

# Another day of talks for Sir Murray

From MICHAEL JONES

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will meet Home Office officials during his extra day's stay in London, before returning to Hongkong.

He leaves London tomorrow. On his return he may make a statement on his visit which has covered a wide range of Anglo-Hongkong topics.

On Thursday night Sir Murray was guest at a performance by a traditional Chinese orchestra in London. It was attended by the Minister of State for the Civil Service, Mr Barney Hayhoe, and Foreign Office officials (picture on Page 18).

A Hongkong Government spokesman merely said that the Governor's talks this week had been "productive and useful."

Two of the topics discussed by Sir Murray featured today in parliamentary answers.

Labour's shadow Education Secretary in the Commons, Mr Neil Kinnock, asked the Education Secretary, Mr Mark Carlisle, whether the recent increases in tuition fees for Hongkong students had affected their number in Britain and how they compared with other countries sending students here.

He was told that Hongkong sent 1,046 university students to Britain in 1979 compared with 6,344 for the rest of the Commonwealth and 9,623 for other countries.

These figures fell last year.

October's university entrants from overseas totalled 1,034 from Hongkong, 5,660 from the rest of the Commonwealth and 7,992 from other countries.

Figures for other educational establishments are not yet available but the Government's view, said Mr Carlisle, is that "other factors besides the increase in tuition fees could well have contributed to the changes that have occurred" — an interpretation that is not shared by Hongkong students here, who are holding a protest meeting against the latest increase in fees on Monday.

Hongkong's patrol boats needs were raised in another Commons questions.

Mr David Clark, a Labour MP for a

northern shipbuilding area, asked for an assurance that the fast patrol boats needed by the Royal Navy for use in Hongkong waters would be built in British shipyards.

The Royal Navy Under-Secretary of State, Mr Keith Speed, replied that tenders had been received for the five patrol craft from interested shipbuilders.

"As agreed with the Hongkong Government, these tenders contain options ranging from one to all five of the vessels being built in Britain, the remainder, if any, to be built in Hongkong," he said.

But he was unable to give the Labour MP the assurance he wanted "as the tenders are still being evaluated."

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