



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1978

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FOREST GUARDS TO ISSUE SUMMONSES

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AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOREST GUARDS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ADOPT A +GET TOUGH+ ATTITUDE TO PEOPLE FOUND BREAKING THE COUNTRY CODE.

IN AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE COUNTRYSIDE FROM WANTON DESTRUCTION THE FOREST GUARDS WILL BE METING OUT ON-THE-SPOT SUMMONSES TO OFFENDERS INSTEAD OF LETTING THEM OFF WITH A SIMPLE CAUTION OR WARNING.

AND IN MORE SERIOUS CASES, SUCH AS LIGHTING FIRES IN PROHIBITED AREAS, VANDALISM AND DESTROYING VEGETATION, OFFENDERS WILL BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE.

THE +GET TOUGH+ PLAN WAS REVEALED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER, MR. SING-LAI CHEONG IN RELATION TO A COURT CASE EARLIER THIS MONTH IN WHICH TWO TEENAGERS WERE EACH FINED \$250 FOR LIGHTING A FIRE OUTSIDE AN APPROVED BARBECUE SITE AT KAM SHAN COUNTRY PARK.

FOREST GUARDS NOTICED THAT BARBECUEING HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE IN A PROHIBITED AREA AND CONTINUAL VIGILANCE OF THE SITE EVENTUALLY LED TO THE ARREST OF THE COUPLE. THE COUPLE WERE TAKEN TO CHEUNG SHA WAN POLICE STATION AND CHARGED WITH CONTRAVENING 7(1)(C) OF THE COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS REGULATIONS. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY THEY APPEARED IN NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY AND WERE FINED FOR THE OFFENCE.

IN NOVEMBER, ANOTHER COUPLE WERE FINED \$300 EACH FOR EXCAVATING SOIL NEAR A STREAM IN KAM SHAN COUNTRY PARK.

MR. CHEONG SAID THAT DURING 1978 THERE HAD BEEN AMPLE PUBLICITY ON THE COUNTRY CODE WITH TELEVISION COMMERCIALS, POSTERS AND PRESS RELEASES. VISITORS TO THE COUNTRY PARKS WERE CAUTIONED BY FOREST GUARDS OF THE REGULATIONS AND THE PENALTIES IMPOSED FOR BREACH OF THE REGULATIONS.

DURING THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1978, 31 PEOPLE WERE CONVICTED AND FINED A TOTAL OF \$3,425 FOR LIGHTING FIRES IN PROHIBITED AREAS- AND 37 PEOPLE WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$3,340 FOR ILLEGAL CUTTING AND BEING IN POSSESSION OF PROTECTED PLANTS. THE OFFENCES WERE DETECTED IN THE SAI KUNG, TAI TAM, PLOVER COVE AND TAI LAM COUNTRY PARKS AND THE PAT HEUNG PLANTATION.

+THE REGULATIONS STIPULATE THAT ANY PERSON FOUND GUILTY OF LIGHTING FIRES IN PROHIBITED AREAS COULD BE FINED UP TO \$5,000 PLUS IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR.

+WE NOW INTEND MAKING FULL USE OF THESE REGULATIONS,+ SAID MR. CHEONG.

THE FOREST GUARDS AND POLICE WILL ALSO BE CRACKING DOWN ON VANDALS IN COUNTRY PARKS.

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LAST MONTH AT LION ROCK COUNTRY PARK, VANDALS BROKE TWO FIRE-BEATER STANDS, BURNT EIGHT FIRE BEATERS, BROKE THREE BARBECUE PITS AND GRILLS, BROKE AND BURNT 19 BENCHES, THREW AWAY THREE LARGE LITTER BINS, AND CHOPPED DOWN SEVEN LARGE TREES INCLUDING CAMPHOR, BAUHINIA, ACACIA AND CASSIA.

+THE COUNTRYSIDE IS FOR EVERYONE'S ENJOYMENT AND WE APPEAL TO ALL USERS TO GIVE US THEIR FULL CO-OPERATION IN PRESERVING THIS NATURAL BEAUTY WHICH IS SO RARE TO FIND IN SUCH A HEAVILY POPULATED AREA,+ SAID MR. CHEONG.

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IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL MASS MEDIA WELL UNDERSTOOD
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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MASS MEDIA IN HONG KONG, ESPECIALLY THE CHINESE MEDIA, IS WELL UNDERSTOOD BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE KEPT INFORMED OF NEWS AND VIEWS IN THE CHINESE PRESS BY A DAILY TWO-PAGE TABLOID NEWSPAPER PRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.

THE TABLOID TITLED +GIST+ WHICH STANDS FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES TRANSLATION, IS THE GIST, IN ENGLISH, OF THE NEWS AND EDITORIAL COMMENTS IN 23 MAJOR CHINESE PAPERS AS WELL AS THE CHINESE SERVICES IN BOTH RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS.

COPIES OF +GIST+ ARE CIRCULATED TO ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES ALSO PRODUCES A WEEKLY REVIEW OF CHINESE NEWS MEDIA COMMENT CALLED +OPINION+ FOR CIRCULATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ADDITION, A DAILY SUMMARY OF CHINESE PRESS COMMENTS AND EDITORIALS IS WIDELY CIRCULATED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND IT IS COMMON PRACTICE IN ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO TRANSLATE ITEMS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

ON PUBLIC OPINION EXPRESSED IN THE FORM OF +LETTERS TO EDITOR+ COLUMNS, ALL 23 MAJOR CHINESE NEWSPAPERS ARE EXAMINED DAILY BY OFFICERS IN THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND THE ATTENTION OF THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS IS DRAWN TO THESE LETTERS. THIS PROCEDURE IS ALSO ADOPTED IN RESPECT OF THE ENGLISH PRESS.

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE ANSWERED ABOUT 2,000 LETTERS CONSIDERED TO MERIT A REPLY WITH A 85 PER CENT ANSWER-RATE IN THE CHINESE PRESS AND 83 PER CENT IN THE ENGLISH PAPERS.

MOST OF THE REMAINING LETTERS ARE RELATED TO COMPLAINTS THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN DEALT WITH OR HAD BEEN ANSWERED BY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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TOWARDS MORE GAINFUL LEISURE PURSUITS

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AT THE AGE OF 25, MR. TSANG LIN-SHING IS WELL UP THE LADDER OF SUCCESS IN THE PRINTING AND DESIGN PROFESSION.

MR. TSANG'S TALE OF SUCCESS WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT, AND MORE OF A DOWNHILL ONE, HAD HE NOT BEEN ENCOURAGED TO MAKE FULL USE OF HIS LEISURE ON MORE GAINFUL PURSUITS.

EVEN TODAY AH TSANG, AS HIS FRIENDS STILL CALL HIM, DOES NOT MIND RECALLING HIS EARLY DAYS WHEN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL CARE, HE USED TO PLAY TRUANT AND MIX WITH STREET-BOYS.

+IT WAS MY TEACHER WHO HAD HELPED ME START A NEW LIFE, I OWE MY SUCCESS TO HIM,+ MR. TSANG RECALLED.

HIS TEACHER WHO WORKED IN AN ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRE IN SAI YING PUN, OBSERVED AH TSANG'S PROBLEM AND THE DANGER LYING AHEAD OF HIM. HE TOOK HIM TO THE CENTRE IN AN EFFORT TO REFORM HIM. HE DID.

AFTER VISITING THE CENTRE SEVERAL TIMES, AH TSANG BECAME INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN THE VARIETY OF FREE EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THERE. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE PRINTING AND DESIGN CLASS.

HE THEN WORKED AS AN APPRENTICE IN A PRINTING FACTORY AND LATER AS A TECHNICIAN IN AN ADVERTISING FIRM BEFORE HE STARTED HIS OWN PRINTING BUSINESS TWO YEARS AGO.

SINCE BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN, MR. TSANG HAS NEVER MISSED A SINGLE EVENING IN THE CENTRE -- IT HAS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF HIS LIFE.

RECENTLY, HE TOOK JAPANESE AND ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES IN THE CENTRE WHICH, HE SAID, HELPED HIM A GREAT DEAL IN HIS DAILY WORK.

THE SAI YING PUN CENTRE WAS THE FIRST ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRE RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. IT WAS SET UP IN 1955.

LIKE MR. TSANG, THERE IS A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE STARTED NEW LIVES AFTER JOINING THE DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRES, ACCORDING TO MR. CHAN CHUEN-AH, AN OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION SECTION.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE LATEST CENTRE IN SHA TIN LAST MONTH, THERE ARE NOW 16 ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRES IN HONG KONG WITH A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN 47,000 PEOPLE.

+THEY ARE OPENED NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE HEALTHY PASTIMES THAT ADULTS NEED BUT ALSO TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUAL POTENTIALITY, RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP AND A BRIGHTER OUTLOOK ON LIFE,+ MR. CHAN SAID.

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NEW YEAR'S DAY IS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT JANUARY 1 IS ONE OF THE 10 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS APPOINTED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

MR. HENDERSON EMPHASISED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE APPLIED TO ALL EMPLOYEES WHEREVER THEY MAY WORK.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES WITHOUT DISTINCTION, INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$2,000 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY. THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THEIR EMPLOYERS FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY. IN THE CASE WHERE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GIVEN AFTER THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY.

COMPLAINTS OR ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE : KOWLOON EAST 3-205638= KOWLOON WEST 3-201652= KWUN TONG 3-898520= TSUEN WAN 12-422096= TUEN MUN 12-818443= EXT. 82 AND HONG KONG ISLAND 5-282523 EXT. 60.

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TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL TICKETS SELLING FAST

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TSUEN WAN'S FIRST ARTS FESTIVAL IS ALREADY WELL ON THE WAY TO BEING A SELL-OUT.

THE FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATOR, MR. BENJAMIN TANG SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) TWO OF THE MAJOR ATTRACTIONS - PERFORMANCES BY THE HK PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND THE HK CHILDREN'S CHOIR - WERE SOLD OUT WITHIN HOURS OF THE BOOKINGS OPENING.

AND TICKETS FOR MOST OF THE OTHER ATTRACTIONS OF THE TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL WERE ALREADY 70 PER CENT BOOKED, HE SAID.

THE FESTIVAL, TO BE STAGED AT VARIOUS VENUES IN THE NEW TOWN BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND 14, IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, THE TSUEN WAN CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

+THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE IS ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED BY THE TREMENDOUS RESPONSE,+ MR. TANG SAID, +WE ARE NOT REALLY SURE WHAT TO EXPECT BECAUSE THIS IS THE FIRST DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL EVER HELD IN HONG KONG BUT THE PUBLIC INTEREST HAS GONE FAR BEYOND OUR MOST OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATION.+

+IT ALSO ILLUSTRATES THE GREAT INTEREST LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE IN A VERY WIDE VARIETY OF EVENTS THAT ARE BEING STAGED DURING THE TWO WEEKS.+

MR. TANG SAID THE BOOKING SERVICE WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.

+BUT IN VIEW OF THE RESPONSE SO FAR, WE EXPECT THE TICKETS TO BE SOLD OUT BEFORE THE FESTIVAL GRAND OPENING ON NEW YEAR'S DAY,+ HE SAID.

+I WOULD URGE ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING THE TICKETS TO GET THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.+

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SCHEME TO PROVIDE MORE NAVIGATIONAL AIDS
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS EMBARKED ON A \$1 MILLION SCHEME TO IMPROVE NAVIGATION AIDS TO CRAFT USING THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF HONG KONG WATERS.

THE SCHEME IS DESIGNED TO PINPOINT NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS AND TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO FISHERMEN, PLEASURE CRAFT AND SAND BARGE OPERATORS WHO FREQUENTLY USE THIS STRETCH OF WATER.

IT INVOLVES THE INSTALLATION OF SEVEN ADDITIONAL LIGHT BEACONS IN THE SAI KUNG AND MIRS BAY AREA.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTS, MR. JAMES DEAKIN OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S NAVIGATIONAL AIDS SECTION, SAID THE BEACONS, WHICH HAVE RANGES FROM TWO TO FIVE MILES, WOULD BE INSTALLED AT CHEUNG PAI TAU, WONG MA CHAU, FU TAU PUN CHAU, WAVE ROCK, MA CHAI PAI, FAN TSANG CHAU AND FAT TAU MUN.

MR. DEAKIN SAID THESE EXTRA AIDS WERE NEEDED BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF THE AREA. THE SUBMERGED ROCKS AND SHALLOW SEABED COULD POSE A HAZARD TO NAVIGATION, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT AND IN TIMES OF LOW VISIBILITY.

+THE SCHEME WHEN COMPLETED IN EARLY 1980 WILL GREATLY IMPROVE THE SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE SUPER-STRUCTURE FOR A LARGE LIGHT BEACON ON THE NINEPIN ISLANDS IS NEAR COMPLETION.

THE INSTALLATION OF THE LIGHTING EQUIPMENT WILL START SOON AND THE LIGHT IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL NEXT MONTH. THE BEACON WILL HAVE A RANGE OF 11 MILES AND WILL PROVIDE BETTER NAVIGATIONAL GUIDANCE TO BOTH LOCAL CRAFT AND OCEAN-GOING VESSELS.

AT PRESENT, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS OPERATING MORE THAN 250 NAVIGATIONAL AIDS WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS WHICH IS NEARLY DOUBLE THE 142 AIDS THE DEPARTMENT OPERATED IN 1971.

THESE COMPRISE, IN ADDITION TO MANNED LIGHTHOUSES, MAINLY BATTERY-OPERATED LIGHT BUOYS, LIGHT BEACONS, RADIO CONTROLLED FOG SIGNAL, RADIO BEACONS AND RADAR TRANSPONDER.

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FREE LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE SUSPENDED TO CLEAR HOLIDAYS

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FREE LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE LAW SOCIETY AT THE EASTERN AND MONG KOK CITY DISTRICT OFFICES EVERY THURSDAY EVENING WILL BE SUSPENDED ON DECEMBER 28 THIS YEAR AND FEBRUARY 1, 1979 TO CLEAR THE CHRISTMAS AND LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

ON THESE TWO DAYS THE TWO CITY DISTRICT OFFICES WILL ONLY OPERATE UP TO 5.30 P.M.

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YOUTH ORCHESTRA TO GIVE CONCERT

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THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WILL GIVE A CONCERT ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 28) AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE, WATERLOO ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE CONCERT, STARTING AT 8 P.M., WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MR. DAVID GWILT AND MISS JOANNA LEE WILL BE THE PIANO-SOLOIST.

PROGRAMME FOR THE CONCERT WILL INCLUDE PRINCE IGOR OVERTURE - BORODIN - PIANO CONCERTO NO. 18 IN BB K456 - MOZART - +SUNRISE+ FROM HONG KONG PANORAMA - CHEN CHIEN-HUA - AND SYMPHONY NO. 8 IN G - DVORAK.

THE CONCERT IS ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE. FREE ADMISSION TICKETS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE'S HEAD OFFICE ON THE NINTH FLOOR, ARTS CENTRE, WAN CHAI, AND ITS DISTRICT OFFICES AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (KWUN TONG), THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (SHAMSHUIPO) AND 10-12 CHUNG ON STREET, FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN.

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