DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HONG KONG AND THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL (CCC)
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AT ITS MEETING ON JUNE 25, 1987 HELD IN OTTAWA, THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL (CCC) APPROVED THE ADMISSION OF HONG KONG AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL UNDER ARTICLE II(A)(II) OF THE CONVENTION ESTABLISHING THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL.

THIS FOLLOWS A DECLARATION MADE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CCC THAT HONG KONG IS A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY AND IS AUTONOMOUS IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, AND THAT THE UK, AS THE CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE CONVENTION WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FORMAL CONDUCT OF HONG KONG'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, PROPOSES THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE II(A)(II) OF THE CONVENTION AND WITH THE WISHES OF HONG KONG, HONG KONG BE ADMITTED TO THE COUNCIL AS A SEPARATE MEMBER.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRC ALSO MADE A PARALLEL DECLARATION ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AFTER JULY 1, 1997. THIS MAKES CLEAR THAT AFTER THAT DATE, THE HONG KONG SAR WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CUSTOMS TERRITORY TO HAVE SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE II(A)(II) OF THE CONVENTION ESTABLISHING THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL, AND IF HONG KONG IS ADMITTED AS A SEPARATE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG SAR MAY, USING THE NAME "HONG KONG, CHINA", CONTINUE SUCH MEMBERSHIP WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1, 1997.

"THIS IS ANOTHER USEFUL STEP IN ENSURING HONG KONG'S AND THE FUTURE SAR'S CONTINUING STABILITY AND PROSPERITY," SAID MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

"SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL IS CONSISTENT WITH HONG KONG'S STATUS AND ITS NEEDS AS A FREE PORT, A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY, AND A MAJOR TRADING ECONOMY HAVING AUTONOMY IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS," HE ADDED.

"AS HONG KONG HAS FOR SOME YEARS BEEN PLAYING AN AUTONOMOUS ROLE IN THE CCC FROM WITHIN THE BRITISH DELEGATION, THERE WILL BE LITTLE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN HONG KONG'S ROLE AFTER BECOMING A SEPARATE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL. ONE CHANGE IS THAT THE HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVES WILL NOW SPEAK AS A SEPARATE MEMBER RATHER THAN AS THE 'UNITED KINGDOM SPEAKING FOR HONG KONG'," SAID MR MACLEOD.

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TIME NEEDED TO PROCESS NEW PASSPORT, CI

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT THEY SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE PROCESSING TIME FOR THE BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT AND HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY AS FROM JULY 1.

THE TWO DOCUMENTS TO BE ISSUED FROM THAT DATE WILL INCLUDE AN ENDORSEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE HOLDER HAS A HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD WHICH STATES THAT HE OR SHE HAS THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG.

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE A HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD, ARRANGEMENT WILL BE MADE FOR THEM TO APPLY FOR ONE AT A NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE. THE TWO APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED AT THE SAME TIME AND WILL NORMALLY TAKE ABOUT FIVE WEEKS.

"TO AVOID DELAY, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PROCESSING TIME AND TO APPLY FOR THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THEIR INTENDED DATE OF TRAVEL," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ADDED.

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MORE COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED

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THERE ARE AT PRESENT 47 NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN HONG KONG AND THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INTRODUCE THIS SERVICE TO SIX MORE AREAS THIS YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TIN SAM LUTHERAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OF THE HONG KONG LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE, MRS WONG SAID THAT NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WERE GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED PROJECTS OPERATED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN AREAS SUCH AS TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, SQUATTER AREAS AND OLD HOUSING ESTATES WHERE THERE WAS A LACK OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

"THE AIM OF THESE PROJECTS IS TO HELP RESIDENTS UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS THROUGH MUTUAL EFFORTS AND BY MOBILISING COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN A BID TO IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIVING," MRS WONG SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT IN THE ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROJECTS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES COULD ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RESIDENTS.

/"AGENCIES CAN .....

"AGENCIES CAN HELP EXPLAIN GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES TO RESIDENTS SO AS TO ENCOURAGE THE LATTER TO REACT POSITIVELY AND MOREOVER, THEY CAN RENDER SERVICES THROUGH MORE INNOVATIVE MEANS," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG SAID THAT THE TIN SAM LUTHERAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, IMPLEMENTED SINCE 1984, HAD PROVIDED VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND HAD SET UP STUDY AND SERVICE GROUPS TO SERVE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT.

"WITH A PERMANENT OFFICE, I AM SURE THAT THE PROJECT WILL FURTHER DEVELOP TO PROVIDE EVEN BETTER SERVICES FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD," SHE SAID.

SHE COMMENDED THE HONG KONG LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE FOR PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES, INCLUDING COMMUNITY CENTRES, CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES, SOCIAL AND DAY CARE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, WORK ACTIVITY CENTRES, SOCIAL CLUBS FOR THE DISABLED, NURSERIES AND SCHOOL SOCIAL SERVICE.

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REFRESHER COURSE FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

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TO HELP IMPROVE TEACHERS' FLUENCY AND ACCURACY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED THE BRITISH COUNCIL TO RUN A REFRESHER COURSE FOR SECONDARY TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND TWO IDENTICAL REFRESHER COURSES FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS OF ENGLISH BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER.

THE COURSES ALSO AIM TO ORIENTATE TEACHERS TO THE REVISED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENGLISH SYLLABUSES AND TO INTRODUCE THE TEACHERS TO A RANGE OF COMMUNICATIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES.

THE REFRESHER COURSE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WILL BE OF THREE WEEKS' DURATION STARTING AUGUST 3. TALKS WILL BE GIVEN BY GUEST LECTURERS FROM BRITAIN AND TEACHERS FROM THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

TWO HALF-DAY REFRESHER COURSES FOR THE PRIMARY TEACHERS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 21 AND DECEMBER 11.

ALL COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CALLED ON SCHOOL HEADS TO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE THEIR TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REFRESHER COURSES AND SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (ENGLISH) OF THE DEPARTMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

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CARNIVAL TO FOSTER NEIGHBOURHOOD CONCEPT

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RESIDENTS OF KWAI CHUNG ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CARNIVAL TO BE HELD AT KWAI HING ESTATE TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

THE CARNIVAL, WHICH WILL START AT 2 PM, IS ORGANISED BY THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, KWAI CHUNG CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE, HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE TO PROMOTE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CONCEPT AND CRIME PREVENTIVE MEASURES AMONG RESIDENTS.

PROGRAMMES OF THE CARNIVAL WILL INCLUDE A DRAMA PERFORMANCE BY THE KWAI TSING CULTURE AND ARTS CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION, TAO KUEN DAO PERFORMANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL AS WELL AS SINGING AND DANCING PERFORMANCES.

RESIDENTS CAN ALSO TAKE PART IN THE STALL GAMES SET UP BY THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND THE YIN NGAI SOCIETIES. AN EXHIBITION AND A VIDEO SHOW WILL ALSO BE STAGED AT THE VENUE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CARNIVAL AND ITS OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE OFFICIATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR CHOI HING-SHUN AT 2 PM AT THE BASKETBALL COURT OF KWAI HING ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 1), KWAI CHUNG.

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DEMOLITION OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES

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EIGHT UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT WERE DEMOLISHED LAST WEEK BY A GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE SAID THEY WERE EXTENSIONS OF RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES ON ROOFS OR PODIUMS OF BUILDINGS.

"DEMOLITION OPERATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT FROM TIME TO TIME TO REMOVE STRUCTURES WHICH ARE STRUCTURALLY DANGEROUS TO OCCUPIERS AND TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

/"PRIOR APPROVAL .....

"PRIOR APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS HAS TO BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT UNDER THE BUILDING ORDINANCE; ANY EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL WILL BE LIABLE TO DEMOLITION BY THE GOVERNMENT WHEN DETECTED BY STAFF OF THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN; AND ALL BUILDINGS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE TOWN AREAS, ARE INSPECTED REGULARLY," HE SAID.

"A TOTAL OF 78 UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES WERE DEMOLISHED LAST YEAR BY THE GOVERNMENT OR REMOVED BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS CONCERNED AFTER WARNINGS HAD BEEN GIVEN," HE ADDED.

HE REMINDED RESIDENTS OR ANY PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS OF PROPERTY TO CONSULT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE BEFORE CONTEMPLATING ERECTING ADDITIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS OR PURCHASING A PROPERTY WHICH WAS APPARENTLY BEING ENCUMBERED WITH EXISTING UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES ON HONG KONG ISLAND

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FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 29), A 35-METRE STRETCH OF THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WELLINGTON STREET EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ABERDEEN STREET WILL BE MADE A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

THE MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS FOR THE LAYING OF GAS MAINS.

NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAY FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STAND ON THE SAME SECTION OF WELLINGTON STREET WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY, THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF NORTH POINT ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 9A AND ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD WILL BE MADE A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY. THE RESTRICTION WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE THE RENEWAL OF TRAM TRACKS.

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CASTLE PEAK ROAD CLOSED TO TRAFFIC

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SOUTHBOUND CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN WAH KING HILL ROAD AND BUTTERFLY VALLEY INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 2 AND 4 AM ON TUESDAY (JUNE 30) AND JULY 3 FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF A TRANSFORMER.

MOTORISTS ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR KOWLOON WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WAH KING HILL ROAD, TAI WO INTERCHANGE, WAH YIU ROAD, LAI CHI LING ROAD, LIM CHO STREET, KING CHO ROAD, LAI KING HILL ROAD, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL INTERCHANGE, KWAI CHUNG ROAD OR CHING CHEUNG ROAD.

MOTORISTS HEADING FOR KOWLOON ARE ALSO ADVISED TO USE KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND AVOID CASTLE PEAK ROAD DURING THE CLOSURE.

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TRUST FUNDS AND MEDIATION UNIT MOVES TO NEW OFFICES

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THE TRUST FUNDS AND CEMETERIES SECTION AND THE MEDIATION UNIT OF CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WILL BE OPERATING FROM THEIR NEW OFFICES IN THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, 1 HONG CHONG ROAD, SIXTH FLOOR, TSIM SHA TSUI, FROM MONDAY (JUNE 29).

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE NEW OFFICES ARE:

TRUST FUNDS GENERAL OFFICE	3-7337825
CHINESE TEMPLES COMMITTEE	3-7337824
CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERIES OFFICE	3-7397735
MEDIATION UNIT	3-7337820

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