

8 March 1990

## 1991 on agenda for Sir David

THE Governor, Sir David Wilson, left last night for London to finalise the arrangements with Whitehall for Hongkong's political reform plan next year.

Sir David will also discuss with Cabinet officials the problem of Vietnamese boat people, the nationality package issue and the Bill of Rights, which was accepted by the Executive Council on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters at the airport before departure, Sir David said the objective of his visit to London was to keep people there up-to-date on the whole range of issues being dealt with in Hongkong at the moment.

"I think it's very important that when so much is happening here in Hongkong people should be kept up-to-date directly by me," Sir David said.

Sir David said he would meet Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, Minister with Special Responsibility for Hongkong Francis Maude, Trade and Industry Minister Nicholas Ridley and senior ministers and members of Parliament.

It is understood that the major purpose of Sir David's visit is to finalise arrangements for the 1991 political reform plan when the Legislative Council will get 18 directly elected members.

Details of the political structure will be announced soon after the Governor returns to Hongkong.

On the boat people issue, the Governor said one of the things to be done was to try to make an assessment of what the nature of the problem was going to be this year.

"One of the things we don't know is what sort of problem we are going to face. The next thing is how can we try to get in place all the arrangements to deal with this issue," he said.

"By that, I mean the resettlement of people who are genuine refugees and trying to speed up

getting back to Vietnam those who have actually volunteered to go back."

But he said the most difficult problem of all was "how ... we make arrangements to deal with the people who are not refugees and yet who haven't actually volunteered".

It was reported yesterday that Sir David would also be arranging for 40 British members of Parliament to be flown to Hongkong to see the need for the right of abode package first hand.

Seeing the Governor and Lady Wilson off at Kai Tak Airport yesterday was the Chief Secretary, Sir David Ford.