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CS' transcript in Beijing

Following is the transcript of the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Donald Tsang's meet-the-media session in Beijing this (February 19) evening:

Reporter: Mr Tsang, first of all, what would you be reporting to Central Government leaders? And, secondly, what matters of concern would you be discussing with relative ministries?

Mr Tsang: Well, I am coming here, this is a regular visit. I would, first of all, be very fortunate be able to see the Premier on Thursday morning, and Vice-Premier Qian on Thursday afternoon. Hopefully, I would be reporting to them my own observations on Hong Kong peoples' feeling, how they react to the challenges of the economic downturn locally, and how the Civil Service had been reacting to the current situation. Hopefully, I will update them on the progress of the accountability exercise. I would be meeting, of course, the Hong Kong and Macao Office and deal with very specific issues dealt with by various bureaux -- Transport Bureau, Security Bureau and so on. I hope to have this opportunity to widen my network of contact in Beijing. This has been the wishes of the Chief Executive, so I am spending here three to four days for that purpose.

Reporter: What are the matters of mutual concerns.....can you elaborate on that?

Mr Tsang: The important thing is we want to make sure that against the economic slowdown, we would be able to find areas of joint co-operation, areas in which we would be able to help Hong Kong to overcome the current problems. You know we have been working on the cross-border issues, working on increasing the tourism, working on complementary infrastructure developments. All these are substantive issues we would be discussing. Well, I would be updating you more.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion.)

End/Tuesday, February 19, 2002

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政務司司長北京談話

以下是政務司司長曾蔭權今（二月十九日）晚抵達北京會見傳媒時的談話全文：

記者：司長，為何今次會來四日這麼長，有否好消息公布？

政務司司長：我今次來是每年一次的述職，特首亦希望我今次來交多些朋友，擴大我們香港的聯絡網絡，所以希望留多兩天時間。現時具體安排由港澳辦幫忙，我已收到通知會在明天與港澳辦廖主任見面；星期四上午朱總理會接見我，下午錢其琛副總理亦會接見我。另外還有其他安排，包括我會去人大法工委、特別是計委，會繼續講我們香港關注的事項。此外，聽聽人大工作情況，對於在首都內與香港有關各局、部門的操作，加深認識。今次來很希望見領導人時，講講現時世界經濟這樣嚴峻下香港現時的民生情況、政情、公務員裝備等情形，希望能在深層次討論一下。此外，九七年後香港成功地落實「一國兩制」，的確要感謝國內領導人對我們的全力支持；而香港人雖然面對着這個相當嚴重的經濟問題，但也加強了他們的勇氣，原因就是「一國兩制」在香港植根很成功，亦感到很自豪和驕傲。我明天會見廖主任，談實務問題。大家都知道我會跟進各個局與內地有關討論的事項，特別跟進我自己最近做的粵港合作和內地與香港基建協作會議，有些工作我都會跟進一下，今次的訪問我相信會幾豐富。

記者：想問問三月底爭取居留權人士到期要離香港，他們聲言不會離開，今次你會否向法工委提出．．．

政務司司長：我去法工委主要是聽聽法工委的工作情況，有關居港權問題已塵埃落定，我希望所有有關人士會跟從香港法院的判決，跟現時的安排陸續返回內地，按正式程序申請來港。

記者：單程證程序會否加快，可否加快輸入優秀人才？

政務司司長：我不會就此具體提出，這些安排你知道我們向來都在跟進，現時粵港合作小組已着手做。最近財政司司長來到北京亦談到此問題，都是跟進這工作，但如果北京方面有任何官員想提出討論，我可以在這方面進行解釋。

（請同時參閱英文部份。）

完

二〇〇二年二月十九日（星期二）