



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1976

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT PASSENGERS REACH ALL-TIME PEAK

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THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITIES IN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR HAS REACHED AN ALL-TIME PEAK.

ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MORE THAN 1,053 MILLION PASSENGERS USED BUSES, FERRIES, TRAMS AND THE RAILWAY DURING THE TEN-MONTH PERIOD, 55.7 MILLION OR SIX PER CENT MORE THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1975.

MOST OF THE INCREASE RESULTED FROM MORE USAGE OF FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES WHERE THE THREE COMPANIES ARE NOW CARRYING 2.6 MILLION PASSENGERS PER DAY COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR WHEN DAILY TRAFFIC VOLUMES WERE 2.3 MILLION.

THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY WITH A LICENSED FLEET OF 1,675 VEHICLES HAS INTRODUCED 13 ADDITIONAL BUS ROUTES DURING THE YEAR AND NOW CARRIES AN AVERAGE OF 2.09 MILLION PASSENGERS PER DAY ON 150 SERVICES.

THE FREQUENCY AND CARRYING CAPACITY ON 34 SERVICES HAVE BEEN INCREASED SO AS TO PROVIDE BETTER FACILITIES AT HOUSING ESTATES SUCH AS LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING, LAI KING, LEK YUEN, KWAI SHING, LEI MUK SHU, TSZ WAN SHAN, OI MAN AND TUNG TAU.

THE 15 EXPRESS COACH SERVICES NOW CARRY AN AVERAGE OF 29,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY OF WHICH 3,200 TRAVEL TO AND FROM KAI TAK AIRPORT ON THE TWO POPULAR AIRPORT COACH SERVICES.

THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY WITH A LICENSED FLEET OF 684 BUSES HAS INTRODUCED EIGHT NEW ROUTES DURING THE YEAR AND NOW CARRIES AN AVERAGE OF 628,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY ON 66 SERVICES.

IMPROVED FACILITIES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED AT WAH FU, WONG CHUK HANG, CHAI WAN AND LAI TAK TSUEN ESTATES AND NEW ROUTES INTRODUCED INCLUDE SERVICES TO KENNEDY ROAD, HOLLYWOOD ROAD AND HING WAH ESTATE.

A MAJOR EXPANSION SCHEME FOR BUS SERVICES IN THE CHAI WAN, SHAU KEI WAN, QUARRY BAY, NORTH POINT AND CAUSEWAY BAY AREAS IS BEING INTRODUCED IN STAGES AND NEW FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR A KUNG NGAM LATER THIS MONTH.

WAH FU, ABERDEEN AND WONG CHUK HANG ARE BEING PROVIDED WITH DIRECT FACILITIES TO CAUSEWAY BAY AND NORTH POINT IN ADVANCE OF THE OPENING OF THE NEW ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

DEMAND FOR THE CROSS HARBOUR BUS SERVICES CONTINUES TO GROW AND THE 14 JOINT SERVICES NOW CARRY 305,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY. TRAFFIC ON THE TWO ALL-NIGHT CROSS HARBOUR SERVICES AND THE RECREATION ROUTE BETWEEN SHA TIN AND ABERDEEN HAS INCREASED AND A NEW ROUTE BETWEEN TSZ WAN SHAN AND QUARRY BAY WILL BE INTRODUCED EARLY IN 1977.

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ON LANTAU ISLAND, THE NEW LANTAU BUS COMPANY HAS INCREASED ITS FLEET TO 44 BUSES AND NOW CARRIES AN AVERAGE OF 4,600 PASSENGERS PER DAY. ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, TRAFFIC INCREASES BY 93 PER CENT TO 8,900.

PLANS ARE WELL ADVANCED TO INTRODUCE ADDITIONAL BUSES ON FINE WEATHER WEEKENDS TO SUPPLEMENT THE PRESENT FIVE ROUTES AND THESE ADDITIONAL BUSES COULD INCLUDE OPEN-TOP DOUBLE DECKERS OPERATING BETWEEN SILVERMINE BAY AND CHEUNG SHA BEACH SUBJECT TO A TEST RUN FEASIBILITY STUDY.

UTILISATION OF THE TWO +STAR+ FERRY COMPANY'S SERVICES FROM CENTRAL TO TSIM SHA TSUI AND HUNG HOM HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY STEADY AT 138,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED FOR THE HUNG HOM SERVICE TO BE EXTENDED FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF ONE YEAR SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN LATE 1977.

TRAFFIC ON THE 14 CROSS HARBOUR PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY HAS DECLINED BY 8.1 PER CENT DURING THE YEAR AND THESE SERVICES NOW CARRY 324,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY.

THE SERVICES LINKING MEI FOO SUN CHUEN AND KWUN TONG TO CENTRAL AND THE HOVER-FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN KOWLOON CITY AND SHAU KEI WAN REMAIN POPULAR AND PASSENGER VOLUMES ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN STEP WITH FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING THE OUTLYING DISTRICTS FERRY SERVICES HAS INCREASED BY 7.6 PER CENT AND THESE NOW CARRY 45,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY.

THE RESUMPTION OF THE KOWLOON CITY TO NORTH POINT VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER HAS RESULTED IN SOME TRAFFIC EXTRACTION FROM THE KWUN TONG ROUTE BUT OVERALL VEHICULAR VOLUMES ON THE THREE CROSS HARBOUR VEHICULAR SERVICES HAS INCREASED BY 8.8 PER CENT AND THE SERVICES NOW CARRY 10,000 VEHICLES PER DAY.

HONGKONG TRAMWAYS LIMITED EXPERIENCED A 17.8 PER CENT DECLINE IN TRAFFIC DURING THE FIRST QUARTER FOLLOWING THE FARES REVISION INTRODUCED IN DECEMBER 1975.

HOWEVER, MUCH OF THIS TRAFFIC HAS NOW BEEN REGAINED AND PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE DAILY PASSENGER VOLUME OF 384,000 WILL INCREASE AS A RESULT OF THE FURTHER PROVISION OF TRAMWAY RESERVES DESIGNED TO INCREASE OPERATING SPEEDS AND PROVIDE QUICKER JOURNEY TIMES ALONG THE MAIN URBAN NORTH SHORE CORRIDOR.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE 4,350 MINIBUSES ARE NOW CARRYING AN AVERAGE OF 1.59 MILLION PASSENGERS PER DAY. THE SIX +MAXI-CAB+ ROUTES OPERATING ON HONG KONG ISLAND HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVE POPULAR AND THE 35 GREEN-LIVERY VEHICLES NOW CARRY 10,600 PASSENGERS PER DAY.

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ADDITIONAL ROUTES WILL BE INTRODUCED DURING THE COMING MONTHS INCLUDING FACILITIES FOR MOUNT NICHOLSON, BLUE POOL ROAD, SASSOON ROAD AND LINK ROAD TOGETHER WITH INCREASED FACILITIES ALONG CONDUIT ROAD TO PO SHAN ROAD.

THE FIRST BATCH OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS BEGAN OPERATION IN OCTOBER AND ABOUT 90 ARE NOW OPERATING IN THE RURAL AREAS TO THE NORTH OF TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN.

BASED ON THE ACTUAL FIGURES SO FAR THIS YEAR, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT DAILY WILL REACH 5.8 MILLION BY THE END OF THE YEAR: 45.3 PER CENT BY BUS, 28.2 PER CENT BY MINI-BUS, 10.7 PER CENT BY TAXI, 9 PER CENT BY FERRY, 6.2 PER CENT BY TRAM AND 0.6 PER CENT BY RAIL.

THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED PRIVATE MOTOR CARS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR WAS 114,260. FOLLOWING A FURTHER DECLINE DURING MUCH OF THE YEAR, THE PRESENT LICENSED FIGURE IS 113,228 ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT BY EARLY 1977 THE NUMBER OF MOTOR CARS WILL START TO INCREASE AGAIN ALTHOUGH NOT AT THE PRODIGIOUS RATE EXPERIENCED IN 1972 AND 1973.

THE INCREASE IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORK THROUGHOUT HONG KONG INCLUDING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY HAS LED TO AN INCREASE DEMAND UPON GOODS VEHICLES AND AN EXTRA 653 VEHICLES WERE LICENSED IN OCTOBER ALONE. THE PRESENT FLEET OF 36,042 GOODS VEHICLES IS THE HIGHEST FIGURE REGISTERED TO DATE.

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MOTORISTS URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE

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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLEARING THE CHOKED GULLIES ALONG THE PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FLYOVER IN FRONT OF THE KAI TAK AIRPORT FROM MIDNIGHT TO ABOUT 6 A.M. ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 7).

TO FACILITATE THIS OPERATION, A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC LANES WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO DRIVE WITH PARTICULAR CARE WHEN PASSING THIS FLYOVER DURING THE HOURS STATED ABOVE.

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PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM FOR KCR COACHES
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STARTING ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 6) TRAIN PASSENGERS WILL BENEFIT FURTHER FROM YET ANOTHER JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE -- THE INTRODUCTION OF A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM ON ALL COACHES OF THE KCR.

THE SYSTEM WILL ENABLE THE GUARD FROM HIS COMPARTMENT TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL PASSENGERS, KEEPING THEM INFORMED OF WHAT THEY SHOULD KNOW.

THIS INCLUDES THE NAME OF THE NEXT STATION, THE AVAILABILITY OF REFRESHMENTS, AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES, SPACE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE TRAIN AND, IN THE EVENT OF DELAY, ITS NATURE AND ESTIMATED DURATION AS WELL AS THE SAFETY RULES WHICH PASSENGERS SHOULD OBSERVE.

THE GENERAL MANAGER OF KCR, MR. REGINALD GREGORY, POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST SOME PASSENGERS WERE INJURED BY SITTING OR STANDING ON THE STEPS OR IN THE DOORWAYS OF MOVING TRAINS.

AN APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENT THROUGH THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM, HE SAID, COULD NOW QUICKLY WARN THE PASSENGERS TO STAY AWAY FROM CERTAIN PARTS OF THE TRAIN WHEN IT WAS IN MOTION.

APART FROM INFORMATION, MUSIC, ADVERTISEMENTS AND GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL ALSO BE BROADCAST THROUGH THE SYSTEM.

+EVERY CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE LEVEL OF SOUND IS AS UNOBSTRUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

THE PROJECT IS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN KCR, GUSTO ADVERTISING LIMITED AND REDIFFUSION (H.K.) LTD.

MR. GREGORY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PASSENGERS WOULD, AS IN THE CASE OF THE HUNG HOM TERMINUS, FIND THE NEW FACILITY USEFUL.

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POLICE REPORTING CENTRES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO BUILD TEN POLICE REPORTING CENTRES IN A NUMBER OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES TO ENABLE THE POLICE TO INCREASE THEIR SERVICES TO THE AREAS.

TENDERS FOR THE ADDITIONAL CENTRES ARE NOW BEING INVITED AND WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH.

MR. JOSEPH LEI, CHIEF P.W.D. ARCHITECT, SAID TODAY THE CENTRES WOULD BE READY IN MID-FEBRUARY AND WOULD ENABLE THE PUBLIC MORE EASILY TO REPORT CRIME AND OTHER INCIDENTS IN THE AREAS.

THE CENTRES, HE SAID, WOULD BE BUILT ON THE GROUND FLOORS OF LAI TAK, SO UK, UPPER NGAU TAU KOK, YAU TONG, SHEK PAI WAN, LAI KING, LAI YIU, KWAI HING, KWAI SHING AND LEI MUK SHUE ESTATES.

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KAM SHAN COUNTRY PARK

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JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT IS THE SCENIC SHEK LI PUI AREA WHICH PROVIDES AN IDEAL AND INFORMAL RECREATIONAL GROUND FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT AND OTHER LOCALITIES.

EVERYDAY, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE AREA WHICH HAS NOW BEEN GAZETTED AS THE PROPOSED KAM SHAN (GOLDEN HILL) COUNTRY PARK. IT COVERS ABOUT 337 HECTARES (833 ACRES), MOST OF WHICH ARE WATER CATCHMENT AREAS OF THE KOWLOON AND SHEK LI PUI RESERVOIRS.

THERE ARE TWO MAIN TYPES OF USERS OF THE PROPOSED PARK, THE MORNING WALKERS AND DAY VISITORS. THE FORMER ARE MOSTLY ADULTS, HOUSEWIVES AND RETIRED PEOPLE. THEY COME MAINLY FROM SHAM SHUI PO AND MONG KOK BY BUSES AND OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT. A NUMBER ALSO WALK TO THE PARK FROM THEIR HOMES.

MANY OF THE REGULAR PARTICIPANTS HAVE FORMED THEMSELVES INTO GROUPS OR FORMAL MORNING WALKERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

A SURVEY ON THIS ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IN THE SUMMER OF 1974 REVEALED THAT THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF MORNING WALKERS ON A +TYPICAL DAY+ WAS SOME 800 ON WEEKDAYS AND ABOUT 1,000 ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS. OVER 50 PER CENT OF THESE PEOPLE SPEND ABOUT TWO HOURS IN THIS ACTIVITY.

THE DAY VISITORS OR +SECOND SHIFT+ PEOPLE ARE MAINLY OFFICE AND FACTORY WORKERS AND STUDENTS. MOSTLY THEY COME ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS. THE BARBECUE PICNIC IS THEIR MOST POPULAR PAST-TIME.

THE AREA IS MORE POPULAR IN THE WINTER MONTHS BECAUSE IN SUMMER PEOPLE PREFER TO SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME ON THE BEACHES AND IN SWIMMING POOLS. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS IN 1975 WAS MORE THAN 30,000 -- AN INCREASE OF 145 PER CENT OVER THE FIGURE OF 1974.

SINCE 1973 THE AREA HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FOR COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO PROVIDE MORE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS FOR RECREATION AND FAMILY OUTINGS.

SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 23 PICNIC SITES, FOUR +MORNING WALKERS GARDEN+ SITES, AND SEVEN +APPROVED BARBECUE SITES+ HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. ADDITIONALLY THERE ARE NUMEROUS FACILITIES SUCH AS CHILDREN-PLAY AREAS, TABLES, BENCHES AND RAIN SHELTERS.

THERE IS ALSO A NATURE TRAIL FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

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APART FROM BEING RICH IN PLANTS AND TREES, THE PROPOSED PARK IS ALSO NOTED FOR TWO SPECIES OF WILDLIFE, THE BLACK-EARED KITE AND THE LONG-TAILED MACAQUE (A SPECIES OF MONKEY).

THE FORMER IS A MIGRATORY BIRD WHICH IS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED IN ASIA AND AUSTRALIA.

ALTHOUGH AS MANY AS 2,000 BIRDS MAY BE PRESENT IN THE WINTER MONTHS, MANY OF THEM MOVE NORTH IN THE SPRING LEAVING ONLY SOME 200 TO SPEND THE SUMMER HERE. THE BLACK-EARED KITE IS A SCAVENGER, FEEDING ON OFFAL, CARRION, REFUSE AND DEAD FISH IN THE HARBOUR.

EAGLES NEST, A WELL-WOODED RIDGE IN THE PARK, IS ONE OF THE TWO POPULAR NESTING AREAS NEAR THE HARBOUR PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE TALL PINE TREES WHICH GROW THERE.

THE LONG-TAILED MACAQUES IN THIS AREA ARE DESCENDENTS OF MONKEYS RELEASED IN 1920. THEY EAT LEAVES, FRUITS, INSECTS AND SMALL ANIMALS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE AREA, LIKE ITS COUNTERPART IN SHING MUN, FACED PROBLEMS OF LITTER AND HILL FIRES.

+DURING THE LAST DRY SEASON, A NUMBER OF FIRES IN THE VICINITY DESTROYED MANY ACRES OF VEGETATION,+ HE SAID.

+IF THE AREA IS TO REMAIN GREEN, STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO STOP ALL FIRES,+ HE EMPHASISED.

+BECAUSE FIRE PRESENTS SUCH A DANGER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +THE LIGHTING OF FIRES FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, EXCEPT IN AN +APPROVED BARBECUE SITE+ IS PROHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND THIS REGULATION IS ONE WHICH MUST, AND WILL BE, ENFORCED.

IN PAST YEARS, GROUPS USED TO SET UP SPECIAL GARDENS BY POSITIONING THEIR OWN BENCHES AND CULTIVATING OR GROWING FLOWERS IN THE AREA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS PROBLEM IS NOW BEING RESOLVED BY MAKING USE OF THE ENTHUSIASM AND ENERGIES OF THE MORNING WALKERS TO DEVELOP FACILITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED POLICIES AND PLANS FOR THE AREA.

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NEW TERRITORIES LAND SALES PROGRAMME

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THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IS PLANNING TO SELL ABOUT 120,774 SQUARE METRES (1.3 MILLION SQUARE FEET) OF LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BEFORE THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

MORE THAN 83,613 SQUARE METRES (900,000 SQUARE FEET) WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION WHILE ANOTHER 33,975 SQUARE METRES (365,700 SQUARE FEET) WILL BE DISPOSED OF BY TENDER TO HOLDERS OF GOVERNMENT LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS DOCUMENTS.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR. J.D. JOHNSTON, SAID TODAY THAT A PROVISIONAL LAND SALES PROGRAMME HAD ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED TO LAND AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING THE LAND.

+BUT WE MUST STRESS THAT THE PROGRAMME IS PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE,+ HE SAID. +OF COURSE, WE WILL NOTIFY ANY CHANGES.+

MR. JOHNSTON SAID THAT THE TWO LARGEST BLOCKS TO BE DISPOSED OF BY LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT TENDER WERE THE ADJOINING SITES AT SHA TIN WHICH ARE TO BE DEVELOPED INTO A COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX AS THE FIRST STAGE OF BUILDING A PRESTIGIOUS TOWN CENTRE IN THE NEW TOWN.

+THESE LOTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ATTRACT GREAT INTEREST BECAUSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL,+ HE SAID.

+BUT OTHER LOTS IN THE SAI KUNG, TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICTS WILL ALSO BE ATTRACTIVE TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT DOCUMENTS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE THREE LOTS TOTALLING 8,724 SQUARE METRES (93,900 SQUARE FEET) IN SAI KUNG WHICH HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR TWO-STOREY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.+

MR. JOHNSTON SAID THAT THE FIRST OF THE SITES TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION NEXT TUESDAY (DECEMBER 7) WERE SITUATED AT RAPIDLY-DEVELOPING TUEN MUN.

+ONE OF THESE LOTS IS 492 SQUARE METRES (5,300 SQUARE FEET) AND THE OTHER IS 799 SQUARE METRES (ABOUT 8,600 SQUARE FEET) AND WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND GODOWN PURPOSES,+ HE SAID.

+A REQUIREMENT IN THE SALE CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ADVERTISED REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF PARKING SPACES FOR CONTAINER LORRIES HAS NOW BEEN DELETED BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE LOTS,+ HE ADDED.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT ST. SIMON LUI MING CHOI SECONDARY SCHOOL, TUEN MUN, AT 2.30 P.M.

/MR. JOHNSTON

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MR. JOHNSTON SAID THAT THE OTHER LOTS TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION WERE IN THE SAI KUNG, YUEN LONG AND TAI PO DISTRICTS.

+THE BIGGEST LOTS ARE AT TAI PO KAU AND WILL ALSO BE DEVELOPED FOR LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES,+ HE SAID. +ONE LOT IS 23,690 SQUARE METRES (255,000 SQUARE FEET) AND THE OTHER IS 52,769 SQUARE METRES (568,000 SQUARE FEET).+

ANY INQUIRIES ABOUT THE LAND SALES PROGRAMME SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR, NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, TAI PO ROAD, KOWLOON. (TELEPHONE 3-708864)

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CBF INSPECTS PASSING-OUT PARADE OF FIREMEN

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THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR JOHN ARCHER, TOLD FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN TAKING PART IN A PASSING-OUT PARADE TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THEY HAD CHOSEN A POSITIVE WAY OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY.

ADDRESSING THE 84 FIREMEN AND 27 AMBULANCEMEN WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED A 26-WEEK TRAINING COURSE AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, SIR JOHN PRAISED THEM FOR NOT OPTING FOR THE EASY WAY OUT BUT CHOOSING SOMETHING ADVENTUROUS, SOMETHING WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO ACT ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF DANGER.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT A +CLOCK-WATCHING+ JOB EITHER, FOR THERE WOULD BE NO SET HOURS AND BOTH FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN WOULD BE ON CALL AT ALL HOURS OF THE DAY AND NIGHT.

+IN RECENT DAYS ALONE,+ SIR JOHN RECALLED, +WE HAVE HAD THE FIRES IN CHEUNG SHA WAN AND SHAM SHUI PO TO REMIND US OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN IN THE CROWDED CITY AREAS.+

HE NOTED THAT THIS YEAR ALONE, THE FIRE SERVICES HAVE TURNED OUT TO OVER 8,000 FIRES, ADDING THAT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY, SOME 36 FIREMEN HAD BEEN INJURED.

ALSO ON PARADE TODAY WERE ONE SQUAD OF FIRE OFFICERS AND ONE SQUAD OF SENIOR AMBULANCEMEN STILL UNDER TRAINING.

THE PARADE, THE 24TH SINCE THE OPENING OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL IN 1968, WAS COMMANDED BY ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER YIP LUN-CHEUNG.

AFTER THE PARADE SIR JOHN WATCHED A FIRE FIGHTING DEMONSTRATION GIVEN BY THE NEWLY QUALIFIED FIREMEN.

MUSIC WAS PROVIDED BY THE COMBINED PIPES AND DRUMS OF THE GURKHA ENGINEERS AND GURKHA SIGNALS.

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BIENNIAL INSPECTION OF C.A.S. MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

THE BIENNIAL INSPECTION OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN DECEMBER 6 AND DECEMBER 12.

THE INSPECTION, AIMED AT PRODUCING A PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL OF THE UNIT'S ABILITY AND SUGGESTING FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS, WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE INSPECTOR OF LAND RESCUE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, SQUADRON LEADER JOHN VERNON OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

DURING THIS PERIOD, A SERIES OF EXERCISES ON NAVIGATION, MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE, AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF MOUNTAIN CLIMBING AND RESCUE SKILLS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MEMBERS OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT IN VARIOUS HILLY AREAS IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A REPORT ON THE UNIT'S EFFICIENCY AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARD WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED BY SQUADRON LEADER VERNON TOGETHER WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IF NECESSARY.

THE C.A.S. MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAMS WERE FIRST ORGANISED IN 1967 WITH A NUCLEUS OF PERMANENT TRAINING STAFF FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AIR FORCE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM FROM HONG KONG.

SINCE THEN MORE AND MORE VOLUNTEER MEMBERS WERE RECRUITED AND TWO C.A.S. MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAMS -- ONE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND AND ONE FOR KOWLOON -- WERE INAUGURATED ON APRIL 7, 1969.

THESE TEAMS WERE FURTHER AMALGAMATED IN JANUARY 1, 1975 TO FORM A C.A.S. MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT WITH AN AUTHORISED ESTABLISHMENT OF 56 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

THE UNIT IS NOW BASED AT THE C.A.S. KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE IN ARGYLE STREET, AND A DETACHMENT OF EIGHT MEMBERS ARE ON STAND-BY DUTY FROM 10 A.M. TO 9.30 P.M. DURING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

ITS MEMBERS MAY BE CALLED UPON TO PERFORM ALL KINDS OF SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN REMOTE AND MOUNTAIN AREAS.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

AS PART OF THE BIENNIAL INSPECTION, A MOUNTAIN RESCUE DEMONSTRATION WILL BE HELD AT KOWLOON PEAK ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7.

THIS DEMONSTRATION, WHICH WILL START AT 11 A.M. AND LAST FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, WILL INCLUDE ROCK CLIMBING, PRUSIKING, ABSEILING AND CASUALTY EVACUATION BY HELICOPTER.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE DEMONSTRATION. TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED AND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE C.A.S. KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE AT 204, ARGYLE STREET (NEXT TO THE KOWLOON CITY POLICE STATION) AT 9.30 A.M.

/MR. NG

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MR. NG YIU-LUN, TRAINING OFFICER OF THE C.A.S., WILL ACCOMPANY THEM FROM THE TRAINING CENTRE TO THE DEMONSTRATION AREA.

AS IT WILL TAKE SOME 45 MINUTES TO WALK FROM THE DROP-OFF POINT TO THE DEMONSTRATION AREA, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE ADVISED TO PUT ON RUBBER-SOLE SHOES FOR THE OCCASION TO FACILITATE WALKING ON HILL PATHS.

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MANAGEMENT SEMINARS FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
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THE GOVERNMENT TRAINING DIVISION IS CONDUCTING A SECOND SERIES OF SEMINARS FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICERS AT THE DIRECTORATE LEVEL OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. IT WILL BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE SUITE, ON THE 1ST FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, BETWEEN DECEMBER 6 AND 17, COMMENCING AT 9.15 A.M.

PROF. A.L. MINKES AND DR. D. WILLIAMS OF BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY WHO CONDUCTED THE FIRST SERIES OF SEMINARS LAST YEAR WILL AGAIN BE IN CHARGE.

THE PROJECT IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE COMMONWEALTH FUND FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION (CFTC).

THE PURPOSES OF THIS FOLLOW-UP SERIES OF SEMINARS ARE TO ANALYSE AND DISCUSS MODERN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS AND APPROACHES, TO RELATE ITS FINDINGS TO ADMINISTRATORS AND SPECIALISTS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND TO EXAMINE SPECIFIC ISSUES.

DURING THE PAST WEEK PROF. MINKES HAS MET SEVERAL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND SENIOR OFFICERS IN THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS MANAGERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THIS SERIES OF SEMINARS WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY MR. H.M.G. FORSGATE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 6) AT 9.15 A.M. PLEASE ASSEMBLE IN THE LOBBY OF THE MAIN WING OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 9 A.M. THAT DAY WHERE THE SECRETARIAT PRESS OFFICER WILL MEET YOU.

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