



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1992

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1992

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NEW CROSS-BORDER PROCEDURES TO EASE PASSENGER TRAFFIC

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NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FROM JANUARY 1 AT LO WU CHECK POINT TO FURTHER STREAMLINE CROSS-BORDER PROCEDURES.

AN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT VISITORS FROM CHINA MAY IN FUTURE COMPLETE DATA FORMS AND PHOTOCOPYING OF THEIR TWO-WAY PERMITS BEFORE ARRIVING AT HONG KONG.

"THESE CHANGES WILL GO A LONG WAY TO SHORTENING THE PROCESSING TIME IN HONG KONG.

"THE UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION AT LO WU IS VERY CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE ADDITIONAL DEMAND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL MANPOWER, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SINCE 1989 BEEN INTRODUCING A SERIES OF MEASURES SUCH AS STREAMLINING OF PROCEDURES, SEGREGATION OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS FROM OTHER VISITORS AND FLEXIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF STAFF.

"GIVEN THAT VISITORS FROM CHINA REQUIRE MORE CUMBERSOME CLEARANCE PROCEDURES, FOR EXAMPLE, COMPLETION OF DATA FORMS AND PHOTOCOPYING OF THEIR TWO-WAY PERMITS, WE HAVE MADE A SERIES OF PROPOSALS TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

"THIS WOULD ENABLE VISITORS TO COMPLETE THE RELEVANT FORMS AND COPY THEIR PERMITS BEFORE THEY ARRIVE AT HONG KONG," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE CHINESE SIDE HAS RESPONDED FAVOURABLY LAST WEEK AND WE ARE PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL START FROM NEW YEAR'S DAY," HE ADDED.

PRESSURES ON THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN PHENOMENAL IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC AT LO WU HAS BEEN GROWING RAPIDLY AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF BETWEEN 10 PER CENT TO 15 PER CENT SINCE 1989.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS HOWEVER NOT MATCHED WITH ANY INCREASES IN MANPOWER AND THE STRENGTH OF ITS LO WU CHECK POINT HAS REMAINED AT ITS 1989 LEVEL.

"THIS IS DESPITE A MARKED INCREASE IN VISITORS FROM CHINA AND THE EXTENSION OF LO WU'S OPERATING HOURS SINCE JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

"MANPOWER IS SIMPLY STRETCHED TO ITS LIMIT," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON AN INCIDENT ON DECEMBER 16 IN WHICH A PRC FILM INDUSTRY DELEGATION WAS HELD UP AT LO WU, HE SAID THAT DAY WAS PARTICULARLY HECTIC AND CLOSE TO 100,000 PASSENGERS PASSED THROUGH LO WU.

THE NUMBER OF TRANSIENTS FROM CHINA WAS 609 AS COMPARED TO THE DAILY AVERAGE OF 250, HE ADDED.

/THE TOTAL .....

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ONE-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS AND TWO-WAY PERMIT VISITORS WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN USUAL. FOR THE LATTER, IT WAS DOUBLE THE NORMAL DAILY AVERAGE.

THUS, THE DELEGATION WAS HELD UP FOR ABOUT FIVE TO SIX HOURS.

"THE PARTY ARRIVED AT LO WU ABOUT 11.30 AM AND CLEARANCE WAS COMPLETED AROUND 5.30 PM.

"WE ENTIRELY AGREE THAT THE SIX HOURS TAKEN IS FAR TOO LONG AND WE APOLOGISE TO THE PERSONS CONCERNED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WOULD NOT MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT FOR ANY PERSON.

"EVERYONE MUST BE TREATED COURTEOUSLY AND EQUALLY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAID-DOWN PROCEDURES.

"THE INCIDENT IS AN ISOLATED ONE AND IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE COMBINATION OF HEAVY WORKLOAD AND A CONFUSION IN PROCESSING," HE SAID.

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#### EFFORTS TO PREVENT OVERLOADING GOODS VEHICLES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO INCREASE THE FIXED PENALTY FOR OVERLOADING GOODS VEHICLES FROM \$450 TO \$1,000 AND TO MAKE THE DISPLAY OF IDENTITY PLATES BY TAXI DRIVERS A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT.

IN ORDER TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PROBLEM OF OVERLOADING GOODS VEHICLES, OWNERS OF GOODS VEHICLES WILL ALSO BE MADE LIABLE FOR OVERLOADING THEIR VEHICLES UNLESS THEY CAN PROVE THEY HAVE EXERCISED DUE DILIGENCE AND REASONABLE SUPERVISION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) DESPITE VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT ACTION BY THE POLICE, OVERLOADING OF GOODS VEHICLES REMAINED WIDESPREAD.

HE NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF OVERLOADING OFFENCES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM 1,820 A MONTH IN 1989 TO 2,770 A MONTH IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

"SOME DRIVERS CLAIM THAT THEY ARE FORCED OR PERSUADED BY THE OWNERS OR OPERATORS OF GOODS VEHICLES TO OVERLOAD THE VEHICLES.

"THEY ARE, HOWEVER, UNWILLING TO TESTIFY AGAINST SUCH MALPRACTICES FOR FEAR OF LOSING THEIR JOB OR BUSINESS."

HE SAID OVERLOADING POSED A ROAD SAFETY HAZARD BECAUSE OVERLOADED VEHICLES REQUIRED A FAR LONGER STOPPING DISTANCE.

IT ALSO CAUSES SEVERE DAMAGE TO ROAD SURFACES WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES THE LIFE SPAN OF ROADS.

THE LIABILITY OF GOODS VEHICLE OWNERS FOR OVERLOADING IS COVERED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL GAZETTED TODAY.

THE BILL ALSO REQUIRES TAXI DRIVERS TO DISPLAY AN IDENTITY PLATE IN THE VEHICLE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MEASURE AIMED AT IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF TAXI SERVICE AS IT WOULD ENABLE PASSENGERS WHO WISH TO LODGE A COMPLAINT AGAINST MALPRACTICES TO IDENTIFY THE DRIVER.

THE AMENDMENT BILL ALSO SEEKS TO REQUIRE THAT VEHICLE TRAILERS BE EXAMINED FOR ROADWORTHINESS BEFORE THEY ARE REGISTERED AND LICENSED AND TO DELEGATE THE GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT TO SPECIFY THE AGE OF PRIVATE CARS AND GOODS VEHICLES TO BE SUBJECTED TO ANNUAL INSPECTION FOR ROADWORTHINESS.

IT WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 13 NEXT YEAR.

REGARDING THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN FIXED PENALTY FOR OVERLOADING, A RESOLUTION WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGCO TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE TO THE FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) ORDINANCE.

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APPOINTMENTS TO CONSUMER COUNCIL

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS APPOINTED A NEW MEMBER AND RE-APPOINTED EIGHT EXISTING MEMBERS TO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL FOR A PERIOD OF ONE TO TWO YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

OF THE EIGHT INCUMBENT MEMBERS, DR LAW CHEUNG-KWOK AND MR DENNIS LAM HAW-SHUN HAVE BEEN RE-APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

SIX OF THE EXISTING MEMBERS HAVE BEEN RE-APPOINTED FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR. THEY ARE MISS ESTHER CHAN WAI-FONG, MR JOHNNY MOK SHIU-LUEN, DR ANTHONY NG SUNG-MAN, PROF PETER W CHEUNG, DR WILSON FUNG YEE-LEUNG AND REV JOSEPH LEUNG KWOK-TUNG.

MEANWHILE, A NEW MEMBER DR JOHN HO DIT-SANG HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

DR HO IS A SENIOR LECTURER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG.

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NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF 12 EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM STARTING ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

A LIST OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WAS GAZETTED TODAY (THURSDAY). THEY INCLUDE:

EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED BY REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNIONS ON DECEMBER 5:

- \* MR LEUNG FU-WAH
- \* MR CHEUNG KWOK-BUI, FELIX
- \* MS LI FUNG-YING
- \* MR LEUNG TSZ-LEUNG
- \* MR CHU MING

EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED BY MAJOR EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS:

- \* MR HO SAI-CHU OF THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- \* DR LUI MING-WAH OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG
- \* MR ANDREW LEUNG OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES
- \* MR MICHAEL SOMERVILLE OF THE EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION OF HONG KONG
- \* MISS ANGELA KOO OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

APPOINTED MEMBERS:

- \* MR CHEUNG WOOD-LUN, REPRESENTING EMPLOYEES
- \* MR CHAN SUI-KAU, REPRESENTING EMPLOYERS

MR ANDREW LEUNG, MR MICHAEL SOMERVILLE AND MISS ANGELA KOO ARE NEWLY APPOINTED TO THE BOARD, WHILE THE REST ARE ALL INCUMBENT MEMBERS.

THE BOARD IS A TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIVE BODY WHICH ADVISES THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON LABOUR MATTERS INCLUDING LEGISLATION AND THE APPLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE NEW BOARD WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING NEXT MONTH.

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LEAFLET ON COUNTRY PARK TREE WALKS

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A LEAFLET ON THE TERRITORY'S COUNTRY PARK TREE WALKS PUBLISHED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE FREE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THEY CAN EITHER PICK UP A COPY FROM THE RECEPTION COUNTER OF THE DEPARTMENT ON 12TH FLOOR, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD OR THE MANAGEMENT CENTRES OF THE COUNTRY PARKS WHERE THE TREE WALKS ARE LOCATED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE LEAFLET WOULD PROVIDE AMPLE INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WHO WISH TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LOCALLY GROWN TREE SPECIES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

"FREQUENT VISITORS TO COUNTRY PARKS WILL CERTAINLY FIND THE HANDY LEAFLET USEFUL BECAUSE IT PROVIDES THEM WITH INFORMATION ON SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF THESE WALKS, WHICH FEATURE AN INTERESTING MIXTURE OF EXOTIC AND INDIGENOUS TREE SPECIES," HE SAID.

APART FROM AN INTRODUCTION ON THE TREE WALKS, THE LEAFLET LISTS, IN BOTH SCIENTIFIC AND COMMON NAMES, ALL TREE SPECIES GROWN IN EACH TREE WALK.

A LOCATION MAP OF EACH WALK, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE NEAREST COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT CENTRE, AND ITS RELATIVE LENGTH ARE ALSO INCLUDED FOR USERS' REFERENCE.

AS THESE TREE WALKS ARE ALL LOCATED INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS, THE LEAFLET ALSO CONTAINS THE COUNTRY CODE WHICH REMINDS VISITORS TO RESPECT THE COUNTRYSIDE AND NOT TO DESTROY OR DAMAGE ANY VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE INSIDE THE PARKS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE LEAFLET WOULD ALSO BE A USEFUL REFERENCE FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TAKING FIELD TRIPS IN THESE PLACES.

THE 10 TREE WALKS WERE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE AND THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD'S CHAIRMAN, MR CARLOS CHEUNG, TWO WEEKS AGO.

THEY ARE SITUATED IN VARIOUS COUNTRY PARKS IN ABERDEEN, POK FU LAM, QUARRY BAY, TAI TAM, TAI TAN, KAM SHAN, KEI LING HA, TAI TONG, PAK TAM CHUNG AND NAM SHAN.

ENQUIRIES ON THESE WALKS CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS BRANCH ON TEL 733 2121.

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GARMENT TRADERS FINED FOR MAKING FALSE DECLARATIONS  
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FIVE GARMENT EXPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS WERE FINED AT TUEN MUN MAGISTRACY THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING A TOTAL OF \$710,000 ON 38 COUNTS OF FALSELY DECLARING 46,740 PIECES CHINA-PROCESSED ANORAKS AND PANTS AS PRODUCTS OF HONG KONG ORIGIN IN APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT LICENCES.

ALL OF THE DEFENDANTS PLEADED GUILTY.

THEY WERE MR WONG CHUN-KWOK, MANAGER OF P & H TEXTILES, FINED \$150,000; MS NIP KA-MAN, PARTNER OF SUI HONG GARMENT FACTORY, FINED \$150,000; SOONCREATIVE LIMITED, FINED \$350,000; MS WONG FUNG-KWAN, DIRECTOR OF SOONCREATIVE LIMITED AND PARTNER OF ONTEX GARMENT FACTORY, THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT, SUSPENDED FOR 12 MONTHS AND TO PAY COURT COST \$4,000; AND MS KOH YOON-DIN, PARTNER OF SUI HONG GARMENT FACTORY, FINED \$60,000.

CUSTOMS' SENIOR TRADE CONTROL OFFICER, MR CHEUNG KA-KUI, TOLD THE COURT THAT THE DEFENDANTS APPLIED EXPORT LICENCES REGARDING THE ORIGIN OF 46,740 PIECES OF 100 PER CENT NYLON WOVEN ANORAKS AND PANTS VALUED AT \$3.27 MILLION.

OF THESE, 24,600 PIECES WERE CUT AND SEWN IN CHINA WHILE THE REMAINING 22,140 PIECES WERE SEWN IN CHINA.

THE DEFENDANTS MADE FALSE DECLARATIONS IN THE APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT LICENCES THAT THE GOODS WERE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND AUSTRIA UNDER HONG KONG QUOTAS.

ALL THE DEFENDANTS WERE REPRESENTED BY BARRISTER-AT-LAW MR RONALD MAYNE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
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	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.0 *+0.0* 24.12.1992	

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS				HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS		
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.10 PCT	14 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.73	4.89
1 MONTH	3.79 PCT	17 MONTHS	2405	5.50	100.56	5.14
3 MONTHS	3.97 PCT	20 MONTHS	2408	4.375	98.61	5.34
6 MONTHS	4.13 PCT	23 MONTHS	2411	4.625	98.59	5.49
12 MONTHS	4.63 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 2,304 MN

CLOSED 24 DECEMBER 1992

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