



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1975

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HELP PREVENT HILL FIRES

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RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO PREVENT HILL FIRES WHEN THEY GO PICNICKING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

+HILL FIRES NOT ONLY DAMAGE OUR LANDSCAPE AND GREENERY, BUT ARE ALSO VERY COSTLY, + A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, THERE WERE 33 FIRES IN THE VARIOUS AFFORESTATION AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES WERE DESTROYED AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PUBLIC MONEY WENT DOWN THE DRAIN.

IN THE TAI LAM CHUNG CATCHMENT AREAS, A FIRE YESTERDAY DESTROYED SOME 300,000 TREES ON 300 ACRES OF PLANTATIONS. ANOTHER FIRE AT TAI PO KAU SPREAD OVER SOME 25 ACRES OF LAND, BURNING DOWN SOME 20,000 TREES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES DESTROYED OVER THE WEEKEND MIGHT WELL BE OVER HALF A MILLION AT A FINAL COUNT.

+IT IS REALLY A SAD THING. THE COST OF REPLANTING THE BURNT AREAS IS \$3 MILLION, AND IT WILL TAKE YEARS TO RESTORE THE LANDSCAPE, + HE SAID.

HILL FIRES WOULD, AND INDEED COULD, HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD THE PICNICKERS TAKEN SOME SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY VISITOR TO THE COUNTRYSIDE TO PROTECT THE GREENERY FROM FIRES. HE GAVE THE FOLLOWING SIMPLE GUIDELINES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRES.

PREVENTING HILL FIRES

- * BE CAREFUL WITH MATCHES AND CIGARETTE ENDS.
- * WHEN GOING OUT FOR PICNIC, BRING PRE-COOKED FOOD INSTEAD OF BARBECUING.
- * REPORT ANY OUTBREAK OF FIRE TO FOREST FIRE CONTROL CENTRE OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (DURING OFFICE HOURS: 3-688523- AFTER OFFICE HOURS: 3-781211) OR FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (DIAL 999).
- * HELP TO PUT OUT FIRE WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

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FIGHTING GRASS FIRES

- * IF A GRASS FIRE STARTS, DON'T PANIC, BUT ACT QUICKLY.
- * STAMP ON THE FLAMES WHILE THEY ARE STILL SMALL.
- * BEAT THE FLAMES WITH A LEAFY BRANCH FROM A TREE OR SHRUB. WORK AT THE SIDE OF THE FIRE, NOT WITH IT BLOWING INTO YOUR FACE. WORK IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE WIND.
- * ASK OTHER PARTIES OF VISITORS TO HELP.
- * GO TO NEAREST FORESTRY POST OR FIRE LOOKOUT CABIN, OR TELEPHONE THE CONSERVATION AND FORESTS DIVISION, (DURING OFFICE HOURS: 3-688523, AFTER OFFICE HOURS: 3-781211).

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN, HAS SENT HIS NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO THE ACTING GOVERNOR AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HIS MESSAGE READS: +I SEND TO YOU AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MY WARM GOOD WISHES FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN 1976. MY MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES AND MEMBERS OF MY STAFF JOIN WITH ME IN ASSURING YOU THAT THE PROGRESS AND WELLBEING OF HONG KONG REMAINS OUR CONSTANT CONCERN. THE WORLDWIDE DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY BROUGHT US ALL MANY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS DURING 1975. I HOPE THAT NEXT YEAR WE SHALL BE WELL ON OUR WAY TO SOLVING THEM.+

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR NOVEMBER

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CHEAPER FISH AND VEGETABLES LAST MONTH HELPED TO BRING DOWN THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) BY THREE POINTS TO 108, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

INDEX (A) IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM THE EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400 TO \$1,499 A MONTH.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS FELL BY FOUR POINTS.

THIS WAS ACCOUNTED FOR BY A DROP IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SALT WATER FISH, FRESH WATER FISH, FRESH VEGETABLES AND FRESH FRUITS, ALTHOUGH THE PRICES OF MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME ROSE.

THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS FELL ONE POINT WHILE THAT FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES ALSO FELL AS MUCH FOLLOWING A REDUCTION IN MACAU FERRY AND HYDROFOIL FARES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, AS PRICES OF KEROSENE AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS WERE RAISED AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY INCREASED, THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT ROSE BY FOUR POINTS.

THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B), WHICH IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM THE EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$1,500 TO \$2,999 A MONTH, FELL BY ONE POINT TO 109 DURING THE SAME MONTH.

AS IN THE (A) INDEX, THERE WAS A DROP OF FOUR POINTS IN THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS, DUE MAINLY TO CHEAPER FISH, VEGETABLES AND FRUITS.

THERE WAS SIMILARLY A DROP BY ONE POINT IN THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES, FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF LOWER MACAU FERRY AND HYDROFOIL FARES.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT ADVANCED BY THREE POINTS AND THAT FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR BY TWO POINTS.

INCREASES OF ONE POINT WERE RECORDED IN THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR AND THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS IN BOTH INDEX (A) AND INDEX (B).

MOVEMENTS IN THE INDEXES FOR OTHER SECTIONS OF COMMODITY WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

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CAREERS '76 DRAWS LARGE CROWDS

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MORE THAN 45,000 PEOPLE HAVE VISITED CAREERS '76 IN THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S 12-DAY CAREERS EXHIBITION WHICH CONTINUES TO BE A CENTRE OF ATTRACTION TO STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

DURING THE WEEK-END ALONE, A RECORD OF OVER 25,000 VISITORS ATTENDED THE EXHIBITION, WHICH, ACCORDING TO SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER, MR. JAMES YEUNG, HAD DEFINITELY AROUSED THE INTEREST AND CONCERN OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN THEIR CHOICE OF CAREERS.

HE OBSERVED A BETTER AND MORE NOTICEABLE RESPONSE FROM ALL QUARTERS -- STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS AS WELL AS EXHIBITORS -- THAN THE PREVIOUS YEARS.

MR. YEUNG SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THIS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT DESPITE THE COLD WEATHER. +THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT MORE STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GIVING SERIOUS THOUGHTS TO THEIR CAREERS AND FUTURE.+

HOWEVER, HE ADVISED THEM NOT TO BE COMPLACENT BECAUSE JUST SEEING THE EXHIBITION WOULD NOT SOLVE THEIR CAREER PROBLEM.

+CAREERS '76 MERELY PROVIDES SOME ADVICE AND INFORMATION ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND GUIDANCE ON HOW TO CHOOSE A CAREER WISELY. STUDENTS STILL NEED TO, BESIDES SCORING GOOD ACADEMIC RESULTS, SPEND MORE EFFORT IN GATHERING RELEVANT INFORMATION BEFORE MAKING A DECISION.

+IN THIS CONNECTION,+ MR. YEUNG ADDED, +STUDENTS SHOULD ALSO CONSULT THEIR PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS, OR CALL ON THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE WHICH ORGANISED THE EXHIBITION FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES.+

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE MAJORITY OF VISITORS TO CAREERS '76 -- THE DEPARTMENT'S FOURTH ANNUAL CAREERS EXHIBITION -- WERE STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

MANY KEEN STUDENTS WERE SEEN TAKING NOTES WHEN EXHIBITORS PATIENTLY ANSWERED THEIR QUERIES.

A FORM FIVE GIRL STUDENT SAID THE HAND-OUTS DISTRIBUTED BY THE EXHIBITORS WERE EXCELLENT REFERENCE MATERIAL AND SHE WOULD KEEP THEM FOR FUTURE USE. +THE DISCUSSIONS I HAD WITH THE EXHIBITOR BENEFIT ME EVEN MORE BECAUSE THEY HAVE DIRECT RELEVANCE TO MY OWN CIRCUMSTANCES,+ SHE SAID.

ANOTHER BOY STUDENT REMARKED THAT CAREERS '76 HAD WIDELY BROADENED HIS VISION ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES. +BEFORE SEEING THE EXHIBITION, I ALWAYS HAD THE IDEA THAT I WAS ONLY SUITABLE TO BECOME A CLERK IN THE CIVIL SERVICE OR AN OFFICE WORKER IN SOME COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS.

+HOWEVER, THE EXHIBITION REVEALED TO ME THAT I COULD ALSO FIND A REWARDING JOB IN MANY OTHER FIELDS SUCH AS SEAFARING OR SOCIAL WORK,+ HE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 5 P.M. ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 28).

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CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT NEW RAILWAY TERMINUS

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STAFF OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY WILL BE SPENDING THEIR FIRST CHRISTMAS AT THEIR NEW HUNG HOM HOME.

AN 18-FOOT CHRISTMAS TREE, GLITTERING WITH TRADITIONAL LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS, HAS BEEN PUT UP AT THE MAIN TERMINAL CONCOURSE.

+I HAVE BEEN TOLD IT IS POSSIBLY THE TALLEST CHRISTMAS TREE IN HONG KONG,+ MR. REG GREGORY, THE GENERAL MANAGER, SAID.

IT IS FITTING THAT THE TREE, SYMBOLIC OF COMMUNAL AMITY AND FESTIVITY SHOULD BE HOUSED IN THE NEW TERMINUS, WHICH HAS BECOME NOT ONLY AN ESSENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS INTERCHANGE BUT A MEETING PLACE FOR RESIDENTS OF HUNG HOM AND OI MAN ESTATE.

+WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO PEOPLE FROM THE URBAN AREAS TO SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL TREE. WE ARE ALSO HOPING THAT RESIDENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD COME TO HUNG HOM TO PARTAKE OF THE WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP,+ MR. GREGORY SAID.

HE ASSURED HOLIDAY-MAKERS THAT MORE TRAINS WOULD BE RUN DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE FLEXIBLE TO COPE WITH UNEXPECTED NUMBERS OF PASSENGERS.

THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY NOW HAD POSSIBLY THE BEST RECORD OF PUNCTUALITY EVEN THOUGH SOME 20 PER CENT MORE TRAINS WERE BEING RUN, HE SAID.

THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY A NEW TIME-TABLE AND A NEW METHOD OF TRAFFIC CONTROL WHICH PROVIDE BETTER CO-ORDINATION OF TRAIN SCHEDULES.

+THE NEW TERMINUS IS THE NICEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT THE KCR HAS HAD FOR A LONG TIME,+ MR. GREGORY SAID.

+WE ONLY WISH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WOULD COME TO SHARE THIS AND THE CHRISTMAS TREE WITH US DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON,+ HE ADDED.

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