



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1975

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DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WELCOMES HONG KONG'S INCLUSION
IN US-GSP
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COMMENTING ON THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S DESIGNATION TODAY OF HONG KONG AS A BENEFICIARY OF THEIR GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES (GSP), THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, SAID, +THIS IS VERY GOOD NEWS FOR HONG KONG. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE US IN THEIR GSP FOR SOME TIME, IN DEED SINCE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE U.S. ESTABLISHING SUCH A SCHEME FIRST CAME INTO VIEW, AND I AM GLAD THAT OUR EFFORTS HAVE PROVED FRUITFUL.

+I HOPE OTHER COUNTRIES OPERATING GSPS FROM WHICH, AT THE MOMENT HONG KONG IS EXCLUDED, WILL, LIKEWISE, RECOGNISE OUR QUALIFICATION FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR SCHEMES, AND APPRECIATE OUR NEED TO BE ABLE TO COMPETE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THOSE OF OUR NEIGHBOURS IN THE REGION WHO MAY ALREADY BE PARTICIPATING IN THEIR SCHEMES. THIS IS ALL WE ASK.+

THE U.S.-GSP'S STARTING DATE IS JANUARY 1, 1976. IT PROVIDES FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF IMPORTS FROM BENEFICIARIES OF PRODUCTS DETERMINED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS BEING ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

THE LIST OF ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS HAS ALSO JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED AND THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO RECEIVE THE DETAILS SHORTLY. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME HOWEVER THAT TEXTILES, FOOTWEAR, WATCHES AND CERTAIN OTHER PRODUCTS REGARDED BY THE U.S. AS +IMPORT-SENSITIVE+ WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE GSP.

THE GSP ALSO CONTAINS A PROVISION WHEREBY A BENEFICIARY MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM RECEIVING DUTY-FREE TREATMENT IN THOSE ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS IN WHICH IT IS REGARDED AS PARTICULARLY COMPETITIVE ACCORDING TO A SET OF PRE-DETERMINED CRITERIA.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS, HONG KONG MAY BE SO DISQUALIFIED. BUT THIS CANNOT BE CONFIRMED UNTIL FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE GSP HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

MR. JORDAN SAID THAT UNTIL THEN IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SAY EXACTLY WHAT PROPORTION OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WILL BE COVERED BY THE GSP. A PREVIOUS ROUGH ESTIMATE DONE BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS THAT A MAXIMUM OF ONLY ABOUT 25 PER CENT COULD QUALIFY FOR DUTY-FREE TREATMENT.

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NEW HUNG HOM-CENTRAL FERRY SERVICE STARTS ON SUNDAY
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THE STAR FERRY COMPANY HAS BEEN GRANTED A TEMPORARY LICENCE TO RUN A SCHEDULED PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN HUNG HOM AND EDINBURGH PLACE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE SERVICE WILL START ON NOVEMBER 30 (SUNDAY) TO PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN CENTRAL AND HUNG HOM, WHERE TRAINS WILL OPERATE FROM THE NEW RAILWAY STATION ON THE SAME DAY, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE NEW ROUTE, HE SAID, WILL ADD TO THE EXISTING TWO FERRY SERVICES FROM HUNG HOM TO NORTH POINT AND WAN CHAI AS PART OF AN EXTENSIVE SEA AND LAND PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK SERVING HUNG HOM.

WITH THE RAILWAY STATION MOVING TO HUNG HOM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, IT WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO HAVE A CENTRAL-HUNG HOM FERRY SERVICE IN ORDER TO ENABLE RAILWAY PASSENGERS TO CROSS DIRECT TO CENTRAL FROM HUNG HOM AS IS THE CASE NOW FROM TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE NEW SERVICE WILL OPERATE 12 HOURS A DAY ON A BASIC 15-MINUTE FREQUENCY WITH SAILINGS AS CLOSELY RELATED AS POSSIBLE TO TRAIN TIMETABLES.

THE FIRST SAILING WILL START AT 7.03 A.M. FROM CENTRAL AND 7.23 A.M. FROM HUNG HOM, WITH THE LAST FERRY LEAVING CENTRAL AT 7.03 P.M. AND LEAVING HUNG HOM AT 7.23 P.M.

THE JOURNEY TIME WILL BE ABOUT 13 MINUTES. THREE VESSELS WILL BE USED, EACH CAPABLE OF CARRYING 560 PASSENGERS. THE FARE WILL BE A FLAT 50 CENTS.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE SERVICE IS TO USE THE EAST ARM OF THE +STAR+ FERRY PIERS, WHILE AT HUNG HOM, IT WILL TERMINATE AT THE WAN CHAI ROUTE PIER OF THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE TEMPORARY LICENCE WOULD BE ISSUED FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS, AFTER WHICH A REVIEW WOULD BE MADE OF THE SERVICE.

HE SAID THE NEW ROUTE WILL STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITIES AT HUNG HOM WHERE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE TO BUS SERVICES FROM NOVEMBER 30 TO MAKE THEM MORE READILY AVAILABLE FOR RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

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APART FROM THE VARIOUS THROUGH BUS ROUTES WHICH NOW OPERATE VIA NEARBY WUHU STREET AND TUNNEL LAY-BYES, THREE EXISTING BUS ROUTES OPERATING FROM HUNG HOM TO KWUN TONG FERRY PIER (ROUTE NO. 5B), OI MAN ESTATE (8) AND SHAM SHUI PO (12A), PLUS A NEW URBAN COACH SERVICE TO BE INTRODUCED FROM HUNG HOM TO LAI CHI KOK (212), WILL TERMINATE AT THE NEW RAILWAY STATION BUS TERMINUS.

TERMINATING AT THE ADJACENT HUNG HOM FERRY CONCOURSE WILL BE THREE OTHER EXISTING BUS ROUTES WHICH RUN FROM HUNG HOM TO TSZ WAN SHAN NORTH (3B), WANG TAU HOM (7B) AND LAM TIN (15).

IN ADDITION, TWO EXISTING BUS ROUTES, FROM TSIM SHA TSUI TO TSZ WAN SHAN SOUTH (5C) AND KAI TAK AIRPORT (25), TOGETHER WITH A NEW URBAN COACH SERVICE BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND KWUN TONG (211), ARE PLANNED TO BE ROUTED VIA THE NEW RAILWAY STATION WHEN THIS IS MADE POSSIBLE ON COMPLETION OF THE AUSTIN ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT SOME TIME NEXT YEAR.

FOR TAXI PASSENGERS, THERE ARE THREE NEW TAXI STANDS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 35 TAXI SPACES AT THE NEW RAILWAY STATION. THESE ARE IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING TAXI STAND AT THE HUNG HOM FERRY CONCOURSE.

FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, A NEW TERMINUS IS ALREADY IN USE AT THE HUNG HOM FERRY CONCOURSE.

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NEW BEACON TO GUIDE NAVIGATORS

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A NEW POWERFUL BEACON WILL BE SWITCHED ON AT 10 A.M. TOMORROW (NOVEMBER 26) TO GIVE MORE HELP TO NAVIGATORS ON THE SEAWAY BETWEEN CAPE D'AGUILAR AND BEAUFORT ISLAND.

THE NEW NAVIGATIONAL AID, MANUFACTURED BY A BRITISH FIRM, HAS A 250-WATT TUNGSTEN IODINE LAMP BULB.

ON A CLEAR DAY, ITS WHITE BEAM CAN REACH A DISTANCE OF 20 MILES.

THE GRANITE TOWER WHICH HOUSES THIS NEW EQUIPMENT WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT IN 1875 FOR THE FIRST BEACON IN HONG KONG.

ALTHOUGH THIS BEACON WAS NOT USED AFTER 1896, THE TOWER HAS BEEN REGULARLY MAINTAINED AND PRESERVED. SINCE AT A HEIGHT OF 200 FEET IT IS CLEAR OF ALL OBSTRUCTIONS ON THE CAPE D'AGUILAR PENINSULA, IT WAS CHOSEN AS THE SITE OF THE NEW BEACON.

THE INSTALLATION OF THIS NEW BEACON TO COMPLEMENT EXISTING NAVIGATIONAL AIDS WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATIONAL AIDS (SCONA).

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POST OFFICE READY FOR CHRISTMAS RUSH
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THE POST OFFICE IS ONCE AGAIN MUSTERING EXTRA MANPOWER AND FACILITIES TO MEET THE RUSH OF CHRISTMAS MAIL.

MORE THAN 120 TEMPORARY LABOURERS AND 25 TEMPORARY POSTAL OFFICERS ARE BEING DEPLOYED IN THE VARIOUS SECTIONS AND COUNTERS OF THE POST OFFICE TO MEET THE SEASONAL PRESSURE, AND SEVEN ADDITIONAL MAIL VANS WILL BE USED TO CONVEY CHRISTMAS MAIL.

FROM EARLY NEXT MONTH TO THE VERY EVE OF CHRISTMAS, STAFF OF THE POST OFFICE WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO TAKE LEAVE EXCEPT FOR EXTREMELY URGENT REASONS, SO THAT THE SEASONAL GOOD-WILL GREETINGS CAN BE DELIVERED IN TIME.

THEIR BURDEN CAN BE MADE A LITTLE LIGHTER IF ONLY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WOULD REMEMBER NOT TO LEAVE THEIR POSTING TO THE LAST MINUTE.

+THEY CAN ALSO HELP NOT ONLY THE POSTMEN BUT THEMSELVES TOO, BY ENSURING THAT THEIR LETTERS ARE PROPERLY STAMPED AND ADDRESSED,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID.

EACH YEAR AN AVERAGE OF SOME THREE MILLION DEAD LETTERS ARE UNDELIVERABLE BECAUSE THEIR ADDRESSES ARE INSUFFICIENT OR INCORRECT.

+AS IN PAST YEARS, THE LATEST POSTING DATES FOR OVERSEAS CHRISTMAS MAIL ARE PUBLICISED WELL IN ADVANCE IN THE PRESS AND OVER THE RADIO,+ THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED.

THE POST OFFICE HAS BEEN KEPT BUSY HANDLING THE UPSURGE IN LETTERS AND PARCELS DESTINED OVERSEAS, AND LATEST DATES FOR SENDING SURFACE MAIL IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS TO MOST COUNTRIES HAVE CLOSED, HE SAID.

THE BUSIEST TIME HOWEVER IS YET TO COME NEXT MONTH WHEN GREETINGS FROM BOTH OVERSEAS AND LOCALLY FROM AMONG THE COMMUNITY ARE PRESSING TO BE DELIVERED.

LAST DECEMBER, ABOUT 25 MILLION ITEMS OF OUTGOING AND INLAND LETTERS WERE HANDLED BY THE POST OFFICE — AN INCREASE OF 9 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT OVER THE AVERAGE MONTHLY VOLUME.

INCOMING LETTERS TOTALLED 6.1 MILLION, 1.8 MILLION OVER THE AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURE.

/OUTGOING AIR

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OUTGOING AIR PARCELS ADDED UP TO 87,000 AND WEIGHED A TREMENDOUS 108,000 KILOGRAMMES. THE AVERAGE MONTHLY NUMBER OF SUCH PARCELS IS 71,000, AT AN OVERALL WEIGHT OF 88,000 KILOGRAMMES.

THE NUMBER OF INCOMING AIR PARCELS TOO WENT UP FROM AN AVERAGE OF 17,000 TO 30,000 ITEMS, WITH A NET INCREASE OF 18,000 KILOGRAMMES.

INCOMING SURFACE MAIL PARCELS INCREASED FROM AN AVERAGE OF 26,000 TO 34,000 ITEMS IN DECEMBER, WHILE OUTGOING MAIL PARCELS, WHICH HAD TO BE POSTED EARLIER, AMOUNTED TO 186,000 ITEMS LAST OCTOBER.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS NEAR PING SHEK ESTATE

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TODAY THAT THERE WILL BE TRAFFIC CHANGES ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 26) NEAR PING SHEK ESTATE, KOWLOON, WHEN THE THIRD AND LAST FLYOVER OF THE CHOI HUNG INTERCHANGE IS OPENED TO SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD TO KWUN TONG.

BEFORE THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY IS OPENED AT NOON, TRAFFIC FROM PRINCE EDWARD ROAD TO KWUN TONG WILL BE RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL ROUTE ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF PING SHEK ESTATE.

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONGESTION IS EXPECTED NEAR THE NEW FLYOVER IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE OPENING AND MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO AVOID THE AREA IF POSSIBLE AROUND NOON ON WEDNESDAY.

THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE NEW FLYOVER WILL BE OPENED ABOUT TWO DAYS LATER TO TRAFFIC FROM KWUN TONG TO LUNG CHEUNG ROAD. TRAFFIC GOING UP THE FLYOVER WILL HAVE TO SELECT THE RIGHT-HAND LANE WHILE APPROACHING FROM KWUN TONG.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

MEANWHILE, ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE WHOLE OF FINLAY ROAD IS NOW CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO ENABLE SLOPE STABILISATION WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT. TRAFFIC SIGNS HAVE BEEN PUT UP TO INDICATE THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE.

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AMS TO CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
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THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE, A LARGE GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WORKING ALONGSIDE THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, IS A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OLD TODAY.

AND TO MARK THE MEMORABLE OCCASION, A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED DURING THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS INVOLVING THOUSANDS OF AMS STAFF AND MEMBERS.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS BEGIN WITH A COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT THE HONG KONG CLUB TOMORROW EVENING. THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, AND THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. GERALD CHOA, WHO IS ALSO CONTROLLER OF AMS, WILL ATTEND.

A CELEBRATION DINNER FOR UP TO 1,000 MEMBERS WILL BE HELD AT THE OCEANIA RESTAURANT, KOWLOON, ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE TWO +FAMILY DAYS+, ONE TO BE HELD AT KOWLOON HOSPITAL ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, AND THE OTHER AT INDIAN RECREATION CLUB ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21.

A COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE WILL BE PUBLISHED TO MARK THE OCCASION.

OVER THE YEARS, THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE HAS GROWN FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, WITH ITS MEMBERSHIP NOW REACHING 6,000. THE SERVICE WAS FORMED IN 1950 TO RENDER SUPPORTING SERVICES TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PARTICULARLY IN TIMES OF EMERGENCIES.

AMS MEMBERS HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES. THEY HAVE TAKEN PART IN NUMEROUS RESCUE OPERATIONS DURING DISASTERS CAUSED BY TYPHOONS, RAIN-STORMS, AND AIR CRASHES. THEY HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO HELPING THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN TIMES OF EPIDEMICS AND CIVIL DISTURBANCES.

THERE IS ONE AMS SUB-UNIT IN ALMOST EVERY DISTRICT OF HONG KONG, KOWLOON, AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING MANY OFF-SHORE ISLANDS.

MEMBERS WHO ARE RECRUITED TO THE SERVICE ARE GIVEN A 40-HOUR COURSE OF BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING INITIALLY. HAVING COMPLETED THIS COURSE, THEY WILL BE OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTEND BY OPTION OTHER TYPES OF TRAINING, SUCH AS CASUALTY HANDLING, LIGHT RESCUE, ADMINISTRATION, LEADERSHIP, SQUAD AND STRETCHER DRILLS, AMBULANCE DUTY AND LIFE-SAVING.

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UMELCO MEMBERS TO VISIT TAI PO DISTRICT

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TWO UMELCO MEMBERS, MR. SZETO WAI AND MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WILL VISIT THE TAI PO DISTRICT ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 27).

THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. JOHN CHAMBERS, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND MR. CLIVE OXLEY, DISTRICT OFFICER, TAI PO.

DURING THEIR TOUR, THEY WILL VISIT THE RECENTLY OPENED YIM TIN CHAI FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE NEAR PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR, SHEK WU HUI TOWNSHIP AT SHEUNG SHUI, AND KAT-O ISLAND OFF SHA TAU KOK. THEY WILL MEET RURAL COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON LOCAL PROBLEMS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT TO YIM TIN CHAI AND SHEUNG SHUI. TRANSPORT (VAN AM 3274) WILL LEAVE THE TSIM SHA TSUI SUB-POOL (BEHIND THE POST OFFICE) AT 8.50 A.M. ON THURSDAY TO PROCEED TO TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE.

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WATER STOPPAGE

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 27) TO FACILITATE A LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY THE TAI HONG ROAD MAIN NULLAH AND TAI HONG ROAD, INCLUDING TIN LIU TSUEN, MUK KIU TAU TSUEN, SHUI TSU LO WAI, HUNG TSO TIN TSUEN, SHUI TSU SAN TSUEN, NAM HANG, TAI TONG TSUEN AND PAK SHA TSUEN.

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