



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1990

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TEXT OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR MESSAGE DELIVERED THIS EVENING BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON:

GOVERNOR'S LUNAR NEW YEAR MESSAGE

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"THE NEW YEAR IS A FAMILY FESTIVAL. WE TREASURE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH OUR CHILDREN AND WITH PARENTS. WE ALSO PAUSE IN THE DAILY HUSTLE OF OUR LIVES AND THINK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHERE WE HAVE GOT TO AND WHERE WE ARE GOING.

"THIS IS NOW THE START OF A NEW DECADE. THE LAST DECADE, THE 1980S. WAS A MOMENTOUS TIME FOR HONG KONG. DECISIONS WERE MADE THEN ABOUT OUR FUTURE WHICH ARE GOING TO AFFECT EVERYBODY'S LIVES. AS PEOPLE LOOK AT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE, THEY WONDER HOW THEY ARE GOING TO WORK IN PRACTICE. NATURALLY SO, PARTICULARLY WHEN LAST YEAR - THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE - WE HAD TO DEAL WITH MORE THAN OUR USUAL SHARE OF CHALLENGES.

"SO LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO LOOK BACK AT THE PAST 10 YEARS TO REMIND OURSELVES HOW FAR WE HAVE COME IN THAT SHORT TIME. DOING THIS CAN HELP TO GIVE US CONFIDENCE FOR THE FUTURE.

"TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE WAY OPPORTUNITIES HAVE OPENED UP FOR OUR CHILDREN. YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS, RIGHTLY SO, AND MOST HONG KONG PARENTS ARE DETERMINED TO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN A BETTER LIFE THAN THEY HAD THEMSELVES.

"TEN YEARS AGO, WE HAD ONLY JUST BEGUN TO PROVIDE THREE YEARS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN.

"TODAY WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO SCHOOLING UP TO THE AGE OF 15. MANY GO ON AFTER THAT, AND OUTSIDE SCHOOL, THERE ARE PLENTY OF ACTIVITIES FOR RECREATION AND FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.

"THE NEXT 10 YEARS ARE GOING TO SEE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND THERE WILL BE MORE VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN SKILLS. ALSO THAT HONG KONG HAS A LABOUR FORCE WHICH CAN COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

"OUR UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS WILL BE GROWING RAPIDLY. MORE AND MORE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO GOING ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION AFTER THEY LEAVE SCHOOL.

"THE WELL-BEING OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON THE QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE. THE UNITY OF THE FAMILY IS INDEED ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF HONG KONG. TO IMPROVE FAMILY LIFE WE NEED DECENT HOMES. HOUSING IS ANOTHER AREA WHERE AN IMMENSE AMOUNT WAS ACHIEVED IN THE 1980S.

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"JUST 10 YEARS AGO, OVER 600,000 PEOPLE STILL LIVED IN SQUATTER HUTS. THEY COVERED MANY OF OUR URBAN HILLSIDES. ALL THIS HAS BEEN CHANGED DRAMATICALLY WITH THE BUILDING OF LARGE NUMBERS OF NEW HOUSING PROJECTS.

"MANY OF THESE NEW HOMES ARE IN COMPLETELY NEW TOWNS. THEY HAVE GROWN UP WHERE THERE USED TO BE FIELDS AND SEA - FOR EXAMPLE LIKE SHA TIN, WHICH HAS JUST CELEBRATED ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY.

"IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF OUR HOUSING WILL GO ON. IT WILL BE ONE OF OUR MAJOR TASKS IN THE 1990S. IF WE CAN MANAGE TO CARRY OUT OUR PRESENT PLANS, THEN WITHIN ONLY A FEW YEARS ALL THE SQUATTERS IN OUR URBAN AREAS WILL BE REHOUSED.

"IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE ISN'T JUST A MATTER OF HOUSING. WE WANT TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE AND PLEASANT. WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS - TO REDUCE NOISE AND THE POLLUTION OF OUR AIR AND WATER. ALL OF US HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THIS EFFORT TO MAKE HONG KONG AN EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE AND HEALTHY PLACE TO LIVE.

"THERE ARE MANY OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF WHICH WE CAN AND OF WHICH WE SHOULD CONGRATULATE OURSELVES.

"WITH HONG KONG'S REMARKABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE APPEARANCE OF THE TERRITORY HAS BEEN TOTALLY TRANSFORMED FROM WHAT IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO. WE NOW HAVE AN ULTRA MODERN CITY SKYLINE - AND WE HAVE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS.

"WE HAVE DONE A GREAT DEAL TO BUILD A CITY AND A COMMUNITY THAT WE CAN BE PROUD OF.

"THAT WORK WILL CONTINUE IN THIS NEW DECADE. IN THE 1990S, FOR EXAMPLE, WE'LL BE STARTING WORK ON THE LARGEST PROJECTS IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY - THESE INCLUDE A BRAND NEW AIRPORT AND WHAT IS GOING TO AMOUNT TO A SECOND HARBOUR - AS WELL AS DEVELOPING NEW LAND AND BUILDING ROADS AND TUNNELS. ALL OF THIS IS PART OF THE EFFORT TO MAKE SURE THAT HONG KONG REMAINS A MODERN, COMPETITIVE CITY - AND ALSO THAT IT'S A CONVENIENT AND A PLEASANT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK.

"WE NOW HAVE OUR OWN INDIGENOUS CULTURE, AN INCREASINGLY LIVELY ARTS AND RECREATION SCENE AND A BOOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND MEDIA INDUSTRY. WE HAVE BUILT A HONG KONG THAT IS UNIQUE.

"AS WE ENTER THE 1990S, WE CAN LOOK BACK ON THE PAST 10 YEARS AND WE CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD OF OUR RECORD. THE 1990S ARE GOING TO PRESENT NEW CHANGES AND NEW CHALLENGES. NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT. IN FACING THEM, WE CAN DRAW STRENGTH FROM WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN THE PAST.

"WE KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO AS A COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE DETERMINED AND UNITED TO DO IT.

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"ANY COMMUNITY IS ULTIMATELY COMPOSED OF A NUMBER OF FAMILIES. AND THE NEW YEAR IS ABOVE ALL A FESTIVAL WHEN FAMILIES SPEND TIME TOGETHER. WHEN PEOPLE PAY RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, MAKE MUCH OF THEIR CHILDREN AND VISIT RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

"AT THE START OF THIS NEW DECADE - MY WIFE, MY FAMILY AND I MYSELF WOULD LIKE TO WISH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, PROSPERITY AND EVERY HAPPINESS FOR THIS YEAR OF THE HORSE."

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MAJOR STEP BY STEERING COMMITTEE

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, TODAY (FRIDAY) UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FACT THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION HAD NOW BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY AT THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE IN GENEVA.

SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA ON HIS RETURN FROM THE MEETING, MR BARNES SAID HE HOPED THAT THIS IN ITSELF WAS GOING TO HELP STEM BOAT PEOPLE COMING TO HONG KONG.

"IT IS A MAJOR STEP FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO HAVE GOT THAT FAR. WHAT IS LEFT UNDECIDED IS THE REALISTIC TIMING FOR MANDATORY REPATRIATION TO START." HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THAT AS DECIDED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, MR THORVALD STOLTENBERG, HAD BEEN ASKED TO MEDIATE AND TO CONSULT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS BEFORE THE END OF NEXT WEEK IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A SOLUTION.

"MR STOLTENBERG WILL REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATIONS." HE SAID.

"THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT: IT MEANS THE UNHCR WILL BE GETTING INVOLVED NOW IN CONSULTATIONS IN TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION."

MR BARNES SAID HONG KONG STILL HAD A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON MANDATORY REPATRIATION.

"WE SHALL OBVIOUSLY CONSIDER FURTHER ACTION IN THAT DIRECTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF MR STOLTENBERG'S EFFORTS.

"WE HOPE THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM WILL REFLECT IMMEDIATELY ON THE EXTRAORDINARY AND INDEFENSIBLE POSITIONS WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN IN THE MATTER.

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"THESE TWO COUNTRIES WERE ALONE IN THEIR REFUSAL TO COMPROMISE AT GENEVA: ALL THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONSENSUS BASED ON THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF JULY 1, 1990 FOR MANDATORY REPATRIATION."

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THAT SHOULD AN UNMANAGEABLE INFLUX OF BOAT PEOPLE TO HONG KONG OCCUR. IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT "WE CAN APPEAL TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR AN AMERGENCY MEETING TO BE HELD TO EXAMINE AND TO RECOMMEND SPECIAL MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

"THAT IS AN EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TRY TO OFFER SOME POSITIVE ASSISTANCE TO HONG KONG AND TO OTHER COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM IN THE AREA."

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHE KUNG FESTIVAL

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHA TIN FROM 8 PM ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 28) TO 6 PM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE THE HOLDING OF THE CHE KUNG FESTIVAL.

THE SECTION OF THE CHE KUNG MIU ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH SHA TIN TAU ROAD AND CHUI TIN STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT FOR FRANCHISED BUSES, GREEN MINIBUSES ON ROUTE 68K FROM SHA TIN KCR STATION (PAI TAU STREET) TO JULIMOUNT GARDEN, AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

THE TWO BUS STOPS ON THIS SECTION OF CHE KUNG MIU ROAD WILL BE SUSPENDED.

DURING THE ROAD CLOSURE, TRAFFIC HEADING FOR HIN KENG AND TIN SAM AREAS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD AND HUNG MUI KUK ROAD.

FRANCHISED BUS AND KCR TRAIN SERVICES WILL BE STRENGTHENED DURING THE PERIOD OF THE FESTIVAL IF NECESSARY.

IN VIEW OF THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE CARPARK IN CHUI TIN STREET NEAR SAN TIN WAI AND THE LIMITED NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHE KUNG TEMPLE, WORSHIPPERS GOING TO THE TEMPLE ARE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

AT THE SAME TIME, TAXIS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING CHUI TIN STREET.

A TAXI STAND IS AVAILABLE ON TSUEN NAM ROAD NEAR TAI WAI KCR STATION AND TEMPORARY STOPPING PLACES FOR TAXIS WILL BE PROVIDED ON SHA TIN TAU ROAD NEAR THE CHE KUNG TEMPLE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TOLO HIGHWAY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TOLO HIGHWAY BETWEEN ISLAND HOUSE INTERCHANGE AND MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 AM AND 11.30 AM ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 28) IN CONNECTION WITH 1990 HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL MARATHON EVENT.

DURING THE CLOSURE, KMB EXPRESS ROUTES 70X, 71X, 72X, 73X, 74X AND 75X WILL CONTINUE TO USE TOLO HIGHWAY ON NORTHBOUND JOURNEYS. ON SOUTHBOUND JOURNEYS, THE EXPRESS ROUTES WILL BE DIVERTD TO OPERATE NON-STOP VIA TAI PO ROAD AND SHA TIN ROAD. THE EXISTING EXPRESS FARES WILL CONTINUE TO BE CHARGED.

MOTORISTS WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO MA LIU SHUI PIER, MEI SHA PIER, THE SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND NEARBY DESTINATIONS, ONLY IF THEY TRAVEL IN THE NORTHERLY DIRECTION ON TOLO HIGHWAY TO EXIT AT MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE.

ON LEAVING THE AREA, VEHICLES CAN ONLY EXIT ONTO THE NORTHBOUND TOLO HIGHWAY. MOTORISTS GOING TO DESTINATIONS SOUTH OF THE ISLAND HOUSE INTERCHANGE CAN DO SO BY EXITING AT THIS INTERCHANGE TO JOIN THE SOUTHBOUND TAI PO ROAD.

AS TRAFFIC CONGESTION MAY OCCUR ON TAI PO ROAD NEAR KWONG FUK ESTATE, THE PUBLIC ARE URGED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE DISPLAYED AND POLICE WILL BE ON HAND TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.