



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1976.

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WORLD EXPERTS TO HELP INVESTIGATE THE SAU MAU PING  
LANDSLIDE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SET UP A PANEL OF WORLD EXPERTS TO WORK WITH THE P.W.D. CONSULTANT ENGINEERS INVESTIGATING THE SAU MAU PING LANDSLIDE.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. WILLIAM BELL, ANNOUNCED THIS EVENING THAT A LIST OF WORLD AUTHORITIES IN THE SPECIAL BRANCH OF SOIL MECHANICS INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN SENT TO THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN LONDON.

HE SAID THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE HAD BEEN ASKED TO APPROACH THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, SIR NORMAN ROWNTREE, TO GET THE INSTITUTION'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSED PANEL, AND TO SEE IF THE INSTITUTION HAD ANY OTHER NAMES TO SUGGEST.

THE PROPOSED PANEL DREW ON EXPERTS IN A NUMBER OF OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AS WELL AS IN HONG KONG, SO AS TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE LATEST KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE IN THE FIELD.

MR. BELL SAID THE EXPERTS WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN PASSED TO THE INSTITUTION WERE NOT ONLY TOP MEN IN THE VERY SPECIALISED BRANCH OF SOIL MECHANICS INVOLVED IN THE SAU MAU PING LANDSLIDE, BUT ALSO THE APPLICATION OF THIS KNOWLEDGE TO THE SPECIFIC GEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS OF HONG KONG AND THE LANDSLIDE AREA.

+THIS IS A DEVELOPING FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY IN WHICH THERE HAVE BEEN MAJOR ADVANCES IN WORLD KNOWLEDGE IN RECENT YEARS,+ SAID MR. BELL.

+INDEED MUCH NEW KNOWLEDGE HAS BEEN THROWN UP BY BINNIES' CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS IN PHASE II OF THE LANDSLIP STUDY.

+THERE IS EVERY INDICATION FROM BINNIES' PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ON LAST WEEK'S TRAGEDY THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT THEY ARE NOW PREPARING WILL SHED EVEN GREATER LIGHT ON THE CONDITIONS ARISING FROM THE UNUSUAL COMBINATION OF FACTORS WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SAU MAU PING SLIDE.+

MR. BELL SAID THAT THE CONSULTANTS WERE NOW BEGINNING A COMPREHENSIVE SERIES OF TESTS TO VERIFY THE INDICATIONS OF THEIR PRELIMINARY FINDINGS.

A DRILLING RIG HAD BEEN MOVED ON TO THE SITE TODAY TO TAKE DEEP-CORE SAMPLES FROM THE LANDSLIDE SLOPE.

THESE SOIL SAMPLES AND OTHERS TAKEN FROM THROUGHOUT THE SLOPE AREA WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO EXHAUSTIVE LABORATORY TESTS TO PROVIDE THE DATA FROM WHICH THE CONSULTANTS WOULD PREPARE THEIR FINAL REPORT.

/THIS REPORT ...

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THIS REPORT WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF EXPERTS IN THE FIELD. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE PANEL WOULD ALSO WORK WITH BINNIES AS NECESSARY IN STUDYING THE DATA THROWN UP IN THE COURSE OF THE PREPARATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON THE LANDSLIDE.

MR. BELL POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE CONSULTANTS' INVESTIGATIONS WERE NATURALLY CENTRED ON THE LANDSLIDE SLOPE BEHIND BLOCKS 9 AND 15 OF SAU MAU PING ESTATE, THEY WERE ALSO CHECKING ON OTHER SLOPES IN THE AREA.

+IF ANY OF THESE SHOWS ANY SIGN OF DISTRESS, THEY WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH MONITORING DEVICES, AS IS THE CASE WITH SLOPES IN POPULATED AREAS IDENTIFIED UNDER PHASE ONE OF THE LANDSLIP STUDY AS WARRANTING FURTHER INVESTIGATION.+

+AND IN VIEW OF SOME OF THE QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN VOICED IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS IN THE WAKE OF THE SAU MAU PING TRAGEDY, I WOULD STRESS AGAIN THAT WE ARE KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THOSE AREAS WHERE MONITORING HAS BEEN CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

+ALL SUCH AREAS HAVE BEEN FITTED WITH DEVICES TO GIVE US PLENTY OF WARNING OF ANY CHANGE IN THE CONDITION OF THE SLOPES.

+THESE MONITORING DEVICES ARE CHECKED REGULARLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND FREQUENTLY DURING THE WET SEASON. THE FREQUENCY OF THESE CHECKS IS INCREASED WHEN THERE IS ANY FORECAST OF TYPHOONS OR RAINSTORMS, AND DURING WEATHER CONDITIONS SUCH AS THOSE EXPERIENCED LAST WEEK, THEY ARE CHECKED CONTINUOUSLY.

+THE DEVICES ARE PLACED SO AS TO GIVE BOTH LONG-RANGE WARNINGS AND MORE IMMINENT WARNINGS OF ANY DANGER IN THE AREA. THEY GIVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR ANY NECESSARY ACTION TO BE TAKEN.+

MR. BELL SAID THE CONSULTANTS HAD COMPLETED SITE INVESTIGATIONS IN ALL THE AREAS RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER STUDY, AND SOIL TESTING HAD ALSO BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED IN ALL AREAS.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORTS HAD ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED ON THE DOZEN SITES CONSIDERED TO POSE THE GREATEST PROBLEM, AND THE REMEDIAL WORKS RECOMMENDED WERE EITHER UNDER WAY OR COMPLETE.

+WE ARE DUE TO GET NINE MORE REPORTS IN NOVEMBER, ONE IN DECEMBER AND THE REMAINING SEVEN IN FEBRUARY,+ HE SAID.

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BURIAL GRANTS FOR FAMILIES OF THOSE  
KILLED IN RECENT LANDSLIDES  
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FAMILIES OF 14 PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THE LANDSLIDES LAST WEEK WILL BE PAID A TOTAL OF \$15,400 AS BURIAL GRANTS BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TOMORROW.

OF THESE, 13 ARE VICTIMS OF THE SAU MAU PING MUDSLIDE.

FAMILY MEMBERS OF A VICTIM OF THE CHA KWO LING LANDSLIDE HAD ALREADY BEEN PAID \$1,100 LAST SATURDAY.

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RANGING FROM \$120 TO \$3,600 WILL ALSO BE PAID TOMORROW TO FIVE PERSONS WHO WERE INJURED IN THE LANDSLIDE.

+FINANCIAL GRANTS TO OTHER CASES ARE CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED AND PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

LAST WEEK, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TENANTS OF BLOCKS NINE AND 15 OF THE SAU MAU PING ESTATE AND OTHER VICTIMS WHOSE HOMES WERE AFFECTED BY THE MUDSLIDE BROUGHT ON BY THE HEAVY RAINS ARE TO BE GIVEN GRANTS FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ERF) BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID GRANTS WOULD BE \$1,500 PER HOUSEHOLD FOR REDECORATION PURPOSES AND \$200 PER PERSON FOR REMOVAL AND RE-EQUIPMENT. FOR AN AVERAGE FAMILY OF FIVE, THE TOTAL GRANTS WOULD AMOUNT TO \$2,500.

IN ADDITION, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE VICTIMS' RELATIVES. PAYMENTS WILL RANGE FROM \$4,700 TO \$14,300 DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE VICTIM WAS THE SOLE WAGE EARNER.

FURTHERMORE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS NOW LOOKING INTO THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING EX-GRATIA ASSISTANCE FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND OR OTHER SOURCES TO SHOPKEEPERS AND MODULAR STALL HOLDERS FOR LOSS OF STOCK.

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H.K. SCHOOLS DANCERS ATTRACT 10,000 SPECTATORS  
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NEARLY TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE SAW PERFORMANCES BY THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS CHINESE DANCE TEAM IN LONDON AND CAMBRIDGE LAST WEEKEND.

ON SATURDAY, THE TEAM DANCED BEFORE CAPACITY AUDIENCES AT AFTERNOON AND EVENING PERFORMANCES AT THE COURT THEATRE IN HOLLAND PARK, LONDON.

NEXT DAY, AN ESTIMATED 3,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING TOURISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, CROWDED KING'S PARADE IN THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO SEE A PERFORMANCE BY THE DANCERS ON THE LAWN IN FRONT OF KING'S COLLEGE.

TWO HOURS LATER THE TEAM WAS ON MID-SUMMER COMMON, THE VENUE OF THE CAMBRIDGE BANK HOLIDAY LEISURE FAIR WHERE 4,000 PEOPLE DESERTED THE MARQUEES AND A FUN FAIR TO WATCH A FURTHER PERFORMANCE INCLUDING THE DANCE OF THE SUN FLOWERS AND THE NORTHERN LION HUNTS WHICH HAVE CAPTIVATED AUDIENCES IN BRITAIN.

PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE ON KING'S COLLEGE LAWN, THE MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGE, COUNCILLOR ROBERT WRIGHT PRESENTED MRS. ELEANOR LEE, THE TEAM'S MANAGER, WITH AN INSCRIBED PICTURE OF KING'S PARADE PAINTED IN 1887. THE ORIGINAL HANGS IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR.

A BANNER COMMEMORATING THE VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE WAS PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR BY MR. S.T.KIDD, THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON AND THE TEAM'S BANNER WAS PRESENTED TO MR. J. WILKINSON, HEAD OF THE CITY'S RECREATION AND AMENITIES DEPARTMENT.

THE TEAM WILL TODAY (TUESDAY) STAGE TWO MORE PERFORMANCES AT THE MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN BIRMINGHAM AND ON BBC TELEVISION'S +MIDLANDS TODAY+ PROGRAMME BEFORE RETURNING TO HONG KONG ON FRIDAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS CHINESE DANCE TEAM WILL ARRIVE BACK IN HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 4) BY FLIGHT BA888, ETA 1930 HOURS.

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THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
WELCOMES VIEWS ON TAXATION MATTERS  
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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY), THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS STILL SITTING, AND AS SUCH IT WAS STILL ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO WRITE TO IT EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS ON TAXATION MATTERS.

THE COMMENTS, HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, MUST BE RELATED TO MATTERS OF TAXATION AS SET OUT IN THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE, AND CAN COME FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL, OR PROFESSIONAL BODY, TRADE ASSOCIATION OR ANY OTHER INTERESTED ORGANISATION.

LETTERS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY, THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE, ROOM 118, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1ST FLOOR, EAST WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG. THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE : -

HAVING REGARD TO THE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG WHICH DICTATE-

- (A) A COMPARATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF DIRECT TAXATION,
- (B) THAT THE SYSTEM AT GIVEN TAX RATES SHOULD BE AS PRODUCTIVE OF REVENUE AS POSSIBLE, AND
- (C) THAT THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE TO ADMINISTER,

TO CONSIDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF TAXATION OF PROFITS AND OTHER FORMS OF INCOME CONTAINED IN THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE, AND IN PARTICULAR-

- (A) THE SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY AGGREGATION UNDER PERSONAL ASSESSMENT,
- (B) THE TAXATION OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES,
- (C) THE TREATMENT OF DIVIDENDS AND ITS RELATION TO THE TAXATION OF CORPORATE PROFITS,
- (D) THE TREATMENT OF INTEREST AND THE RELIEF FOR INTEREST PAID,
- (E) THE TERRITORIAL AMBIT OF THE VARIOUS CHARGES (HAVING REGARD, INTER ALIA, TO THE EFFECTS OF CHANGING COMMERCIAL PRACTICES AND RECENT CASE LAW),
- (F) THE TAXATION OF BENEFITS IN KIND,
- (G) THE NOTIONAL BASIS OF THE PROPERTY TAX CHARGE,
- (H) THE TAXATION OF SPECIFIC CLASSES OF TAXPAYER, INCLUDING PROFITS FROM SHIPPING, AND
- (I) THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING RELIEF FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES.

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ALL TENANTS MOVE OUT WITHOUT INCIDENT  
FROM BUILDING IN NATHAN ROAD

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THE LAST OF 23 TENANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS MORNING FINISHED MOVING OUT OF A FIVE-STORY TENEMENT BUILDING AT 221D AND 221E NATHAN ROAD, YAU MA TEI, AND THE GOVERNMENT LATER TOOK POSSESSION OF THE BUILDING.

THE BUILDING MUST COME DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR WORK ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION LATER WILL REIMBURSE THE GOVERNMENT IN FULL FOR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RESUMPTION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION WAS GIVEN TO BOTH DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL TENANTS OF THE BUILDING AT THE SAME RATES AS BEING GIVEN TO TENANTS OF TAI ON MANSION AND 205/205A SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, BOTH OF WHICH ALSO MUST COME DOWN FOR WORK ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.

+COMMERCIAL TENANTS WERE GIVEN ABOUT \$40 PER SQUARE FOOT AND DOMESTIC TENANTS ABOUT \$20 PER SQUARE FOOT FOR BUSINESS AND LIVING ACCOMMODATION RESPECTIVELY, AND THE COMMERCIAL TENANTS RETAIN THE RIGHT TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND, IF THEY SO WISH, TO APPEAL TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FOR AN INDEPENDENT RULING ON THEIR CASES.+

MOST OF THE DOMESTIC TENANTS ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSING HAVE ALREADY MOVED INTO THEIR NEW HOMES BUT A FEW DOMESTIC TENANTS RENOUNCED THEIR RIGHTS TO RE-HOUSING AND USED THEIR EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION TO MOVE PRIVATELY INTO OTHER ACCOMMODATION.

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IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS AGAIN REMINDED OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS

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IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS WERE AGAIN REMINDED TODAY (TUESDAY) OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO LODGE TRADE DECLARATIONS AND PAY AD VALOREM CHARGES WITHIN 14 DAYS OF IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID THAT UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (REGISTRATION) REGULATIONS, IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY AD VALOREM CHARGES ON ALL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OTHER THAN THOSE CATEGORIES OF GOODS EXEMPTED UNDER REGULATION 3.

TRADE DECLARATIONS SUBMITTED OUTSIDE THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD OF 14 DAYS WILL BE LIABLE TO PENALTY CHARGES WHICH RISE AFTER TWO MONTHS TO A MAXIMUM OF \$100 PER DECLARATION WHERE THE TOTAL VALUE OF ARTICLES SPECIFIED DOES NOT EXCEED \$20,000, AND TO A MAXIMUM OF \$200 PER DECLARATION WHERE THE TOTAL VALUE OF ARTICLES SPECIFIED EXCEEDS \$20,000.

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT PROSECUTIONS WILL BE INITIATED AGAINST THOSE WHO, WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE, FAIL TO LODGE THE NECESSARY TRADE DECLARATIONS.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TAI WAI  
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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN TAI WAI, SHA TIN, FROM 6 A.M. TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, SHING HO ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND= THE SECTION OF TSUEN NAM ROAD BETWEEN SHING HO ROAD AND TAI WAI ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND= AND TAI WAI ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

THE EXISTING PRIVATE CAR PARKING SPACES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TSUEN NAM ROAD WILL BE SUSPENDED.

THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS ARE TEMPORARY BUT NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF SPECIAL BUS AND TRAIN INTERCHANGE CONNECTIONS IN TAI WAI PENDING THE COMPLETION OF THE REPAIR WORK ON THE RAILWAY BRIDGE.

A SPECIAL SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE WILL OPERATE BETWEEN TAI WAI AND SHA TIN CONNECTING WITH TRAIN DEPARTURES IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE FREE OF CHARGE FOR RAILWAY PASSENGERS POSSESSING A VALID TRAIN TICKET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS AND RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

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WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR NINE HOURS FROM 9 P.M. TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CONNECT FRESH WATER PIPELINES IN THE AREA.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES WILL BE THOSE ON WANG WO TSAI STREET FROM YEUNG UK ROAD TO KWU HANG ROAD, KWU HANG ROAD FROM SHA TSUI ROAD TO YEUNG UK ROAD AND THE NORTH SIDE OF YEUNG UK ROAD FROM TEXACO ROAD TO KWU HANG ROAD.

ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 2), WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN NORTH POINT WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES BOUNDED BY THE SOUTH SIDE OF KING'S ROAD FROM LAU SIN STREET, ELECTRIC ROAD TO BOAT STREET, INCLUDING OIL STREET, FOOK YUM ROAD, KING WAH ROAD AND WANG ON ROAD.

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