



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1980

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1980

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OPENS MTR
MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM

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HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA USHERED IN A NEW ERA FOR THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN SHE STARTED A SPECIAL MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY TRAIN TO CROSS THE HARBOUR FROM TSIM SHA TSUI STATION IN KOWLOON TO CHATER STATION ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE OCCASION HERALDED THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FULL \$5 800 MILLION MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NOW BE ABLE TO TRAVEL FROM EAST KOWLOON (KWUN TONG) TO HONG KONG ISLAND IN 28 MINUTES.

THE PRINCESS AND THE HON ANGUS OGILVY, ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE, ARRIVED AT TSIM SHA TSUI MTR STATION WHERE SIR MURRAY PRESENTED MR NORMAN THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC).

AT THE STATION PLATFORM, MR THOMPSON PRESENTED MEMBERS OF THE MTRC BOARD AND THEIR WIVES BEFORE THE ROYAL PARTY, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, BOARDED THE SPECIAL TRAIN FOR THE UNDER-HARBOUR TRIP.

WITH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA ON BOARD, THE TRAIN SPED BENEATH HONG KONG'S BUSY HARBOUR AND ARRIVED AT ADMIRALTY STATION IN THREE MINUTES FOR A SIGNAL CHANGE BEFORE PROCEEDING TO CHATER STATION.

EMERGING FROM THE TUNNEL AT THE MAIN CENTRAL STATION, THE SPECIAL TRAIN CUT THROUGH STRANDS OF COLOURFUL RIBBONS STRETCHED HIGH ACROSS THE TRACKS BEFORE COMING TO A SMOOTH STOP TO THE APPLAUSE OF THOSE AWAITING ITS ARRIVAL.

ON LEAVING THE TRAIN MR THOMPSON PRESENTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRMS INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MTR WHO WERE ASSEMBLED ON THE PLATFORM AND INTERMEDIATE LEVELS OF CHATER STATION.

STRAINS OF CORRIE CHOILLEIES (WELCOME TO THE NORTHERN MEETING) FROM THE BAGPIPES OF SGT. YAN BAHADUR GURUNG, PIPE MAJOR OF THE QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS, FILLED THE VAST UNDERGROUND COMPLEX AS THE ROYAL COUPLE ASCENDED TO THE INTERMEDIATE LEVEL BY ESCALATOR.

THE PIPE MAJOR, CLAD IN FULL CEREMONIAL PARADE DRESS, CONTINUED TO ENTERTAIN THE GATHERING AS THE PRINCESS SHOOK HANDS AND SPOKE TO THE PRESENTEES. STANDING SOLDIER STRAIGHT, SGT. YAN PLAYED THREE OTHER SCOTTISH AIRS, JENNY'S BAWBEE, TERI'S BUS AND MISS DELICIA CHISHOLM.

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA THEN PROCEEDED BY ESCALATOR TO THE STATION LOBBY WHERE SHE UNVEILED A PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE COMPLETION OF THE MTR MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM.

THE EVENT WAS BROADCAST LIVE BY BOTH RADIO AND TELEVISION, AND SPECIAL CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION ENABLED THE 1 600 GUESTS THROUGHOUT THE LARGE LOBBY AREA OF CHATER STATION TO SHARE IN THE OCCASION.

AT THE COMMUNITY RECEPTION THAT FOLLOWED, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA CHATTED AND MINGLED FREELY WITH THE 1 600 GUESTS DRAWN FROM A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY.

/MTRC LUNCH

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MTRC LUNCH

HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA TODAY (TUESDAY) PRAISED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FOR THEIR ABILITY TO FIND WAYS OF OVERCOMING +WHAT AT FIRST APPEAR TO BE INSUPERABLE DIFFICULTIES, COUPLED WITH STEADFASTNESS AND PERSERVERANCE.+

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH OF MTRC IN THE GRAND BALLROOM OF HILTON HOTEL AFTER THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY THIS MORNING, THE PRINCESS SAID:+IT IS A STRIKING TRIBUTE TO HONG KONG THAT THESE QUALITIES OF DEPENDABILITY ENCOURAGED MANY OF THE LARGEST COMPANIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO PARTICIPATE IN CREATING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.+

SHE SAID: +IN HONG KONG PEOPLE OF MANY RACES MEET AND WORK AND PROSPER TOGETHER IN HARMONY WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THIS LATEST AND BIGGEST PROJECT SHOULD BE THE PRODUCT OF MATERIALS AND SKILLS FROM CHINA AS WELL AS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

+NATURALLY I AM DELIGHTED THAT BRITISH FIRMS HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE. IN WORKING FOR HONG KONG, THEY WORK TOO FOR THE GOOD UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHINA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HONG KONG WHICH WE VALUE SO MUCH,+ THE PRINCESS SAID.

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AT THE MTRC LUNCH:

+HONG KONG IS ALWAYS A STIMULATING PLACE TO VISIT AND THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION. OF ALL THE MASSIVE ENGINEERING PROJECTS THAT HAVE GONE INTO THE BUILDING OF THIS GREAT CITY, THE NEW RAILWAY IS THE BIGGEST AND BOLDEST AND MOST COMPLEX, AND THE ONE THAT HAS ATTRACTED MOST INTERNATIONAL INTEREST. THIS MORNING'S CEREMONY AT WHICH IT WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED MARKED A MILESTONE IN YOUR HISTORY, AND I WAS DELIGHTED TO SHARE WITH YOU ALL THAT MOMENT OF PRIDE.

+THE INCREDIBLE SPEED WITH WHICH THIS MAMMOTH ENTERPRISE HAS BEEN COMPLETED IS INDEED A TRIBUTE TO YOU, MR THOMPSON, TO THE BOARD, STAFF AND CONSULTANTS OF THE CORPORATION, AND TO ALL THE CONTRACTORS AND THEIR HARD-WORKING AND INTREPID WORK FORCE. BUT INSPITE OF YOUR EFFORTS I WARN YOU THAT WHAT PEOPLE WILL SAY IS SIMPLY +IT COULD ONLY HAVE HAPPENED IN HONG KONG+.

+IN A PROJECT OF THIS SIZE IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT MANY SUFFERED FROM DUST, NOISE AND DISRUPTION AND THAT SOME EVEN HAD TO MOVE THEIR HOMES AND SHOPS. THEY SUFFERED WITH GREAT FORBEARANCE. I PRAY THAT THEY WILL NOW REAP THEIR REWARD. HONG KONG CAN MOST CERTAINLY BE PROUD OF ITS RAILWAY, AND I AM SURE IT WILL BRING GREAT ADVANTAGES TO YOU ALL.

/+IT WILL

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+IT WILL SOON BE THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY - THE MONKEY WHOSE AGILITY, QUICK WITS AND INGENUITY ENABLES HIM TO OVERCOME ALL OBSTACLES. THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE THIS SAME ABILITY TO FIND WAYS OF OVERCOMING WHAT AT FIRST APPEAR TO BE INSUPERABLE DIFFICULTIES, COUPLED WITH STEADFASTNESS AND PERSEVERANCE. IT IS A STRIKING TRIBUTE TO HONG KONG THAT THESE QUALITIES OF DEPENDABILITY ENCOURAGED MANY OF THE LARGEST COMPANIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO PARTICIPATE IN CREATING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

+IN HONG KONG PEOPLE OF MANY RACES MEET AND WORK AND PROSPER TOGETHER IN HARMONY WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THIS LATEST AND BIGGEST PROJECT SHOULD BE THE PRODUCT OF MATERIAL AND SKILLS FROM CHINA AS WELL AS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. NATURALLY I AM DELIGHTED THAT BRITISH FIRMS HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE. IN WORKING FOR HONG KONG, THEY WORK TOO FOR THE GOOD UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHINA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HONG KONG WHICH WE VALUE SO MUCH.

+WE DO BOTH THANK YOU, MR CHAIRMAN, FOR INVITING US TO COME HERE TODAY, AND FOR YOUR VERY GENEROUS HOSPITALITY. OUR GOOD WISHES GO WITH YOU ALL, AND MAY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SERVE THE COMMUNITY FAITHFULLY, SAFELY AND WELL IN THE YEARS AHEAD.+

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FOREIGN MINISTER CONGRATULATES HONG KONG
ON COMPLETION OF MTR
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THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR PETER BLAKER, HAS EXTENDED HIS CONGRATULATIONS TO HONG KONG ON THE COMPLETION OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

IN A MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, MR BLAKER SAID: +ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE FINAL STAGE OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY BY HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA, PLEASE CONVEY MY CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, TO ITS CONTRACTORS AND STAFF AND TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT. THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOUR BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA ENDS NINE-DAY VISIT TOMORROW

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND HER HUSBAND, THE HON ANGUS OGILVY, WILL SPEND THEIR LAST DAY IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) VISITING THE RURAL COMMUNITIES IN TAI O AND CHEUNG CHAU.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THE ROYAL COUPLE WILL FLY IN A RAF HELICOPTER TO TAI O WHERE THEY WILL BE WELCOMED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, THE DISTRICT OFFICER ISLANDS, MR LO KAR-CHUN, AND LEADERS OF THE LANTAU RURAL COMMUNITY.

THE ROYAL COUPLE WILL WALK INTO THE VILLAGE, CROSSING THE CREEK IN A SAMPAN FERRY.

THEY WILL THEN VISIT THE KWAN TAI TEMPLE AND CALL ON THE RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE BEFORE LEAVING FOR MUI WO WHERE THEY WILL BOARD THE LAUNCH +LADY MAURINE+ FOR CHEUNG CHAU.

PRINCESS AND MR OGILVY WILL DISEMBARK AT CHEUNG CHAU PIER WHERE THE DISTRICT OFFICER ISLANDS WILL PRESENT LEADERS OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES OF LAMMA ISLAND AND CHEUNG CHAU.

THEY WILL THEN GO TO A RESTAURANT FOR LUNCH WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS.

AFTER LUNCH, THE ROYAL COUPLE WILL VISIT THE PAK TAI TEMPLE BEFORE BOARDING A HOVER FERRY TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ISLAND.

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND MR OGILVY WILL LEAVE TOMORROW EVENING AT THE END OF THEIR NINE-DAY VISIT.

THE ROYAL COUPLE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED TO THE AIRPORT BY THE GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE. ALSO PRESENT TO SAY FAREWELL TO THEM AT THE AIRPORT WILL BE THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR DENYS ROBERTS- THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER AND LADY CATER- THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR GENERAL SIR ROY REDGRAVE AND LADY REDGRAVE- THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE HON SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN AND LADY KAN- THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON OSWALD CHEUNG AND MRS CHEUNG- AND THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR ROY HENRY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS FACILITIES

TAI O: DUE TO TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING A PRESS FACILITY AT TAI O TO COVER THE 25-MINUTE VISIT OF THE PRINCESS THERE, GIS WILL BE ISSUING PHOTOGRAPHS AND FILMS OF THE VISIT.

CHEUNG CHAU: A PRESS LAUNCH FOR ACCREDITED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE QUEEN'S PIER AT 11 AM SHARP TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

/DEPARTURE

DEPARTURE AT KAI TAK: PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND THE HON ANGUS OGILVY WILL LEAVE BY FLIGHT BAO18 (ETD 2115 HOURS). PRESS TRANSPORT FOR ACCREDITED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE CGO CAR PARK AT 8.15 PM SHARP TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY). THOSE WISHING TO MAKE THEIR OWN WAY TO THE AIRPORT SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING AT LEAST 40 MINUTES BEFORE THE DEPARTURE TIME OF HRH'S FLIGHT. THEY WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE POSITION BY GIS OFFICERS. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE ALSO REMINDED TO BRING THEIR PRESS BADGES FOR THE ROYAL VISIT AS WELL AS THEIR IDENTITY CARDS OR PASSPORTS.

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RENT CONTROL BILL FOR SECOND AND THIRD READINGS
IN LEGCO TOMORROW
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THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) AMENDMENT BILL 1980 WHICH SEEKS TO EXTEND RENT CONTROL TO ALL DOMESTIC PREMISES WILL BE TABLED FOR SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AT TOMORROW'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

AT THE RESUMED DEBATE OF THE BILL TOMORROW, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON ALAN SCOTT AND THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES WILL SPEAK.

A NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE COMMENTING ON THE BILL.

AT TOMORROW'S SITTING, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MOVE A MOTION TO FIX THE RATE PERCENTAGES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 1980/81. THE RATE PERCENTAGE FOR URBAN AREAS WILL REMAIN THE SAME, THAT IS SEVEN AND HALF PER CENT FOR GENERAL RATES AND FOUR PER CENT FOR URBAN COUNCIL RATES.

THE RATE PERCENTAGES FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES IN 1980/81 WILL BE FIXED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS ANNOUNCED BEFORE.

DURING QUESTION TIME, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL RAISE A TOTAL OF SIX QUESTIONS ON VARIOUS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

THE HON LYDIA DUNN WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE RESETTLED OVERSEAS SINCE THE INFLUX BEGAN AND AT WHAT RATE THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE RESETTLED IN 1980.

DR THE HON HENRY HU WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT WHETHER IT WILL SPEED UP THE PROVISION OF HOUSING ESTATES ON EXISTING SUITABLE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS TO EASE THE HOUSING SITUATION.

OTHER QUESTIONS RELATE TO THE NUMBER OF STREET-SLEEPERS= MEDICAL OFFICERS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE= NUMBER OF PSYCHIATRIC CASES AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

TWO BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY ARE THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 AND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1980

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UC ELECTORAL REGISTRATION CYCLE BEGINS

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THE BIENNIAL URBAN COUNCIL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION CYCLE WILL BEGIN ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 15).

PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE CURRENT FINAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 1979 NEED NOT APPLY AGAIN.

NEW VOTERS WHO WISH TO ADD THEIR NAMES TO THE ELECTORAL ROLL MAY OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS FROM ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES- DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES- BRANCH OFFICES OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICES- BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE REGISTRIES AND POST OFFICE ENQUIRY COUNTERS.

QUALIFIED ELECTORS MAY REGISTER BY POST UP TO JUNE 15 THIS YEAR.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION AS AN URBAN COUNCIL ELECTOR, A PERSON MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER, HAVE RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS AND QUALIFY UNDER ONE OF THE 23 CATEGORIES IN THE FRANCHISE.

THE 23 CATEGORIES IN THE EXISTING FRANCHISE ENCOMPASS A WIDE RANGE OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONS. THEY INCLUDE SCHOOL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND GRADUATES, TAXPAYERS, RATEPAYERS, CIVIL SERVANTS, TEACHERS, DOCTORS, NURSES AND MIDWIVES, MEMBERS OF VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND MEMBERS OF THE AUXILIARY SERVICES.

DURING THE FORTHCOMING REGISTRATION CYCLE, THE POTENTIAL ELECTORS WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF SELECTING FROM AMONG THE 13 DESIGNATED POLLING STATIONS ONE STATION OF THEIR OWN CHOICE.

FOR REGISTERED ELECTORS, THE POLL CARD WHICH EACH ELECTOR RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY 1979 INDICATED THE POLLING STATION AT WHICH HE IS ENTITLED TO CAST HIS VOTE.

MR KUO KET-CHEN, REGISTRATION OFFICER FOR THE 1980 URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION REGISTRATION, SAID TODAY, +BECAUSE SOME OF THE POLLING STATIONS HAVE CHANGED ADDRESSES, SOME REGISTERED ELECTORS MAY HAVE TO VOTE AT A NEW STATION.+

THE REGISTRATION OFFICER WILL NOTIFY BY POST THE AFFECTED ELECTORS INDIVIDUALLY OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THEIR POLLING STATIONS.

REGISTERED ELECTORS WHO WISH TO CHANGE POLLING STATIONS SHOULD LODGE A NOTICE OF CHANGE OF POLLING STATION WITH THE REGISTRATION OFFICE NOT LATER THAN JUNE 15 THIS YEAR. THE NOTICE SHOULD BE GIVEN ON FORM 7, WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ELECTORAL AND JURY SECTION, REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE, ON 7TH FLOOR, KA CHEONG BUILDING, 4 SUNNING ROAD, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGISTRATION MATTERS OR APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF POLLING STATIONS CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE AT 5-769567 OR 5-765912.

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TEACHER TRAINING COURSES TO BE EXTENDED TO THREE YEARS

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THE TWO-YEAR FULL TIME COURSES ON TEACHER EDUCATION OFFERED BY THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION WILL BE EXTENDED TO THREE YEARS FOR STUDENTS WITH CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS ENTERING THE COURSE FROM SEPTEMBER 1980.

HOWEVER, STUDENTS WITH GRADE E IN AT LEAST TWO SUBJECTS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL, WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO THE MAIN SCHOOL CURRICULUM, WILL TAKE A SPECIALLY STRUCTURED TWO-YEAR COURSE AT NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THEIR EXTRA PERIOD OF STUDY AT SCHOOL.

THE EXTENSION OF THE TWO-YEAR COURSE TO THREE YEARS AND THE SEPARATELY STRUCTURED TWO-YEAR COURSE ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE 1978 WHITE PAPER WHICH CALLED FOR AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS AND A HIGHER EDUCATIONAL STANDARD AMONG APPLICANTS.

+AMONG THE NEW INNOVATIVE FEATURES OF THE FULL-TIME COURSES ARE AN INCREASED EMPHASIS TO BE GIVEN TO LANGUAGE SKILLS IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH AND AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT PROGRAMMES OF CREATIVE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

GRANTHAM, NORTHCOTE AND SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGES OF EDUCATION WILL OFFER A THREE-YEAR ENGLISH COURSE TO APPLICANTS WITH MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AT THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION LEVEL.

THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE, IN ADDITION, WILL RUN A THREE-YEAR CHINESE COURSE WITH THE SAME MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS.

+THE AIM OF THESE BASIC COURSES IS TO TRAIN STUDENTS TO BECOME QUALIFIED TEACHERS TO TEACH GENERAL SUBJECTS AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL AND TO TEACH THREE ELECTED SUBJECTS UP TO FORM III LEVEL IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON THE THREE-YEAR COURSE, EACH STUDENT WILL ELECT TWO SUBJECTS AS MAJOR ELECTIVES FOR STUDY OVER THREE YEARS AND ONE SUBJECT AS A MINOR ELECTIVE FOR STUDY OVER TWO YEARS.

ON THE TWO-YEAR COURSE, EACH STUDENT WILL ELECT TWO SUBJECTS AS MAJOR ELECTIVES AND ONE SUBJECT AS A MINOR ELECTIVE.

THE RANGE OF ELECTIVE SUBJECTS TO BE OFFERED INCLUDES ART/DESIGN, CHINESE, CHINESE HISTORY, ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ENGLISH, GEOGRAPHY, HEALTH SCIENCE, HISTORY, HOME ECONOMICS, MATHEMATICS, MUSIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES.

BASIC AREAS OF COMPULSORY STUDY FOR ALL STUDENTS IN BOTH COURSES WILL BE EDUCATION (THEORY AND PRACTICE), EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, PRIMARY STUDIES, AND LANGUAGE SKILLS (CHINESE AND ENGLISH).

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INTEREST-FREE LOANS AND MAINTENANCE GRANTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO NEEDY STUDENTS IN THE 1980/81 ACADEMIC YEAR. THE MAXIMUM LOAN IS \$2 400 AND THE MAXIMUM GRANT \$2 000 PER ANNUM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FULL DETAILS OF BOTH COURSES WILL BE RELEASED TO SCHOOLS. APPLICATIONS ARE NORMALLY INVITED IN JUNE WITH THE CLOSING DATE SOME TIME IN AUGUST.

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HOLIDAY RUSH AT KAI TAK
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A HOLIDAY RUSH IS EXPECTED AT KAI TAK AIRPORT DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS FROM SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 16) TO NEXT TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 19).

DURING THESE FOUR DAYS, OVER 20 000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO PASS THROUGH KAI TAK DAILY. LAST YEAR A DAILY AVERAGE OF 17 500 WAS RECORDED DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

+IT IS HIGHLY ADVISABLE FOR PEOPLE TAKING THEIR HOLIDAYS ABROAD TO CHECK IN EARLY AND PROCEED TO IMMIGRATION CONTROL ON THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT SAID TODAY.

CONGESTION AND DELAY ARE UNAVOIDABLE AT SUCH TIME WITH THOUSANDS OF HOLIDAY-MAKERS USING THE AIRPORT ON TOP OF THE NORMAL DAILY TRAFFIC. +HOWEVER THE AIRPORT CAN BE LESS CONGESTED AND THE PASSENGER PROCESSING CAN FLOW MORE SPEEDILY WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FREQUENT BROADCASTS WILL BE MADE AT THE AIRPORT TO REMIND PASSENGERS TO CHECK IN EARLY AND ADDITIONAL STAFF WILL BE POSTED TO MAINTAIN THE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1980

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FIRST ASIAN AND PACIFIC CONFERENCE
OF CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
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THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR T.G. GARNER WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE FIRST EVER ASIAN AND PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS TO BE HELD IN HONG KONG LATER THIS MONTH AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 14).

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 01 KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 11.30 AM.

TELEVISION CREWS ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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RECORD NUMBER OF CALLS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE
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THE AMBULANCE COMMAND OF THE FIRE SERVICES YESTERDAY (MONDAY) EXPERIENCED ITS BUSIEST DAY ON RECORD - ANSWERING AN AVERAGE OF ONE CALL EVERY 1.9 MINUTES.

IN THE 24-HOUR PERIOD ENDED AT MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT THE COMMAND ANSWERED A TOTAL OF 752 CALLS FOR VARIOUS SERVICES.

OF THESE CALLS, 599 WERE EMERGENCY AND 153 NON-EMERGENCY.

THE PREVIOUS RECORD SET IN JULY 1979 WAS 702 CALLS - AN AVERAGE OF ONE IN EVERY TWO MINUTES.

COMMENTING ON THE RECORD NUMBER OF CALLS DEALT WITH ON A SINGLE DAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES SAID: +THE DEMAND FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES IS ON THE INCREASE EVERY YEAR.

+IN 1979, THE AMBULANCE COMMAND ANSWERED A TOTAL OF 199 152 CALLS AND ITS AMBULANCES CARRIED 264 614 PATIENTS,+ HE SAID.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1980

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EXTENSIONS TO RESERVOIRS ON TSING YI
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WORK WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EXTENSIONS TO THE EXISTING TSING YI EAST FRESH AND SALT WATER RESERVOIRS ON TSING YI ISLAND.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE WORK WAS SIGNED THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING BETWEEN THE CHIEF ENGINEER (CONSTRUCTION), MR LEE GUN-CHEUNG OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF HUNG MAU CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, THE EXISTING RESERVOIRS WILL BE EXTENDED TO PROVIDE ANOTHER 12 200 CUBIC METRES OF STORAGE CAPACITY FOR FRESH WATER AND 1 450 CUBIC METRES FOR SALT WATER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE NEW EXTENSIONS, COSTING MORE THAN \$6 MILLION, AIMED TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR WATER FROM DEVELOPMENTS ON TSING YI ISLAND.

THE PROJECT WILL TAKE 17 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS
FOR GOVERNMENT CLINICS
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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL REMAIN OPEN ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 18) AND TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 19) FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THEY ARE THE VIOLET PEEL POLYCLINIC IN WAN CHAI= THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB CLINICS IN SHAU KEI WAN, KWUN TONG, AND YAU MA TEI= THE ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE IN SAN PO KONG= THE LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC IN TSUEN WAN= THE YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE AND THE SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC.

OTHER GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS FROM SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 16) TO TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 19).

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN - SUPPLEMENT

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

Tuesday, February 12, 1980

Princess Alexandra Attends MTRC Lunch

The following is the full text of speech by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra at the lunch of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation held in the Grand Ballroom of Hilton Hotel on Tuesday, February 12, 1980.

Hong Kong is always a stimulating place to visit and this is a very special occasion. Of all the massive engineering projects that have gone into the building of this great city, the new railway is the biggest and boldest and most complex, and the one that has attracted most international interest. This morning's ceremony at which it was officially opened marked a milestone in your history, and I was delighted to share with you all that moment of pride.

The incredible speed with which this mammoth enterprise has been completed is indeed a tribute to you, Mr Thompson, to the Board, staff and consultants of the Corporation, and to all the Contractors and their hard-working and intrepid work force. But in spite of your efforts I warn you that what people will say is simply "It could only have happened in Hong Kong".

In a project of this size it was inevitable that many suffered from dust, noise and disruption and that some even had to move their homes and shops. They suffered with great forbearance. I pray that they will now reap their reward. Hong Kong can most certainly be proud of its railway, and I am sure it will bring great advantages to you all.

/It will.....

It will soon be the Year of the Monkey - the monkey whose agility, quick wits and ingenuity enables him to overcome all obstacles. The people of Hong Kong have this same ability to find ways of overcoming what at first appear to be insuperable difficulties, coupled with steadfastness and perseverance. It is a striking tribute to Hong Kong that these qualities of dependability encouraged many of the largest companies from all over the world to participate in creating the Mass Transit Railway.

In Hong Kong people of many races meet and work and prosper together in harmony with the People's Republic of China. It is appropriate that this latest and biggest project should be the product of materials and skills from China as well as from all over the world. Naturally I am delighted that British firms have played a major role. In working for Hong Kong, they work too for the good understanding between China, the United Kingdom and Hong Kong which we value so much.

We do both thank you, Mr Chairman, for inviting us to come here today, and for your very generous hospitality. Our good wishes go with you all, and may the Mass Transit Railway serve the community faithfully, safely and well in the years ahead.