



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
FS TO BRIEF NEW GOVERNOR	1
NEW RAINSTORM WARNING SYSTEM INTRODUCED	1
SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING PRIORITY DISCUSSED	4
ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDING DESIGN PROPOSED	5
CONTRACTS FOR SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME AWARDED	5
THE WEATHER OF MAY	6
NEW DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF APPOINTED	10
UNAUTHORISED BUILDING TO BE CLOSED	10
GOVT LAND IN TSING YI LET BY TENDER	10
REPATRIATION FLIGHT DATE SET	11
AUCTION OF LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS	11
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND	12

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1992

- 1 -

FS TO BRIEF NEW GOVERNOR

* * * *

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WILL FLY TO LONDON FOR A DUTY VISIT FROM JUNE 20 TO 25.

DURING HIS VISIT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MEET THE GOVERNOR-DESIGNATE, MR CHRIS PATTEN, AS WELL AS OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS.

MR MACLEOD WILL ALSO CALL ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR MICHAEL HESELTINE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, MR ROBERT LEIGH-PEMBERTON.

IN ADDITION, HE WILL MEET SENIOR OFFICIALS AT THE UK TREASURY, INCLUDING THE TWO PERMANENT SECRETARIES, SIR TERENCE BURNS AND SIR NIGEL WICKS.

HE WILL ALSO VISIT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON.

MR MACLEOD WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON JUNE 26.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW RAINSTORM WARNING SYSTEM INTRODUCED

* * * * *

A NEW RAINSTORM WARNING SYSTEM IS BEING INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE TIMELY ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO ENSURE A HIGH STATE OF READINESS IN DEALING WITH EMERGENCIES WHICH MAY ARISE FROM HEAVY RAINSTORMS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (SECURITY), MR IAN PETERSEN, SAID THE RAINSTORM WARNING SYSTEM WOULD COME INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY AND WILL OPERATE INDEPENDENT OF OTHER SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS, INCLUDING TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS.

THE NEW RAINSTORM WARNING SYSTEM FOLLOWS A REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS IN DEALING WITH NATURAL DISASTERS, FOLLOWING THE EXTREMELY HEAVY RAINSTORM OF MAY 8.

"ALTHOUGH THE INTENSITY AND SEVERITY OF THE MAY 8 RAINSTORM COULD NOT HAVE BEEN FORESEEN, WE DECIDED THAT A SEPARATE WARNING SYSTEM FOR RAINSTORMS WAS NEEDED SO THAT EARLY PRECAUTIONS COULD BE TAKEN TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY AND MINIMISE DISRUPTION," MR PETERSEN SAID.

"THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO HEIGHTEN AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS WITHIN THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND TO PROVIDE EARLY WARNING TO THE PUBLIC WITH CLEAR ADVICE OF WHAT PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE IN THE EVENT OF RAINSTORMS," HE SAID.

OUTLINING THE NEW RAINSTORM WARNING SYSTEM, THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR Y.K. CHAN, EXPLAINED THAT FOUR COLOUR-CODED ALERTS WOULD BE USED -- GREEN, AMBER, RED AND BLACK.

/"THE GREEN

"THE GREEN AND AMBER ALERTS ARE STANDBY NOTICES INTENDED TO PRIME DEPARTMENTS TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND TO MAKE SURE THAT KEY PERSONNEL ARE READY IN CASE THEY WILL BE NEEDED," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THESE TWO ALERTS WOULD BE TRIGGERED ON THE BASIS OF FORECASTING OF HEAVY RAINSTORMS:

GREEN IS TO INDICATE THAT SIGNIFICANT RAIN IS LIKELY TO AFFECT THE TERRITORY WITHIN THE NEXT 12 HOURS WHICH MAY DEVELOP INTO AN AMBER SITUATION.

AMBER INDICATES THAT 50 MM OF THE RAIN OR MORE IS EXPECTED OVER HONG KONG DURING THE NEXT SIX HOURS OR SO.

"AS NO IMMEDIATE ACTION WOULD BE REQUIRED FROM THE PUBLIC, THESE STANDBY ALERTS WILL ONLY BE ISSUED TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND KEY OUTSIDE BODIES SUCH AS PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND UTILITY COMPANIES, SO AS TO AVOID CAUSING PUBLIC DISQUIET OR DISRUPTING THE DAILY LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY UNNECESSARILY," MR CHAN SAID.

"THERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOREWARNING AS WE WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY MONITORING FOR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS," HE SAID.

THE RED AND BLACK WARNINGS WILL REQUIRE SPECIFIC ACTION TO BE TAKEN AND WARNINGS, BASED ON ACTUAL RAINFALL RECORDED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, WILL BE BROADCAST TO THE PUBLIC.

"RED" WARNING - INDICATES THAT 50 MM OF RAINFALL HAS BEEN RECORDED DURING ANY ONE HOUR PERIOD OR LESS. FURTHER HEAVY RAIN COULD CAUSE WIDESPREAD ROAD FLOODING AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION. SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL BE ADVISED TO STAY AT HOME OR REMAIN IN SCHOOL UNTIL IT IS SAFE FOR THEM TO RETURN HOME.

"BLACK" WARNING - THIS MEANS THAT MORE THAN 100 MM OF RAIN HAS FALLEN GENERALLY OVER HONG KONG DURING THE PAST TWO HOURS OR LESS. BECAUSE OF SERIOUSLY FLOODED ROADS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS, RESIDENTS WILL BE ADVISED TO STAY AT HOME OR TAKE SHELTER IN A SAFE PLACE UNTIL THE RAINSTORM HAS PASSED AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS HAVE IMPROVED.

"THERE IS AS YET NO ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE METHOD ANYWHERE TO ACCURATELY FORECAST THE LEVEL OF RAINFALL, BUT WE CONSIDER THAT BASING THE WARNING SYSTEM ON 50 MM PROVIDES A REASONABLE TRIGGER POINT FOR PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT," MR CHAN SAID.

"TO RULE OUT CASES OF VERY HEAVY BUT LOCALISED AND SHORT-LIVED THUNDER SHOWERS, WE WILL BE BASING OUR CALCULATIONS ON RAINFALL AVERAGED OVER 10 SELECTED URBAN TELEMETERING GAUGES," MR CHAN ADDED.

MR PETERSEN SAID ONCE THE "RED" WARNING WAS ISSUED THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR NATURAL DISASTERS WOULD BE FULLY ACTIVATED AND RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS MOBILISED.

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WILL CAREFULLY MONITOR WEATHER CONDITIONS; FREQUENT AND REGULAR PUBLIC ADVISORY BULLETINS WILL BE ISSUED VIA GIS ON WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN; SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED AS WILL SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, DAY CARE CENTRES, NURSERIES, CENTRES FOR THE DISABLED AND SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES WOULD ALREADY HAVE BEEN ALERTED AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL LIAISE CLOSELY WITH THEM ON THE AVAILABILITY OR REROUTING OF SERVICES; TEMPORARY SHELTERS WILL BE OPENED IN CASE THEY MAY BE NEEDED; DRAINAGE TEAMS WILL BE CLEARING BLOCKED DRAINS AND NULLAHS; POLICE WILL BE MONITORING ROAD CONDITIONS AND ADVISING MOTORISTS THROUGH REGULAR TRAFFIC BULLETINS; AND AN EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATION CENTRE WILL OPERATE ROUND-THE-CLOCK IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TO HANDLE PUBLIC ENQUIRIES AND GIVE ADVICE.

THE RED AND BLACK RAINSTORM SYMBOLS WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED ON TELEVISION SCREENS IN A SIMILAR MANNER TO TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS.

AS THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WOULD BE FULLY ENGAGED, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT CALL RO. THEY SHOULD TELEPHONE THE CNTA HEADQUARTERS EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATION CENTRE ON 835 1473, OR LISTEN TO THEIR RADIO OR TELEVISION WHICH WILL BE BROADCASTING REGULAR MESSAGES ON STORM CONDITIONS.

"IN A 'BLACK' SITUATION, CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE DETERIORATED TO THE EXTENT WHERE PEOPLE WOULD BE ADVISED TO STAY INDOORS OR SEEK SHELTER IF THEY ARE AWAY FROM HOME. THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES WOULD BE OUT IN FULL FORCE DEALING WITH ANY EMERGENCY THAT MAY ARISE," HE SAID.

IN LINE WITH THE NEW RAINSTORM WARNING SYSTEM, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED SCHOOLING ARRANGEMENTS DURING SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOL COUNCILS.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SCHOOLS), MR LUCAS CHAN, SAID AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE ON THE CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS WHEN THE RED WARNING IS ISSUED BEFORE 6.15 AM.

IF THE RED WARNING IS ISSUED AFTER 6.15 AM, AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE THAT CLASSES WILL BE SUSPENDED.

HOWEVER, SCHOOLS WILL KEEP THEIR PREMISES OPEN TO RECEIVE CHILDREN WHO ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY TO SCHOOL AND SCHOOL STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO LOOK AFTER THE CHILDREN UNTIL IT IS SAFE FOR THEM TO RETURN HOME.

AS TO PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY (HKEA), A SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE ON WHETHER THE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE DAY WOULD BE HELD OR NOT.

MR C.C. CHOI OF THE HKEA POINTED OUT THAT THE CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS DOES NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, AND HE ADVISED CANDIDATES AND EXAMINATIONS CENTRE STAFF TO LISTEN TO RADIO AND TV ANNOUNCEMENTS RIGHT UP TO THE TIME THEY LEAVE TO ATTEND THE EXAMINATIONS.

/MR PETERSEN

MR PETERSEN STRESSED THAT THE MEDIA, PARTICULARLY RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS, HAD A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN BROADCASTING ADVISORY WARNINGS TO THE PUBLIC, AND HE URGED THEM TO GIVE PRIORITY TO BROADCASTING THE WARNINGS AND ADVISORY NOTICES AND REPEATING THEM AT FREQUENT INTERVALS.

"WE AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC RELY VERY HEAVILY ON THE BROADCASTING MEDIA FOR DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON WEATHER CONDITIONS," HE SAID.

AN EXPLANATORY LEAFLET ON THE NEW RAINSTORM WARNING SYSTEM DETAILING THE WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO TAKE IS NOW BEING PRODUCED AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE SOON FROM ALL CNTA PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES.

COPIES WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE AT SCHOOLS, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT INSTITUTIONS AND HOUSING ESTATES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING PRIORITY DISCUSSED

* * * * *

THE WORKING GROUP ON SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING HAS DISCUSSED A SET OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR DETERMINING THE PRIORITY FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR THE SANDWICH CLASS IN ITS LAST MEETING.

CHAired BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, THE WORKING GROUP CONSIDERED THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE BASED ON THE NEED FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

"THE PRELIMINARY THINKING IS THAT A HIGHER PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO, FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE LIVING IN NON-ASSISTED PRIVATE RENTAL HOUSING, THOSE WITH INCOME JUST ABOVE THE INCOME LIMIT FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, AND FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS," MR EASON SAID.

"NUCLEAR FAMILIES WHOSE MAIN INCOME EARNER IS AGED BETWEEN 30 AND 45 YEARS, AS WELL AS THOSE WITH THE HEAVIEST INCOME TAX BURDEN SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR PRIORITY," HE SAID.

"AS THE EXACT FORM OF ASSISTANCE HAS YET TO BE WORKED OUT, DETAILED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WILL BE DECIDED AT A LATER STAGE."

AT THE LAST MEETING, THE WORKING GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED A RANGE OF POSSIBLE PROPOSALS TO HELP THE SANDWICH CLASS.

"IDEAS AS TO HOW TO MAKE USE OF EXISTING AVAILABLE HOUSING STOCK WERE EXPLORED. FINANCING AND LAND IMPLICATIONS ARE COMPLEX ISSUES AND NO FIRM CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED YET," MR EASON SAID.

"DETAILED WORK IS REQUIRED ON THESE ISSUES AS WELL AS OTHER LONGER TERM MEASURES."

BEFORE THE WORKING GROUP NEXT MEET, MORE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDING DESIGN PROPOSED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED STATUTORY CONTROL OF OVERALL THERMAL TRANSFER VALUE (OTTV) AS A STEP TOWARDS MORE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDING DESIGN.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT A LUNCHEON OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (HKIA).

MR EASON SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAD INDICATED SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF STATUTORY OTTV CONTROLS.

HE NOTED THAT THE HKIA HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE OTTV CONTROLS WERE TOO STRINGENT, PARTICULARLY FOR HOTELS.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE AGREED THAT GUIDELINES ON OTTV CALCULATIONS SHOULD BE ISSUED IN THE FORM OF A HANDBOOK FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR TO TRY OUT FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD.

"THIS WILL ENABLE PRACTICABILITY AND REAL-LIFE PROBLEMS TO BE ASSESSED BEFORE ANY STATUTORY CONTROLS ARE FORMULATED," HE SAID.

MR EASON SAID IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT \$4.9 BILLION WAS WASTED IN ENERGY COSTS IN 1989 OF WHICH ABOUT HALF WAS ACCOUNTED FOR IN ENERGY INEFFICIENT BUILDINGS.

"THERE IS CERTAINLY SCOPE FOR INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR THROUGH ENERGY SAVING SYSTEMS IN EXISTING BUILDINGS AND DESIGNING AND BUILDING MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT NEW BUILDINGS," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CONTRACTS FOR SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME AWARDED

* * * * *

THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AWARDED THREE SEPARATE CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT AT FIVE SEWAGE PUMPING STATIONS NEWLY BUILT FOR THE EAST KOWLOON SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL SCHEME.

WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF \$31.8 MILLION, THE CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED BY AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR FRANKLIN HO, WITH THE RESPECTIVE CONTRACTORS.

UNDER THE EAST KOWLOON SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL SCHEME, FIVE PUMPING STATIONS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON BAY, NGAU TAU KOK, YAU TONG AND KWUN TONG.

SEWAGE COLLECTED AT THESE PUMPING STATIONS WILL BE CONVEYED TO THE EXISTING KWUN TONG SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT TO BE SCREENED AND DE-GRITTED BEFORE BEING DISCHARGED THROUGH A SUBMARINE OUTFALL.

/THESE PUMPING

THESE PUMPING STATIONS WILL BE COMMISSIONED BY NOVEMBER NEXT YEAR WITH THE MAXIMUM DESIGN CAPACITY RANGING FROM 6,912 CUBIC METRES TO 596,100 CUBIC METRES PER DAY.

EQUIPPED EITHER WITH SUBMERSIBLE, CENTRIFUGAL OR SCREW PUMPS, THEY ARE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED TO COLLECT BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND DOMESTIC SEWAGE FLOWS IN THE REGION AND TRANSFER THEM TO THE SCREENING PLANT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THE WEATHER OF MAY
* * * * *

RIDING ON THE WAVE OF RECORD-BREAKING RAINFALL IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR, MAY 1992 WAS YET ANOTHER WET MONTH WITH A VERY INTENSE AND DISASTROUS RAINSTORM ON MAY 8.

THE HOURLY RAINFALL OF 109.9 MILLIMETRES AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY BETWEEN 6 AND 7 AM THAT DAY WAS THE HIGHEST EVER RECORDED SINCE OBSERVATIONS BEGAN IN 1884.

THE DAILY RAINFALL OF 324.1 MILLIMETRES RENDERED MAY 8 THE SECOND WETTEST MAY DAY ON RECORD.

TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE WHOLE MONTH AMOUNTED TO 602.3 MILLIMETRES, 90 % ABOVE THE MAY NORMAL OF 316.7 MILLIMETRES AND THE 10TH HIGHEST EVER.

THE CUMULATIVE AMOUNT OF 1,519.7 MILLIMETRES SINCE JANUARY 1 WAS NEARLY TWO-AND-A-HALF TIMES THE NORMAL OF 616.5 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD AND WAS ONLY SECOND TO THE RECORD SET WAY BACK IN THE LAST CENTURY IN 1889.

AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF STORM CLOUDS AND RAIN, THE DURATION OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE FOR THE WHOLE MONTH WAS A MEAGRE TOTAL OF 93.8 HOURS, THE FIFTH LOWEST EVER FOR MAY.

THE FINE WEATHER TOWARDS THE END OF APRIL CONTINUED INTO THE FIRST DAY OF MAY. IN THE HEAT OF EARLY SUMMER, THE TEMPERATURE THAT DAY EXCEEDED 30 DEGREES CELSIUS FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR.

THE HEAT WAVERED SLIGHTLY THE FOLLOWING DAY, DOUSED BY SOME MORNING SHOWERS AND PASSING CLOUDS.

AN EASTERLY SURGE OF COOLER CONTINENTAL AIR ARRIVED IN THE SMALL HOURS OF MAY 3, BRINGING STRONG WINDS OFFSHORE AND SOME LIGHT RAIN FOR THE EARLY PART OF THE DAY.

THE WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY BUT SOME SUNNY INTERVALS DID EMERGE THE NEXT DAY AS THE EASTERLIES GRADUALLY SUBSIDED.

MOIST MARITIME AIR STARTED TO MOVE BACK IN, BRINGING MIST AND DRIZZLE ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 4 WITH FOG HOVERING OFFSHORE.

/OVER THE

OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS, VISIBILITY AT NIGHT AND IN THE EARLY MORNING REMAINED POOR, PARTICULARLY OVER OFFSHORE AREAS.

HOWEVER, THE MIST AND FOG LIFTED DURING DAYTIME TO GIVE FINE AND SUNNY WEATHER.

TEMPERATURES CLIMBED TO A MAXIMUM OF 31.0 DEGREES ON MAY 6, THE HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH AND THE HOTTEST SO FAR THIS YEAR.

MEANWHILE, A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE HAD FORMED OVER SOUTHERN CHINA AND THE WEATHER SOON BECAME UNSETTLED OVER THE COASTAL AREAS OF GUANGDONG ON MAY 7.

RAIN STARTED TO FALL INTERMITTENTLY THAT MORNING BEFORE A MAJOR OUTBREAK OF SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS BROUGHT OVER 50 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN IN THE AFTERNOON.

LIGHT RAIN PERSISTED INTO THE EVENING BEFORE A LULL SETTLED IN FOR THE NIGHT. THEN IN THE EARLY MORNING OF MAY 8, FRESH CONVECTIVE DEVELOPMENT TOOK PLACE JUST TO THE NORTHWEST OF HONG KONG AND MOVED STEADILY TOWARDS THE TERRITORY. RAIN RESUMED JUST BEFORE DAYBREAK.

THE MOISTURE-LADEN AIR REVERBERATED WITH CLAPPING THUNDER AND BLINDING LIGHTNING AS THE TERRITORY BORE THE BRUNT OF THE MOST SEVERE ELECTRICAL RAINSTORM SEEN IN YEARS.

RAIN POURED DOWN WITH COMPLETE ABANDON SOON AFTER 6 AM AND THE AMOUNT OF RAIN THAT FELL IN THE NEXT HOUR, TOTTALLING ABOUT 110 MILLIMETRES, SHATTERED THE HOURLY RECORD SET 26 YEARS AGO ON JUNE 12 1966.

BY 9 AM THAT MORNING, NEARLY 200 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN HAD FALLEN AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY. THE HAVOC WREAKED BY THE DELUGE WAS WORST OVER HONG KONG ISLAND WHERE OVER 240 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN WERE RECORDED. THE ONRUSH OF RAIN WATER TUMBLED DOWN THE SLOPES OF THE HILLY TERRAIN AND TURNED THE CITY ROADS INTO A NETWORK OF SWOLLEN RIVERS AND RAGING STREAMS.

AFTER A BRIEF RESPITE LATER THAT MORNING, TORRENTIAL RAIN RETURNED IN THE AFTERNOON AS ANOTHER BAND OF RAIN CLOUDS FOLLOWED THROUGH AND SWEEPED ACROSS THE TERRITORY.

BY THE END OF A DAY OF STORMY WEATHER AND HEAVY SQUALLS WHICH LASTED TILL EVENING TIME, A TOTAL OF 324.1 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, THE SECOND HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH OF MAY SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1884.

FOUR PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND ONE WAS REPORTED MISSING IN ACCIDENTS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE HEAVY RAIN.

MORE THAN 200 CASES OF MUDSLIPS WERE REPORTED OVER THE TERRITORY, OF WHICH 150 OCCURRED ON HONG KONG ISLAND. RESIDENTS OF SOME BUILDINGS IN TANNER ROAD, KENNEDY ROAD, BAGUIO VILLA AND HUNG SHING YE VILLAGE IN LAMMA ISLAND HAD TO BE EVACUATED.

THE DELUGE BETWEEN 6 AND 8 AM CAUSED WIDESPREAD FLOODING ON THE MORNING OF MAY 8. UP TO 5 PM THAT AFTERNOON, 191 CASES OF FLOODS WERE REPORTED, OF WHICH 130 OCCURRED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 34 IN KOWLOON AND 27 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED FLOODS ROSE TO AROUND 300 BY THE MORNING THE NEXT DAY.

CONVECTIVE DISTURBANCES CONTINUED TO AFFECT HONG KONG UNTIL THE NIGHT OF MAY 10 EVEN THOUGH THE INTENSITY OF THE RAIN WAS MUCH REDUCED.

MEANWHILE, COOLER AIR NORTH OF THE TROUGH SPREAD ACROSS THE SOUTH CHINA COAST AND BROUGHT BELOW-NORMAL TEMPERATURES.

AS THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED ON MAY 10, TEMPERATURES FELL TO THE MONTH'S LOWEST OF 20.2 DEGREES DURING THE DAY.

THE WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY ON MAY 11 BUT GAVE WAY TO FINE AND SUNNY SKIES OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER THE EASTERLIES HAD SUBSIDED.

THE CLOUDS RETURNED ON MAY 14 ALONG WITH SOME INTERMITTENT LIGHT RAIN.

ANOTHER DELUGE ACCOMPANIED BY THUNDER AND SQUALLS BROKE OUT ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 15.

ON THIS OCCASION, THE HEAVY RAIN WAS NOT AS PERSISTENT. SEVEN CASES OF FLOODING AND TWO CASES OF LANDSLIPS WERE REPORTED.

THE TRAM SERVICE BETWEEN SHEUNG WAN AND CAUSEWAY BAY WAS DISRUPTED BUT OTHERWISE EFFECTS ON ROAD TRAFFIC WERE MINOR.

LIGHT RAIN PERSISTED ON MAY 16 AND THE RAIN TURNED HEAVIER THE NEXT DAY AS A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE APPROACHED FROM THE INLAND REGION OF GUANGDONG.

GUSTY SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS AND SQUALLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE THUNDERSTORMS LED TO RATHER WINDY CONDITIONS. THREE PEOPLE WERE INJURED BY FALLING SIGNBOARDS OR LOOSE OBJECTS. A TREE WAS TOPPLED AND A SCAFFOLDING WAS BLOWN ASKEW IN HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE PASSAGE OF THE TROUGH LATER ON MAY 17 BROUGHT SLIGHTLY COOLER AIR FROM THE NORTH.

THERE WERE SOME SUNNY PERIODS THE FOLLOWING DAY BEFORE CLOUDS AND LIGHT RAIN RECURRED EARLY ON MAY 19 AS WINDS TURNED EASTERLY. CLOUDY AND RELATIVELY COOL WEATHER THEN PREVAILED FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS, WITH ANOTHER RAINY EPISODE OCCURRING ON THE EVENING OF MAY 21.

WINDS WERE LIGHT AND VARIABLE FROM MAY 23 TO 27, AND APART FROM MAY 24, THE WEATHER DURING THE PERIOD WAS MAINLY CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT SHOWERS AND SOME COASTAL MIST AT NIGHT AND IN THE MORNING.

DESPITE A SLIGHT FRESHENING OF THE EASTERLIES, IT WAS A BRILLIANTLY FINE DAY ON MAY 28. IT CLOUDED UP AGAIN THE NEXT DAY AND RAIN STARTED IN THE AFTERNOON.

THE WEATHER BECAME EVEN MORE UNSETTLED AS ANOTHER TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE FORMED OVER SOUTHERN CHINA.

HEAVY RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS AFFECTED THE TERRITORY ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 30. THE TROUGH WEAKENED AFTER CROSSING THE SOUTH CHINA COAST AND SOME BRIGHT INTERVALS EMERGED ON MAY 31.

DURING THE MONTH, NO TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

INDEED, MORE THAN THREE MONTHS HAD ELAPSED SINCE THE LAST TROPICAL CYCLONE EKEKA WAS OBSERVED IN FEBRUARY. THERE WERE 21 FLIGHTS DIVERTED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER IN MAY. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE IN EFFECT ON MAY 2, 7-10, 14-17, 21 AND 29-30. FLOOD WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MAY 7-9, 15, 17, AND 30. A LANDSLIP WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON MAY 8-11. THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED ONCE EARLIER IN THE MONTH, WITH DETAILS GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
-----	-----	-----	-----
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAY 3 10.30 AM	MAY 3 5 PM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	94.0 HOURS	;	59.8 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION.	11.38 MJ/SQ.M	;	4.74 MJ/SQ.M BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	602.3 MM	;	285.6 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	80%	;	6% MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	86%	;	3% HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	271. DEGREES CELSIUS	;	1.6 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	24.8 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	1.1 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	23.3 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	22.3 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	0.3 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	79.8 MM	;	57.9 MM BELOW NORMAL

NEW DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF APPOINTED

* * * * *

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, MR PETER CHEUNG, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

MR CHEUNG WILL SUCCEED MR LAM CHEK-YUEN WHO WILL BE REPLACING MR JOHN MARCH AS DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES FOLLOWING MR MARCH'S RETIREMENT BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

MR CHEUNG JOINED THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN 1962 AS SUB-OFFICER. HE WAS PROMOTED TO CHIEF FIRE OFFICER IN 1989.

DURING HIS SERVICE, MR CHEUNG HAS SERVED IN THE OPERATION, AMBULANCE, HEADQUARTERS COMMANDS AND FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU.

HE HAS BEEN IN COMMAND OF MANY OPERATIONS AND IS NOW THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF THE HEADQUARTERS COMMAND.

- - - - 0 - - - -

UNAUTHORISED BUILDING TO BE CLOSED

* * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN UNAUTHORISED BUILDING IN YAU MA TEI SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IS LOCATED AT THE SIDE LANE OF NEW LUCKY HOUSE, 298-306 NATHAN ROAD AND 13-15 JORDAN ROAD.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON AUGUST 26 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT LAND IN TSING YI LET BY TENDER

* * * * *

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY ON A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN TSING YI, THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE LOT IS LOCATED AT AREA 10, LIU TO ROAD, TSING YI. OCCUPYING AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,240 SQUARE METRES, IT IS DESIGNATED FOR A FEE-PAYING CAR PARK FOR GOODS VEHICLES LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE (EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS).

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

SUBMISSION OF TENDERS WILL BE CLOSED AT NOON ON JULY 3.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14/F, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10/F, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KWAI TSING, 10/F AND 11/F, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REPATRIATION FLIGHT DATE SET
* * * * *

IN REPLY TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE FOURTH REPATRIATION FLIGHT UNDER THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME AGREED WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON OCTOBER 29, 1991 WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY (JUNE 19) MORNING.

"DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE REPATRIATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED TOMORROW," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AUCTION OF LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS ON SATURDAY (JUNE 20) AT 9.30 AM AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 40 LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| EW1316 | EW169 | EW1363 | EW866 |
| EV7787 | *FA727 | *BC12 | DT968 |
| EW214 | EW125 | EW930 | EW917 |
| *CC252 | DM448 | AC104 | *EZ600 |
| EW198 | *EE300 | *EW1010 | EW6208 |
| AB9099 | AA2221 | BB342 | AW1973 |
| EW263 | EW9699 | EW1628 | EW4206 |
| *HK600 | *AA17 | *BL888 | *EZ123 |
| EW8890 | EW711 | EW388 | EW426 |
| EV5351 | EW273 | EW2080 | EW2232 |

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK WOULD ONLY BE ASSIGNED TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION, AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE CONDUCT, WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 176TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

* * * * *

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1008MN
REVERSAL OF LAF	-20MN
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	988MN
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	988MN
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER TWI 110.9 *-0.1* 17.6.92	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1W	2.89 PCT	17M	2311	6.25	102.37	4.55
1M	2.82 PCT	20M	2402	5.50	101.07	4.88
3M	2.87 PCT	23M	2405	5.50	100.76	5.14
6M	3.22 PCT					
12M	3.98 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 7,545MN

CLOSED 17 JUNE 1992

- - - - 0 - - - -