

G.P.S.
Tom Hahn
Customs House

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Beijing pledge sought on jobs

By LOUIS NG

SENIOR government information officers are to seek a guarantee from China that their jobs will remain unchanged after 1997.

The chairman of the Association of Government Information Officers, Tommy Hahn, said they would express their worries to Chinese officials during a visit to Beijing, which started yesterday.

"China is different. Now when we issue press releases, it's up to you [journalists] to decide whether to print it or not," Mr Hahn said.

"We need to understand whether the situation will be the same for China."

Mr Hahn said they would seek an assurance from China that their jobs would remain unchanged so they could serve beyond 1997.

The representation, comprising 11 senior officers of the Government Information Services Department, is visiting Beijing for a week.

Members will meet representatives of the All China Journalists' Association and officials from the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office and Xinhua (the New China News Agency).

Meanwhile, another group of senior civil servants left for Beijing yesterday to attend the second China studies course at Qinghua University.

The party, led by the Regional Secretary (New Territories) of the City and New Territories Administration, Albert Lam Chi-chiu, is made up of 10 administrative officers and 11 departmental grade officers.

Mr Lam said members would not raise the issue of localisation of civil servants with Chinese officials.

"Our trip is of a purely academic nature. We won't discuss other problems," he said.

The group arrives back in Hong Kong on November 7.