PWC? BECAUSE THERE IS A MATTER OF, IF YOU LIKE, A CERTAIN DEGREE OF 'FACE' INVOLVED HERE AND IN ORDER TO GET DIALOGUE GOING, IF DIALOGUE IS NECESSARY, THEN PERHAPS IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT - WHICH AFTER ALL IS HOLDING THE INFORMATION REQUIRED AND THE EXPERIENCE WHICH CAN BE PROVIDED - IF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WERE TO TAKE A MORE PROACTIVE POSITION.

GOVERNOR: I'VE LEARNT MORE AND MORE ABOUT 'FACE' THE LONGER I HAVE BEEN GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, THOUGH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER KNOWS THAT IT IS NOT SOMETHING WHICH PARTICULARLY BOTHERS ME, NOT LEAST GIVEN MY BACKGROUND. WE ARE AS PROACTIVE IN RELATION TO THIS AS WE ARE TO ANYTHING OR TO EVERYTHING ELSE. I SAY ONCE AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON THAT IF PWC MEMBERS WANT TO BE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON THE AIRPORT OR OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, WE'D BE HAPPY TO BRIEF THEM. IF THEY WISH TO BE BRIEFED ON THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OR RELATED CAPITAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG, WE WILL BE DELIGHTED TO BRIEF THEM. IF THEY WISH TO BE BRIEFED ABOUT THE LOCALISATION AND ADAPTATION OF LAWS, IF THEY WISHED TO BE BRIEFED ABOUT OUR BUDGET, THE WAY WE MANAGE HONG KONG'S FINANCES, WE WILL BE DELIGHTED TO BRIEF THEM. WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO HIDE AND A GREAT DEAL TO BE PROUD ABOUT IN THE WAY THAT WE HAVE MANAGED HONG KONG'S AFFAIRS, SO WE WILL BE DELIGHTED TO HAND OVER THOSE RECIPES.

BUT I DON'T THINK, TO REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THAT IT WOULD BE RIGHT FOR US TO SEND CIVIL SERVANTS OFF TO MEETINGS IN PEKING OR WHATEVER, FORMAL MEETINGS OF THE PWC, AS THOUGH THE PWC WAS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP OR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO WHICH THE EXECUTIVE IN HONG KONG IS ACCOUNTABLE TODAY AND WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE UNDER THE BASIC LAW.

CHEUNG MAN-KWONG: MR GOVERNOR, YESTERDAY, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SUBMITTED THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL BILL TO THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE BAR ASSOCIATION FOR CONSULTATION. I'VE LEARNT THAT FROM THE PRESS. BUT THE LEGISLATURE IN HONG KONG, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING LAWS AND ALSO THE HONG KONG PUBLIC ARE STILL KEPT IN THE DARK AND WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE CFA BILL. MR GOVERNOR, IF THIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL PAPER WHY IS THAT THE TWO LAW BODIES CAN KNOW THAT BEFORE HAND? IF THIS IS A CONSULTATION PAPER, WHY SHOULD THAT LEGCO WHICH REPRESENTS THE PUBLIC IS NOT CONSULTED? WHY IS THAT YOU HAVE DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT? IS IT AN OPEN APPROACH, IS IT THE APPROACH OF A GOVERNMENT WHO SAYS THERE IS NO HIDDEN AGENDA?

GOVERNOR: IF THE DEBATE AND THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL IS TAKING PLACE IN THE DARK, IT'S THE SORT OF DARK THEY HAVE AT MIDNIGHT IN LAPLAND. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY GREAT SECRET AND CERTAINLY NO HIDDEN AGENDA IN WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING OR WHAT'S BEEN DISCUSSED. IN HONG KONG, WE HAVE QUITE ENOUGH ON OUR OPEN AGENDA WITHOUT HAVING HIDDEN ONES AS WELL. BUT WE'VE BEEN PROCEEDING NOT SECRETIVELY AND I REPEAT THAT IF THIS IS A SECRET, A HELL OF A LOT OF PEOPLE SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT IT, BUT WE HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING IN THE WAY THAT WE REGULARLY PROCEED.

WHEN WE CONSULT PARTICULAR INTERESTS OR PARTICULAR PROFESSIONS ABOUT A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL BEFORE FRAMING LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS TO PUT FOR OPEN AND FULL DEBATE IN THIS COUNCIL. WHAT I DON'T WANT TO DO IS TO DELAY THE PROCESS BY HAVING ANOTHER LONG CONSULTATION WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDISE OUR ABILITY TO GET THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL UP AND RUNNING BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF 1996 WHICH IS NECESSARY IF WE ARE NOT TO HAVE A GAP. AND I THINK IT WOULD BE A GAP IF WE DIDN'T HAVE THE HIGHEST COURT FOR APPEAL AND WHEN THE PRIVY COUNCIL, JUDICIAL COMMITTEE CEASES TO BE ABLE TO DISCHARGE THAT FUNCTION. THE MATTER HAS BEEN DEBATED EXTENSIVELY IN THIS COUNCIL. IT'S BEEN DEBATED EXTENSIVELY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION. IT'S BEEN DEBATED EXTENSIVELY IN THE MEDIA AND IN THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE AND THE DECISION DOESN'T TURN OUT AT THIS STAGE TO BE ANY DIFFERENT TO THE DECISION WHICH PEOPLE CONSIDER TWO OR THREE YEARS BACK. WE HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER WE WANT TO SET UP A COURT OF FINAL APPEAL BEFORE 1997 OR NOT. IF THIS COUNCIL CONCLUDES AT THE END OF THE DAY THAT IT DOESN'T WANT TO SET UP A COURT OF FINAL APPEAL BEFORE 1997 THEN I THINK IT WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS WHY VERY CLEARLY TO BUSINESS AND TO THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY.

I DON'T DISPUTE AT ALL THAT THIS COURT OF FINAL APPEAL THAT WE ARE GOING TO PROPOSE IS NOT AS SUPERB AN INSTITUTION AS SOME MEMBERS WOULD LIKE. MUCH OF LIFE IS ABOUT CHOOSING WHETHER OR NOT TO SETTLE FOR THE GOOD AS OPPOSED TO THE BEST IN ORDER TO AVOID THE WORST. AND I THINK THIS IS ONE SUCH OCCASION. I KNOW HOW STRONGLY SOME MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY PERHAPS THOSE WITH A DISTINGUISH LEGAL BACKGROUND, I KNOW HOW STRONGLY SOME FEEL THAT THE COURT SHOULD BE EVEN MORE BROADLY BASED. BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, AN AGREEMENT BEFORE I BECAME GOVERNOR, BUT ONE WHICH I SUPPORT, AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN 1991. I THINK IT IS A GOOD AGREEMENT EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT THE BEST POSSIBLE AGREEMENT, AND I THINK WE SHOULD GET ON AND LEGISLATE FOR IT. SO I DON'T ACCEPT THAT THERE ARE ANY SECRETS. I DON'T ACCEPT THERE IS A HIDDEN AGENDA. I DO THINK THAT WE SHOULD GET ON AND SORT THIS OUT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. I SAY SORT IT OUT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. I HOPE IT'S SORTED OUT IN THE WAY THAT I'VE SUGGESTED.

CHEUNG MAN-KWONG: FOLLOW UP. MR GOVERNOR, AS YOU SAID EARLY NEXT YEAR, WHEN THE CFA BILL COMES TO LEGCO SOME MEMBERS WITH LEGAL BACKGROUND MAY COME UP WITH AMENDMENTS SO THAT THE PROPORTION OF OVERSEAS JUDGES CAN BE MORE FLEXIBLE. MR GOVERNOR, WHAT I WANT TO ASK IS THIS: IF THE AMENDMENTS ARE PASSED, WILL YOU ENDORSE THE BILL AS AMENDED BECAUSE THE AMENDMENTS WILL BE IN LINE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION? SO CAN YOU TELL US IN TERMS OF THE BINDING FORCE OF THE LAW, IS THE JOINT DECLARATION SUPERIOR OR IS THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT SUPERIOR?

GOVERNOR: CAN I JUST SAY ONE THING ABOUT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S PREMISE. IT'S NOT I AM SURE JUST PEOPLE WITH LEGAL BACKGROUNDS WHO FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT RULE OF LAW ISSUES. THERE ARE QUITE A LOT OF US WITHOUT LEGAL BACKGROUNDS, ALTHOUGH WE MAY IN SOME CASES BEEN MARRIED TO LAWYERS, WHO FEEL EXTREMELY STRONGLY ABOUT RULE OF LAW ISSUES. I THINK THAT JUST AS THE HEALTH SERVICE WITH GREAT DEFERENCE TO DISTINGUISH PRACTITIONERS SHOULDN'T JUST BE DEBATED BY DOCTORS AND NURSES SO THE LAW SHOULDN'T JUST BE DEBATED BY LAWYERS, THAT THE LAW IS WHAT GUARANTEES ALL OUR FREEDOMS AND ALL OUR PROSPERITY AND WE SHOULD ALL TAKE A LIVELY INTEREST IN IT. AND I AM GLAD THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS DOING SO. SECONDLY, ONE OF THE DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS AUGUST INSTITUTION IS THAT IT ALWAYS WANTS MY JOB MORE DIFFICULT. AND IT IS ENOUGH OF A PROBLEM ANSWERING REAL PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS AND WITHOUT ANSWERING HYPOTHETICAL ONES. THE HONOURABLE MEMBER SAYS WHAT WOULD I DO IF. WELL, FIRST OF ALL LET'S HAVE THE IF. WE WILL BE ARGUING OUR OWN CASE, WE WILL BE ARGUING FOR OUR OWN BILL AND THE FIRST QUESTION I HAVE TO ADDRESS IS HOW WE GET THAT BILL THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. IF HONOURABLE MEMBERS WERE TO AMEND IT, THEN WE WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT ACTION. BUT I HAVE A PROFOUND AND I THINK DEFENSIBLE AVERSION TO ANSWERING HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS WHEN THE REAL QUESTIONS ARE DIFFICULT ENOUGH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MR LAU CHIN-SHEK: THE LABOUR SECTOR THINKS THAT IMPORTED WORKERS HAVE IMPACT ON THE WAGE LEVEL OF LOCAL WORKERS. OTHER THAN THAT, WE HAVE ILLEGAL WORKERS IN THE LABOUR FORCE. THE CONFEDERATION OF UNIONS FOUND THAT WE HAVE ILLEGAL WORKERS FROM INDIA AND PAKISTAN; THEY WAIT AT SHAM SHUI PO, WAITING FOR EMPLOYERS; THEY GET \$150 PER FOUR-HOUR PERIOD. AND THERE ARE ALSO A LOT OF DOMESTIC WORKERS WORKING IN FACTORIES, MARKETS AND RESTAURANTS. AND YET ON CONSTRUCTION SITES WE ALSO HAVE ILLEGAL WORKERS. TWO YEARS BACK IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS, SIR, YOU SAID THAT WORKERS MAY BE REQUIRED TO SHOW ID CARDS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, BUT WE HEARD SUBSEQUENTLY NO MORE ABOUT THAT. ON THE ISSUE OF ILLEGAL WORKERS IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE ISSUE FOR SOME OF THE TIME. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ADDRESS THE ISSUE SQUARELY. ON THE MATTER OF ILLEGAL WORKERS IN HONG KONG, WHAT CONCRETE EFFECTIVE MEASURES ARE THERE TO COMBAT THIS?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THE EMPLOYMENT, INDEED THE EXISTENCE OF ILLEGAL WORKERS, HAS TWO CONSEQUENCES, BOTH OF WHICH ARE THOROUGHLY UNDESIRABLE IN A MODERN FIRST-WORLD ECONOMY LIKE OURS. AND WE ARE NOT OF COURSE JUST TALKING ABOUT ILLEGAL WORKERS FROM THE SOUTH-ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT, WE ARE ALSO TALKING ABOUT ILLEGAL WORKERS FROM THE MAINLAND - FROM THE PRC, AND WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ILLEGAL WORKERS FROM ELSEWHERE TOO.

THE FIRST CONSEQUENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY IS EXPLOITATION OF THOSE WORKERS IN OFTEN DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS WITH ALL THE POSSIBILITIES OF CRIME, BOTH PETTY AND ORGANISED, THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THAT. AND IT IS NOT LEAST IN THE INTERESTS OF ILLEGAL WORKERS THEMSELVES THAT WE SHOULD TAKE A VERY FIRM LINE ON ILLEGAL WORKING.

/THOUGH THE

SECONDLY, I'VE GOT NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT EVEN THOUGH THE MACRO-ECONOMIC EFFECT MAY NOT BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL, THERE MUST BE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY WHERE THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL WORKERS DOES IN PARTICULAR AREAS DRIVE DOWN WAGE LEVELS. AND I'M SURE THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER HAS AS CLEAR AN IDEA AS I DO OF THE SORT OF SECTORS THAT ONE IS TALKING ABOUT.

BOTH THOSE ARE VERY POWERFUL ARGUMENTS FOR DOING MORE TO STOP PEOPLE BEING BROUGHT INTO HONG KONG TO WORK ILLEGALLY - TO STOP PEOPLE THEMSELVES COMING INTO HONG KONG. WE'VE WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH THE POLICE AND WE'VE WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH SOME SECTORS OF INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, TO TRY TO STAMP OUT ILLEGAL WORKING. I THINK THAT ILLEGAL WORKING IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAS BEEN AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR THE LACK OF SAFETY IN SOME PARTS OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

I CAN LET THE HONOURABLE MEMBER KNOW IN TERMS AND IN DETAIL, PRECISELY WHAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, BUT I JUST WANT TO UNDERLINE TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER THAT WE DO REGARD IT AS A PRIORITY, THAT THE POLICE REGARD IT AS A PRIORITY, THAT WE HAVE, AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER KNOWS, BEEN PROPOSING HEAVIER FINES FOR THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO TAKE ON ILLEGAL WORKERS, BUT MORE DETAILED MEASURES I WILL COME BACK TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER ABOUT BY LETTER, IF HE WILL ALLOW ME TO DO SO.

MR LEE WING-TAT: MR GOVERNOR, A QUESTION ON LAND AND HOUSING SUPPLY. IN SUMMER THIS YEAR, IN ORDER TO CURB THE SPIRALLING PROPERTY PRICES, A REPORT WAS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND ONE MAJOR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL 15 HECTARES OF LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES. BUT THEN, THE LAND COMMISSION WILL HAVE TO GIVE APPROVAL BEFORE THIS 15 HECTARES OF LAND CAN BE USED THAT WAY. NOW, THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE IN JUNE, BUT UP TO THE PRESENT MOMENT THE LAND COMMISSION DID NOT HOLD ANY ADDITIONAL MEETINGS. IN TWO TO THREE MONTHS TIME, IF THE LAND COMMISSION STILL DOES NOT HOLD ITS MEETING, YOUR PROMISE WOULD THEN NOT BE HONOURED. 15 HECTARES OF LAND WILL MEAN AN ADDITIONAL 12,000 FLATS - RATHER IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG.

NOW, MR GOVERNOR, I WONDER IF YOU OR YOUR COLLEAGUES HAVE CONSIDERED THAT. NOW, WE NEED APPROVAL IF WE WANT TO HAVE LAND FOR PRIVATE HOUSING, BUT FOR PUBLIC HOUSING WE NEED NOT HAVE APPROVAL FROM THE LAND COMMISSION. IF THE LAND COMMISSION IS NOT TO HOLD A MEETING ON THIS 15 HECTARES OF LAND, WOULD YOU CONSIDER TURNING THIS 15 HECTARES OF LAND TO BE USED FOR PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING SO THAT THOSE ON THE WAITING LIST WILL HAVE A FLAT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME?

ONE MORE QUESTION NOW: IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS, YOU DID NOT GIVE A TIMETABLE. FOR THE 150,000 PEOPLE ON THE WAITING LIST, THEY MAY BE LIVING IN CAGED APARTMENTS OR PARTITIONED HOUSES AND SO ON - WHY DID YOU NOT ADDRESS THE ISSUE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS?

GOVERNOR: FIRST OF ALL, ON THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL LAND SUPPLY IN ORDER TO MEET THE TARGETS THAT WE ANNOUNCED EARLIER IN THE SUMMER, WE WILL NEED TO GO TO THE LAND COMMISSION. I THINK I AM RIGHT IN SAYING THAT WE WON'T REQUIRE TO GO TO THEM ABOUT 15 HECTARES - I THINK THERE ARE A COUPLE OF HECTARES WHICH ARE ACTUALLY COVERED ALREADY - I THINK IT IS ABOUT 13 THAT WE NEED TO GO TO THEM ABOUT BUT I'LL TELL THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IF I AM NOT ABSOLUTELY ACCURATE ON THAT. BUT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS RIGHT THAT WE WILL NEED TO GO TO THE LAND COMMISSION. I DON'T WISH TO BE PRESUMPTUOUS BUT I HAVE NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THE LAND COMMISSION WOULD WISH TO OBJECT TO PROPOSALS WHICH ARE CLEARLY IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AND WHICH ARE CLEARLY DIRECTED TOWARDS THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

IF WE WERE UNABLE TO SATISFY THAT REQUIREMENT, THEN THEORETICALLY, THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS ENTIRELY RIGHT TO MENTION THE OTHER OPTION. BUT WE DO WANT, AS FAR AS WE CAN, TO PROVIDE A BALANCED RESPONSE TO HOUSING DEMAND IN THE COMMUNITY AND WE THINK WE'VE GOT IT JUST ABOUT RIGHT BETWEEN HOUSING AUTHORITY ACCOMMODATION AND PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION AND PUBLICLY-ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES.

ON THE SIZE OF THE WAITING LIST, PERHAPS I CAN SAY TWO THINGS. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A THEORETICAL ARGUMENT WITH THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN ABOUT THE 150,000 FIGURE, BUT I THINK HE KNOWS, AS I DO, THAT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF SKEPTICISM ABOUT THAT FIGURE, THAT MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT IT INCLUDES DOUBLE COUNTING AND THAT IT INCLUDES PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY MET THEIR HOUSING DEMANDS ELSEWHERE, BUT WHO HAVEN'T TAKEN THEMSELVES OFF THE LIST. THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD PUT THE REAL FIGURE OF DEMAND WAITING FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY ACCOMMODATION AT JUST OVER HALF THE 150,000, AT ABOUT 80,000 - I DON'T WANT TO BECOME TOO PRECISE ABOUT IT, IT'S NOT A PRECISE SCIENCE - BUT EVEN IF 80,000 IS THE FIGURE IT IS STILL AN AWFUL LOT OF PEOPLE WAITING IN NEED, FOR DECENT LIVING ACCOMMODATION.

SECONDLY, WE HAVE ACTUALLY ADDRESSED THE NEED OF PARTICULAR GROUPS WITHIN THAT OVERALL LIST. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE GIVEN COMMITMENTS TO THOSE LIVING IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE GIVEN COMMITMENTS ABOUT THE SINGLE ELDERLY AND THE ELDERLY LIVING IN FAMILIES. BOTH THOSE ARE IMPORTANT GROUPS AND IN BOTH CASES WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BE FAIRLY SPECIFIC ABOUT WHEN OFFERS OF HOUSING MAY BE MADE AND ABOUT REDUCTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF TIME THEY MAY HAVE TO SPEND ON THE LIST. FOR THE OVERALL LIST, THE BEST WAY WE CAN MEET IT IS BY ENSURING THAT WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A HOUSING PROGRAMME IN THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH CATERS FOR A COMMUNITY WHICH IS NOT ONLY GROWING AS HONG KONG IS GROWING, BUT WHERE HOUSING DEMAND IS BECOMING MORE SOPHISTICATED AND THEREFORE NEEDS TO BE MET WITH MORE TARGETED SUPPLY MEASURES.

MR LEE WING-TAT (FOLLOW UP): A SHORT FOLLOW UP. YES, I AGREE THAT FOR THE 150,000 THERE IS SOME DOUBLE COUNTING - BUT AT LEAST THERE ARE 80,000 TO 90,000 PEOPLE WAITING. SO IN YOUR MIND, DO WE HAVE ANY TARGETS? THAT IS, WHEN THESE PEOPLE ON THE WAITING LIST CAN GET AFFORDABLE PUBLIC HOUSING? CONCERNING MANY GOVERNMENT SERVICES THERE ARE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES, BUT CONCERNING THE WAITING LIST IN HOUSING, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY PERFORMANCE PLEDGE - LIKE I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR A FEW YEARS, WILL I GET THE HOUSING? SO HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THIS ASPECT?

GOVERNOR: ... PROGRAMME WHICH TAKES US UP TO 2001 - AND I GUESS THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO ARE AT PRESENT ON THE LIST SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOOK TO BEING REHOUSED WITHIN THE TIMESCALE OF AN EXISTING PROGRAMME. THE DIFFICULTY THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND I, I AM SURE, BOTH RECOGNISE IS THIS: FIRST OF ALL, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY THEMSELVES ARE LOOKING, AS THE ADMINISTRATION IS LOOKING, AT THE REAL SCALE OF DEMAND, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT WE COULD COME TO SOME AGREEMENT ABOUT THAT. BUT THE 80,000, IF 80,000 IT IS, ISN'T A STATIC NUMBER BECAUSE SECONDLY, THERE ARE GOING TO BE NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, NOT LEAST - AND THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OR EXTRA WORKERS COMING IN - NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THERE WILL BE MORE PEOPLE COMING IN TO HONG KONG - FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER 1997. SO I DON'T THINK IT IS EASY TO GIVE A PRECISE PLEDGE BUT I WILL CERTAINLY LOOK AT THAT AND SEE HOW MUCH MORE PRECISE WE CAN BECOME.

IF I MAY ADD ONE RATHER CONTROVERSIAL POINT. I THINK I AM RIGHT IN SAYING THAT AT THE MOMENT ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THOSE LIVING IN HOUSING AUTHORITY ACCOMMODATION HAVE HOUSEHOLD INCOMES WHICH ARE MORE THAN TWICE THE LEVEL WHICH WE WOULD APPLY IF WE WERE LOOKING AT THEM NEWLY APPLYING - THE INCOME LEVEL THAT IS - NEWLY APPLYING FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY ACCOMMODATION. I THINK THAT THAT IS UNDOUBTEDLY A REASON WHY WE ARE NOT ABLE TO DEAL WITH HOUSING NEED AS FLEXIBLY AS MIGHT OTHERWISE BE THE CASE. IT IS IN THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S EXPERIENCE, AS IT IS MINE, THAT THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE LIVING IN HOUSING AUTHORITY ACCOMMODATION WHO OWN PROPERTY OUTSIDE.

MR JAMES TO: MR PRESIDENT, JUST NOW THE GOVERNOR MENTIONED THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL, HE TALKED ABOUT CONCEPTS OF THE BEST OPTION OR THE GOOD OPTION ETC., SO HIS CONCLUSION WAS THAT IF LEGCO AMENDS THE BILL OR MAKES A DECISION, THE LEGCO MEMBERS HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY. BUT HE WILL LOOK THE ISSUE FROM ANOTHER ANGLE. NOW THE JOINT DECLARATION HAS STIPULATIONS ABOUT THE TRANSITION, AND OUR LIFESTYLE WILL BE KEPT UNCHANGED. NOW WE ARE GOING TO DISRUPT THIS JOINT DECLARATION NOW SO THAT THE PUBLIC LOSE CONFIDENCE IN THE FOUNDATION, SO THAT THEY DON'T HAVE ANY SAFEGUARDS, OR ARE WE SAYING THAT WE ONLY DISRUPT IT ONCE HERE, AND THERE WON'T BE ANY FURTHER DISRUPTIONS SO THAT IT WILL STILL BE SAFEGUARDED. SO CONCERNING THESE TWO CONCEPTS, MR GOVERNOR, WHICH KIND OF DAMAGE IN TERMS OF CONFIDENCE AND SMOOTH TRANSITION IS MORE SERIOUS? HAS THE GOVERNOR THOUGHT OF THIS? IF WE SET UP CFA ACCORDING TO THE JD, WITH FLEXIBILITY THEN BY '97 IF CHINA GIVING EFFECT TO THE SOVEREIGNTY WANTS TO DAMAGE OUR SYSTEM LIKE THE CFA, SHOULDN'T CHINA AT THAT TIME BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE WORLD? IS THAT HONG KONG WILL STILL BE PROSPEROUS AND STABLE? SO IT WON'T BE FOR LEGCO, OR FOR THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN POWER OF HONG KONG TO DAMAGE THE JOINT DECLARATION NOW, TO DISRUPT HONG KONG PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE NOW.

GOVERNOR: HONORABLE MEMBER'S QUESTION ASSUMES THAT THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL THAT WE PROPOSE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE A CFA WHICH IS NOT IN LINE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION, AND I DON'T ACCEPT FOR ONE MOMENT THAT ASSUMPTION. I DO ACCEPT THAT WE MAY PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS WHICH THE HONORABLE MEMBER AND SOME OF HIS HONORABLE FRIENDS DON'T REGARD AS IDEAL, BUT THAT IS A DIFFERENT POINT, AND ONE WHICH IN DUE COURSE WE'LL HAVE TO DEBATE. BUT I DON'T ACCEPT THAT WE WILL PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS THAT ARE OUT OF LINE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION.

MRS ELSIE TU: MR PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW ON WHAT MR LEE WING-TAT SAID. I AGREE WITH WHAT HE SAID. BUT BESIDES THOSE EIGHTY THOUSAND WE HAVE AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO FALL BETWEEN THE RENTED HOUSING INCOME LIMITS AND THE POINT AT WHICH THEY CAN BUY OWNERSHIP OR GO INTO THE SANDWICH CLASS. THAT IS A HUGE AND UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PEOPLE. I'M TIRED OF DRAWING ATTENTION TO THEM WHAT IS BEING DONE FOR THEM?

GOVERNOR: I AGREE WITH THE HONORABLE MEMBER THAT THERE ARE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T QUALIFY FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY ACCOMMODATION, AND WHO DO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN ACCOMMODATION. IT'S ALSO WORTH NOTING, THEY WILL IF THEY'RE IN PRIVATELY RENTED ACCOMMODATION BE PAYING A FAR HIGHER PROPORTION OF THEIR INCOME THAN THEY WOULD BE IF THEY WERE IN HOUSING AUTHORITY ACCOMMODATION. I THINK I'M RIGHT IN SAYING THAT AS A PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME THOSE IN HOUSING AUTHORITY FLATS WOULD BE PAYING ABOUT SEVEN-AND-A-HALF PERCENT, WHEREAS ON AVERAGE THOUGH THEIR FLATS MAY BE A BIT LARGER, THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE PAYING ABOUT TWENTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF THEIR HOUSEHOLD INCOME. ONE MAY NOT BE COMPARING IDENTICAL INCOME GROUPS, BUT THOSE ARE BROADLY SPEAKING THE FIGURES ACROSS THE SECTOR. IT IS PRECISELY FOR THAT REASON THAT WE HAVE A RANGE OF PROGRAMMES TO SUBSIDISE THE PURCHASE OF ACCOMMODATION BY THOSE WHO DON'T QUALIFY FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY HOMES. WE HAVE PUBLIC SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEMES, WE HAVE THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND SO ON, AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO PUT PUBLIC SUPPORT INTO THOSE SCHEMES SO THAT WE CAN HELP THE GROUP WHICH THE HONORABLE MEMBER REFERS TO, WHICH ISN'T I HAVE TO SAY UNIQUE TO HONG KONG, BUT IS A FEATURE OF LIFE IN MOST ADVANCED ECONOMIES.

MRS ELSIE TU: MR GOVERNOR, IF YOU WOULD CHECK UP ON THAT BECAUSE I THINK HE IS WRONG IN SAYING THAT THEY ARE LIVING IN BETTER ACCOMMODATION AND PAYING HIGHER RENT. THAT IS TRUE THAT THEY ARE PAYING HIGHER RENT, UP TO 50% OF THEIR SALARY IS GOING IN RENT, AND THEY ARE LIVING IN WORSE ACCOMMODATION THAN PUBLIC HOUSING.

GOVERNOR: I DIDN'T, IF I SAID BETTER IT WAS INADVERTENT, THE FLOOR SPACE COMPARISON SUGGESTS THAT THE FLATS ARE USUALLY, WELL I'M JUST GIVING THE AVERAGES, OF COURSE THE HONORABLE MEMBER IS RIGHT TO SAY THAT THERE WILL BE MANY EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE LIVING IN VERY BAD PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOMMODATION, AND PAYING MORE THAN THE AVERAGE FIGURE THAT I GAVE. BUT I WAS GIVING THE AVERAGES AND THEY PERHAPS DISTORT IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

MR CHIM PUI-CHUNG: SIR, RECENTLY YOU VISITED LONDON - AND IN HONG KONG SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT VIOLATES YOUR PRINCIPLES. YOU HAVE BEEN IN SUPPORT OF OPEN OPERATIONS BUT RECENTLY, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, HE HAS BEEN DOING SOMETHING NOT IN THE OPEN. I AM REFERRING TO STOCK FUTURES. FOR THE STOCKBROKERS IN HONG KONG, THEY WERE KEPT IN THE DARK; THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE ISSUE REALLY WAS. SO, MR GOVERNOR, WITH REGARD TO STOCK FUTURES, DO YOU ALLOW YOUR POLICY SECRETARIES TO COME TO SUCH DECISIONS IN YOUR ABSENCE?

AND SECONDLY - NOW, YOU MAY NOT HAVE THIS KIND OF EXPERIENCE - NOW WHAT DO WE MEAN BY FUTURES? WHAT ARE FUTURES FOR? ARE WE TRYING TO TURN THE SPOT MARKET INTO FUTURES MARKET? ARE WE TRYING TO ALLOW INTERNATIONAL BROKERS TO DO WHAT THEY LIKE IN HONG KONG? I KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER, SO PLEASE ELABORATE ON THE SUBJECT IN YOUR REPLY.

GOVERNOR: I WOULD HESITATE TO GIVE A LECTURE ON STOCK MARKET OPERATIONS, ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STOCK OPTIONS AND FUTURES OR WHATEVER, TO SUCH A GREAT EXPERT IN THESE MATTERS. IT WOULD BE LIKE ME, EVEN THOUGH I CAN ONLY PICK OUT A FEW NOTES ON THE PIANO, GIVING A LECTURE TO PADEREWSKI ON BEETHOVEN, I MEAN I SIMPLY WOULDN'T BE QUALIFIED TO DO IT. BUT I THINK THE HONOURABLE MEMBER KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FUTURE AND SOME OF THE STOCKS IN WHICH HE HAS DOUBTLESS IN HIS TIME DEALT WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS FOR HIS CLIENTS.

I THINK WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IN THIS CASE IS THE REPUTATION OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKET AND THE BREADTH AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THAT MARKET. I THINK THAT THE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FUTURES, ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DERIVATIVES, TO WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER REFERS, WERE NECESSARILY TAKING PLACE IN CONFIDENCE BECAUSE THOSE WHO WERE DISCUSSING THOSE QUESTIONS DIDN'T WANT OTHER MARKETS TO KNOW TOO CLEARLY WHAT WAS HAPPENING. BUT I THINK THAT THE FURTHER EXTENSION OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES WHICH THIS DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTS IS WELCOME. IT COMES UNDER, OF COURSE, THE REGULATORY UMBRELLA OF THE VERY WIDELY RESPECTED SFC. AND I HAVE TO TELL THE HONOURABLE MEMBER - WHICH I HOPE DOES NOT CONFIRM ALL HIS WORST PREJUDICES ABOUT ME - THAT THE DECISION WAS TAKEN WHILE I WAS IN HONG KONG. INDEED, WAS DISCUSSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL JUST BEFORE I WENT TO LONDON.

I HOPE THAT ANY DISAGREEMENT, ANY MIS-UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR FUTURES MARKET AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STOCK EXCHANGE, CAN BE IRONED OUT AND OVERCOME AND I'M SURE THAT WE ALL WANT TO SEE THE BEST POSSIBLE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THOSE TWO IMPORTANT CAMPS.

MR CHIM PUI-CHUNG (FOLLOW UP): MR GOVERNOR, YOU KNOW THE INS AND OUTS OF THE MATTER, SO CAN I MAKE A REQUEST HERE? WITH REGARD TO THE EXECUTION TIMETABLE OF STOCK FUTURES, CAN YOU DELAY IT BY A FEW MONTHS SO THAT PARTICIPANTS AND THE PUBLIC WILL KNOW THE INTENTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT? CAN YOU DELAY THAT FOR A FEW MONTHS?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT IF THAT DECISION WAS TO BE DELAYED FOR A FEW MONTHS WE'D FIND THAT THE BUSINESS HAD GONE ELSEWHERE AND I THINK THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS PROBABLY A WILY ENOUGH PRACTITIONER IN THESE MATTERS TO RECOGNISE THAT HIMSELF. I THINK THE BUSINESS WOULD PROBABLY GO OFF TO ANOTHER FINANCIAL CENTRE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS TO ENSURE THAT ANY TRADING IN OUR FINANCIAL MARKET IS PROPERLY REGULATED, THAT IT TAKES PLACE WITHIN PARAMETERS WHICH ARE REGARDED AS FINANCIALLY PRUDENT BY THE COMMUNITY, AND I CERTAINLY THINK THAT IS TRUE IN THIS CASE. BUT I WON'T GO INTO THE ARCANA OF THE FUTURES MARKET BECAUSE I AM SURE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER KNOWS MUCH MORE ABOUT IT THAN I DO.

TRANSCRIPT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S MEDIA SESSION

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE SOUVENIR-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

QUESTION: THE ANNOUNCEMENTS HAS COME OUT. WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL AND IS IT GOOD FOR HONG KONG ?

CS: OF COURSE, IT IS GOOD THAT WE SHOULD NOW BE AT LONG LAST SIGNING THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE. BUT THAT ISN'T THE END OF IT BECAUSE AS WE HAVE BEEN STRESSING ALL ALONG, WE DO NEED TO GET ON VERY QUICKLY TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHINESE THE TWO FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS FOR THE MTRC AND THE PAA. WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT STRAIGHT AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT, WE CAN GET ON WITH THESE DISCUSSIONS. AND WE LOOK FOR AN EARLY AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE ON THIS BECAUSE IT IS ONLY ON THE BASIS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES THAT THE TWO CORPORATIONS CAN GO OUT AND RAISE DEBT IN THE MARKET.

QUESTION: THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS NOW ASKING THAT THE STONECUTTERS ISSUE BE DISCUSSED AT THE JLG ...

CS: FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY SPECIFIC REQUEST FROM THE CHINESE. SO IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN EXACTLY WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THEY WOULD LIKE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE. IF THEY WISH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL TENDERING PROCEDURES, THEN OF COURSE WE ARE VERY VERY GLAD TO CLARIFY ANY ASPECTS THAT WE WISH TO SEEK CLARIFICATION ON. OK ?

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S PRESS SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY SIR HAMISH MACLEOD'S PRESS SESSION AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES TODAY (THURSDAY):

FS: GOOD EVENING, I JUST WANTED TO COMMENT ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT THIS AFTERNOON. OF COURSE WE ARE VERY PLEASED THAT AT LAST ONE HAS TO SAY IT IS NOW CLEAR AND CONFIRMED THAT WE WOULD BE MEETING TOMORROW TO SIGN THE AGREED MINUTE. THAT IS A VERY USEFUL STEP FORWARD AFTER MANY MONTHS OF HARD WORK BY BOTH SIDES. WE NOW, OF COURSE, WANT THEN TO GET ON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE FINANCING AGREEMENTS TO THE FSAs. THAT'S ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP WHICH IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE BORROWING CAN TAKE PLACE. SO WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE FILLING IN FOR YOU TOMORROW - IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW THE DETAIL OF THE AGREED MINUTE AND THE NEXT STEPS FORWARD. BUT I JUST THOUGHT I WILL COVER IT AT THIS STAGE.

QUESTION: WILL IT HELP TO SOLVE OTHER PROBLEMS SUCH AS CT9 PROBLEM?

/FS

FS: I DON'T KNOW, I REALLY DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT. ON THE FACE OF IT, IT DOESN'T REALLY HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP TO CT9 SO I WOULDN'T EXPECT MUCH IMPACT ON THAT. BUT AS FAR AS OUR ECONOMY IS CONCERNED, CLEARLY THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION THAT FACES THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT THAT WE HAVE IS THE AIRPORT AND THE ASSOCIATED WORKS. SO IT IS VITAL THAT WE GET ON WITH IT AND THIS IS A GREAT HELP IN THAT DIRECTION.

QUESTION: WILL IT HELP IMPROVE THE SINO-BRITISH RELATIONSHIP?

FS: WELL, I HOPE SO BUT WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.

QUESTION: THE NCNA DIRECTOR, ZHOU NAN HAS SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN REACHED WELL BEFORE BUT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE BRITISH NON-COOPERATION THAT UNTIL NOW WE COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THAT?

FS: WELL, I AM NOT GOING TO JOIN IN SORT OF TRYING TO CHARACTERISE WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST MONTHS. I THINK EVERYONE KNOWS THAT WE'VE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD AND SPENT HOURS AND HOURS ON THIS SUBJECT AND I AM GLAD THAT THOSE EFFORTS HAVE FINALLY BEEN REWARDED BY SUCCESS. I DON'T WANT TO LOOK BACKWARDS, I WANT TO LOOK FORWARDS AND I AM SURE IF WE CAN REACH THAT AGREEMENT, SIGN IT TOMORROW, THEN THE PROSPECTS FOR GETTING ON AND SIGNING THE FSAs QUITE QUICKLY MUST BE VERY GOOD. SO THAT'S ENCOURAGING TOO.

QUESTION: ARE YOU CONFIDENT THAT THE OTHER AIRPORT ISSUES WILL BE SOLVED IN A FEW DAYS?

FS: WELL, AS I WAS SAYING, IT DOES GIVE ME SOME OPTIMISM ON THE FSAs. I THINK CERTAINLY THE CHINESE SIDE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEIR INTENTION IS TO GET ON WITH THOSE AND TRY AND REACH AGREEMENT PRETTY QUICKLY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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PRINCE OF WALES VISITS HONG KONG

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE OF WALES, WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5) EVENING FOR A FIVE-DAY TRIP TO THE TERRITORY.

HE WILL BE RECEIVED ON ARRIVAL BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN.

DURING HIS STAY IN HONG KONG, HE WILL UNDERTAKE A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS AND MEET PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 7), THE PRINCE WILL OPEN THE WORLD CONGRESS ON URBAN GROWTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE. HE WILL VISIT THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL IN SHA TIN AND OPEN A NEW CANCER CENTRE THERE.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL FLY TO CHEK LAP KOK ON TUESDAY MORNING TO VIEW THE WORK SITE OF THE NEW AIRPORT FROM THE AIR BEFORE LANDING AT MA WAN TO VISIT THE TSING MA BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. HE WILL ADDRESS A BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON AT ISLAND SHANGRI-LA HOTEL.

IN THE EVENING, THE PRINCE WILL INSPECT A GURKHA RECRUIT PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE MALAYA LINES IN SEK KONG.

ON THE LAST DAY (WEDNESDAY) OF HIS VISIT, THE PRINCE WILL VISIT WAH KWAI ESTATE, A NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IN ABERDEEN WHERE HE WILL TOUR AN ELDERLY CENTRE AND A HANDICAPPED WORKSHOP AND WILL CALL ON TWO FAMILIES.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL VISIT KADOORIE FARM IN THE AFTERNOON BEFORE DEPARTING FOR LONDON IN THE EVENING.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE PRINCE OF WALES WILL BE ARRIVING ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5) ON FLIGHT CX881 FROM LOS ANGELES AT 8.20 PM. A PHOTO FACILITY HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER HIS ARRIVAL AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM AT 7 PM FOR REGISTRATION. THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR PRESS IDENTITY CARDS.

THE FOLLOWING GIVES THE TIMES AND VENUES OF THE PRINCE'S PUBLIC FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE OPEN TO MEDIA COVERAGE.

		MEDIA ASSEMBLY PLACE AND TIME
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7		-----
10.15 AM	WORLD CONGRESS ON URBAN GROWTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE	ELECTRONIC MEDIA (BETWEEN 8 AM AND 9 AM FOR SET-UP) PRINT MEDIA (AT 9 AM)
2.50 PM	VISIT TO PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL - OPENING OF CANCER CENTRE	CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, BY 12.45 PM. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8		-----
11.10 AM	VISIT TO TSING MA BRIDGE	WAN CHAI LANDING PIER (OPPOSITE NEW WORLD HARBOUR VIEW HOTEL, CONVENTION AVENUE, WAN CHAI) BY 8.45 AM
12.30 PM	ADDRESS TO BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON, ISLAND SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, QUEENSWAY	HUA SHAN ROOM, ISLAND SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, BY 11.15 AM
5.50 PM	GURKHA RECRUIT PASSING-OUT PARADE, MALAYA LINES, SEK KONG	CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD BY 3.30 PM. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

10.10 AM	VISIT TO WAH KWAI ESTATE, ABERDEEN	CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD BY 8.15 AM. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED
2.45 PM	VISIT TO KADOORIE FARM, TAI PO	*POOL COVERAGE ONLY
10.30 PM	DEPARTURE FOR LONDON, BA28	AIRPORT PRESS ROOM AT 9 PM

DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEDIA TO COVER EACH OF THE ABOVE FUNCTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY.

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PRINCE OF WALES TAKES SALUTE AT LAST RECRUIT PARADE

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AT THE PASSING-OUT PARADE OF THE LAST GURKHA RECRUITS TO BE TRAINED IN HONG KONG.

THE PARADE WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 8) AT MALAYA LINES, HEADQUARTERS OF THE TRAINING DEPOT BRIGADE OF GURKHAS.

PRINCE CHARLES WILL COMMISSION NEW QUEEN'S GURKHA OFFICERS AND AWARD LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS AS WELL AS PRESENTING AWARDS TO THE TOP RECRUITS IN THIS YEAR'S INTAKE.

THE TRAINING DEPOT BRIGADE OF GURKHAS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL TRAINING ACTIVITIES, FROM NEW RECRUITS TO OFFICERS. THE DEPOT MOVED FROM MALAYA TO HONG KONG IN 1972. SINCE THEN SOME 9,000 NEW RECRUITS HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN THE TERRITORY.

WITH THE DRAWDOWN OF THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS, IN RECENT YEARS THE ANNUAL INTAKE OF NEW RECRUITS HAS BEEN 153 PER ANNUM AND RECRUITS UNDERGO 40 WEEKS OF TRAINING BEFORE THEY ARE POSTED TO THEIR NEW UNITS.

NEW RECRUIT TRAINING COVERS BASIC INFANTRY SKILLS, LANGUAGE AND PHYSICAL FITNESS BUT THE TRAINING DEPOT ALSO RUNS A WIDE VARIETY OF COURSES FOR NON-COMMISSION OFFICERS AND POTENTIAL OFFICERS INCLUDING A COMMISSIONING COURSE FOR QUEEN'S GURKHA OFFICERS, A PLATOON SERGEANTS' BATTLE COURSE, SECTION COMMANDERS' BATTLE COURSE AND NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE TRAINING.

THE DEPOT ALSO ADMINISTERS THE KADOORIE FARM RESETTLEMENT COURSE FOR GURKHAS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE ARMY.

THE PRESENT DEPOT WILL CLOSE AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND RECRUIT TRAINING IN FUTURE WILL BE CONDUCTED AT CHURCH CROOKHAM IN ENGLAND.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THERE WILL BE TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MEDIA TO RECORD THIS EVENT. THE FIRST WILL BE A FULL DRESS REHEARSAL AT MALAYA LINES ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 6). PHOTOGRAPHERS WILL HAVE FULL ACCESS TO THE PARADE. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE DRESS REHEARSAL SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE GUARDROOM, TRAINING DEPOT BRIGADE OF GURKHAS, MALAYA LINES, SEK KONG AIRFIELD ROAD NO LATER THAN 5.15 PM. JSPRS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

ACCREDITATION OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND TRANSPORT TO AND FROM THE PARADE ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 8), AT WHICH THE PRINCE OF WALES WILL TAKE THE SALUTE, WILL BE ARRANGED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES WHO WILL ISSUE DETAILS IN DUE COURSE.

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BD CONFIRMS NO IMMINENT DANGER

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THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT HAS COMPLETED AN INITIAL INSPECTION OF THE 73 BUILDINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LATE MR HENRY IP AND COMFORT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. THEY WERE THE AUTHORISED ARCHITECT AND REGISTERED CONTRACTOR RESPECTIVELY FOR ALBERT HOUSE WHERE A CANOPY COLLAPSED ON AUGUST 1, 1994 IN ABERDEEN.

COMMENTING ON THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS, MRS HELEN YU, SAID: "OUR INITIAL INSPECTION HAS REVEALED NO INDICATION OF ANY IMMEDIATE OR IMMINENT DANGER OR CAUSE FOR MAJOR CONCERN."

AMONG THE INSPECTED BUILDINGS, 67 WERE CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE LATE ARCHITECT MR HENRY IP AND SIX BY COMFORT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE INITIAL INSPECTION SHOWED THAT AMONG THE BUILDINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LATE ARCHITECT, 27 HAVE CANOPIES, AND TWO OF THE BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED BY THE COMFORT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY HAVE A CANOPY.

THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT WOULD, HOWEVER, TAKE ACTION TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE CANOPIES FOUND ON THOSE BUILDINGS.

"WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE OCCUPANTS OF THE BUILDINGS AND THE PUBLIC. WE WISH TO ASSURE THEM AND OURSELVES THAT THE CANOPIES ARE STRUCTURALLY SAFE," MRS YU EMPHASISED.

"THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT WILL FURTHER INVESTIGATE THE CANOPIES OR ISSUE STATUTORY ORDERS TO THE PERSONS CONCERNED REQUIRING THEM TO HIRE AUTHORISED PERSONS TO DO SO. IF THE ORDERS ARE NOT COMPLIED WITH, THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT WILL ARRANGE FOR THE WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN DEFAULT AND CHARGE THE COST TO THE PERSONS CONCERNED," MRS YU NOTED.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

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REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION ON WATER SUPPLIES

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THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR HU MAN-SHIU, WILL LEAD A 20-MEMBER DELEGATION TO ATTEND THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL WATER SUPPLY ASSOCIATION - ASIA PACIFIC (IWSA-ASPAC) REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES, BETWEEN NOVEMBER 6 AND 10.

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION IS A MAJOR BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EVENT. THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL STAGE THE 10TH EVENT "WATER HONG KONG '96" IN NOVEMBER 1996.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ESTABLISH A BOOTH IN THE EXHIBITION AT MANILA TO PROMOTE THE "WATER HONG KONG '96".

THE EXHIBITS WILL INCLUDE DISPLAYS AND VIDEO SHOWS TO GIVE VISITORS A GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF HONG KONG AS A WHOLE, MAJOR WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS UNDER WAY IN HONG KONG AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

MR HU, WHO IS CURRENTLY THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ASPAC BOARD, WILL BECOME THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE.

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ART COMPETITION FOR THE "HONG KONG - USA '94"

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A TOTAL OF 93 PIECES OF HONG KONG STUDENTS' ARTWORK SELECTED IN THE HONG KONG-USA '94 ART COMPETITION HAVE BEEN DISPLAYED IN NEW YORK AND ATLANTA IN AUGUST AND OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

THIS IS PART OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S PROMOTION CAMPAIGN TO PROJECT A DYNAMIC AND POSITIVE IMAGE OF HONG KONG OVERSEAS.

THE COMPETITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IS AIMED AT PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE U.S. COMMUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE LIFE IN HONG KONG, SUCH AS FESTIVALS, TRADITIONS, ARCHITECTURE AND EVERYDAY LIFE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WAS WIDE SUPPORT FOR THIS COMPETITION AS THE DEPARTMENT HAD COLLECTED MORE THAN 2,000 ENTRIES FROM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS.

HE SAID THE WINNERS WOULD BE AWARDED WITH A CERTIFICATE OF MERITS IN A PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY THIS SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5).

WINNERS OF THE BEST 10 PIECES OF ARTWORK FROM EACH OF THE KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY GROUP WOULD BE PRESENTED WITH CASH PRIZES AS WELL: \$500 EACH FOR THE KINDERGARTEN GROUP; \$1,000 EACH FOR THE PRIMARY GROUP AND \$1,500 EACH FOR THE SECONDARY GROUP.

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/ATTENTION NEWS

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE "HONG KONG-USA '94" ART COMPETITION ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5) AT 11 AM AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL, YMCA OF HONG KONG, 41 SALISBURY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR HO CHE-LEUNG, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES (OVERSEAS PUBLIC RELATIONS), MR GEORGE YUEN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

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LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION OF DISABLED IN THE MAKING
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS. ANSON CHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DRAFTING LEGISLATION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION OF THE DISABLED TO HELP THEM INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY.

ADDRESSING AN OUTSTANDING DISABLED EMPLOYEES' AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, SHE SAID THE LEGISLATION, COVERING SUCH AREAS AS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, HOUSING, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO FACILITIES, WILL PROVIDE A LEGAL BASIS FOR EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF THE DISABLED.

"IT HAS OFTEN BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE TO IMPROVE OPEN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

"AS THE LARGEST EMPLOYER OF THE TERRITORY : THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY SET AN EXAMPLE BY ACTIVELY PURSUING AN ENLIGHTENED POLICY OF EMPLOYMENT, SO AS TO ENABLE THE DISABLED TO BE APPROPRIATELY PLACED IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHERE THEY CAN PROVE THEIR ABILITY," SHE SAID.

IN FEBRUARY, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, CHAIRED THE FIRST MEETING TO EXPLORE THE ISSUE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE DISABLED, TO WHICH REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANISATIONS FOR THE DISABLED AND OTHER RELATED AGENCIES WERE INVITED.

IN ADDITION, THE EMPLOYEES' RETRAINING BOARD HAS BEEN OFFERING SPECIAL RETRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR THE DISABLED.

HOWEVER, SHE EMPHASISED THAT TO PROMOTE AN OPEN EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED, SUPPORT OF THEIR FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES, THE EMPLOYERS AND THE COMMUNITY WAS CRUCIAL.

MRS CHAN PRESENTED THE OUTSTANDING DISABLED EMPLOYEES AWARDS TO 14 EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY WORK PERFORMANCE AND GAVE SOUVENIRS TO THEIR EMPLOYERS.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

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WORK TOGETHER WITH DISABLED EMPLOYEES

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TEN EMPLOYERS WERE COMMENDED FOR THEIR OPEN-MINDEDNESS IN HIRING DISABLED PEOPLE WHILE 14 DISABLED EMPLOYEES WERE RECOGNISED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK PERFORMANCE.

THEY WERE GIVEN SOUVENIRS TODAY (THURSDAY) AT AN OUTSTANDING DISABLED EMPLOYEES AWARDS CEREMONY ORGANISED BY THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION (SPD) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

IN THE WELCOMING REMARKS AT THE CEREMONY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR YIU YAN-NANG, SAID THE EMPLOYERS HAD BEEN SELECTED FROM MORE THAN 600 EMPLOYING ESTABLISHMENTS.

"THEY WERE SELECTED BECAUSE THEY HAVE ADOPTED AN ENLIGHTENED ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED, THUS ENABLING THEM TO FULLY DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS," HE SAID.

MR YIU CONGRATULATED THE AWARD WINNERS WHOSE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AT WORK HAD DEMONSTRATED THEIR WORKING ABILITIES.

"I HOPE THAT OTHER DISABLED PERSONS CAN FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLES AND IN JOINT EFFORT WITH THEIR ABLE-BODIED COUNTERPARTS, WILL ACHIEVE THE ULTIMATE GOAL 'TOGETHER WE WORK, TOGETHER WE CONTRIBUTE'," HE ADDED.

FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT MEETING CHAIRED BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, IN EARLY FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, SPD HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED.

"THESE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE PRODUCTION OF TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMMES," MR YIU SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND DISABLED EMPLOYEES, WE HAVE PREPARED A SERIES OF GUIDE BOOKS ON PEER GROUP ACCEPTANCE.

"TO HELP JOB-SEEKERS UNDERSTAND THE NECESSARY PREPARATORY WORK FOR JOB INTERVIEWS, WE HAVE ALSO PREPARED A PAMPHLET ON SUCCESSFUL JOB INTERVIEW," HE SAID.

"WE HOPE THAT THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DISABLED COULD BE HEIGHTENED THROUGH THESE PROMOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES," HE ADDED.

DURING THE CEREMONY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, PRESENTED THE OUTSTANDING DISABLED EMPLOYEES AWARDS TO 14 EMPLOYEES AND GAVE SOUVENIRS TO EMPLOYERS WHO NOMINATED THEM.

/THE AWARD

THE AWARD WINNERS WERE:

MR CHOW KIN-ON OF HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT;
 MISS HO WAI-MEI, DOROTHY OF HONG KONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD;
 MR JONG FAI-CHUEN OF CARITAS LOK YI SCHOOL;
 MR KWAN CHI-WAI OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT;
 MR LEUNG CHI-LAM OF CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT;
 MR LEUNG SAI-CHEONG OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT;
 MR LEUNG YUN-SANG OF THE CONRAD HOTEL HONG KONG;
 MR LI CHUN-FUNG OF CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE;
 MR LIU HON-WAI OF ASIA PRODUCTION;
 MR NIP MAN-TIK OF TAI-KOO SUGAR LTD;
 MISS SZETO SIU-LAN OF OCEAN PARK CORPORATION;
 MR WONG HO-MING OF HUTCHISON PAGING LTD;
 MR YIK CHI-SANG OF PIN TAI PLASTIC HK CO LTD; AND
 MR YUEN KIN-MING OF HONG KONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD.

MEANWHILE, 10 EMPLOYERS RECEIVED PLAQUES FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR FOR EMPLOYING DISABLED WORKERS THROUGH THE SPD SERVICE BETWEEN JULY 1993 AND JUNE THIS YEAR.

SOME OF THEM HAVE EMPLOYED PERSONS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES SUCH AS TOTALLY BLIND, HEARING IMPAIRED, WHEEL-CHAIR BOUND, THE SPASTICS AND THE EX-MENTALLY ILL.

SOME EMPLOYERS ALSO MADE SPECIAL EFFORTS IN ACCOMMODATING DISABLED EMPLOYEES INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AIDS, ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, JOB RESTRUCTURING, STAFF REDEPLOYMENT AND PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT.

THESE EMPLOYERS WERE:

CHI LIN NUNNERY;
 HING YU METAL WORKS LTD;
 INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT;
 KIN SHING JEWELLERY LTD;
 LIVELY COURIER SERVICE CO;
 MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT - CAMERON ROAD BRANCH;
 PIZZA HUT;
 SUNPEACE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LTD;
 SWIRE BOTTLERS LTD; AND
 TYCOM (HK) LTD.

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CORALS - HONG KONG "FLOWER" ANIMALS
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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) AND THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE HONG KONG (WWF HK) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THE LAUNCHING OF TWO FIRST-DAY COVERS AND FOUR POSTCARDS DEPICTING SOME OF HONG KONG'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CORALS.

SENIOR MARINE PARKS OFFICER OF THE AFD, MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, SAID THE PRODUCTION OF THESE ITEMS WERE TIMED TO TIE IN WITH THE NEW SPECIAL STAMPS ON HONG KONG CORALS TO BE ISSUED BY THE POST OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 17.

"IT IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE BEAUTIFUL CORALS IN HONG KONG WATERS AND TO GAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THESE VALUABLE MARINE LIFE AND THEIR HABITATS."

MR CHEUNG THANKED THE WWF HK FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THESE ITEMS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT, STRESSING THAT "MARINE CONSERVATION NEEDS SUPPORT FROM THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY".

WWF HK SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER, MS JO RUXTON, SAID: "ALL TOO OFTEN PEOPLE SEE THE HARBOUR AND THINK THAT THE SEA AROUND HONG KONG IS COMPLETELY DEAD. DESPITE PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION AND DREDGING, AND THE RECENT NATURAL DIE BACK OF CORALS IN MIRS BAY, HONG KONG STILL HAS A REMARKABLE VARIETY OF MARINE LIFE."

"HONG KONG HAS SOME 60 SPECIES OF CORALS, AS MANY AS IN THE CARIBBEAN. WE ARE PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THESE BEAUTIFUL CREATURES."

SHE POINTED OUT THAT WWF HK HAD BEEN WORKING WITH THE AFD TO ESTABLISH HONG KONG'S FIRST MARINE PARKS AND RESERVES. TWO MARINE PARKS AT HOI HA WAN AND YAN CHAU TONG, AND A MARINE RESERVE AT CAPE D'AGUILAR ARE PLANNED TO BE ESTABLISHED IN 1995.

THE POSTCARD SETS AND THE FIRST-DAY COVERS WILL GO ON SALE FROM NOVEMBER 5 AND 9 RESPECTIVELY AT THE WWF HK SPECIAL COUNTER SET UP AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND THE GENERAL POST OFFICE IN CENTRAL.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO EITHER MISS PAULINE CHEUNG OF WWF HK ON 526 1011 OR AFD'S MR CHEUNG ON 733 2356.

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FAMILY TOGETHERNESS DAY ON SUNDAY

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THE "FAMILY TOGETHERNESS DAY", A HIGHLIGHT OF THE 1994 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY (IYF), WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 6) FOR FAMILIES TO TAKE PART IN MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "FAMILY TOGETHERNESS DAY".

THE EVENT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE IYF CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, WILL BE HELD AT VICTORIA PARK AT 2 PM.

IN RESPONSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS' PROCLAMATION OF 1994 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE HAVE JOINTLY SET UP THE IYF CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE TO PLAN STRATEGIES AND ORGANISE ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE THE IYF.

"SINCE THE TERRITORY-WIDE KICK-OFF CEREMONY IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, HUNDREDS OF ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED BY VARIOUS SECTORS TO PROMOTE - FAMILY AND COMMUNITY: UNITY, HARMONY AND DEVELOPMENT - WHICH HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS THE MAIN THEME OF THE IYF," CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE IYF CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MRS PATRICIA CHU, SAID.

"WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INSPIRE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO TAKE THE FAMILY SERIOUSLY AND TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS," MRS CHU SAID.

THE "FAMILY TOGETHERNESS DAY" ALSO AIMS AT REINFORCING THE MESSAGES OF THE IYF.

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"IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH OUR SUSTAINED EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE YEAR, CONCERN ON THE FAMILY WILL PERPETUATE BEYOND THE IYF AND THE MESSAGES OF THE IYF CAN BE EXTENDED TO EVERY FAMILY IN THE TERRITORY," MRS CHU ADDED.

THE EVENT WILL CONSIST OF A FAMILY TELEMATCH, AN EXHIBITION AS WELL AS MORE THAN 10 SIDE PROGRAMMES. ADMISSION IS FREE.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN; THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MR HUI YIN-FAT; AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MISS MARIA WAN.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "FAMILY TOGETHERNESS DAY" TO BE HELD AT VICTORIA PARK ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 6) AT 2 PM.

INFORMATION OFFICERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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APPOINTMENT OF NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SFC

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THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM THE GOVERNOR, HAD RE-APPOINTED PROFESSOR EDWARD CHEN A NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM NOVEMBER 15, 1994.

UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION ORDINANCE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT NOT FEWER THAN EIGHT DIRECTORS OF THE COMMISSION, HALF OF WHOM SHALL BE NON-EXECUTIVE. AT PRESENT, THE COMMISSION IS SERVED BY FIVE NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS.

"PROFESSOR CHEN HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE COMMISSION OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. I AM SURE HE AND THE OTHER NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS WILL CONTINUE TO BRING AN INDEPENDENT VIEW TO THE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF THE COMMISSION," MR CARTLAND SAID.

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EX-CHINA VIET ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS REPATRIATED

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A TOTAL OF 30 EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (ECVIIS), COMPRISING 11 MEN, 10 WOMEN, SIX BOYS AND THREE GIRLS, WERE RETURNED TO GUANGDONG, CHINA, VIA SHA TAU KOK THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ON THE REPATRIATION OF THE 480 ECVIIS STILL REMAINING IN HONG KONG.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

- 27 -

ONE CANDIDATE FOR REGCO BY-ELECTION

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ONE CANDIDATE WAS NOMINATED FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BY-ELECTION IN RESPECT OF THE KWAI CHUNG EAST CONSTITUENCY AFTER THE TWO-WEEK NOMINATION PERIOD CLOSES TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE IS MR LEUNG KWONG-CHEONG, 39, A SOCIAL WORKER. HIS TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 481 7482.

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AUTUMN FAIR IN STANLEY

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT A BARGAIN SALE WILL BE HELD BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5) AT THE STANLEY FOOTBALL FIELD NEAR STANLEY PRISON. ADMISSION IS FREE.

A CSD SPOKESMAN SAID A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS INCLUDING ARTS AND HANDICRAFT PRODUCTS, STUFFED TOYS, AND RATTAN AND WOODEN FURNITURE, WILL BE ON SALE AT THE FAIR.

THE PRODUCTS ARE MADE BY INMATES AT THEIR LEISURE TIME DURING THEIR DETENTION IN VARIOUS PENAL INSTITUTIONS. ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS.

"THE PURPOSE OF THE FAIR IS TO MOTIVATE THE INMATES TO ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEIR FUTURE AND TO ENHANCE THEIR SENSE OF CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY," A CSD SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE FAIR LAST YEAR AND MORE THAN \$1.15 MILLION WAS RAISED.

THE FAIR WILL BE HELD FROM 11 AM TO 5 PM. MRS V J MCCOSH WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

AS PARKING SPACES ARE LIMITED, VISITORS ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THEY CAN TAKE BUS NO. 6 OR NO. 260 (FROM CENTRAL), NO. 73 (FROM WAH FU ESTATE), NO. 63 (FROM NORTH POINT) OR NO. 14 (FROM SAI WAN HO).

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FRESH WATER CUTS IN KWAI CHUNG AND THE PEAK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 8 PM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5) TO 7 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

THE AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDE LAI KING HILL ROAD, YUET LAI COURT, LAI KING ESTATE, LAI KING MTR STATION, YIN LAI COURT, KWAI FONG COURT, KWAI CHUNG POLICE QUARTERS, KWAI HING MTR STATION, SUN KWAI HING GARDEN AND KWAI CHUNG POLICE STATION.

/IN ADDITION

IN ADDITION, FRESH AND FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN THE PEAK WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 7) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAINS LEAKAGE DETECTION.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT 3-5 AND 4-28 MOUNT AUSTIN ROAD AS WELL AS 25-27 AND 26A-D LUGARD ROAD.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,043	0930	+820
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,083	1000	+820
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+665
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+665	1200	+665
LAF TODAY	-625	1500	+665
		1600	+665
LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER	TWI 120.8	*+0.4*	3.11.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.60	19 MONTHS	2605	6.35	99.92	6.51
1 MONTH	4.30	22 MONTHS	2608	6.15	95.26	6.91
3 MONTHS	4.99	30 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.81	7.25
6 MONTHS	5.33	33 MONTHS	3710	7.25	99.51	7.57
12 MONTHS	5.98	59 MONTHS	5909	7.45	97.42	8.26

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 28,880 MN

CLOSED 3 NOVEMBER 1994

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