



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1981

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1981

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VISIT OF HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, WILL BE MAKING TWO STOP-OVER VISITS TO HONG KONG ON HIS WAY TO AND FROM AUSTRALIA AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THE DUKE WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG ON MARCH 24 AND OPEN THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL ALSO PAY A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS, OF WHICH HE IS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, ON THE SAME DAY BEFORE CONTINUING HIS OUTWARD JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA.

ON THE RETURN JOURNEY, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL BE ARRIVING LATE IN THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, MARCH 28, AND WILL STAY OVERNIGHT AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29, THE DUKE WILL FULFIL A NUMBER OF PRIVATE ENGAGEMENTS. THESE WILL INCLUDE VISITS TO THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE 7TH DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES.

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CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

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TWO IMPORTANT SENIOR APPOINTMENTS WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT TODAY. THE FIRST IS OF MR BOBBY HOWES, FORMERLY THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND CURRENTLY ACTING AS THE GENERAL MANAGER RAILWAY (SPECIAL DUTIES), TO A NEW POST OF CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT. THE SECOND IS THE PROMOTION OF MR WONG U LAM, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER, TO GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KCR WAS ITS MOST IMPORTANT CURRENT TRANSPORT PROJECT AND EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS BEING DONE TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET COMPLETION DATES OF THE FIRST STAGE TO SHA TIN IN THE SPRING OF 1982 AND ALL THE WAY TO LO WU BY THE END OF 1982.

TO ASSIST IN DOING THIS, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO PROVIDE A SINGLE UNIFIED DIRECTION OVER ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT, BY THE CREATION OF A SPECIALLY-DESIGNED POST OF CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT INVOLVED NOT ONLY THE KCR BUT SEVERAL BRANCHES OF THE PWD, OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, SPECIALLY-APPOINTED CONSULTANTS AND AT PRESENT NO LESS THAN 30 MAIN CONTRACTORS. THEIR TASK WAS THE TOTAL REBUILDING OF A RAILWAY WHICH HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED FOR THE LAST SEVENTY YEARS, AND WHAT IS MORE, DOING SO WHILE CONTINUING TO PROVIDE PASSENGER AND FREIGHT SERVICES UNINTERRUPTED AND TO A STEADILY ACCELERATING DEMAND.

+BECAUSE THE MODERNISATION PROJECT HAS NOW REACHED A CRITICAL STAGE, MR HOWES' NEW CONTROLLING ROLE IS MORE THAN WELCOME,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THE CONTROLLER

THE CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT WILL ACT AS A DEPUTY TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, REPORTING TO HIM ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME, WITH POLICY DIRECTION FROM THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. HIS POST WILL MAKE HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLANNING, DIRECTION, COORDINATION AND FINANCIAL CONTROL OF ALL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING DECISIONS ON INTERFACE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE NEEDS OF THE EXISTING RAILWAY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW ONE.

MR HOWES CAME TO HONG KONG AS GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KCR IN MAY 1978, HAVING HAD MORE THAN FORTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE OF RAILWAYS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY HAVING DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO THE PROJECT.

MR WONG U LAM HAS BEEN DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER SINCE MAY 1978 AND HAS OVER 27 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE KCR. HE HAS FREQUENTLY ACTED AS GENERAL MANAGER OF THE RAILWAY.

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NEW TECHNIQUES BOOST VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

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MODERN EQUIPMENT AND NEW TECHNIQUES HAVE HELPED LOCAL VEGETABLE FARMERS TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

AS A RESULT, MORE VEGETABLES WERE PRODUCED LAST YEAR DESPITE DECREASING ACREAGE DUE TO PRESSURES ON FARM LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT.

A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT SHOULD GO TO MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPLY SOME 80 PER CENT OF ALL THE VEGETABLES MARKETED THROUGH THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION, HE ADDED.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN WAS SPEAKING AT A SPRING DINNER AND INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE 29TH TERM COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION.

THE FEDERATION CONTINUED TO BE ACTIVE LAST YEAR AND, WITH THE SALE OF A FURTHER 108 ROTARY CULTIVATORS, BROUGHT ITS TOTAL SALES OF THESE VERSATILE MACHINES TO ONLY TWO SHORT OF 2 000, HE SAID.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID: +THE FEDERATION ALSO CONTINUED TO ENCOURAGE THE CHANGE OVER TO PLASTIC CONTAINERS FOR TRANSPORTING VEGETABLES, CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO IMPROVING OPERATIONAL COSTS AND DECREASING THE WORKLOAD AT CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET.+

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VEGETABLE FARMERS. IT ALSO ASSISTS THEM BY MAKING AVAILABLE LOW-INTEREST LOANS, TRACTOR PLOUGHING SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR PLASTIC NETHOUSES.

+WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO ASSIST EIGHT STUDENTS WITH AWARDS TOTALLING \$124 300 TO PURSUE TERTIARY EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE AND RELATED SUBJECTS IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THIS HELP ESPECIALLY TO CHILDREN FROM FARMING FAMILIES,+ MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID.

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FRANCE BANS INDIRECT IMPORT OF HK TOYS
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THE BRUSSELS OFFICE OF THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT HAS OBTAINED DETAILS OF THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE EEC COMMISSION TO AUTHORISE FRANCE TO STOP INDIRECT IMPORTS OF TOYS OF HONG KONG ORIGIN.

THE STOPPAGE IS LIMITED TO TOYS OF HONG KONG ORIGIN EXPORTED TO FRANCE BY OTHER MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND WILL BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 1981.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TICD SAID: +WHILST THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE EEC COMMISSION DOES NOT BAN TOYS EXPORTED DIRECTLY BY HONG KONG TO FRANCE, SUCH EXPORTS ARE STILL SUBJECT TO IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

+THE TICD IS NOW RE-EXAMINING THE FULL RANGE OF DISCRIMINATORY IMPORT RESTRICTIONS MAINTAINED BY FRANCE AGAINST HONG KONG PRODUCTS, AND WILL CONSIDER WHAT STEPS IT MIGHT TAKE TO SECURE THEIR REMOVAL.+

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TAI PO TO HAVE \$12 MILLION INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) GRANTED A 2 700-SQUARE-METRE SITE TO THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION TO BUILD AN INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE.

THE ASSOCIATION WILL BUILD A THREE-STOREY BLOCK IN THE NEW TOWN CENTRE AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$12 MILLION.

A GAMES HALL, WHICH CAN BE USED FOR GYMNASTICS, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL OR BADMINTON, WILL BE BUILT ON THE TOP FLOOR.

THE MIDDLE FLOOR WILL CONTAIN AN OFFICE, A CONFERENCE ROOM, A RECREATION ROOM AND A DANCE STUDIO, WHILE A 24-LANE BOWLING ALLEY AND RESTAURANT FOR 80 PERSONS WILL BE SITED ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING WILL BE USED AS TENNIS COURTS.

SIGNING THE DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID FACILITIES FOR SPORT AND RECREATION IN TAI PO HAD NOT YET REACHED AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD.

+I AM VERY GLAD THEREFORE TO SIGN THE LEASE FOR THIS SPORTS CENTRE TODAY WHICH WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE AS PART OF A DELIBERATE PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION AS THE TOWN DEVELOPS,+ HE SAID.

+WHEN IT IS FINISHED IT WILL BE RUN BY THE LOCAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND WILL BECOME A FOCUS FOR LOCAL PRIDE AND A SOURCE OF ENJOYMENT TO YOUNG AND OLD.+

SIGNING FOR TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION, MR STEPHEN WONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SAID THE CENTRE WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PROMOTING AND RAISING THE STANDARD OF SPORTS IN THE NEW TOWN WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE A POPULATION OF 220 000.

/PILING WORK

PILING WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START IN MAY AND THE ENTIRE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1982.

+PROGRESS, HOWEVER, WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON THE SUCCESS OF FUND-RAISING EFFORTS,+ MR WONG SAID.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WILL CONTRIBUTE \$4 MILLION TO THE PROJECT AND A PRIVATE DONATION OF \$3 MILLION HAS BEEN PLEDGED BY MR LI YIP-WANG, A LONG TIME TAI PO RESIDENT. THE REMAINING \$5 MILLION WILL BE RAISED BY THE ASSOCIATION THROUGH PUBLIC DONATIONS.

MR WONG ANNOUNCED THE START OF THE FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN AT THE CEREMONY AND URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE PROJECT.

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DIVING COMPETITION FOR LOCAL DIVERS * * * *

A DIVING COMPETITION FOR LOCAL DIVERS WILL BE HELD AT THE OCEAN THEATRE OF THE OCEAN PARK ON SATURDAY (MARCH 14).

THE LOCAL DIVERS, FROM THE HONG KONG AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION, HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED A SERIES OF FREE COACHING SESSIONS FROM THE GREAT AMERICAN HIGH DIVING TEAM WHO ARE APPEARING AT THE OCEAN PARK.

THE DIVERS WILL EACH HAVE THREE DIVES AND WILL BE JUDGED ON THEIR IMPROVEMENT AND EFFORT DURING THE COURSE BY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN TEAM.

THE COACHING COURSES HAVE BEEN CO-ORDINATED BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DIVISION, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE (RSS) AND THE HONG KONG AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE OCEAN PARK FOR THE DIVERS TO USE ITS POOL FREE OF CHARGE.

THE SESSIONS STARTED ON FEBRUARY 21, AND SATURDAY'S SESSION WILL BE THE LAST. IT WILL ALSO BE THE LAST DAY THAT THE AMERICAN TEAM WILL BE PERFORMING AT OCEAN PARK.

PRIZES AND SOUVENIR CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE DONATED BY THE RSS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE DIVERS AFTER THE COMPETITION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DIVISION SAID THE GENEROUS OFFER OF FREE COACHING BY THE GREAT AMERICAN HIGH DIVING TEAM HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND OF GREAT BENEFIT TO OUR LOCAL DIVERS.

+WE ARE ALSO THANKFUL TO THE OCEAN PARK FOR THEIR CONSENT FOR THE COACHING SESSIONS TO BE HELD AT THEIR OCEAN THEATRE POOL.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE DIVING COMPETITION ON MARCH 14 (SATURDAY).

THE SESSION WILL BE AT THE OCEAN THEATRE OF OCEAN PARK FROM 2 PM TO ABOUT 5 PM.

/MEMBERS OF

MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN TEAM AND LOCAL DIVERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE OCEAN PARK FOR PRESS MEMBERS TO ENTER THE PARK AND TO TAKE THE CABLE CAR UP TO THE HEADLAND FREE OF CHARGE ON THE PRODUCTION OF THEIR PRESS CARDS.

A MEMBER OF THE GREAT AMERICAN HIGH DIVING TEAM WILL MEET PRESS MEMBERS AT 2 PM AT THE HEADLAND CABLE CAR TERMINAL.

A PRESS POSITION HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AT THE FRONT CENTRE OF THE SPECTATOR STAND.

TV CREWS WISHING TO BRING THEIR EQUIPMENT UP TO THE OCEAN THEATRE CAN CONTACT MRS RIDDELL-SWAN (5-538111 EXT. 116) SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCESS MAY BE MADE.

ENQUIRIES ON THIS EVENT CAN BE MADE TO MR I.B.I. PETERSEN OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DIVISION AT 5-951944.

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NEW DISTRICT JUDGE APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR PATRICK MICHAEL RATTIGAN AS DISTRICT JUDGE.

MR RATTIGAN WAS BORN IN IRELAND IN 1930. HE WAS EDUCATED AT BLACKROCK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN. AFTER BEING CALLED TO THE BAR IN 1962, HE WENT TO MALAWI WHERE HE ENGAGED IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

HE JOINED THE HONG KONG JUDICIARY AS A MAGISTRATE IN 1972 AND WAS PROMOTED SENIOR MAGISTRATE IN 1978. HE HAS SAT AS A TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE ON MANY OCCASIONS.

MR RATTIGAN WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT ON MARCH 16.

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MONEY RAISED IN NT WALKS PRESENTED TO COMMUNITY CHEST

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CHEQUES TOTALLING \$2.41 MILLION, RAISED DURING THE EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES COMMUNITY CHEST WALKS IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY, WERE PRESENTED TO THE CHEST TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE CHEQUES WERE RECEIVED BY MR WILLIAM MA, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST WALKS FOR MILLIONS SUB-COMMITTEE.

PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WHO LED FOUR OF THE WALKS- THE DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER NEW TERRITORIES, MR MIKE ILLINGWORTH- AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT WALKS, MR LAU WONG-FAT.

MR LAU SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE WALKS WAS A TRIBUTE TO THE JOINT EFFORTS OF VARIOUS VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+THEY BROKE NEW RECORDS BOTH IN NUMBERS TAKING PART AND IN AMOUNTS RAISED. THIS SHOWS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE PUBLIC-SPIRITED, UNITED, HELPFUL AND GENEROUS,+ HE SAID.

MR LAU SAID WHEN THE NEW TERRITORIES WALKS WERE FIRST HELD IN 1978/79, 29 000 PEOPLE TOOK PART AND \$1.7 MILLION WAS RAISED- IN 1979/80, 36 000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED AND THE AMOUNT RAISED WAS \$2 MILLION- THIS YEAR, THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TOTALLED 43 000 AND \$2.41 MILLION WAS RAISED FOR THE CHEST.

COMMUNITY CHEST WALKS IN HONG KONG STARTED 11 YEARS AGO. THIS YEAR THERE WERE 11 WALKS INVOLVING 132 000 PEOPLE. MORE THAN \$6 MILLION WAS RAISED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SNT TO OPEN SAILING CENTRE

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE SAIL TRAINING ASSOCIATION CENTRE AT LITTLE PALM BEACH, SAI KUNG, ON SATURDAY (MARCH 14) AT 11 AM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 9.45 AM. MR DONALD STRANGE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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A 300-METRE SECTION NORTH OF THE STUBBS ROAD/TAI HANG ROAD ROUNDABOUT WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 0.30 AM TO 5.30 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 14) AND TUESDAY (MARCH 17), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

TRAFFIC TO TUNG SHAN TERRACE AND CRAIGMONT WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND STUBBS ROAD. OTHER TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO TAI HANG ROAD.

THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR A FLYOVER.

ALSO ON SATURDAY (MARCH 14), THE U-TURN LOOP FROM GARDEN ROAD TO COTTON TREE DRIVE NORTH OF PEAK TRAM STATION WILL ALSO BE CLOSED FROM 4 PM UNTIL 7 AM ON MONDAY (MARCH 16) TO FACILITATE REPAIR OF AN EXPANSION JOINT ON COTTON TREE DRIVE.

MOTORISTS COMING DOWN HILL FROM GARDEN ROAD AND WISHING TO PROCEED TO COTTON TREE DRIVE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THE U-TURN LOOP NORTH OF THE HELENA MAY INSTITUTE.

TRAFFIC FROM LOWER ALBERT ROAD TO COTTON TREE DRIVE MAY USE THE SLIP ROAD ADJACENT TO THE MURRAY BARRACKS CAR PARK.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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