



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1977

IMPORTANT ROLE OF FOREST GUARDS

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DURING THE DRY WINTER MONTHS EVERY YEAR, A HANDFUL OF DEDICATED MEN FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN PROTECTING HONG KONG'S COUNTRYSIDE FROM FIRE.

THEY ARE THE DEPARTMENT'S HAND PICKED FOREST GUARDS WHO ARE SENT TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TO PERFORM SPECIAL DUTIES FOR SEVEN MONTHS STARTING FROM OCTOBER EVERY YEAR.

THESE MEN SPEND THE WINTER IN +FIRE LOOKOUTS+ WHICH ARE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED ON TOP OF HILLS OVERLOOKING LARGE AREAS OF WOODLANDS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THERE ARE SEVEN SUCH LOOKOUT CABINS NESTLED ON TOP OF HILLS OF AT LEAST 1,200 FEET HIGH. THEY ARE AT GOLDEN HILL, TAI MO SHAN, PAT HEUNG, TIN FU TSAI, LAM TEI, TAI PO KAU AND SHAP LONG.

EACH OF THESE LOOKOUT CABINS IS EQUIPPED WITH A FIELD TELEPHONE LINKING TO A FOREST MANAGEMENT CENTRE OR OFFICE, A WALKIE-TALKIE RADIO TRANSCEIVER, A PAIR OF BINOCULARS AND A MAP.

THE TAI MO SHAN LOOKOUT IS THE HIGHEST. THE FIRST SUCH POST WAS BUILT ON KAM SHAN IN 1956 AND THE LATEST ONE, BUILT FIVE YEARS AGO, IS ON LAM TEI.

FOUR EXPERIENCED MEN ARE ASSIGNED TO EACH LOOKOUT POST TO CARRY OUT FIRE SPOTTING DUTIES. THEY WORK ON TWO SHIFTS OF 24 HOURS EACH.

THESE MEN, WHO AT TIMES BRAVE ZERO DEGREE TEMPERATURES, SPEND A SPARTAN LIFE.

+BUT I DON'T MIND BEING UP HERE AT KAM SHAN (GOLDEN HILL),+ SAID MR. WONG CHOY, A FOREST GUARD WHO HAS BEEN WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.

+WE ARE USED TO BEING HERE AND IT KEEPS US FIT AND HEALTHY. ALTHOUGH AT TIMES IT DOES FEEL MONOTONOUS, BUT TIME PASSES VERY QUICKLY AND AFTER ALL I HAVE THE NEXT DAY FOR MYSELF AND CAN DO WHAT I LIKE.

+BESIDES THERE ARE TWO OF US HERE TO KEEP EACH OTHER COMPANY.+

MR. TANG KEI-LIM, WHO SHARES THE SHIFT WITH MR. WONG SAID HE TOO WAS USED TO THE TYPE OF WORK.

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/+THIS IS

+THIS IS THE ONLY POST THAT HAS ELECTRICITY TO KEEP US WARM,+ HE SAID,+ WE ARE LUCKY AS OTHER POSTS DO NOT HAVE ELECTRICITY BECAUSE OF THEIR REMOTE LOCATIONS.+

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THESE GUARDS AT THE LOOKOUT POSTS USUALLY HAD AT LEAST 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN PLANTATION PROTECTION WORK.

+THEY MUST ALSO KNOW ALL THE VARIOUS PARTS OF PLANTATION AREAS LIKE THE BACK OF THEIR HANDS,+ HE SAID.

WITH THIS LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, HE EMPHASISED, THE FOREST GUARD CAN IMMEDIATELY REPORT A FIRE AND PINPOINT ITS LOCATION WITHOUT HAVING TO RELY ON A MAP.

+SPEED AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCAL TOPOGRAPHY ARE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN FIGHTING FOREST OR HILL FIRES,+ HE STRESSED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHEN A FIRE WAS SPOTTED, IT WAS IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE FOREST MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR CENTRE WITH THE USE OF THE FIELD TELEPHONE.

THE NEXT STEP, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, INVOLVED DIRECTING FIRE FIGHTERS TO THE SCENE OF THE FIRE BY COMMUNICATING WITH A WALKIE-TALKIE.

+WHEN THE FIRE FIGHTERS CANNOT COPE WITH THE BLAZE AND REQUIRE REINFORCEMENT, THE REQUEST IS OFTEN MADE TO THE LOCKOUT FROM WHERE THE MESSAGE IS PASSED ON TO THE MANAGEMENT CENTRE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+THE MANAGEMENT CENTRE MUST REPORT EVERY HILL FIRE TO THE FIRE CONTROL HEADQUARTERS IN KOWLOON HILL FROM WHERE ALL HILL FIRE FIGHTING OPERATIONS ARE COORDINATED.

+WHEN REINFORCEMENT IS REQUIRED, THE HEADQUARTERS CALLS IN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.+

THERE ARE 15 MANAGEMENT CENTRES AT WHICH FIRE CREWS ARE BASED. AT 11 OF THE CENTRES, THERE ARE 10-MAN CREWS AND AT THE OTHER FOUR THERE ARE SIX-MAN CREWS.

ALL CREWS ARE MOBILE AND ARE EQUIPPED WITH WALKIE-TALKIES, FIRE BEATERS AND HAND-OPERATED PUMPS. THE LARGER CREWS ARE ALSO EQUIPPED WITH MOTOR-DRIVEN HIGH PRESSURE PUMPS AND HOSES.

BEFORE THE START OF THE WINTER EVERY YEAR, EACH SENIOR FIELD OFFICER WITH A TERRITORIAL CHARGE IS REQUIRED TO REPORT AND CONFIRM IN WRITING TO HIS SUPERVISING FORESTRY OFFICER (PROTECTION) OF THE STATE OF READINESS OF ALL FIRE CREWS IN THE DISTRICT UNDER HIS CHARGE.

+THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AS IT AFFECTS THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

+THE PLANTATION AREAS DAILY ATTRACT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO GO THERE FOR PICNICS. ALSO, THESE WOODLANDS HELP PREVENT SOIL EROSION AND PROTECT THE WATER CATCHMENT AREAS.

+BECAUSE THESE PLANTATION AREAS ARE SO POPULAR WITH THE PUBLIC, THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED EARLIER LAST YEAR WITH AN AIM TO PROTECT THESE PLACES AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

+THE POPULARITY OF THESE PLACES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GROW AND LIKewise THE RISK OF FIRES DESTROYING THE COUNTRYSIDE IS ALSO LIKELY TO INCREASE.

+BECAUSE OF THIS DANGER, THE LIGHTING OF FIRES FOR ANY REASON, EXCEPT IN APPROVED BARBECUE PITS, IS PROHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND THIS REGULATION IS ONE WHICH MUST, AND WILL BE, ENFORCED.+

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT THE WORST YEAR WAS 1973-74, WHEN MORE THAN 1,200 FIRES WERE REPORTED. THE FIRES AFFECTED 4,000 ACRES OF PLANTATION AND DESTROYED SOME \$1.3 MILLION WORTH OF TREES.

+WATCHING TREES GO UP IN FLAMES IS A SORROWFUL SIGHT BECAUSE THEY ARE COSTLY AND TAKE YEARS TO GROW,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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KOWLOON'S FIRST ALL NIGHT BUS SERVICE
FACES CANCELLATION
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KOWLOON'S FIRST ALL NIGHT BUS SERVICE FACES CANCELLATION BECAUSE OF LACK OF PASSENGERS.

KMB ROUTE NO. 2B WAS INTRODUCED ON DECEMBER 17 ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS FOR THREE MONTHS OPERATING BETWEEN JORDAN ROAD FERRY AND KOWLOON CITY FERRY VIA TSIM SHA TSUI, HUNG HOM AND TO KWA WAN EVERY 15-MINUTES BETWEEN 12.45 A.M. AND 5.15 A.M. AT A 50-CENT FARE.

AS WELL AS PROVIDING CONNECTING FACILITIES FOR LATE NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING FERRIES, IT WAS HOPED THAT THE NEW SERVICE WOULD CATER FOR NIGHT WORKERS IN THE BUSY RESTAURANT AREAS OF NATHAN ROAD AND MA TAU WAI ROAD.

THE NEW ROUTE ALSO CONNECTED AT HUNG HOM WITH THE ALL NIGHT CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTES TO CAUSEWAY BAY AND NORTH POINT AND WAN CHAI, CENTRAL AND WESTERN MARKET.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNLESS THERE WAS AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE USE OF THIS ALL NIGHT SERVICE IT WOULD BE CANCELLED ON FEBRUARY 23, THAT IS, AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

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TWO MAXICAB ROUTES TO BE IMPROVED

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THE SERVICES ON TWO MAXICAB ROUTES ARE TO BE IMPROVED FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY). THESE ARE ROUTE 7 (PREVIOUSLY ROUTE 8) FROM MT. NICHOLSON TO CENTRAL AND ROUTE 6 FROM CENTRAL TO OCEAN PARK (PREVIOUSLY CENTRAL TO SHOUSON HILL).

THE ROUTING OF ROUTE 7 HAS BEEN ALTERED TO PROVIDE A QUICKER AND BETTER PEAK-HOUR SERVICE TO CENTRAL AS WELL AS SERVING WIDER BUSY AREAS DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS.

DURING PEAK HOURS, FROM 7.40 A.M. TO 8.40 A.M. AND FROM 4.40 P.M. TO 5.40 P.M., BUSES ON ROUTE 7 WILL TRAVEL IN A ONE-WAY DIRECTION ONLY FROM MT. NICHOLSON TO CENTRAL VIA STUBBS ROAD, COOMBE ROAD, MAGAZINE GAP ROAD, GARDEN ROAD, LOWER ALBERT ROAD AND ICE HOUSE STREET WITH STOPPING PLACES IN COOMBE ROAD, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, GARDEN ROAD AND ICE HOUSE STREET.

DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE IN A TWO-WAY DIRECTION VIA WANCHAI ROAD, HENNESSY ROAD, JOHNSTON ROAD, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, PEDDER STREET TO CENTRAL.

THE SERVICE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO OPERATE FROM 7.40 A.M. TO 6.40 P.M. FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS AT A REGULAR FREQUENCY OF 30 MINUTES.

ROUTE 6 PRIMARILY SERVED THE SHOUSON HILL AREA VIA THE WATERFRONT. THERE WERE SPECIAL JOURNEYS TO OCEAN PARK ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS TO MEET PASSENGER DEMAND.

HOWEVER, UNDER NEW ARRANGEMENTS, ROUTE 6 WILL NOW PLY BETWEEN CENTRAL AND OCEAN PARK VIA QUEENSWAY, HENNESSY ROAD, FENWICK STREET, JOHNSTON ROAD, WANCHAI ROAD, MORRISON HILL ROAD, LEIGHTON ROAD, WONGNEICHUNG GAP ROAD AND THEN VIA SHOUSON HILL ROAD TO OCEAN PARK.

THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE WEEK-DAY TIME SCHEDULE. BUSES WILL RUN EVERY 15 MINUTES DURING PEAK HOURS AND EVERY 30 MINUTES DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS.

ONE NEW ASPECT OF THE SERVICE IS THAT BEFORE 10 A.M. BUSES ON THIS ROUTE WILL START AND TERMINATE AT SHOUSON HILL ROAD AS USUAL. BUT AFTER THIS TIME THE SERVICE WILL START AND TERMINATE AT OCEAN PARK.

PREVIOUSLY, ROUTE 6 DID NOT OPERATE A FIXED SERVICE TO OCEAN PARK ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. SPECIAL SERVICES WERE RUN TO MEET DEMAND. NOW, A REGULAR 20-MINUTE SERVICE WILL OPERATE ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS BETWEEN 7.30 A.M. AND 6.30 P.M. ON SATURDAYS, THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE FROM 7.30 A.M. TO 1.30 P.M.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1977

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REVISED SCHEDULES FOR MOBILE IMMIGRATION OFFICE
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT HAS REVISED THE SCHEDULES OF ITS MOBILE OFFICE WHICH MAKES REGULAR CALLS AT VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE REVISED TIMETABLE WHICH WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE FROM THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 17).

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE OF CALL</u>
MONDAY	10.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.	SAN HUI (SAN FAT ESTATE)
	2.30 P.M. - 3.45 P.M.	SAN TIN (RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE)
TUESDAY	10 A.M. - 12.30 P.M.	HANG HAU (RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE)
	2 P.M. - 4 P.M.	SAI KUNG (RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE)
WEDNESDAY	10 A.M. - 1 P.M.	SHA TIN (RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE)
	2 P.M. - 4 P.M.	
THURSDAY (SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH)	11.15 A.M. - 1 P.M.	CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND (RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE)
	2 P.M. - 2.45 P.M.	
THURSDAY (FIRST, THIRD, AND FIFTH, IF ANY, THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH)	10 A.M. - 12.30 P.M.	ABERDEEN (ABERDEEN KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CENTRE)
	2 P.M. - 4 P.M.	STANLEY (CIVIL AID SERVICES HONG KONG EAST SUB-HEAD-QUARTERS IN WONG MA KOK ROAD)
FRIDAY	10 A.M. - 1 P.M.	TAI PO (RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE)
	2 P.M. - 3.45 P.M.	

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE ON CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON TWO DAYS FOR THE REST OF THIS MONTH.

IT WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 10 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 15 (TUESDAY) AND BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 6 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 16 (WEDNESDAY).

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

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