

S. C. M. P.

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...and Sir S.Y. says 'I only reflect views'

The Senior Unofficial Member of the Executive Council, Sir Sze-yuen Chung, said yesterday he could not represent Hongkong citizens as he was not elected by them.

Speaking to reporters before joining other Umelco members for discussions with Sir Peter Blaker, the chairman of the British Hongkong Parliamentary group, Sir Sze-yuen said he was able, however, to reflect the views of Hongkong citizens.

"I was not elected by Hongkong citizens therefore I cannot represent them. But I can reflect their views," he said.

"I have discussions with many citizens and have received lots of views from them. Our aim is to reflect their views."

Sir Sze-yuen will today accompany the Governor Sir Edward Youde and Lady Youde on a trip to the United States organised by the Hongkong Trade Development Council.

Sir Sze-yuen leads a delegation which includes Mr Michael Sandberg, chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, TDC chairwoman Miss Lydia Dunn and Exco member, Mr Q.W. Lee.

Sir Sze-yuen said the trip was aimed at promoting trade between Hongkong and the US and has nothing to do with the 1997 issue.

"But if they (the Americans) ask us about the territory's future, we'll give them an answer," he said.

Asked what the answer will be, he said: "Hongkong has a bright future. It'll hardly have any problem."



Sir Sze-Yuen

Miss Maria Tam, an Exco and Legco member, said after the meeting with Sir Peter that the MP showed a good understanding of the Hongkong situation and the sentiment of people on the issue.

"Many of his views are similar to those of Umelco

members," she said.

Asked what are the views of the Umelco members, she said: "The majority of Hongkong citizens, including us, hope that Hongkong's present way of life can be maintained as much as possible."

Meanwhile Sir Peter yesterday urged Hongkong people to be patient about the 1997 talks.

"My experience of negotiations, which goes back 30 years, is that it is very difficult to tell how long they are going to take," he said.

"It is important to get the right agreement rather than a quick agreement.

Sir Peter said he was sure that Hongkong people want to continue their present way of life.

"They want to be able to see the fruit of their energy and intelligence preserved," he said.

Asked if he thinks it is feasible for Hongkong to

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Reflected views

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adopt self-rule after 1997, Sir Peter said: "I think it depends on what you mean by self-administration. I hope the agreement to be reached is going to allow the people of Hongkong to continue to run their life in the way they have been used to."

Sir Peter's day began yesterday with a meeting with the ICAC Commissioner, Mr Peter Williams.

He said later that he was very impressed by the ICAC's work, mentioning the introduction of moral education and reform of Government procedures which reduce opportunities and incentives for corruption.

"Those things, I think, are of great interest to the United Kingdom, and to the Americans and other countries as well," he said.

After the Umelco meeting, Sir Peter had lunch with the Governor in Government House and held a meeting with the Financial Secretary, Sir John Brembridge, in the Government Secretariat.

He was then taken on an aerial tour of Hongkong and the New Territories on board an RHKAAF helicopter. This was followed by dinner with Umelco members.

Today, Sir Peter will visit Shatin new town.