



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1987

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HONG KONG'S FUTURE AIRPORT NEEDS	1
REGULATORY EFFORTS TO ENHANCE INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE	2
CONSULTANTS TO STUDY LION ROCK TUNNEL CONGESTION	5
PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE DISCUSSED	6
GOVERNOR TO VISIT TUEN MUN	6
MEMBERS TO SCRUTINISE AMBULANCE SERVICE	7
INQUIRY INTO SHIP LOSS ORDERED	7
DB TO CONDUCT CONSULTATION WORKS ON GREEN PAPER	8
GREEN PAPER ON DB AGENDA	8
SPECIAL DB MEETING TO DISCUSS GREEN PAPER	9
FC TO VET NEW UNIVERSITY FUND	9
SUMMER COURSE FOR PRIMARY SCIENCE TEACHERS	10
TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ON COMMITTEE AGENDA	11
IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON TUEN MUN NULLAH	11
ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN NAM KOK ROAD TO BE DEMOLISHED	12
TENDERS INVITED TO IMPROVE GASCOIGNE AND CHATHAM ROADS	12
IMPROVEMENTS TO VICTORIA ROAD PROPOSED	13
KWAI CHUNG ROAD CLOSED FOR TRAFFIC SIGN INSTALLATION	13
KWAI HEI STREET CLOSED	14
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	14
DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED	14

HONG KONG'S FUTURE AIRPORT NEEDS

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ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM KAI TAK THIS EVENING, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SPOKE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES IN RELATION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT IN HONG KONG.

MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT, IN 1980 AND AS A FOLLOW-UP FROM EARLIER STUDIES, THE GOVERNMENT HAD COMMISSIONED CONSULTANTS TO PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF CHEK LAP KOK AS A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT SITE.

THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT HAD SHOWN THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK WAS ENTIRELY FEASIBLE.

"WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC FACTORS AND THE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS ON THE GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME RESULTED IN THE GOVERNMENT DECIDING, IN FEBRUARY 1983, TO SHELVE, AND I UNDERLINE 'SHELVE', THE CHEK LAP KOK PLAN," MR JACOBS SAID.

"IT WAS ALSO MADE CLEAR WHEN THAT DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED THAT IN PRINCIPLE IT WAS DESIRABLE TO CONSTRUCT A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AND THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING ONE WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TERRITORY'S LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. AT THE SAME TIME THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE FACILITIES AT KAI TAK TO MEET MORE IMMEDIATE DEMAND.

"ONE SIGNIFICANT AND VISIBLE SIGN, BUT NOT THE ONLY ONE, OF THAT PARTICULAR DECISION, WILL BE THE FIFTY PERCENT INCREASE IN FACILITIES AT THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988," HE ADDED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THEN SPOKE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION IN AUGUST 1986, IN THE LIGHT OF AN ACCELERATED INCREASE IN TRAFFIC DEMAND AT KAI TAK AND ITS RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF AIR TRANSPORT TO THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMY, TO CONSULT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

"AFTER INTERNAL CONSIDERATION BY ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS, A PAPER DEALING WITH HONG KONG'S POSSIBLE FUTURE AIRPORT OPTIONS WAS SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR ADVICE ON MARCH 10 THIS YEAR.

"THE DECISION WAS TAKEN THEN THAT CONSULTANTS SHOULD BE COMMISSIONED TO STUDY THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AND ULTIMATE CAPACITY OF KAI TAK. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT THE CHEK LAP KOK OPTION SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED TOGETHER WITH OTHER POSSIBLE SITES," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE ALWAYS RECOGNISED THE EVENTUAL NEED FOR A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT," MR JACOBS CONTINUED. "THE REAL QUESTION HAS BEEN ONE OF TIMING AND LOCATION, BECAUSE HONG KONG WANTS THE BEST FACILITY IN THE RIGHT LOCATION AT THE PROPER TIME, TO ENSURE ITS COMMERCIAL SUCCESS. IN GENERAL TERMS IT ALSO MAKES GOOD INVESTMENT SENSE FOR EVERYONE CONCERNED NOT TO HAVE A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT BEFORE IT REALLY IS NEEDED.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1987

- 2 -

"THE STUDY OF KAI TAK AIRPORT, WHICH I EXPECT TO BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1988, SHOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE WHEN A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT IS LIKELY TO BE REQUIRED," HE ADDED.

THE HISTORY OF REPLACEMENT AIRPORT STUDIES, THE ADMINISTRATION'S INITIATIVE IN AUGUST LAST YEAR AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION OF MARCH 10 THIS YEAR, MR JACOBS ADDED, WERE TIMELY.

THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE IN THE SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ONLY NOW COMING ALIVE TO THE NEED FOR A NEW AIRPORT AND SIMPLY REACTING TO THE HOPEWELL CONSORTIUM'S PROPOSAL FOR THE WESTERN HARBOUR-LANTAU DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND TO THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION BY THE PRC'S STATE COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIRPORT AT BAISHIZHOU.

"MR GORDON WU MADE HIS INITIAL PROPOSAL TO THE GOVERNMENT IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, SOME TIME AFTER WE HAD DECIDED TO RE-EXAMINE OPTIONS.

"SINCE THEN, OUR PLANNERS HAVE HELD A NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH MR WU AND HIS STAFF, TO ASCERTAIN WHAT COMMON GROUND THERE IS BETWEEN OUR OVERALL STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR A FUTURE AIRPORT, PORT AND RELATED FACILITIES AND THE CONSORTIUM'S PROPOSAL.

"I MUST EMPHASISE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT LOOK AT THE AIRPORT QUESTION IN ISOLATION," HE STRESSED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS PLEASED TO NOTE PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST IN THE HOPEWELL CONSORTIUM'S PROPOSAL. "I WELCOME THIS INTEREST. OBVIOUSLY, PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION AND FINANCING REFLECT CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG."

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REGULATORY EFFORTS TO ENHANCE INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE

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THE GOVERNMENT SEES NO FUNDAMENTAL CONFLICT BETWEEN REGULATORY EFFORTS IN THE FINANCIAL MARKET AND THE MAINTENANCE OF AN OPEN AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE "INVESTMENT HONGKONG '87" CONFERENCE, MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT AIMS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, RATHER THAN BEING THE MAIN DRIVING FORCE.

/TO ENHANCE

TO ENHANCE INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE, MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN EFFORTS IN SEVERAL AREAS. THEY INCLUDED THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED WHITE BILL ON DISCLOSURE OF SHAREHOLDINGS, THE REVIEW ON LEGISLATIONS ON INSIDER TRADING AND THE QUESTION OF B-SHARES.

MR JACOBS SAID THESE REGULATORY EFFORTS WERE NECESSARY, NOT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WAS AN INTERVENTION THAN BEFORE.

HE SAID, HONG KONG HAD ALWAYS MAINTAINED LOW AND SIMPLE TAX WHILE MANY COUNTRIES HAD, OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, MOVED FROM RELATIVELY LOW TAX TO HIGHER TAX AND NOW HAVING LEARNED THEIR LESSONS, HAVE TURNED BACK.

"I TOOK PARTICULAR PLEASURE IN REDUCING, ALBEIT MODESTLY, OUR ALREADY LOW TAX IN MY FIRST BUDGET SEVERAL MONTHS AGO," HE ADDED.

"THEY ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE HONG KONG'S FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE DEMANDS THAT WE CONTINUE TO UPGRADE THE STANDARDS IN OUR MARKETPLACE; THAT THE RULES OF THE GAME ARE FAIR AND SEEN TO BE FAIR; THAT THE MARKET WARRANTS THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN IT; AND THAT WE TAKE ACCOUNT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRES.

"WE SEE NO FUNDAMENTAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THESE REGULATORY EFFORTS AND THE MAINTENANCE OF OUR OPEN AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, WITH ALL THE ATTENDANT BENEFITS TO THE INVESTOR AND THE ECONOMY," HE ADDED.

MR JACOBS ALSO SAID THE JOINT DECLARATION HAD PROVIDED THE POLITICAL BASIS FOR OPTIMISM ON HONG KONG CONTINUING AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE, IN THAT IT SOUGHT TO PRESERVE THE ESSENTIAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH HONG KONG'S ECONOMY THROVE.

HE WENT ON TO OUTLINE THE FOUR INGREDIENTS OF THE TERRITORY'S SUCCESS AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE: LOW TAX, FLEXIBILITY, LEGAL SYSTEM AND LANGUAGE USEAGE AND GEOGRAPHY.

SECONDLY, HE SAID HONG KONG HAD A SMALL AND TIGHTLY ORGANISED ADMINISTRATION, THUS ALLOWING FLEXIBILITY.

"THE RECENT PLACING OF POLICY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL FINANCIAL SERVICES UNDER THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS FURTHER ENABLES A VIEW TO BE TAKEN THAT REFLECTS THE INCREASING INTEGRATION IN THE FINANCIAL MARKETPLACE," MR JACOBS SAID.

TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND THE ABILITY TO MOVE QUICKLY WHEN THE SITUATION SO DEMANDED, THE FOUR POLICY SECRETARIES RESPONSIBLE RESPECTIVELY FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCE, MONETARY AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC SERVICES AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY WORKED CLOSELY WITH HIM AS A TEAM, HE ADDED.

/THIRDLY, HONG KONG

THIRDLY, HONG KONG ADOPTED A COMMON LAW JURISDICTION. "OUR LAW IS BASED ON THE WELL TESTED ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM ALTHOUGH WE HAVE OUR OWN STATUTES AND REGULATIONS TO SUIT OUR OWN SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS," HE ADDED.

"NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE TIED IN WITH THE THINKING OF OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT IN RELATION TO THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CENTRES, LIKE LONDON AND NEW YORK," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE USE OF ENGLISH AS THE BUSINESS LANGUAGE IN HONG KONG WAS OF GREAT ADVANTAGE AS ENGLISH HAD BECOME THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

HE ALSO SAID HONG KONG'S LOCATION ON THE DOORSTEP OF CHINA HAD LED TO NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS IN ECONOMIC RELATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

"HONG KONG HAS MUCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAINLAND IN RELATION TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF MANAGEMENT SKILLS, THE PROVISION OF EXPERTISE, AND THE PROMOTION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER," MR JACOBS SAID.

CHINA HAD NOW BECOME THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORT MARKET FOR HONG KONG AND THE LARGEST TRADING PARTNER. BESIDES, INCREASING USE OF HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL SERVICES, WAS BEING MADE BY CHINA.

"HONG KONG WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE PROVISION OF FUNDS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION TO CHINA, WITH ATTENDANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT,"

"DESPITE THE INTENSIFYING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THESE FOUR FACTORS THAT I HAVE MENTIONED WILL CONTINUE TO STAND HONG KONG IN GOOD STEAD WELL INTO THE FUTURE, AND THAT HONG KONG'S ATTRACTIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTOR AND ITS DEVELOPMENT AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE WILL CONTINUE," HE CONCLUDED.

EARLIER, IN A SPEECH AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONFERENCE, MR JACOBS SAID HONG KONG WAS AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE OF INVESTMENTS AND 1987 HAD SO FAR BEEN AN EXCELLENT YEAR FOR INVESTORS.

HE ALSO SAID THE FAVOURABLE CLIMATE IN HONG KONG FOR INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN BUILT ON THE STRENGTH OF THE EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, THE DILIGENT WORKFORCE AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE SOCIETY TO MOVE WITH THE TIME AND TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY OF A CHANGING AGE.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1987

- 5 -

CONSULTANTS TO STUDY LION ROCK TUNNEL CONGESTION
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL SOON COMMISSION A CONSULTANCY STUDY TO EXPLORE WAYS OF EASING CONGESTION AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL, THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) LEARNT TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WILL LOOK INTO VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING EXTENSION OF THE 'BUS ONLY' LANE, TIDAL FLOW ARRANGEMENTS AT THE TUNNEL AND TAI PO ROAD, BANNING HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES DURING PEAK PERIODS, ADJUSTING THE TOLL LEVELS AND STRUCTURES AT THE TUNNEL, DEVISING THE APPROPRIATE TOLL LEVELS AND STRUCTURES AT ROUTE 5 BETWEEN SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN DUE FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1989, AND OTHER MEASURES TO INCREASE THE TUNNEL THROUGHPUT.

AT ITS MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, TAC MEMBERS NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENT MEASURES HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN. THESE INCLUDE THE INTRODUCTION OF PRE-PAID TUNNEL TICKETS IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR, THE PROVISION OF FOUR EXTRA TOLL BOOTHS ONE MONTH LATER AND THE RECENT INTRODUCTION OF A BUS-ONLY LANE BETWEEN WORLDWIDE GARDENS AND THE TOLL PLAZA DURING MORNING PEAK HOURS.

MEMBERS AGREED THAT ALTHOUGH THESE MEASURES HAD IMPROVED THE SITUATION AND HAD REDUCED INCONVENIENCE TO TUNNEL USERS, THEY COULD NOT INCREASE THE THROUGHPUT WHEN THE TUNNEL WAS OPERATING AT ITS CAPACITY.

LATEST TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS SUGGEST THAT IF TOLLS WERE TO REMAIN CONSTANT IN REAL TERMS, THE AVERAGE DAILY DEMAND WILL INCREASE FROM 85,000 JOURNEYS PER DAY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 TO 117,000 BY THE END OF 1991, WITH CONGESTION SPREADING FROM PEAK HOURS TO OTHER TIMES OF THE DAY BETWEEN NOW AND THE OPENING OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL IN 1992.

MEMBERS CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE TUNNEL TOLL FROM \$3 TO \$5 AS A MEANS TO DEFER THE BUILD UP OF TRAFFIC BUT REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT IS NOT EFFECTIVE ENOUGH TO CREATE A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE TRAFFIC VOLUME.

THE TAC ALSO DISCUSSED AN APPLICATION BY NEW TERRITORIES TAXI OPERATORS FOR A 25 PER CENT FARE INCREASE.

AFTER EXAMINING THE OPERATING ECONOMICS OF THE TRADE, MEMBERS RECOMMENDED THAT THE INCREASE SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO 12.5 PER CENT FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE DISCUSSED

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A DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE MET THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS; THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR PETER TSAO; AND THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MRS IRENE YAU, TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE DELEGATION WAS LED BY THE TREASURER AND LEGAL COUNSEL OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE, MR LEONARD MARKS. OTHER MEMBERS WERE LORD MCGREGOR OF DURRIS; EDITOR OF THE STATESMAN OF INDIA, MR CUSHROW IRANI; AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS, MR GEORGE CHAPLIN.

THE DELEGATION LATER CALLED ON THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON.

THE DELEGATION GAVE ITS VIEWS ON THE PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE. THE GOVERNMENT SIDE EXPLAINED THAT DESPITE THE RECENT LIBERALISATION OF CONTROL OVER THE PRESS IN THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG, IT WAS FELT NECESSARY TO RETAIN THE PROVISION ON "FALSE NEWS"; BUT THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD MONITOR THE EFFECT OF THIS LEGISLATION.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT TUEN MUN

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THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON WILL VISIT TUEN MUN ON THURSDAY (JUNE 18) TO LEARN ABOUT THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY WILL VISIT LUNG KWU TEAN TO SEE THE RURAL ASPECTS OF THE DISTRICT.

THEY WILL ALSO TOUR THE BUTTERFLY ESTATE, THE TUEN MUN NULLAH, AND YAN OI TONG WHICH IS A MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE, BEFORE ATTENDING A RECEPTION WITH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CENTRE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO TUEN MUN ON THURSDAY. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI AT 1.30 PM SHARP WHERE TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1987

- 7 -

MEMBERS TO SCRUTINISE AMBULANCE SERVICE

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SIX MEMBERS WILL SPEAK AT AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON AMBULANCE SERVICE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON, WILL ANSWER THE POINTS RAISED.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK SEVEN QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER THREE BILLS IN TOMORROW'S SITTINGS.

THE BILLS, WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS, ARE THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987, THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BILL 1987 AND THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987.

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INQUIRY INTO SHIP LOSS ORDERED

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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAS ORDERED A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE LOSS OF THE HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIP 'CUMBERLANDE'. A SURVEYOR OF SHIPS, MR S.K. ANAND, HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO CONDUCT THE INQUIRY.

THE 21,384 GROSS TON BULK CARRIER WAS OWNED BY GLENARA LTD AND MANAGED BY ANGLO-EASTERN MANAGEMENT SERVICES LTD, BOTH COMPANIES BEING HONG KONG BASED.

THE SHIP WAS ON A VOYAGE FROM PANAMA TO AUSTRALIA LOADED WITH SOME 25,700 TONS OF MANGANESE SINTER AND SOME 10,300 TONS OF LEAD CONCENTRATE, BOTH BULK ORE CARGOES. THE VESSEL WAS NOT A BULK CHEMICAL TANKER AS INDICATED IN PREVIOUS PRESS REPORTS.

THE VESSEL SANK AT 0840 HOURS (H.K. TIME) ON JUNE 13 IN DEEP WATER IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC CLOSE TO HENDERSON ISLAND WHICH IS PART OF THE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY OF PITCAIRN ISLAND. THE CREW OF 29 WERE RESCUED AND ARE ON BOARD THE RESCUE SHIP WHICH IS BOUND FOR NEW ZEALAND. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE INDIAN CREW WILL BE REPATRIATED FROM NEW ZEALAND LATER THIS WEEK.

THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY REPORT, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR, SO THAT HE MAY ORDER A MARINE COURT TO CARRY OUT A FORMAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE CASUALTY IF HE THINKS FIT.

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/8

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1987

- 8 -

DB TO CONDUCT CONSULTATION WORKS ON GREEN PAPER

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A WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED UNDER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD TO PLAN, ORGANISE AND CO-ORDINATE PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN THE DISTRICT RELATING TO THE GREEN PAPER ON REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD RECENTLY, BOARD MEMBER MISS YEUNG KAM-CHUN WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP WERE TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER, TO COLLECT AND CONSULT THEIR VIEWS.

A CORE GROUP, COMPRISING SIX DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, HAS ALSO BEEN SET UP UNDER THE WORKING GROUP AND WILL MEET SOON TO FORMULATE CONSULTATION STRATEGIES AND WAYS OF COLLECTING VIEWS.

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GREEN PAPER ON DB AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER ON THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AT THEIR MEETING ON THURSDAY (JUNE 18).

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE SURVEY OFFICE, MR ADOLF HSU; MONITOR, MR ANDREW SO AND DEPUTY SECRETARY (CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTORAL AFFAIRS), MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER WILL ATTEND TO LISTEN TO MEMBERS' VIEWS.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO CONDUCT AN OPINION SURVEY ON THE GREEN PAPER IN THE DISTRICT.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA ARE A PROPOSAL TO BEAUTIFY THE WALKWAY IN CENTRAL, REPORT ON THE BOARD'S STUDY TOUR TO CHINA AND REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 18) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 14/F., HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1987

- 9 -

SPECIAL DB MEETING TO DISCUSS GREEN PAPER
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THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON JUNE 18 (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 PM TO DISCUSS THE GREEN PAPER ON THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

MR LI FOOK-KOW, AN INDEPENDENT MONITOR OF THE SURVEY OFFICE, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING AND LISTEN TO BOARD MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SPECIAL MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 1ST FLOOR OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 880-886 KING'S ROAD.

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FC TO VET NEW UNIVERSITY FUND
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, ESTIMATED AT \$2,200 MILLION, FOR THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IF THE UNIVERSITY COMMENCES ITS FIRST STUDENT INTAKE IN SEPTEMBER 1991.

THE SUM WILL COMPRISE \$1,900 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAMPUS AND \$300 MILLION FOR SPECIALIST AND TEACHING EQUIPMENT.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER A SUM OF \$828 MILLION IN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IN THE 1991-94 TRIENNIUM.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS PLEDGED TO DONATE UP TO \$1,500 MILLION TOWARDS THE CAPITAL COSTS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MEET ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS IN THE EVENT THAT THE ULTIMATE CAPITAL COSTS EXCEEDS THIS AMOUNT.

OTHER ITEMS THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE ARE:

- * AN INCREASE IN COMMITMENT FROM \$9,035,000 TO \$10,262,000 TO MEET THE EXPENSES OF INVITING THE UNITED KINGDOM COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS TO VALIDATE THREE ADDITIONAL DEGREE COURSES TO BE INTRODUCED AT THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE;

/x INCREASED COMMITMENTS

- * INCREASED COMMITMENTS TOTALLING \$284,942,000 COMPRISING \$125,780,000 FOR THE PHASE III BUILDING I OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND \$159,162,000 FOR THE SPORTS CENTRE AND STAGE II OF THE MAIN CAMPUS REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE;
- * A COMMITMENT OF \$61,110,000 FOR THE PAYMENT OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN 1987-88 AND A COMMITMENT OF \$3,940,000 FOR THE DEMOLITION OF COMPENSATED FARM STRUCTURES ON CROWN LAND IN 1987-88;
- * FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF IMPLEMENTING A COMPUTERISED LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$30,252,000 IN NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND \$91,228,000 IN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FROM 1987-88 TO 1995-96, AND A NEW NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENT OF \$27,577,000 FOR THE PREPARATION, INSTALLATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM;
- * CREATION OF A NEW CAPITAL COMMITMENT OF \$6,260,000 TO MEET HALF THE COST OF REMEDIAL WORKS DUE TO LAND SETTLEMENT AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE; AND
- * RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE.

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SUMMER COURSE FOR PRIMARY SCIENCE TEACHERS

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PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND FOUR IDENTICAL THREE-DAY SUMMER COURSES IN JULY AND AUGUST WHICH WILL INCLUDE A WHOLE-DAY PROGRAMME AT THE SPACE MUSEUM UNDER THE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF HONG KONG SPACE MUSEUM OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE COURSES, ORGANISED BY THE PRIMARY SCIENCE SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TEACHING CENTRE AT PAK FUK ROAD, BETWEEN JULY 22 AND AUGUST 20.

THERE WILL BE TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TEACHING SCIENCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND ON HOW TO USE THE FACILITIES OF SPACE MUSEUM FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE WORKSHOPS ON THE MAKING OF A SIMPLE TRIPENSEE (REVISED VERSION) AND A COMPETITION ON THE DESIGN OF TEACHING AIDS.

SCHOOL HEADS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE INSPECTOR (PRIMARY SCIENCE), PRIMARY SCIENCE SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 5TH FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, BEFORE JUNE 22.

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TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ON COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ISSUES AT A MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION INCLUDE TRAFFIC RULES FOR HOUSING ESTATES, PICKING UP AND SETTING DOWN POINTS FOR SCHOOL BUSES INSIDE SHAN KING ESTATE, PROVISION OF SAFE CROSSING FACILITIES ON TSING HOI CIRCUIT, TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON LUNG MUN ROAD NEAR THE EXIT OF MELODY GARDEN, NIGHT-TIME ILLEGAL PARKING INSIDE THE ESTATES, REVIEW ON BUS SERVICES OF TAI HING ESTATE, AND THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF CABLES UNDER THE FOOTBRIDGES ALONG THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT LINE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE THIRD REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON BUS SERVICES FROM OUTSIDE AREAS TO TUEN MUN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DB SECRETARIAT ON THE 3RD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, TUEN HI ROAD.

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IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON TUEN MUN NULLAH

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THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR RONALD CROSS, WILL MEET MEMBERS OF THE PRESS TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO TALK ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE TUEN MUN NULLAH.

IN ORDER TO COMBAT THE POLLUTION PROBLEM CAUSED BY INDUSTRIAL WASTES, A WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY MR CROSS, THE THEN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER, TUEN MUN, AND FORMED BY CONCERNED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WAS SET UP IN MAY 1986.

SINCE THEN, 40 ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS TO STORM DRAINS WERE IDENTIFIED AND SEVERAL FACTORIES ASSISTED IN SOLVING THE PROBLEMS.

OTHERS AT TOMORROW'S PRESS BRIEFING INCLUDE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN SELBY, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS BRIEFING AT 12 NOON TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN CONFERENCE ROOM B, 3/F., TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, TUEN HI ROAD.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1987

- 12 -

ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN NAM KOK ROAD TO BE DEMOLISHED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING THE CLOSURE OF A NUMBER OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE ROOF OF A BUILDING AT 33 NAM KOK ROAD, KOWLOON, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED.

THIS FOLLOWS THE OWNERS' FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON APRIL 25 LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE STRUCTURES' DEMOLITION.

THE STRUCTURES ARE ON THE ROOF OVER FLATS A, B AND C OF THE BUILDING.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT COURT ON AUGUST 12 WERE POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY (TUESDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE MADE.

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TENDERS INVITED TO IMPROVE GASCOIGNE AND CHATHAM ROADS

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A GRADE SEPARATED INTERSECTION IS TO BE BUILT AT THE JUNCTION OF GASCOIGNE AND WYLIE ROADS, KOWLOON.

WORK ON THE INTERSECTION WILL INCLUDE EXTENDING THE EXISTING GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER BY 430 METRES TO SPAN THE ROAD JUNCTION.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL START IN SEPTEMBER, ARE BEING INVITED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

OTHER WORK WILL INVOLVE WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF GASCOIGNE AND CHATHAM ROADS BETWEEN JORDAN ROAD AND HUNG HOM INTERCHANGE.

THE PROJECT, WHEN COMPLETED IN MID-1990, WILL ENABLE TRAFFIC TO PASS OVER THE GASCOIGNE ROAD/WYLIE ROAD JUNCTION FREELY, AND SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE TRAFFIC-CARRYING CAPACITY OF GASCOIGNE, CHATHAM AND WYLIE ROADS.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1987

- 13 -

IMPROVEMENTS TO VICTORIA ROAD PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO IMPROVE SECTIONS OF VICTORIA ROAD ON HONG KONG ISLAND TO ENHANCE SAFETY.

THEY ARE BETWEEN SANDY BAY ROAD AND BISNEY ROAD, AND BETWEEN HONG KONG UNIVERSITY STAFF QUARTERS NEAR BISNEY ROAD AND A SHARP BEND ON VICTORIA ROAD TO THE EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SASSOON ROAD.

THE TWO-LANE SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE WIDENED TO 7.3 METRES WITH 2.75-METRE WIDE FOOTPATHS ON BOTH SIDES. THE WORK ALSO INCLUDES REALIGNING THE ROAD TO ELIMINATE SOME DANGEROUS BENDS.

ROAD JUNCTIONS AT VICTORIA ROAD/CONSORT RISE AND VICTORIA ROAD/SASSOON ROAD WILL BE IMPROVED. BUS BAYS WILL BE PROVIDED AT SUITABLE INTERVALS ALONG THE ROAD.

ALSO INCLUDED WILL BE ANCILLARY DRAINAGE AND LANDSCAPING WORKS.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED WORK HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

WRITTEN OBJECTIONS TO THE PROJECT MUST REACH THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT BEFORE AUGUST 11.

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KWAI CHUNG ROAD CLOSED FOR TRAFFIC SIGN INSTALLATION

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KWAI CHUNG ROAD EASTBOUND AT LAI CHI KOK BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO JUNE 18 BETWEEN 10 PM AND 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGN ACROSS LAI CHI KOK BRIDGE IN MEI FOO SUN CHUEN.

THE AFFECTED SECTION RUNS FROM THE DOWNRAMP LEADING TO CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AT MEI FOO AND ITS EASTERN END AT CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD/LAI CHI KOK ROAD.

MOTORISTS ON KWAI CHUNG ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD OR LAI CHI KOK ROAD ARE ADVISED TO USE THE DOWNRAMP LEADING TO CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AT MEI FOO.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1987

- 14 -

KWAI HEI STREET CLOSED

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KWAI HEI STREET BETWEEN KWAI LOK STREET AND WING KIN ROAD IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 12 MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (JUNE 18) TO 5.30 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR FOOTBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC ON KWAI HEI STREET HEADING FOR KOWLOON OR WING KIN ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWAI TSING ROAD.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 62.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 367.014 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 290.648 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 49.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON SIT KIN-WAH ON 14 JULY 1984 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO A SENTENCE OF 20 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

SIT WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF TING LIN-FAT.

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