



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1981

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WHITE PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION  
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PUBLISHED THE WHITE PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG. THE WHITE PAPER SETS OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE PATTERN OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND INCORPORATES A NUMBER OF MODIFICATIONS ARRIVED AT ON THE BASIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE CONSULTATIVE GREEN PAPER PUBLISHED IN JUNE 1980.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE MAIN THRUST OF THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS HAD MET WITH VERY WIDE ACCEPTANCE, AND THAT THE NUMBER AND RANGE OF COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES, WAS ENCOURAGING. +IN DRAWING UP THE COURSE OF ACTION SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN FULL WEIGHT TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC AND A NUMBER OF MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE,+ HE SAID.

THE WHITE PAPER WILL BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 21, 1981, WHEN THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER, WILL PUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS BEFORE THE COUNCIL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT COPIES OF THE WHITE PAPER HAD BEEN PRINTED IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AND WERE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

+IT IS HOPED THAT MANY PEOPLE WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET A COPY OF THE WHITE PAPER AND READ IT CAREFULLY,+ HE SAID.

THE WHITE PAPER SPELLS OUT IN DETAIL THE FULL RANGE OF GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS RELATING TO THE STRUCTURE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING: -

- \* DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES
- \* DISTRICT BOARDS
- \* THE ELECTORAL FRANCHISE
- \* QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES
- \* REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL PROCEDURES
- \* THE URBAN COUNCIL
- \* CONSEQUENTIAL LEGISLATION

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE SCHEME SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER WAS DESIGNED TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC.

AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT WAS THAT OFFICIALS SHOULD BE OF SUFFICIENT SENIORITY AND AUTHORITY TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO LOCAL NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS. IN THE WHITE PAPER THE GOVERNMENT REITERATES ITS INTENTION TO ENSURE THAT DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED TO THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT BOARDS ARE AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL.

/+THIS WILL .....

+THIS WILL ENABLE THEM TO SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY, AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO ACT UPON ALL DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS AFFECTING THE SPECIFIC DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEES WOULD BE TO PROVIDE A +FORUM FOR INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION AND CO-ORDINATION TO ENSURE THAT DISTRICT NEEDS ARE MET, AND THAT DISTRICT PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED MORE EFFECTIVELY+.

ONE AREA IN WHICH THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MODIFIED CONCERNS ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT BOARDS. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC IN FAVOUR OF THE ADDITION OF A DIRECTLY ELECTED ELEMENT ON TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE URBAN AREA AS WELL AS THE SEATS PROVIDED FOR URBAN COUNCILLORS.

THE WHITE PAPER MAKES ADDITIONAL PROVISION FOR DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS TO SIT ON THE URBAN AREA DISTRICT BOARDS REPRESENTING EACH CONSTITUENCY IN THE DISTRICT. NO CHANGE IS MADE TO THE PROPOSALS IN RESPECT OF ELECTED MEMBERS ON THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT BOARDS AS SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT ELECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BE HELD IN MARCH 1982, AND ELECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE URBAN AREA IN SEPTEMBER 1982.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS WAS ANOTHER ASPECT COMMENTED ON BY THE PUBLIC, AND THERE WERE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF UNOFFICIAL CHAIRMEN.

TAKING THIS INTO ACCOUNT, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT INITIALLY THE CHAIRMEN SHOULD BE OFFICIALS BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO ESTABLISH LINKS WITH DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, IT INTENDS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE THAT THE CHAIRMEN SHOULD BE +EITHER UNOFFICIAL OR OFFICIAL, ELECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARDS THEMSELVES+.

+NO CHANGE IS MADE TO THE BROAD FUNCTIONS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS AS SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER, BUT THE WHITE PAPER DOES SPELL OUT THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID. ALTHOUGH ESSENTIALLY ADVISORY IN NATURE, DISTRICT BOARDS WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIAL POWER OF INFLUENCE OVER AFFAIRS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

THERE WAS ALSO A GOOD DEAL OF PUBLIC COMMENT ABOUT THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER TO VOTE.

THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSED A MINIMUM RESIDENTIAL QUALIFYING PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, WHICH WAS BASED ON THE EXISTING REQUIREMENT FOR URBAN COUNCIL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION. HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED SUGGESTED THAT A THREE-YEAR PERIOD WAS TOO SHORT, AND THAT SEVEN YEARS WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPRESSED WITH THE FORCE OF THESE ARGUMENTS AND THE WHITE PAPER NOW STATES THAT A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS OR MORE, BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION, WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A REGISTERED VOTER.+

+HONG KONG BELONGERS+ AND PEOPLE WHO ARE REGISTERED VOTERS FOR THIS YEAR'S URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS - EVEN IF THEY DO NOT MEET THE SEVEN-YEAR REQUIREMENT - WILL ALSO BE ENTITLED TO REGISTER.

MOREOVER, FOREIGN NATIONALS WILL BE ENTITLED TO REGISTER PROVIDED THEY FULFIL THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS.

THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSED THAT THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING SHOULD BE 21 YEARS. THERE WERE SUGGESTIONS THAT IT SHOULD EITHER BE LOWERED TO 18 YEARS OR RAISED ABOVE 21, BUT THE MAJORITY OF COMMENTS SUPPORTED 21 YEARS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR 21 YEARS AS THE MINIMUM AGE OF ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER TO VOTE.

FOR CANDIDATES THERE WILL BE THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT THEY SHALL HAVE BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR 10 YEARS OR MORE. CANDIDATES ARE NOT TO BE REQUIRED TO RESIDE IN THE CONSTITUENCY FOR WHICH THEY STAND. CANDIDATES MAY ONLY STAND FOR ONE CONSTITUENCY IN ANY ONE ELECTION.

THE WHITE PAPER ALSO CONTAINS CERTAIN PROPOSALS CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES, WHICH WERE NOT DETAILED IN THE GREEN PAPER.

THE WHITE PAPER SETS OUT IN SOME DETAIL THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL PROCEDURES. THE PRINCIPLE OF ELECTIONS ON THE CONSTITUENCY BASIS, AS SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER, IS MAINTAINED.

ONE DIFFERENCE IS THAT WHEREAS THE GREEN PAPER SUGGESTED THAT THE 15 ELECTED URBAN COUNCILLORS SHOULD BE ELECTED FROM CONSTITUENCIES IN EIGHT DISTRICTS IN THE URBAN AREA, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST DECREASING THE EXISTING FIGURE OF 10 DISTRICTS IN THE URBAN AREA.

THE WHITE PAPER, THEREFORE, PROPOSES THAT ONE URBAN COUNCILLOR SHOULD BE ELECTED FOR EACH OF TWO CONSTITUENCIES IN THE FIVE LARGEST DISTRICTS, WHILE THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE CONSTITUENCY IN THE FIVE SMALLER DISTRICTS. THE PROPOSED BALANCE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AT 15 ELECTED AND 15 APPOINTED MEMBERS REMAINS UNCHANGED FROM THAT IN THE GREEN PAPER.

FOR ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT BOARDS, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS THAT EACH DISTRICT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO A NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES, THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHICH WILL RETURN ONE ELECTED MEMBER TO THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES IN A DISTRICT AND THEIR SIZE WILL VARY ACCORDING TO THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT CONCERNED, BUT IN THE URBAN AREA THE CONSTITUENCIES WILL BE BASED GENERALLY ON THE EXISTING AREA COMMITTEE BOUNDARIES. THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE ABOUT 80 SUCH CONSTITUENCIES.

THE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AT PRESENT IDENTIFIED IS ABOUT 50, FOR SOME OF WHICH TWO MEMBERS MAY BE ELECTED, RETURNING ALTOGETHER SOME 60 ELECTED MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS IS TO BE BASED ON THE EXISTING SYSTEM.

AT THE ELECTIONS FOR BOTH THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, REGISTERED PERSONS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO VOTE IN CONSTITUENCIES BASED ON THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS THEY DECLARED AT REGISTRATION. AS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, RESIDENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE IN URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS= HOWEVER PERSONS LIVING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO STAND AS CANDIDATES FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL PROVIDED THEY FULFILLED THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS.

THE METHOD OF VOTING FOR BOTH DISTRICT BOARDS AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS IS TO BE THE SIMPLE +FIRST PAST THE POST+ SYSTEM I.E. BY SIMPLE MAJORITY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALSO ON JANUARY 21, 1981, THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 WOULD BE INTRODUCED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO LIMIT THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF SIX URBAN COUNCILLORS ELECTED IN THE MARCH 1981 ELECTION TO TWO YEARS. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE TERMS OF ALL 12 ELECTED COUNCILLORS WOULD EXPIRE IN MARCH 1983, AT WHICH TIME URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM.

THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE NEW ELECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WOULD BE ENACTED IN MAY THIS YEAR, SAID THE SPOKESMAN, AND REGISTRATION FOR THESE ELECTIONS WOULD BEGIN IN JUNE.

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GOVERNOR TO LAUNCH YEAR OF THE DISABLED  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE WILL OFFICIALLY DECLARE OPEN HONG KONG'S CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS (IYDP) AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN THE CONCERT HALL, CITY HALL THIS FRIDAY (JANUARY 16) AFTERNOON.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL MARK THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SERIES OF EVENTS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS' IYDP THIS YEAR.

THEY ARE PRIMARILY DIRECTED TO INCREASING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT DISABILITY IS, AN AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEMS IT MAY BRING, AND THE REHABILITATION SERVICES AVAILABLE.

ALSO ADDRESSING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE IYDP, DR HARRY FANG AND THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR E.P. HO.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, THE GOVERNOR WILL PROCEED TO THE EXHIBITION HALL TO CUT THE RIBBON FOR AN EXHIBITION ENTITLED +ONE OF US+ -- THE FIRST EVENT IN THE SERIES.

/HE WILL .....

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HE WILL THEN TOUR THE EXHIBITION WITH LADY MACLEHOSE,  
ACCOMPANIED BY DR FANG AND MR HO.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING  
CEREMONY OF THE IYDP AND THE +ONE OF US+ EXHIBITION IN THE CITY  
HALL THIS FRIDAY (JANUARY 16) AFTERNOON.

THE GOVERNOR WILL BE ARRIVING AT THE CITY HALL AT 2.20 PM.  
THE OPENING CEREMONY IN THE CONCERT HALL WILL START AT 2.30 PM  
AND THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD  
IN THE EXHIBITION HALL AT 3.15 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE EAST  
DOOR OF THE CITY HALL IN FRONT OF THE ARTS FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE  
NOT LATER THAN 1.45 PM WHERE GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO BRIEF  
THEM AND ESCORT THEM TO THE RESPECTIVE PRESS POSITIONS.

THERE WILL BE TWO PRESS POSITIONS: POSITION A WILL COVER THE  
GOVERNOR'S ARRIVAL AND THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION.

POSITION B WILL COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY FROM THE RIGHT  
PROMENADE IN THE CONCERT HALL. THOSE IN PRESS POSITION A WILL NOT  
BE ABLE TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY INSIDE THE CONCERT HALL.  
THOSE IN POSITION B WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S  
ARRIVAL OR THE EXHIBITION OPENING.

PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE ADVISED TO BRING ALONG EQUIPMENT FOR INDOOR  
PHOTOGRAPHY.

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FIVE NT SITES SOLD FOR NEARLY \$439 MILLION  
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FIVE NEW TERRITORIES SITES WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$438.7  
MILLION TODAY.

THE AUCTION, HELD IN A PACKED SHOUSON THEATRE OF THE ARTS  
CENTRE, LASTED ONE AND A QUARTER HOURS.

THE HIGHEST PRICE WAS PAID FOR A SITE IN SHA TIN FOR EITHER  
HOTEL OR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

MEASURING ABOUT 5 000 SQUARE METRES, IT WAS BOUGHT BY KA DUK  
INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED FOR \$241 MILLION (\$48 200 PER SQUARE  
METRE).

BIDDING OPENED AT \$125 MILLION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUYERS SAID HE FELT THAT SHA TIN HAD A  
VERY GOOD FUTURE AND THE LAND WOULD BE USED FOR HOTEL DEVELOPMENT.

/THE SITE .....

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THE SITE IS CLOSE TO THE SHING MUN RIVER IN WHAT WILL BE THE CENTRE OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$84 MILLION HAS TO BE MET WITHIN FOUR YEARS (THE FIGURE WOULD HAVE BEEN HALF IF THE SITE WAS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT).

AT THE SAME AUCTION, THE FIRST SITE FOR TAI PO NEW TOWN CENTRE WAS SOLD FOR \$169 MILLION (\$33 720 PER SQUARE METRE).

BIDDING STARTED AT \$70 MILLION.

THE PURCHASER WAS AMPLE GAIN COMPANY LIMITED WHO WILL BUILD MAINLY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ON THE 5 012 SQUARE METRE SITE.

THE BUILDING COVENANT ON THIS SITE IS \$32 MILLION TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN FOUR YEARS.

THE SITE IS THE FIRST OF NINE TAI PO NEW TOWN CENTRE SITES TO COME ON THE MARKET OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR TONY HARLAND, WHO CONDUCTED THE AUCTION, SAID THE PRICE SHOWED CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

A FURTHER SHA TIN SITE MEASURING 1 328 SQUARE METRES WAS SOLD FOR \$5.7 MILLION (\$4 292 PER SQUARE METRE).

THE SITE IS FOR LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH A PLOT RATIO OF ONLY 0.4.

THE PURCHASER WAS REDRIDGE COMPANY LIMITED.

THE BUILDING COVENANT IS \$1.12 MILLION TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN THREE YEARS.

TWO SITES AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG, WERE BOUGHT BY DASIDO COMPANY LIMITED FOR A TOTAL OF \$23 MILLION (\$4 340 PER SQUARE METRE).

BOTH SITES ARE FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN USE AND MEASURE 2 710 AND 2 588 SQUARE METRES.

THE BUILDING COVENANTS ARE \$7.8 MILLION AND \$6.54 MILLION, BOTH TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN FOUR YEARS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

LADY CATER CONTINUES VISIT TO COMMUNITY CHEST AGENCIES

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LADY CATER, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST OF HONG KONG, WILL VISIT ANOTHER THREE OF ITS MEMBER AGENCIES ON HONG KONG ISLAND ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 16).

THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST, MR G.A. HENDERSON, WILL ACCOMPANY LADY CATER ON HER VISITS TO THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF, THE STREET SLEEPERS' SHELTER SOCIETY AND THE SHENG KUNG HUI DIOCESAN WELFARE COUNCIL.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE VISITS AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

- \* HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF - HOST LIONS CENTRE, 21 HOSPITAL ROAD, SAI YING POON, FROM 9.30 TO 10.15 AM,
- \* STREET SLEEPERS' SHELTER SOCIETY - 21 HOSPITAL ROAD, SAI YING POON, FROM 10.15 TO 10.45 AM,
- \* SHENG KUNG HUI DIOCESAN WELFARE COUNCIL - 101 RIDLEY HOUSE, 2 UPPER ALBERT ROAD, FROM 11 TO 11.45 AM.

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FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR ROYAL OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

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STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WILL BE BIDDING FAREWELL TO MR GORDON BELL AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 16) AFTERNOON.

MR BELL HAS BEEN DIRECTOR, ROYAL OBSERVATORY FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS SINCE AUGUST 1965 AND WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE POST ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 17.

HE JOINED THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AS A SCIENTIFIC OFFICER ON JULY 2, 1949 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PROMOTED TO SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER IN 1961 AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN 1963. HE WAS AWARDED THE OBE IN 1975.

DURING THE TIME HE HAS BEEN IN HONG KONG, MR BELL HAS ALSO BEEN AN ACTIVE OFFICER IN THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE. HAVING JOINED IN 1951, HE WAS PROMOTED TO COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE FORCE IN 1962.

DURING HIS SERVICE IN THE RHKAAF, MR BELL FLEW BOTH FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT SUCH AS HARVARDS AND SPITFIRES, AS WELL AS WIDGEON AND ALOUETTE HELICOPTERS.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICE, HE WAS PRESENTED WITH THE AIR EFFICIENCY AWARD IN 1958. HE IS AT PRESENT HONORARY AIR COMMODORE OF THE FORCE.

/IN HIS .....

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IN HIS CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR, ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR BELL HAS REPRESENTED HONG KONG AT MANY INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS IN EUROPE, AMERICA AND IN SOUTH EAST ASIA. HE HAS ALSO HAD PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF METEOROLOGY, PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION.

MR BELL WILL BE REMAINING IN HONG KONG WITH HIS FAMILY FOR SIX TO 12 MONTHS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF MR GORDON BELL, TO BE HELD IN THE STAFF CLUB HOUSE OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, AT 4.30 PM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 16).

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PLEA FOR SAFETY AT CONSTRUCTION SITES  
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BUILDING CONTRACTORS WERE URGED TODAY TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO PREVENT OBJECTS FROM FALLING FROM HEIGHT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE PLEA WAS MADE BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING A RECENT ACCIDENT IN WHICH A WORKER WAS KILLED BY A FALLING SLAB OF CONCRETE AT A TSIM SHA TSUI CONSTRUCTION SITE.

IN ADDITION TO THE FATAL CASE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING FALLING OBJECTS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES. THE OBJECTS RANGED FROM WOODEN BOARDS TO SIZEABLE CONCRETE BLOCKS.

HE SAID: +MANY OF THESE ACCIDENTS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IF ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN. BOTH CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS HAVE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN OBSERVING THE SAFETY RULES LAID DOWN BY THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 1978.+

ACCORDING TO THE REGULATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, ALL STRUCTURES UNDER CONSTRUCTION SHOULD BE PROTECTED BY NETS AND FANS CAPABLE OF CATCHING ANY MATERIAL OR OBJECT THAT MAY FALL FROM THESE STRUCTURES ENDANGERING WORKERS ON THE SITE.

SCAFFOLDING MATERIALS, TOOLS OR ANY OTHER OBJECT SHOULD NOT BE THROWN, TIPPED OR SHUTTLED DOWN FROM HEIGHT TO THE DANGER OF ANY PERSON BELOW. WHERE PRACTICABLE, THESE OBJECTS SHOULD BE LOWERED BY MEANS OF A LIFTING APPLIANCE OR LIFTING GEAR. BUILDING DEBRIS SHOULD BE DISCHARGED THROUGH PROPER DELIVERY CHUTES.

/MATERIALS PLACED .....

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MATERIALS PLACED NEAR EDGES WHERE THEY ARE LIABLE TO FALL SHOULD BE REMOVED OR OTHERWISE FASTENED DOWN TO PREVENT THEM FROM FALLING.

ALL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH SUITABLE SAFETY HELMETS WHICH SHOULD BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON THE SITE.

+THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE WILL TAKE OUT SUMMONSES AGAINST CONTRACTORS OR WORKERS WHO BREACH THE REGULATIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN WARNED.

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PWD BLOOD FOR THE RED CROSS  
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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN MURRAY BUILDING TODAY DONATED 80 UNITS OF BLOOD TO THE HONG KONG RED CROSS.

THIS WAS THE FIRST DONATION BY THE DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR.

IN 1980, THE PWD DONATED A TOTAL OF 433 UNITS ON FOUR OCCASIONS.

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NEW TERRITORIES WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO AREAS OF SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 16).

IN SHA TIN, WHERE SUPPLY WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM, THE AFFECTED AREA COVERS SHA TIN TOWN LOT NO. 1, TO SHEK TSUEN, NGAU PEI SHA TSUEN, SIU LEK YUEN TSUEN, UN CHOW KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, AND SHA TIN AREA 14.

IN TUEN MUN, THERE WILL BE NO SUPPLY BETWEEN 10 PM AND 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY (SATURDAY) TO PREMISES IN AREA 12 INDUSTRIAL ZONE, CLASS +2+ LICENSED AREA IN AREA 34, TSING SHAN TSUEN, KIN TAI STREET FROM PUI TO ROAD TO HO TIN STREET, AND LUNG MUN ROAD FROM TSING WAN ROAD TO PILLAR POINT, INCLUDING PREMISES OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY AND CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME.

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