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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1976

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GOVERNMENT SCHEME TO HELP  
SMALL SHOP OPERATORS AFFECTED BY MASS TRANSIT HOARDINGS  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DRAWN UP A SPECIAL ADVANCE COMPENSATION SCHEME TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSMEN WHOSE TRADING IS AFFECTED BY MASS TRANSIT HOARDINGS PLACED OUTSIDE THEIR SHOPS.

+THE SCHEME IS DESIGNED TO HELP THE OPERATORS OF SMALL SHOPS AND OTHER LITTLE BUSINESSES WHO WOULD OTHERWISE FACE SERIOUS HARDSHIP BECAUSE OF REDUCED TURNOVER,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MASS TRANSIT STUDIES.

THE MAXIMUM MONTHLY ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE \$7,500.

ABOUT 2,000 OPERATORS OF SMALL BUSINESSES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADVANCE PAYMENTS — MANY OF THEM WITH PREMISES FRONTING NATHAN ROAD.

OTHERS AFFECTED INCLUDE THE OPERATORS OF SOME SMALL SHOPS IN WONG TAI SIN AND, ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE OPERATORS OF A FEW SHOPS IN CHATER ROAD.

+PEOPLE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ADVANCE COMPENSATION IF THE HOARDINGS OUTSIDE THEIR SHOPS ENCROACH ON THE FOOTPATH BY ONE THIRD OR MORE,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

+THEY BECOME ELIGIBLE FROM THE TIME THE HOARDINGS GO UP UNTIL THEY COME DOWN.+

ALL ADVANCE COMPENSATION PAYMENTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM FINAL CLAIMS AWARDED TO THE OPERATORS UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

ADVANCE PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE ON A GRADUATED SCALE ACCORDING TO THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$7,500 A MONTH FOR PREMISES WITH A RATEABLE VALUE OF BETWEEN \$100,000 AND \$250,000.

BECAUSE THE SCHEME IS AIMED AT HELPING SMALL OPERATORS, NO ADVANCES ARE PLANNED FOR THE TIME BEING FOR BUSINESSES OCCUPYING PREMISES WITH A RATEABLE VALUE OF MORE THAN \$250,000.

OTHER DETAILS OF THE ADVANCE COMPENSATION SCHEME ARE :

- \* THE PREMISES MUST BE USED FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES AND THE APPLICATION FOR AN ADVANCE MUST BE FOR TRADING LOSSES= NO ADVANCES WILL BE MADE TO LANDLORDS FOR LOSS OF RENT=
- \* A BUSINESS CONCERNED IN A CLAIM MUST HAVE BEEN OPERATING BEFORE THE STREET CLOSURE WAS GAZETTED=
- \* THE APPLICANT MUST PRODUCE PROOF OF HIS RIGHT TO OCCUPY THE PREMISES=
- \* AN APPLICATION FOR AN ADVANCE MUST INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT THE APPLICANT INTENDS TO CLAIM COMPENSATION UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

CONVERSION OF PUBLIC HIRE CARS TO TAXIS  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS REAFFIRMED ITS DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS TO ISSUE MORE TAXI LICENCES EARLY NEXT YEAR.

HOWEVER, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ALLOW OPERATORS OF PUBLIC HIRE CARS TO CONVERT THEIR LICENCES INTO TAXI LICENCES ON THE PAYMENT OF A PREMIUM OF \$75,000.

THIS DECISION FOLLOWS A MEETING THREE WEEKS AGO BETWEEN THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. IAN MACPHERSON AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC HIRE CAR OPERATORS.

THE REPRESENTATIVES WERE OFFICIALLY INFORMED TODAY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION.

DETAILED ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CONVERSION OF PUBLIC HIRE CARS TO TAXIS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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CINEMA-GOERS PAID \$15 M. ENTERTAINMENTS TAX LAST YEAR  
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ENTERTAINMENTS TAX COLLECTED BY THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR AMOUNTED TO OVER \$18.7 MILLION.

OF THIS SUM, OVER \$15 MILLION WAS PAID BY CINEMA-GOERS AND OVER \$3.6 MILLION BY RACE-GOERS.

TAX ON CINEMA TICKETS WAS RE-INTRODUCED ON APRIL 1 LAST YEAR UNDER THE ENTERTAINMENTS TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1975 AFTER A TWO-YEAR BREAK.

THERE WERE 83 CINEMAS IN OPERATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. SIX OPENED DURING THE YEAR AND FOUR CLOSED.

ONE CHINESE FILM ALONE GROSSED OVER \$4.5 MILLION AND ANOTHER THREE EXCEEDED THE \$2 MILLION MARK. ONE NON-CHINESE FILM GROSSED MORE THAN \$5 MILLION- ANOTHER EXCEEDED \$2 MILLION.

TAX COLLECTED FROM RACE-GOERS SHOWED A SLIGHT DROP OF \$14,894 OR 0.4 PER CENT FROM THE FIGURE OF 1974-75. THIS FRACTIONAL FALL IN REVENUE FROM RACE MEETINGS WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF OFF-COURSE AND TELEPHONE BETTING FACILITIES.

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GOVERNMENT GIVES DETAILS OF OFFERS TO COMMERCIAL  
TENANTS AND OWNER-OCCUPIERS IN TAI ON MANSION

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY GAVE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS OF OFFERS MADE TO COMMERCIAL TENANTS AND OWNER-OCCUPIERS OF PREMISES IN TAI ON MANSION, SHAM SHUI PO, WHICH MUST BE VACATED BY SEPTEMBER 1 TO ENABLE TUNNELLING FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY TO TAKE PLACE SAFELY:

- \* THE SEVEN COMMERCIAL TENANTS HAVE BEEN OFFERED A TOTAL OF \$137,632 IN EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION.
- \* THE 39 OWNER-OCCUPIERS HAVE BEEN OFFERED \$3,601,000 FOR THEIR FLATS. THIS FIGURE INCORPORATES NEW OFFERS MADE TODAY TO 36 OF THE OWNER-OCCUPIERS, BASED ON FRESH EVIDENCE SUBMITTED BY THE OWNERS' REPRESENTATIVES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE OFFERS OF EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION TOTALLING \$137,632 MADE TO THE SEVEN COMMERCIAL TENANTS HAVE BEEN CALCULATED AT A RATE OF \$40 PER SQUARE FOOT FOR THOSE PARTS OF EACH COMMERCIAL PREMISES BEING USED FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES, AND AT LESSER RATES FOR STOREROOMS, BATHROOMS AND THE LIKE.

+IF THEY ACCEPT THE EX-GRATIA OFFER THEN THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY 50 PER CENT ON THE TENANT SIGNING THE AGREEMENT AND THE BALANCE WHEN HE VACATES THE PREMISES.

+THE COMMERCIAL TENANTS ARE ALSO ENTITLED TO MAKE STATUTORY CLAIMS COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF ITEMS SUCH AS REMOVAL EXPENSES, TEMPORARY LOSS OF PROFITS AND THE VALUE OF SHOP FITTINGS AS THEY STAND AT THE PRESENT.

+IN ADDITION, IF ANY SHOP OPERATOR INTENDS TO CLOSE DOWN HIS BUSINESS AND NOT RE-OPEN IN OTHER PREMISES, THEN THE OPERATOR IS ENTITLED TO MAKE A STATUTORY CLAIM FOR LOSSES BECAUSE OF FORCED SALE OF MERCHANDISE AND SHOP EQUIPMENT.

+SUCH A STATUTORY CLAIM WOULD ALSO INCLUDE REDUNDANCY PAY, AT RATES DEFINED UNDER THE LABOUR ORDINANCE, FOR ANY EMPLOYEES OF SUCH A BUSINESS WHO HAD TO BE LAID OFF.+

SUCH STATUTORY CLAIMS, SAID THE SPOKESMAN, WOULD HAVE TO BE SUPPORTED BY SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE.

IN CASES WHERE SUCCESSFUL STATUTORY CLAIMS EXCEEDED THE AMOUNT OF EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION PAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE UP THE BALANCE TO THE OPERATOR.

IN ONE CASE, HE ADDED, A SHOP OPERATOR WAS ARRANGING TO MOVE TO OTHER PREMISES BUT COULD NOT OCCUPY THEM FOR SIX MONTHS. IN THIS CASE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REIMBURSE HIM FOR THE STORAGE OF HIS STOCK AND GOODS FOR SIX MONTHS UNTIL HE RE-STARTED OPERATIONS.

CONCERNING THE NEW OFFERS MADE TODAY TO 36 OF THE 39 OWNER-OCCUPIERS OF TAI ON MANSION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THESE VARIED BETWEEN \$215 AND \$240 PER SQUARE FOOT OF THE FLATS' AREA.

THE INCREASES RANGED BETWEEN \$1,000 AND \$12,000 PER FLAT, DEPENDING ON THE AREAS INVOLVED.

IN ADDITION, ALL ELIGIBLE OWNER-OCCUPIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE BEING OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT COMMERCIAL TENANTS DISSATISFIED WITH STATUTORY COMPENSATION OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND OWNER-OCCUPIERS DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR OFFERS, WERE ALL ENTITLED TO TAKE THEIR CLAIMS TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL, WHICH WOULD GIVE AN INDEPENDENT RULING.

IF THE TRIBUNAL'S FIGURE WAS HIGHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE UP THE BALANCE.

+ALL THIS SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO BE AS FAIR AND REASONABLE AS POSSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE CONCERNED,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

+IT IS HOPED THAT TODAY'S OFFER TO THE OWNER-OCCUPIERS WILL BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT THEY WANT AND WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN OFFER, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT MARKET VALUES AT THE TIME OF RESUMPTION IN THE SAME AREA AS TAI ON MANSION, RELATIVE TO PROPERTIES OF SIMILAR AGE AND CONDITION.+

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TWO MORE FAMILIES RENTING FLATS IN TAI ON MANSION HAD INDICATED TODAY THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT GOVERNMENT HOUSING.

THIS TOOK TO 108 THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES LIVING IN TAI ON MANSION AND A NEARBY BUILDING IN SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, ALSO RESUMED FOR ESSENTIAL MASS TRANSIT WORKS, WHO HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED GOVERNMENT HOUSING OR INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD DO SO.

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REPORT ON SURVEY OF INSTRUCTORS PUBLISHED  
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RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASURES TO MEET INSTRUCTOR TRAINING NEEDS IN HONG KONG ARE CONTAINED IN A REPORT RELEASED BY THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY).

THEY WERE DRAWN UP IN THE LIGHT OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN JUNE LAST YEAR BY THE TRAINING COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTOR TRAINING WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SCOUTS ASSOCIATION AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE REPORT, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, ALSO INCLUDES DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS EMPLOYED IN LOCAL INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY AND A FORECAST OF THE ANNUAL NEED FOR INSTRUCTORS IN THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD FOLLOWING THE SURVEY.

THE REPORT, OBTAINABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG, SELLS AT \$4.00 A COPY.

THE COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTOR TRAINING WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR ON THE ADVICE OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL IN 1974.

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H.K. DANCERS WIN MORE FRIENDS IN SCOTLAND  
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THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS CHINESE DANCE TEAM, AT PRESENT ON A SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF SCOTLAND, WILL APPEAR IN KIRKALDY TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND GIVE AN EXTRA PERFORMANCE IN ABERDEEN ON THURSDAY BEFORE GOING TO LONDON TO TAKE PART IN A GALA SPECTACULAR AT SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE NEXT SUNDAY (AUGUST 22).

LAST SUNDAY (AUGUST 15), IN THEIR SIXTH APPEARANCE ON STAGE FOLLOWING THEIR ARRIVAL IN SCOTLAND, THE DANCERS AGAIN CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF THE AUDIENCE IN ABERDEEN'S HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE+.

BEFORE A CAPACITY AUDIENCE OF 1,500, THEY ADDED A LARGE MEASURE OF CHINESE GRACE AND SPLENDOUR TO AN INTERNATIONAL +GALA VARIETY SPECTACULAR+ BY PROVIDING THE GRAND FINALE TO THE SHOW WITH +THE DANCE OF THE RED SILK+, +SONG OF THE SUNFLOWER+ AND THE +NORTHERN LION DANCE+.

BACK IN THE CHANGING ROOMS, FESTIVAL SECRETARY GENERAL, MRS. JOY BRYER CONGRATULATED TEAM OFFICIALS FOR +A MARVELLOUS AND FABULOUS PERFORMANCE+.

+THE HONG KONG CHILDREN HAVE BROUGHT A NEW VISTA OF DANCE INTO BRITAIN. I AM SURE ABERDONIANS WILL NEVER FORGET THE BLOSSOMING BEAUTIES OF YOUR DANCERS ON THE STAGE,+ SHE SAID.

LAST FRIDAY (AUGUST 13), HONG KONG'S POPULAR DANCING TROUPE WAS HOST TO 700 PARTICIPATING PERFORMERS FROM 16 COUNTRIES IN A +HONG KONG NIGHT+.

AMONG THE GUESTS WERE LORD PROVOST ROBERT LENNOX OF ABERDEEN AND THE LADY PROVOST AND MR. AND MRS. LIONEL BRYER. DURING THE TWO-HOUR CULTURAL FUNCTION, THE GUESTS WERE TREATED TO CHINESE MUSIC, DEMONSTRATIONS IN CALLIGRAPHY, HAIR DRESSING, CHESS, FORTUNE TELLING, TEA AND SNACKS.

MRS. ELEANOR LEE, LEADER OF THE HONG KONG GROUP, SAID A GREAT DEAL OF PLANNING AND ORGANISATION HAD GONE INTO THE +HONG KONG NIGHT+ WHICH WAS +AIMED AT ACQUAINTING OUR FELLOW PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH THE FEW FACETS OF CHINESE CULTURE AND CUSTOMS+.

NEXT MORNING, APPEARING IN THEIR BLUE DANCING COSTUMES UNDER THE HONG KONG FLAG, THE DANCERS WERE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE OF MANY NATIONS WHO CHEERED AND WAVED AS THE QUEEN AND MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY DROVE PAST ABERDEEN'S ALBIN PLACE ON THEIR WAY TO DEESIDE.

IN THE EVENING, THE HONG KONG DANCERS ATTENDED A PERFORMANCE BY THE NIGERIAN FOLK DANCE GROUP.

THE NIGERIANS LATER THREW A PARTY FOR THE HONG KONG CHILDREN WHO WERE SERVED WITH CHINESE FRIED RICE, ROAST AND BARBECUED DUCK.

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S.W.D.'S USED BOOK SALE SERVICES PROVE POPULAR  
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MORE PEOPLE ARE MAKING USE OF THE USED BOOK SALE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTRES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR.

DURING THE SUMMER VACATION, OVER 45,000 USED TEXTBOOKS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED BY EIGHT CENTRES AND ABOUT HALF OF THEM HAVE BEEN SOLD AT NO MORE THAN HALF OF THE ORIGINAL PRICE.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE SERVICES IS TO HELP REDUCE THE COSTS OF TEXTBOOKS FOR WHICH SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS NORMALLY HAVE TO SPEND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY EACH YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE SERVICES PROVED TO BE VERY POPULAR AND AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 300 STUDENTS VISITED EACH OF THE CENTRES DAILY.

THOSE WHO MADE USE OF THE SERVICES WERE MOSTLY STUDENTS OF FORM 1 TO FORM 3.

THE EIGHT COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTRES WHICH PROVIDE THE USED BOOK SALE SERVICES ARE THE SHAM SHUI PO YOUTH CENTRE, THE TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE LAM TIN ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICE, THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE SAU MAU PING ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICE, THE SHEK LEI ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICE, THE WESTERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THE SHEUNG SHUI SOCIAL CENTRE.

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WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 19) TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY YUEN LONG MAIN ROAD, FUNG CHEUNG STREET, HOP YICK ROAD, TAI TONG ROAD, KAU YUK ROAD, NULLAH, WAH NING PATH AND TAI YUK ROAD, INCLUDING YAU SAN STREET, HONG LOK STREET AND THE YUEN LONG POLICE STATION.

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