



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 1977

KAI TAK AIRPORT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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SAFETY MEASURES EMPLOYED AT KAI TAK AIRPORT FOR THE BENEFIT OF INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL AIRCRAFT ARE OF AN EXTREMELY HIGH STANDARD AND ARE AMONGST THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

IN PARALLEL WITH MANY OTHER MAJOR AIRPORTS IN THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE FACILITIES FOR THE SAFE LANDING AND TAKE OFF OF AIRCRAFT, THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT CONFORM TO THE CODES OF PRACTICE AND REGULATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES.

ONE SUCH STEP TAKEN IS THE PROVISION OF RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING APPLIANCES OPERATED BY THE AIRPORT FIRE CONTINGENT WHICH PROVIDES A HIGHLY TRAINED UNIT OF PERSONNEL, EQUIPPED WITH A SOPHISTICATED RANGE OF EQUIPMENT TO ENABLE ANY INCIDENT WHICH MAY OCCUR TO BE DEALT WITH SPEEDILY, EFFECTIVELY AND COMPETENTLY.

THE AIRPORT GENERAL MANAGER, MR. KEN SMITH, SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE CONTINGENT DID NOT MEAN THAT THE AIRPORT WAS UNSAFE.

+A FIRE CONTINGENT IS ONE OF THE VITAL UNITS THAT HAVE TO BE STANDING BY AT ANY AIRPORT, EVEN THE SAFEST ON EARTH.

+OUR RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IS NOT ONLY SOPHISTICATED AND OF HIGH STANDARD, IT ALSO MEETS THE REQUIREMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION,+ HE SAID.

THE SENIOR DIVISIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AIRPORT FIRE CONTINGENT, MR. HARRY WORTHINGTON, EXPLAINS THE OPERATION OF HIS UNIT.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE AIRPORT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE RESTS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, ALTHOUGH ITS PERSONNEL ARE PROVIDED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE CONTINGENT HAS A COMBINED MARINE AND LAND ESTABLISHMENT OF 120 PERSONNEL WHO ARE REQUIRED TO ENGAGE IN A WIDE VARIETY OF TRAINING EXERCISE EVERY DAY TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY PREPARED TO COPE WITH ANY EMERGENCY WHICH MAY ARISE.

THE CONTINGENT IS DEPLOYED AT TWO FIRE STATIONS SITUATED AT EITHER END OF THE RUNWAY, WHICH ENSURES A MINIMUM ATTENDANCE TIME TO INCIDENTS. BOTH STATIONS HAVE DIRECT COMMUNICATION FACILITIES WITH THE AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER TO ENSURE RAPID TRANSFERENCE OF INFORMATION FROM AND TO THE SITE OF THE INCIDENT.

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THERE ARE TEN FIRST-LINE APPLIANCES WHICH INCLUDE FOAM TENDERS, DRY POWER TENDERS, AND A RESCUE VESSEL. IF THERE IS ANY NEED FOR REINFORCING APPLIANCES, THESE ARE READILY AVAILABLE FROM THE KOWLOON FIRE COMMAND.

FOR AN INCIDENT OCCURRING IN THE SEA SURROUNDING THE RUNWAY, A SEA RESCUE VESSEL IS PERMANENTLY ON STATION AND CAN BE DISPATCHED WITHIN SECONDS TO AN INCIDENT. IT IS ADDITIONALLY EQUIPPED WITH FACILITIES FOR NON-AMBULANT CASUALTIES.

THIS ENABLES COMFORT AND FIRST AID TREATMENT TO BE GIVEN PRIOR TO DESPATCH TO HOSPITAL SHOULD THIS BE NECESSARY.

THERE ARE ALSO TWO INFLATABLE RUBBER CRAFT FITTED WITH HIGH-POWERED OUTBOARD ENGINES WHICH ARE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN SEA RESCUE WORK BY VIRTUE OF THEIR SPEED AND MANOEUVRABILITY.

MEMBERS OF THE CONTINGENT WORK SET SHIFTS TO ENABLE A 24-HOUR AVAILABILITY OF RESCUE FACILITIES.

TRAINING GIVEN INCLUDES COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING EXERCISES, THEORETICAL LECTURES, INSTRUCTIONAL FILM SHOWS, EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, THE TECHNIQUE OF AIRCRAFT FIREFIGHTING AND RIGOROUS PHYSICAL TRAINING. AT REGULAR INTERVALS SIMULATED FIRE SITUATIONS ARE PREPARED TO ACCUSTOM PERSONNEL TO HOT FIRE CONDITIONS.

COMMUNICATION EXERCISES WITH THE AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER ARE ALSO A REGULAR TRAINING FEATURE.

SHOULD A REQUIREMENT ARISE, DIVERS ARE AVAILABLE. THEY ARE TRAINED REGULARLY TO MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD.

+THE CRITERION OF ANY AIRPORT FIRE UNIT IS TO REACH AN INCIDENT IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, WITH A WELL EQUIPPED AND HIGHLY TRAINED CREW, AND TO DEAL COMPETENTLY WITH ANY SITUATION,+ MR. WORTHINGTON SAID. +AND WE, AT KAI TAK FIRE CONTINGENT, ARE INTENSELY PROUD KNOWING WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS.

+WE ARE CONSTANTLY ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR ANY EQUIPMENT EMBODYING NEWER TECHNIQUES IN FIREFIGHTING AND TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE LATEST TRAINING METHODS. WE ALSO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH OTHER AIRPORT AUTHORITIES AND IF THE SITUATION WARRANTS OFFICERS ARE SENT OVERSEAS TO STUDY NEW METHODS,+ HE SAID.

THROUGHOUT 1976 THE CONTINGENT WAS ALERTED ON 204 OCCASIONS, OF WHICH 94 WERE RELATED TO BAD WEATHER AND 110 TO AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS, MOSTLY OF A MINOR NATURE.

MR. WORTHINGTON ADDED THAT THE CHANCE OF A MAJOR AIRCRAFT INCIDENT OCCURRING IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY. +BUT, SHOULD THIS HIGHLY UNLIKELY EVENT OCCUR, THE KAI TAK FIRE CONTINGENT CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE THAT WE ARE READY.+

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RECORD PRINT-RUN FOR NEW YEARBOOK

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THE NEW GOVERNMENT YEARBOOK -- HONG KONG 1977 -- GOES ON SALE TOMORROW (MONDAY) WITH MORE THAN 130 COLOUR PICTURES, FRESH MAPS AND A VARIETY OF OTHER NEW FEATURES IN BOTH THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE EDITIONS.

FOR MANY YEARS A BEST SELLER, THE BOOK IS PRODUCED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND THIS YEAR A RECORD NUMBER OF 35,000 COPIES ARE BEING PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER. THE PRICE REMAINS UNCHANGED AT \$15.

THE FIRST CHAPTER THIS YEAR IS A REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, ILLUSTRATED BY COLOUR CHARTS. THE CHAPTER SHOWS HOW THE POPULATION EXPLOSION AND OTHER FACTORS CAUSED HONG KONG TO EXPAND FROM ENTREPOT TO INDUSTRIAL PRODUCER, AND HOW THE PRESENT-DAY FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCENE HAS EVOLVED FROM A CHANGEOVER THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DICTATED BY NECESSITY.

IN THE OTHER 21 CHAPTERS ARE THOUSANDS OF THE MOST UP-TO-DATE GENERAL FACTS AND FIGURES ON HONG KONG, RANGING FROM THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EARNED BY DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE NUMBER OF GOATS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABBATOIRS OR THE NUMBER OF CONCERTS HELD AT THE CITY HALL DURING THE YEAR. IT IS A DETAILED WORK OF REFERENCE THAT IS A PACE-SETTER IN ITS FIELD IN THAT IT PRESENTS THE INFORMATION IN A READABLE FORM WHICH IS ENLIVENED BY THE SECTIONS OF COLOUR PICTURES. THE LAYOUT OF THESE SECTIONS HAS BEEN CHANGED IN THIS EDITION AND A DIFFERENT STYLE OF TYPE HAS BEEN USED FOR THEIR HEADINGS -- AND THE CHAPTER HEADINGS -- IN ORDER TO GIVE THE BOOK A NEW LOOK.

FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING, THE BOOK WAS AGAIN EDITED BY JOYCE SAVIDGE, A SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER WITH GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, AND IT WAS DESIGNED BY ARTHUR HACKER, CREATIVE DIRECTOR WITH GIS. THE CHINESE EDITION WAS PRODUCED BY A TEAM OF TRANSLATORS FROM HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HEADED BY PAULINE LEE. ALL THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN BY GIS PHOTOGRAPHERS.

THE NEW MAPS -- AT THE BEGINNING AND THE END -- WERE SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THIS EDITION BY CARTOGRAPHERS AT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. THEY FOLLOW THE LATEST THINKING IN MODERN MAP PRODUCTION AND THE RELIEF MAP AT THE FRONT OF THE BOOK WAS DESIGNED BY YOUNG CARTOGRAPHERS WHO HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM STUDYING CARTOGRAPHY IN THE NETHERLANDS.

HONG KONG 1977 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE IN CONNAUGHT PLACE. DURING THE WEEK IT WILL GO ON SALE AT CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND LEADING BOOKSHOPS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

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SURVEY ON H.K.'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1977

A RECENT SURVEY ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS SHOWED THAT THE OVERALL OVERSEAS DEMAND FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 1977.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, WAS DESIGNED TO COLLECT OPINIONS FROM MANUFACTURERS ON THE BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THIS YEAR.

THE STUDY COVERED 752 ESTABLISHMENTS EACH OF WHICH ENGAGED 20 OR MORE PERSONS. THEY WERE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM 10 MAJOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND WITH EMPHASIS ON LARGER CONCERNS.

MANUFACTURERS WERE OPTIMISTIC ON THE UNITED STATES MARKET, THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN REAL DEMAND BEING 14 PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING YEAR. MARKET PROSPECTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM APPEARED LESS FAVOURABLE AND THE VOLUME OF EXPORTS TO THIS DESTINATION MIGHT REGISTER A DECLINE. ON THE OTHER HAND, PROSPECTIVE SALES TO WEST GERMANY WOULD PROBABLY REMAIN AT ROUGHLY THE SAME LEVEL AS THAT OF 1976.

MOST MANUFACTURERS WERE APPARENTLY NOT INCLINED TO RAISE THEIR PRICE QUOTATIONS BEYOND A SMALL MARGIN. CONCURRENTLY, MANUFACTURERS DID NOT FORESEE ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN PRICES OF MOST RAW MATERIALS OR IN WAGE RATES.

AS REGARDS INVESTMENT, THE INCREASE IN PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND FACTORY SPACE PLANNED FOR 1977 WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS THAN THAT ACHIEVED IN 1976. NEVERTHELESS, THE EXPECTED RATE OF 11 PER CENT FOR EXPANSION IN PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND EIGHT PER CENT IN FACTORY SPACE WERE STILL IMPRESSIVE.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION (TEL. 5-444734) OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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