



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1979

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PRINCE CHARLES TO VISIT HK
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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES WILL BE IN HONG KONG FROM MARCH 3 TO 6. HE WILL VISIT THE 2ND KING EDWARD VII'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES OF WHICH HE IS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, AND CARRY OUT VARIOUS OTHER ENGAGEMENTS.

DURING HIS VISIT, PRINCE CHARLES WILL MEET A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY AND SEE SOME OF HONG KONG'S MASSIVE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

PRINCE CHARLES WILL MEET INFORMALLY WITH RESIDENTS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AT A COMMUNITY RECEPTION AND WILL ALSO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT YUEN LONG WHERE STUDENTS WILL ACCORD HIM A SPECIAL WELCOME.

HE WILL VISIT SHA TIN NEW TOWN TO SEE THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS NOW UNDERWAY TO PROVIDE A SELF-CONTAINED TOWNSHIP FOR SOME 500,000 PEOPLE BY THE MID-EIGHTIES, AND TOUR A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE.

FOR THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, PRINCE CHARLES' VISIT TO HONG KONG WILL TAKE ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE AS HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL PRESENT THE SQUADRON STANDARD TO THE FORCE WHICH IT WAS AWARDED IN RECOGNITION OF ITS OUTSTANDING SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

DURING HIS VISIT, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE NEW BRITISH FORCES HEADQUARTERS AT HMS TAMAR, AND WILL SPEND SOME TIME WITH THE 2ND GURKHAS.

BEFORE LEAVING ON MARCH 6, PRINCE CHARLES IS EXPECTED TO VISIT A TOY FACTORY WHERE HE WILL SEE SOME OF THE PRODUCTS AND MANUFACTURING PROCESSES WHICH HAVE HELPED ESTABLISH HONG KONG AS THE WORLD'S LEADING TOY EXPORTER.

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HONG KONG TO HAVE MORE ROAD SIGNS

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A NEW ROAD SIGN SYSTEM, AIMED AT INTRODUCING MORE SYMBOLIC SIGNS TO HONG KONG, IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY MR. ERIC WYATT, ENGINEER (TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PLANNING) OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THE EXISTING ROAD TRAFFIC (ROAD AND SIGNS) REGULATIONS, THE PRINCIPAL REGULATION CONTROLLING TRAFFIC SIGNS, HAVE SOME 115 TRAFFIC SIGNS, INCLUDING THE 44 SYMBOLIC SIGNS INTRODUCED IN 1974.

+WHILE CONTRIBUTING GREATLY TOWARDS A MORE READILY UNDERSTOOD SYSTEM OF SYMBOLS, THESE SIGNS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT, AND MORE ARE REQUIRED IF A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF ROAD SYMBOLS DESIGNED TO MEET MODERN TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IS TO BE REALISED,+ MR. WYATT SAID.

+A PROPOSED SYSTEM PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION CONSISTS OF ABOUT 90 SYMBOLIC SIGNS OF THE REGULATORY AND WARNING TYPE, 37 WORDED SIGNS CONSISTING MAINLY OF THE INFORMATORY TYPE BUT WITH SOME REGULATORY SIGNS, AND 27 SUPPLEMENTARY PLATES, WHICH ARE THOSE SIGNS USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A REGULATORY OR WARNING SIGN TO QUALIFY THE RESTRICTION OR WARNING AND TAKE THE FORM OF TIME PLATES, DISTANCE PLATES AND OTHERS.+

THE PRESENT SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, HE SAID, WAS IN THE MAIN BASED ON THE 1957 UK REGULATIONS.

+AS SUCH IT HAS SEVERAL DISADVANTAGES IN THAT, TO A LARGE EXTENT, IT RELIES ON WRITTEN MESSAGES AND AT THE SAME TIME HAS ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF SIGNS TO DESCRIBE THE NUMEROUS DIFFERENT HAZARDS THAT CAN OCCUR AND FOR WHICH DIFFERENT REACTIONS BY MOTORISTS ARE REQUIRED,+ MR. WYATT SAID.

+SINCE 1974, THE 44 SYMBOLIC SIGNS INCLUDED IN THE REGULATION HAVE BEEN GRADUALLY INTRODUCED ONTO THE ROAD NETWORK BY REPLACING OLDER DAMAGED SIGNS OR AT LOCATIONS WHERE NEW ROAD SCHEMES HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT.+

IN GENERAL, THE SYMBOLIC-TYPE ROAD SIGNS HAVE THREE BASIC SHAPES, NAMELY, THE CIRCLE WHICH INSTRUCTS, THE TRIANGLE FOR WARNINGS, AND THE RECTANGLE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

THIS WILL ENABLE THE DRIVER TO RECOGNISE AT A DISTANCE THE TYPE OF SIGN AHEAD AND BE PREPARED TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION WELL BEFORE THE ACTUAL SYMBOL CAN BE SEEN.

+THIS SYMBOLIC SYSTEM HAS NOW BEEN ADOPTED BY A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, THE MAIN EXCEPTIONS BEING THOSE IN NORTH AMERICA, WHERE A LARGELY WORDED BASED SYSTEM IS USED,+ MR. WYATT SAID.

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77 NEW BUILDINGS APPROVED IN DECEMBER

A TOTAL OF 77 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED LAST (DECEMBER) MONTH BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, COMPARED WITH 71 IN THE SAME MONTH IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

OF THESE, 26 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 23 FOR KOWLOON AND 28 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED PLANS FOR A CHURCH AND SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE IN OI KWAN ROAD, HONG KONG, THREE SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES AND A NUMBER OF APARTMENT-COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED LAST MONTH AMOUNTED TO \$194.42 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$170.26 MILLION IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED LAST MONTH AMOUNTED TO 187,974.8 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 126,025.6 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 61,949.2 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

DURING THE MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 46 NEW PROJECTS, INCLUDING A YOUTH CENTRE BETWEEN MANSION STREET AND MODEL LANE, HONG KONG- AN AMENITIES BUILDING AND A MAINTENANCE BUILDING IN SASSOON ROAD WHICH FORM PART OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT, AND AN EXTENSION TO SOCIAL SERVICE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE IN WO YI HOP ROAD, NEW TERRITORIES.

A TOTAL OF 40 NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION DURING THE MONTH, INCLUDING A PETROL FILLING STATION IN TAI PO ROAD, AN ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION IN BOUNDARY STREET AND A NUMBER OF WORKSHOP BUILDINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO ASSENTED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 71 BUILDINGS.

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TEACHERS LEARN BUDGETTING IN NEW SCIENCE CENTRE

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TEACHERS ATTENDING THE NEW SCIENCE CENTRE ARE GETTING AN EXTRA LESSON IN ECONOMICS APART FROM LEARNING ABOUT TEACHING AIDS.

IN THE FIRST WORKSHOP WHICH STARTED IN NOVEMBER, 1978 IN THE CENTRE PARTICIPANTS ASSEMBLED SOLAR CELLS. THESE KITS COST MORE THAN \$100 ON THE OPEN MARKET.

BUT IN THIS WORKSHOP RUN BY THE SCIENCE SUBJECTS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE THE PARTICIPANTS WERE TAUGHT TO PRODUCE SOLAR CELL KITS AT A MERE COST OF \$10 -- A PRICE WELL WITHIN REACH OF MOST STUDENTS.

IN POINTING OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING AIDS IN MODERN TEACHING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE SAID: +PROPERLY DESIGNED APPARATUS IS HALF WAY TO SUCCESS WHEN EXPLAINING TO STUDENTS INTRICATE CONCEPTS IN CERTAIN SCIENCE TOPICS.+

+JUST TAKE THE SOLAR CELL KIT AS AN EXAMPLE,+ HE SAID, +NO MATTER HOW GREAT AN ORATOR HE IS, A TEACHER CAN NEVER CONVINCe OR MAKE HIS STUDENT UNDERSTAND THE EXISTENCE AND FUNCTION OF SOLAR ENERGY UNLESS THE STUDENT CAN PHYSICALLY SEE THIS PROCESS.+

TEACHERS ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP CAN ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHOLE PROCESS OF PRODUCTION BY ASSEMBLING THE APPARATUS THEMSELVES AND, ABOVE ALL, KNOWING HOW TO CUT PRODUCTION COSTS BY SELECTING AND BUYING MATERIAL AT BUDGET PRICES FOR MASS PRODUCTION.

EACH WORKSHOP -- FIVE HAVE BEEN ORGANISED SO FAR THIS YEAR -- IS TAILORED TO COPE WITH THE SCHOOL SYLLABUS BOTH FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

THE CENTRE, WHICH IS OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY, WILL BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE MORE EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES TO CATER FOR MORE TEACHERS AND ENABLE THE PRODUCTION OF MORE SOPHISTICATED TEACHING AIDS IN FUTURE. REFRESHER COURSES, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES ARE ALSO PLANNED.

THE WORKSHOP PROGRAMMES, HE SAID, WERE ALSO DESIGNED TO ENABLE TEACHERS TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN SCIENCE TEACHING SO THAT THEY CAN PASS THIS KNOWLEDGE TO FELLOW COLLEAGUES AND STUDENTS.

THE SCIENCE CENTRE, AT TANNER ROAD POLICE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN NORTH POINT, ALSO HELPED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AMONG SCIENCE TEACHERS AND BETWEEN SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STAFF OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CENTRE HAD SO FAR ATTRACTED ABOUT 90 TEACHERS AND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS TO THE FIRST FIVE WORKSHOP SESSIONS, AND ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN THE FORTHCOMING SESSIONS. AT THE SAME TIME MORE THAN 130 SCHOOLS HAVE MADE ENQUIRIES AND SENT IN APPLICATIONS.

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THURSDAY CLOSURE
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THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME OPERATED BY THE LAW SOCIETY AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES IN MONG KOK AND EASTERN WILL NOT OPEN ON THURSDAY.

THE TWO CITY DISTRICT OFFICES WILL CLOSE ITS DOORS AT 5.30 P.M. ON THAT DAY.

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