



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR SEES HOW NEWS FLOWS DURING STORM ALERT	1
NO. 8 SIGNAL LOWERED	1
GOVT RESPONSES TO CHEN ZUO'ER'S STATEMENT	3
STI COMMENTS ON HOUSE VOTING	3
FLOODING VICTIMS TAKEN CARE OF	4
FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON FRIDAY	4

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1992

- 1 -

GOVERNOR SEES HOW NEWS FLOWS DURING STORM ALERT

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAW FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HOW HONG KONG COPE WITH A NATURAL EMERGENCY.

AS SEVERE TROPICAL STORM GARY APPROACHED, MR PATTEN VISITED THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATION CENTRE (GSECC) AND THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES (GIS).

DURING THE PASSAGE OF A TROPICAL CYCLONE, THE GSECC AND GIS PLAY VITAL ROLES IN KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED OF THE STORM'S PROGRESS AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.

MR PATTEN WAS BRIEFED DURING HIS VISIT TO GSECC AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT ON HOW THE CENTRE CO-ORDINATED RELIEF AND RESCUE OPERATIONS DURING AN EMERGENCY, AND HOW IT ENABLED THE ADMINISTRATION TO KEEP FULLY IN TOUCH WITH ALL THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

AT GIS, THE GOVERNOR SAW HOW THE CONTROL CENTRE SPECIALLY SET UP IN THE NEWSROOM DISSEMINATE UP-TO-DATE STORM INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA SO THAT THE PUBLIC IS KEPT FULLY INFORMED.

APART FROM DUTY IN THE HEADQUARTERS CONTROL CENTRE, GIS STAFF ARE ALSO DEPLOYED TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON EMERGENCY DUTY, SUCH AS THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE WORKS BRANCH GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS, THE MARINE AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS AND THE POLICE.

FROM THERE THEY PROVIDE DETAILS OF DEVELOPMENTS TO THE CONTROL CENTRE AT GIS HEADQUARTERS IN BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO. 8 SIGNAL LOWERED

* * * * *

THE NO. 8 STORM SIGNAL WAS LOWERED AT 4.15 PM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AS SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE GARY MOVED AWAY FROM HONG KONG TOWARDS THE WESTERN COAST OF GUANGDONG.

THE STORM DID NOT CAUSE ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE TERRITORY. HOWEVER, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS REGISTERED 28 PEOPLE FROM SEVEN FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY FLOODING IN FU YUNG SHAN TAI WO TSUEN IN TSUEN WAN.

THESE PEOPLE, COMPRISING 10 MEN, 10 WOMEN AND EIGHT CHILDREN, HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY ACCOMMODATED IN THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE. HOT MEALS AND RELIEF ARTICLES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THEM.

ANOTHER 15 WERE REGISTERED FOR HELP BY THE DEPARTMENT EARLIER AT THE CHAN HING COMMUNITY CENTRE IN MONG KOK.

/A TOTAL (.....)

A TOTAL OF 46 TEMPORARY SHELTERS OPERATED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WERE OPENED AND 54 PEOPLE TOOK REFUGE THERE.

WITH THE NO. 8 STORM SIGNAL HOISTED IN THE MORNING, HONG KONG WAS BROUGHT TO A NEAR STANDSTILL AS BUSINESS CONCERNS INCLUDING BANKS AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE, MOST SHOPS AND OFFICES, AND SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED.

BUT HONG KONG WAS NOT CLOSED TO THE WORLD AS ITS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT KAI TAK REMAINED OPEN. FIFTEEN FLIGHTS WERE DELAYED.

LOCAL FERRY SERVICES, FERRY SERVICES TO MACAU AND SOME CHINESE PORTS AND BUS SERVICES ON LANTAU ISLAND WERE SUSPENDED. HOWEVER, BOTH THE CHINA MOTOR BUS AND THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS PROVIDED LIMITED SERVICES.

THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND THE LIGHT RAIL WERE OPERATING NEAR NORMAL. TRAMS AND PEAK TRAMS ALSO CONTINUED THEIR SERVICES.

TWO SMALL CARGO VESSELS, EACH WITH 18 CREWMEN ON BOARD, RAN AGROUND AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND THIS MORNING BUT WERE RE-FLOATED IN THE AFTERNOON. NO ONE WAS INJURED.

THE TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE, WHICH WAS DAMAGED IN A STORM LAST SATURDAY, WAS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 6 AM.

SEVEN INCIDENTS, INCLUDING THREE LANDSLIPS AND TWO SUBSIDENCES, WERE REPORTED TO THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE.

THE NO. 8 SOUTHWEST STORM SIGNAL WAS HOISTED (FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR) AT 5.45 AM, 14 HOURS AFTER THE NO. 3 SIGNAL WENT UP. AT 11 AM, IT WAS REPLACED BY THE NO.8 SOUTHEAST SIGNAL.

A MAXIMUM WIND GUST OF 133 KPH WAS RECORDED AT TATE'S CAIRN.

RAINFALL HAD BEEN LIGHT BY 5 PM, WITH ONLY 13.1 MM RECORDED SINCE THE NO.1 SIGNAL WAS HOISTED ON JULY 20.

A TOTAL OF 17 PEOPLE WERE INJURED DURING THE STORM. SIXTEEN HAVE BEEN TREATED AND DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITALS. A 68-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO SUFFERED A NECK INJURY WAS ADMITTED IN FAIR CONDITION TO THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

GOVT RESPONSES TO CHEN ZUO'ER'S STATEMENT

* * * * *

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON THE STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST DEPARTMENT OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE, MR CHEN ZUO'ER, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

"AS THE GOVERNOR SAID YESTERDAY, NO ONE DOUBTS THAT THE AIRPORT AND ASSOCIATED PROJECTS ARE NEEDED AND WILL BE BUILT. THEIR COMPLETION IS PROFOUNDLY IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, CHINA AND THE REGION.

"WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WHEN THE AIRPORT QUESTION IS TACKLED ON ITS MERITS WE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH A SOLUTION.

"WE HOPE THIS CAN HAPPEN AT THE NEXT AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING. WE SHARE THE VIEW OF CHINESE OFFICIALS THAT MEGAPHONE DIPLOMACY IS NOT THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS.

"WE HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY OPEN ABOUT THE PROPOSED FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

"THESE HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE BOTH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP AND TO THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE."

- - - - 0 - - - -

STI COMMENTS ON HOUSE VOTING

* * * * *

BY A VOTE OF 258 TO 135, THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED THE SOLOMON JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL OF CHINA'S MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION (MFN) STATUS ON JULY 21, 1992.

IT ALSO PASSED THE PEASE/PELOSI CONDITIONALITY BILL BY A VOTE OF 339 TO 62.

COMMENTING ON THE VOTES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID PASSAGE OF THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL AND THE CONDITIONALITY BILL THROUGH THE HOUSE WAS EXPECTED. THERE WAS NO NEED TO BE UNDULY ALARMED AT THIS STAGE.

"THE VOTE ON THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL FELL SHORT OF THE TWO-THIRD MAJORITY WHICH IS REQUIRED TO OVERRIDE A PRESIDENTIAL VETO.

"AND ALTHOUGH THE PEASE/PELOSI BILL WAS PASSED BY A GREATER THAN TWO-THIRD MAJORITY, ACTION HAS YET TO BE TAKEN ON A SIMILAR BILL IN THE SENATE," MR CHAU SAID.

PRESIDENT BUSH IS EXPECTED TO VETO THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL AND ANY LEGISLATION WHICH ATTACHES CONDITIONS TO THE EXTENSION OF CHINA'S MFN STATUS.

THE ANTICIPATED VETO OVERRIDE ATTEMPT IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE SOME TIME BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS ADJOURNS IN OCTOBER.

"BOTH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE WORKED HARD TO PRESENT HONG KONG'S CASE IN THE U.S. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SUSTAIN THESE EFFORTS."

THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL WAS INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SOLOMON ON JUNE 5 DENYING THE EXTENSION OF CHINA'S MFN STATUS IN 1992.

THE PEASE/PELOSI CONDITIONALITY BILL WOULD DENY MFN TREATMENT FOR EXPORTS IN 1993 FROM PREDOMINATELY STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES UNLESS CHINA HAS MET A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS RELATING TO IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS, TRADE PRACTICES AND WEAPONS NON-PROLIFERATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FLOODING VICTIMS TAKEN CARE OF
* * * * *

A GROUP OF VILLAGERS WHO WERE MADE HOMELESS IN A FLOODING AT THEIR TSUEN WAN HOMES WERE GIVEN IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD) TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE FLOODING BEGAN LAST SATURDAY AT THE FU YUNG SHAN TAI WO TSUEN BUT IT DETERIORATED THIS MORNING IN THE ADVENT OF SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE GARY.

TWENTY-EIGHT VICTIMS FROM SEVEN FAMILIES - 10 MEN, 10 WOMEN AND EIGHT CHILDREN - WERE GIVEN SHELTER AT PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE AFTER BEING REGISTERED BY THE SWD.

HOT MEALS AND RELIEF ITEMS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THESE FAMILIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON FRIDAY
* * * * *

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (JULY 24) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE CHAMBER'S PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING 869 9492.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE COMMITTEE'S PAPERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE READING FROM 4 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE OMELCO PRESS ROOM, PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PAPERS WILL BE EMBARGOED FOR USE UNTIL THE MEETING ENDS.

- - - - 0 - - - -