



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 1986

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STEPS TAKEN TO ELIMINATE HARBOUR ODOUR
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ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO ELIMINATE THE UNPLEASANT ODOUR THAT WELCOMES ARRIVALS AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHEN THE WIND IS BLOWING IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION.

WORK BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE SMELL THAT BELIES THE COMMON TRANSLATION OF THE TERRITORY'S NAME -- 'FRAGRANT HARBOUR' -- WILL, BEFORE TOO LONG, BE A THING OF THE PAST, SAYS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH.

LIKE MANY PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG, THE SMELL HAS RESULTED FROM A MUSHROOMING GROWTH OF POPULATION, THIS TIME IN THE KOWLOON BAY AREA.

OVER THE YEARS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE SETTLED THERE, EITHER IN GOVERNMENT ESTATES, TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS OR SQUATTER VILLAGES. INDUSTRIES HAVE SPRUNG UP.

THE GROWTH, THOUGH RAPID, HAS BEEN LARGELY UNPLANNED AND THERE HAS, UNTIL NOW, BEEN NO PROPER SEWAGE SYSTEM FOR THIS LARGE POPULATION. SUBSEQUENTLY, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL SEWAGE HAS, FOR YEARS, BEEN DISCHARGED INTO KOWLOON BAY TYPHOON SHELTER THROUGH THE KAI TAK AND JORDAN NULLAHS.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN A LAYER OF ORGANIC SEDIMENT BEING DEPOSITED ON THE FLOOR OF THE TYPHOON SHELTER. THE SEDIMENT HAS DEPLETED THE WATER OF ITS OXYGEN, CAUSING THE RELEASE OF HYDROGEN SULPHIDE GAS AND GIVING RISE TO THE UNPLEASANT ODOUR.

QUITE APART FROM ITS SMELL, THE HYDROGEN SULPHIDE ACTUALLY CAUSES DAMAGE. COPPER ELECTRICAL FITTINGS IN AIRCRAFT PARKED NEAR THE TYPHOON SHELTER FOR LONG PERIODS HAVE CORRODED.

+WHY CAN'T THEY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SMELL+ IS THE UNDERSTANDABLE QUESTION VOICED BY ARRIVALS OVER THE YEARS AT KAI TAK, AND EVEN MORE POINTEDLY BY RESIDENTS OF THE AREA.

IN FACT, SOMETHING HAS BEEN DONE SINCE AS EARLY AS 1983 BY THE DRAINAGE (DESIGN) DIVISION OF WHAT IS NOW THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

SO FAR, \$15.5 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT IN THE FIRST TWO STAGES OF A THREE-STAGE ATTACK ON THE POLLUTION AND ITS RESULTING ODOUR.

STAGE ONE, WHICH STARTED LATE IN 1983, WILL COST A TOTAL OF \$14 MILLION AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR. THIS INCLUDES DIVERTING WASTE FROM MARK I AND MARK II ESTATE BLOCKS IN THE AREA INTO THE EXISTING SEWER SYSTEM.

/TO DATE,

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TO DATE, 38 OF 119 BLOCKS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN MODIFIED AND WORK IS UNDERWAY ON THE OTHERS. AS THE ESTATE BLOCKS ARE TO BE REDEVELOPED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THIS SOURCE OF POLLUTION WILL BE LARGELY REMOVED IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

ALSO UNDER STAGE ONE, THREE PUMPING STATIONS AND ASSOCIATED SEWERS HAVE BEEN BUILT TO DIVERT POLLUTED DRY-WEATHER FLOW FROM THE STORM WATER DRAINS INTO THE SEWER SYSTEM. THIS PREVENTS IT BEING DISCHARGED INTO THE TYPHOON SHELTER.

ONE OF THE PUMPING STATIONS IS ALREADY IN OPERATION AND THE OTHER TWO WILL BE COMMISSIONED SHORTLY.

ALREADY COMPLETED LAST YEAR WAS A MAJOR SEWER CROSSING AT JORDAN NULLAH IN KWUN TONG ROAD TO IMPROVE SEWER HYDRAULICS AND PREVENT SEWAGE OVERFLOWING INTO THE NULLAH.

THE FINAL PART OF STAGE ONE IS THE INSTALLATION OF MECHANICAL SCREENS AT PUMPING STATION NO. 2 AT YUK KWAN STREET TO REMOVE FLOATING REFUSE IN THE KAI TAK NULLAH. THESE SHOULD BE IN OPERATION AROUND AUGUST.

PARALLEL WITH STAGE ONE HAS BEEN WORK ON THE \$35 MILLION STAGE TWO OF THE ANTI-POLLUTION ACTION. STARTED IN 1984, AND EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE WORK IS AIMED AT OVERCOMING THE PROBLEM OF SEDIMENT AND LACK OF OXYGEN IN THE WATER.

ALREADY, BETWEEN DECEMBER 1984 AND MARCH 1985, 500 000 CUBIC METRES OF ORGANIC SEDIMENT HAS BEEN DREDGED FROM THE TYPHOON SHELTER.

THE NEXT PHASE OF STAGE TWO, NOW UNDERWAY, IS THE INSTALLATION OF OXYGEN INJECTION EQUIPMENT. OXYGENATION OF THE WATER IS EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER.

A THIRD STAGE, COSTING \$30 MILLION, HAS ALREADY BEEN PLANNED. THIS WOULD CONSIST OF FURTHER DREDGING OF ORGANIC SEDIMENT FROM THE TYPHOON SHELTER AND INSTALLATION OF MACHINES TO AERATE THE SURFACE WATER IN THE SHELTER CHANNEL.

HOWEVER, IT IS HOPED THAT STAGES ONE AND TWO MAY BE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM, AND SO A DECISION ON WHETHER TO IMPLEMENT STAGE THREE WILL BE MADE EARLY NEXT YEAR.

MEANWHILE, THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT REGULARLY DESILTS THE NULLAHS TO MAINTAIN A SMOOTH FLOW AND PREVENT THE WATER IN THEM BECOMING STAGNANT. IN 1984, 11 500 CUBIC METRES OF SILT WAS REMOVED FROM THE NULLAHS AND IN 1985 THE TOTAL WAS 17 500 CUBIC METRES.

/TO MONITOR

TO MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MEASURES, THE WATER IS SAMPLED AT 16 STATIONS IN KOWLOON BAY EVERY TWO MONTHS. THE SAMPLES ARE TESTED FOR BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (BOD), SUSPENDED SOLIDS, FAECAL COLIFORM COUNTS, SULPHIDE CONTENTS, PH VALUE, DISSOLVED OXYGEN AND SALINITY.

A CESD SPOKESMAN SAID: +ALTHOUGH THE WATER QUALITY IN THE TYPHOON SHELTER REMAINS DISAPPOINTING THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER DETERIORATION.

+SLIGHT IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN BOD, SUSPENDED SOLID, SULPHIDE CONTENT AND FAECAL COLIFORM COUNT AND THERE HAS BEEN LESS FLOATING REFUSE RECORDED AND A REDUCTION IN HYDROGEN SULPHIDE GAS FORMATION IN THE CHANNEL+.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED: +WITH THE START OF PURE OXYGEN INJECTION INTO THE POLLUTED WATER TOWARDS THE LATTER PART OF THIS YEAR, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE DISSOLVED OXYGEN CONTENT OF THE SHELTER WATER COULD BE RAISED TO MORE THAN 10 PER CENT SATURATION. THIS WILL INHIBIT THE RELEASE OF HYDROGEN SULPHIDE GAS AND THE SMELL NUISANCE SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED.+

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JANUARY-MAY RAINFALL ABOVE AVERAGE

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THE TOTAL RAINFALL FROM JANUARY TO MAY THIS YEAR, AT 615 MM, WAS 10 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL FOR THE PERIOD, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY REPORTED TODAY (SUNDAY).

ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS WAS BELOW NORMAL, THE RAINFALL IN MAY, AT 378.7 MM, WAS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO MAKE UP THE DEFICIT. AN AMOUNT OF 172.5 MM, OR 45 PER CENT OF THE MONTH'S TOTAL, WAS RECORDED ON MAY 11 AND 12.

MAY 1 WAS FINE AND WARM. THE WEATHER DETERIORATED ON MAY 2 WITH PERIODS OF RAIN AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS, AS A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE PASSED SOUTH ACROSS HONG KONG OVERNIGHT.

THERE WERE SUNNY INTERVALS IN THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 3. IT REMAINED FINE AND SUNNY FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS UNTIL SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS RECURRED ON MAY 6 AND EARLY ON MAY 7. THE WEATHER IMPROVED LATER ON THE SAME DAY AND REMAINED GENERALLY FINE ON MAY 8 AND 9.

CLOUDY CONDITIONS WITH SCATTERED SHOWERS OCCURRED ON MAY 10 WHEN AN ACTIVE AREA OF LOW PRESSURE TRAVELLED ACROSS INDO-CHINA TO AFFECT SOUTH CHINA.

/HEAVY DOWNPOURS

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HEAVY DOWNPOURS AND SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS AFFECTED HONG KONG ON MAY 11, WITH OVER 200 MM OF RAINFALL RECORDED IN TAI LAM CHUNG, TAI MO SHAN AND TAI PO. FLOODS WERE REPORTED IN MANY PARTS OF THE TERRITORY, THE MORE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BEING TAI PO AND WAN CHAI. TWO PEOPLE WERE ALMOST DROWNED IN A FAST-FLOWING NULLAH IN TAI PO.

THE HEAVY RAIN CONTINUED ON MAY 12 MORNING, BUT THE WEATHER IMPROVED WITH SUNNY INTERVALS IN THE AFTERNOON AS THE LOW PRESSURE AREA MOVED AWAY FROM HONG KONG TOWARDS TAIWAN.

ALTOGETHER, 48 REPORTS OF FLOODING AND SEVEN OF LANDSLIPS WERE RECEIVED DURING THE DAY BUT THERE WERE NO INJURIES. THE RAINSTORM ALSO DAMAGED 110 HECTARES OF VEGETABLE FIELDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE WEATHER BECAME FINE ON MAY 13, APART FROM A FEW THUNDERSTORMS THAT DEVELOPED IN THE EVENING, AND THE TEMPERATURE IN THE AFTERNOON ROSE TO 31.2 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE HIGHEST RECORDED IN THE MONTH.

A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE BROUGHT HEAVY AND THUNDERY SHOWERS EARLY ON MAY 14, CAUSING MINOR FLOODING AND MUDSLIPS IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE TROUGH PASSED TO THE SOUTH OF HONG KONG, AND THE WEATHER IMPROVED RAPIDLY LATER IN THE MORNING. A SURGE OF FRESH TO STRONG EASTERLIES ARRIVED IN THE EVENING. WINDY BUT SUNNY CONDITIONS PREVAILED FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

THE WEATHER DETERIORATED ON MAY 18 WITH SCATTERED SHOWERS, AS AN ACTIVE LOW PRESSURE AREA NEAR XISHA MOVED NORTHWARDS.

ON MAY 19 AND 20 SHOWERS BECAME HEAVIER AND MORE FREQUENT WHEN THIS LOW PRESSURE AREA WAS EDGING CLOSER TO HONG KONG FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

THE WEATHER WORSENERD ON MAY 21 WITH PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN AND STRONG OFFSHORE EASTERLIES. SHOWERY AND WINDY CONDITIONS CONTINUED THE FOLLOWING DAY.

WINDS MODERATED ON MAY 23 AS THE LOW PRESSURE AREA MOVED EASTWARDS AWAY FROM HONG KONG. THE WEATHER IMPROVED EARLY ON MAY 24 AND IT REMAINED FINE AND HOT APART FROM SOME SHOWERS FROM MAY 25 TO 31.

THREE TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE MONTH. TYPHOON KEN WHICH WEAKENED TO A TROPICAL DEPRESSION TOWARDS THE END OF APRIL IN THE VICINITY OF YAP, DISSIPATED OVER THE PACIFIC ABOUT 360 KM WEST-NORTHWEST OF THE ISLAND LATE ON MAY 2.

/LOLA FORMED

LOLA FORMED ABOUT 1 780 KM EAST-SOUTHEAST OF GUAM EARLY ON MAY 17. IT WAS MOVING SLOWLY AT FIRST AND INTENSIFIED RAPIDLY TO A TYPHOON THE NEXT DAY. LOLA TOOK A NORTHWESTERLY TRACK ON MAY 19 BUT TURNED NORTHWARDS ON MAY 21 OVER THE PACIFIC ABOUT 800 KM NORTHEAST OF GUAM. IT TURNED NORTHEASTWARDS EARLY ON MAY 22 AND PASSED ABOUT 290 KM NORTHWEST OF MARCUS ISLAND ON THE SAME DAY. LOLA BECAME EXTRATROPICAL ON MAY 23 WHILE ACCELERATING NORTHEASTWARDS TOWARDS THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS.

TROPICAL STORM MAC FORMED OVER THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ABOUT 190 KM SOUTHWEST OF DONGSHA ON MAY 23. IT MOVED EASTWARDS INITIALLY BUT TURNED NORTH-NORTHEASTWARDS OVER THE BASHI CHANNEL NEAR BATAN ON MAY 26. MAC BECAME ALMOST STATIONARY IN THE EVENING OF MAY 27 ABOUT 180 KM SOUTHEAST OF TAIPEI. IT THEN ADOPTED A EAST-NORTHEAST COURSE ON MAY 28. AFTER PASSING TO THE SOUTH OF THE RYUKYU ISLANDS, MAC DISSIPATED ABOUT 370 KM EAST-SOUTHEAST OF OKINAWA LATE ON MAY 29.

DURING THE MONTH, ONE AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MAY 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 30 AND 31. FLOOD WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MAY 11, 12 AND 14. A LANDSLIP WARNING WAS ISSUED ON MAY 12.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>WEATHER SYSTEM</u>	<u>SIGNAL</u>	<u>DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING</u>	<u>DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING</u>
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAY 14 10.00 PM	MAY 15 2.30 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAY 18 1.10 AM	MAY 18 11.00 PM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAY 21 3.20 PM	MAY 23 6.10 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

SUNSHINE	147.8 HOURS = 14.8 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
RAINFALL	378.7 MM = 80.6 MM ABOVE NORMAL
CLOUDINESS	76% = 3% MORE THAN NORMAL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	84% = 1% HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	28.4 DEGREES C = 0.5 DEGREE C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN TEMPERATURE	25.9 DEGREES C = 0.1 DEGREE C ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	24.2 DEGREES C = 0.3 DEGREE C ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	23.0 DEGREES C = 0.3 DEGREE C ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	116.4 MM = 30.0 MM BELOW NORMAL

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MORE SQUASH COURTS FOR YUEN LONG

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A TWO-STOREY SQUASH COURT COMPLEX IS TO BE BUILT AT TAI TONG ROAD, YUEN LONG, TO PROVIDE MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THERE WILL BE FOUR COURTS AT THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE COMPLEX AND A VIEWING GALLERY ON THE UPPER FLOOR. ALSO PROVIDED WILL BE TOILETS, AND CHANGING AND SHOWER FACILITIES.

THE SITE, COVERING 900 SQUARE METRES, WILL BE EXTENSIVELY LANDSCAPED.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN AUGUST AND BE COMPLETED IN NINE MONTHS.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL BE FUNDED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, ARE BEING INVITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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YAU MA TEI DB MEMBERS ON STUDY TOUR

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SEVEN YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND SIX LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS LEFT FOR JAPAN THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING ON A STUDY TOUR.

THE GROUP, LED BY THE BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH, AND ACCOMPANIED BY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR AUGUSTINE CHENG, WILL FIRST VISIT THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT FOR BRIEFINGS ON CITY MANAGEMENT AND URBAN RE-DEVELOPMENT.

THEIR ITINERARY ALSO INCLUDES VISITS TO VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND OFFICES IN NAGANO TO SEE DEVELOPMENTS IN WELFARE AND URBAN SERVICES FACILITIES.

+THE TOUR PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO KEEP ABREAST OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN DIFFERENT FIELDS WHICH THEY MAY FIND USEFUL IN THEIR WORK,+ MR YIP SAID.

THE GROUP WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG LATER THIS MONTH.

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