

# A CHINESE GOVERNOR BY 1990?

## A Howe hint, says DB man

**A LOCAL Chinese may be appointed the Governor of Hongkong by 1990.**

Yaumati District Board member Joseph Chan said he got this impression after talking with Sir Geoffrey Howe at a lunch meeting yesterday.

A scholar, Tsim Tak-lung of the Chinese University who also talked with the foreign secretary, told newsmen that he too got this impression.

He said he also believed that the British government would accelerate the democratic process in the territory.

The claim came during a busy day for Sir Geoffrey who besides the lunch also met members of the Legislative Council, visited Shatin and had dinner with Umelco members (See full story on Pages 4 and 5).

Sir Geoffrey reportedly said during the lunch that there would not be any referendum on the 1997 issue but that the people of Hongkong would have the opportunity to discuss the issue and voice their opinions through existing channels.

It was proposed during the lunch that the British government should take short term measures to protect Hongkong from the ill-effects of the political uncertainty but the issue was said to have been ignored by the foreign secretary.

The 36 guests attending the lunch included district board members, urban councillors, professionals and unionists.

They said Sir Geoffrey had made it clear that there were still a number of issues to be resolved though Britain and China had reached agreement on a number of points.

One of the differences was the transition period which Britain believes should be from 1990 to 1997 while China holds that it should begin now, they said.

This issue had not been solved despite discussions in three consecutive meetings, Sir Geoffrey was reported to have told the luncheon.

Two unionists and an urban councillor made use of the opportunity to present letters of opinions to Sir Geoffrey.

## HK may get a Chinese governor

■ FROM PAGE ONE

The letters were about the fears of civil servants on the future arrangements of their pensions and the right of people to speak on the 1997 issue.

District board member.

Joseph Chan said Hongkong should prepare itself for self-rule as the first Chinese governor would come soon.

"I think both Britain and China are agreed about self-rule after 1997. The problem is whether we can find the right people to handle the administration," he said.

"I believe a statement will be made shortly, possibly tomorrow (Friday), to let the people of Hongkong discuss the 1997 issue with the help of some guidelines," Mr Chan said.

Heungyeekuk Chairman Lau Wong-fat said the Chinese and British governments were "close to an agreement".

Miss Peggy Lam, who represents Wanchai District Board, said Sir Geoffrey also ruled out the presence of a third country while China and Britain signed an agreement.

The Director of Christian Industrial Committee, Lau Shing-shek, presented a letter to Sir Geoffrey presenting the views of 10 unions.