



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1974

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HONG KONG CAN BUILD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
SAYS SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT

HONG KONG IS CAPABLE OF BUILDING AND OPERATING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SAFELY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. JAMES ROBSON, SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER, IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN WHETHER OR NOT SUCH A PROJECT WOULD BE FEASIBLE AND ECONOMIC FOR HONG KONG, HE TOLD THE OPENING SESSION OF A SYMPOSIUM ON 'HONG KONG AND ITS ENVIRONMENT' AT THE HILTON HOTEL.

FROM A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION BY A TEAM OF U.K. SPECIALISTS, HE SAID, IT SEEMED PROBABLE THAT A SUITABLE SITE FOR A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COULD BE FOUND IN HONG KONG. BUT THE SITES WHICH HAVE BEEN TENTATIVELY SELECTED WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE INVESTIGATED IN DETAIL TO DETERMINE THE GEOLOGICAL, METEOROLOGICAL, HYDROLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

OTHER MAJOR PROBLEMS TO BE LOOKED INTO WERE THE TRAINING OF THE HIGHLY SPECIALISED STAFF TO RUN THE PLANT, LEGISLATION TO COVER ITS CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION, THE SUPPLY OF FUEL, AND, MORE IMPORTANT, THE DISPOSAL OF THE SPENT FUEL BY RETURN TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOR REPROCESSING.

MR. ROBSON SAID THAT WHILE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WERE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE TO BUILD, THEY WERE CHEAP TO OPERATE. +AT PRESENT DAY COSTS IT SEEMS THAT POWER FROM THIS SOURCE IS LESS THAN ONE HALF THE COST OF POWER GENERATED BY OIL BURNING PLANTS.+

HE NOTED THAT MUCH HAD BEEN SAID ABOUT THE DANGERS OF SUCH PLANTS, +BUT IF, AS CLAIMED, THEY ARE SAFE, IF NOT SAFER, TO OPERATE THAN OIL AND COAL FIRED PLANTS, THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID IN THEIR FAVOUR.+

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, HE ADDED, DID NOT POLLUTE THE ATMOSPHERE WITH MASSES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE AS DID OIL AND COAL FIRED PLANTS, AND THIS MIGHT HELP REDUCE, IF NOT ELIMINATE, THE CRIPPLING BRONCHIAL AND OTHER LUNG COMPLAINTS COMMON IN SOME INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES.

MR. ROBSON POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE POPULATION CONTINUING TO EXPAND, HONG KONG WOULD FACE INCREASING DEMANDS FOR MORE ELECTRICITY, COOKING FACILITIES, MOTOR CARS, INDUSTRY AND SO ON.

+OUR DEMAND FOR POWER AND WATER IS INSATIABLE, INCREASING AT THE RATE OF 13 PER CENT AND EIGHT PER CENT RESPECTIVELY,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THIS RATE WOULD DECLINE IN THE LONG TERM.

+A 13 PER CENT PER ANNUM INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY,+ HE ADDED, +MEANS THAT THE CAPACITY OF THE POWER PLANTS DOUBLES EVERY SIX YEARS. THE DEMAND FOR WATER DOUBLES EVERY NINE YEARS.

/+SO BY THE

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+SO BY THE EARLY 1980S WE WILL REQUIRE TWICE THE GENERATING CAPACITY WHICH WE NOW HAVE AND MANY MORE DESALTING PLANTS....ALL THIS WILL REQUIRE MORE OIL AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD DEMAND FOR EXTRA POWER ALSO CONTINUES TO GROW.

+WITH THE PRESENT HIGH PRICE OF OIL AND THE STRANGLE HOLD ON SUPPLIES, THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS HAS TO BE CONSIDERED,+ HE SAID.

MR. ROBSON WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GROWING POPULATION AND GREATER AFFLUENCE WOULD ADD TO AIR, WATER, NOISE AND VISUAL POLLUTION UNLESS SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO CONTROL THESE FORMS OF POLLUTION.

HE FELT THAT IF CONTROLS WERE TO BE IMPOSED, THEY MUST BE EMBODIED IN LEGISLATION SINCE INDUSTRIALISTS WOULD ONLY BE PREPARED TO SPEND MONEY AND EFFORT TO MEET REASONABLE POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS IF THEIR COMPETITORS WERE MADE TO ADOPT THE SAME STANDARDS.

+WE ARE NOW SETTING ABOUT THE TASK OF DECIDING WHAT ARE REASONABLE STANDARDS FOR HONG KONG INDUSTRY AND DRAFTING LEGISLATION TO DEFINE, CONTROL AND ENFORCE THEM,+ HE SAID.

THE AIM, HE EXPLAINED, WAS TO MAKE THE LEGISLATION AS COMPREHENSIVE AS POSSIBLE --- COVERING AIR, WATER AND NOISE POLLUTION, AND TO SET UP THE NECESSARY MONITORING, CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

AS THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT AT PRESENT HAVE THE EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES FOR THIS TASK, EXPERT CONSULTANTS WERE BEING BROUGHT IN TO HELP. THE FIRM OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES LTD. OF LONDON HAD BEEN ENGAGED AND IT WAS HOPED IT WOULD START WORK ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

MEANWHILE, MR. ROBSON SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING NOTHING UNTIL THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT WAS AVAILABLE. THE VERY ACTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (EPCOM) WOULD CONTINUE ITS WORK, AND STANDARDS AND CONTROLS DEVISED BY OTHER CONSULTANTS FOR SPECIFIC INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT.

AS FAR AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED, MR. ROBSON SAID, THERE WERE THREE MAJOR PROBLEMS --- REFUSE DISPOSAL, SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL WASTE.

IN RESPECT OF REFUSE DISPOSAL, A CONSULTANTS' REPORT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED AND IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.

EVERYDAY, HE SAID, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT COLLECTED 3,000 TONS OF REFUSE, AND A FURTHER 1,200 TONS WAS COLLECTED BY PRIVATE OPERATORS. A TOTAL OF 3,000 TONS FROM ALL SOURCES WAS DISPOSED OF BY TIPPING AT GIN DRINKERS BAY, WHICH IS NEARLY FULL, WHILE THE REST WAS BURNT AT THE KENNEDY TOWN AND LAI CHI KOK INCINERATORS.

THE HARBOUR, WHICH HAD PROVEN TO BE ONE OF THE BEST SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANTS IN THE WORLD, HAD NOW REACHED THE LIMIT OF ITS NATURAL CLEANSING ABILITY, AND MORE SOPHISTICATED SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANTS WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO BE EMPLOYED, HE SAID.

/+IN MANY

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+IN MANY AREAS, INCLUDING MOST PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, FULL SEWAGE TREATMENT WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED AS PART OF ANY LARGE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, AND FORTUNATELY, COMPACT PACKAGE PLANTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE.+

ON A DIFFERENT NOTE, MR. ROBSON REFERRED TO THE RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE WHERE A NUMBER OF COUNTRY PARKS AND NATURE TRAILS ARE BEING CREATED UNDER A FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

HE ISSUED AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL TO VISIT THE COUNTRYSIDE TO SEE WHAT WAS BEING CREATED FOR THEM, AND SAID THAT DESPITE THE UNIQUE PROBLEMS THAT HAD TO BE SOLVED AND THE DENSITY OF THE POPULATION +HONG KONG IS, AND CAN REMAIN FOR A LONG TIME, A PLEASANT PLACE TO LIVE IN.+

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. ROBSON'S SPEECH ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE G.I.S. PRESS ROOM, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR.

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G.C.E. EXAMINATION CANDIDATES
URGED TO COLLECT ADMISSION FORMS
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CANDIDATES FOR THE JANUARY 1975 G.C.E. EXAMINATION ARE ADVISED TO COLLECT THEIR ADMISSION FORMS ON THE DATES SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICES SENT TO THEM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EXTERNAL EXAMINATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ADVISED CANDIDATES WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE NOTICE BY WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 18) TO CALL IN PERSON AT ARSENAL STREET POLICE PRIMARY SCHOOL BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 1 P.M. OR 2 P.M. AND 6 P.M. ON DECEMBER 19 TO COLLECT THEIR ADMISSION FORMS. THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

ADMISSION FORMS NOT COLLECTED AFTER DECEMBER 20 WILL BE RETURNED TO THE EXAMINATIONS DIVISION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR CANCELLATION AND THE CANDIDATES CONCERNED WILL BE REGARDED AS HAVING WITHDRAWN THEIR ENTRIES.

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GERIATRIC UNIT AT PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

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WITH THE OPENING OF THE 220-BED GERIATRIC UNIT AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL NEXT MAY, THE AGE OF PATIENTS TO BE ADMITTED WILL BE 65 AND OVER -- A LIMITATION GENERALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCEPTED BY MOST GERIATRICIANS.

GERIATRIC MEDICINE IS A BRANCH OF GENERAL MEDICINE CONCERNED WITH THE CLINICAL, PREVENTIVE, REMEDIAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF ILLNESS AMONG THE ELDERLY.

THE 65-AND-OVER LIMIT MAKES GERIATRICS A CLEARLY AGE-DEFINED SPECIALITY COMPARABLE TO PAEDIATRICS, WHICH RELATES TO MEDICAL CONCERN WITH THE VERY YOUNG, AND ITS INTRODUCTION MEANS THAT, IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT, BOTH AGE GROUPS ARE ACCEPTED AS HAVING MEDICAL PROBLEMS REQUIRING SPECIALISED ATTENTION.

ABOUT TEN GERIATRIC BEDS PER 1,000 OF THE 65-AND-OVER POPULATION IS CONSIDERED IN BRITAIN AS A REASONABLE REQUIREMENT ESTIMATE.

SINCE HONG KONG HAS A POPULATION BELIEVED TO CONSIST OF 230,000 ABOVE THE AGE OF 65, THIS MEANS AN ESTIMATE REQUIREMENT OF 2,300 BEDS.

IN THIS SENSE, THE PROVISION OF THE UNIT'S 220 BEDS FALLS SHORT OF REQUIREMENT ESTIMATES, BUT IT IS HOPED THAT WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE SERVICE IN YEARS TO COME, A MORE IDEAL BED RATIO WILL BE ACHIEVED.

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A DEFINITE POLICY FOR ADMISSION OF THESE ELDERLY PATIENTS TO ENSURE THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING HOSPITAL BEDS.

+THIS,+ SAYS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UNIT, +IS NOT ONLY NECESSARY IN ORDER TO KEEP THE FACTS BEFORE THE PUBLIC, BUT ALSO TO PREVENT THE RAISING TEMPORARILY OF UNREALISABLE HOPES BY CREATING A FALSE IMPRESSION.+

THE CORNERSTONE OF THE UNIT'S POLICY AT THE START IS THAT +UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, THE ADMISSION OF ELDERLY PATIENTS INTO HOSPITAL SHOULD NOT BE TREATED LIGHTLY, SINCE HOSPITALISATION IS NOT WITHOUT HAZARD FOR THEM.+

STUDIES MADE BY WORKERS IN THE GERIATRIC FIELD SHOW THAT COMPLICATIONS ARISE AMONG ELDERLY PATIENTS AFTER HOSPITALISATION. HALF OF THESE ARE INCIDENTAL AND NOT RELATED TO THE ORIGINAL ILLNESS, BUT RATHER OCCASIONED BY THE STAY IN HOSPITAL ITSELF, SUCH AS RESPIRATION INFECTION, FALLS, DRUG REACTIONS, PRESSURE SORES, AND SO ON.

+FOR THIS REASON,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINS, +A CAREFUL SELECTION OF PATIENTS FOR ADMISSION IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.+

/CASES HAVING MEDICAL

CASES HAVING MEDICAL URGENCY AND GOOD PROSPECTS OF EARLY RECOVERY WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY. THEY WILL COMPRISE CASES OF ACUTE INFECTIONS, STROKES, CARDIO-VASCULAR DISEASES, EXACERBATION OF ARTHRITIS, AND DEGENERATIVE DISEASES, AMONG OTHERS.

ONCE HOSPITALISED, PATIENTS WILL UNDERGO A SERIES OF MEDICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION.

+EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO HELP REINTEGRATE PATIENTS BACK INTO SOCIETY AS INDEPENDENT MEMBERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAYS.

IN CONTRAST TO PATIENTS IN THE CATEGORIES JUST LISTED, ELDERLY RESIDENTS SUFFERING FROM IRREMIABLE CONDITION SUCH AS TERMINAL CANCER, LONG-STANDING STROKES, MAJOR CONTRACTURE OF THE LIMBS AND SO ON, WILL NOT BE ADMITTED, THE REASON BEING THAT THEY ARE +UNLIKELY TO BENEFIT FROM ACTIVE TREATMENT AND THE FACILITIES OF THE UNIT.+

INSTEAD, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE LOOKED AFTER BY DOCTORS IN THE GENERAL WARDS, WITH SUBSEQUENT DISCHARGE TO NON-ACUTE HOSPITALS AS AT PRESENT.

+SHOULD HOPELESS CASES BE SELECTED,+ THE SPOKESMAN POINTS OUT, +BEDS COULD BECOME BLOCKED, AND THE TURNOVER SMALL. WITH LESS FREQUENT DISCHARGE AND A RELATIVELY GREATER LOAD OF PATIENTS HAVING A LESS FAVOURABLE PROGNOSIS, A VERY UNFORTUNATE THERAPEUTIC ENVIRONMENT CAN ARISE WHERE FAILURE EMERGES AS THE DOMINANT PHENOMENON.

+THIS COULD RESULT IN A LOWERING OF MORALE AMONG PATIENTS, RELATIVES AND HOSPITAL WARD STAFF, SO GREATLY HINDERING THE UNIT'S EFFICIENCY.+

MENTALLY DISTURBED ELDERLY PATIENTS WILL BE REFERRED FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE PSYCHIATRIST FOR CARE IN PSYCHIATRIC CLINICS OR HOSPITALS WHERE THEY CAN RECEIVE TREATMENT, AND BENEFIT FROM THE SPECIAL SKILLS OF PSYCHIATRISTS AND TRAINED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES.

PATIENTS WILL NOT BE KEPT IN THE HOSPITAL LONGER THAN NECESSARY. THEY WILL BE DISCHARGED AS SOON AS CONSIDERED FIT AND READY BY THE GERIATRIC TEAM.

+ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE USUALLY HAPPIER IN THEIR OWN HOMES AMONG THEIR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINS.

+PATIENTS TEND TO BECOME HOSPITAL DEPENDENT AFTER A SHORT TIME, AND IT WILL BE MUCH HARDER TO RETURN THEM TO SOCIETY.

+THE FUNCTION OF THE UNIT IS PRIMARILY TO GIVE ACUTE HOSPITAL TREATMENT, AND NOT RESIDENTIAL CARE. IF AN OLD PERSON HAS NO SUITABLE HOME TO RETURN TO ONCE HE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY TREATED IN THE GERIATRIC UNIT, ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR HIM IN AN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME.+

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TOUR TO LO HARBOUR BY TRAIN AND FERRY

THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY LIMITED AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL JOINTLY INTRODUCE A TOLO HARBOUR FERRY-RAIL TOUR FROM JANUARY 2 (THURSDAY).

THE TOUR HAS BEEN ARRANGED TO PROVIDE AN INTERESTING, PLEASANT, AND REFRESHING DAY OUT TO VIEW SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ASPECTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THERE WILL BE A RETURN RAIL JOURNEY BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND TAI PO KAU AND A CRUISE AROUND TOLO HARBOUR. THE TOUR WILL LAST ABOUT FOUR HOURS AND INCLUDE TWO AND A QUARTER HOURS AT SEA. IT WILL OPERATE DAILY EXCEPT ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

THE FARE IS HK\$15.00 PER PERSON. ONLY ONE TICKET IS REQUIRED FOR THE COMPLETE TOUR. THE LAND PORTION OF THE TOUR WILL BE IN A RESERVED FIRST CLASS COACH AND SEA PORTION ON A FERRY. THE TICKET INCLUDES A SNACK AND REFRESHMENT SERVED ON BOARD THE FERRY. ADDITIONALLY REFRESHMENTS CAN BE BOUGHT ON THE TRAIN.

TICKETS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE BOOKING OFFICE OF THE KOWLOON RAILWAY TERMINUS (TELEPHONE NO. K-668327) AT TSIM SHA TSUI, AND AT THE BOOKING OFFICE OF THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY CO. (NO. H-240081) IN THE CENTRAL HARBOUR SERVICES PIER IN HONG KONG. ADVANCE PURCHASE OF TICKETS WILL BE ALLOWED UP TO SEVEN DAYS AT THESE OFFICES AND PASSENGERS ARE WELCOME TO MAKE TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF SEATS.

RESERVATIONS CAN ONLY BE MADE THROUGH APPROVED AGENTS AND WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE. APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTERING AS AN APPROVED AGENT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE GENERAL MANAGER, KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY. A DEPOSIT WITH THE RAILWAY WILL BE REQUIRED.

ALTHOUGH THIS IS A +SEE-IT-YOURSELF+TOUR, INDICATION BOARDS WILL BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED AT RAILWAY STATIONS TO HELP PASSENGERS TO THE TRAIN. IN ADDITION RAILWAY STAFF AT TAI PO KAU STATION WILL GUIDE PASSENGERS TO THE PIER WHERE THEY WILL BE RECEIVED BY FERRY STAFF.

THE TOUR WILL BE CANCELLED UPON THE HOISTING OF TYPHOON SIGNAL NO.3 OR HIGHER WHEN PASSENGERS WILL BE ALLOWED A FULL REFUND OR BE ENABLED TO MAKE AN ALTERNATIVE BOOKING.

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FEWER VEHICLES REGISTERED

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HONG KONG'S TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VEHICLES HAS DROPPED BY ABOUT FOUR PER CENT FROM THE RECORD HIGH OF 202,953 TWELVE MONTHS AGO TO 194,564 AT THE END OF LAST MONTH.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THIS HAD OBVIOUSLY RESULTED FROM A REVERSE TREND IN THE MONTHLY RATIO OF NEW REGISTRATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS WHICH STARTED LAST DECEMBER AND CONTINUED INTO THE PAST 11 MONTHS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT UNTIL LAST DECEMBER, THERE HAD ALWAYS BEEN MORE NEW REGISTRATIONS EACH MONTH THAN CANCELLATIONS, WHICH MEANT MORE REGISTERED VEHICLES ON THE ROAD.

HOWEVER, THE TREND REVERSED IN DECEMBER WHICH SAW MORE CANCELLATIONS AND FEWER NEW REGISTRATIONS INSTEAD. EVER SINCE, THE RATE OF CANCELLATIONS HAS GONE UP EACH MONTH WHILE THAT OF NEW REGISTRATIONS HAS DECLINED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE COULD BE VARIOUS REASONS FOR THIS, BUT THE CURRENT WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC SITUATION WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE PEOPLE GIVING UP THEIR CARS AND FEWER PEOPLE ASPIRING TO OWN ONE.

IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, THE DROP IN REGISTERED VEHICLES IS TO BE SEEN AS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO SMOOTHER FLOW OF TRAFFIC, AS IN HONG KONG, WITH ITS LIMITED TOPOGRAPHY, THE GROWTH IN VEHICLES INVARIABLY RESULTS IN MOUNTING ROAD CONGESTION.

IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VEHICLES REACHED 202,953, WITH 1,822 NEW REGISTRATIONS AND 1,372 CANCELLATIONS. IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH, IT WENT DOWN TO 202,775 WITH 1,056 NEW REGISTRATIONS AND 1,234 CANCELLATIONS, REPRESENTING A NET DECREASE OF 178 REGISTERED VEHICLES.

DURING THE PAST 11 MONTHS, 19,653 REGISTRATIONS WERE STRUCK OFF THE REGISTER WHILE ONLY 11,442 VEHICLES WERE NEWLY REGISTERED, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VEHICLES DOWN TO 194,564 AT THE END OF LAST MONTH - A DECREASE OF ANOTHER 8,211 REGISTRATION.

A STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN SHOWS THAT SINCE LAST DECEMBER, THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED PRIVATE CARS HAS DROPPED BY 9,377 OR ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT TO 120,274- REGISTERED LORRIES, BY 141 OR 0.4 PER CENT TO 31,298- MOTOR SCOOTERS, BY 1,026 OR 16 PER CENT TO 5,278, WHILE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR CYCLES HAS GONE UP BY 1,152 OR SIX PER CENT TO 18,060.

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STUDENTS BRIGHTEN UP TRANSIT CENTRE
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A GROUP OF ABOUT 70 UNDERGRADUATES OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY HAS GIVEN UP THEIR HOLIDAYS TO HELP IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS AT THE WONG CHUK HANG TRANSIT CENTRE.

THE STUDENTS, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE GROUP, SET UP A WORK CAMP AT THE CENTRE LAST FRIDAY.

DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS, THEY HAVE BEEN BUILDING A NEW TOILET AND BATH-HOUSE FOR THE RESIDENTS, AND AN ACCESS ROAD TO THE TRANSIT CENTRE. BENCHES AND FLOWER BEDS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED TO GIVE THE CENTRE A MORE PLEASANT APPEARANCE.

THE PROGRAMME WAS JOINTLY WORKED OUT BY THE STUDENTS AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT WILL MEET THE EXPENSES AND PROVIDE THE STUDENTS WITH THE NECESSARY MATERIALS.

A SIMPLE HANDING OVER CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (MONDAY) AFTERNOON TO MARK TO COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE WONG CHUK HANG TRANSIT CENTRE AT 4.30 P.M. ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 16). MR. G.N. MULLOY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SQUATTER CONTROL) OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, AND MR. CHAN WAI LEUNG, ASSISTANT CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, WESTERN, WILL JOINTLY OFFICIATE.

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