



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1979

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F.C.O. MINISTER TO VISIT REFUGEE CAMP AND SHA TIN

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR. PETER BLAKER, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG TONIGHT (SUNDAY) FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT. HE WAS MET BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE.

TOMORROW (MONDAY), MR. BLAKER WILL VISIT THE RED CROSS TRANSIT CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN SHA TIN. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR. MORRIS MORGAN.

IN THE AFTERNOON, MR. BLAKER, SIR MURRAY AND THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR. ALAN SCOTT WILL GO TO LEK YUEN ESTATE IN SHA TIN.

THERE, MR. BLAKER WILL HAVE A BRIEF LOOK AT THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX BEFORE CROSSING BY ELEVATED WALKWAY TO WO CHE ESTATE AND VISIT A FAMILY IN HONG WO HOUSE. THE MINISTER WILL THEN PROCEED TO WO CHE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WHERE HE WILL BE BRIEFED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR. DONALD LIAO ON THE HOUSING ASPECT OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN AND PUBLIC HOUSING GENERALLY.

HE WILL ALSO INSPECT SOME TWIN-TOWER PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS NOW NEARING COMPLETION IN THE NEW TOWN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER MR. BLAKER'S VISIT TO THE RED CROSS TRANSIT CENTRE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE KAI TAK NORTH CAMP) AND SHA TIN NEW TOWN TOMORROW (MONDAY).

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO COVER THE MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE TRANSIT CENTRE ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE MAIN GATE TO THE FORMER RAF KAI TAK IN KWUN TONG ROAD OPPOSITE PING SHEK ESTATE NOT LATER THAN 10.45 A.M.

PRESS MEMBERS USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT CAN TAKE BUSES TO PING SHEK ESTATE AND CROSS KWUN TONG ROAD BY A NEARBY FOOTBRIDGE TO GET TO THE MAIN GATE WHERE G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ACCOMPANY THEM INTO THE TRANSIT CENTRE. THE MINISTER WILL ARRIVE AT THE CENTRE AT 11.20 A.M.

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS TO THOSE WISHING TO COVER MR. BLAKER'S VISIT TO SHA TIN. TWO NINE-SEATER VANS (AM 2162 AND AM 2139) WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 2 P.M. FOR SHA TIN. AFTER THE VISIT THE TWO VANS WILL TAKE THEM BACK TO KOWLOON.

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CHECKING CONTAINERISED GOODS - NO SMALL JOB
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IT IS BY NO MEANS A SMALL JOB TO OPEN A FULLY PACKED CONTAINER AS LARGE AS A HOUSE, SCRUTINISE IT AND THEN RE-PACK IT TO THE SATISFACTION OF ITS OWNER.

AND THIS IS ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR A TEAM OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS BASED IN THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL WHO ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EXAMINING THE CONTAINERISED CARGO TO PROTECT HONG KONG'S REVENUE.

ADDING TO THE DIFFICULTY OF THEIR WORK IS THAT NOT ONLY THEY HAVE TO KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT FOR ANY CONTRABANDS INCLUDING DRUGS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIDDEN IN THE CONTAINERS, BUT ALSO DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES WITH SPEED SO AS NOT TO IMPEDE THE FLOW OF GOODS.

+OUR OFFICERS HAVE TO CARRY OUT THE EXAMINATIONS IN THE CONTAINER FREIGHT STATIONS, IMPORTERS' PREMISES, WAREHOUSES, CARGO HANDLING BASINS, BY THE ROAD SIDE, OR AT ANY OTHER SPOT MUTUALLY ARRANGED BETWEEN THE SERVICE AND THE CONSIGNEES,+ SAID MR. WU KWAI-HUNG, THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE IN CHARGE OF THE UNIT.

TO MAKE THE TASK EASIER, CUSTOMS OFFICERS ARE SOMETIMES ASSISTED BY SPECIALLY TRAINED DRUG DETECTION DOGS IN THEIR CARGO CHECKING WORK.

THE JOB IS A +SWEET AND SOUR+ EXPERIENCE FOR THIS TEAM OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS WHO AT TIMES MAY BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO UNPACK CRATES OF AROMATIC HONEY-DEW MELONS OR MANGOES. ON OTHER OCCASIONS, THE EXPERIENCE MAY TURN SOUR WHEN THEY RIP OPEN A CASE OF ROTTEN EGGS OR SOUR PRICKLES.

+SOMETIMES, THE EXPERIENCE MAY EVEN BECOME TEARFUL AS YOU OPEN A CRATE OF GARLIC OR ONION AND FUMBLE THROUGH IT FOR ANY POSSIBLE CONTRABANDS,+ ONE OFFICER POINTED OUT.

YET, THEY HAVE ALL TAKEN IT IN STRIDE, AND A BIG ONE AT THAT. THERE HAS BEEN A FIVE-FOLD INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF CONTAINERISED IMPORTS FROM 936 000 TONNES IN 1973, WHEN THE CONTAINER TERMINAL BECAME OPERATIONAL, TO 5 080 000 TONNES LAST YEAR.

THE CONTAINERISED TRADE IS STILL GROWING AND LAST MONTH ALONE, MORE THAN 200 CONTAINER SHIPS CALLED AT OUR PORT, DISCHARGING 36 000 CONTAINERS OF CARGO.

APART FROM THEIR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF EXAMINING CARGO, CUSTOMS OFFICERS OF THE UNIT ALSO CONDUCT SEARCHES OF VESSELS BERTHED AT THE CONTAINER TERMINAL AND RE-INSPECT CONSIGNMENTS OF TEXTILE EXPORTS.

THEY ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN LICENSING CONTROL, PROCESSING OF CARNETS, AND CHECKING AND SEALING OF DUTIABLE SHIP STORES.

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44 HECTARES TO BE RECLAIMED FOR
PUBLIC HOUSING IN TAI PO
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS CALLING TENDERS FOR THE FORMATION OF ABOUT 44 HECTARES OF LAND IN CENTRAL TAI PO, TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED BRIDGEWORKS, RIVERWALLS AND MAIN DRAINAGE CULVERTS.

WHEN COMPLETED, PART OF THE RECLAIMED LAND, ABOUT 14 HECTARES, WILL BE USED FOR A NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE NEAR ISLAND HOUSE.

THE REMAINING AREAS WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND A VARIETY OF GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION OR COMMUNITY FACILITIES ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING TOWN.

SUFFICIENT LAND WILL ALSO BE FORMED TO ENABLE THE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS TO BYPASS THE EXISTING TOWN FOR ACCESS TO THE NEW TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND TO REDUCE PRESENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON KWONG FUK ROAD.

THE LAM TSUEN AND TAI PO RIVERS WILL BE CHANNELLED THROUGH THE NEWLY FORMED LAND AND WILL EVENTUALLY FORM A MAJOR FEATURE OF A PROPOSED PARKLAND AREA THROUGH THE CENTRE OF THE NEW TOWN.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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OCTOBER 6 IS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY
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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT OCTOBER 6 — THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL — IS ONE OF THE 10 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS APPOINTED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES WITHOUT DISTINCTION, INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$3 500 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY. THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THEIR EMPLOYERS FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON THE HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

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IF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY. IN THE CASE WHERE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GIVEN AFTER STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE: FOR KOWLOON EAST 3-205638- KOWLOON WEST 3-201652- KWUN TONG 3-898520- TSUEN WAN 12-422096- TUEN MUN 12-818443 EXT. 82 AND HONG KONG ISLAND 5-282523 EXT. 60.

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON FOUR DAYS NEXT WEEK.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIMES OF FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
SEPTEMBER 25 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 11 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 26 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. - 10 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 27 (THURSDAY)	8 A.M. - 5 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 28 (FRIDAY)	8 A.M. - 12.30 P.M.

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