



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 1986

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CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND DESERVES CAREFUL EXAMINATION  
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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND DESERVES THE MOST CAREFUL EXAMINATION - NOT JUST AS AN EMPLOYEES' BENEFIT SCHEME BUT ALSO AS A MAJOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY WITH FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

ADDRESSING A SEMINAR ON CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, MR CHEN POINTED OUT THAT FROM ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POINTS OF VIEW, SUCH A SCHEME WOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE AND, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD BE LIKELY TO AFFECT ALMOST EVERYONE.

+CURRENTLY THE ADMINISTRATION IS FINALISING AN ASSESSMENT OF MAJOR FACTORS RELEVANT TO A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND AND THIS ASSESSMENT IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION,+ HE SAID.

+WE THEREFORE VERY MUCH WELCOME SEMINARS AND DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.+

MR CHEN NOTED THAT IN CONTRIBUTING TO SUCH A SCHEME, EMPLOYERS WOULD EXPECT THEIR EMPLOYEES TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES MORE CLOSELY WITH THEIR COMPANY AND TO MAKE A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO ITS SUCCESS.

AS FOR EMPLOYEES, SUCH A SCHEME WOULD MEAN COMPULSORY SAVING OF A PART OF THEIR MONTHLY INCOME OVER THEIR ENTIRE WORKING LIFE, BUT THEY COULD EXPECT TO REAP THE FRUIT OF THIS LIFE-LONG CONTRIBUTION AND ENJOY SOME DEGREE OF FINANCIAL SECURITY WHEN THEY FINALLY RETIRED.

HE CALLED ON SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE SEMINAR TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS ON BOTH THE PROS AND CONS AS WELL AS THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A FUND SINCE +THESE WILL BE MOST USEFUL NOT ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT, BUT TO OUR COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE+.

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SUBSIDY FOR CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT AVAILABLE  
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A TOTAL OF \$250 000 HAS BEEN SET ASIDE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION TO SUBSIDISE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECTS ON CIVIC EDUCATION.

+APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUBSIDY ARE NOW OPEN AND THE MAXIMUM GRANT PER PROJECT IS \$10 000,+ CONVENOR OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, MR MAK HOI-WAH, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

/THE AIM .....

THE AIM OF THE SCHEME WAS TO STIMULATE ORGANISATIONS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION, AND TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS, HE SAID.

+THE BASIC CONTENTS OF THESE PROJECTS SHOULD ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO UNDERSTAND AND PRACTISE 'RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP', TO UNDERSTAND AND UPHOLD CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO UNDERSTAND THE MAJOR ELEMENTS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING HONG KONG AN OPEN, COSMOPOLITAN AND MODERN SOCIETY,+ HE ADDED.

+IT SHOULD ALSO ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICS THUS ENHANCING THE IDEA OF FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE; TO UNDERSTAND THE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED CHANGES AND CHALLENGES THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG AND TO UNDERSTAND CHINA'S PAST AND PRESENT, TO COMPREHEND HER TRADITION AND CULTURE AND TO BE CONCERNED FOR HER FUTURE DEVELOPMENT,+ MR MAK SAID.

+DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES, THE SUBSIDY SCHEME WILL NOT BE APPLIED TO SCHOOL PROJECTS HELD SOLELY FOR STUDENTS NOR PROJECTS ALREADY SPONSORED BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT BOARD OR URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

+THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30, 1986 AND THE CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY,+ HE ADDED.

EACH APPLICATION WILL BE VETTED AND ASSESSED BY THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION GROUP WHICH COMPRISE UNOFFICIALS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

+IN DECIDING THE SUBSIDY, EACH APPLICATION WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE CONTENT OF THE PROJECT, THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED AND THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAMME,+ MR MAK SAID.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER AND, IF NECESSARY, COULD RECEIVE AN ADVANCE PAYMENT OF 50 PER CENT OF THE SUBSIDY.

A REPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE ORGANISERS WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT. ALL PROJECTS SUBSIDISED BY THE SCHEME COULD ALSO TAKE PART IN AN OUTSTANDING CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT AWARD SCHEME TO BE HELD IN NEXT YEAR.

APPLICATION FORMS TOGETHER WITH DETAILS OF APPLICATION PROCEDURES ARE OBTAINABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS, 13TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD.

FOR ENQUIRIES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN CALL 3-665494 AND 3-669074.

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RE-CONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGE ROADS PROPOSED  
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A NUMBER OF VILLAGE ROADS IN TONG YAN SAN TSUEN IN YUEN LONG ARE TO BE RE-CONSTRUCTED TO BECOME 6.75-METRE WIDE ROADS WITH FOOTPATHS.

THEY TOTAL 1 600 METRES IN LENGTH.

THE PROVISION OF TWO CAR PARKS FOR 16 CARS AND 10 LORRIES, AND FORMATION OF 30 SQUARE METRES OF LAND FOR BUILDING A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT ALONG THE ROADS ARE ALSO PROPOSED.

OTHER WORK WILL INCLUDE LAYING THE ASSOCIATED DRAINS.

WRITTEN OBJECTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT BY OCTOBER 14.

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EARLIER PAYMENT FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS  
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RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE HOLDING CASH ORDER BOOKS MAY RECEIVE EARLIER PAYMENT IF THEIR PAYMENT DATES FALL ON AUGUST 23, 24 AND 25 -- WHICH ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THEY MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS ON AUGUST 20, 21 AND 22 RESPECTIVELY OR AFTER AT THE DESIGNATED POST OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES AND TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

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TIME TO APPLY FOR RESERVOIR FISHING LICENCE  
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THE RESERVOIR FISHING SEASON OPENS ON SEPTEMBER 1 AND LOCAL ANGLERS CAN APPLY FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY) TO THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT FOR LICENCES.

ONLY HOLDERS OF LICENCES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO FISH IN THE 16 RESERVOIRS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WHERE THE PASTIME IS ALLOWED, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

/APPLICATIONS FOR .....

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APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES, HE ADDED, SHOULD BE MADE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRE, 11TH FLOOR, LEIGHTON CENTRE, LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY; AND ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF ITS MAINLAND DEPOT, ARGYLE STREET, MONG KOK.

APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THEIR IDENTITY CARD AND PAY \$20.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICATIONS COULD ALSO BE MADE BY POST, GIVING THE NAME, ADDRESS, AGE AND IDENTITY CARD NUMBER, TOGETHER WITH A \$20 CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND CROSSED. SUCH APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRE OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AT LEIGHTON CENTRE.

HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ANGLERS USING RESERVOIRS OF OBSERVING ALL THE RULES WHICH ARE PRINTED ON THE BACK OF EACH LICENCE.

THE SEASON ENDS ON MARCH 31.

LAST SEASON A TOTAL OF 12 930 LICENCES WERE ISSUED.

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#### WAN CHAI SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CLOSES \* \* \* \* \*

HUNDREDS OF YOUTHS IN WAN CHAI WERE TREATED TO A DAY OF FUN AT A CARNIVAL TODAY (SUNDAY) MARKING THE CLOSE OF THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME AT THE TANG SHIU KIN VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

THE CARNIVAL CONSISTED OF A TALENT SHOW AND VARIOUS GAME STALLS ORGANISED BY THE BAPTIST OI KWAN SOCIAL SERVICE.

SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY, ASSISTANT WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS DONNA WONG, SAID A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN HELD IN THE DISTRICT INCORPORATING THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME +CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY AND GETTING TO KNOW IT BETTER.+

IT WAS HOPED THAT YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN DISTRICT ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, SHE SAID.

THE DISTRICT OFFICE WOULD HOLD A FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION AT THE HENNESSY CENTRE BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 26 TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, SHE ADDED.

/THE CHAIRMAN .....

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR STEPHEN WONG, THANKED THE VARIOUS AGENCIES FOR THEIR HELP IN ORGANISING MORE THAN 130 ACTIVITIES AND MAKING THE PROGRAMME A SUCCESS.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE CEREMONY WERE MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, MR CHRISTOPHER CHAN; REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BAPTIST OI KWAN SOCIAL SERVICE, MR LAWRENCE CHU; AND DISTRICT BAORD MEMBER, MR LEE KON.

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CIVIC EDUCATION DAY CAMP HELD ON ISLAND  
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THIRTY-FIVE CIVIC-MINDED VOLUNTEERS TODAY (SUNDAY) SPENT THE DAY IN KAT O ORGANISING ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS ON THE ISLAND DURING A CIVIC EDUCATION DAY CAMP.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE FANLING ROTARY YOUTH CENTRE, THE CAMP WAS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE THE THEME +TO KNOW AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY+.

+BESIDES SHARING THE FUN OF CAMPING IT IS HOPED THAT PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE MORE AWARE OF THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF 'EDUCATION THROUGH RECREATION' COULD BE ACHIEVED,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE CAMP INCLUDED A TALK ON LEADERSHIP TRAINING, A TELE-MATCH FOR CHILDREN HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTNCE OF COURTESY AND GOOD MANNERS AS WELL AS THE DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES AND PAMPHLETS ON CIVIC EDUCATION.

VOLUNTEERS ALSO RENDERED HELP WITH WEEDING ALONG VILLAGE ROADS AND WITHIN THE KAT O PUBLIC SCHOOL AREA AS PART OF A SERVICE PROJECT.

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TRAINING COURSE FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS  
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ORGANISING A TWO-YEAR IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSE FOR NEWLY APPOINTED LIBRARIANS OF GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS UNDER THE PROVISION OF NON-GRADUATE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN. THE COURSE WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER.

THE FREE COURSE IS ALSO OPEN TO LIBRARIANS WORKING FULL TIME IN A SCHOOL LIBRARY IN ASSISTED PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PROVIDED THEY MEET THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF CERTIFICATED MASTER OR MISTRESS AND HAVE TWO YEARS' RECOGNISED TEACHING EXPERIENCE.

THE COURSE IS INTENDED TO INTRODUCE LIBRARIANS TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES OF LIBRARY MANAGEMENT, AND CURRICULUM SUPPORT ACTIVITIES, AND TO ACQUAINT THEM WITH INFORMATION SKILLS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING PURPOSES.

A CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED TO EACH PARTICIPANT WHO COMPLETES THE COURSE SATISFACTORILY.

THE COURSE WILL BE HELD AT THE EXTRA-MURAL TOWN CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AT SHUN TAK CENTRE, WEST TOWER, 200 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

SCHOOL HEADS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE LIBRARY SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, FIFTH FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, BEFORE SEPTEMBER 9.

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OPEN SPACES TO BE BUILT IN TWO AREAS  
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LOCAL OPEN SPACES ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN WAN CHAI AND KWAI CHUNG TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE AREAS.

THE WAN CHAI OPEN SPACE WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT STONE NULLAH LANE ON A 1 300-SQUARE-METRE SITE.

PAVILIONS, PLANTERS AND A SMALL PLAY AREA FOR CHILDREN WILL BE PROVIDED.

IN KWAI CHUNG, THE OPEN SPACE WILL BE BUILT AT SHEK YAM ROAD ON A 375-SQUARE-METRE SITE.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A CONCRETE CHESS TABLE AND CHAIRS, HEDGES AND A LAWN FRONTING THE ROAD.

/MEANWHILE, THE .....

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MEANWHILE, THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT KING GEORGE V PARK IN WESTERN DISTRICT, WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1959, IS TO BE REDEVELOPED.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SKATING RINK WITH FLOODLIGHTS, BENCHES, PLANTERS, CHILDREN'S PLAY EQUIPMENT AND ARBOURS.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR ALL THREE PROJECTS.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS MEDICAL SERVICES, JSEA REPORTS  
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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (MONDAY) AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS THE REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SERVICES AND THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE REVIEW OF THE JSEA SYSTEM.

MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO ENDORSE THE VIEWS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON THE TWO REPORTS.

THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ISSUE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS AND FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET.

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TAI PO, YAU MA TEI WATER CUT  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TAI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 20) FOR MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ALONG TAI PO ROAD FROM HA WONG YI AU TO ST CHRISTOPHER'S HOME, INCLUDING WONG YI AU, MEI WOON SAN TSUEN, STRAFORD HOUSE, YIN TZE LANE, LUNG TUK AND TAI HANG.

TAI PO KAU, TAI PO KAU SAN WAI, LOOKOUT LANE AND ST CHRISTOPHER'S HOME WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

MEANWHILE, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM ON THE SAME DAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR REPAIRS WORK.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY MAN CHEONG STREET, MAN WUI STREET AND FERRY STREET, INCLUDING REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AND WATER SELLING KIOSK AT MAN CHEONG STREET.

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# Royal Visit.

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## ROYAL YACHT IS THE QUEEN'S HOME AWAY FROM HOME

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ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS SHIPS IN THE WORLD, HER MAJESTY'S YACHT BRITANNIA, WILL BE MAKING HER FIRST CALL IN HONG KONG WHEN SHE BRINGS THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH INTO PORT ON OCTOBER 21. THE ROYAL VISITORS WILL BE STAYING ABOARD BRITANNIA THROUGHOUT THEIR THREE-DAY VISIT TO THE TERRITORY.

THE QUEEN WILL BE GIVING A STATE BANQUET FOR ABOUT 40 GUESTS ON BOARD BRITANNIA ON OCTOBER 22 AND THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION ON BOARD FOR 200 PEOPLE. FROM THE DECKS OF BRITANNIA THE ROYAL VISITORS AND THEIR GUESTS WILL WATCH A FIREWORK DISPLAY IN THE HARBOUR AND THE ROYAL MARINES BAND BEATING RETREAT ON THE BULL'S NOSE AT HMS TAMAR.

EARLIER ON THE SAME DAY, PRINCE PHILIP WILL BE HOST TO ABOUT 100 GUESTS AT TEA ON BRITANNIA. THEY WILL INCLUDE PRINCE PHILIP SCHOLARS OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH STUDY CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA EARLIER THIS YEAR, DUKE OF EDINBURGH SCHEME GOLD AWARD WINNERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL.

THE ROYAL YACHT IS OFTEN IN THE NEWS. THE LAST TIME WAS IN JULY, WHEN SHE TOOK THE NEWLY-MARRIED DUKE OF YORK, PRINCE ANDREW, AND THE DUCHESS, THE FORMER MISS SARAH FERGUSON, ON THEIR HONEYMOON IN THE AZORES.

SHE MADE HEADLINES EARLIER IN THE YEAR WHEN SHE HELPED EVACUATE BRITISH AND OTHER NATIONALS FROM THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN WHEN SERIOUS FIGHTING BROKE OUT IN THE CAPITAL, ADEN.

HMY BRITANNIA, BUILT BY JOHN BROWN AND CO OF CLYDEBANK, WAS NAMED AND LAUNCHED BY THE QUEEN IN 1953. SHE SERVES AS AN OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE RESIDENCE FOR THE QUEEN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WHEN THEY ARE ENGAGED IN VISITS OVERSEAS OR ARE VOYAGING IN HOME WATERS AND WAS DESIGNED TO BE CONVERTED TO A HOSPITAL SHIP IN TIME OF WAR. BRITANNIA OFTEN TAKES PART IN NAVAL EXERCISES AND CARRIES OUT ROUTINE HYDROGRAPHIC WORK WHILE AT SEA.

HER GROSS TONNAGE IS 5 862 TONNES AND SHE HAS A CONTINUOUS CRUISING SPEED OF 21 KNOTS (39 KILOMETRES PER HOUR).

/THE ROYAL .....

THE ROYAL STATE APARTMENTS CONTAIN SOME FURNITURE FROM THE PREVIOUS ROYAL YACHT, THE 50-YEAR-OLD VICTORIA AND ALBERT, WHICH SHE REPLACED. THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TOOK A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE INTERIOR DECORATIONS, THE CHOICE OF FURNISHINGS AND THE GENERAL FITTING OUT OF THE ROYAL YACHT.

HMY BRITANNIA IS AN INDEPENDENT COMMAND, ADMINISTERED PERSONALLY BY THE FLAG OFFICER ROYAL YACHTS. HE IS NORMALLY APPOINTED AS AN EXTRA EQUERRY TO THE QUEEN AND, AS SUCH, IS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.

HER CREW NUMBERS 22 OFFICERS AND 254 MEN WHEN MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ARE EMBARKED OR WHEN THE VESSEL UNDERTAKES A LONG OCEAN VOYAGE. OFFICERS ARE NORMALLY APPOINTED FOR TWO-YEAR PERIODS OF DUTY.

TWO-THIRDS OF THE RATINGS ARE PERMANENT CREW MEMBERS AND REMAIN ATTACHED TO THE SHIP FOR THE REST OF THEIR SERVICE CAREERS; THE OTHERS ARE ATTACHED TO THE YACHT FOR TWO-YEAR PERIODS ONLY. THEY ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS FROM THE ROYAL NAVY, BUT RECEIVE NO SPECIAL BENEFITS IN TERMS OF PAY, ALLOWANCES OR LEAVE.

TRADITIONS OF DRESS ABOARD THE ROYAL YACHT INCLUDE THE WEARING BY SEAMEN OF NAVAL UNIFORM WITH THE JUMPER INSIDE THE TOP OF THE TROUSERS, WHICH ARE FINISHED AT THE BACK WITH A BLACK SILK BOW. ON ALL BLUE UNIFORMS RATINGS WEAR WHITE BADGES INSTEAD OF THE RED WHICH ARE CUSTOMARY IN THE ROYAL NAVY.

SO FAR AS IS POSSIBLE ORDERS ON THE UPPER DECK ARE EXECUTED WITHOUT SPOKEN WORDS OR COMMANDS, AND BY LONG TRADITION THE CUSTOMARY NAVAL MARK OF RESPECT OF PIPING THE SIDE IS NORMALLY PAID ONLY TO THE QUEEN.