

V.K. Stankov

24 June 1985

Bonn for liberal trade ⁵⁻⁷ — TDC chief

MISS Lydia Dunn, chairman of the Hongkong Trade Development Council has been assured by top government officials in Bonn that Germany will strive to influence its EEC partners to reject protectionism.

Miss Dunn is currently leading a Hongkong economic mission to West Germany.

During a meeting at the Federal Ministry of Economics, Dr Lorenz Schomerus, director general responsible for Foreign Trade Policy, told the Hongkong delegation that Germany would continue to advocate liberal trade policies and would do its best to persuade other EEC members to do likewise.

Dr Schomerus said the German government fully shares Hongkong's concern about growing protectionism, particularly in the United States, and believed that everything must be done to fight this development.

Accompanying Miss Dunn on the ten-day mission (19-29 June) to Bonn, Cologne, Hamburg and Frankfurt are Mr Dennis Ting, chairman of the Federation of Hongkong Industries; Mr Christopher Cheng, director of the Chinese Manufacturers Association; Dr Alfred Kuehn, German Consul General in Hongkong; Mr Len Dunning, executive director of the TDC; and Mr Alan Sanders, deputy executive director of the TDC.



MISS Dunn.

Also accompanying Miss Dunn for the Bonn portion of the mission were Mr Derek Jones and Mr Nigel French from the Hongkong Government Office in Brussels.

During a series of meetings with senior government officials responsible for trade and economic affairs, the German side expressed "great satisfaction" with the successful conclusion of the Sino-British agreement which they believe should stimulate a significant increase in bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Mr J. Moelleman, Minister of State at the German Foreign Ministry, revealed that in recognition of the

potential Hongkong has to offer, his government is currently considering enlarging the economic staff attached to the German Consulate General in Hongkong.

He noted that such a step would enable German industry and commerce to be "better placed to take advantage of the opportunities now available in Hongkong and China."

While in Bonn, Miss Dunn also briefed members of the economic committee of the Bundestag, lower house of parliament, on the latest situation in Hongkong.

The Hongkong delegation also met leading representatives of the private sector.

In Cologne, Miss Dunn was received by Mr Kurt Steves, vice president of the BDI (Federation of German Industries), and Dr Kollrack of the DIHT (Association of German Chambers of Commerce) and spoke at a working lunch hosted by the two organisations. Major German companies represented at the occasion by senior executives included Krupp, Klockner and Schering.

In a welcoming speech, Mr Steves also took up the anti-protectionist theme. Noting that Hongkong enjoys a substantial bilateral trade surplus, he stressed that Germany does not consider this a fundamental problem.

"We do not believe that any defensive reaction would be the proper approach for a responsible member of the multi-lateral world trading system," he said.

Mr Steves urged Hongkong to look to Germany for the technology and new manufacturing processes needed to diversify the territory's industrial base.

He noted that Hongkong's role as a re-export centre for China trade was being regarded with "particular interest" by German companies and said that Hongkong enjoyed a "unique position as a kind of turntable for the rapidly expanding Asia Pacific region."