



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1977

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IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT CATCHES UP WITH FORGERS

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A VISITOR LOOKING AT THE ASSORTMENT OF PASSPORTS, CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY, ENTRY PERMITS AND OTHER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS IN A SMALL OFFICE IN A COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN CENTRAL, MAY BE FORGIVEN IF HE THINKS HE HAS WALKED INTO AN UNUSUAL COLLECTOR'S EXHIBITION.

THE PLACE IS IN FACT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE INVESTIGATION DIVISION OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, AND ONE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IS TO DETECT FORGED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

ON DISPLAY IN THE OFFICE ARE A VARIETY OF FAKE DOCUMENTS, SEIZED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS BY IMMIGRATION OFFICERS. THEY ARE NOW USED AS TEACHING AIDS FOR RECRUITS TO THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE.

ONLY RECENTLY, A NEW BATCH OF SUCH TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WAS ADDED TO THE COLLECTION, FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF A FORGED RE-ENTRY PERMIT RACKET AND THE ARREST OF FIVE PEOPLE.

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, ABOUT 500 PEOPLE WERE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURTS FOR USING OR POSSESSING FORGED DOCUMENTS, COMPARED WITH 360 IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

MR. DAVID MILLS, PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE DIVISION, SAID THAT THE DETECTION RATE OF FORGED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING, AND THAT SINCE 1974 A TOTAL OF 1,168 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

+AMONG THE SEIZURES, A GREAT MAJORITY WERE COUNTERFEIT CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY AND RE-ENTRY PERMITS, WHILE FAKE HONG KONG BRITISH PASSPORTS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES WERE ALSO SOMETIMES DISCOVERED,+ HE SAID.

TO A LAYMAN, IT IS DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN A FAKE PASSPORT AND A GENUINE ONE. THE DISCREPANCIES HOWEVER, CAN BE EASILY SPOTTED BY THE TRAINED EYES OF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS.

+BY QUESTIONING THE HOLDER OF A SUSPECTED FALSE DOCUMENT, CHECKING HIS DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL RECORD AND EXAMINING THE DOCUMENT IN QUESTION BY USING DEVICES RANGING FROM MAGNIFYING GLASSES TO ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT, IMMIGRATION OFFICERS HAVE OFTEN BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW UP THEIR SUSPICIONS SUCCESSFULLY,+ MR. MILLS EXPLAINED.

HE POINTED OUT SOME OF THE USUAL TRICKS OF THE FORGERS: PHOTOGRAPH SUBSTITUTION, ALTERATION OF PERSONAL PARTICULARS, FAKE VISA AND IMMIGRATION STAMP IMPRESSIONS, REPLACEMENT OF DOCUMENT PAGES AND IN SOME CASES THE COMPLETE FABRICATION OF A HOME-MADE DOCUMENT.

+MOST OF THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS USED FOR COUNTERFEITING ARE LOST DOCUMENTS OR DOCUMENTS SOLD FOR PROFIT BY THEIR ORIGINAL OWNERS,+ HE NOTED.

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+THE TECHNIQUES REQUIRED TO FORGE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ARE INTRICATE AND THE PROCESS REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE CRAFTSMANSHIP AND CORRESPONDINGLY SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT.+

MR. MILLS POINTED OUT THAT THE INVESTIGATION DIVISION WAS ALWAYS STUDYING NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO CLAMP DOWN ON SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

LATER THIS YEAR, THE ENGRAVING OF PHOTOGRAPHS ON SUCH TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AS CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY AND RE-ENTRY PERMITS IS LIKELY TO BE INTRODUCED. A COMPUTER IS ALSO BEING WIDELY USED TO PLOT INTELLIGENCE ON FORGERIES. GREATER SECURITY IN PRINTING AND OTHER PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ARE ALSO BEING SOUGHT TO STOP THE ILLEGAL ENTRY TO HONG KONG OF PEOPLE WHO ARE UNWELCOME HERE.

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NEW MAXICAB ROUTE TO BAGUIO VILLAS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A NEW MAXICAB ROUTE WILL START OPERATING BETWEEN CENTRAL AND BAGUIO VILLAS FROM TUESDAY (AUGUST 30).

THE MAXICAB ROUTE TO BAGUIO VILLAS FROM EDINBURGH PLACE WILL GO PAST CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, HARCOURT ROAD, COTTON TREE DRIVE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, D'AGUILAR STREET, WELLINGTON STREET, LYNDHURST TERRACE, HOLLYWOOD ROAD, ARBUTHNOT ROAD, CAINE ROAD, BONHAM ROAD, POKFULAM ROAD, SASSOON ROAD AND VICTORIA ROAD.

THE ROUTE FROM BAGUIO VILLAS TO CENTRAL WILL BE VIA VICTORIA ROAD, SASSOON ROAD, POKFULAM ROAD, BONHAM ROAD, CAINE ROAD, OLD BAILEY STREET, WYNDHAM STREET, PEDDER STREET, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND END AT EDINBURGH PLACE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THIS MAXICAB ROUTE 8 WOULD OPERATE AT A FREQUENCY OF 15 MINUTES FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS AND AT A 30-MINUTE FREQUENCY ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THE SERVICE FROM BAGUIO VILLAS WILL START AT 7.30 A.M. AND END AT 6.30 P.M. THE SERVICE FROM CENTRAL WILL BEGIN AT 7.45 A.M. AND END AT 6.45 P.M.

THE FARE WILL BE \$1 FOR A SINGLE JOURNEY.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT
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MOTORISTS IN POWER STREET, NORTH POINT WILL BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED DIRECTLY TO FORTRESS HILL ROAD OR TURN LEFT INTO KING'S ROAD FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 30).

AT THE SAME TIME, EASTBOUND VEHICLES IN KING'S ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO FORTRESS HILL ROAD.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF TRAM TRACK RENEWAL WORKS AT THE KING'S ROAD AND FORTRESS HILL ROAD JUNCTION.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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REGISTRATION OF PERSONS TEAM TO VISIT YUEN LONG
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A TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE WILL BE STATIONED IN YUEN LONG TOWN HALL FOR SIX DAYS NEXT MONTH.

THE TEAM WILL BE IN THE TOWN HALL BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. FROM SEPTEMBER 5 TO 9 AND AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 12.

THE TEMPORARY OFFICE WILL BE CONVENIENT TO PARENTS OR GUARDIANS WISHING TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN OR WARD BETWEEN 11 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS, AND TO HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS REACHING THE AGE OF 18 TO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE TODAY REMINDED ALL PERSONS LIVING IN THE YUEN LONG AREA OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN FOR IDENTITY CARDS, AND TO REPORT TO THE OFFICE CHANGES IN THEIR EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES, MARITAL STATUS, OR ANY OTHER PARTICULARS WHICH HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEY REGISTERED FOR THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

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