

S.A.M.F.

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## A question of timing—Youde

There is no question of the British or Hongkong governments opposing the future development of the territory's political structure, the Governor, Sir Edward Youde, said yesterday.

"I saw in the press over the weekend something which suggested that people had misunderstood what had been said in parliament about the development of the political structure in Hongkong," Sir Edward told reporters after opening a new bottling hall at the San Miguel Brewery in Sham Tseng.

"The impression was that the British Government was opposed to or said 'no change' in the development of the political structure.

"It is simply a question of making it progressive, timing it well and taking into account the special circumstances of Hongkong."

He added:

"I'd like to make it clear that there is no opposition, so don't misread what you read in parliament."

Asked whether Hongkong's consultative system needed improvement, Sir Edward said there was always room for improvement in any system.

"But the great thing is that we should recognise that we never stand still in Hongkong.

"We are always trying to make it better."

And asked whether he discussed the development of Hongkong's political structure with the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, during his last visit to London, he replied:

"I discussed quite a lot of things with Mrs Thatcher."

Commenting on Cable and Wireless's bid to take over the Hongkong Telephone Co, Sir Edward said:

"We naturally welcome the kind of commitment which Cable and Wireless is showing towards Hongkong."