



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1980

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WET SUMMER IN 1979
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LAST SUMMER WAS MUCH WETTER THAN NORMAL, ACCORDING TO THE 1979 WEATHER REVIEW ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY.

THE ANNUAL RAINFALL FOR 1979 AMOUNTED TO 2 614.7 MM WHICH WAS 368.3 MM ABOVE NORMAL BUT THE YEAR'S MEAN CLOUDINESS AND TEMPERATURES WERE NEAR NORMAL.

THE FIRST QUARTER WAS VERY WARM AND THE MEAN TEMPERATURE FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS WAS 18.6 DEGREES CELSIUS - THE THIRD HIGHEST ON RECORD. THE SUMMER WAS COOLER AND LESS SUNNY THAN USUAL WITH AN EXCEPTIONALLY WET AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR WAS SUNNY AND VERY DRY WITH ONLY 11.4 MM OF RAINFALL - THE SECOND LOWEST ON RECORD. DUE TO THE VERY DRY CONDITIONS MANY HILL FIRES BROKE OUT DESTROYING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES AND THOUSANDS OF HECTARES OF VEGETATION.

DURING THE YEAR, THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 29 TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND FOR SIX OF THEM TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS WERE HOISTED IN HONG KONG. THESE SIX BROUGHT ALONG MORE THAN 1 000 MM OF RAINFALL, NEARLY HALF THE AMOUNT OF THE SUMMER RAIN.

HURRICANE SIGNAL NO. 10 WAS HOISTED ON AUGUST 2 WHEN HONG KONG WAS DIRECTLY HIT BY TYPHOON HOPE - THE MOST SEVERE TYPHOON TO AFFECT HONG KONG SINCE TYPHOON ROSE IN 1971. THE LAST TIME THE HURRICANE SIGNAL WAS HOISTED WAS IN OCTOBER 1975 FOR TYPHOON ELSIE.

SEVERE TROPICAL STORM MAC PASSED OVER WESTERN LANTAU DURING THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 23 BRINGING GALES AND HEAVY RAIN TO HONG KONG. THE OTHER FOUR TROPICAL CYCLONES ONLY CAUSED STRONG WINDS AND DAMAGE WAS MINIMAL.

THE YEAR BEGAN WITH THE WARMEST JANUARY SINCE 1966 WITH ONLY THREE DAYS WITH MINIMUM TEMPERATURES BELOW 10 DEGREES CELSIUS. THE MONTH WAS CLOUDIER, LESS SUNNY AND SLIGHTLY WETTER THAN NORMAL.

THE YEAR'S LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF 6.1 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON FEBRUARY 1. ON THE SAME DAY, THE TEMPERATURES AT TATE'S CAIRN AND TAI MO SHAN WERE MINUS 0.1 DEGREE AND MINUS 2.4 DEGREES RESPECTIVELY. TEMPERATURES BEGAN TO RISE THE NEXT DAY AND ON THE WHOLE THE MONTH WAS THE SECOND WARMEST FEBRUARY SINCE 1884 WITH A MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 18.9 DEGREES CELSIUS OR 3.0 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THE WARMEST FEBRUARY WAS IN 1973 WITH A MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 19.2 DEGREES.

MARCH WAS WET, SLIGHTLY WARMER AND MORE HUMID THAN USUAL. THERE WERE ONLY SIX DAYS WITHOUT RAIN AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND THE TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED WAS 71.9 MM OR 22.6 MM ABOVE NORMAL.

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THE WET SPELL CONTINUED INTO APRIL WHICH HAD A TOTAL RAINFALL OF 234.5 MM OR 73 PER CENT ABOVE AVERAGE. THOUGH THE WEATHER WAS SLIGHTLY COOLER THAN NORMAL, A MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 32.4 DEGREES WAS RECORDED ON APRIL 26 - THE HIGHEST APRIL TEMPERATURE SINCE 1956.

AN INTENSE COLD FRONT ARRIVING ON APRIL 2 BROUGHT HEAVY SQUALLY SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS, AND ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS HAIL LASTING FOR A FEW MINUTES OCCURRED AT SHA TAU KOK AND PING CHAU. AN OIL BARGE SANK, A SAILING DINGHY CAPSIZED AND FIVE VESSELS BROKE THEIR ANCHOR CHAINS AND WENT ADrift. A MINOR LANDSLIP OCCURRED IN AU TAU AND FLOODING WAS REPORTED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG. THE FOGGY WEATHER ON APRIL 7 AND 8 AFFECTED FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG, MACAO AND GUANGZHOU AND A FISHING BOAT SANK AFTER COLLIDING IN THICK FOG WITH AN UNKNOWN VESSEL 80 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTH-SOUTHEAST OF HONG KONG.

MAY WAS CLOUDIER AND LESS SUNNY THAN USUAL. THE MONTH'S RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO 311.6 MM WHICH WAS EIGHT PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL. MORE THAN HALF OF THE MONTH'S RAIN FELL BETWEEN MAY 13 AND 15 WHEN A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE WAS NEAR HONG KONG.

THERE WAS LESS RAIN IN JUNE AND MOST OF IT (113.6 MM) FELL ON JUNE 11. THE HEAVY RAIN CAUSED THREE LANDSLIPS AND THE EVACUATION OF 200 PEOPLE.

THE YEAR'S HIGHEST TEMPERATURE OF 33.8 DEGREES WAS RECORDED ON JULY 5 AND THE MONTH WAS SUNNIER AND HOTTER THAN USUAL. RAINFALL WAS SLIGHTLY ABOVE AVERAGE AND MOST OF THE RAIN FELL ON THE LAST THREE DAYS OF THE MONTH.

DURING THE MONTH FOUR TROPICAL CYCLONES DEVELOPED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS FOR TWO OF THEM WERE HOISTED IN HONG KONG. TYPHOON ELLIS PASSED BY HONG KONG AROUND MIDNIGHT ON JULY 5 RESULTING IN A SHORT PERIOD OF STRONG EASTERLY WINDS AND SOME SHOWERS. SEVERE TROPICAL STORM GORDON GOT CLOSE TO HONG KONG IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JULY 29, BRINGING VERY HEAVY RAIN AND CAUSING WIDESPREAD FLOODINGS AND SOME MINOR LANDSLIPS.

ON AUGUST 2 HURRICANE FORCE WINDS AND TORRENTIAL RAIN WERE EXPERIENCED DURING THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON HOPE WHICH CAUSED 12 DEATHS, INJURED 260 PEOPLE AND MADE 800 PEOPLE HOMELESS. WIDESPREAD FLOODING OCCURRED ALL OVER THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF VEGETABLES, FLOWERS AND FRUIT TREES WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED.

TYPHOON HOPE SET TWO NEW RECORDS - AN HOURLY RAINFALL OF 82.1 MM AND THE LOWEST INSTANTANEOUS MEAN SEA-LEVEL PRESSURE OF 961.6 MILLIBARS FOR AUGUST. THE TYPHOON TOGETHER WITH A TROPICAL CYCLONE BROUGHT THE MONTH'S RAINFALL TO 706.9 MM WHICH WAS 286.7 MM ABOVE AVERAGE FOR THE MONTH. THERE WERE ONLY 138.2 HOURS OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE, THE FOURTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR AUGUST.

IN SEPTEMBER THERE WAS THE RARE OCCASION OF HAVING TWO TROPICAL CYCLONES CENTRED WITHIN 400 NAUTICAL MILES OF HONG KONG AT THE SAME TIME. ON SEPTEMBER 19 STANDBY SIGNAL NO. 1 WAS HOISTED FOR TROPICAL STORM NANCY AND THE SIGNAL REMAINED HOISTED FOR SEVERE TROPICAL STORM MAC APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTHEAST. MAC LEFT ONE PERSON DEAD AND 67 PEOPLE INJURED WHEN HE PASSED OVER WESTERN LANTAU DURING THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 23. MAC ALSO BROUGHT THE RAINFALL OF THE MONTH TO 506.3 MM WHICH WAS 53 PER CENT ABOVE AVERAGE.

THE WEATHER BECAME VERY DRY IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR AND OCTOBER 1979 WAS THE DRIEST OCTOBER ON RECORD WITH NO RAINFALL REGISTERED IN THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY. IT WAS ALSO THE SUNNIEST, LEAST HUMID AND LEAST CLOUDY OCTOBER ON RECORD. MORE THAN 2 000 FIRES OCCURRED INCLUDING SOME 400 HILL FIRES WHICH RAVAGED 200 000 TREES AND 1 600 HECTARES OF VEGETATION.

ANOTHER RECORD WAS SET IN NOVEMBER WHEN THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED ON FIVE OCCASIONS AND WAS DISPLAYED FOR A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 108 HOURS - BOTH FIGURES ARE THE HIGHEST FOR NOVEMBER SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SIGNAL IN 1950. THE 200 HILL FIRES IN THE MONTH DESTROYED 300 000 TREES AND 1 105 HECTARES OF VEGETATION. ONE OF THESE BROKE OUT ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 18 IN THE TAI LAM CHUNG AREA AND RAGED FOR 30 HOURS, DESTROYING 265 000 TREES AND 500 HECTARES OF VEGETATION.

THE STRONG TO GALE FORCE WINDS ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 18 WERE REPORTED TO HAVE CAUSED 13 ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN 16 INJURIES MOSTLY CAUSED BY FALLING SCAFFOLDINGS, SIGN BOARDS AND DEBRIS.

THE YEAR ENDED WITH A MILD, SUNNY AND DRY DECEMBER WHICH HAD ONLY ONE DAY WITH MEASURABLE RAIN AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY - A MERE 0.2 MM, THE SEVENTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH.

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STUBBS ROAD FLYOVER TAKING SHAPE

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CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE \$54.6 MILLION STUBBS ROAD FLYOVER IS MAKING HEADWAY.

+THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE SINKING OF MORE THAN 170 PILES AND NEARLY 100 OF THEM HAVE NOW BEEN COMPLETED,+ SAID MR. YEUNG KIM-CHOY, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE.

HE ADDED THAT ONE-QUARTER OF THE NUMBER OF COLUMNS FOR THE ELEVATED ROAD HAD ALSO BEEN BUILT, AND OVER 200 BEAMS, REQUIRED FOR THE FLYOVER, HAD BEEN PRODUCED AT THE CASTING YARD NEARBY.

SOME OF THESE BEAMS, MR. YEUNG SAID, HAD BEEN PUT INTO POSITION ON THE UPPER SECTION OF THE FLYOVER.

ON COMPLETION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE 450-METRE FLYOVER WILL LINK LOWER STUBBS ROAD WITH WONG NAI CHUNG GAP ROAD, THUS IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW AT THE STUBBS ROAD ROUNDABOUT.

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MORE PUPILS JOIN HEALTH CARE SCHEME

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THERE HAS BEEN A HEALTHY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

FIGURES RELEASED BY THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD SHOW ENROLMENT AT DECEMBER 31, 1979 TO BE 168 500 PUPILS COMPARED WITH 124 500 PUPILS AT THE END OF 1978, REPRESENTING A JUMP OF 35 PER CENT.

THE BOARD BELIEVES THAT MORE AND MORE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND PARENTS ARE BECOMING AWARE OF THE ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY THIS ECONOMICAL MEDICAL SCHEME, WHICH FOR \$5 A YEAR ALLOWS A CHILD TO VISIT THE DOCTOR AS MANY TIMES AS HE WISHES WITH FREE MEDICATION.

ENROLMENT IS VOLUNTARY AS IS PARTICIPATION BY THE 200 OR SO PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS SUPPORTING THE SCHEME, AND A CHILD IN PRIMARY SCHOOL UP TO FORM III MAY JOIN ANY DAY OF THE YEAR FOR TWELVE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF JOINING.

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR THE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED THE SCHEME IN THE AMOUNT \$4 MILLION, AND THIS YEAR THE SUBSIDY SHOULD REACH NEARLY \$5 MILLION.

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VETERAN SOCIAL WELFARE WORKER RETIRES

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A VETERAN OFFICER OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WHO BEGAN HIS CAREER IN SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE GOVERNMENT EVEN BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT CAME INTO BEING, IS RETIRING AFTER 24 YEARS' SERVICE.

MR. LU YU-HUA JOINED IN 1956 THE THEN SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR CHINESE AFFAIRS AS AN ASSISTANT RELIEVING OFFICER. THE OFFICE BECAME THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN 1958.

MR. LU, LAST APPOINTED AS REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF WEST KOWLOON, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

HE IS PARTICULARLY HIGHLY REGARDED FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND RELIEF WORK. HE SERVED FOR YEARS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY DIVISION AND WAS LATER APPOINTED HEAD OF THE DIVISION.

IN 1959, THE POST OF ASSISTANT RELIEVING OFFICER WAS RETITLED SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER CLASS II, AND AGAIN IN 1964 AS ASSISTANT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER.

MR. LU WAS PROMOTED TO SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER IN 1965, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER IN 1971, AND TO SENIOR PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER FIVE YEARS LATER.

TWO YEARS AGO, HE WAS APPOINTED ONE OF THE FOUR REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S REORGANISATION LAST APRIL ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

IN A FAREWELL DINNER HELD LAST (FRIDAY) EVENING IN HONOUR OF MR. LU, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, PRESENTED HIM WITH A SOUVENIR ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

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MAC SCHEME EXTENDED TO ISLANDS DISTRICT

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THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE (MAC) SCHEME WHICH IS EXPANDING RAPIDLY IN THE NEW TOWNS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HAS RECENTLY BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG'S OFFSHORE ISLANDS.

WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE FIRST EVER MAC IN ISLANDS DISTRICT WAS FORMED THIS MONTH IN A FIVE-STOREY COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT MUI WO ON LANTAU.

THE SILVERMINE CENTRE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE INCLUDES SHOP OWNERS, HOLIDAY HOME OPERATORS AND FLAT OWNERS IN THE BUILDING.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF 12 IS MR. CHAN YIU-CHEUNG, A TEXTILE FACTORY MANAGER WHO LIVES IN THE BUILDING.

ITS OBJECTIVES ARE TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY AMONG MEMBERS, AND TO PROMOTE BETTER SECURITY, A BETTER ENVIRONMENT AND MORE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE BUILDING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE ISLANDS WERE DEVELOPING QUICKLY AND FORMATION OF MAC'S WOULD CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO COMMUNITY BUILDING AND HELP PREVENT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT HAD OCCURRED IN THE URBAN AREAS.

THEY SHOULD PLAY A PART IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE ISLANDS COMMUNITIES, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS GOVERNMENT'S AIM TO SET UP MORE MAC'S IN THE MAIN CENTRES OF POPULATION IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT AND URGED ISLANDERS INTERESTED IN FORMING SUCH COMMITTEES TO APPROACH THEIR DISTRICT OFFICE.

A LEAFLET DESCRIBING THE MAC SCHEME HAS BEEN PRODUCED. COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM ANY DISTRICT OFFICE OR CITY DISTRICT OFFICE.

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PUBLIC DUMP TO OPEN IN SIU CHAI WAN

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A PUBLIC DUMP AT SIU CHAI WAN WILL BE OPENED ON MONDAY (JANUARY 14) AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DUMPING BETWEEN 8 AM AND 6 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

ACCESS TO THE NEW DUMP WILL BE FROM CHAI WAN ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH SUN YIP STREET.

DUMPING LICENCES MAY BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE ON APPLICATION TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PORT WORKS DIVISION, PWD AT MURRAY BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

HOLDERS OF VALID LICENCES FOR PUBLIC DUMPS ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE PERMITTED TO DISCARD APPROVED SOFT MATERIAL, BUILDING DEBRIS AND UP TO A CERTAIN SIZE OF STONES PROVIDED THESE ARE WELL MIXED WITH EARTH.

ALL DUMPING MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DUMP SUPERVISORS.

THE PWD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL DUMPING LICENCES AT ANY TIME OR TO CLOSE THE DUMP WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT ON WANG TAU HOM ROAD

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A SECTION OF WANG TAU HOM ROAD BETWEEN JUNCTION ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES NORTH-EAST OF FU MEI STREET EAST WILL ONLY BE OPEN TO SINGLE-LANE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 15).

THIS ARRANGEMENT, WHICH WILL LAST ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS, IS TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE AREA.

TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD SECTION WILL BE CONTROLLED BY LIGHT SIGNALS.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN TSIM SHA TSUI

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 15) FOR WORK ON A WATER MAIN.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE AT 1A-C, 3 OBSERVATORY ROAD- 79, 79A CHATHAM ROAD- 35-41, 41A-D, 43-75 GRANVILLE ROAD- 1, 1A-L, 3, 3A-B, 5, 5A, 7-11 KIMBERLEY STREET- KOWLOON INLAND LOTS 10474-5 AND 10598-603 TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, AND THE OFFICE OF THE USD GENERAL DUTIES TRAINING UNIT.

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