



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Monday, January 22, 1996

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JLG expert talks on the Hong Kong Handover Ceremony

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The second meeting between experts of the Joint Liaison Group on the Hong Kong Handover Ceremony will take place on January 23, 1996. The British side will be led by British Senior Representative, Mr Hugh Davies. The Chinese side will be led by Chinese Senior Representative, Mr Zhao Jihua. They will be assisted by experts from the two sides.

End

Government to acquire De La Rue's banknote printing plant

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announced today (Monday) that agreement has been reached with De La Rue plc for the Government through the Exchange Fund to purchase De La Rue's banknote printing plant in Hong Kong. The consideration for the sale is \$255 million. It is expected that completion of the sale will occur in early April 1996.

The Hong Kong printing plant was established by De La Rue in 1984. Since that time the plant has printed Hong Kong dollar currency notes for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Standard Chartered Bank and, more recently, the Bank of China. In addition, the plant has produced notes denominated in other currencies for export.

The sale offers the De La Rue Group the opportunity to rationalise its security printing activities in the South East Asian region. In signing the agreement the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, said: "The acquisition of the printing plant in Hong Kong will enable the Hong Kong Government to have closer involvement in the production of Hong Kong dollar currency notes. The new operation will be known as 'Hong Kong Note Printing Limited'. This development is in line with the responsibilities conferred upon the Hong Kong Government under the Legal Tender Notes Issue Ordinance and the Basic Law."

De La Rue will enter into a Technical Agreement to provide technical advice and support on the production of currency notes by the Hong Kong plant. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority and De La Rue are dedicated to ensuring the continuity, quality and integrity of supply of Hong Kong dollar currency notes following the completion of the sale of the plant.

End

No backdown over site safety assurance

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The Assistant Director of Buildings, Mr Cheng Wei-dart, today (Monday) refuted an allegation published in an English-language newspaper yesterday (Sunday) that in view of strong opposition, the Buildings Department might "backdown" over the Building (Amendment)(No 3) Bill.

Mr Cheng stressed that the Government remained firm in the site safety assurances proposed in the Bill, which was being examined by a Bills Committee of the Legislative Council.

"The proposals will best serve the interest of the community. They are also in line with the trend of tightening control over building and demolition works in overseas countries.

"Singapore has a similar system. In the European Communities, contractors and developers are subject to a directive requiring them to ensure safety and health standards on construction sites.

"In Britain, the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations which came into effect on March 31, 1995 also requires building professionals to be responsible for the safety of construction projects.

"The Buildings Department is not watering down the proposals, which provide the safety assurance our community deserves and needs," Mr Cheng said.

End

16th Annual Border Liaison Review Meeting today

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The 1995 Annual Border Liaison Review Meeting was held in Hong Kong today (Monday). The Hong Kong side was led by the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Nicholas Ng, and the Guangdong side by the Deputy Secretary General and Director of Foreign Affairs Office of Guangdong Provincial Government, Mr Chao Zhenwei.

This is the 16th regular meeting between Hong Kong and Guangdong. Both sides reviewed the work in connection with co-operation in border liaison. Under their joint effort, both sides have properly dealt with the related problems in the border area, such as combating of crimes, relieving of vehicular and passenger traffic at check points and maintaining of smooth and orderly traffic flow at the border crossings.

At the meeting, both sides also discussed immigration issues concerning Hong Kong and Guangdong, speeding up of works for the regulation of Shenzhen River and other issues at the border area that would require co-operation with each other. Both sides are confident that further co-operation on the basis of existing established arrangements will have a positive effect in promoting stability and prosperity of the two places.

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Appointments to Land Development Corporation Board

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The Governor has appointed Mr Lau Wah-sum as Chairman of the Land Development Corporation (LDC) for two years.

A government spokesman said today (Monday): "Mr Lau is a company president with an excellent record in public and community service. He has been a member of the LDC Board since 1992."

The out-going chairman, Mr Andrew Li, wished to step down from the post for personal reasons. The Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, has written to him, thanking him for his exemplary contributions to the corporation over the last two years.

The Governor has re-appointed Mr Michael Lai, Mr Ambrose Lau, Mr David Lee and Mr Pao Ping-wing to the LDC Board for a further two years. The Director of Home Affairs, Director of Lands and Director of Planning have also been re-appointed as Government's representatives on the board.

Four new appointments have been made. They are Ms Ophelia Cheung Looking, a management consultant and former Chief Executive of Consumer Council; Ms Angelina Lee, a solicitor; Mr David Peter Yip, a senior executive of a bank; and Mr James To, a Legislative Councillor.

The government spokesman said the four new members all had very good experience in their own profession and in public service and would make a valuable contribution to the work of the LDC Board.

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#### Co-operation essential in drug control

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Only by learning to co-operate effectively with other governments and with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) can the proper working of the international drug control treaties be ensured.

The remark was made by the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Alasdair Sinclair, today (Monday) at the opening of an INCB training seminar for drug control administrators in Asia.

Mr Sinclair said: "The treaties provide the essential framework for controlling the supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances."

INCB, a body established under the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, is tasked with promoting compliance by governments with the international drug control conventions.

The five-day seminar is part of its programmes designed to assist officials to carry out treaty obligations at the national level.

Mr Sinclair said many drugs and substances had valuable medical uses in addition to a potential for misuse.

"Governments need to ensure they are available for legitimate purposes while preventing their diversion to illicit channels," he said.

He noted that the Hong Kong Government had taken steps to comply with the requirements of the international conventions.

"We are among the top 10 traders in the world. About half of the 22 precursor chemicals controlled by the 1988 Vienna Convention are traded regularly through Hong Kong," he said.

A new law on this subject, the Control of Chemicals Ordinance, came into operation at the beginning of this month.

"It gives us what I hope will prove to be a practical and effective way of monitoring trade in these chemicals, in line with the requirements of the 1988 Convention," he remarked.

The seminar, sponsored by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and held in Hong Kong from January 22 to 26, is attended by 35 participants from 22 countries and territories in Southern and Eastern Asia.

Topics covered in the seminar include the operation of the international drug control system, the role of the international drug control bodies and the reporting obligations in relation to the estimates system for narcotic drugs requirements and the statistical returns systems for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

End

#### Lord Wilson visits proposed Kam Tin heritage trail

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Former Governor of Hong Kong, Lord Wilson, and Lady Wilson visited the proposed Kam Tin heritage trail in Yuen Long this (Monday) afternoon.

This followed a lunch and briefing about the work of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust which was hosted by Mr Alexander Au, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, at the headquarters of Hang Seng Bank in Central, for the Wilsons, members of the trust's Board and its council and major donors to the trust.

During the lunchtime briefing, Lord Wilson heard about the activities of the trust in the field of heritage preservation and promotion since it was established in 1992.

These activities include the production of teaching kits and the organisation of exhibitions, visits, competitions and other educational programmes for schools. They also extend to commissioning TV programmes in Chinese and English, sponsoring an international conference on archaeology and commissioning historical research projects to document various aspects of Hong Kong's history. The trust relies on donations to fund its very worthwhile activities. Parties interested in finding out more about the trust's work or to donate funds to support it should contact the Antiquities and Monuments Office at 136 Nathan Road, Kowloon or telephone 2721 2326.

Lord Wilson and Lady Wilson were accompanied on their visit to Kam Tin by Mr Au; Mr Edward Ho, Chairman of the Council of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust; Mr Benjamin Tang, Deputy Secretary for Recreation and Culture; and Mr Ian Petersen, Secretary of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust.

Staff of the Antiquities and Monuments Office and the Architectural Services Department explained to Lord Wilson that Kam Tin had been selected for the establishment of a heritage trail because of its rich historical background and the existence of a number of significant historical buildings and other interesting features within the same area.

The proposed trail, which will be about two kilometres long, links up 16 historical buildings and structures from Shui Tau Tsuen to Shui Mei Tsuen in Kam Tin. Lord Wilson and the party inspected eight of them, including Yi Tai Study Hall, So Lau Yuen (study hall), Loi Shing Tong (ancestral hall), Tree House, Tang Ching Lok Ancestral Hall, Cheung Chun Yuan (martial arts school), Tang Chan Yui Kuen Ancestral Hall and Chou Wong Yi Kung Study Hall. Along the way, the party met senior village representatives who came to greet the Wilsons and show them their historical buildings of which the Tang clan are justifiably proud.

Lord Wilson was very impressed by the buildings in Kam Tin and felt sure that people living in or visiting Hong Kong would be most interested in visiting and learning about them.

He noted that many of the buildings and structures would need to be restored. In addition, a number of improvements would have to be provided along the trail, including sitting-out areas, foot-paths, signage and information boards, car parks and toilets. It is estimated that it will cost about \$27 million to establish the trail.

Funding has already been secured and detailed planning is under way. The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust would be able to contribute by promoting Kam Tin's history by producing maps and educational materials.

Establishment of the trail will require close co-operation with the villagers in Kam Tin whose views will need to be taken fully into account. Lord Wilson was glad to learn that initial liaison with the villagers had started and that many were in support of the proposal.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Government hopes to open the trail to the public in 1998-1999.

End

#### Two more nominations received for DB by-election

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Two more nominations were received today (Monday) for the Tuen Mun District Board by-election in respect of Tin King constituency to be held on March 3.

One of the candidates is Ms Ho Hang-mui, a 38-year-old teacher.

Ms Ho can be contacted on 2457 3706 (daytime) and 7888 2697 (night-time.)

The other candidate is Mr Tse Yee-fong, a technician, aged 39.

Mr Tse's contact telephone numbers are 2453 2077 (daytime) and 2455 1233 (night-time.)

So far, three nominations have been received since the nomination period started last Friday. Nomination will close on February 1.

End

#### Stonecutters Island open day

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Ships, helicopters and assault craft will feature in spectacular action displays when the Royal Navy and Hong Kong's own soldiers, the Hong Kong Military Service Corps, open the gates of Stonecutters Island this weekend.

For the second time since the Navy moved from Central and the "island" itself was joined to the mainland, the two branches of the Armed Services will be mounting a weekend-long programme of public events on Saturday (January 27) and Sunday (January 28). The last open day was staged two years ago.

Highlights of the two-day programme will be action displays in the basin of HMS Tamar. In addition, a full shore programme will include arena demonstrations by motor-cycle and dog display teams together with traditional dragon and lion dances as well as music staged by the Pipes and Drums of 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The open day is being staged firstly to raise money for the Locally Enlisted Personnel Trust, the charity set up by the British Forces to provide funds for Hong Kong Chinese ex-members of the British Garrison who may find themselves in need or distress after 1997, and secondly to allow members of the public access to the military and to show them some of its work.

Also open to the public during the open day will be a large number of souvenir shops, games stalls and military displays, some of which will provide opportunities to examine and handle selected items of military equipment.

Admission to Stonecutters Island will be by tickets, which are on sale at Star Ferry Concourses in Central and Tsim Sha Tsui, and Mass Transit Railway stations at Central, Tai Koo, Tsim Sha Tsui, Mongkok, Kowloon Tong, Kwun Tong and Tsuen Wan.

End

1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles exercise in NT

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Members of the public are advised that the 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles (1 RGR) will be taking part in a field training exercise throughout the New Territories from 6 am on January 29 (Monday) to 6 pm on February 7 (Wednesday).

About 80 troops will be involved in the exercise and they will be using blank ammunition and pyrotechnics.

End

Updated information available in central register

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The Census and Statistics Department maintains a comprehensive and up-to-date computerised Central Register of Establishments which contains around 400,000 active business establishments in Hong Kong.

The register serves mainly as the sampling frame for various economic surveys conducted by the department. Besides, many other government departments and private organisations also make use of the records kept in the register in their publicity, business promotion, survey and research work.

Information kept in the Central Register of Establishments is updated on a quarterly basis. Updated information in respect of the third quarter of 1995 is now available.

A sample listing containing 20 per cent of the records randomly selected from the register is accessible by prospective users. Application for the supply of non-confidential particulars such as the name, address, major type of business activity and employment size class of all or part of the listed records can be made to the Central Register of Establishments Section of the department.

The information can be supplied in the form of photocopies or specially-run magnetic tapes. A charge will be levied for this service, at the following rates: -

- \* \$5.6 per page of photocopy for the first 20 pages and \$1.3 for each additional page thereafter; or
- \* a charge of about \$1,000 for a job requiring special computer run (exact amount depending on the complexity of the job concerned), if the information is required on magnetic tapes. The magnetic tape can be provided by the applicant, or by the department at a charge of \$105 per tape.

Further details about the provision of this service can be obtained from the Central Register of Establishments Section of the department on 2582 4760.

End

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 a.m. today (Monday) stood at 80.2 per cent of capacity or 470.290 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 414.413 million cubic metres of water, representing 70.7 per cent of capacity.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

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Tender date	22 Jan 1996
Paper on offer	EF notes
Issue number	3901
Issue date	23 Jan 1996
Maturity date	25 Jan 1999
Coupon	5.57 PCT
Amount applied	HK\$3,960 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$500 MN
Average price accepted (yield)	100.51 (5.45 PCT)
Lowest price accepted (yield)	100.49 (5.46 PCT)
Pro rata ratio	About 8 PCT
Average tender price (yield)	100.40 (5.49 PCT)

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,664	0930	+339
Closing balance in the account	2,361	1000	+339
Change attributable to :		1100	+339
Money market activity	+332	1200	+339
LAF today	+365	1500	+332
		1600	+332

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 123.9 \*+0.1\* 22.1.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.43	2 years	2711	5.60	100.72	5.24
1 month	5.40	3 years	3810	6.15	102.05	5.41
3 months	5.33	5 years	5012	6.38	102.60	5.85
6 months	5.29	7 years	7211	6.82	104.30	6.13
12 months	5.17	5 years	M502	7.30	105.11	6.15

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$9,785 million

Closed January 22, 1996

End