



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Dear DIB Clients

I write to thank you for your support over the past years in subscribing to the Daily Information Bulletin (DIB).

In the meantime, I am glad to inform you that DIB has now been uploaded onto the Hong Kong Government Home Page on the Internet (<http://www.info.gov.hk/isd/news/index.htm>) from April 1, 1997.

This arrangement has ensured that existing DIB subscribers as well as the general public can have quicker access to the press releases issued daily by the Hong Kong Government through the Information Superhighway.

Following the upgrading of services, the DIB will no longer be printed in hard copies and distributed by post to subscribers with effect from May 1, 1997.

This decision will do good to the community at large in terms of environmental protection as 3.1 million sheets of A4-size paper will be saved each year, not to mention the saving of postage and large quantity of ink for printing.

If you wish to have the DIB sent directly to your Internet e-mail account, please complete and return the attached slip to GIS, 8th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, before May 1, 1997 or by fax through 2845 9078. You can, of course, provide your e-mail account to us through our Internet mail account : isdnews@isd.gcn.gov.hk.

It is the policy of this department that we should aim at running a paperless office in the long run, but if you have difficulties in the new arrangements, please contact the undersigned at 2842 8738.

Robert Yip

(Robert YIP)

for Director of Information Services

Return Slip

To : GIS, 8th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong
(Attn : Robert Yip)

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Saturday, April 19, 1997

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PLA advance personnel arrive on Monday

In response to media enquiries, a Government spokesman today (Saturday) confirmed that 40 advance personnel of the PLA, led by Major General Zhou Borong, will arrive in Hong Kong at 1 pm on Monday (April 21) via the Lok Ma Chau Crossing.

"The PLA advance personnel will be in uniform but will not carry arms. The eight vehicles brought in by them will carry Hong Kong number plates.

"At the border, the party will go through immigration and customs clearance and declare articles imported in line with normal procedures.

"After that, the party will proceed straight to Prince of Wales Barracks where they will be greeted by Commander British Forces Major General Bryan Dutton," the spokesman said.

End

PLA advance party to arrive at Prince of Wales Barracks

The British Garrison will welcome the arrival of the first advance party from the future People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison at Headquarters British Forces on Monday (April 21). The party is expected to arrive in the early afternoon, having crossed the border at Lok Ma Chau at 1 pm. They will be met on arrival at the Prince of Wales Barracks by Major General Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces.

The advance party will be led by Major General Zho Borong, a Deputy Commander of the future garrison. The party's duties will include making practical preparations for the PLA to take over responsibility for the defence of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region after June 30.

The 40-strong group will be split into two parties, with a liaison group of 28 staying at Prince of Wales Barracks, Central, and the remaining 12 in military accommodation on Stonecutters Island.

Their work is likely to include familiarisation with the 14 military sites they will be taking over, liaison with the Garrison and the Hong Kong Government and co-ordination of communications support.

"It is in the best long-term interests of the people of Hong Kong that there should be a smooth transfer of defence responsibility to the People's Liberation Army," a spokesman said. "The British Garrison looks forward to working with the members of the advance party to help ensure the successful transfer. The future PLA Garrison of the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong inherits a proud tradition from the British Hong Kong Garrison, a success story which we will do everything we can to help them continue."

End

Requirements to enhance float safety

* * * * *

The requirements for float parades are to be complied by all involved including organisers and drivers, a Transport Department spokesman said today (Saturday).

"Applicants must submit their applications for approval one month in advance and observe some compulsory requirements and advisory guidelines," he noted.

Those compulsory requirements comprise inspection of vehicles, self-monitoring responsibility of the parade organising committee and others.

Vehicle inspection for all floats will be conducted jointly by the Transport Department and Fire Services Department three days before the event.

"Any subsequent rectification will be re-checked on the previous day of the event.

"Spot checks on these floats will be made on the day of the event as and when necessary," he continued.

Self-monitoring measures include:

- * requiring a qualified electrical or mechanical engineer to certify vehicle modification drawings and monitor the actual installation and decoration work;

- * requiring a standby driver sitting next to the licensed duty driver while on procession; and
- * requiring a supervisor on site to give direction to the duty driver.

Other requirements include:

- * exhausted gas of generators and the vehicles be deflected away from the vehicle;
- * Driver's front and side views not be obstructed;
- * Driver's doors be easily accessible and opened from inside and outside;
- * clear indication of brakes applied be shown at rear of the float;
- * provision of one portable fire extinguisher in the car; and
- * maintaining communications between the driver and passengers on the float.

"As float parades attract a large number of crowds in the vicinity, professional inputs, stringent vehicles inspection procedures and other requirements are essential in upkeeping safety," the spokesman added.

In addition, float safety can be reinforced by advisory guidelines.

The guidelines cover the vehicle conditions, the conduct of drivers and passengers, fire precaution, and loading of vehicle.

"For their own safety and others', those involved in a float parade, such as organisers, sponsors, drivers and passengers, are highly encouraged to comply with the guidelines as far as possible," the spokesman urged.

Anyone who is interested in obtaining a copy of the requirements and guidelines may request one from the Transport Department directly.

End

Governor presents insignia and commendations to 86

The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, presented insignia and commendations to 86 people at a ceremony at Government House this (Saturday) morning.

Following is the list of recipients:

DBE

The Honourable Rosanna WONG Yick-ming

OBE

Mr CHEN Din-hwa

Mrs Shelley LAU LEE Lai-kuen

MBE

Mr CHAN Kong-sang

Mrs Josephine CHANG SIAO Fong-fong

Mr Peter CHAU Cham-chiu

Mr CHIU Chung-tong

Dr Philemon CHOI Yuen-wan

Miss CHU Kwok-ying

Miss Ann HUI On-wah

Mr KEUNG Yin-man

Mr Wilfred LAM Wing-sun

QPM

Mr LAU Chun-sing

ISM

Mr KWAN Man-hoi

CPM

Mr Martin SAMSON

Mr Paul CROFT

Mr Barry Christopher GRIFFIN

Mr LEE Yeung-chi

Mr CHAN Pak-chi

Mr LEUNG Ping

Mr LI Kam-wa

Mrs LO CHAN Lin

Mr TSUI Kwok-cheung

Mr TAM Sum-wing

Fire

Mr Victor HSU Yung

Mr LIU Tin-chee

Badge of Honour

Mr Gopaldas Holaram AHUJA

Mr CHAN Hing

Madam CHAN Kit-wing

Mr CHAN Ying-shu

Mr CHAN Yuek-sut, Joseph

Mr CHIU Wai-ming

Rev CHU Yiu-ming

Mr John DOCKERILL

Mr HO Kwan-yiu, Junius

Mr LAI Kwok-hung

Mr LAM Kwok-hing, Wilfred

Mr LAM Man-fai

Governor's Commendations

Mr YIP Kit

Mr MAK Wing-lam

Mr YIM Yun-hung

Mr LAU Chi-leung

Mr CHUNG Kiu-sun

Miss KHOR Yee-yin, Selina

Mr MAK Chun-yip

Mr Geoffrey Wayne SMITH

Mr YUEN Chak-ming

Governor's Commendations for Community Service

Mr William Francis ARCHAMBAUD-CHAO

Dr AU Yiu-kai

Mr CHAN Chi-kit

Mr CHAN Kang

Mr CHAN Pui-yiu, Clement

Mr CHANG Wei-chung

Mr CHAU Ping-kuen for the late Mr CHAU Chi-chai

Mr CHEUNG Kam-moon

Mr CHEUNG Tai-chiu

Mr CHU King-yuen

Ms CHU Yin-lei

Mrs FUNG LEUNG Kwai-ping

Miss Wendy HALL

Mr HO Ping-chiu

Mr HO Siu-cham

Ms HON Wing-wah

Ms IP Shun-hing

Mr KEUNG Yin-man

Dr KOO Ming-yan, Charles

Ms KWOK Ching-ngan

Ms KWOK Suk-jing

Mr LAM Cheung-chi

Mr LAM Chi-hon

Rev LAM Chung-wai

Mr LAM Fook-chuen

Mr LAU Pik-kin

Order of St John

Knight of Grace

Dr Peter LEE Chung-yin

Commander Brother

Mr WOO Man-kai

Officer Brothers

Mr NG Chung-yee

Mr LEUNG Wing-pong

Officer Sister

Mrs CHIU HUNG Siu-ping

Serving Brothers

Mr Dennis SIN Chuck-fun

Dr Sidney SIU Yim-kwan

Mr HO Ka-ying

Mr NGAI Shu-kay

Mr TSE Foo-yin

Mr YU Koon-sing

Mr LAU Ping-pui

Mr LEE Kwok-chung

Serving Sister

Miss Chan Yin-ha

End

Governor presents insignia and commendations to 90

* * * * *

The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, presented insignia and commendations to 90 people at a ceremony at Government House this (Saturday) afternoon.

Following is the list of recipients:

CBE

Mr Anthony AU-YEUNG Fu

OBE

Professor Rance LEE Pui-leung

Mrs Helen YU LAI Ching-ping

MBE

Mr Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen

Mr LEUNG Shiu-wing

Mr LEUNG Shou-chun

Mr LI Shai-hung

Dr York LIAO

Mr LO Tin-hoi

Mr NG Shui-lai

Dr Edward George PRYOR

Ms Carlye TSUI Wai-ling

Ms Judy WONG Shuk-ching

Mr James YEUNG Chi-kin

QESM

Mr LAM Chun-man

ISM

Mr YU Pak-hoi

CPM

Mr Edward MAK Man-poon

Mr Tony HO Tse-tong

Mr YAN Fook-mou

Mr Kenneth William Colin MACKENZIE

Mr CHEUNG Yuk-fung

Mr KWAN Wa-fai

Mr LI Chun-wai

Mr LI Mau-sau

Mr WONG Nang-chong

Mrs FU KEUNG San-ling

Fire

Mr Albert CHAN Ting-kai

Mr CHAN Yun-pui

Mr WONG Kin-ming

Badge of Honour

Dr LEUNG Man-fuk

Mr LI Sing-pak

Mr LI Siu-wah

Mr LING Man-hoi

Mr LOUR Tsang-tsay, Lawrence

Mr Francis Ho-yin TAM for the late Mr TAM Ping-fai

Mr TONG Kang-chung

Mrs Diana WONG IP Wai-ying

Ms WONG Kwai-wan

Ms WONG Mo-tai

Mr WONG Ping-kwong

Governor's Commendations

Mr FUNG Kam-wah

Mr LAI Hing-hung

Mr CHU Kee-leung

Mr SO Chi-wing

Mr YEUNG Yee-hung

Mr CHAN Shing-wah

Mr Colin Frank REDSTON

Miss Christina TSANG Woon-pui

Mrs Anita WILSON

Governor's Commendations for Community Service

Mr LEUNG Man-wui

Ms LEUNG Pong-ying, Kelly

Mr LEUNG Wing-on, Louis

Mr LI Tak-hong

Mr LI Ying-sang, Tommy

Mr LUI Tung-ming

Mr MAN Chuk-lam

Mr MOK Kin-wing

Mr NG Koon-hung

Mr NG Sai-tai

Mr NGAI Kam-fai, Danny

Mrs SO CHIU Lai-ching

Mr TAM Ling-kwan

Mr TANG Kwok-kong

Mr TANG Wai-ming

Mr TSANG Ma-ming

Dr TSE Tak-fu

Mr WONG Che-ngai

Mr WONG Kin-ming

Mr WONG Lung-tak

Mr LI Ting-yea for the late Miss WONG Sau-mei

Mr WONG Wai-yim

Ms WONG Yuk-fan

Mr WU Cheong-wo

Mr YICK Tsun-kwan

Mr YIP Fong-keung

Ms Kay YU Ngan-kuen

Mr YUEN Fu-pong

Order of St John

Commander Brother

Mr MAK Sik-hung

Officer Brother

Dr LEE Hok-chou, Vito

Officer Sister

Mrs Shirley CHAN SO Suk-fong

Serving Brothers

Mr YU Wei-yeh

Mr LEUNG Kwok-yip

Dr LAU Bo-yee

Mr KEUNG Yin-man

Mr CHENG Kin-ping

Mr Peter LEE Yue-chuen

Mr LO Kwok-hung

Mr NG Sai-tai

Mr KAN Po-chiu

Serving Sister

Miss YU Shuk-fong

End

Queuing system to improve hotline service

* * * * *

The Labour Department has recently introduced a queuing system for its General Enquiry Telephone Service (GETS) to further improve the service for the public.

The service provides a 24-hour hotline 2717 1771 for general enquiries on various topics of labour legislation and work of the Labour Department through an interactive voice processing system.

Members of the public can obtain relevant information from a selection of pre-recorded messages or by fax transmission. This computerised answering system is supplemented by staff operators during office hours.

"The newly introduced queuing system enables six callers to queue for the operator service when all operators are occupied," Senior Labour Officer (Labour Inspection), Mr Chan Kwok-kuen, said today (Saturday).

A preliminary survey on the new system was conducted in early April. The results showed that 69 per cent of the callers in the queue could be connected to operators within three minutes and 96 per cent within six minutes.

"A total of 94 per cent of the callers surveyed are in favour of the queuing system while 80 per cent of them are satisfied with this new facility," Mr Chan said.

The GETS is a highly popular service. More than 1.7 million enquiries were handled in 1996. In some busy hours, some callers may need to wait longer in the queue.

If the maximum waiting time of 10 minutes is exceeded, callers will be asked to call later.

Mr Chan encouraged the public to call between noon and 3 pm on Mondays to Fridays when the operators were less busy.

"Operator service is also available during lunch hours on these days," he added.

The GETS provides enquiry service in Cantonese, Putonghua or English through 36 telephone lines, supplemented by 14 staff during office hours. It also provides two 24-hour fax lines for the transmission of information.

A user's guide listing the information that can be obtained from the service is available at the branch offices of the Labour Department's Labour Inspection Division. It can also be collected through the facsimile service of the GETS.

End

\$97 million Lotteries Fund approved

* * * * *

A total of \$97,669,800 has been approved from the Lotteries Fund to finance various social welfare service programmes during the first quarter of 1997, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Saturday).

"Of the amount, \$27,480,700 are earmarked to family and child welfare services, \$45,468,100 to elderly and medical social services, \$16,698,500 to rehabilitation services, \$6,512,100 to youth services, \$921,300 to community development services, \$574,500 to social welfare support services and \$14,600 to services for offenders," the spokesman said.

The Lotteries Fund was established for the purpose of financing, by way of a grant, loan or an advance, the operation or development of social welfare services and medical or educational projects with a welfare content.

End

Fire prevention seminar in Tai Po

* * * * *

Members of mutual aid committees, owners' corporations, owners committees and residents in Tai Po District are invited to attend a fire prevention seminar at Tai Po Community Centre, No. 1 Heung Sze Hui Street, Tai Po on April 26 (Saturday).

The seminar, organised by the Tai Po District Office, will provide participants with a good knowledge of fire prevention and effective building management. The participants can also take the opportunity to engage in a floor discussion with guest speakers and share valuable experiences with each other.

The seminar will be held from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Admission is free.

Guest speakers will be Mr Chau Sau-wang, Senior Station Officer of the Fire Prevention Bureau/Fire Services Department; Mr Szeto Wing-sun, Engineer of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, and Mr Tsang Hing-kong, Customer Supplies and Installation Manager of the China Light & Power Company.

For enquiries, please call Miss Joyce Wong of the Tai Po District Office at 2654 1255.

End

Rescue operation off Waglan Island

* * * * *

The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of the Marine Department is coordinating a search and rescue operation for three fishermen east of Waglan Island after their fishing vessel sank this (Saturday) morning.

A HK-licensed 23-metre-long fishing vessel with five people on board including a HK person and four Chinese collided with an unknown vessel while the fishing vessel was fishing 11 nautical miles east of Waglan around 3.30 am today.

The HK person and a Chinese were rescued by a nearby vessel. Three other people on board are missing.

The case was reported to Marine Police around 5 am and MRCC subsequently started a search and rescue operation for the missing persons.

The MRCC has tasked the Police launch to search the area.

End