



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1976

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1976

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1976 COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING

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HONG KONG WILL BE THE HOST TO MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND SENIOR FINANCIAL OFFICIALS FROM UP TO 39 INDEPENDENT NATIONS AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH, DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK THE MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS WILL GO TO MANILA FOR THE ANNUAL WORLD BANK/INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND MEETING.

IN A MESSAGE OF WELCOME, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF HONG KONG, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID, +I AM DELIGHTED THAT HONG KONG HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS THE VENUE FOR THE 1976 MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS.

+THE CHOICE IS A MARK OF RECOGNITION OF HONG KONG'S GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND IMPORTANCE AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE AT THE CROSSROADS OF ASIA.

+THERE IS MUCH OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DISCUSS. BUT I ALSO HOPE THAT MINISTERS AND DELEGATES WILL FIND TIME TO RELAX NOW AND THEN FROM THEIR DELIBERATIONS, AND TO EXPLORE THE MANY FACETS OF THIS INTERNATIONAL CITY.+

IN HONG KONG THERE WILL BE THREE PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR SENIOR FINANCE OFFICIALS, ON SEPTEMBER 27, 28 AND 29 (SEE ENCLOSED PROGRAMME) FOLLOWED BY THE OPENING CEREMONY.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 IN THE PALACE ROOM OF THE HONG KONG CONVENTION CENTRE IN CAUSEWAY BAY. MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED INSIDE THE ENTRANCE BY THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL, MR. S.S. RAMPHAL, AND MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL BE THE LAST TO BE RECEIVED, JUST BEFORE THE START OF THE CEREMONY. ALTOGETHER, THERE WILL BE UP TO 800 GUESTS IN THE PALACE ROOM, INCLUDING ALL THE TOP FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATORS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE.

THESE WILL INCLUDE MR. DENIS HEALEY, BRITAIN'S CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER= MR. PHILIP LYNCH, TREASURER OF AUSTRALIA= MR. R.D. MULDOON, NEW ZEALAND'S PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE, AND MR. FELIX BANDARANAIKE, MINISTER OF FINANCE FOR SRI LANKA.

WHILE THE GUESTS ARE ASSEMBLING, THE BAND OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE WILL PLAY.

THE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN WITH A STATEMENT FROM MR. S.S. RAMPHAL, WHO WILL INTRODUCE THE GOVERNOR. AFTER THE GOVERNOR HAS OFFICIALLY OPENED THE CONFERENCE, THERE WILL BE A REPLY BY A COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTER. THEN WILL FOLLOW THE ELECTION OF THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, AND HIS SPEECH.

THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE WILL OPEN LATER THE SAME MORNING.

/PROVISIONAL

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

AUSTRALIA	THE HON. PHILIP LYNCH, MP, TREASURER
THE BAHAMAS	THE HON. A.D. HANNA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE.
BANGLADESH	HIS EXCELLENCY DR. M.N. HUDA, ADVISOR FOR PLANNING AND COMMERCE.
BARBADOS	DR. C. BLACKMAN, GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF BARBADOS.
BERMUDA	MR. DAVID GIBBONS, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
BOTSWANA	THE HON. PETER MMUSI, ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.
BRITAIN	THE RT. HON. DENIS HEALEY, MBE, MP, CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.
BRUNEI	THE HON. PEHIN JOHN LEE, CBE, STATE FINANCIAL OFFICER.
CANADA	THE HON. DONALD S. MACDONALD, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
CYPRUS	THE HON. A.C. PATSALIDES, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
FIJI	THE HON. CHARLES A. STINSON, OBE, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
THE GAMBIA	THE HON. ALHAJI I.M. GARBA-JAHUMPA, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND TRADE.
GHANA	DR. R.K.A. GARDINER, COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING.
GRENADA	---
GUYANA	THE HON. F.E. HOPE, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
HONG KONG	MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, FINANCIAL SECRETARY.
INDIA	THE HON. C. SUBRAMANIAM, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
JAMAICA	THE HON. DAVID H. COORE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE.
KENYA	MR. N. NGANGA, PERMANENT SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY.
LESOTHO	---
MALAWI	THE HON. D.T. MATENJE, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
MALAYSIA	YBM TENGKU TAN SRI RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.
MALTA	---
MAURITIUS	THE HON. SIR VEERASWAMY RINGADOO, MINISTER OF FINANCE.

NEW ZEALAND	THE RT. HON. R.D. MULDOON, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE.
NIGERIA	MR. MUSA BELLO, PERMANENT SECRETARY, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	THE HON. JULIUS CHAN, MINISTER FOR FINANCE.
SEYCHELLES	THE HON. CHAMERY CHETTY, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
SIERRA LEONE	THE HON. S.I. KOROMA, HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF FINANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC PLANNING.
SINGAPORE	MR. HON SUI-SEN, MINISTER FOR FINANCE.
SRI LANKA	THE HON. FELIX R.D. BANDARANAIKE, FINANCE MINISTER.
SWAZILAND	THE HON. R.P. STEPHENS, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
TANZANIA	THE HON. A.H. JAMAL, MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND PLANNING.
TONGA	--
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	--
UGANDA	--
WESTERN SAMOA	THE HON. FILIP VAOVASAMANAIA, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
ZAMBIA	THE HON. J.M. MWANAKATWE MP, MINISTER OF FINANCE.
ASSOCIATED EAST CARIBBEAN STATES	--

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

09.30 TO 12.30 HRS. AND 14.30 TO 17.30 HRS.	MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH FUND FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION.
19.30 HRS.	BUFFET SUPPER BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. C.P. HADDON-CAVE.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

09.30 TO 12.30 HRS.	MEETING OF SENIOR FINANCE OFFICIALS.
12.30 TO 14.00 HRS.	LUNCHEON BY SIR DOUGLAS WASS, PERMANENT SECRETARY, TREASURY FOR HEADS OF DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE SENIOR FINANCE OFFICIALS' MEETING.
14.30 TO 17.30 HRS.	MEETING OF SENIOR FINANCE OFFICIALS.

WEDNESDAY,

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 09.30 TO 12.30 HRS. MEETING OF SENIOR FINANCE OFFICIALS (IF NECESSARY).
- 18.30 HRS. RECEPTION BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.
- 20.30 HRS. DINNER BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, FOR CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 10.00 HRS. OPENING CEREMONY OF THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING.
- 11.00 TO 12.00 HRS. FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION.
- 11.00 HRS. COFFEE MORNING BY MRS. RAMPHAL FOR DELEGATES' WIVES.
- 12.30 TO 14.00 HRS. LUNCHEON BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER FOR HEADS OF DELEGATIONS.
- 12.30 HRS. LUNCHEON BY MRS. HEALEY FOR WIVES OF DELEGATES.
- 14.30 TO 17.30 HRS. MINISTERIAL WORKING SESSION.
- 21.30 TO 23.00 HRS. RECEPTION BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR FOR HEADS AND MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

- 09.30 TO 12.30 HRS. MINISTERIAL WORKING SESSION.
- 12.30 TO 14.00 HRS. LUNCHEON BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HEADS OF DELEGATIONS.
- 12.30 TO 14.30 HRS. LUNCHEON BY LADY MACLEHOSE FOR WIVES OF DELEGATES.
- 14.30 TO 17.30 HRS. MINISTERIAL WORKING SESSION.
- 20.00 HRS. CHINESE DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE FOR HEADS AND MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS AND THEIR WIVES.

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SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS BEGIN OPERATION NEXT MONTH.

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SPECIAL COURTS, SET UP UNDER THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE TO DEAL WITH CASES INVOLVING LEGAL CLAIMS FOR AMOUNTS NOT EXCEEDING \$3,000, WILL COME INTO OPERATION FROM OCTOBER 1.

THE FIRST OF THESE COURTS, KNOWN AS THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS, ARE SITUATED AT THE VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT, BATTERY PATH ON HONG KONG ISLAND, AND AT THE KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT, GASCOIGNE ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE HEARING IS INFORMAL AND WILL BE CONDUCTED IN EITHER ENGLISH OR CHINESE. BOTH THE CLAIMANT AND THE DEFENDANT MUST COME TO THE TRIBUNAL ON THE DATE OF THE HEARING AND THEY MUST BRING ALONG WITH THEM THEIR WITNESSES AND ALL DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT THEIR CASES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO MAKE A CLAIM MUST FIRST OBTAIN A FORM OF CLAIM FROM ONE OF THE TRIBUNAL OFFICES. IF DIFFICULTY IS ENCOUNTERED IN COMPLETING THE FORM, ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN AT THE OFFICES OF THE TRIBUNAL.

HOWEVER, CLAIMANTS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST BRING ALONG WITH THEM DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT THEIR CLAIMS, SUCH AS ANY WRITTEN CONTRACT, DISHONoured CHEQUE, HIRE PURCHASE AGREEMENT, BUILDING MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT, RECEIPTS FOR EXPENSE PAID IN CONNECTION WITH A MOTOR CAR ACCIDENT AND BORROWING NOTE. FULL DETAILS OF THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE DEFENDANT ARE ALSO ESSENTIAL.

ONCE THE FORM OF CLAIM HAS BEEN COMPLETED, AND SIGNED BY THE CLAIMANT A DATE WILL BE FIXED FOR THE HEARING OF THE CASE. A COPY OF THE CLAIM AND OF THE DATE OF HEARING WILL BE SERVED UPON THE DEFENDANT BY THE TRIBUNAL.

PLAINTIFFS ARE ALSO REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE ORDINANCE EXCLUDES CERTAIN TYPES OF CLAIMS SUCH AS:

- * DISPUTES BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEES OVER WAGES AND SALARIES AS THEY ARE DEALT WITH BY THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL.
- * CLAIMS FOR THE POSSESSION OF LAND.
- * TENANCY DISPUTES.
- * CLAIMS FOR ALIMONY AND MAINTENANCE= CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES FOR LIBEL AND SLANDER= AND CLAIMS BY MONEY LENDERS.

PROVISION IS ALSO MADE IN THE ORDINANCE FOR A CASE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO A HIGHER COURT IF IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT IT IS VERY COMPLICATED.

THE FEES TO BE PAID FOR BRINGING PROCEEDINGS ARE SET OUT IN THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (FEES) RULES, 1976. THEY RANGE FROM A MINIMUM OF \$5 TO A MAXIMUM OF \$20.

COMMENTING ON THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL, THE ACTING REGISTRAR OF SUPREME COURT, MR. S.H. MAYO SAID: +THE DISTRICT COURTS ARE NOT ALWAYS AN IDEAL VENUE FOR PURSUING SMALL CLAIMS, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE FOR PARTIES TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF LEGAL ADVISERS.+

/THE COST

THE COST OF INSTRUCTING LEGAL ADVISERS, HE POINTED OUT, WAS OFTEN DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE AMOUNT BEING CLAIMED.

+THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL IS DESIGNED TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM AND IT WILL BE AN INFORMAL FORUM WHICH, IT IS ANTICIPATED, WILL DEAL EXPEDITIOUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH MOST TYPES OF SMALL CLAIMS,+ MR. MAYO SAID. +THE VERNACULAR WILL, IN MOST CASES, BE IN CANTONESE.+

COPIES OF A PAMPHLET GIVING DETAILS OF THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY IN VARIOUS CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE CAN SOON BE INSPECTED AT ANY COURT OR CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND CAN BE BOUGHT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG ISLAND, AT \$2 A COPY.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST
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THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) FOR AUGUST 1976 WAS 114, THREE POINTS HIGHER THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS ADVANCED BY FIVE POINTS. INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, PORK, LIVE POULTRY AND MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUITS SHOWED A DECLINE.

THE INDEXES FOR DURABLE GOODS, MISCELLANEOUS GOODS, SERVICES, TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES EACH INCREASED BY ONE POINT.

MOVEMENTS IN THE INDEXES FOR THE OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR AUGUST 1976 WAS 114, TWO POINTS HIGHER THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS ADVANCED BY FOUR POINTS. THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, PORK, LIVE POULTRY INCREASED WHILE THAT OF THE FRESH FRUITS SHOWED A DECLINE.

THE INDEXES FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES EACH INCREASED BY ONE POINT.

MOVEMENTS IN THE INDEXES FOR THE OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1976

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LANDSLIDE INVESTIGATION TEAM MEETS PWD DIRECTOR

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MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ASSISTING IN THE SAU MAU PING LANDSLIDE INVESTIGATION TODAY MET THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. WILLIAM BELL, OTHER SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE P.W.D. AND ITS CONSULTANTS BINNIE AND PARTNERS TO DISCUSS INITIAL PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION.

AT THE MEETING -- HELD AT P.W.D. HEADQUARTERS IN MURRAY BUILDING -- THE TWO LATEST MEMBERS TO JOIN THE GROUP OF EXPERTS WERE BRIEFED ON THE WORK DONE SO FAR, AND ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE LINES OF THE INVESTIGATION BEING UNDERTAKEN.

THE TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ARE PROFESSOR NORBERT MORGENSTERN, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, AND MR. BRIAN RICHARDS, PRINCIPAL RESEARCH SCIENTIST WITH AUSTRALIA'S COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION.

MR. RICHARDS, THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE GROUP OF EXPERTS, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG LATE LAST NIGHT.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. WILLIAM BELL, SAID TODAY MR. RICHARDS WAS PARTICULARLY FAMILIAR WITH SOIL PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE HONG KONG SITUATION, AND LAST YEAR HAD MADE A SPECIAL VISIT TO HONG KONG FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH BINNIE AND PARTNERS IN CONNECTION WITH PHASE II OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE LANDSLIP STUDY.

MR. RICHARDS WORKS IN THE C.S.I.R.O.'S DIVISION OF APPLIED GEOMECHANICS, AND HAD DONE MANY YEARS STUDY IN THE PARTICULAR FIELD OF SOIL MECHANICS INVOLVED IN THE SAU MAU PING INVESTIGATION.

+HE HAS DEVELOPED METHODS OF MEASURING CONDITIONS SUCH AS EXIST IN MOST OF THE HONG KONG SLOPES TO BE STUDIED,+ SAID MR. BELL, +AND HAS PRODUCED THEORIES ABOUT THE EFFECTS ARISING WHEN THESE SOILS BECOME SATURATED -- AS WAS THE CASE AT SAU MAU PING.

+IN FACT HE HAS PUBLISHED MANY PAPERS ON THE SUBJECT, AND CONTRIBUTED THE SECTION ON THE 'BEHAVIOUR OF UNSATURATED SOILS' IN THE BOOK 'SOIL MECHANICS - NEW HORIZONS' PUBLISHED IN 1974.+

ALSO AT TODAY'S MEETING IN P.W.D. HEADQUARTERS WERE THE HONG KONG MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS -- PROFESSOR SEAN MACKAY, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, AND MR. PETER LUMB, A READER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY -- AND THE P.W.D.'S DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, MR. DAVID STEAD= AND PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER, MR. BRYAN O'RORKE.

AFTER THE MEETING, MR. BELL SAID IT WAS NOW EXPECTED THAT A REPORT ON THE SAU MAU PING LANDSLIDE WOULD BE READY IN EARLY DECEMBER. THE BINNIE AND PARTNERS FINAL REPORT WOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE GROUP OF EXPERTS, WHO WOULD SUBMIT AN INDEPENDENT STATEMENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS ON ITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1976

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THE FIRST OVERSEAS MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG, PROFESSOR JOHN KNILL OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON, IS NOW ATTENDING A CONFERENCE IN TEHERAN AFTER A WEEK OF INITIAL CONSULTATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE INVESTIGATION, AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG NEXT MONTH.

THE FINAL MEMBER OF THE GROUP, PROFESSOR VICTOR DE MELLO OF THE SAN CARLOS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AT BRAZIL'S SAO PAULO UNIVERSITY, IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG SOON.

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PUBLIC BALLOT FOR 250 N.T. TAXIS
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A PUBLIC BALLOT FOR THE FIRST BATCH OF 250 LICENCES FOR NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS WAS HELD THIS AFTERNOON IN THE HUNG HOM MULTI-STORY CAR PARK BUILDING IN THE PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

ON MONDAY, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL START SENDING OUT LETTERS OF CONFIRMATION TO THE 250 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

THOSE WHO WERE UNSUCCESSFUL WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN LATER BALLOTS, THE DATE FOR WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

A TOTAL OF 2,792 APPLICATION FORMS WERE SENT OUT IN CONNECTION WITH TODAY'S BALLOTS.

A TOTAL OF 1,847 APPLICATION FORMS WERE RETURNED AND OF THESE 1,568 QUALIFIED FOR THE FIRST BALLOT.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1976.

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THE HONG KONG STYLE OF GOVERNMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR. DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE PRESENT STYLE OF GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN COMBINING BASIC CIVIL LIBERTIES WITH AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAD BROUGHT A GOOD DEAL OF CONTENTMENT TO THE COMMUNITY IT SERVED.

HOWEVER, HE NOTED, UNLIKE MOST THINGS MADE IN HONG KONG HE DID NOT SUPPOSE THAT THIS STYLE OF GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE A VERY GOOD EXPORT.

MR. BRAY, WHO WAS SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS' DINNER, SAID THAT THE ABSENCE OF ELECTIONEERING HAD LED SOME PEOPLE TO SUPPOSE THAT HONG KONG SOCIETY WAS APOLITICAL.

+FAR FROM IT. THERE IS AS MUCH ARGUMENT OVER POLICY AND PRIORITIES HERE AS ANYWHERE ELSE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+IT IS ARTICULATE AND IT IS WIDESPREAD AND IT INFLUENCES POLICY IN A SUBSTANTIAL WAY.

+EVERY IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT PAPER ON POLICY IS REQUIRED TO CONTAIN AN ANALYSIS OF EXPECTED PUBLIC REACTION TO PREVENT THE BUREAUCRATS FROM FORGETTING THAT IS IS THE PUBLIC THEY SERVE.+

MR. BRAY STRESSED THAT HONG KONG WAS RATHER AN UNUSUAL PLACE IN MANY WAYS, ONE OF WHICH WAS THAT THE POPULATION COULD NOT ELECT ITS OWN PRIME MINISTER.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, NO GOVERNMENT COULD STAY IN POWER WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED AND IT WAS JUST AS NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT HERE TO STRIVE TO RETAIN THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED AS IT WAS ANYWHERE ELSE.

+YET WE MUST DO THIS WITHOUT AN ELECTED PRIME MINISTER -- NOT BECAUSE WE ARE INHERENTLY OPPOSED TO ELECTIONS BUT BECAUSE THE OPTION IS NOT OPEN,+ HE STATED.

+IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG WE HAVE FOUND IT IS NECESSARY TO BE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO TRENDS OF PUBLIC OPINION.

+THIS INVOLVES FINDING OUT WHAT IT IS, WHY, WHERE IT IS CRITICAL, THIS IS SO.

+IT ALSO INVOLVES REMOVING MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHEN THESE ARE FOUND AND EXPLAINING OUR THINKING.

+WE THINK THIS TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION IS MOST IMPORTANT AND HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES TO IT.+

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1976

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BUILDING FIGURES FOR AUGUST

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A TOTAL OF 58 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED LAST MONTH BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, COMPARED WITH 45 FOR AUGUST LAST YEAR.

OF THE NEW PLANS APPROVED, 19 WERE FOR PROJECTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 14 IN KOWLOON AND 25 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE INCLUDED BUILDING PLANS FOR FIFTEEN MULTI-STOREY BLOCKS OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS AT BRAEMAR RESERVOIR HONG KONG, SEVEN HIGH-RISE APARTMENT AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AT TAI KOO DOCKYARD, AND A NUMBER OF FACTORY BUILDINGS OF 15 OR MORE STOREYS AT KWUN TONG, SANPOKONG AND TSUEN WAN.

BUILDING PLANS FOR SWIMMING POOLS, GARDENS AND PARK AT YI LONG WAN, LANTAU ISLAND WERE ALSO APPROVED.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING AUGUST THIS YEAR AMOUNTED TO \$112.43 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$193.18 MILLION IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED AMOUNTED TO 114,520 SQUARE METRE, COMPRISING 37,715 SQ. METRE OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 76,805 SQ. METRE OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

DURING THE MONTH, THE B.O.O. ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO BEGIN ON 40 BUILDING PROJECTS. THESE INCLUDED A HOME FOR THE AGED AT FANLING, A SCHOOL AT KWAI CHUNG, A PETROL FILLING STATION AT WONG CHUK HANG ROAD, ABERDEEN, AND A NUMBER OF HIGH-RISE APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

FORTY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION DURING THE MONTH. THESE INCLUDED A SCHOOL AT HILL ROAD, TWO SCHOOL EXTENSIONS AT SHEK PIK, LANTAU ISLAND AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, TWO TEMPLE BUILDINGS AT SAI KUNG AND SHAK KOK TSUI, AND A CHAPEL AT HUNG SHUI KIU.

DURING THE MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 22 BUILDINGS.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES AT THE MID-LEVELS AND TO KWA WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 25) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE STAFF TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE PREMISES AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY SEYMOUR ROAD, CASTLE ROAD, WOODLANDS TERRACE AND CASTLE LANE.

IN TO KWA WAN, THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY LCK SHAN ROAD, CHI KIANG STREET AND KOWLOON CITY ROAD, INCLUDING SZE CHUEN STREET, HA HEUNG ROAD AND TO KWA WAN ROAD.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
RELEASE

新聞稿

Thursday, 23rd September 1976

REMOVAL ALLOWANCES TO BE PAID TO
NEEDY FAMILIES CLEARED AND MOVED
INTO PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE FIRST
TIME

Government has approved payment of an ex-gratia rehousing allowance for needy families, who are cleared and moved into public for the first time.

The category which will benefit are those borderline cases not eligible for public assistance.

The allowance is to help with basic removal and decorating costs and will apply to families with monthly incomes below \$200 per head.

A five-person family would receive \$700 under the scheme, plus other payments covering deposits for water and electricity meters, as well as a sum equivalent to one month's rental deposit for their flat. If moving into a new estate such as Lai King, a five-member family would be paid a total of \$926, with bigger families receiving increased amounts.

Families which have received cash compensation from Government or from a private landlord at the time of moving into permanent public housing will not be eligible for the rehousing allowance, but victims of fires or other disasters receiving payment from the Emergency Relief Fund will qualify on the grounds that they will probably have lost all their household possessions.

A Housing Authority spokesman pointed out that the new allowances are intended to cover basic moving expenses and such costs as transporting household effects, assistance towards the cost of putting up partitioning and painting a new flat. "This is a further measure by Government to help the under-privileged and give them a better start in their new homes," the spokesman said. "It follows Government's recent decision to increase the maximum rent allowance payable in public assistance to eligible families."

It is estimated that one in five of all families required to move as a result of future clearances will be eligible for the ex-gratia payments.

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一九七六年九月廿三日 星期四

因受清拆搬入屋邨
貧家可獲遷居津貼

政府已核准向因住所受清拆而遷入公共房屋的貧窮人家，發給恩恤遷居津貼。該種措施是初次施行。

僅僅未能達到獲得公共援助資格的一類人士，將受到裨益。

每人每月入息不足二百元的家庭，將可接受該種津貼，作為基本的搬遷及裝修費用。

根據該項計劃，一個五人家庭可獲得七百元，另可獲發給其他款項，用作水錶按金，並可領一筆相等於其入住單位的一個月租金按金的款項。如遷入像荔景邨的新屋邨，一個五人家庭可獲發給總金額九百二十六元，人數較多的家庭所獲款額亦更多。

已收到政府或私人樓宇業主給予現金補償的家庭，在遷入永久性的公共房屋時將無資格獲得遷居津貼，但火災或其他災禍的災民而接獲緊急救濟基金撥給款項者，則有資格獲得津貼，因為他們可能已喪失家中所有物品。

房屋委員會發言人指出，該種新的津貼，目的在彌補基本的搬遷開支及搬運家中物品、間格及油漆新住所等費用。

他說：「此是政府幫助貧窮人士及使他們能建立新家庭的進一步措施，政府最近決定將符合接受公共援助資格家庭的租金津貼最高數額提高後，採取該種措施。」

估計因為將來的清拆行動而要遷居的全部家庭之中，有五分之一將有資格獲得該種津貼。