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## A 'good start' to joint pact

By TERRY CHENG 261

The Joint Liaison Group and the Land Commission have achieved good progress during the past year but much work remains to be done, the Governor, Sir Edward Youde, said yesterday.

He was speaking on the first anniversary of the signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

"Both Governments have committed themselves to make the continued effort which will be required," he said at a dinner hosted by Chinese State Councillor and Director of the Hongkong and Macau Affairs Office, Mr Ji Pengfei.

In a short speech, Mr Ji said only that he felt greatly honoured by the attendance of so many friends at the banquet on a memorable day.

In Beijing, the occasion was celebrated with a lunch attended by the Vice-Minister of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Mr Zhou Nan, and British Ambassador Sir Richard Evans.

Mr Zhou said the two sides continued over the past year to display a spirit of friendship, co-operation and mutual accommodation in implementing the Joint Declaration. He said all problems would be solved with this spirit and through joint efforts.

Sir Richard said the two sides have done a lot of practical and effective work in the past year in implementing the agreement.

The British side considers its first priority to be realising the concept of "one country, two systems" through joint effort, he said.

The Chief Secretary, Sir David Akers-Jones, said yesterday morning the past 12 months have been a remarkable year of progress in every aspect of Hongkong.

Since the Joint Declaration was signed 12 months ago, Sir David said, "we've had successful meetings of the Joint Liaison Group, the Land Commission has made very satisfactory progress this year, and we have sold land in Hongkong with leases which go through 2047."

In Hongkong itself, development of infrastructure has continued, he said.

This included plans for the container port extension, the new cross-harbour tunnel, the new Standard Chartered Bank headquarters, the Bank of China building, the third university, Junk Bay new town and various major road projects.

Sir David was speaking to reporters after making an inaugural call at the Guangzhou-Shantou microwave link opening ceremony at Cable and Wireless in Hongkong.

He said the confidence of Hongkong's people has strengthened since the signing of the Joint Declaration.

Meanwhile, the *People's Daily* newspaper said yesterday events since the signing of the Joint Declaration have proved that with the joint

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