



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1978

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NEW BOOK REVEALS FASCINATING HISTORY OF
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

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THE STORY OF HONG KONG'S MOST DISTINGUISHED RESIDENCE --
GOVERNMENT HOUSE -- IS TOLD IN FASCINATING DETAIL FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN A NEW BOOK WHICH GOES ON SALE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

IT TOOK THE AUTHOR, KATHERINE MATTOCK, MONTHS OF PAINSTAKING
RESEARCH OF OFFICIAL RECORDS IN BOTH HONG KONG AND LONDON TO
COMPILE MATERIAL FOR THE BOOK, ENTITLED +THIS IS HONG KONG:
THE STORY OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE.+

DESIGNED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES THE BOOK IS
THE SECOND IN A NEW SERIES OF PUBLICATIONS ABOUT FEATURES OF
HONG KONG. IT IS ON SALE AT HK\$24 EACH FROM THE GOVERNMENT
PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL
AND LEADING BOOKSHOPS.

LOOKING BACK AT THE EARLY DAYS OF HONG KONG, THE AUTHOR HAS
PIECED TOGETHER THE CHEQUERED HISTORY OF THE HOUSE IN UPPER
ALBERT ROAD WHICH HAS BEEN THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF SUCCESSIVE
GOVERNORS SINCE 1855.

AS WELL AS CHRONICLING THE HOUSE'S HISTORY THE BOOK RECALLS
MANY SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THAT HAVE TOUCHED UPON THE LIFE OF HONG
KONG SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1841.

RICHLY ILLUSTRATED WITH COLOURED PAINTINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS,
THE BOOK ALSO OFFERS READERS AN INSIGHT INTO THE LIVES OF SOME
OF HONG KONG'S PAST GOVERNORS. UNDER ITS ROOF HAVE STAYED AN
INTERNATIONAL ARRAY OF GUESTS WHO HAVE VISITED HONG KONG
THROUGH THE YEARS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY,
KINGS AND PRINCES OF EUROPE, HEADS OF STATE AND FAMOUS
PERSONALITIES.

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PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE

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A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN FLEW THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM LOS ANGELES TO HONG KONG LAST SUMMER FOR ONE PURPOSE -- TO VISIT TWO BUILDINGS, ONE OF THEM LONG DEMOLISHED.

SHE WANTED TO PHOTOGRAPH ST. PETER'S CHURCH, THE CHAPEL OF SAILORS HOME IN WESTERN, AND A POLICE STATION IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST -- BOTH WERE BUILT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

THE CHURCH IN WESTERN WAS THE PLACE WHERE HER GRANDPARENTS WERE MARRIED IN 1896, AND THE WAN CHAI POLICE STATION WAS WHERE HER GRANDMOTHER ONCE LIVED.

IN ANOTHER CASE, RELATIVES IN AUSTRALIA OF TWO SERVICEMEN WHO DIED IN THE BATTLE FOR HONG KONG IN 1941, WROTE TO A FRIEND IN HONG KONG INQUIRING ABOUT THEIR GRAVES.

BUT WHERE COULD ONE GO FOR HELP IN TRACING THE HISTORY OF THESE CASES?

THIS IS WHERE THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE COMES IN. THANKS TO IT, THE WOMAN WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE TWO PLACES WHERE NOW STANDS THE WESTERN POLICE STATION AND THE WAN CHAI POST OFFICE, AND THE SERVICEMEN'S RELATIVES FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TWO SOLDIERS.

DOCUMENTS IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE SHOW THAT THE SOLDIERS DIED IN AN ATTACK ON A REPULSE BAY HOUSE +OVERBAY+ BESEIGED BY JAPANESE ARMY ON DECEMBER 22, 1941. THEIR NAMES ARE RECORDED IN THE SAI WAN WAR MEMORIAL.

LOCATED AT THE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK, THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE IS THE CENTRE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE GOVERNMENT RECORDS. IT IS HEADED BY MR. IAN DIAMOND, THE ARCHIVIST.

MR. DIAMOND SAID RECORDS THAT ARE OVER 30 YEARS OLD COULD USUALLY BE INSPECTED BY THE PUBLIC.

+BUT, THERE IS NO HARD AND FAST RULE REGARDING THIS MATTER AND THERE ARE RECORDS OVER 30 YEARS OLD WHICH ARE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, + HE ADDED.

THE OFFICE WAS SET UP IN 1972 AND IS PREPARING FOR EXPANSION TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING WORKLOAD.

MR. DIAMOND SAID ALL THE SHELVES IN THE OFFICE ARE FULL.

BEFORE THE SETTING UP OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE, GOVERNMENT RECORDS WERE KEPT SEPARATELY BY INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS.

MR. DIAMOND SAID: +THE ADVANTAGE OF THE OFFICE IS TO HAVE ALL THE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE NO LONGER IN CURRENT USE PUT UNDER ONE ROOF, SO THAT TRAINED OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT CAN DECIDE WHICH OF THESE ARE OF PERMANENT VALUE AND WHICH, WITH DEPARTMENTAL AGREEMENT, CAN BE THROWN AWAY.+

/+RECORDS

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+RECORDS ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE FOR SAFE-KEEPING JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE OLD. DOCUMENTS ARE SELECTED FOR PRESERVATION ONLY IF THEY MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA,+ HE SAID.

+SINCE 1972 OVER 20 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE SENT THEIR RECORDS TO THE OFFICE FOR EVALUATION,+ HE ADDED.

THE OLDEST DOCUMENTS KEPT BY THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE WERE LETTERS BETWEEN THE CHIEF POLICE MAGISTRATE AND THE COLONIAL SECRETARY DEALING WITH A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING THE SETTING UP OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE IN 1844-46.

OTHER ITEMS STORED IN THE OFFICE INCLUDE THE COLONY SEAL, WHICH WAS USED IN THE PRE-WAR PERIOD, RECORDS OF THE JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION DURING THE OCCUPATION PERIOD, PAPERS ON LAND MATTERS, PROPERTY RATING AND OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE STANLEY PRISON AND HOSPITAL.

THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE ALSO HAS A COLLECTION OF OVER 1,800 HONG KONG MAPS. THE OLDEST ORIGINAL MAP DATES BACK TO 1867 AND REPRODUCTIONS OF ORIGINAL ONES IN EARLIER YEARS ARE ALSO KEPT.

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AUDIO-VISUAL INSTRUCTION COURSES

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THE VISUAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE WILL HOLD A SERIES OF AUDIO-VISUAL INSTRUCTION COURSES FOR SERVING TEACHERS OVER THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS.

THE COURSES, DESIGNED TO ACQUAINT TEACHERS WITH BASIC TECHNIQUES IN USING AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS IN CLASSROOM TEACHING, WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT IN CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE SERIES CONSISTS OF EIGHT TWO-HOUR COURSES.

THE OPENING COURSE, SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 28, WILL DEAL WITH +EDUCATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY — PHOTOGRAPHIC COPYING TECHNIQUES+.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER COURSES ON MODEL MAKING — POLYSTYRENE FOAM TECHNIQUES, REPROGRAPHIC TECHNIQUES, FAMILIARIZATION WITH AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTION TOOLS, TECHNIQUES OF OVERHEAD PROJECTION IN CLASSROOMS, PRACTICAL WORKSHOP OPERATION OF AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT, AND WORKSHOP MOUNTING TECHNIQUES.

THE LAST IN THE SERIES ON SCREEN PRINTING FOR OVERHEAD TRANSPARENCIES AND WALL CHARTS, WILL BE HELD ON JULY 25. THESE COURSES WILL BE REPEATED FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PARTICIPANTS.

THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN THE COURSES WILL BE CANTONESE, SUPPLEMENTED WITH ENGLISH WHERE APPLICABLE. TWENTY TEACHERS WILL BE TAKEN FOR EACH SESSION AND PLACES WILL BE ALLOTTED ON A +FIRST COME FIRST SERVED+ BASIS.

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FIVE MORE CARGO HANDLING AREAS IN FOUR YEARS

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO BUILD FIVE MORE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR THESE FACILITIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID SITES HAD BEEN EARMARKED FOR THIS EXPANSION. THEY INCLUDE AREAS IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT, AND CHAI WAN ON HONG KONG ISLAND, CHEUNG SHA WAN IN KOWLOON, RAMBLER CHANNEL, AND TUEN MUN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING MECHANISED CARGO HANDLING DEVICES INCLUDING COVERED CONVEYOR BELTS FOR TRANSPORTING DUSTY CARGO SUCH AS CEMENT, LIME AND AGGREGATE TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION.

COMMENTING ON THE ADVANTAGES OF CONTROLLED PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATED THAT A HIGHER THROUGHPUT RATE WAS ACHIEVABLE IN THESE AREAS THUS REDUCING COSTS FOR OPERATORS WHO MAKE GOOD USE OF SUCH FACILITIES.+

THE SPOKESMAN ESTIMATED THAT THE ANNUAL TONNAGE OF CARGO HANDLED WITH PUBLIC CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES WILL INCREASE FROM THE PRESENT 3,000,000 TONS TO 5,000,000 TONS BY 1981.

MEANWHILE, HONG KONG'S FOURTH PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA IN TSUEN WAN IS EXPECTED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL THIS MONTH.

THE NEW CARGO HANDLING AREA HAS A FRONTAGE OF 346 METRES AND WILL BE EXTENDED TO A LENGTH OF 900 METRES BY 1982.

IT WILL PROVIDE BERTHING FACILITIES FOR LIGHTERS AND PARKING SPACES FOR LORRIES.

MEASURES SIMILAR TO EXISTING CARGO WORKING AREAS IN WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI AND KWUN TONG WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEW WORKING AREA AND IT WILL BE MANNED BY STAFF OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ON A 24-HOUR BASIS ALL YEAR ROUND.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE NEW CARGO WORKING AREA WILL IMPROVE CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES IN THE NEW TOWN.+

AT THE SAME TIME, THE KWUN TONG PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA WHICH WAS OPENED LAST MONTH IS PROVING TO BE VERY POPULAR WITH CARGO OPERATORS.

MORE AND MORE LIGHTERS AND CARGO VESSELS ARE MAKING USE OF FACILITIES IN THIS NEW WORKING AREA.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +OPERATORS IN TO KWA WAN ARE BEING ATTRACTED TO THE NEW FACILITIES BECAUSE OF THE HIGHER THROUGHPUT RATE.

/+IN ADDITION,

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+IN ADDITION, TWO TRANSPORT COMPANIES WHICH MADE USE OF THE WAN CHAI PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA PREVIOUSLY BECAUSE OF CONGESTION IN KOWLOON HAVE MOVED THEIR BUSINESS TO KWUN TONG.

+IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE MOVE HAS RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE SAVING IN TUNNEL FEES FOR THE COMPANIES AS THEIR PRINCIPAL BUSINESS IS IN KOWLOON SIDE.

+THE WASH ROOMS AND REST SHELTERS WHICH ARE PROVIDED AS PART OF THE SERVICE ARE ALSO WELCOMED BY THE PEOPLE WORKING IN THE AREA. A TEA STALL WILL SHORTLY BE OPENED IN THE AREA TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE AMENITY FACILITIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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WORKSHOPS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS
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THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A SERIES OF FOUR WORKSHOPS ON THE USE OF DRAMA IN THE ENGLISH CLASS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM FEBRUARY 21 TO MARCH 18.

EACH WORKSHOP CONSISTS OF THREE MEETINGS OF TWO HOURS' DURATION.

THE FIRST TWO WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE (KOWLOON UNIT), 1 MA TAU KOK ROAD, SECOND FLOOR, KOWLOON, AND THE LAST TWO AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE (HONG KONG OFFICE), 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG.

THESE WORKSHOPS WILL INCLUDE SHORT TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS ON THE USE OF DRAMA IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL.

PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN ACTUAL CLASSROOM DRAMA ACTIVITIES AND TO PRODUCE MATERIALS SUITABLE FOR USE IN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS.

THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FOR EACH WORKSHOP WILL BE LIMITED TO 20 TEACHERS. A CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE WILL BE AWARDED TO ALL TEACHERS WHO HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED THE WORKSHOP.

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