

1997 raises issues on Governor etiquette

BY STANLEY LEUNG

HONGKONG'S new Governor Chris Patten will arrive in the territory on 9 July, six days after Lord Wilson's departure.

During the interim period Sir David Ford will be the acting governor.

Because of Hongkong's changing status there has been debate over whether Mr Patten, Hongkong's final British governor, would continue to wear the traditional military uniform with a plumed hat and sword when he arrives to be sworn in as the new governor.

Chief Secretary Sir David Ford said yesterday in the Legislative Council that the Hongkong Government would inform Mr Patten on local views regarding appropriate dress for public ceremonies.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with China's ambassador in London Ma Yuzhen, Mr Patten said he would continue to co-operate with China to ensure the smooth transfer of Hongkong in 1997.

Mr Ma said China hoped Mr Patten would co-operate on the basis of the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Memorandum on the Construction of the new airport.