



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1988

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
UK MINISTERS 'PRESSED' ON VR PROBLEM	1
CONTINUED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CIVIC EDUCATION	2
GOVERNOR OFFICIATES AT FLOAT PARADE	3
ACTION PLANNED ON 'MONEY LAUNDERING' : CP	4
HOSPITAL FOR CONVALESCENCE PATIENTS TO BE BUILT	5
RESIDENTS TAKE PART IN ANTI-MARCOTICS CAMPAIGN	6
RENT OFFICER SCHEME EXTENDS TO SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN	7
HONG KONG PARK SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO SUIT RECREATION, LEISURE NEEDS OF URBAN DWELLERS	8
MORE COURSES ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PLANNED	10
TAI PO DB TO DISCUSS GAS PLANT EXPANSION	11
ELDERLY URGED TO BE MORE ACTIVE	11
FREE CHECK-UPS FOR ELDERLY TAI PO VILLAGERS	12
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT GETS NEW HOTLINE NUMBER	13
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HI LUNG LANE	13

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1988

- 1 -

UK MINISTERS 'PRESSED' ON VR PROBLEM

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, HAS PRESSED BRITISH MINISTERS ON THE QUESTION OF AN INTAKE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT KAI TAK AIRPORT TODAY (SUNDAY) ON HIS RETURN FROM VISITS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES, SIR DAVID SAID: "CLEARLY AN INCREASED QUOTA FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE GOING TO GET THE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME GOING."

ASKED WHETHER BRITAIN HAD GIVEN ANY INDICATION THAT SHE WOULD INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY HER INTAKE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY AT THE PRESENT STAGE.

"THEY OF COURSE HAVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF IMMIGRATION INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM. BUT THEY WERE CERTAINLY SYMPATHETIC," SIR DAVID SAID.

DESCRIBING HIS VISITS USEFUL, SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD SEEN MINISTERS AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN LONDON, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND LORD GLENARTHUR AND OFFICIALS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH HONG KONG.

ASKED WHETHER A SUGGESTION FOR REFERENDUM IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997 HAD BEEN RAISED FOR DISCUSSION, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE DIDN'T GO INTO DETAIL, CLEARLY THEY WERE INTERESTED IN WHAT MY JUDGEMENT WAS OF THE MOOD IN HONG KONG."

SIR DAVID SAID WHILE THERE WERE DIVERSE VIEWS ON THE PACE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE PRESENT MOMENT, HE HOPED THAT PEOPLE COULD WORK TOWARDS A CONSENSUS ON THE ISSUE.

"I THINK THAT WOULD BE THE BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED," HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAW STUDENTS, BUSINESS GROUPS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR DAVID SAID: "I MUST SAY I THINK PEOPLE HAVE A VERY GOOD UNDERSTANDING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF OUR MAJOR PROBLEMS AT THE MOMENT, INCLUDING THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM."

IN THE UNITED STATES, SIR DAVID TALKED TO PEOPLE WHO WERE INTERESTED IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING BUSINESS GROUPS, THE MEDIA AND ACADEMICS.

HE SAID: "I WAS STRUCK THERE BY WHAT A POSITIVE VIEW PEOPLE WERE TAKING OF HONG KONG, ITS BUSINESS POTENTIAL AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF ALSO THE PROBLEMS WE FACE THERE."

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CONTINUED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION WITH THE RESOURCES IT NEEDS FOR ITS WORK, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING AT THE "TO CARE AND TO GIVE: CIVIC EDUCATION DAY" AT VICTORIA PARK ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF MUTUAL HELP AND CARE.

SIR DAVID PRAISED THE COMMITTEE FOR THE WORK IT HAS DONE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. "SINCE IT WAS SET UP IN MAY 1986, THE COMMITTEE HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL TO FOSTER CIVIC AWARENESS AND PROMOTE GOOD CITIZENSHIP," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE WAS IMPORTANT, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL IF CIVIC EDUCATION WAS TO BE A SUCCESS.

"IT IS GOOD TO SEE THE INCREASING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS. 17 LOCAL SERVICE GROUPS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CIVIC EDUCATION DAY : AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF CO-OPERATION," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG WAS KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD FOR ITS ECONOMIC SUCCESS BUT VERY FEW PEOPLE REALISED THAT THE HARDWORKING AND RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE ALSO PREPARED TO SPEND MUCH OF THEIR LEISURE TIME HELPING OTHERS.

"IT IS A NOTABLE FEATURE OF HONG KONG THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS, AND FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN A WIDE RANGE OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES."

"HONG KONG'S WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO APPEALS FOR WORTHY CAUSES HAS EVEN EARNED US A PLACE IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS," SIR DAVID SAID.

"IN ORGANISING TODAY'S CIVIC EDUCATION DAY ACTIVITIES, THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION IS GIVING ADDED IMPETUS TO THIS FINE TRADITION OF MUTUAL HELP AND CARE IN THE COMMUNITY.

"WE HAVE HERE TODAY EXHIBITIONS SHOWING THE LARGE RANGE OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES WHICH EXIST IN HONG KONG TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS. BUT IT WILL NOT JUST BE PASSIVE VIEWING.

"EVERYBODY LOOKING AT THE EXHIBITS WILL ALSO HAVE A CHANCE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO REQUESTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONEY, BLOOD DONATIONS AND, ABOVE ALL, OUR INVITATION THAT THEY SHOULD GIVE SOME OF THEIR TIME FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE IN NEED OF HELP," HE ADDED.

DESCRIBING THE CONCEPT OF THE TWO-WAY EXHIBITION AS AN "IMAGINATIVE" ONE, THE GOVERNOR HOPED THAT EVERYONE WOULD ENJOY BOTH SEEING AND RESPONDING -- AND BENEFITTING FROM BOTH.

"I HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL JOIN ALL OF US HERE TODAY IN WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A MORE HARMONIOUS AND CARING COMMUNITY FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN," SIR DAVID SAID.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1988

- 3 -

GOVERNOR OFFICIATES AT FLOAT PARADE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON TODAY (SUNDAY) OFFICIATED AT A CEREMONY FOR THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN FLOAT PARADE, ORGANISED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

THE PARADE WAS THE FOCAL ACTIVITY OF THE 1988-89 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PHASE, WHICH WAS IMPLEMENTED WITH A VIEW TO FOSTERING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY CONCERN IN THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN OPERATION.

A TOTAL OF 29 VINTAGE CARS, OF WHICH 17 WERE FROM THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND 12 FROM MAJOR COMMERCIAL CONCERNS, TOOK PART IN THE FLOAT PARADE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE SAID: "WE HAD A MUCH BETTER RESPONSE THIS YEAR AS MORE COMMERCIAL COMPANIES READILY RESPONDED TO OUR INVITATION."

"THE ESSENCE OF THE PARADE DOES NOT ONLY LIE WITH THE FANCIFUL APPEAL THAT THESE GLAMOUROUSLY DECORATED FLOATS GENERATE FOR THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, IT IS ALSO THE SENSE OF COMMITMENT OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS THAT MAKE THE EVENT ALL THE MORE MEANINGFUL," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE VEHICLES, ALL BEARING KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN APPEAL MESSAGES, BEGAN THE LONG TREK ACROSS TOWN FROM THE TSUEN WAN SPORTS GROUND THIS MORNING, PASSING THROUGH THE MOST POPULATED AREAS OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT AND KOWLOON, AND TERMINATING AT CHATER ROAD IN CENTRAL.

MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE ENJOYED AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AND GAMES, WHEN THE VEHICLES WERE PARKED ALONG THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT, WHILE THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS STAGED VARIOUS KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

A LIVE TELEVISION SHOW, ATTENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON AND SOME 300 INVITED GUESTS, COMPRISING URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILLORS, AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS, WAS BROADCAST VIA THE ASIA TELEVISION IN THE AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE CEREMONY, SIR DAVID SAID KEEPING HONG KONG CLEAN WAS SOMETHING "WHICH ALL OF US CAN CONTRIBUTE TO".

"IT IS NOT A MATTER PURELY FOR THE GOVERNMENT, OR FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL, OR FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, BUT SOMETHING IN WHICH EACH INDIVIDUAL PERSON IN HONG KONG CAN MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKING HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.

"SO I HOPE THAT TODAY'S EVENTS WILL HELP TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO RECEIVE AND ACT ON THAT MESSAGE," SIR DAVID ADDED.

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ACTION PLANNED ON 'MONEY LAUNDERING': CP

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RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING MONEY LAUNDERING, ORGANISED CRIME AND TRAVEL DOCUMENT FRAUD WERE AMONG THOSE PASSED AT THIS YEAR'S INTERPOL GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

"POSSIBLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT, INSOFAR AS WE SHALL HAVE A BILL BEFORE LEGCO WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE ENACTED SOON, WAS THAT RELATING TO MONEY LAUNDERING," SAID COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR RAYMON ANNING.

MR ANNING SAID THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNISED THE NEED TO CREATE MECHANISMS FOR DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL MONEY LAUNDERING AND RELATED CRIMES.

"IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INTERPOL HAS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES TO COMBAT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS IN PARTICULAR, AND ALL WHO LAUNDER ILLEGAL PROFITS INTERNATIONALLY," HE EXPLAINED.

"TO THIS END IT WAS DECIDED THAT A WORLDWIDE WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE SET UP PRINCIPALLY TO STUDY EXISTING METHODS, AND ALSO TO DEVELOP NEW STRATEGIES FOR THE GATHERING OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH, ARISING FROM, RELATED TO OR RESULTING FROM NARCOTICS TRANSACTIONS AND OTHER CRIMES."

ON THE SUBJECT OF ORGANISED CRIME, MR ANNING SAID THAT AGAIN THE ASSEMBLY NOTED THAT ALL MEMBER STATES SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES, MOVEMENTS AND OPERATIONS OF ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS.

THE MEETING RECOMMENDED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE FORMATION OF A SPECIALISED GROUP WITHIN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT TO COUNTER THE ACTIVITIES OF ORGANISED CRIME; THAT ORGANISED CRIME SHOULD BE A PERMANENT AGENDA ITEM AT BOTH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND REGIONAL MEETINGS; AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE HEADS OF SPECIALISED SERVICES CONCERNED WITH COMBATING ORGANISED CRIME WHERE APPROPRIATE.

CONCERN AMONG MEMBER NATIONS OVER THE INCREASING USE OF FRAUDULENT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS LED TO A CALL FOR CONCERTED EFFORT TO BE MADE TO APPREHEND AND PROSECUTE THOSE RESPONSIBLE, MR ANNING WENT ON.

"NOT ONLY ARE SUCH DOCUMENTS USED TO CROSS BORDERS, BUT THEY CAN ALSO BE USED IN SUPPORT OF OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES SUCH AS THEFT, COUNTERFEITING AND FORGERY," HE NOTED.

"THE ASSEMBLY THEREFORE REQUESTED THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN PARIS TO PROMOTE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO PROVIDE ALL MEMBERS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINIMUM SECURITY MEASURES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE MANUFACTURE AND ISSUE OF GENUINE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

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"IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE SHOULD BE OPEN TO REPRESENTATIVES FROM DEPARTMENTS ISSUING GENUINE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AS WELL AS AUTHORISED MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION PROCESSES.

"THE SECRETARIAT WILL NOW TRY TO LOCATE A COUNTRY WILLING TO HOST SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE."

SPEAKING ON THE INTERPOL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A WHOLE, MR ANNING SAID IN WORLDWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT TERMS IT IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT MEETING WHICH IS OF GREAT BENEFIT TO THE FORCE.

"EVERY YEAR CRIME BECOMES MORE INTERNATIONAL, WITH MORE MOVEMENT OF CRIMINALS AND THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME, PLUS GREATER USE OF TECHNOLOGY BY CRIMINALS. THIS MAKES COOPERATION BETWEEN POLICE FORCES WORLDWIDE MORE NECESSARY AND INTERPOL IS THE FORUM THROUGH WHICH THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED," HE CONCLUDED.

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HOSPITAL FOR CONVALESCENCE PATIENTS TO BE BUILT

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THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL DESIGNED ESPECIALLY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CONVALESCENCE PATIENTS WILL BE COMPLETED IN SHA TIN BY 1990.

COSTING \$183 MILLION FOR THE SUPERSTRUCTURE ALONE, THE SHA TIN CONVALESCENT AND INFIRMARY HOSPITAL HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO PATIENTS REQUIRING A LENGTHY RECOVERY PERIOD.

THE HOSPITAL BUILDING CONSISTS OF A 10-STOREY BLOCK WITH THE GROUND FLOOR, PODIUM AND FIRST FLOOR LEVELS ACCOMMODATING THE VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE, ENGINEERING AND OTHER SPECIALIST AREAS.

LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF MA ON SHAN ROAD AND FACING THE SHING MUN RIVER CHANNEL AND SHA TIN JOCKEY CLUB RACE COURSE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE RIVER CHANNEL, THE HOSPITAL MAKES BEST USE OF THE SEA VIEW TO THE NORTH AND THE COUNTRYSIDE TO THE SOUTH.

THE WARDS WERE DESIGNED IN THE FORM OF AN "H". EACH GENERAL WARD HAS BEEN FURTHER SUBDIVIDED INTO SMALLER GROUP WARDS OF FOUR BEDSPACES.

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ASIDE FROM MEDICAL FACILITIES, OTHER PROVISIONS INCLUDE FACILITIES FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, ART AND MUSIC, WORKSHOPS, GYMNASIUMS FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY AND ROOF GARDENS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR T.H. CHAU, WILL LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE SHA TIN CONVALESCENT AND INFIRMARY HOSPITAL AT 3 PM, ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 20). THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE EVENT.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE FUNCTION ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF A COACH AM5617 WHICH WILL DEPART FROM HANKOW ROAD, NEAR THE PENINSULA HOTEL, AT 2 PM.

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RESIDENTS TAKE PART IN ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN

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A THREE-WEEK ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY WITH A FUN DAY FOR RESIDENTS HELD AT KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND TODAY (SUNDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FUN DAY, CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, MR SO HOI-PANG SAID A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES WERE ORGANISED DURING THE CAMPAIGN TO PUBLICISE THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DRUGS AND TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM TAKING DRUGS.

THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED AN ANTI-NARCOTICS EXHIBITION AND VIDEO SHOW, A DISCO NIGHT AND VISITS TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL AND TAI TAM CENTRE FOR WOMEN, MR SO ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE AREA COMMITTEES AND YIN NGAI SOCIETIES, SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND FACTORY WORKERS FORMED 15 TEAMS TO TAKE PART IN TODAY'S TELEMATCH GAMES.

PARTICIPANTS AND RESIDENTS ALSO WATCHED PERFORMANCES BY THE TAI TAM MARCHING BAND, LOCAL SCHOOL BANDS, HONG KONG MORRIS DANCING TEAM, KWAI TSING DISTRICT CULTURE AND ARTS CO-ORDINATION ASSOCIATION, CHAMPION OF THE DISTRICT SINGING COMPETITION AND POPULAR SINGERS.

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- 7 -

THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE CAMPAIGN WAS \$300,000, OF WHICH \$100,000 WAS ALLOCATED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND \$200,000 SPONSORED BY SHELL HONG KONG LTD.

ALSO SPEAKING TODAY, CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, DR GERALD CHOA THANKED KWAI TSING ORGANISATIONS AND RESIDENTS' SUPPORT TOWARDS THE CAMPAIGN.

DR CHOA URGED THE PUBLIC TO BEWARE OF THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DRUGS AND CALLED ON PARENTS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THEIR CHILDREN.

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RENT OFFICER SCHEME EXTENDS TO SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN

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THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME WHICH PROVIDES THE PUBLIC WITH FREE ADVICE ON TENANCY MATTERS WILL BE EXTENDED TO SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN DISTRICTS ON JANUARY 3, 1989.

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE SHA TIN KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY HOUSE, WILL PROVIDE THE SERVICE ON THE FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAY MORNINGS OF THE MONTH WHILE THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AT THE TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING WILL PROVIDE THE SERVICE ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH FRIDAY AFTERNOONS OF THE MONTH.

THIS BRINGS TO 15 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DISTRICT OFFICES PROVIDING THE SERVICE WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE AT CENTRAL AND WESTERN, WANCHAI, SOUTHERN AND EASTERN ON HONG KONG ISLAND; YAU TSIM, MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON CITY, WONG TAI SIN AND KWUN TONG IN KOWLOON AND TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING AND YUEN LONG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SCHEME, WHICH IS RUN BY THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT, WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN APRIL, 1978.

DURING THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, MORE THAN 14,300 PEOPLE HAD APPROACHED THE RENT OFFICERS FOR ADVICE ON RENT AND TENANCY PROBLEMS.

THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS WERE RECOVERY AND EVICTION FROM PREMISES, LEGAL PROCEEDINGS OF TENANCY DISPUTES AND RENT INCREASES AND ALTERATIONS.

PEOPLE WISHING TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS WITH THE RENT OFFICERS HAVE TO FIRST MAKE APPOINTMENTS AT ANY OF THE 67 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES IN 19 DISTRICT OFFICES.

/CASES WILL

CASES WILL BE REFERRED TO THE RENT OFFICERS WHEN FOLLOW-UPS ARE REQUIRED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO SEEK ADVICE OR OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICE MAY APPROACH ANY OF THE 67 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OR THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE SECTION AT THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS ON THE 13TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD, HARBOUR CITY, TSIM SHA TSUI (TELEPHONE 3-692255).

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HONG KONG PARK SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO SUIT
RECREATION, LEISURE NEEDS OF URBAN DWELLERS

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SITE FORMATION WORK AT THE HONG KONG PARK IS FORGING AHEAD WELL ON SCHEDULE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF FEBRUARY WHEN CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE MULTI-MILLION PROJECT WILL START.

"THE FORMER SITE OF THE VICTORIA BARRACKS, COVERING 10 HECTARES, WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO A MAGNIFICENT WORLD-CLASS RECREATION AND LEISURE AMENITY FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HONG KONG PEOPLE BY 1991," THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE, MR SAMUEL WONG, SAID TODAY.

"TO SUIT THE RECREATION AND LEISURE NEEDS OF URBAN DWELLERS WHO RESIDE IN ONE OF THE MOST CROWDED CITY AREAS IN THE WORLD, THE PARK HAS BEEN SPECIALLY AND CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES."

FACILITIES WILL COMPRISE AN ULTRA-MODERN FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED INDOOR GAMES HALL, A PASSIVE RECREATION AREA, A FOUNTAIN PLAZA, A PROMENADE, A TERRACED GARDEN WITH WATER FEATURES, SITTING-OUT AREAS AND GENEROUS LANDSCAPING; A GARDEN PLAZA FOR THE STAGING OF A VARIETY OF INFORMAL ACTIVITIES; A WALK-THROUGH AVIARY; A LARGE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND; A GREENHOUSE; A PARK CAFE AND OTHER LEISURE FEATURES SUCH AS A LOGGIA, LAKES AND TRACTS OF LANDSCAPED AREA; AND A VANTAGE POINT.

"SPECIAL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE DESIGN TO PRESERVE AS MUCH OF THE EXISTING TREES, PLANTS AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SITE AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN ENJOY ANOTHER OASIS OF GREENERY," SAID MR WONG.

ALL USUAL SERVICE BUILDINGS SUCH AS TOILETS AND REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED IN A MANNER FULLY IN KEEPING WITH THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE OF THE PARK.

/"THE POSITIONING

"THE POSITIONING OF ALL THESE SERVICE BUILDINGS INCLUDING THE TOILET HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR EASY PUBLIC ACCESS," SAID MR WONG.

"SINCE THE HONG KONG PARK IS MEANT TO BE A TERRITORY-WIDE LEISURE AND RECREATION VENUE TO BE USED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS RESIDING IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF HONG KONG, WHO WILL VISIT THE PARK FROM AS FAR AS KWUN TONG, TSUEN WAN, FAN LING AND YUEN LONG, IT IS VITAL THAT A PUBLIC TOILET BE SITED NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF THE PARK.

"IN FACT, THE PRACTICE OF MAKING THE SERVICE BUILDING PART OF THE ENTRANCE COMPLEX IS VERY COMMON FOR THIS TYPE OF LARGE-SCALE PUBLIC FACILITY."

TO KEEP THE PARK IN A TIDY CONDITION, A REFUSE CHAMBER WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT SUCH A CHAMBER MUST BE SITED NEAR AN ENTRANCE. AND IN CASE OF HONG KONG PARK, THE CHAMBER HAS TO BE PROVIDED NEAR THE EASTERN ENTRANCE OF THE PARK ON ONE SIDE OF THE BUS LAY-BY AREA, WHICH IS THE ONLY AREA ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF THE PARK WHERE VEHICULAR ACCESS CAN BE ARRANGED.

"THE DECISION TO LOCATE THE CHAMBER AT THE EDGE OF THE PARK RATHER THAN IN THE PARK ITSELF IS TO AVOID HAVING VEHICLES DRIVING THROUGH THE PARK, WHICH WOULD POSE A MAJOR HAZARD TO THE HUNDREDS OF PEDESTRIANS STROLLING INSIDE," SAID MR WONG.

"THIS SERVICE FACILITY HAS BEEN SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND TREATED BY THE ARCHITECT. IT WILL BE RECESSED INTO EXISTING SLOPES, AND EFFECTIVELY SCREENED TO HIDE IT FROM VIEW.

"IN ORDER TO PREVENT ANY SMELLS EMITTING FROM THE REFUSE CHAMBER, CARBON FILTERS WILL BE ADDED TO VENTILATION DUCTS.

"THE REFUSE CHAMBER WILL ONLY SERVE THE PARK AND MOST OF THE REFUSE WILL BE DRY LEAVES AND BRANCHES, WHICH WILL BE PLACED IN STRONG PLASTIC BAGS AND CONVEYED TO THE CHAMBER FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE ONLY BEFORE IT IS TAKEN AWAY BY REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES.

"ALL THESE SERVICE AND ANCILLIARY FACILITIES MIGHT NOT BE APPRECIATED BY PARK USERS AND THE PUBLIC, THEY ARE, NEVERTHELESS, NECESSARY ITEMS, WHICH ARE PARTS AND PARCELS OF ANY MAJOR PARK FACILITY IN ORDER TO MAKE ANY VISIT TO THE PARK AN ENJOYABLE AND PLEASANT TRIP," ADDED MR WONG.

CAPTION: PICTURE (1) SHOWS THE HONG KONG PARK EASTERN ENTRANCE COMPLEX VIEWED FROM ACROSS SUPREME COURT ROAD, AND PICTURE (2) SHOWS ONE OF THE FACILITIES IN THE PARK - THE FOUNTAIN PLAZA.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1988

- 10 -

MORE COURSES ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PLANNED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF COURSES TO BRING HOME THE MESSAGE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TO EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

ACCORDING TO THE TRAINING PROGRAMME OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE, A TOTAL OF 198 BASIC AND ADVANCED COURSES OF 28 TYPES WILL BE ORGANISED IN THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR.

LASTING FROM HALF A DAY TO FIVE DAYS, THE COURSES COVER AREAS SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION, CONSTRUCTION SAFETY, WORK SAFETY IN CONFINED SPACES, MANUAL LIFTING AND HANDLING OF WEIGHTS, SAFE USE OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND SAFETY CONTROL IN PLASTICS AND ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES.

OTHER COURSES FOR SAFETY OFFICERS, SUPERVISORS, FOREMEN AND SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE HEARING CONSERVATION, ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, CHEMICAL AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS, WORK SAFETY IN TUNNELLING AND CAISSON WORK, AND HAZARDS AND CONTROLS IN CONSTRUCTION AND ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE COURSES ON SAFETY PROGRAMME, PROMOTION, AND SAFETY REGULATIONS.

COMMENTING ON THE SCOPE OF THE COURSES, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID A NUMBER OF NEW COURSES INCLUDING TWO ON CRANE SAFETY, FOUR ON SAFETY IN WORKING AT HEIGHT AND TWO ON ELECTRICAL SAFETY-FATAL ACCIDENTS ANALYSIS AND CASE STUDY, WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED NEXT YEAR.

"IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATIONS ON DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES, MORE COURSES ON LABELLING AND SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS ARE TO BE ORGANISED, AND ADDITIONAL CLASSES WILL BE ARRANGED SHOULD THE NEED ARISE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THERE WOULD ALSO BE AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COURSES ON "HIGH-RISK" OPERATIONS IN A MOVE TO FOSTER AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

ALL THE SAFETY COURSES ARE CONDUCTED MAINLY IN CANTONESE AND ADMISSIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE, THOUGH APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT MUST BE MADE THROUGH EMPLOYERS.

PROSPECTUS AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE CENTRE ON THE 13TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING IN CENTRAL.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE AT 5-8523563.

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/11

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1988

- 11 -

TAI PO DB TO DISCUSS GAS PLANT EXPANSION

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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL EXPRESS VIEWS ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 20) ON THE SCOPE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF A PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE TAI PO GAS PRODUCTION PLANT.

THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY PROPOSES TO EXPAND ITS GAS PRODUCTION PLANT II AND IS REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT THE ASSESSMENT AS A PREREQUISITE FOR APPROVAL.

AT THE MEETING, AN INFORMATION PAPER ON A PROPOSAL TO SELL A CEMENT/AGGREGATE/SAND DEPOT SITE IN YIM TIN TSAI WILL BE TABLED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER THE BOARD SHOULD TAKE PART IN THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 1989.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD AND THE REPORTS BY THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD TO BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 20). THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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ELDERLY URGED TO BE MORE ACTIVE

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MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS LORNA MA, TODAY (SUNDAY) CALLED ON ELDERLY PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AS A MEANS OF MAINTAINING MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A "SPORTS DAY FOR THE ELDERLY", MRS MA SAID ELDERLY PEOPLE SHOULD KEEP IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY, AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS WRONG FOR THEM TO THINK THEY WERE NO LONGER USEFUL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY BECAUSE OF THEIR AGE.

/"GETTING OLD

- 12 -

"GETTING OLD IS A STAGE IN LIFE, WHICH, HOWEVER, ALSO REPRESENTS AN ACCRUMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE. I BELIEVE MANY ELDERLY PEOPLE HERE ARE AS GOOD AS YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN HANDLING A JOB," SHE ADDED.

MORE THAN 600 ELDERLY PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN TODAY'S GAMES AT THE MONG KOK STADIUM.

SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, THE FUNCTION WAS ORGANISED AS A MAJOR ACTIVITY OF A "RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY CAMPAIGN" IN THE DISTRICT.

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FREE CHECK-UPS FOR ELDERLY TAI PO VILLAGERS

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ABOUT 500 ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVING IN VILLAGES OF TAI PO DISTRICT RECEIVED FREE HEALTH CHECK-UPS TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE EVENT WAS PART OF AN ON-GOING PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE FREE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT.

THE CHECK-UPS WERE HELD IN LAM TSUEN LION'S CLUB YOUTH CENTRE AND IN LUEN YICK FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE, SAM MUN TSAI.

ELDERLY PARTICIPANTS AGED 60 OR ABOVE HAD THEIR BLOOD PRESSURE, URINE, EYESIGHT AND HEARING EXAMINED.

LAST SUNDAY SIMILAR CHECK-UPS WERE PROVIDED FOR THE ELDERLY LIVING IN THE TAI PO NEW TOWN IN TAI PO COMMUNITY CENTRE.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1988

- 13 -

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT GETS NEW HOTLINE NUMBER

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO ENQUIRE ABOUT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS WILL HAVE TO DIAL A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FROM DECEMBER 21 (WEDNESDAY), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

FROM DECEMBER 21, THE ENQUIRY HOTLINE OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE CHANGED FROM 5-200933 TO 5-8691166.

THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE HANDLES ENQUIRIES ON A WIDE RANGE OF TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS, INCLUDING LICENSING, TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE HOTLINE RECEIVED ABOUT 15,000 ENQUIRIES, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 50 CALLS A DAY.

MEANWHILE, THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S METER COMPLAINTS UNIT, WHICH HANDLES REPORTS ON DEFECTIVE PARKING METERS, WILL BE CHANGED TO 5-8690111.

ALSO FROM DECEMBER 21, THE FIRST THREE DIGITS OF THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S OFFICES IN QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES WILL BE CHANGED FROM "862" TO "867". THE LAST FOUR DIGITS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HI LUNG LANE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT HI LUNG LANE BETWEEN ARTHUR STREET AND SHANGHAI STREET IN YAU MA TEI, WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 21).

THE CLOSURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS FOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

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