



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1978

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FOUR MPS TO VISIT HK
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FOUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL BE IN HONG KONG FOR A TWO-WEEK VISIT DURING THE NEW YEAR.

THEY ARE MR. ALFRED MORRIS (LABOUR), PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE DISABLED= MR. JACK ASHLEY (LABOUR), PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES= MR. NIGEL LAWSON (CONSERVATIVE)= AND MR. PETER MORRISON (CONSERVATIVE).

MR. ASHLEY WILL ARRIVE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE. THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL ARRIVE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY -- NEW YEAR'S DAY.

DURING THEIR VISIT THEY WILL MEET THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

THEIR PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDES VISITS TO HOUSING ESTATES, SOCIAL SERVICES AND CENTRES, THE NEW TERRITORIES AND CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE TWO CONSERVATIVE MPS, MR. LAWSON AND MR. MORRISON WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON JANUARY 11 WHILE MR. MORRIS AND MR. ASHLEY WILL LEAVE ON JANUARY 13.

THEY ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR. JACK ASHLEY (LABOUR) PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG BY BA 3 ON DECEMBER 31 AT 4.20 P.M.

MR. ALFRED MORRIS (LABOUR), PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HIS WIFE, WILL ARRIVE ON JANUARY 1 BY BA 37 AT 7.40 P.M.

MR. PETER MORRISON AND MR. NIGEL LAWSON, CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, WILL ARRIVE ALSO ON JANUARY 1 BY BA 20 AT 2.35 P.M.

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SEPTEMBER 1978 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

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A SAMPLE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY CONDUCTED IN SEPTEMBER BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INDICATED 55,600 UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AT THAT TIME.

THIS NUMBER REPRESENTED 2.7 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE.

THESE FIGURES CAN BE COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 80,000 OR 4.1 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1977 AND 60,000 OR 3 PER CENT IN MARCH 1978.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR. C.C. GREENFIELD SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAD DECREASED OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

ALTHOUGH THE REDUCTION IN THE RATE WAS ONLY 0.3 PER CENT (OR IN ABSOLUTE TERMS, A REDUCTION OF 4,400 IN THE NUMBER WHO WERE UNEMPLOYED), THE ACTUAL DECLINE IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WOULD BE MORE IF CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, USUALLY SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER IN SEPTEMBER THAN IN MARCH, WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS ESTIMATED IN THE MARCH 1978 SURVEY WAS 7,100 COMPARED WITH 13,100 IN THE SEPTEMBER 1978 SURVEY (AN INCREASE OF 6,000 PEOPLE).

+ IF THE SEPTEMBER 1978 RATE IS ADJUSTED FOR THIS SEASONAL EFFECT TO PUT IT ON THE SAME BASIS AS THE MARCH 1978 RATE, IT BECOMES 2.4 PER CENT. THE CORRECTED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS FIGURE AND THAT FOR MARCH 1978 IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, + MR. GREENFIELD SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER EXPLAINED THAT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 14 - 64 AND NOT IN EMPLOYMENT OR WHO HAD WORKED FOR LESS THAN 15 HOURS IN THE SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE SURVEY DATE BUT WERE LOOKING FOR WORK, WERE CLASSIFIED AS UNEMPLOYED.

HE ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE VARIOUS DEFINITIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT USED BY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

IN HONG KONG +UNEMPLOYED+ INCLUDED PEOPLE:

- * WHO HAD JUST LEFT SCHOOL AND WHO REALLY HAD NOT HAD MUCH CHANCE TO FIND A JOB=
- * WHO HAD JUST, BUT ONLY JUST, TAKEN UP WORK=
- * WHO HAD TEMPORARILY BEEN LAID OFF WORK (WORKING LESS THAN 15 HOURS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS)=
- * WHO WERE AVAILABLE FOR WORK, BUT WERE NOT ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR WORK BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NONE TO BE HAD OR BECAUSE THEY WERE TEMPORARILY SICK.

MR. GREENFIELD SAID A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE SURVEY WAS NOW AVAILABLE AND COPIES COULD BE OBTAINED ON REQUEST FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

HE ADDED THAT SIMILAR INFORMATION ON UNEMPLOYMENT IS SOUGHT AT REGULAR SIX-MONTHLY INTERVALS. THE NEXT LABOUR FORCE SURVEY WOULD BE HELD IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

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CAS MOVING INTO NEW TOWNS
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THE CIVIL AID SERVICES ARE PLANNING TO EXPAND THEIR SERVICES TO NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND OUTLYING ISLANDS TO KEEP PACE WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE AREAS.

THE EXPANSION PLAN INCLUDES THE FORMATION OF A CAS UNIT IN EACH OF THE NEW TOWNS AND A SMALL RESCUE UNIT ON LANTAU ISLAND.

A WARDEN UNIT HAS RECENTLY BEEN ESTABLISHED IN TUEN MUN.

ANOTHER NEW WARDEN UNIT AT SHA TIN AT THE CAS LEK YUEN HEADQUARTERS WILL COME INTO OPERATION EARLY NEXT YEAR TO STRENGTHEN THE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER (ACTING) OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, MR. CHAN CHUN-YING, POINTED OUT THAT UNITS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET UP IN TSUEN WAN, TAI PO, YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN, AND NEW UNITS WILL BE FORMED IN OTHER NT NEW TOWNS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT GIVES THE GREENLIGHT.

LANTAU, WHICH IS BECOMING MORE POPULAR FOR HIKING AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING AT WEEKENDS, WILL BE SERVICED BY A NEW RESCUE UNIT IN FUTURE.

TO TIE IN WITH THIS EXPANSION, THE COMMAND STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENT COMBINED KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION WILL HAVE TO BE REORGANISED TO MAKE THE NEW TERRITORIES A SEPARATE REGION INDEPENDENT FROM THE KOWLOON COMMAND.

MR. CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE CAS ESTABLISHMENT, WHICH NOW STANDS AT 2,800 HAS 11.5 PERCENT OF ITS STRENGTH BASED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+MEMBERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES LIKE THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN URBAN AREAS ARE PROVIDING USEFUL SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC IN CROWD CONTROL, FOREST FIRE PREVENTION, RESCUE WORK AND OTHER OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WAS ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO THE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN AT TUEN MUN IN SEPTEMBER, DURING WHICH SOME 120 APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED FOR THE 50 VACANCIES IN THE NEWLY FORMED CAS UNIT THERE.

NEW RECRUITS FOR NEW TERRITORIES UNITS LIKE THEIR URBAN COUNTERPARTS RECEIVE APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS INITIAL TRAINING DURING THEIR LEISURE TIME BEFORE ATTENDING A RECRUIT PASSING OUT PARADE.

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TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD +NOW SOLIDLY ESTABLISHED+
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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HAD QUICKLY ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR GOVERNMENT-COMMUNITY INTERACTION IN THE DISTRICT, THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

POINTING OUT THAT THE BOARD WAS +NOW SOLIDLY ESTABLISHED+ AFTER ITS INAUGURATION A YEAR AGO, HE SAID IT HAD GENERATED +MUCH USEFUL WORK+ DURING NINE FULL SESSION AND 36 SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

MR. HAYES, BOARD CHAIRMAN, WAS SPEAKING AT A YEAR-END DINNER PARTY HOSTED BY UNOFFICIAL BOARD MEMBERS. HE NOMINATED THE FORTH-COMING TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL - TO BE STAGED IN THE DISTRICT FROM JANUARY 1-14 -- AS THE BOARD'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT.

THE ORGANISATION OF THE FESTIVAL, HE SAID, SHOWED HOW FAR TALENTED PEOPLE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, WITH THE LEADERSHIP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE BOARD, COULD GO IN PROVIDING RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES FOR THEIR FELLOW RESIDENTS.

MR. HAYES SAID THE BOARD HAD GIVEN HIM MUCH ASSISTANCE IN HIS JOB AS TOWN MANAGER, PARTICULARLY WITH THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE LARGE-SCALE CLEARANCE PROGRAMME IN TSUEN WAN.

+BUT I AM CONSCIOUS THAT THIS SUPPORT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING IF BOARD MEMBERS HAD NOT BEEN SATISFIED THAT THE DISTRICT OFFICE WAS DOING ITS BEST TO BE FLEXIBLE AND WAS ACTIVE IN OBTAINING CHANGES IN POLICY AND INCREASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHERE THIS ACTION WAS CLEARLY REQUIRED.+

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TENDERS INVITED ON INTERNATIONAL BASIS
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MANUFACTURERS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND LUXEMBOURG ARE BEING INVITED TO TENDER FOR THE LATEST WORK ON THE SHA TIN PERMANENT TREATMENT WORKS.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

A PWD SPOKESMAN SAID THE TENDER NOTICE WILL APPEAR IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID TENDERS WERE BEING INVITED FOR THE THIRD OF 13 NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTS TO THE MAIN CIVIL CONTRACT FOR THE FIRST STAGE OF THE SEWAGE WORKS.

WHEN COMPLETED IN 1980 THE FIRST STAGE WILL SERVE A POPULATION OF AROUND 230,000 IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

IN THE MEANTIME THE SEWAGE FROM SHA TIN IS BEING TREATED AT THE TEMPORARY AND INTERIM SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT PART OF THE PROJECT WAS BEING FINANCED BY THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND TENDERS WERE BEING INVITED ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS.

THEY WERE FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TWO BULK FUEL STORAGE TANKS, TOGETHER WITH ANCILLIARY EQUIPMENT. THE TANKS, EACH WITH A CAPACITY OF 290 CUBIC METRES, WILL STORE FUEL OIL FOR THE DIESEL GENERATORS.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED BY WATSON (HONG KONG) CHARTERED CONSULTING ENGINEERS. THEY ARE THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR THE PROJECT UNDER THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF THE CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF PWD'S CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE.

WATSON (HONG KONG) ARE ALSO SUPERVISING THE CONSTRUCTION WORK, INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED UNDER THIS SUB-CONTRACT. THE CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR IS AOKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

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DECLARATION OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

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IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS ARE REMINDED TO LODGE TRADE DECLARATIONS AND PAY AD VALOREM CHARGES ON ALL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, OTHER THAN THOSE GOODS EXEMPTED UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (REGISTRATION) REGULATIONS, WITHIN 14 DAYS OF IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION.

THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT WARNED IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS THAT PROSECUTIONS WOULD BE INITIATED AGAINST THOSE WHO, WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE, FAIL TO LODGE THE NECESSARY TRADE DECLARATIONS.

TRADE DECLARATIONS SUBMITTED OUTSIDE THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD WOULD BE LIABLE, WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE, TO PENALTY CHARGES WHICH MAY RISE, AFTER TWO MONTHS, TO A MAXIMUM OF \$100 PER DECLARATION WHERE TOTAL VALUE OF ARTICLES SPECIFIED DID NOT EXCEED \$20,000, AND TO A MAXIMUM OF \$200 PER DECLARATION WHERE THE TOTAL VALUE OF ARTICLES SPECIFIED EXCEEDED \$20,000, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT ADDED.

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PLAN TO BUILD THREE-STOREY HOUSES IN TUEN MUN

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MORE THAN 80 THREE-STOREY HOUSES ARE TO BE BUILT IN TUEN MUN AS PART OF THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN AREA.

A PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) IT WAS PLANNED TO COMPLETE 18 HOUSES BY JANUARY 1980, AND ANOTHER 64 BY SEPTEMBER THAT YEAR.

HE EXPLAINED THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW HOUSES WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE TUEN MUN REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

+SOME EXISTING HOUSES WILL HAVE TO BE RESITED TO MAKE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ONE AREA OF THE NEW TOWN,+ HE SAID.

TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOUSES WILL BE INVITED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE PROJECT INVOLVES CONSTRUCTION OF THE 82 HOUSES IN TWO PHASES WITH WORK STARTING NEXT MARCH.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE HOUSES WOULD BE THREE STOREYS HIGH AND EACH FLOOR WOULD BE SELF-CONTAINED. THEY WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE BEING BUILT ON TSING YI ISLAND, AND THOSE ALREADY COMPLETED IN SHAM TSENG STAGE TWO.

SITE FORMATION BY ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, HE SAID, IS DUE TO BE FINISHED BY THE END OF FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

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QUARANTINE MEASURES

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT QUARANTINE AND HEALTH MEASURES HAVE BEEN IMPOSED AGAINST ARRIVALS FROM SRI LANKA AND NAURU ON ACCOUNT OF CHOLERA.

AT THE SAME TIME, SANITARY MEASURES IMPOSED AGAINST ARRIVALS FROM IRAQ BECAUSE OF THE SAME DISEASE HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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LICENCE REQUIRED FOR RADIO-CONTROLLED MODELS

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THE POST OFFICE TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED THOSE BUYING, OR RECEIVING AS GIFTS, RADIO-CONTROLLED MODELS SUCH AS PLANES, BOATS AND CARS, THAT THEY NEED TO BE LICENSED.

THE LICENCE, AT \$10 PER ANNUM, CAN BE OBTAINED BY APPLICATION TO THE POST OFFICE'S LICENSING AND INSPECTION SECTION, ROOM 424, GPO HEADQUARTERS, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) NO OPERATOR TESTS WERE REQUIRED BUT THE EQUIPMENT ITSELF MUST BE PRESENTED FOR TEST AND INSPECTION.

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SEAMEN'S RECRUITING OFFICE MONTHLY STATISTICS

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A TOTAL OF 83,815 SEAMEN WAS REGISTERED UP TO THE END OF NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, MONTHLY STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING OFFICE SHOWED.

OF THESE, 50,752 WERE INCLUDED IN PART ONE OF THE REGISTER. THESE SEAMEN HAD EITHER BEEN TO SEA DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS OR HAD HAD PRE-SEA TRAINING OR ACCEPTABLE SHORE EXPERIENCE TO QUALIFY FOR SERVICE AT SEA.

ANOTHER 1,517 SEAMEN INCLUDED IN PART THREE OF THE REGISTER WERE NEW ENTRANTS TO THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY. THEY NEITHER HAD PRE-SEA TRAINING NOR ACCEPTABLE SHORE EXPERIENCE.

THE REMAINING 31,546 SEAMEN, UNDER PART FOUR OF THE REGISTER, WERE THOSE TRANSFERRED FROM PART ONE TO PART FOUR ON REQUEST FOR THEIR NAMES TO BE LISTED WITH LICENSED CREW DEPARTMENTS IN SHIPPING COMPANIES.

DURING LAST (NOVEMBER) MONTH, 120 SEAMEN, INCLUDING 47 OFFICERS, REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE WHILE 2,467 SEAMEN WERE ENGAGED FOR SERVICE IN FOREIGN-GOING SHIPS.

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NO LEARNER DRIVERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING AND PRACTISING DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE ACCESS ROAD ADJACENT TO LEUNG SHEK CHEE COLLEGE FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH HIU KWONG STREET IN SAU MAU PING.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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