



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1977

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT CARRIES OVER 5.5 MILLION PASSENGERS DAILY
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SOME 5.72 MILLION PASSENGERS WERE CARRIED EVERY DAY BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR - AN ALL-TIME RECORD.

OF THESE, 2.59 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT TRAVELLED BY BUSES= 1.6 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT BY PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES= 638,000 OR 11 PER CENT BY TAXIS AND PUBLIC HIRE CARS= 508,000 OR NINE PER CENT BY FERRIES= 350,000 OR SIX PER CENT BY TRAMS AND 34,000 OR LESS THAN ONE PER CENT BY TRAINS.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT IN TERMS OF CAPACITY AND FREQUENCIES OPERATED, THE NETWORK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WHICH CARRIED ALMOST SIX MILLION PASSENGERS A DAY +EXCEEDS ALL KNOWN RECORDS IN UTILISATION AND VIABILITY.+

+HONG KONG+, HE WENT ON, +PRIDES ITSELF ON HAVING ONE OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD.+

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PASSENGER GROWTH RATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT RIDERSHIP AVERAGED EIGHT PER CENT OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS.

AND OVER 80 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION RELY UPON THE VARIOUS FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO MEET THEIR DAILY TRAVEL NEEDS.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT LAST YEAR SAW A CONSOLIDATION OF THE TRENDS, FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1973, OF A SUBSTANTIAL SWITCH TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ESPECIALLY BUS SERVICES.

THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY IMPROVED SERVICES AND LARGER OPERATING FLEETS, HE ADDED. ALTOGETHER, 22 NEW ROUTES WERE INTRODUCED AND OVER 60 SERVICES HAD INCREASED FREQUENCIES DURING 1976.

ON TRANSPORT FARES LEVELS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY INCREASES IN BUS FARES THIS YEAR ALTHOUGH FARES MIGHT RISE ON WALLAH-WALLAH BOATS AND POSSIBLY MINIBUSES. THE RECENT RISE IN OIL PRICES WAS UNLIKELY TO JUSTIFY THE SUGGESTED TAXI FARE INCREASE.

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FEBRUARY - COLDER, SUNNIER AND DRIER THAN USUAL

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FEBRUARY WAS COLDER AND MUCH SUNNIER AND DRIER THAN USUAL BECAUSE OF THE PREDOMINANCE OF AN INTENSE ANTICYCLONE OVER NORTH CHINA.

THE MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF THE MONTH — 69 PER CENT — WAS THE FOURTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR ANY FEBRUARY WHILE THE TOTAL RAINFALL OF 3.2 MM REPRESENTED ONLY SEVEN PER CENT OF THE AVERAGE.

THE WEATHER WAS GENERALLY COLD AND CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT RAIN OR DRIZZLE DURING THE FIRST NINE DAYS OF THE MONTH.

THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE ON EACH DAY FROM JANUARY 30 TO FEBRUARY 5 WAS LOWER THAN 10 DEGREES CELSIUS AND THE MEAN DAILY TEMPERATURE FOR THIS PERIOD WAS THE LOWEST FOR ANY COLD SPELL LASTING SEVEN OR MORE DAYS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY DURING THE PAST 30 YEARS.

THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH WAS RECORDED ON FEBRUARY 3 WHEN IT DROPPED TO 6.8 DEGREES CELSIUS.

THE WEATHER THEN BECAME FINE AND SUNNY WITH A SIGNIFICANT FALL IN THE HUMIDITY ON FEBRUARY 10 FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL OF A REPLENISHMENT OF COLD BUT DRY AIR FROM THE NORTH THE DAY BEFORE. TEMPERATURES ALSO FELL RAPIDLY AND THE MONTH'S LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF 6.8 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED AGAIN IN THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 10.

DURING THE FOLLOWING TWO WEEKS, THE WEATHER REMAINED MAINLY FINE AND SUNNY ALTHOUGH TWO WEAK COLD FRONTS PASSED THROUGH HONG KONG ON FEBRUARY 14 AND 20 AND CAUSED A SLIGHT FRESHENING OF THE WINDS FROM THE NORTH AND SOME TEMPORARY CLOUDINESS.

FOR THE LAST FIVE DAYS OF THE MONTH, WINDS TURNED TO THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST DUE TO A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE FROM AN ANTICYCLONE OVER THE PACIFIC WHICH EXTENDED SOUTHWESTWARD TO COVER SOUTH CHINA AND THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

AT THE SAME TIME, AIR TEMPERATURE ROSE STEADILY TO REACH A MAXIMUM OF 25.4 DEGREES CELSIUS IN THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 25, WHICH WAS THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

THE HUMID AIRSTREAM FROM THE PACIFIC ALSO CAUSED WIDESPREAD FOG ALONG THE COASTAL AREAS ON FEBRUARY 26 TO 28. VISIBILITY WAS REDUCED TO 100 METRES AT WAGLAN ISLAND AND 200 METRES AT CHEUNG CHAU ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 28 AND AS A RESULT, TWO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON THAT DAY.

DUE TO THE DRY CONDITIONS, FIRE DANGER WARNINGS WERE IN FORCE DURING MOST OF THE MONTH AND FROST WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 2.

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NEW NURSERY IN LEK YUEN ESTATE

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PARENTS WHO WISH TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO CHILD CARE CENTRES SHOULD FIRST FIND OUT IF THE CENTRES HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WHEN HE OPENED THE PO LEUNG KUK LEK YUEN NURSERY TODAY.

MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE IN A BID TO CONTROL AND IMPROVE THE SERVICES OF ALL CHILD CARE CENTRES AS MORE AND MORE CHILDREN WERE IN NEED OF SUCH SERVICE.

+THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN CARED FOR IN SUCH CENTRES WILL RECEIVE A SERVICE THAT IS OF POSITIVE BENEFIT TO THEM PHYSICALLY, SOCIALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY,+ HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND, THE DIRECTOR SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROPOSED IN ITS SOCIAL WELFARE FIVE-YEAR PLAN THAT SUBVENTION SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO EXPERIENCED CHILD CARE CENTRE OPERATIONS TO EXPAND THEIR SERVICES AND THAT 1,000 NEW SUBSIDISED NURSERY PLACES WOULD BE PROVIDED EVERY YEAR.

+I AM SURE THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE WILL MARK A NEW PHASE FOR THE CHILD CARE SERVICE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE PRAISED THE PO LEUNG KUK FOR PROVIDING CHILD CARE SERVICE IN THE DENSELY-POPULATED ESTATES. THE LEK YUEN NURSERY IS THE TENTH CHILD CARE CENTRE OPERATED BY THE PO LEUNG KUK.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WESTERN DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND MONG KOK IN KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON THURSDAY (MARCH 17) TO ENABLE THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN WESTERN DISTRICT, THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, SOUTH LANE, HILL ROAD, DES VOUEX ROAD WEST AND WESTERN STREET.

IN MONG KOK, THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY ARGYLE STREET, NATHAN ROAD, SOY STREET AND FA YUEN STREET, INCLUDING NELSON STREET, SHAN TUNG STREET, TUNG CHOI STREET, SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET AND QUEEN ELIZABETH II YOUTH CENTRE.

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CITY AND GUILDS OVERSEAS HEAD VISITS HONG KONG

THE HEAD OF THE OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE, MR. W.H. BENTLEY HAS BEEN HAVING DISCUSSIONS ON THE INSTITUTE'S FUTURE OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG IN VIEW OF THE MANY CHANGES IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION THAT ARE TAKING PLACE HERE.

MR. BENTLEY, WHO ARRIVED IN HONG KONG ON MARCH 9, HAS MET SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE PRINCIPALS OF THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, AND DR. KEITH LEGG, DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, WHO ACTS AS THE CITY AND GUILDS LOCAL SECRETARY FOR EXAMINATIONS.

MANY STUDENTS AT THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES SIT THE CITY AND GUILDS EXAMINATIONS.

SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, MR. BENTLEY HAS VISITED THE POLYTECHNIC, THE KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND DENTAL LABORATORIES OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

HE HAS ALSO MET MR. S.F. BAILEY, SECRETARY OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CITY AND GUILDS SCHEMES AND EXAMINATIONS.

THIS MORNING MR. BENTLEY VISITED THE HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WHICH IS NEARING COMPLETION AT CHEUNG SHA WAN. IN THE AFTERNOON HE WENT ON A TOUR OF THE KWAI CHUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

TOMORROW HE WILL VISIT THE FAR EAST FLYING AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL LIMITED FOR A MEETING WITH MR. H.K. WATT, THE PRINCIPAL, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF STAFF.

HE WILL LEAVE HONG KONG THE SAME EVENING TO RETURN TO LONDON.

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IMPROVED BUS SERVICE FOR KOWLOON CITY

ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO PROVIDE A MORE CONVENIENT BUS SERVICE PENETRATING THE RESIDENTIAL AREA IN KOWLOON CITY.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM MONDAY, MARCH 21, KMB ROUTE 2D OPERATING BETWEEN PAK TIN ESTATE AND CHUK YUEN WOULD BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA NGA TSIN WAI ROAD AND CARPENTER ROAD IN THE KOWLOON CITY AREA. THIS SERVICE IS OPERATED DAILY AT A BASIC 10-MINUTE FREQUENCY.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE RE-ROUTING, ADDITIONAL BUS STOPS WILL BE DESIGNATED IN NGA TSIN WAI ROAD, TAK KU LING ROAD, LOK SIN ROAD, TUNG TSING ROAD AND KAI TAK ROAD.

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