



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1982

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TALKS ON FRENCH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

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MR LAWRENCE MILLS, THE COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, WILL LEAVE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR GENEVA FOR TALKS WITH THE EEC COMMISSION, REPRESENTING FRANCE, ON THE SUBJECT OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS MAINTAINED BY FRANCE AGAINST NINE HONG KONG PRODUCTS.

APART FROM THE RESTRICTION ON QUARTZ WATCHES, INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, OTHER PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS ARE SOYA SPROUTS, SOME CLOTHING ITEMS WHICH FALL OUTSIDE HONG KONG'S RESTRAINT AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC, UMBRELLAS, TRANSISTOR RADIOS, TOYS, COMPOUND MICROSCOPES AND PLEASURE BOATS.

AT THE TALKS, WHICH START ON FEBRUARY 2, HONG KONG WILL CLAIM THAT THE DISCRIMINATORY FRENCH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE GATT, AND CONSTITUTE A NULLIFICATION OR IMPAIRMENT OF BENEFITS TO WHICH HONG KONG IS ENTITLED.

COMMENTING ON WHETHER HONG KONG WILL TAKE RETALIATORY MEASURES AGAINST THE FRENCH, MR MILLS SAID THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO CONSIDER SUCH STEPS AT THIS STAGE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE TALKS, WHICH WILL BE HELD UNDER ARTICLE XXIII OF THE GATT, ARE AIMED AT PERSUADING THE FRENCH TO DISMANTLE THEIR IMPORT RESTRICTIONS COMPLETELY. IF THE FRENCH AGREED TO DO THIS, THE QUESTION OF RETALIATION WOULD NOT ARISE.

+THE GATT PROCEDURES COVERING THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES PROVIDE THAT THE TWO PARTIES CONCERNED SHOULD FIRST OF ALL SEEK TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS THROUGH BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. THESE ARE THE TALKS WHICH I WILL BE HAVING IN GENEVA,+ SAID MR MILLS.

+IF THE TALKS FAIL, EITHER PARTY MAY THEN REFER THE MATTER TO THE GATT COUNCIL AND ASK THE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A PANEL OF EXPERTS TO CONSIDER THE MATTER AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. ONLY IF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS FIND IN HONG KONG'S FAVOUR AND THE FRENCH REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE PANEL OF EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS, COULD HONG KONG BE AUTHORISED TO RETALIATE AGAINST FRANCE,+ ADDED MR MILLS.

MR MILLS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR DEREK JONES, HONG KONG'S MINISTER (DESIGNATE) TO THE EEC. THEY WILL BE JOINED BY OFFICERS FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S BRUSSELS AND GENEVA OFFICES FOR THE TALKS.

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NEW STANDING COMMISSION MEMBER

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR B.A. PEMBERTON AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

HIS APPOINTMENT WILL RUN FOR TWO YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 24.

MR PEMBERTON IS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CABLE AND WIRELESS (HONG KONG) LTD.

IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT MRS GRACE HO AND MR F.L. WALKER RETIRED FROM THE STANDING COMMISSION ON JANUARY 23 AFTER SERVING AS MEMBERS FOR THREE YEARS SINCE THE COMMISSION'S ESTABLISHMENT IN JANUARY 1979.

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TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD TO HAVE A WARD SYSTEM

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL START A WARD SYSTEM EARLY NEXT MONTH WHEN RESIDENTS CAN BRING THEIR SUGGESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS DIRECTLY TO BOARD MEMBERS.

TWICE A WEEK, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL MEET RESIDENTS AT THE BOARD'S OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF FOU WAH CENTRE AT 210 CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

THE TIMES WILL BE 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM ON TUESDAYS AND 2 PM TO 5 PM ON FRIDAYS.

ANY SUGGESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS WILL BE RECORDED AND BROUGHT FORWARD TO CONCERNED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR ACTION.

RESIDENTS WISHING TO SEE THE MEMBERS CAN FIRST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT, AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 0-445509.

A DISTRICT BOARD SPOKESMAN SAID THE WARD SYSTEM WOULD BE REVIEWED AFTER THREE MONTHS, AND CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO EXTENDING IT TO EVENINGS IF NECESSARY.

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD HAS 29 MEMBERS, OF WHOM 18 ARE UNOFFICIALS. THEY WILL BE ON WARD DUTY ON A ROSTER BASIS.

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KINDERGARTEN STATUS CHANGE ENCOURAGED

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A SET OF GUIDELINES HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO ALL PRIVATE KINDERGARTENS LISTING THE PROCEDURES ON HOW TO APPLY FOR CHANGE TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING STATUS SO THAT THEY MAY BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

+IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS SO THAT THEIR STANDARDS CAN BE IMPROVED AND MAINTAINED.

+ALL KINDERGARTENS ARE THEREFORE ENCOURAGED TO CHANGE TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING STATUS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED THAT THE ACQUISITION OF NON-PROFIT-MAKING STATUS ALONE DOES NOT GUARANTEE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF RE-IMBURSEMENT OF RENTALS AND RATES.

SO PRIVATE KINDERGARTENS WHICH WISH TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES OF QUALIFYING FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE SHOULD MAKE THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE INITIATING ANY LEGAL PROCEDURES FOR INCORPORATING AS A NON-PROFIT-MAKING BODY.

EACH APPLICATION WILL BE STUDIED BY A DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE, AND SINCE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL VARY FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL EACH CASE WILL BE CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS.

THE GUIDELINES ALSO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE CRITERIA FOR NON-PROFIT-MAKING STATUS, AND HOW PRIVATE KINDERGARTENS CAN CHANGE TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING STATUS.

+A PRIVATE KINDERGARTEN CAN CHANGE TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING STATUS EITHER BY THE SCHOOL OPERATORS INCORPORATING THEMSELVES AS A NON-PROFIT-MAKING BODY, OR BY HANDING THE SCHOOL OVER TO AN ESTABLISHED NON-PROFIT-MAKING SPONSOR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PRIVATE KINDERGARTENS INTERESTED IN CHANGING TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING STATUS CAN APPLY TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVIDING THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THEIR SCHOOLS, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, DETAILS OF THE SCHOOL PREMISES, THEIR FINANCIAL STATUS AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (SCHOOLS), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, THIRD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG, OR ON TELEPHONE 5-778311 EXT. 124.

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ENGINEERING WORKS MAY AFFECT MORNING TRAIN SERVICE
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THE FIRST TWO MORNING TRAINS OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY MAY BE DELAYED OR EVEN CANCELLED FROM SATURDAY (JANUARY 30) UNTIL TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 2) TO ENABLE NIGHT ENGINEERING WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THIS, A KCR SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE ENGINEERING WORKS FORM PART OF THE ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME AND WILL BE CARRIED OUT FOR ABOUT FIVE HOURS EACH NIGHT DURING THE FOUR-DAY PERIOD.

IN THE EVENT THAT THE WORK TAKES LONGER THAN EXPECTED, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY THE RUNNING OF THE EARLY MORNING TRAINS OR EVEN CANCEL THEM.

THE ENGINEERING WORKS WILL INVOLVE DOUBLE-TRACKING IN THE TAI PO KAU AREA AND REMODELLING OF THE MONG KOK STATION.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RETIRING
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TWENTY-SIX MARINE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WHO TOGETHER HAVE PUT IN 760 YEARS OF SERVICE WILL BE GOING ON RETIREMENT.

THEY ARE A BOATSWAIN, SIX SENIOR COXSWAINS, SIX SENIOR LAUNCH MECHANICS, SIX COXSWAINS, A LAUNCH MECHANIC, FOUR SAILORS, A WORKS SUPERVISOR AND AN ARTISAN.

TWO OF THEM ARE RECIPIENTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL, WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THE OTHERS HAVE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, RECEIVED COMMENDATIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE OR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

THEY HAVE BEEN COMMENDED FOR GOOD WORK IN EXTINGUISHING FIRES ON BOARD VESSELS AND SAVING LIVES AT SEA AS WELL AS FOR DEVOTION TO DUTY IN SEVERAL MAJOR EVENTS DATING BACK TO 1957. THESE EVENTS INCLUDED THE GROUNDING OF THE MOTOR VESSEL +TAI SHAN+ NEAR CHEUNG CHAU, RESCUE AND SALVAGE OPERATION FOR A CIVIL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT WHICH CRASHED IN KOWLOON BAY IN 1967, CLEARANCE OF AN OIL SPILL AT AP LEI CHAU IN 1974, THE ROYAL VISIT OF THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN 1975, THE ABERDEEN HARBOUR FIRE IN 1977, AND THE RESITING OF THREE FLOATING RESTAURANTS IN 1979.

TOMORROW AFTERNOON (FRIDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR P.E.J. DAVY, WILL PRESENT EACH OF THE 26 OFFICERS WITH A SOUVENIR AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THEIR RETIREMENT, AT THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD CANTEEN ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF 395 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE RETIRING OFFICERS ARE MESSRS. SHEK KAN, BEM= NG KAM-MUK= SO WAI= LI PAK-SHING= HO FOOK= LO SHUI-YIN, BEM= KWOK PING= WAN TO-KWONG= LI HON= TANG TAK-KWONG= LI KAI= LEUNG FOOK-CHUEN= HO HING-WAH= KWOK KAN= WONG SHUI-TAI= CHUNG WING-KUI= WONG KUEN-FAT= PANG KAM-CHAU= CHAN MIN= CHOW YUK-MING= LUI PUI= LEUNG KAN= CHEUNG FOOK= AU SUM= LI KAI AND NG FAI.

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FIREMEN COMMENDED FOR RECENT EFFORT

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THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF KOWLOON COMMAND, MR ANTHONY CONWAY, TODAY (THURSDAY) PRESENTED THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER'S COMMENDATION TO 11 FIREMEN FOR THEIR +INITIATIVE, DETERMINATION AND RESOURCEFULNESS+ IN FIGHTING A FOURTH ALARM FIRE IN LAM TIN SQUATTER AREA EARLY THIS MONTH.

+THEIR ACTION PLAYED A VERY SIGNIFICANT PART IN SUCCESSFULLY CHECKING AND EXTINGUISHING THE FIRE AT TWO CRITICAL AREAS,+ MR CONWAY SAID IN A PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

THE RECIPIENTS, INCLUDING A PRINCIPAL FIREMAN, A SENIOR FIREMAN AND NINE FIREMEN WERE COMMENDED FOR FIGHTING THE FIRE UNDER VERY DIFFICULT TERRAIN AND OVER THE ROOFTOPS OF SQUATTER HUTS THROUGH A NETWORK OF LIVE ELECTRICAL WIRING.

+ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT, MYSELF AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, MAY I SAY 'THANK YOU' TO YOU ALL,+ MR CONWAY ADDED.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, HELD AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATION IN CANTON ROAD, WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY OTHER SENIOR FIRE OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS FIRE STATIONS IN THE KOWLOON DIVISION.

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KEEPING THE WATER FLOWING

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THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE HAS CLEARED MORE THAN 1 250 KM OF OPEN NULLAH SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN LAST OCTOBER.

WITH A FLEET OF POWER SHOVELS, CLEANSING TEAMS HAVE REMOVED ABOUT 5 900 LORRY LOADS OF SAND, SILT AND RUBBISH FROM THE NULLAHS, WHILE WORKERS ON FOOT HAVE BEEN BUSY DIGGING UP THE UNDERBRUSH THAT PERENNIALY SPROUTS UP ALONG THE BANKS OF MOST NULLAHS.

+WE'VE SPENT ABOUT \$3.22 MILLION ON THE OPERATION TO DATE,+ SAID A HIGHWAYS SPOKESMAN, +AND WE STILL HAVE 3 900 KM TO CLEAN BEFORE THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR.+

+BUT IF WE DIDN'T KEEP THESE WATERCOURSES CLEAR,+ HE CONTINUED, +THE OFTEN-FILTHY WATER COULD BACK UP AND OVERFLOW THE BANKS.+

THE WATER IS OFTEN FOUL BECAUSE PEOPLE LIVING ALONG THE BANKS AND PEOPLE LIVING UPSTREAM THOUGHTLESSLY TOSS THEIR RUBBISH INTO NULLAHS, HE SAID.

+THIS IS A SERIOUS HEALTH HAZARD WHEN THE WATER IS STANDING,+ HE SAID, +AND WHEN THE WATER FLOWS MOST OF THE FILTH WILL EVENTUALLY END UP IN THE HARBOUR.+

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SHA TIN TO LAUNCH ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN

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A LARGE-SCALE, THREE-WEEK-LONG ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD FROM FEBRUARY 7 TO 28 IN THE SHA TIN DISTRICT.

DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 11 AM ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 1) IN THE GIS THEATRE, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR WAI HON-LEUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE. ALSO PRESENT WILL BE DR PATRICK HAYES, DISTRICT OFFICER (SHA TIN)= MR KARL STUMPF, CHAIRMAN OF THE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS= AND MR C.M. LEUNG, ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE.

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CHILDREN'S CREATIVE WORK ON SHOW

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MORE THAN 2 000 ITEMS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CREATIVE WORK ARE NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE IN NORTH POINT.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE DISPLAY, WHICH INCLUDES PAINTINGS BY JAPANESE AND AMERICAN CHILDREN.

+TEACHERS AND PUPILS PREPARING FOR THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION IN ART WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN A NUMBER OF SELECTED ART WORK BY FORM/MIDDLE 5 PUPILS,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

OTHER WORKS INCLUDE PAINTING, NEEDLEWORK AND CRAFTS BY PRIMARY PUPILS, PAINTINGS BY KINDERGARTEN PUPILS, AND WINNING ENTRIES, PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS FOR THE SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMME 1981.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD UNTIL FEBRUARY 13 AT THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, 4TH AND 5TH FLOORS, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

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PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IN CENTRAL

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THE AREA SURROUNDING STATUE SQUARE IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WILL BE DESIGNATED A PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT BETWEEN 7 AM AND 12 MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FROM JANUARY 31.

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL INCLUDE THE CLOSURE OF A SECTION OF CHATER ROAD BETWEEN PEDDER STREET AND JACKSON ROAD, AND A SECTION OF ICE HOUSE STREET BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

DURING THE CLOSURE, EASTBOUND VEHICLES FROM ICE HOUSE STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, PEDDER STREET AND EASTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING BUS DIVERSIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

- * CMB ROUTES 5B, 10 AND 20 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL INSTEAD OF TURNING LEFT INTO CHATER ROAD ON THEIR EASTBOUND JOURNEYS.
- * CMB ROUTES 23A, 24, 40M AND CROSS HARBOUR ROUTE 103 COMING FROM ICE HOUSE STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, PEDDER STREET AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL ON THEIR EASTBOUND JOURNEYS.
- * KMB ROUTE 200 WILL TERMINATE AT JACKSON ROAD INSTEAD OF ICE HOUSE STREET.

SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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SATURDAY ROAD CLOSURE

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A SECTION OF EDINBURGH PLACE EAST BETWEEN HMS TAMAR AND QUEEN'S PIER WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT ON TWO CONSECUTIVE SATURDAYS (JANUARY 30 AND FEBRUARY 6) FOR THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL.

SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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TEMPORARY OPENING OF BLACK'S LINK
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BLACK'S LINK WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, FROM FEBRUARY 2.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (JANUARY 28), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID FROM NEXT TUESDAY, BLACK'S LINK CAN BE USED BY WESTBOUND TRAFFIC BETWEEN 7 AM AND 9.30 AM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY ONLY.

THE DECISION TO OPEN BLACK'S LINK ON A TEMPORARY BASIS WAS REACHED WHEN THE LATEST SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT REVEALED THAT THE MAXIMUM JOURNEY TIME FOR COMMUTERS COMING UP REPULSE BAY ROAD HAD FURTHER INCREASED SINCE THE LAST SURVEY IN DECEMBER 1981.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT, AS WELL AS PROVIDING A QUICKER ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FOR A FEW MOTORISTS, THE OPENING OF BLACK'S LINK SHOULD RELIEVE CONGESTION AT WONG NAI CHUNG GAP AND THIS WILL BENEFIT ALL COMMUTERS, IN PARTICULAR THE MANY PASSENGERS USING THE SEVERAL BUS SERVICES FROM THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ISLAND.

+THE OPENING WILL LAST FOR ONLY A FEW WEEKS AS THE EXTENSION OF ESSENTIAL CABLE LAYING WORKS IN UPPER BLACK'S LINK DOWN TO THE DEEP WATER BAY ROAD JUNCTION MAY UNAVOIDABLY REQUIRE THE CLOSURE OF THE ROAD AGAIN,+ HE SAID.

FOR THIS REASON, THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO CLOSE BLACK'S LINK AT SHORT NOTICE.

ONCE AGAIN, BECAUSE OF THE SUBSTANDARD NATURE OF BLACK'S LINK, MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DRIVE WITH UTMOST CARE AND CARS AND TAXIS EXCEEDING 2 500 C.C. CAPACITY SHOULD NOT USE THIS ROAD.

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WATER FIGURES
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WATER IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (THURSDAY) STOOD AT 43.6 PER CENT OR 251.732 MILLION CUBIC METRES, EQUIVALENT TO 211 DAYS' CONSUMPTION.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR, THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 285.243 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 49.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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