



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1977

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COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS JUST STARTED A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL ON THE NETWORK OF HIGH GRADE ROADS NOW BEING PLANNED AND CONSTRUCTED IN HONG KONG.

THE STUDY, COSTING \$2 MILLION, WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

AT THE END OF THE INVESTIGATION, RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE FOR A TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL SYSTEM WHICH AIMS TO IMPROVE SAFETY, EXPEDITE ATTENTION TO ACCIDENTS OR BREAKDOWNS ON THE ROADS, AND MINIMISE DELAYS TO OTHER ROAD USERS.

A FIRM OF CONSULTANTS, MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA (M.C.A.) HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE P.W.D. TO ASSIST THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE IN CARRYING OUT THE STUDY.

AN AGREEMENT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED TODAY AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. J.W. THOMAS, GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER (TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT), SAID THAT A STUDY TEAM, CONSISTING OF TWO ENGINEERS FROM THE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE UNIT OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE AND TWO FROM M.C.A., HAD BEEN SET UP.

THE TEAM, HE SAID, WOULD STUDY SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL SYSTEMS ABROAD AND EVALUATE THEIR APPLICABILITY TO HONG KONG.

+APART FROM RECOMMENDING AN APPROPRIATE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE ROAD NETWORK OF HONG KONG, THE TEAM WILL ALSO MAKE PROPOSALS FOR TRAFFIC ENGINEERING STANDARDS,+ MR. THOMAS SAID.

+AMONG THE THINGS TO BE CONSIDERED WILL BE THE PROVISION OF HARD SHOULDERS, SAFETY BARRIERS AND SIGNS.+

RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD ALSO BE MADE ON METHODS OF PATROLLING AND DEALING WITH BREAKDOWNS AND ACCIDENTS ON HIGH GRADE ROADS.

IN ADDITION, THE STUDY TEAM WOULD INVESTIGATE WHETHER A LINK UP BETWEEN A TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AND AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SCHEME IS DESIRABLE.

AS FAR AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY SURVEILLANCE OF CONTROL SYSTEM RECOMMENDED BY THE STUDY TEAM WAS CONCERNED, MR. THOMAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE THREE YEARS FROM THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE A SYSTEM BECAME OPERATIONAL.

+IT IS MUCH TOO EARLY TO INDICATE THE LIKELY COST OF ANY SYSTEM WHICH MAY BE INSTALLED, BUT IT WOULD BE VERY SMALL COMPARED TO THE COST OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION,+HE SAID.

/MR. THOMAS

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MR. THOMAS POINTED OUT THAT COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS OF TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE WERE BEING INSTALLED IN THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL AND WERE BEING PLANNED FOR THE ABERDEEN AND AIRPORT TUNNELS.

THESE SYSTEMS INCLUDE CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION, EMERGENCY TELEPHONES, AND ELECTRONICALLY VARIABLE SIGNS.

SIGNS ON THE APPROACHES TO THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL HAVE ALREADY BEEN ERECTED, READY FOR ITS OPENING IN THE NEW YEAR.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE STUDY, MR. THOMAS SAID, EMERGENCY TELEPHONES WOULD BE INSTALLED SOON ALONG TUEN MUN ROAD AND THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR.

+THESE TELEPHONES WILL BE LINKED DIRECT TO TRAFFIC CONTROL ROOMS AND ARE FOR USE BY DRIVERS WHO WISH TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF BREAKDOWNS AND ACCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

FOREIGN COMPANIES REACH 1,000 MARK * * * *

THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN COMPANIES REGISTERED IN HONG KONG UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE REACHED THE 1,000 MARK TODAY (TUESDAY) ACCORDING TO RECORDS IN THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

THEY ARE FROM 48 COUNTRIES WITH THE UNITED STATES LEADING WITH 253 COMPANIES. IT IS FOLLOWED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH 128 AND JAPAN 116.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT SAID THE FIGURE DID NOT INCLUDE FOREIGN COMPANIES OPERATING IN HONG KONG THROUGH LOCAL AGENTS BECAUSE ONLY THOSE WHICH HAD ESTABLISHED A PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG WERE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE COMPANIES REGISTRY.

THE FIRST FOREIGN COMPANY ON THE REGISTER IS AN AMERICAN BANK WHICH OBTAINED ITS POST-WAR REGISTRATION IN 1946. SINCE THEN 1,777 FOREIGN COMPANIES HAVE BEEN REGISTERED, BUT OVER THE YEARS, 777 CEASED TO HAVE A PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG AND WERE DE-REGISTERED.

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PRESENTATION OF INSIGNIA

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FORTY-NINE LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN DECORATED BY THE QUEEN WILL RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS FROM THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, AT A CEREMONY IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE INSIGNIA TO BE PRESENTED CONSIST OF THREE CBE'S, EIGHT OBE'S, ONE ISO, EIGHT MBE'S, SEVEN BADGES OF HONOUR, ONE QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL, ONE QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT, SIX BEM'S, TWO QPM'S, TEN CPM'S AND TWO ISM'S.

THE RECIPIENTS HAVE BEEN DECORATED EITHER IN THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS OR THE NEW YEAR HONOURS.

SPECIAL PARKING ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR GUESTS ATTENDING THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

ALL CARS CARRYING GUESTS MAY ENTER BY THE MAIN GATE OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE. AFTER GUESTS HAVE ALIGHTED, VEHICLES BEARING GOVERNMENT HOUSE LABELS MAY PARK IN THE FORECOURT OR TENNIS COURT AS DIRECTED, OR IF CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN, RETURN AT 6.50 P.M.

VEHICLES BEARING BLUE LABELS MUST LEAVE BY THE EAST GATE AND MAY THEN PARK AT UPPER ALBERT ROAD, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, THE SLIP ROAD TO THE SOUTH OF THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE BUILDINGS, THE METERED CAR PARK BETWEEN KENNEDY ROAD AND GARDEN ROAD, AND THE CAR PARK AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN LOWER ALBERT ROAD.

ALL VEHICLES PARKED INSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE SHOULD LEAVE BY THE EAST GATE. OTHER GUESTS ARE REQUESTED TO WALK TO THEIR CARS AFTER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

PARKING FACILITIES IN METERED SPACES IN UPPER AND LOWER ALBERT ROADS AND THE METERED CAR PARK BETWEEN KENNEDY ROAD AND GARDEN ROAD WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 3 P.M. TO 7.30 P.M. TOMORROW TO FACILITATE PARKING FOR INVITED GUESTS TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ONLY PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WITH SPECIAL PASSES WILL BE ADMITTED TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THEY SHOULD MEET GIS OFFICERS IN THE GUARD ROOM OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE NOT LATER THAN 5.30 P.M. TOMORROW.

NEWSPAPERS NOT RECEIVING PASSES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF PRINTS IN THE ORDINARY WAY WITH GOLDEN STUDIO, AT 527 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, TELEPHONE NO. 5-777940.

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NEW PAY STRUCTURE FOR P.W.D. TECHNICAL GRADES BROADLY
FAIR -- COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY CONCLUDES
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THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO AN IMPROVED PAY STRUCTURE FOR TECHNICAL GRADES IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE NEW STRUCTURE IS 'BROADLY FAIR'.

THE INQUIRY, CONDUCTED BY PROFESSOR WILLOUGHBY OF HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, WAS ORDERED BY THE GOVERNOR AFTER SOME MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL GRADES HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE NEW PAY STRUCTURE DESPITE LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MANAGEMENT.

THEY CLAIMED THEY HAD A CASE FOR EVEN HIGHER RATES OF PAY THAN THE IMPROVED ONES OFFERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

PROFESSOR WILLOUGHBY'S REPORT WAS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) AFTER MORE THAN SIX WEEKS OF DETAILED INVESTIGATION.

A TOTAL OF 15 SUBMISSIONS FROM GOVERNMENT STAFF ASSOCIATIONS, GROUPS OF OFFICERS, INDIVIDUALS AND MANAGEMENT WERE CONSIDERED BY PROFESSOR WILLOUGHBY.

THESE SUBMISSIONS WERE FOLLOWED UP BY QUESTIONS TO SENIOR GOVERNMENT STAFF AND TO EIGHT OF THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS. A NUMBER OF MEETINGS WERE ALSO HELD.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY WERE:
+HAVING REGARD TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PAY POLICY AS SUMMARISED IN THE 'STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND AIMS IN CIVIL SERVICE REMUNERATION' TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT GRADES IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ARE FAIR OR OTHERWISE AND TO RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNOR WHETHER THOSE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE AMENDED.+

PROFESSOR WILLOUGHBY'S CONCLUSIONS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN SECTIONS -- THOSE CONCERNED WITH ORGANISATIONAL PROBLEMS AND THOSE CONCERNED WITH PAY RATES.

ON ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS, HE CONCLUDES THAT:

- (A) THIS WAS A HIGHLY COMPLEX EXERCISE WHICH INEVITABLY INVOLVED COMPROMISES WHICH WOULD NOT PLEASE EVERYBODY=
- (B) SOME CRITICISM CAN BE MADE OF THE WAY IN WHICH CONSULTATIONS WITH CERTAIN STAFF ASSOCIATIONS WERE HANDLED, NEVERTHELESS THE REVIEW INVOLVED EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS AT ALL LEVELS=
- (C) THE ORGANISATION OF THE PWD IS ESSENTIALLY A MATTER FOR MANAGEMENT'S DISCRETION=
- (D) THERE MAY BE TEETHING PROBLEMS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW STRUCTURE AND THE MANAGEMENT SHOULD KEEP THE JOB SPECIFICATIONS UNDER REVIEW TO ENSURE THEY PROPERLY REFLECT WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS ON THE GROUND=

/(E) THE WHOLE

- (E) THE WHOLE STRUCTURE, IN PARTICULAR THE NEED FOR MORE SENIOR POSTS, SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW=
- (F) THE EFFECT ON MORALE OF POOR PROMOTION PROSPECTS AND THE LACK OF ATTENTION TO INDIVIDUAL GRIEVANCES SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED=
- (G) THE EFFECT ON STANDARDS OF EFFICIENCY OF LOW MORALE SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED= AND
- (H) OVERALL, THE ORGANISATIONAL AND CAREER STRUCTURE IS SATISFACTORY, +PROVIDED THAT THE MANAGEMENT LOOKS CLOSELY AT ITS STAFF/MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES.+

ON PAY RATES, PROFESSOR WILLOUGHBY CONCLUDES:

- (A) THE PAY INVESTIGATION UNIT IS TRULY INDEPENDENT AND ITS METHODOLOGY IS FAIR=
- (B) THE RESULTS OF THE 1977 PAY INVESTIGATION UNIT SURVEY OF TECHNICAL WORK IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE BEEN FAIRLY INTERPRETED=
- (C) EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS' CONFIDENCE IN THE PAY INVESTIGATION UNIT=
- (D) ALTHOUGH MANAGEMENT WAS NOT TOTALLY INFLEXIBLE IN PRESENTING THE NEW STRUCTURE TO THE STAFF, THE VERY EFFICIENCY AND SOPHISTICATION OF THE PAY INVESTIGATION UNIT LEFT THE MANAGEMENT WITH LIMITED SCOPE FOR NEGOTIATION AND FURTHER COMPROMISE=
- (E) THE PAY RATES ARE BROADLY FAIR HAVING REGARD TO GOVERNMENT'S PAY POLICY= AND,
- (F) CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SUCH SPECIAL ALLOWANCES AS ACTING PAY IF PRESSURE OF WORK RESULTS IN ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES BEING IMPOSED ON JUNIOR STAFF.

PROFESSOR WILLOUGHBY ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO SETTING UP FORMAL CIVIL SERVICE CONCILIATION MACHINERY, WHICH MIGHT PREVENT A RESORT TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION IN THE FUTURE.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. RON BRIDGE, SAID HE WELCOMED THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY. HE ADDED: +I WILL BE LOOKING INTO WAYS OF MAKING CLEARER TO STAFF ASSOCIATIONS THE ROLE OF THE PAY INVESTIGATION UNIT, AND INTO WHETHER DIFFERING PROMOTION PROSPECTS AND ANY LACK OF ATTENTION TO INDIVIDUAL GRIEVANCES HAS HAD AN EFFECT ON MORALE. I WILL ALSO BE EXAMINING CIVIL SERVICE PROCEDURES FOR SETTLING DISPUTES.+

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID McDONALD, SAID HIS STAFF WOULD BE KEEPING THE NEW STRUCTURE UNDER REVIEW. HE TRUSTED THAT STAFF ASSOCIATIONS WOULD NOW ACCEPT THAT THE NEW STRUCTURE AND PAY RATES WERE FAIR AND THAT THERE WOULD BE A SPEEDY RETURN TO NORMAL WORKING.

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BETTER WAGE PROTECTION FOR WORKERS IN
BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

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WORKERS IN THE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY GET BETTER WAGE PROTECTION FROM TODAY (TUESDAY) WITH THE COMING INTO OPERATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) ORDINANCE 1977.

THE NEW LEGISLATION WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN JUNE THIS YEAR IMPOSES A VICARIOUS LIABILITY ON ALL PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS, NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPERIOR SUB-CONTRACTORS TO PAY WAGES OWED TO SUB-CONTRACTORS' EMPLOYEES IN THE EVENT OF A DEFAULT IN PAYMENT OF WAGES BY THEIR SUB-CONTRACTORS.

UNDER THIS ORDINANCE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE OWED WAGES MUST NOTIFY THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR OR NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTOR OF THEIR WAGE CLAIMS IN WRITING WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE WAGES BECOMING DUE.

THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR MUST, IN TURN, NOTIFY EVERY SUPERIOR SUB-CONTRACTOR TO THE DEFAULTING SUB-CONTRACTOR WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE EMPLOYEES' NOTICE OF WAGE CLAIMS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ALL SUB-CONTRACTORS IN THE CHAIN OF SUB-CONTRACTING ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR OR NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTOR WITH INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES CLAIMING UNPAID WAGES.

THE LAW ALSO REQUIRES AN EMPLOYER WHO IS A SUB-CONTRACTOR TO SUPPLY HIS EMPLOYEES WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR OR NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTOR OF EVERY SUPERIOR SUB-CONTRACTOR WITHIN SEVEN DAYS ON RECEIPT OF A WRITTEN REQUEST.

THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR, NOMINATED SUB-CONTRACTOR OR SUPERIOR SUB-CONTRACTOR WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECOVER ANY MONEY PAID OUT IN WAGES FROM THE DEFAULTING SUBORDINATE SUB-CONTRACTOR AS A CIVIL DEBT.

HE CAN ALSO CLAIM CONTRIBUTION FROM OTHERS LIABLE OR DEDUCT, BY WAY OF SET-OFF, THE AMOUNT PAID BY HIM FROM ANY SUM DUE TO A SUB-CONTRACTOR WITH WHOM HE HAS ENTERED INTO A SUB-CONTRACT.

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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE INSPECTORS MAKE THE GRADE
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A TOTAL OF 13 PROBATIONARY INSPECTORS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WILL TAKE PART IN A PASSING-OUT PARADE ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 5).

TAKING THE SALUTE WILL BE MR. W. DORWARD, OBE, JP, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS. THE PARADE WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE SOME 50 OFFICIAL GUESTS AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THIS IS THE SECOND PASSING-OUT PARADE OF INSPECTORS HELD SINCE THE TITLE WAS CHANGED FROM PREVENTIVE SERVICE TO CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE PREVIOUS PARADE WAS HELD IN SEPTEMBER WHEN 16 INSPECTORS AND 57 CUSTOMS OFFICERS COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING COURSES ARE DESIGNED TO GIVE RECRUITS A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW IN RELATION TO SMUGGLING, NARCOTICS AND REVENUE PROTECTION, AND INCLUDE TRAINING IN JUDO, THE USE OF FIRE-ARMS AND METHODS OF SEARCHING ON LAND AND SEA AND AT THE AIRPORT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE PARADE. A GOVERNMENT COACH AM 5606 WILL DEPART FROM KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 9 A.M. ON SATURDAY TO TAKE GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL, AND LATER RETURN THE PARTY TO KOWLOON.

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OBSERVATORY'S CALENDAR NOW ON SALE

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THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S 1978 CALENDAR FEATURING MANY INTERESTING ASPECTS OF METEOROLOGICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION IS NOW ON SALE AT \$7 EACH.

THE INFORMATION-PACKED CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE GPO BUILDING, HONG KONG, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND LEADING BOOKSHOPS.

IN ADDITION TO DAYS AND DATES, THE CALENDAR LISTS TIMES OF SUNRISE, SUNSET, MOONRISE AND MOONSET, AND HIGH AND LOW TIDES. IT ALSO CONTAINS CHARTS OF NIGHT SKY AND TYPHOONS, THE DATES OF ECLIPSES AND THE 24 SOLAR TERMS OF THE CHINESE CALENDAR.

THE KING-SIZED PAGES FOR EACH MONTH FEATURE SOME ASPECTS OF THE NATURAL WORLD WHICH TOUCHES UPON HONG KONG.

FOR NOVEMBER 1978, THE GREAT ORION NEBULA IS HIGHLIGHTED. ORION (THE HUNTER) IS THE MOST EASILY DISTINGUISHABLE CONSTELLATION IN THE NIGHT SKY OF HONG KONG DURING WINTER AND IT CONSISTS OF SEVEN RELATIVELY BRIGHTER STARS.

IMAGINARY LINES LINKING THE STARS PRODUCE THE OUTLINE OF THE FIGURE OF A HUNTER WITH A BOW AND SWORD SHEATH HANGING AT HIS BELT. IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS BELT IS THE GREAT ORION NEBULA. TWO PHOTOGRAPHS BY LOCAL SKY-WATCHERS ILLUSTRATE THE CONSTELLATION AND THE NEBULA.

ALTHOUGH THE CALENDAR SAYS THE NEBULA PRESENTS A PARTICULARLY SPECTACULAR SIGHT IN LARGE ASTRONOMICAL TELESCOPES IT IS ALSO SUITABLE FOR VIEWING WITH ORDINARY BINOCULARS.

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