



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1984

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1984

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PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE
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IT HAS NOW BEEN DECIDED THAT THE PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, WILL BE HELD AT 8 AM ON DECEMBER 21, 1984 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER (INSTEAD OF 8.30 AM AS EARLIER ANNOUNCED).

ALL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE PRESS CONFERENCE SHOULD BE SEATED BY 7.50 AM. THERE WILL BE A THREE-MINUTE PHOTO-CALL AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES AND BEFORE THE PRESS CONFERENCE BEGINS. ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS MUST LEAVE THE COUNCIL CHAMBER BEFORE THE PRESS CONFERENCE GETS UNDERWAY.

ALL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE FOR +LIVE+ TELEVISION AND RADIO COVERAGE, REMAIN UNCHANGED.

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+1984 - A GOOD YEAR FOR HK TRADE+
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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT 1984 WAS A BUSY YEAR, BUT A GOOD YEAR FOR HONG KONG IN TRADE MATTERS.

SPEAKING AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION, MR MACLEOD STATED THAT THE MAJOR EXTERNAL PROBLEM HONG KONG CARRIED FORWARD INTO 1985 WAS THE U.S. ORIGIN RULES ISSUE.

+I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WE NEED TO KEEP OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES IN PERSPECTIVE. CERTAINLY THE CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF 'CALLS', RESULTING IN EVER MORE CATEGORIES OF TEXTILES COMING UNDER RESTRAINT, HAVE CAUSED US CONCERN.

+CERTAINLY WE HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OVER THE NEW ORIGIN RULES. BUT THESE DO NOT ALTER THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS OUR GREATLY VALUED, LARGEST TRADING PARTNER; AND THAT IT IS ALSO THE LARGEST INVESTOR IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY, A CONCRETE EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE.

+MOREOVER, THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WAS MOST HELPFUL IN PERSUADING CONGRESS TO CONTINUE TO INCLUDE HONG KONG AND OTHERS IN THE TARIFF PREFERENCE SCHEME.+

MR MACLEOD POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN, MOST VISIBLE ROLE OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS AFFECTING, OR LIKELY TO AFFECT, HONG KONG'S TRADE.

HE ADMITTED THERE ALWAYS HAD BEEN PROBLEMS AND THERE PROBABLY ALWAYS WOULD BE PROBLEMS. +THAT IS THE NATURE OF THE REAL WORLD,+ MR MACLEOD SAID.

HE CAUTIONED IT WAS IMPORTANT AT THE SAME TIME NOT TO BE MISLED BY THIS.

/+THE OUTSTANDING

+THE OUTSTANDING FACT OF LIFE AS REGARDS TRADE IS THAT WE HAVE RELATIVELY FEW PROBLEMS, AND THAT OUR TRADE IS SO BUOYANT. LET US NOT FORGET THE DRAMATIC TRADE FIGURES WHICH HAVE BEEN REVEALED MONTH AFTER MONTH, WITH TOTAL EXPORTS UP AROUND 40 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

+AND LET US NOT FORGET THAT WHILE WE HAVE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS, IN RELATION TO TEXTILES, TARIFF PREFERENCES, WATCHES EXPORTED TO FRANCE, FOR EXAMPLE, WE ALSO HAVE GREAT AREAS OF TRADE WHERE THERE ARE VIRTUALLY NO SUCH PROBLEMS,+ MR MACLEOD SAID.

LOOKING AHEAD, MR MACLEOD SAID THAT THE MAJOR TOPIC WHICH WOULD BECOME OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN 1985 AND 1986 WAS THE QUESTION OF WHAT WAS TO HAPPEN AFTER THE CURRENT EXTENSION OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (M.F.A.) EXPIRES IN 1986.

THIS WAS LINKED TO THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE GATT WORKING PARTY ON TEXTILES, AND WOULD IN TURN LEAD INTO THE QUESTION OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN HONG KONG'S BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES EXPIRE AT THE END OF 1986 AND 1987 RESPECTIVELY.

+IN ALL THIS, CONTINUED CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS VITAL. THIS IS ACHIEVED ON A DAILY BASIS IN GENEVA, BUT SPECIAL MEETINGS TO DEAL WITH MAJOR ISSUES LIKE THE M.F.A. EXPIRY WILL INCREASE NEXT YEAR.

+THERE WAS A USEFUL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MEETING WHICH HONG KONG ATTENDED IN KARACHI THIS SUMMER. THERE WILL BE A CRUCIAL MEETING IN APRIL NEXT YEAR IN MEXICO WHICH I HOPE TO ATTEND.

+CONTINUED ACTIVITY BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS OFFICES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN GENEVA AND WASHINGTON, WILL BE VITAL, TO SAFEGUARD OUR INTERESTS, GIVE ADVANCED WARNING OF DEVELOPMENTS, AND TO SEEK TO INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKERS,+ MR MACLEOD SAID.

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MORE EXCLUDED FROM PART II RENT CONTROL

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FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), DOMESTIC TENANCIES OF PREMISES WITH A RATEABLE VALUE OF OR ABOVE \$35 000 AS AT JUNE 10, 1983 ARE EXCLUDED FROM PART II OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE, AND THE REVISED SYSTEM REGULATING RENT INCREASES BECOMES OPERATIVE.

THESE AMENDMENTS WERE ENACTED IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT ABOUT 2 000 DOMESTIC TENANCIES OF PREMISES WITH A RATEABLE VALUE OF OR ABOVE \$35 000 AS AT JUNE 10, 1983 (I.E. THE OLD RATEABLE VALUE BEFORE THE 1984 REVALUATION) WERE EXCLUDED FROM RENT INCREASE CONTROL UNDER PART II. THEY WOULD, HOWEVER, BE PROTECTED UNDER PART IV, WHICH AFFORDS SECURITY OF TENURE AT THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT.

UNDER PART IV, A SIX-MONTH NOTICE MUST BE GIVEN BY THE LANDLORD BEFORE HE MAY TERMINATE A TENANCY BUT THE TENANT CAN SEEK A RENEWAL IF HE DOES NOT INTEND TO LEAVE. IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED BETWEEN THE PARTIES, THE TENANT CAN APPLY TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FOR THE GRANT OF A NEW TENANCY.

AS REGARDS THE SYSTEM REGULATING RENT INCREASES OF DOMESTIC TENANCIES OF POST-WAR PREMISES PROTECTED UNDER PART II OF THE ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT PRIOR TO DECEMBER 19 THE PERMITTED INCREASE IN RENT WAS HALF OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT AND THE CURRENT RENT, LIMITED TO 30 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT RENT BUT, IN ANY EVENT, THE RESULTANT NEW RENT HAD TO REACH AT LEAST 30 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT.

FROM DECEMBER 19, THE PERMITTED INCREASE IS DETERMINED BY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT AND THE CURRENT RENT, STILL LIMITED TO 30 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT RENT. BUT, IF THE INCREASE SO DETERMINED, WHEN ADDED TO THE CURRENT RENT, RESULTS IN A RENT LESS THAN 45 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT, THE PERMITTED INCREASE WILL BE AN AMOUNT NECESSARY TO BRING THE CURRENT RENT UP TO 45 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT OF A FLAT IS \$3 000 AND THE CURRENT RENT IS \$1 000, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO WOULD BE \$2 000; BUT THE INCREASE IS LIMITED TO 30 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT RENT WHICH IS \$300. HOWEVER AS THE RESULTANT NEW RENT ($\$1\ 000 + \$300 = \$1\ 300$) IS LESS THAN 45 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT WHICH IS EQUAL TO \$1 350, THE PERMITTED INCREASE IS THEREFORE \$350, I.E. THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO BRING THE CURRENT RENT UP TO 45 PER CENT OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT APPLICATIONS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF RENT INCREASE RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE DECEMBER 19 WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE REVISED SYSTEM. THE REVISION WOULD AFFECT LESS THAN 16 PER CENT OF PROTECTED TENANCIES, BEING THOSE WHERE THE TENANTS WERE PAYING RELATIVELY LOW RENTS.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THESE AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE RENT OFFICERS OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT OR THE STAFF AT ANY OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES.

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ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT FOR LEGCO

THE REPORT OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE AND THE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING TEAM ON THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE SINO-BRITISH DRAFT AGREEMENT WILL BE TABLED AT TOMORROW'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

NINE QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON A VARIETY OF MATTERS. THESE QUESTIONS WILL INCLUDE PLANS TO IMPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN NEW TOWNS, MEASURES TO MINIMISE FIRE HAZARDS IN DOMESTIC AND FACTORY PREMISES, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND WHETHER A PUTONGHUA DEPARTMENT WILL BE SET UP IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.

SEVEN NEW BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME TOMORROW.

THEY ARE:

- * ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984,
- * PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1984,
- * MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) BILL 1984,
- * TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984,
- * FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984,
- * PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, AND
- * EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

AND DEBATE WILL RESUME ON THE HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, PRIOR TO FINAL READING.

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TAC ENDORSES KMB ROUTE GROWTH PLAN

THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY ENDORSED THE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY FOR 1984 TO 86.

UNDER THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, THE COMPANY WOULD ENLARGE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS BUS FLEET TO CATER FOR THE PUBLIC HOUSING AND NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENTS IN SHA TIN AND EASTERN AND WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

/THE PROGRAMME

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THE PROGRAMME WOULD REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN DOUBLE DECKERS ON THE ROAD, FROM THE PRESENT NUMBER OF 2 281 TO 2 569 BY THE END OF 1985, AND 2 755 BY THE END OF 1986. KMB IS EXPECTED TO SPEND \$212 MILLION IN 1985 AND ABOUT \$204 MILLION IN 1986 TO FINANCE THE EXPANSION OF ITS FLEET.

THE MEETING ALSO EXAMINED THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CONTRACT HIRE CAR SCHEME INTRODUCED IN 1982. THE NUMBER OF HIRE CAR PERMITS HAD CONTINUED TO DECLINE, MOST OF THE CANCELLATIONS AND SURRENDERS BEING IN THE PRIVATE HIRE CAR AND SCHOOL HIRE CAR CATEGORIES.

A TOTAL OF 867 PERMITS WERE IN EFFECT, OUT OF A GAZETTED LIMIT OF 3 460.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE POLICE FORCE WAS CONTINUING TO MONITOR REPORTED AND SUSPECTED PAK PAI ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND WOULD BE TAKING ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO ENSURE THAT PRIVATE HIRE CARS WHOSE PERMITS HAD BEEN CANCELLED DID NOT REVERT TO ILLEGAL PAK PAI OPERATIONS.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS WHITE PAPER
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NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AT THEIR MEETING ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 20).

REPRESENTATIVES FROM RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE PROPOSED ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING SYSTEM AND THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT SCHEME.

AT THE MEETING, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION WILL ALSO EXPLAIN THE PROVISION OF THE TRAIN SERVICES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES AND A BIMONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

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HISTORY IN THE MAKING

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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MUSEUM OF HISTORY WILL ORGANISE A +HISTORY IN THE MAKING+ PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION NEXT SPRING FOR RESIDENTS AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 25. THE EVENT IS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

ENTRIES TO THE COMPETITION SHOULD BE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN LOCALLY AND DEPICTING OCCASIONS AND EVENTS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE. THEY MAY COVER VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS TRADE AND INDUSTRY, CONSTRUCTION AND GROWTH, CRAFTS AND PROFESSIONS, LIFE AND CUSTOMS, AND CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS.

ENTRIES MAY BE COLOUR OR BLACK-AND-WHITE PRINTS MOUNTED ON A CARDBOARD OF THE SAME SIZE. THE SIZE OF THE PRINT MAY RANGE FROM 20 CM BY 25 CM TO 40 CM BY 50 CM. SLIDES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

IN ADDITION TO TROPHIES, THERE WILL BE CASH PRIZES OF \$2 000, \$1 200 AND \$800 FOR THE FIRST THREE WINNERS. TWELVE OUTSTANDING ENTRIES WILL ALSO BE SELECTED FOR A CASH AWARD OF \$300 EACH.

ENTRY FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY JANUARY AT THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN KOWLOON PARK. CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES WILL BE MARCH 31, 1985.

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WARNING AGAINST IMPORTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

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PEOPLE GOING ABROAD FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARE ADVISED NOT TO BRING BACK ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES OF ANIMALS OR PLANTS.

THESE INCLUDE LIVE OR STUFFED SPECIMENS OF SEA TURTLES, CROCODILES, OWLS AND PANGOLINS AS WELL AS WILD AMERICAN GINSENG, WILD ORCHIDS AND WILD CACTUS.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, OVER 50 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED FOR ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ITEMS BANNED UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE.

THE ITEMS SEIZED INCLUDED STUFFED SPECIMENS OF SEA TURTLES, EGGS, SHELLS AND SCALES, ELEPHANT SKINS AND TUSKS, RHINO HORNS, LIVE AND STUFFED SPECIMENS OF CROCODILES AND SKINS, PYTHON SKINS, STUFFED SPECIMENS OF PANGOLINS AND SKINS, OWLS AND CIVETS.

/THE ORDINANCE,

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THE ORDINANCE, WHICH GIVES EFFECT TO THE CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA, PROVIDES FOR A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5 000 ON CONVICTION FOR FIRST OFFENCES, AND \$10 000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID IT WAS GRATIFYING THAT MORE PEOPLE WERE BECOMING AWARE OF THE NEED TO PROTECT CERTAIN ANIMALS AND PLANTS WHICH FALL INTO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES AND THE BAN ON THEIR IMPORTATION.

RECORDS SHOW THAT PREVIOUSLY ABOUT 200 PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED EACH YEAR FOR IMPORTING ITEMS OF ENDANGERED SPECIES.

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CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME GOES ON

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THIRTY-SIX YEAR OLD LAI SING-HIN IS AN OUTDOOR MAN - AND ON HOLIDAYS LIKES TO TAKE HIS FAMILY TO THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR THE CLEAN, FRESH AIR.

BECAUSE OF HIS LIKING FOR OPEN SPACES, HE IS TAKING PART ONCE AGAIN, IN THE CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME.

HE WAS A WINNER IN LAST YEAR'S SCHEME.

THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR TO ENABLE NATURE LOVERS TO HAVE FUN WHILE LEARNING HOW TO CARE FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE.

THIS YEAR'S SCHEME, WHICH STARTED YESTERDAY, IS DIVIDED INTO TWO STAGES - LITTER PICKING AND TREE PLANTING.

THE FIRST STAGE WILL LAST UNTIL FEBRUARY 28 NEXT YEAR.

IT IS OPEN TO ANYONE OVER THE AGE OF 12, BUT IS LIMITED TO 8 000 ENTRIES ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS. THE PARTICIPANTS MAY VISIT ANY OF THE COUNTRY PARKS IN SHING MUN, TAI MO SHAN, TAI LAM, PLOVER COVE, PAT SIN LENG, KAM SHAN, SAI KUNG WEST, SAI KUNG EAST, CLEAR WATER BAY, ABERDEEN, QUARRY BAY OR LANTAU SOUTH WHERE THEY WILL BE GIVEN A LITTER BAG AT THE REPORTING POST.

ANYONE WHO HANDS IN A FULL BAG OF REFUSE WILL BE ISSUED WITH A PASS CARD VERIFIED WITH A MERIT STAMP, TOGETHER WITH A +CLEAN AND GREEN+ CLOTH BADGE AS A SOUVENIR.

THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE STAGE ONE MAY ENTER STAGE TWO, DURING WHICH THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO PLANT A TREE AT ANY COUNTRY PARK ON THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAY, IN LATE MARCH OR MID APRIL.

/PARTICIPANTS, HAVING

- 8 -

PARTICIPANTS, HAVING COMPLETED STAGE TWO, WILL ENTER A LUCKY DRAW, OUT OF WHICH 250 WILL BE SELECTED TO ATTEND A PICNIC AT CHEUNG SHEUNG IN SAI KUNG ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28.

A LEAFLET GIVING DETAILS OF THE SCHEME MAY BE OBTAINED AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IN CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

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BOOK ON COUNTRY PARKS PUBLISHED

A DETAILED BOOK ON HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARKS HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.

THE AUTHOR OF THIS DEFINITIVE BOOK, DR STELLA THROWER, IS A BIOLOGIST, TEACHER AND CONSERVATIONIST.

MANY OF THE SEVERAL MILLION PEOPLE WHO VISIT THE COUNTRY PARKS EACH YEAR ARE KEEN ON LEARNING MORE ABOUT THEIR TOPOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY.

+AS ECOLOGICAL STUDIES ARE NOW INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM OF MANY SCHOOLS, A DESIRE FOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE HAS BEEN GROWING AMONG THE YOUNG VISITORS.

+THE NEW PUBLICATION, AVAILABLE AT \$48 A COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, G.P.O. BUILDING, HONG KONG, FULFILLS THIS NEED,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTERS DESCRIBE THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL PARKS PHILOSOPHY, THE BACKGROUND TO THE COUNTRY PARKS IN HONG KONG AND THE NEED FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION.

DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PARKS AND THEIR TOPOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY ARE GIVEN, LINKED TOGETHER BY +SEASONAL INTERLUDES+ WHICH SUMMARISE SEASONAL CHANGES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IN TERMS OF SIMPLE FEATURES EASILY DISCERNED BY ANY OBSERVANT VISITOR.

+TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WILL FIND THIS PUBLICATION A UNIQUE AND USEFUL SOURCE MATERIAL TOGETHER WITH ITS CLEAR AND PRACTICAL NOTES FOR FIELD EXPEDITIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAI.

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CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL AT VICTORIA PARK

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A CARNIVAL WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES WILL BE STAGED AT VICTORIA PARK ON CHRISTMAS EVE TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON.

+CHRISTMAS EVE AT VICTORIA PARK+ WILL BE THE FIRST REGIONAL CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH. THREE OTHER DISTRICT BOARDS - WAN CHAI, SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AND WESTERN - ARE ALSO HELPING.

DETAILS OF THE CARNIVAL WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MADAM CHRISTINA TING.

BESIDES PROVIDING FREE ENTERTAINMENT, THE CARNIVAL SHOULD HELP FOSTER COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMONG LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, SHE SAID.

THE CARNIVAL WILL START OFF WITH A CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME AT 6.30 PM. POPULAR TV CARTOON CHARACTERS WILL BE ON HAND TO PLAY WITH CHILDREN AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE PERFORMING.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A DRAMA PERFORMANCE BY A GROUP FROM THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT.

THE OPENING CEREMONY, AT 8 PM, WILL BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR ALBERT LAM, AND URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A LION DANCE ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

THERE WILL ALSO BE PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF AEROBIC DANCES AND BREAK DANCES.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE NIGHT'S PROGRAMME WILL BE A TWO-HOUR ALL-STAR EXTRAVAGANZA FEATURING SOME OF HONG KONG'S WELL-KNOWN ARTISTES. PRODUCED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE SHOW WILL CONCLUDE WITH CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING AT MIDNIGHT.

THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN, SAID THE HING FAT STREET CAR PARK WILL BE CLOSED THAT DAY, AND ONLY AUTHORISED VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED INTO VICTORIA PARK THAT EVENING.

HE SAID TRAMS AND BUSES WILL BE RUNNING UNTIL AFTER THE CARNIVAL AND URGED THE PUBLIC TO MAKE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE ORGANISERS AND TO MAINTAIN ORDER DURING AND AFTER THE CARNIVAL. EIGHT GATES IN THE PARK WILL BE OPENED TO PROVIDE A BETTER FLOW OF VISITORS TO THE CARNIVAL.

A COMMAND POST WILL ALSO BE SET UP IN FOOTBALL PITCH NUMBER 6 TO PROVIDE FIRST AID TREATMENT AND FOR REPORTING LOST CHILDREN.

THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD HAS CONTRIBUTED ABOUT \$30 000 TOWARDS THE TOTAL COST OF MORE THAN \$72 000 TO STAGE THE CARNIVAL.

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CHILDREN'S PARK FOR LAMMA
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A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND WILL BE BUILT IN SOK KWU WAN ON LAMMA NEXT YEAR TO COMPLEMENT EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THERE, ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A NEW SITTING-OUT AREA AT SOK KWU WAN, MR YAP SAID A NUMBER OF OTHER FACILITIES WERE ALSO BEING PLANNED FOR THE AREA.

+WITH DISTRICT BOARDS DEVELOPING INTO FULL MATURITY OVER THE COMING YEARS, THERE WILL BE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND IN BETTER MANAGEMENT OF DISTRICT AFFAIRS,+ HE SAID.

+SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD IN 1982, MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN COMMUNITY BUILDING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORK,+ HE ADDED.

MR YAP CALLED ON THOSE INTERESTED IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY TO RUN AS CANDIDATES FOR THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN MARCH. THE NOMINATION PERIOD FOR CANDIDATES WILL BE FROM JANUARY 4 TO 31.

HE ALSO URGED REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE DISTRICT TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY.

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YOUTH CHOIR CONCERT
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THE 70-STRONG MUSIC OFFICE YOUTH CHOIR WILL BE GIVING A CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, GARDEN ROAD ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 21) AT 8 PM.

FORMED IN 1980, THE CHOIR HAS PERFORMED ON MANY OCCASIONS AND WORKED WITH RENOWNED MUSICIANS AND GROUPS, SUCH AS SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS, GEORG TINTNER AND THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA.

ADMISSION IS FREE.

LIMITED ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE MUSIC OFFICE HONG KONG MUSIC CENTRE AT THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE; YAUMATI MUSIC CENTRE AT THE GOLDEN GATE COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 138 AUSTIN ROAD, THIRD FLOOR; MONG KOK MUSIC CENTRE, CAMBRIDGE COURT, 84 WATERLOO ROAD, FIRST FLOOR; AND ALL OFFICES OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN).

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 5-283257.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED
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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON LEE KOON-YUK ALIAS LEE KOON-WO ON MAY 14, 1982 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

LEE WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF MR LAM KAI-YUEN ON OCTOBER 6, 1981.

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REMINDER ON REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBER
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REGULATIONS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE REQUIRING DEVELOPERS TO PROVIDE REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBERS IN CERTAIN NEW BUILDINGS WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON JANUARY 1, 1985.

THESE REGULATIONS WERE PUBLISHED IN JUNE 1984, ALLOWING A GRACE PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS BEFORE COMING INTO FORCE.

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WILL ENSURE THAT PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBERS AND REFUSE CHUTES ARE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS, WHILE STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL INSPECT THESE FACILITIES AND WILL TAKE ACTION TO ABATE ANY NUISANCES.

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FRESH, SALT WATER CUTS
* * *

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN WANG TAU HOM WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 20) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY JUNCTION ROAD, FU MEI STREET, FU KEUNG STREET, WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD, WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD AND WANG TAU HOM SOUTH ROAD, INCLUDING FU WAN STREET, WANG TAU HOM TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, WANG LOK HOUSE, WANG YUK HOUSE AND BLOCKS 21 TO 24 OF WANG TAU HOM ESTATE.

MEANWHILE, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME ESTATES IN KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED BETWEEN 9 AM AND 9 PM ON THURSDAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THEY ARE: LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING, CHOI WAN, SHUN LEE, SHUN TIN AND SHUN ON, INCLUDING AN AREA BOUNDED BY HONG LEE ROAD, HONG NING ROAD AND KUNG LOK ROAD IN KWUN TONG.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE
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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT TSZ WAN SHAN FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS FROM THURSDAY (DECEMBER 20), TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THEY ARE:

- * ONE-LANE ALTERNATE-WAY TRAFFIC WILL BE MAINTAINED ON LOK WAH STREET WITH ONE OF ITS CARRIAGEWAYS CLOSED.
- * NO RIGHT-TURN WILL BE ALLOWED FROM THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TSZ WAN SHAN ROAD INTO LOK WAH STREET.

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